

SEAFARI EXPLORER 2

Best of Mantas

Male to Male | North Male, Baa and Raa

This is the trip for the largest gathering of manta rays in the world.

The heart of it is Baa Atoll and Hanifaru Bay, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve where manta rays gather in late summer to feed in the plankton.

Snorkelling sessions with the mantas are planned at secret places.

Raa Atoll is one of the least visited in the Maldives, with dramatic drop-offs and cleaning stations for mantas and whale sharks.

Sharks, colourful coral reefs and a multitude of tropical fish fill clear, warm water.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
11 days / 10 nights	Male	Male	Advanced Open Water, 50+ dives







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation

Boat transfers from Velana International Airport in Male run at 10:00, 12:00 and 15:00, and the crew meets you at the information desk.
After boarding there is a welcome briefing, and the first dive is the next morning.

DAY 2-10

Route

24 dives, 9 diving days

The cruise sails the northern atolls to Baa Atoll and Hanifaru Bay, and on to Raa Atoll, with a Seafari destination manager on board, either Barbara Gravel or Nicolas Viricel, supporting the usual guides with talks on manta migration, reproduction, feeding, identification and protection. The atolls and the aims of this cruise are set out here, and individual dive sites are not listed.

DAY 11

Disembark

The cruise ends in Male, with check out at 07:00 and a transfer to the airport for your flight home.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Baa Atoll and Hanifaru Bay

A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and the heart of the cruise, with the late summer gathering of manta rays feeding in the plankton. Diving in the Hanifaru Bay reserve is paid on board.

Raa Atoll

One of the least visited atolls in the Maldives, further from Male airport, with dive sites that have dramatic drop-offs and cleaning stations for mantas and whale sharks.

Sharks, reefs and photography

Besides manta rays the atolls have sharks, colourful coral reefs and a multitude of tropical fish, with clear warm water that is excellent for underwater photography.

Typical day

The first dive is at sunrise after tea and coffee, with breakfast at 08:30 and some navigation until about 10:30. A second dive follows on some days, then lunch at 12:30. In the afternoon there is more navigation or a second dive, and at 4 pm island hopping or a rest. A night dive is planned once a week, with dinner at 20:00.

Manta snorkelling

Snorkelling sessions with manta rays are planned at secret places, and the senior instructor decides the route and the dive sites with the captain each week, depending on the currents, the tides and the weather.

Diving rules

Every activity is supervised by a qualified CMAS or PADI instructor from the Seafari team, who briefs the site, the currents, the wildlife and the safety rules before each dive. The senior instructor can require in-water supervision, or stop a diver whose level is not enough to dive safely.

Check in

Boat transfers from the airport run at 10:00, 12:00 and 15:00, and you meet the crew at the information desk at the airport. The boat dives start the morning after boarding.

Check out

Check out is at 07:00 on the last day, with the airport transfer in the morning.

Dives

There is normally one dive on the day before disembarking, finishing before lunch.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Return transfers between the airport and the boat, with arrivals at 10:00, 12:00 or 15:00 and departure at 07:00
- Cabin share (double or twin), or a single cabin, with full board
- Drinking water, tea and coffee
- A dive package with 12 litre aluminium tanks and weights, with at least one or two night dives
- Free Nitrox for certified divers
- Island visits and a beach barbecue, where available and depending on the route
- Free Wi-Fi on board by Starlink
- GST of 17%

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Service charge package
- Green tax, paid on board
- Diving in the Hanifaru Bay reserve, paid on board
- 10% service charge on onboard expenses
- Alcoholic drinks
- Dive equipment rental and 15 litre tanks, booked before departure
- Instructor supervision, if the diving level is not enough to dive safely
- Nitrox course and other courses

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 route is indicative and changes with the season, the currents and the weather, and the visited atolls and dive sites are not guaranteed

Experience needed

Dive insurance is recommended, and the minimum level is Advanced Open Water with 50 logged dives

Good to know

The destination manager on board is one of the Seafari team