PRINCESS SARA

Male and Suvadiva

Male to Male | Male, Felidhoo, Ari, Vaavu, Meemu, Thaa and Suvadiva

Suvadiva is the largest and deepest atoll in the Maldives, and nearly all its diving is in ocean passes with dozens of grey and whitetip sharks and sometimes hammerhead, fox or tiger sharks.

Whale sharks come under the stern in the moonlight, and eagle rays, turtles and dolphins are common.

On the way there and back, pinnacles stand in the middle of channels, with grey reef sharks, eagle rays and big schools of snappers and jacks.

South Ari is known as the best place in the Maldives to find whale sharks, and one of the best night dives has nurse sharks and stingrays coming to you on the sand.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
12 nights	Male	Male	Certified divers







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation

1 dive

The crew welcomes you at Velana International Airport and takes you to the boat by 12 noon for refreshments, check in and a welcome briefing.
The check dive follows in the early afternoon, and then the boat sails to South Male for the night.

DAY 2-12

Route

3 dives a day

The boat sails from Male through Felidhoo, South Ari, North Ari, Vaavu, Meemu and Thaa to Suvadiva and back, with three dives a day and two night dives in the trip.
The dive sites below are those named for this itinerary, and the order is set on board.

DAY 13

Disembarkation

After breakfast you complete the check out, and by 10:00 the crew takes you to the airport for your flight home.







GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Kandooma Thila, South Male

Rated the best dive in South Male Atoll, a pinnacle in the middle of a channel with grey reef and whitetip reef sharks, eagle rays and big schools of snappers and jacks. The north side is covered in soft coral and turtles rest on the reef top. Currents can be strong, so a negative entry and fast descent are often needed.

Maaya Thila, North Ari

A pinnacle about 80 metres across and one of the best night dives in the Maldives, with the top of the reef at 5 metres. Fusiliers, snappers, jacks, whitetip sharks, stingrays, moray eels and turtles, and good by day too.

Fish Head, North Ari

One of the main attractions of the atoll. Big schools of jacks and fusiliers, many bluestripe snappers sheltering in the overhangs, grey reef sharks, barracuda, tuna, turtles and moray eels.

Bathalaamaagaa Kanthila, North Ari

A long coral ridge in the middle of a channel, sloping from the outer reef to 25 metres and deeper, with grey reef sharks, whitetip reef sharks, eagle rays, napoleons and schools of fusiliers and jacks. It can be dived on incoming or outgoing current, but is harder on outgoing current in the northeast monsoon.

Moofushi Kandu, South Ari

A drift dive to a manta cleaning station at about 14 to 25 metres. Hooks are recommended to stay longer with the mantas. It is busy in the northeast monsoon, and whitetip sharks and bluestripe snappers are regular visitors.

Kudarah Thila, South Ari

Inside the marine protected area and often considered the most beautiful site in the atoll, with overhangs rich in gorgonians, healthy soft corals and big schools of snappers, fusiliers and jacks. A torch helps to find groupers in the small caves. The top of the reef is at 15 metres and a negative entry is recommended.

Kudhimaa Wreck, South Ari

A 50 metre cargo ship sunk in 1998 on a sandy bottom at about 30 metres, next to Machchafushi. Good coral growth, with nurse sharks, batfish, stonefish, lionfish and moray eels. It is sheltered from the current, but most of the time is spent below 20 metres, so watch the no-decompression time.

Maamigili Beyru, South Ari

On the southern tip of the atoll, inside the marine protected area. A shallow, easy dive and known as the best place in the Maldives to find whale sharks, which can be seen along the reef all year. Boats look for them from the surface and divers enter once one is found, following the code of conduct from the briefing.

Miyaru Kandu, Vaavu

A channel dive not to be missed, with a strong current. Grey reef sharks, whitetip reef sharks, eagle rays, napoleons and tuna, and visibility up to 40 metres in the northeast monsoon. Not recommended for beginners, a negative entry is often needed and most of the time is spent at 26 to 30 metres.

Alimatha night dive, Vaavu

On the south side of Alimatha Island and one of the best night dives in the Maldives, though often crowded. Every night a show by many nurse sharks, stingrays and huge jacks, at no more than 15 metres, kneeling on the sand while the sharks come to you.

Muli Corner, Meemu

Known for many sharks on the incoming current, and manta rays at a large cleaning station on the outgoing current. Enter the water with an empty BCD and do not waste time on the surface.

Whaleshark Point, Thaa

There is no fixed place for whale sharks, but the usual way is to shine a strong light from the back of the boat in the evening to attract plankton, and then the whale sharks. Snorkelling is better than diving here, as bubbles can scatter the plankton, and the guides' instructions and the code of conduct must be followed.

Suvadiva Atoll

The largest and deepest atoll in the Maldives, down to 80 metres, with desert islands and coral gardens in shallow water. Nearly all dives are in ocean passes, with dozens of grey and whitetip sharks and sometimes hammerhead, fox or tiger sharks. Whale sharks come under the stern in the moonlight, and rays, eagle rays, turtles and dolphins are common.

Typical day

Wake up at 06:30. Briefing and first dive at 07:00, breakfast at 09:00, second dive at 11:00, lunch at 13:00 and a third dive at 15:30 where the day allows it. Snack and an island visit at 17:00, aperitif at 19:00 and dinner at 20:00.

Non-divers

Non-divers can join in every day with two of these guaranteed: snorkelling, a sandbank landing, visits to deserted and inhabited islands, and bottom fishing or trolling.

On board

A jet ski, a slide and an inflatable pool, and a jacuzzi on the main deck. Aperitifs and barbecues are held on deserted islands.

Check in

The crew meets you at Velana International Airport and takes you to the boat by 12 noon for refreshments, check in and a welcome briefing. Late afternoon arrivals are subject to a transfer surcharge.

Check out

After breakfast you complete the check out and the crew takes you to the airport by 10:00.

Last dive

Diving stops at least 24 hours before your departure flight.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Cabin share (double) and full board, with three meals a day
- Transfers between the airport and the boat
- Accompanied dives for certified divers, with cylinders and weights
- Snorkelling with a guide for non-divers, and a diving test
- Unlimited mineral water, tea and coffee
- Excursions to deserted and inhabited islands, and a beach barbecue dinner
- Dive instructors and local guides, about one guide to eight divers, speaking Italian, English and Spanish
- GST
- Snorkel gear, stand-up paddleboard, towels and toiletries
- 24 hour emergency line

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Mandatory service charge
- Green tax
- Nitrox or 15 litre cylinders
- Dive equipment rental, on request
- Dive insurance (mandatory)
- Island entrance fees where required
- Optional excursions and extra dives
- Alcoholic and soft drinks
- Jet ski, laundry and Wi-Fi
- Crew tips, which are customary
- Cabin supplements for suites and deluxe cabins

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 itinerary is set on board by the captain and the boat manager and can change with the weather, and diving at a specific site is not guaranteed

Good to know

Some channel dives have strong currents and need a good level of experience