ECOPRO MARIANA

Hanifaru Bay with Manta Trust

Male to Male | North Male, Baa, Noonu and Raa, North Ari

Welcome to Hanifaru Bay, a mesmerising natural wonder in the Maldives.

Witness the seasonal gathering of manta rays and whale sharks, known as the feeding frenzy, from May to November.

The Maldives holds about 10,000 reef manta rays, and this route is built around them.

Around Baa Atoll, snappers, tuna and schooling fusiliers fill the thilas, with mantas in the south-west monsoon.

In Noonu a cleaning station draws grey reef sharks and eagle rays, and a night in North Ari brings mantas to a spotlight.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
11 nights	Male	Male	All levels







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation

No diving today

You are met at Male airport by an EcoPro Divers staff member and taken to EcoPro Mariana. The earliest transfer is at about 12 noon, and a second group transfer follows at about 4 pm. There is no diving on embarkation day.

DAY 2

North Male

2 to 3 dives a day

Fish Tank, where large schools of stingrays gather in front of a fish factory and morays hide in the rubble, and Lankan Beyru (Manta Point), an easy outer reef dive with a cleaning station for mantas during the south-west monsoon.

DAY 3

North Male

2 to 3 dives a day

More time around North Male, with the sites picked by the captain and dive team to suit the conditions.



DAY 4

Baa

2 to 3 dives a day

Hanifaru Bay, a UNESCO biosphere reserve where mantas and whale sharks gather to feed in the season, from May.
Diving is not permitted in the bay, but you can snorkel.
The diving is at sites such as Vaadhoo Thila, with snappers, tuna and fusiliers, and Dhonfan Thila, with schooling fusiliers and snappers and mantas in the south-west monsoon.

DAY 5

Baa

2 to 3 dives a day

More time around Baa, with the sites picked by the captain and dive team to suit the conditions.

DAY 6

Baa

2 to 3 dives a day

More time around Baa, with the sites picked by the captain and dive team to suit the conditions.

DAY 7

Noonu and Raa

2 to 3 dives a day

Orimas Thila in Noonu Atoll, a cleaning station for grey reef sharks and eagle rays, with a fast descent, and more sites in Raa or Lhaviyani chosen to suit the weather.

DAY 8

Noonu and Raa

2 to 3 dives a day

More time around Noonu and Raa, with the sites picked by the captain and dive team to suit the conditions.

DAY 9

North Ari and Rasdhoo

2 to 3 dives a day

Rasdhoo Madivaru, a channel with a ridge for grey reef sharks and dogtooth tuna, Maaya Thila, one of the best night dives in the Maldives, Fish Head, with grey reef sharks and snappers, Bathalaamaagaa Kanthila, and a night with mantas at Maayafushi or Fesdhoo Lagoon, where a spotlight attracts plankton and mantas.

DAY 10

North Ari and Rasdhoo

2 to 3 dives a day

More time around North Ari and Rasdhoo, with the sites picked by the captain and dive team to suit the conditions.

DAY 11

Last diving day

One morning dive

One dive in the morning, then the boat returns to the harbour at about 12 noon.
This leaves time for the 24 hours between your last dive and flying.

DAY 12

Disembark

Disembarkation after breakfast, between about 07:00 and 08:00, with a transfer to the airport.
There is no diving today.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Night dives

The route includes sites that are known for night dives, depending on the conditions.

Manta rays

Cleaning stations and night encounters, depending on the season.

Check in

You are met by an EcoPro Divers staff member no earlier than 9 am at the arrival exit after baggage claim, with a sign reading EcoPro Divers and the boat name. The earliest transfer is at about 12 noon and another at about 4 pm. Extra transfers are charged.

Check out

Disembarkation is between about 07:00 and 08:00, with a transfer to the airport.

Last dive

One morning dive the day before departure. The boat returns to the harbour at about 12 noon. Allow at least 24 hours between your last dive and flying.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE	NOT INCLUDED
Breakfast, lunch and dinner, buffet style	Green tax, paid on board
Mineral water, coffee, tea and snacks	Fuel surcharge, paid on board
Transfers to and from the airport	Flights, including domestic flights
Maldivian GST of 17%	Drinks other than water, coffee and tea
Diving dhoni with 12 litre aluminium tanks and weights	Dive courses and rental equipment
Island tours and a beach barbecue, depending on the route	Nitrox
	Crew tips, which are customary
	Dive insurance (mandatory) and travel insurance







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

Every diver needs their own dive computer, which can be rented on board

Good to know

The exact routing depends on the weather, the monsoon and the currents

Good to know

Divers must dive in buddy teams, and are responsible for their own safety and that of their buddy

Good to know

Passports must be valid for at least 6 months on the day of entering the Maldives

Good to know

A Hanifaru Bay fee per visit is not included

Good to know

Diving is not permitted in Hanifaru Bay, only snorkelling

Good to know

Manta encounters can never be guaranteed