

SEAFARI EXPLORER 2

Central Atolls

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

A week in the central atolls gives the best of the Maldives, and it suits a first time here.

Famous dive sites, manta rays, sharks and rich reefs follow one after another between North Male and Vaavu.

One channel is among the best dives in the Maldives, with schools of sharks, eagle rays and amazing soft corals.

Elsewhere come whale sharks and zebra sharks on the outer reefs, huge numbers of fish in a marine park, and a night dive with manta rays.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
8 days / 7 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 2-7

Route

16 dives, 6 diving days

The boat cruises the central atolls between North Male and Vaavu, with dives chosen each day by the senior instructor from the sites below.
A typical cruise has 16 dives over six diving days, one night dive in the week, and a visit to an island or a beach barbecue where the route allows.

DAY 8

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

North Male: Lankan Manta Point

Easy, 22 metres. On the east side of the atoll, a gentle slope ending on a sandy bottom. In the south-west monsoon mantas come here to be cleaned.

North Male: Sunlight Thila

Easy, 15 metres. On a sandy bottom, cleaner wrasses shelter around three small coral blocks, and manta rays visit from September to November.

North Male: Nassimo Thila

Difficult, 30 metres. A rock formation of four blocks next to the main thila, with soft coral and a great variety of fish.

North Male: Back Faru

Easy, 28 metres. The outer reef of Hulhumale, a good first dive, with plenty of moray eels including the honeycomb moray.

South Male: Cocoa Kandu and Kandhooma Thila

Difficult, 30 metres. A channel and its thila with many ways to dive it. The blue water has good chances of grey reef sharks, and the drift on the thila is full of reef fish.

South Male: Guraidhoo Kandu

Difficult, 30 metres. A deep channel stepping down to a ledge, a good place to meet sharks and squadrons of eagle rays.

South Male: Emboodoo Kandu

Difficult, 30 metres. A great channel close to Male with grey reef sharks, barracuda, napoleon wrasse and eagle rays.

North Ari: Maaya Thila

Easy, 30 metres. A tiny thila and natural park, popular for night dives, with many sharks and turtles. The top reef at 6 metres is a good place to end the dive.

North Ari: Fesdu Wreck

Difficult, 30 metres. A small wreck on a sand bottom at 30 metres next to garden eels. West of it is a thila where small critters gather, with a resident frogfish.

North Ari: Fish Head

Medium, 30 metres. A thila with grey reef sharks, whitetips, jacks, turtles and schooling fish.

North Ari: Fesdu Lagoon

Easy, 15 metres. A night dive with manta rays.

North Ari: Moofushi Kandu

Medium to difficult, 30 metres. A corner dive with eagle rays, grey reef sharks, napoleon wrasse and mantas.

South Ari: Dhigga Thila

Easy, 28 metres. A thila 150 metres long, with overhangs covered in coloured soft corals and a hard coral garden at the end of the dive.

South Ari: Kudarah Thila

Medium to difficult, 30 metres. Huge numbers of fish in a marine park, with schooling jacks and snappers, an anemone field, and a chance of a guitar shark.

South Ari: 5 Rocks

Medium, 30 metres. Massive gorgonian fans, soft corals and clouds of fish.

South Ari: Kahambu Thila

Easy, 27 metres. A place for turtle fans, visited only by Seafari divers.

South Ari: Maamigili House Reef

Easy, 30 metres. A long outer reef, drifted for the chance of whale sharks and zebra sharks.

Vaavu: Miyaru Kandu

Medium to difficult, 30 metres. A channel crossing with schools of grey reef sharks and resident eagle rays.

Vaavu: Alimatha House Reef

Medium to difficult, 20 metres. An exceptional night dive with blacktip sharks, stingrays and many tawny nurse sharks.

Vaavu: Fotteyo Kandu

Easy to medium, 30 metres. One of the best dives in the Maldives, with schools of sharks and eagle rays and amazing soft corals.

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
- 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