BLACK MANTA

# Central Atolls, the Best of the Maldives

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

Set out on an extraordinary adventure aboard Black Manta, exploring the breathtaking Central Atolls of the Maldives.

Your journey begins with exhilarating dives in crystal clear water, where vibrant coral reefs teem with diverse marine life.

Expect to meet manta rays, sharks and a host of colourful reef fish as you discover the underwater wonders of this tropical paradise.

As you sail through the Central Atolls, you can also enjoy Maldivian culture with visits to local islands.

Meet the warm local communities, discover traditional crafts and taste the delicious flavours of Maldivian cuisine.

Highlights of the week include long reefs, caves and overhangs in Vaavu, whale sharks in South Ari, and manta cleaning stations and manta night dives in North Ari.

| LENGTH | DEPARTURE PORT | ARRIVAL PORT | EXPERIENCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 nights | Male | Male | 30+ dives, AOWD |







# Your itinerary

DAY 1

## Embarkation

No diving today

A representative picks you up at Male airport and takes you to the boat.
You are welcomed with a drink and the cruise manager's briefing, dinner is served in the evening, and the first night is spent at Hulhumale marina.

DAY 2

## South Male to Vaavu Atoll

Up to 3 dives

The trip will start by discovering the dazzling long reefs or a manta point (May to Nov only) in North Malé Atoll and South Malé Atoll.
Corals are abundant here, giving home to plenty of reef fish and macro species.
After the dive, we will cruise to Vaavu Atoll for an unmissable night dive.
There’s nothing as exciting as diving with nurse sharks, sting rays, and jacks in their feeding frenzy.

DAY 3

## Vaavu Atoll to South Ari Atoll

Up to 3 dives

Small caves, large overhangs, drop-off walls, and sloping reefs covered with corals can be found in Vaavu Atoll.
Titan triggerfish are common.
Larger marine life such as grey reef sharks, white tip reef sharks, tunas, and barracudas are also found here.
Moving west to the South Ari Atoll, you will dive on beautiful pinnacles and be able to spot bigger marine life.
Dive into this aquarium offered by mother nature and get a chance to meet the stars of the trip.



DAY 4

## South Ari Atoll

Up to 3 dives

In the marine protected area, our first stars, the mighty whale sharks, regularly show up.
Our crew will search for their presence and give you a chance to snorkel or even scuba dive with them.
Lucky or not, there are also many thilas and some wrecks in South Ari Atoll.
Grey reef sharks, napoleon wrasse, moray eels, scorpionfish are definitely part of the fauna here.
Exploring Maldives is also setting foot in paradise.
Our crew will lead a visit to a nearby local island just before dinner if possible.

DAY 5

## South Ari Atoll to North Ari Atoll

Up to 3 dives

Cruising never stops, moving up to North Ari Atoll while taking a last chance to get a close look at whale sharks.
In the north, channels are wider and the ocean is deeper.
We will meet some more stars here.
The currents attract many grey reef sharks, white tip reef sharks and even other large pelagic fish.
When night falls, you will be invited to go ashore again if possible and indulge yourself in a barbecue dinner prepared by our crew on a nearby desert island, or enjoy with a Maldivian night on board.

DAY 6

## North Ari Atoll

Up to 3 dives

Multiple manta cleaning stations, extraordinary thilas and wreck with rich marine life are the highlights of this area of Ari Atoll.
You will also find here eagle rays, hawksbill turtles, napoleon wrasse, schools of blue-stripe snapper, batfish, and fusiliers.
The day will end with a manta night dive.
Admire the enormous manta rays feeding right in front of your torch.

DAY 7

## North Ari Atoll to North Male Atoll

Up to 3 dives

After one last dive in North Ari Atoll the cruise will head back to North Malé Atoll.
Here you will find stunning long reefs, small caves, colourful corals with prolific pelagic and reef life.
Take a closer look at the squirrelfish, bannerfish, oriental sweetlips, frogfish, and nudibranchs.
In the afternoon you will come back to Malé marina to spend your last night on board.

DAY 8

## Disembark

After breakfast on board, the crew arranges your transfer to the airport.
Guests disembark between 08:00 and 08:30.
There is no diving today.







ROUTE MAP

# Central Atolls, the Best of the Maldives route



GOOD TO KNOW

# On land and on the way

### Night dives

Scheduled night dives, often with nurse sharks, and manta night dives where the area allows.

### Island visits

Visits to local islands and beach evenings, when the schedule and weather allow.

### Check in

A representative holding a sign meets you outside the arrival hall at Male airport. The first transfer to the boat, by dhoni from the airport marina and taking about 20 minutes, is at about 2 pm, and check in is from 3 pm. There are no hotel pick ups. Early check in, with a pick up at 10 am, is possible for an extra charge.

### Check out

Guests disembark between 08:00 and 08:30 after breakfast, and the crew arranges the transfer to the airport.

### Last dive

Allow at least 24 hours between your last dive and flying. The dive team can limit the number of dives for weather, diver level or physical condition, with no refund.

INCLUDED

# What your trip covers

## INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Airport transfers to the boat, by dhoni from the airport marina, and back at the end
- Shared double or twin cabin
- Dive guides
- 12 litre aluminium cylinders with DIN or international fittings, and weights
- Meals and all soft drinks on board
- Bath towels, changed at least once
- Maldivian government tourist tax and service charge
- Jacuzzi on board
- Wi-Fi, limited to emails and messaging apps
- Nitrox for certified divers

## NOT INCLUDED

- International flights to and from Male
- Supplement for a superior or premium cabin
- Supplement for single use of a cabin
- Beer, wine, spirits and espresso coffee
- Diving courses and rental equipment
- Dive insurance (mandatory) and travel insurance
- Massage service
- Speedboat, plane or seaplane transfers on special routes or unscheduled arrivals and departures

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

A surcharge may be applied if exchange rates or fuel prices change materially. At least 14 days notice is given, none is applied within 28 days of departure, and a full refund is allowed if the surcharge is 10% or more of the price

### Good to know

The minimum level is Advanced Open Water or CMAS 2 star, and Open Water divers must complete Advanced Open Water at the start of the cruise

### Good to know

The route is an example and can change to suit the weather and sea conditions

### Good to know

Snorkellers are welcome on board