SEAFARI EXPLORER 2

Sharks and Mantas Expedition

Male to Gan or Gan to Male | Male, Ari, Vaavu, Meemu, Thaa, Laamu, Gaafu Alifu, Fuvahmulah and Addu

From Male to the equator, this is a hand-picked selection of the best dive sites in the Maldives, ending at the tiger sharks of Fuvahmulah.

Channels are full of grey reef, blacktip and coral sharks, and one is home to about thirty grey reef sharks.

Manta cleaning stations line the way, and at night whale sharks can be watched and snorkelled with.

The far south brings a big-fish dive with a chance of thresher sharks, mola mola, tiger sharks and hammerheads.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
14 nights	Male	Gan, or reverse	Advanced, 50+ dives







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation

Boat transfers from Male or Gan run to the boat, and the crew meets you at the information desk or the domestic terminal.
After boarding there is a welcome briefing.

DAY 2-14

Route

34 dives, 13 diving days

The boat cruises south or north through North Male, South Male, Ari, Vaavu, Meemu, Thaa, Laamu, Gaafu Alifu, Fuvahmulah and Seenu, with the sites below chosen by the senior instructor. There are 34 dives over 13 diving days, with up to four species of rays and nine species of sharks as the aim.

DAY 15

Disembarkation

The cruise ends at Gan or Male, with the domestic flight included, and a transfer for your flight home.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

North Male

Lankan Manta Point (easy, 22 metres), Sunlight Thila (easy, 15 metres), Nassimo Thila (difficult, 30 metres) and Back Faru (easy, 28 metres).

Ari, north and south

Maamigili House Reef for whale sharks and zebra sharks, Maaya Thila, Fesdu Wreck, Fish Head, Fesdu Lagoon night dive with mantas, Moofushi Kandu, Dhigga Thila, Kudarah Thila, 5 Rocks, and Bodu Finholu Thila with grey sharks, stingrays, mobula, whitetips and sometimes whale sharks.

Vaavu

Miyaru Kandu, Alimatha House Reef night dive with nurse sharks, Fotteyo Kandu, and Devana Kandu, a fishy channel with grey and whitetip sharks, eagle rays, stingrays and napoleon wrasse.







Meemu

Muli Kandu, Vanhuravalhi Kandu, Kureli Kandu, Hakura Thila, and Maduvari Kandu, a channel where about thirty grey reef sharks live, with eagle rays, napoleon, barracuda and jacks.

Thaa

Kalhufahala Giri, Olhugiri Kandu, and Kalhufahala House Reef for watching and snorkelling with whale sharks at night.

Laamu

Isdhoo Muli, Fushi Kandu with squadrons of eagle rays and grey reef sharks, Kadhdho Thila for macro, and Hithadhoo Corner, a manta garage with several cleaning stations.

Gaafu Alifu

Nilandhoo Coral Garden, Hitaadhoo Coral Garden (Bird Island) with night snorkelling with whale sharks, Kuredhoo Kandu Corner, the channels Viligilhi, Kooddoo, Nilandhoo and Maareha where a whale, hammerhead or tiger shark is possible, Nilandhoo Beiru, Vaadhoo Thila, and a spinner shark spot discovered by Seafari.

Fuvahmulah in Gnaviyani Atoll

Foammulah West and South, a difficult big-fish dive with a chance of thresher sharks, mola mola, tiger sharks and hammerheads, and Tiger Zoo, where diving is paid on board.

Seenu (Addu Atoll)

Gan Inside, a night dive with humped parrotfish, green turtles and leaf scorpionfish, Koattey Corner, Maa Kandu manta point, and the British Loyalty, a 140 metre tanker sunk in the Second World War.

Typical day

The first dive is at sunrise after tea and coffee, with breakfast at 08:30 and some navigation until about 10:30. A second dive follows on some days, then lunch at 12:30. In the afternoon there is more navigation or a second dive, and at 4 pm island hopping or a rest. A night dive is planned once a week, with dinner at 20:00.

Manta snorkelling

Snorkelling sessions with manta rays are planned at secret places, and the senior instructor decides the route and the dive sites with the captain each week, depending on the currents, the tides and the weather.

Diving rules

Every activity is supervised by a qualified CMAS or PADI instructor from the Seafari team, who briefs the site, the currents, the wildlife and the safety rules before each dive. The senior instructor can require in-water supervision, or stop a diver whose level is not enough to dive safely.

Dives

There is normally one dive on the day before disembarking, finishing before lunch.

Check in

Boat transfers from the airport run at 10:00, 12:00 and 15:00, and you meet the crew at the information desk at the airport. The boat dives start the morning after boarding.

Check out

Check out is at 07:00 on the last day, with the airport transfer in the morning.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Return transfers between the airport and the boat, with arrivals at 10:00, 12:00 or 15:00 and departure at 07:00
- One domestic flight, in one direction between Male and Gan
- Cabin share (double or twin), or a single cabin, with full board
- Drinking water, tea and coffee
- A dive package with 12 litre aluminium tanks and weights, with at least one or two night dives
- Free Nitrox for certified divers
- Island visits and a beach barbecue, where available and depending on the route
- Free Wi-Fi on board by Starlink
- GST of 17%

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Service charge package
- Green tax, paid on board
- Diving at Tiger Zoo, paid on board
- 10% service charge on onboard expenses
- Alcoholic drinks
- Dive equipment rental and 15 litre tanks, booked before departure
- Instructor supervision, if the diving level is not enough to dive safely
- Nitrox course and other courses

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 route is indicative and changes with the season, the currents and the weather, and the visited atolls and dive sites are not guaranteed

Insurance

Dive insurance is recommended, and the minimum level is Advanced Open Water with 50 logged dives

Good to know

Tiger shark sightings cannot be promised