CARPE VITA

Manta Madness

Male to Male | Baa, Ari and Vaavu atolls

Manta Madness adds Baa Atoll to the Best of Maldives, to explore the frequented manta spots and lagoons, including the renowned Hanifaru Bay.

The best time to join is during the summer months.

Baa lies in a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, with thilas, channels and coral gardens where manta rays, whale sharks and turtles gather.

When the rangers say Hanifaru Bay is active, a snorkel trip is organised, as diving is not allowed in the bay.

North Ari has graceful manta rays at the world-famous Maaya Thila, and whale sharks are often seen in South Ari.

Highlights include manta cleaning stations, a night dive with nurse sharks and drift dives through the channels.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
7 nights	Male	Male	35 dives, Advanced







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Arrival and check dive

1 check dive

Meet your representative at counter D17 at Velana International Airport.
Check in is at 14:00.
After a welcome drink, the safety briefing and dive registration, the check dive runs from 15:30 to 16:30, with dinner around 18:45.
If most guests arrive late, the check dive moves to the next day.

DAY 2

North Male and Baa

3 dives

North Male: Thilas, drift dives and pristine reefs, with turtles, sharks and rays.
Baa: A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve with thilas, channels and coral gardens, where manta rays, whale sharks and turtles gather.
Diving is not allowed inside Hanifaru Bay, but you can snorkel there when the rangers say it is active.

DAY 3

Rasdhoo and North Ari

3 dives

Rasdhoo: Drift dives along Rasdhoo Madivaru with reef sharks, eagle rays and schools of fusiliers, and Hammerhead Point, known for hammerhead encounters.
North Ari: Maaya Thila for manta rays and Fish Head for abundant marine life, with turtles and a chance of whale sharks.

DAY 4

South Ari

3 dives

Whale sharks are often seen here.
Dive Kudarah Thila for schools of fish and coral formations, and look for anemones, nudibranchs and morays.

DAY 5

Vaavu

3 dives

Channels and pinnacles with thrilling drift dives, reef sharks and manta rays.

DAY 6

South Male

3 dives

Drop-offs, caves and overhangs, with coral gardens, manta rays, sharks and turtles.

DAY 7

Last diving day

1 or 2 dives

One or two morning dives, depending on your flight times and the dives you have already done. Enjoy a last lunch and dinner with your new dive buddies.

DAY 8

Check out

Check out is at 08:00, followed by a transfer to Velana International Airport. There is no diving today.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Hanifaru Bay

Hanifaru Bay is a snorkel-only site, where there is no diving. A park fee applies, and you must not touch the mantas or whale sharks.

Night dives

One night dive is planned, weather permitting.

Beach BBQ

A beach barbecue is planned during the trip, weather and government permitting.

Check in

Check in is at 14:00. Meet your representative at counter D17 in the arrival hall.

Check out

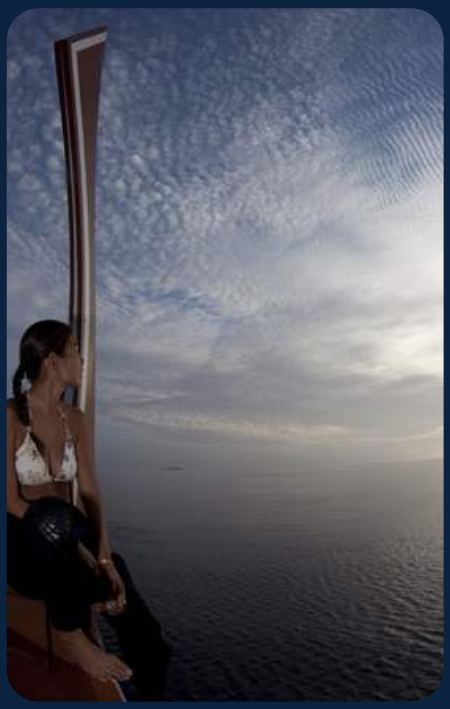
Check out is at 08:00 on the last day, with a transfer to Velana International Airport.

Last dive

One or two morning dives on the last diving day, depending on your flight times.







INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Airport transfers (pick-up and drop-off)
- Welcome drink on arrival
- All meals: buffet breakfast, lunch, afternoon snacks and dinner
- Unlimited drinking water, coffee and tea
- Three guided dives a day with English-speaking local dive guides
- One night dive, weather permitting
- Nitrox and air tanks, one SMB per buddy team and reef hooks
- Weights and belts (some items carry an extra charge)
- Beach BBQ (weather and government permitting)
- Taxes and service charge

NOT INCLUDED

- Equipment not listed under what is included
- PADI courses
- Green tax
- Fuel surcharge, payable on board
- Soft drinks and alcoholic drinks
- Starlink Wi-Fi (optional, extra cost)
- Domestic flights, where needed
- Park fees, such as Hanifaru Bay
- Dive insurance (mandatory) and travel insurance (recommended)

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Completed diver medical questionnaire
- Details of your dive and travel insurance
- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses

AND ALSO

- Light clothing and sandals
- Personal medication and toiletries
- Travel adaptor
- Passport

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Insurance

Dive insurance is mandatory, and travel insurance is recommended

Good to know

Divers need Advanced Open Water and about 35 dives

Good to know

Open Water divers may join some trips but cannot dive certain sites because of the depth, and need a private guide

Good to know

The route is not fixed, and the dive team may change it because of the weather. Sites are chosen each day by the captain and dive team leader

Flying

Some Manta Madness routes start in Baa Atoll or finish there, with a domestic flight between Male and Dharavandhoo





