SEAFARI EXPLORER 2

Special South

Male to Kooddoo or Kooddoo to Male | North Male, Ari, Meemu, Thaa, Laamu and Gaafu Alifu

The southern Maldives are all about moving water, with drift dives through channels full of trevally, tuna and grey reef sharks.

Manta ray cleaning stations sit over walls and reef slopes, and on an outgoing current many mantas gather over sand.

Whale sharks can be watched and snorkelled with at night.

Squadrons of eagle rays make one channel an adrenaline dive, while overhangs in another are covered in yellow soft coral.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
10 nights	Male	Kooddoo, or reverse	Advanced, 50+ dives







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation

Boat transfers from Male or Kooddoo 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 2-10

Route

24 dives, 9 diving days

The boat cruises between Male and the south through North Male, Ari, Meemu, Thaa, Laamu and Gaafu Alifu, or the other way round, with a domestic flight at one end.
There are 24 dives over nine diving days, and gives the sites below by atoll.
Vaavu is also named among the atolls.

DAY 11

Disembarkation

The cruise ends at Kooddoo or Male, with check out in the morning and a transfer for your flight home.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

North Male: Hulhumale Shark Point

Depth 28 metres. Just off the artificial island of Hulhumale, dived settled on the bottom waiting for predators. Stingrays, spinner, bull, tiger and lemon sharks and hammerheads can be seen, with moray eels.

Ari: Maaya Thila, Fesdu Lagoon, Maafushi Corner and Rangali Madivaru

Maaya Thila is a 60 metre marine reserve, popular for night dives, with many turtles and sharks. Fesdu Lagoon is a night dive with manta rays. Maafushi Corner can show eagle rays, napoleon wrasse, grey reef sharks and mantas in one dive. Rangali Madivaru is a manta site with a shallow cleaning station over a wall and reef slope.

Meemu: Muli Kandu, Vanhuravalhi Kandu and Kurali Kandu

Muli Kandu is a drift along the channel of Muli island, a turtle breeding area, with snappers, tuna, jacks, sharks and eagle rays. Vanhuravalhi Kandu has overhangs covered in yellow soft coral, grey reef and silvertip sharks, eagle rays, barracuda and jacks. Kurali Kandu is best on an outgoing current, when many mantas gather over sand between 12 and 18 metres.

Thaa: Kalhufahala Giri, Olhugiri Kandu and Kalhufahala House Reef

Kalhufahala Giri is a reef rich in fish and corals with grey reef and whitetip sharks and eagle rays. Olhugiri Kandu is a channel with sharks, eagle rays, snappers, jacks and soft corals on the overhangs. Kalhufahala House Reef is a place to watch and snorkel with whale sharks at night.

Laamu: Isdhoo Muli, Fushi Kandu, Kadhdho Thila and Hithadhoo Corner

Isdhoo Muli has a very high density of fish, with reef sharks, napoleon wrasse, turtles, jacks, groupers and snappers. Fushi Kandu is an adrenaline dive with squadrons of eagle rays, grey reef sharks and bigeye trevally. Kadhdho Thila is a mushroom-shaped site for macro photography, with hard corals and whip gorgonians over 3 metres long. Hithadhoo Corner has a plateau at 8 to 22 metres inside the channel, with cleaning stations for manta rays and schools of snapper, jacks, batfish and barracuda.

Gaafu Alifu: Vilingili Kandu, Koodoo Kandu, Nilhandhoo Kandu, Gemanafushi Beyru and Maareha Kandu

Vilingili Kandu is a deep-south channel known for strong currents and shark action, with grey reef sharks, silvertips, eagle rays, jacks and napoleon wrasse. Koodoo Kandu concentrates grey and blacktip reef sharks, eagle rays, jacks and barracuda. Nilhandhoo has hard and soft corals with whitetip reef sharks and turtles. Gemanafushi Beyru is an outer reef in the current, and Maareha Kandu has many green turtles, thresher sharks and schools of grey reef sharks.

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 Kooddoo
- 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
- 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

Flying

The domestic flight is included in the price, and the airport transfer times depend on the flight





