

SCUBASPA YING

Best of Maldives

Male to Male | North Male, Rasdhoo, North Ari, South Ari, Vaavu and South Male

Big fish country across six central atolls, where whale sharks, manta rays and sharks share one route.

Two whale shark outings bring snorkelling and diving as the sharks allow, so bring your fins, because these gentle giants can move quickly.

Cleaning stations let you get close to manta rays, and in Ari Atoll the sharks and the night dives are among the highlights.

Between the big animals there are scenic reefs and the hunt for the smallest reef fish, morays and macro life.

A morning channel dive with sharks in South Male Atoll rounds off the week.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
8 days / 7 nights	Male	Male	No minimum level







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Saturday: Welcome aboard

You meet the team at Velana airport and transfer to the yacht.
After registration, cabin allocation and a lunch buffet, the spa opens for information and reservations.

DAY 1

Saturday: Welcome aboard (continued)

The crew and Cruise Manager introduce themselves and run the safety briefing, then it is a welcome dinner in the Al Fresco restaurant before the yacht sails to North Male Atoll.

DAY 2

Sunday: Boduhithi to Rasdhoo

3 dives

A morning check dive at Boduhithi Thila, then breakfast and yoga.
The yacht sails to Rasdhoo Atoll for a dive in the Madivaru channel and an afternoon of snorkelling, water sports and a beach visit at Madivaru Finolhu, followed by a Sunday roast dinner.

DAY 3

Monday: Hammerheads and Maaya Thila

3 dives

An early dive at Kuramathi Kandu looks for hammerhead sharks, followed by a second dive at Rasdhoo Madivaru and a picnic island.
The yacht sails to North Ari Atoll for sunset yoga and a night dive at Maaya Thila, one of the best known sites in the Maldives, with a surf and turf dinner.

DAY 4

Tuesday: Fish Head and Moofushi

3 dives

Dive Fish Head with its sharks, practise yoga on the beach at Meerufenfushi, then dive Moofushi Manta Point and the Bulhalhohi Caves, with snorkelling and water sports between dives.
The day ends with a moonlight barbecue on a sandy beach.

DAY 5

Wednesday: Whale sharks

Dive or snorkel

Two whale shark research outings, in the morning and afternoon, with snorkelling and diving as the sharks allow.
The yacht sails to Dhigurah lagoon, there is a Mexican fiesta dinner, and the Maldives Whale Shark Research Programme gives an evening talk on the spa deck.

DAY 6

Thursday: Wreck and nurse sharks

3 dives

Dive the Kudhima wreck and Broken Rock, then sail to Alimatha in Vaavu Atoll over a barbecue lunch.
After snorkelling and a sandbank visit, a night dive on the Alimatha house reef finds nurse sharks.
Dinner is Italian, followed by a movie night on the sun deck.

DAY 7

Friday: Miyaru Kandu to Kurumba

3 dives

A morning dive at Miyaru Kandu with sharks, then south to South Male Atoll for Kandooma Thila, snorkelling at Sexy Beach, a visit to the local island of Maafushi and a dive on the Kuda Giri wreck.
The yacht then sails to Kurumba near Male for sunset cocktails and a farewell Pan Asian dinner.

DAY 8

Saturday: Departure

Breakfast, then check out and settle your bill with the Cruise Manager.
Transfers to Velana airport run at around 07:00 and 08:45.

THE TRIP

A week in the central atolls

The route leaves Male and loops through Rasdhoo, North and South Ari, Vaavu and South Male before returning to Male. Sailing times are short, so most of the day is spent diving, snorkelling or ashore, and the programme can change with the weather and the tides.

DIVE SITES

Atolls and sites on the central routes

- North and South Ari Atoll: the most reliable place in the Maldives for pelagics and big schools. Whale sharks, mantas and eagle rays visit, with napoleon wrasse, grey reef and white tip sharks, blacktail barracuda and batfish. Broken Rock in North Ari is a canyon splitting the reef in two, with fan corals, turtles, scorpionfish and morays. The Kudhimaa wreck in South Ari, sunk in 1998 close to the Machchafushi house reef, has open cargo holds and schools of batfish, pufferfish, boxfish and lionfish.
- Vaavu Atoll: deep channels with fast, nutrient rich currents and schooling reef sharks, with the occasional hammerhead. Fotteyo Kandu, with its swim throughs, caves and overhangs, is rated by many as the best dive in the Maldives, with tuna, trevallies, unicorn fish, snappers, eagle rays, mantas and groupers.
- North Male Atoll: among the first atolls dived in the Maldives. Gaathugiri, known as Banana Reef, has rock faces, caves, drop offs and overhangs, with sharks, mantas, trevally, black snappers, groupers, bannerfish and large morays.
- South Male Atoll: Kandooma Thila is a large teardrop shaped pinnacle with soft coral walls, red bass and big eye trevally, grey and white tip sharks, eagle rays, green turtles and batfish.

THE SPA

Treatments, yoga and calm

The Asian style spa covers 300 square metres over two decks, the largest on any liveaboard in the Maldives. There are four treatment rooms, including one for couples, a secluded deck for open air Thai massage and meditation, and a shaded lounge.

More than fourteen treatments are on the menu, including Swedish, Balinese, Thai, Filipino, Hilot, Shiatsu, Ayurvedic, Hawaiian, Lomi Lomi, warm bamboo, lava shell and hot stone massage, plus facials and Ayurvedic champissage for the hair. The products are made for the boat with organic ingredients, botanical extracts and essential oils, and you can buy them from the on board boutique.

Yoga runs every morning and at sunset on the open deck, with asanas, breathing and meditation for beginners and experienced practitioners alike.





ON THE TABLE

Food, drink and celebrations

Internationally trained chefs cook European, Mediterranean and Asian dishes with local flavours, served as three buffet meals a day with live cooking stations in the al fresco restaurant. The menu runs from the catch of the day, lamb and beef to a sushi bar, tapas and flaming crêpes Suzette, and fresh lobster can be ordered for a small extra charge. Dietary requirements are catered for.

The bar sits next to the restaurant and opens onto the shaded lounge deck, with wines, champagnes, cocktails, beers and spirits and a daily happy hour. Once a week the crew hosts a moonlit barbecue on a sandy beach.

The chefs will also plan birthdays, anniversaries, engagements and weddings, from a private dinner on a separate deck to champagne at sunset.





THE DIVING

How the diving is organised

A separate 20 metre dive boat, a dhoni, goes with the yacht and carries the equipment and compressors, so the yacht stays quiet while you prepare. It has plenty of seating, several entry points, a stern platform, a sun deck and a toilet on board. The yacht is a PADI 5 Star Dive Resort, the instructors speak several languages, and courses run from introductory dives to certification, with children from ten years old able to learn.

Dives are limited to 30 metres. A dive computer is compulsory, diving alone and decompression dives are not allowed, and night dives and dives deeper than 18 metres are for advanced certified divers. You can upgrade your certification on board.





PACKAGES

Choose how you spend the week

Every guest chooses one of three packages for the week. The packages cannot be mixed, and dives cannot be swapped for treatments.

Scuba holiday

Up to 17 dives over the week. This package is for certified divers, and you can book extra spa treatments on board when there is space.

Spa holiday

Eight spa treatments in the week, plus yoga and snorkelling. A Discover Scuba Diving experience can be added if you would like to try diving.

Scuba and spa

Six dives and four spa treatments. This is also the package for the PADI Open Water course, which runs on the seven night cruises.

CONDITIONS

Seasons, water and sea life

The water stays between 26 and 29 degrees all year. From November to May the north east monsoon brings clear skies and little rain, with channel dives on the eastern sides of the atolls and mantas at the cleaning stations on the western sides. From June to October the south west monsoon brings fewer crowds, with mantas on the eastern sides and the channel dives on the western sides. Routes are adjusted to the monsoon, the weather and the tides.

Expect mantas, whale sharks, turtles, reef sharks, eagle rays, stingrays and big schools of tropical fish.

ABOVE THE WATER

Beaches, islands and the sun deck

The programme visits deserted islands, sandbanks and local villages, with kayaks, paddleboards and a fun tube for the water, a top deck jacuzzi, a treasure hunt on an island, traditional Maldivian fishing and outdoor cinema nights. Conservation work is part of the culture on board, with beach clean ups every week, the Dive Against Debris course, support for the Maldives Whale Shark Research Programme, and mineralised water instead of single use plastic bottles.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Cabin accommodation with three meals a day
- Welcome drink, drinking water, coffee and tea
- Airport transfers on the regular arrival and departure days
- Yoga classes every morning
- Snorkelling, with equipment included
- A barbecue on a deserted island and the excursions in the programme
- The diving or spa treatments of the package you choose
- Wi-Fi, with a 5 GB allowance per cabin

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Service and administration charge and the nightly green tax, shown on our trip listings
- Dive and travel insurance
- Dive equipment rental
- Drinks from the bar and extra spa treatments
- Crew gratuities, which are optional