WHITE PEARL

# Best of Central Atolls

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

Even by Maldives standards, the channels of Vaavu are special, with drift dives that are some of the most exhilarating anywhere.

South Male is famous for current-swept channels, steep walls and small caves, patrolled by grey reef sharks, schooling eagle rays and turtles.

In South Ari, dramatic overhangs and canyons are draped with colourful soft corals, and from December to March you can swim alongside whale sharks as they feed along the reef.

Rasdhoo has sharks over a wall of sea fans and black coral, with thousands of anthias fluttering around you.

The finish is North Male, with endless soft coral fields and manta rays.

| LENGTH | DEPARTURE PORT | ARRIVAL PORT | EXPERIENCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 nights | Male | Male | Certified divers |







# Your itinerary

DAY 1

## Embarkation

No diving today

Guests are met at the airport by a White Pearl representative and taken to the yacht by dhoni at the scheduled time.
Check in, welcome and crew introduction are followed by the safety briefing, and the diving starts the next day.
The sample plan starts in South Male.

DAY 2

## South Male

Up to 3 dives

South Male Atoll is famous for its current-swept channels and provides guests with a wide variety of stunning diving no matter their skill level and experience.
Known for its steep walls, ledges, and small caves, South Malé's underwater environment is famous for its variety of reef fish common to the Maldives, as well as plenty of macro life and several manta ray cleaning stations.
Kandooma Thila – often known as Cocoa Thila – is one of the most famous dive sites in the Maldives.

DAY 3

## Vaavu Atoll

Up to 3 dives

Even by Maldives' standards, Vaavu's channels are special and Devana Kandu is a channel which is divided in the middle by a 250m long reef.
The entire channel, both north and south passage, has been declared a protected marine area.
With an incoming current, divers can experience one of the most exhilarating drift dives.
On the outside reef are caves and overhangs that drop vertically from 30m to the depths below.
Grey reef sharks, eagle rays and pelagics are seen around the entrance to both passages, mostly during the north-east monsoon.

DAY 4

## South and North Ari Atoll

Up to 3 dives

South Ari's reefs, thilas and channels are justifiably famous for their beautiful underwater topography - dramatic overhangs and canyons draped with colourful soft corals are the norm here - along with the abundant and spectacular marine life, including possibilities for some exciting encounters with large pelagic.
Unfortunately, some of the reefs have been affected by the ongoing impacts of climate change and the recent El Nino event of 2016, but the latest reports have shown that the reefs are slowly recovering and sightings of the iconic species remain reliable.

DAY 5

## South and North Ari Atoll

Up to 3 dives

A further day around South and North Ari Atoll, with the sites chosen by the Cruise Director and Captain to suit the conditions.

DAY 6

## Rasdhoo Atoll

Up to 3 dives

Whatever your level of experience, scuba diving in Rasdhoo Atoll has something to tempt you. Shallow lagoons and gentle reefs provide some great sites for beginners, whilst exhilarating current-charged channels and dramatic landscapes will entice a more advanced diver.
An unusually-large selection of weird and wonderful critters, Rasdhoo Atoll really is the complete diving experience.
Rasdhoo Madivaru is a horse-shoe shaped ridge patrolled by grey reef sharks, whitetip sharks and schools of eagle rays.

DAY 7

## North Male Atoll

Up to 3 dives

Diving in North Malé Atoll delivers plenty of fish action with many dive sites well known for their breathtaking topography and healthy populations of manta rays and sharks.
The famous Lankan Manta Point will provide an unforgettable ray encounter.
And, at HP Reef and Nassimo Thila, visitors will be blown away by the seemingly endless soft coral fields inhabited by large schools of bright coloured Anthias.

DAY 8

## Disembarkation

Check out and bills with the Cruise Director, with a light breakfast before you leave.
Transfers to the airport run in the morning, and there is no diving today.

GOOD TO KNOW

# On land and on the way

### Night dives

Night dives, such as the nurse shark dive at Alimatha, depending on the route and conditions.

### On board

A jacuzzi, a water slide, a spa, paddle boards and kayaks, with a beach barbecue and a cocktail party on most trips.

### Check in

Guests are met at Velana International Airport and taken to White Pearl by dhoni at the scheduled time. Early arrivals can use the Hulhule Airport Hotel, which charges for the pool, luggage storage and showers.

### Check out

Check out is early in the morning, with a light breakfast first.

### Last dive

Diving stops at least 24 hours before your flight, with the last dives on the second last day.

INCLUDED

## What your trip covers

### INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Full board accommodation with three meals a day
- Drinking water, coffee, tea and snacks
- GST
- Transfers between the airport and the yacht
- Three guided dives a day, except on the second last day, and a night dive
- 12 litre tanks, weights and weight belts
- Free Nitrox for qualified divers
- Free Wi-Fi, limited to messaging and social media
- Beach barbecue, cocktail party, paddle boards, kayaks and the pool, jacuzzi and water slide

### NOT INCLUDED

- Government service charge, paid on board
- Green tax, paid on board
- Fuel surcharge, paid on board
- Domestic and international flights
- Spa treatments and jet ski
- Soft drinks and alcoholic drinks
- 15 litre tanks
- Dive equipment other than tanks and weights
- 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

The itinerary is a sample, and the Cruise Director and Captain choose the route and dive sites to suit the weather, tides, currents and other boats

### Good to know

Divers need Nitrox certification and experience of diving in currents

### Good to know

The government service charge replaces crew gratuities





