AMBA

Hanifaru Manta and Whale Shark Expedition, Baa and Raa atolls

Dharavandhoo to Dharavandhoo | Hanifaru Bay in Baa and Raa atolls

This dive safari is perfect for keen divers who want crystal clear water and spectacular experiences around Hanifaru Bay, world famous for its huge gatherings of manta rays, especially in the plankton season in July, August and September, with the occasional whale shark at the anchorage.

The week mixes drift dives and reef dives over vibrant coral gardens, caves, channels and healthy reef walls, with very experienced local guides from Dhonfanu, the island just 50 metres from the bay.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
8 nights	Dharavandhoo	Dharavandhoo	10+ dives, AOWD







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Arrival day

The crew greet guests at the airport at Dharavandhoo from 12:00, and for guests who arrive later the transfer is arranged about about an hour after the flight lands.
To be in time for the boat and safety briefing, arrive at the airport by 16:00.
On board there is a welcome drink, a lime-scented towel and cakes while the tour guide introduces the boat and the plan for the day, and then time to settle into your cabin.
Check in documents are checked at 17:00 and the dive equipment is set up on the dhoni with help from the dive crew.
Dinner is at 18:00, followed by the introduction of the crew and a full safety briefing.
There is no diving on the arrival day.

DAY 2

Days 2 to 8

Two or three dives a day, usually three, from the dhoni, including a night dive on every trip.
Dives are made in self-reliant buddy teams with experienced guides, and the guides brief every dive in English, German, Italian and Spanish.

DAY 8

Last diving day

The final dive is at 07:30 on the day before disembarkation.
Equipment is rinsed in the freshwater tanks and left to dry before packing.
In the afternoon you can explore the island, and the evening is for the farewell and dinner.

DAY 9

Departure day

A light breakfast is served and check out at Dharavandhoo is between 06:30 and 08:30, with earlier check out available on request.
Late check out is not possible.
Guests with late flights can store luggage at the airport.







GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Hanifaru Bay

Hanifaru Bay is a major gathering site for manta rays, most of all in the plankton season in July, August and September, with occasional whale sharks at the anchorage. If rangers report mantas or whale sharks nearby, the crew may cancel the scheduled dive and move to the bay to snorkel, so guests may not complete all three dives that day.

Baa and Raa Atolls

The diving is a mix of drift dives and reef dives, with coral gardens, caves, channels and walls.

Diving experience

Divers need at least 10 logged dives, Advanced Open Water or an equivalent certification, and Nitrox certification. Divers who have not dived for more than two years, or who are unsure of their skills, should take a refresher course before the trip, and less experienced divers may be kept from the more challenging sites.

How the diving works

All dives are guided by experienced dive professionals, and all the diving is on Nitrox. Dives are made in self-reliant buddy teams with experienced guides, and divers must be able to make independent ascents, using a surface marker buoy when necessary. Briefings are in English, German, Italian and Spanish. Dives start from the dhoni, the dive boat. There is no diving on the arrival or departure days, and divers make two or three dives a day, usually three, with a night dive on every trip. The last dive is on the day before disembarkation, and divers should wait 24 hours after the last dive before flying.

Snorkelling

The boat welcomes snorkellers. Guests can snorkel with manta rays and whale sharks when the crew moves to Hanifaru Bay.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Accommodation in the booked cabin category
- Up to three dives a day with a dive guide
- Weights and weight belts
- Nitrox fills
- Airport transfers to and from the boat
- Breakfast, lunch, snacks, fruit and dinner
- Drinking water, tea, instant coffee and juice
- Daily cabin cleaning and towel service
- Shower gel, soap and shampoo
- 17% tourism sales tax

NOT INCLUDED

- 15 litre tanks
- Rental equipment
- Soft and alcoholic drinks
- Dive courses
- The domestic flight between Malé and Dharavandhoo, booked separately by the guest
- Green tax, paid in advance
- Crew tips, which are customary and paid in cash

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Mask, BCD and fins
- Surface marker buoy
- Signal whistle
- Reef hook
- Nitrox-capable dive computer

AND ALSO

- Regulator with an alternate air source
- Cutting tool
- Torch
- Hood, snorkel, boots and compass (recommended)
- Your own wetsuit, as wetsuits cannot be rented

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

The route depends on the weather, and the sample itineraries and sites are shown for illustration only. The exact route and dive sites are at the captain's discretion and can change with regulations, weather and logistics.

Good to know

Spare and rental equipment is available on board. The minimum age for divers is 18.

Good to know

Because tiger sharks and bull sharks can come very close, black equipment, black fins, a black hood and a black full-length wetsuit are recommended, and bright colours are best avoided.