WHITE PEARL

Best of Central Atolls

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

Even by Maldives standards, the channels of Vaavu are special, with drift dives that are some of the most exhilarating anywhere.

South Male is famous for current-swept channels, steep walls and small caves, patrolled by grey reef sharks, schooling eagle rays and turtles.

In South Ari, dramatic overhangs and canyons are draped with colourful soft corals, and from December to March you can swim alongside whale sharks as they feed along the reef.

Rasdhoo has sharks over a wall of sea fans and black coral, with thousands of anthias fluttering around you.

The finish is North Male, with endless soft coral fields and manta rays.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
8 days / 7 nights	Male	Male	50+ dives, Nitrox, currents







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation

No diving today

Guests are met at the airport by a White Pearl representative and taken to the yacht by dhoni at the scheduled time.
Check in, welcome and crew introduction are followed by the safety briefing, and the diving starts the next day.
The sample plan starts in South Male.

DAY 2

South Male

Up to 3 dives

South Male Atoll is famous for its current-swept channels and provides guests with a wide variety of stunning diving no matter their skill level and experience.
Known for its steep walls, ledges, and small caves, South Malé's underwater environment is famous for its variety of reef fish common to the Maldives, as well as plenty of macro life and several manta ray cleaning stations.
Kandooma Thila – often known as Cocoa Thila – is one of the most famous dive sites in the Maldives.
Set within a wide channel, patrolled by grey reef sharks and chances are high that you will find schooling eagle rays, turtles, and colourful reef fish covering the entire reef.
Guraidhoo Corner is another beautiful site and the large marine protected area is home to a massive concentration of reef life, including sharks, schooling trevallies, rays, turtles and reef fish.

DAY 3

Vaavu Atoll

Up to 3 dives

Even by Maldives' standards, Vaavu's channels are special and Devana Kandu is a channel which is divided in the middle by a 250m long reef.
The entire channel, both north and south passage, has been declared a protected marine area.
With an incoming current, divers can experience one of the most exhilarating drift dives.
On the outside reef are caves and overhangs that drop vertically from 30m to the depths below.
Grey reef sharks, eagle rays and pelagics are seen around the entrance to both passages, mostly during the north-east monsoon.
Many reef fish have colonised these rocks, and it is not uncommon to see blue-face angelfish, saddled puffer fish and variegated lizardfish.
As divers drift into the one-km long channel, the north and south passages join.
Coral is spread across the bottom of the 500m wide channel at a depth of around 15m.
Nearby Miyaru Kandu, which translates to 'Shark Channel' certainly lives up to its name.
A huge variety of marine life can be seen here, including tuna, large schools of grey reef sharks, whitetip reef sharks, tuna and Napoleon wrasse, as well as many colourful reef fish.
Manta rays are also seen in the low season when the current is outflowing.
In recent years, a night dive at Alimathaa jetty has attracted a lot of attention with its large numbers of blacktip sharks, nurse sharks and whiptail rays.
A popular dive site, we urge divers to be extremely conscious of their behaviour and surroundings, as it is very easy to kick or accidentally corner the sharks and rays.

DAY 4

South and North Ari Atoll

Up to 3 dives

South Ari's reefs, thilas and channels are justifiably famous for their beautiful underwater topography - dramatic overhangs and canyons draped with colourful soft corals are the norm here - along with the abundant and spectacular marine life, including possibilities for some exciting encounters with large pelagic.
Unfortunately, some of the reefs have been affected by the ongoing impacts of climate change and the recent El Nino event of 2016, but the latest reports have shown that the reefs are slowly recovering and sightings of the iconic species remain reliable.



DAY 4

South and North Ari Atoll (continued)

Up to 3 dives

Whale sharks are the highlight in South Ari Atoll with potential to view these gentle giants from December through March during the northeast monsoon.
The South Ari Marine Protected Area is renowned for a chance to encounter these gentle giants and when they are spotted, you can swim alongside these wonderful creatures as they feed and cruise along the reef.
Manta rays are also seen in South Ari, particularly at Madivaru – also known as Manta point – a marine protected reef on the south of Rangali Kandu.
The best chance to see them is during the northeast monsoon from December through March which extends to May.
And manta rays or not, you'll still see plenty of fish at this well-known site.
In the central region of Ari there are some classic thilas.
Kudarah Thila is a protected natural wonder that's one of the most iconic dive sites in the South Ari Atoll, Kudarah Thila is a spellbinding tapestry of coral and unique biodiversity and an absolute must-visit.
Expect to see a starry selection of incredible subaquatic life: from schools of blue-stripped snappers, to turtles and batfish, as well as palatial towers of gorgonian fan corals and vibrant sea fans.
Fish Head is one of the top dive sites in the world.
First and foremost, the site is famous for its rich fish species diversity and for being a home for sharks in particular.
Scorpionfish, barracudas, moray eels, stingrays, yellow grunts, fusiliers, and blue-lined snapper are the most commonly seen fish in this area.
This site also has a vast number of black corals on the north and west sides of the pinnacle, and beautiful sea fans and anemones are also common at this place.

DAY 5

South and North Ari Atoll

Up to 3 dives

A further day around South and North Ari Atoll, with the sites chosen by the Cruise Director and Captain to suit the conditions.

DAY 6

Rasdhoo Atoll

Up to 3 dives

Whatever your level of experience, scuba diving in Rasdhoo Atoll has something to tempt you. Shallow lagoons and gentle reefs provide some great sites for beginners, whilst exhilarating current-charged channels and dramatic landscapes will entice a more advanced diver.

DAY 6

Rasdhoo Atoll (continued)

Up to 3 dives

An unusually-large selection of weird and wonderful critters, Rasdhoo Atoll really is the complete diving experience.
Rasdhoo Madivaru is a horse-shoe shaped ridge patrolled by grey reef sharks, whitetip sharks and schools of eagle rays.
Look over the ledge into the depths to see large sea fans and black coral clinging to the wall while thousands of anthias flutter around you.
Returning to the shallows you will be greeted by schooling reef fish such as oriental sweetlips, fusiliers, goatfish, snappers and many more.
Throw in the occasional spotted eagle ray or a school of large barracuda and you have all the ingredients for a near-perfect Maldivian dive experience.



DAY 7

North Male Atoll

Up to 3 dives

Diving in North Malé Atoll delivers plenty of fish action with many dive sites well known for their breathtaking topography and healthy populations of manta rays and sharks.
The famous Lankan Manta Point will provide an unforgettable ray encounter.
And, at HP Reef and Nassimo Thila, visitors will be blown away by the seemingly endless soft coral fields inhabited by large schools of bright coloured Anthias.

DAY 8

Disembark

Check out and bills with the Cruise Director, with a light breakfast before you leave.
Transfers to the airport run in the morning, and there is no diving today.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Night dives

Night dives, such as the nurse shark dive at Alimatha, depending on the route and conditions.

On board

A jacuzzi, a water slide, a spa, paddle boards and kayaks, with a beach barbecue and a cocktail party on most trips.

Check in

Guests are met at Velana International Airport and taken to White Pearl by dhoni at the scheduled time. Early arrivals can use the Hulhule Airport Hotel, which charges for the pool, luggage storage and showers.

Check out

Check out is early in the morning, with a light breakfast first.

Last dive

Diving stops at least 24 hours before your flight, with the last dives on the second last day.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Full board accommodation with three meals a day
- Drinking water, coffee, tea and snacks
- GST
- Transfers between the airport and the yacht
- Three guided dives a day, except on the second last day, and a night dive
- 12 litre tanks, weights and weight belts
- Free Nitrox for qualified divers
- Free Wi-Fi, limited to messaging and social media
- Beach barbecue, cocktail party, paddle boards, kayaks and the pool, jacuzzi and water slide

NOT INCLUDED

- Government service charge, paid on board
- Green tax, paid on board
- Fuel surcharge, paid on board
- Domestic and international flights
- Spa treatments and jet ski
- Soft drinks and alcoholic drinks
- 15 litre tanks
- Dive equipment other than tanks and weights
- Dive insurance (mandatory) and travel insurance

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Completed diver medical questionnaire
- Details of your dive and travel insurance
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy with reel
- Reef-safe sunscreen

AND ALSO

- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Personal medication and toiletries
- Travel adaptor
- Passport

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

The itinerary is a sample, and the Cruise Director and Captain choose the route and dive sites to suit the weather, tides, currents and other boats

Good to know

Divers need Nitrox certification and experience of diving in currents

Service charge

The government service charge replaces crew gratuities

Insurance

Dive insurance is mandatory, and travel insurance is recommended