



MASTER
LIVEBOARDS

Maldives, Central Atolls

7 / 10 nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation:** Malé International Airport* at 12:30 only
- **Disembarkation:** Malé Airport @ 08:00**

Embarkation & Disembarkation Transfers

*Our meeting point for embarkation is in front of Burger King in the airport terminal, where our representative will be waiting to collect you and holding a Master Liveboards sign.

Our dhoni will be docked at one of the jetties in front of the airport and transfer guests from there to Maldives Master.

PLEASE NOTE: *We can not arrange pick-up or transfers from hotels.* Guests staying in a hotel or resort before their liveaboard need to make their own arrangements to be at the airport in time for the 12:30 transfer to Maldives Master.

****Disembarkation transfer** is by dhoni from Maldives Master at 07:30 to the airport only, which takes approximately 30 minutes. We regret that **we are unable to drop guests off at any other locations.**

Those staying in a resort or hotel after disembarkation need to make arrangements with the hotel to be picked up from Malé Airport.

Diving Information

Please be aware that most of the dive sites that may be included on this itinerary exceed Open Water certification depth limits and have ***strong and unpredictable currents***, making them ***challenging or unsuitable for entry-level or inexperienced divers.***

Minimum dive certification and experience:

Divers joining a Central Atolls liveaboard itinerary are required to have:

- **Mandatory** - minimum of 30 logged dives.
- **Mandatory** - Open Water certification, or equivalent with **Deep Dive* (30 metres) training**
 - Advanced Open Water is **strongly recommended.**
- **Nitrox certification*** is highly advantageous and **strongly recommended.**

*We offer SSI Nitrox certification and SSI Deep Adventure Dive onboard for those who are not already certified.

All divers should also have experience in medium-strong currents and be comfortable with drift dives, negative entries and deploying an SMB underwater.

For the safety and comfort of all divers, any guests whom the crew feel lack the necessary experience, fitness or skills for the diving conditions may be denied participation in some or all dives.

- It is a mandatory requirement for all divers to have insurance which covers scuba diving activities, including emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs.
- All divers must use a dive computer and carry an SMB and reel on every dive.
- Every diver is responsible for their own dive profiles and must remain well within the limits of their dive computer and depths dictated by their certification level.
- We request that guests always listen to and follow the instructions of the cruise director and dive guides, and make a mandatory safety stop at the end of each dive.

Diving Emergencies

The largest and longest operating recompression chamber is on Bandos Island (15 minutes by speedboat from Malé). The others are located at Kuredu Island Resort (Lhaviyani Atoll), Kuramathi Resort (North Ari Atoll), Kandima Maldives Resort (Dhaalu Atoll) and ADK Hospital in Malé.

IMPORTANT: Transfer to the nearest available chamber is likely to require emergency evacuation by speedboat, which needs to be paid for by the person who needs it at the time it is required. *It is your responsibility to ensure that your insurance will fully cover and reimburse all evacuation costs, as well as recompression chamber and/or hospital treatment.*

We strongly urge all guests to dive conservatively at all times, follow Dive Guides' advice and purchase comprehensive dive insurance before their trip.

As outlined in our [Terms & Conditions](#) dive insurance and travel insurance are mandatory.

Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

Water temperatures throughout the Maldives are fairly constant at 26°-29°C (78°-84°F) throughout the year. Most guests are comfortable in a 3mm shorty or full-length wetsuit. However, those prone to feeling cold may be more comfortable in a 5mm wetsuit and are advised to bring additional thermal layers such as a vest, hood or skinsuit to wear under their wetsuit.

Itinerary Details

Participation in this liveboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: www.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions.

The Central Atolls scuba diving itinerary takes you to some of the best dive sites around the central Maldives atolls. During your liveboard cruise, you will have the opportunity to dive at various locations around North and South Malé, Rasdhoo, and North and South Ari Atolls. Dive sites we visit can change from one trip to the next and depend on itinerary duration, environmental conditions and other factors.

Fees & Taxes:

Maldives Government Green Tax, currently 12 USD per person, per night, is mandatory and will be added to your bill to be paid on board.

Number of scheduled dives:

- **7 nights:** Up to 17
- **10 nights:** Up to 26

While we endeavour to ensure the number of scheduled dives is fulfilled, this is only an indicative number and not guaranteed. Various factors can hinder the vessel's ability to reach or remain at a specific area and may affect the number of dives possible.

Safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you or any of your group do not speak or fully understand English, please let us know before you arrive.

The following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary.

Day 1: Meet our crew at Malé Airport for transfer to Maldives Master at 12:30.

Once all guests are on board, lunch will be served, followed by boat orientation and safety briefings and a check dive near Kurumba Maldives (approximately 15 minutes by dhoni from Hulhumale). After returning to the liveaboard, you will have time to relax before dinner is served. Please note that ***Maldives Master will usually remain at anchor in Hulhumale' Harbour until the early hours of the following morning.***

Full diving days: We typically offer a maximum of 3 dives on full diving days, scheduled as follows unless travelling distances or other circumstances dictate otherwise:

- Light Breakfast followed by a briefing and Dive 1
- Full Breakfast, relaxation period, briefing and Dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation period, briefing and Dive 3*
- Snacks, relaxation period
- Dinner

*If it is possible to offer a **sunset or night dive**, the schedule will be amended slightly. On 7-night itineraries, there may only be one sunset or night dive offered, and the possibility of either **is not guaranteed**.

Guests are responsible for their own dive profiles and for ensuring they have suitable dive insurance to cover all diving activities.

Day before disembarkation: For your last day of diving, we schedule two morning dives* (06:30 am and 10:45 am) before heading back to port after lunch, where the liveaboard will remain at anchor overnight.

*Guests are kindly asked to check their flight departure times to ensure a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and flying.

Disembarkation Day: Early breakfast on board followed by disembarkation at 07:30 and transfer to the airport, which takes approximately 30 minutes.

The following is a general overview of the areas covered on the Central Atolls itineraries and a selection of dive sites that may be included. ***The inclusion of specifically named dive sites is not guaranteed***, and there may be dives at other locations along the itinerary route that are not listed below.

Various factors determine which dive sites we visit on each trip; the itinerary duration, season, weather, tides, currents and marine life activity are just some of the considerations that influence decisions regarding the exact route the boat takes and which locations are selected for diving each day.

While we wish to show you the best diving possible, the safety of all on board remains paramount. We always do our best to offer diving at alternative sites if we are unable to visit or remain at a particular area, for any reason.

PLEASE NOTE: Although some dive site descriptions indicate depths within Open Water certification limits, the majority of dives and points of interest are deeper than 18 metres. To fully participate in this itinerary, *divers need to have deep dive (30 metres) training.*

North Malé Atoll

Kurumba House Reef

Located just off Kurumba Island, roughly 20 minutes from Hulhumale' Harbour, the reef drops from a shallow lagoon into a gentle wall and sandy slope, making it the perfect location for an obligatory check dive. Expect healthy coral gardens, overhangs and small caves, and plenty of reef fish, including fusiliers, snappers, and parrotfish. Macro enthusiasts often find nudibranchs and shrimps, while eagle rays, reef sharks, and the occasional turtle pass by in the blue.

Boduhithi Thila

On the western side of North Malé Atoll, this protected marine area is renowned for its vibrant coral gardens and abundant marine life. Rising from the atoll floor to a depth of around 10 metres, in a wide channel, the thila is encircled by steep sides that drop to 30 metres, creating plenty of ledges and overhangs draped in soft corals and sea fans. Large schools of fusiliers and snappers swirl around the reef, while white-tip reef sharks, eagle rays, and turtles are frequent visitors.

Rasfari North Corner

A short distance from Boduhithi Thila, Rasfari North Corner sits at the very tip of Rasfari Island, where the reef juts out into the open ocean and catches the full force of the current. The reef begins at around 5 metres, then slopes and steps down to 30 metres and beyond, with ledges and small overhangs along the wall. When the current is running, divers can hook in at the corner and watch the spectacle unfold: grey reef sharks patrol in numbers, eagle rays sweep past in formation, and schools of barracuda and trevally hunt in the blue. The current also brings dense clouds of fusiliers and snappers swarming along the edge, creating constant movement and colour. We usually dive here on an incoming current, which brings clearer water and maximum shark activity, starting along the outside reef and around the corner into the channel. On gentler days, it's possible to drift along the outer wall, revealing patches of hard coral, turtles grazing in the shallows, and the occasional Napoleon wrasse cruising by.

H.P. Reef

Also known as Rainbow Reef or Girifushi Thila, this protected marine area is a truly exceptional dive site with an abundance of soft corals and interesting features. As the thila is located in the middle of a channel, *currents are to be expected and are often strong.* The southwest section of the thila features numerous coral outcrops, caves and crevices; A large rock formation separated from the reef by a narrow, sandy channel on the northwest side drops steeply from 15 to 24 metres, where you will find a large cave with a chimney swim-through leading back up to the top of the rock. Marine life includes sharks, eagle rays, stingrays, as well as large schools of pelagic and reef fish.

Lankan Manta Point

Located just off Lankanfinolhu Island on the southeastern side of North Malé Atoll, Lankan Manta Point is one of the Maldives' most famed manta cleaning stations. Starting at a depth of around 7 metres, the site consists of a long outer reef that slopes gently down to 25 metres in wide, coral-studded steps. The scattered bommies create natural service stations that, during the southwest monsoon (May-November), consistently attract mantas from the surrounding blue.

When the current is right, mantas arrive in a steady procession, wings outstretched, queuing patiently to be serviced by swarms of attentive blue-stripe cleaner wrasse. As the mantas awaiting their turn to be cleaned gracefully circle above, those that are done fly away down the reef, scooping up mouthfuls of zooplankton in the shallows as they go. Beyond the manta activity, the reef hums with colourful life as schools of fusiliers and snappers flicker across the slope, while turtles, Napoleon wrasse, and the occasional eagle ray pass by.

Lankan Caves

Roughly 200 metres from Manta Point, off the southern tip of Lankanfinolhu, the outer reef wall drops from a shallow plateau into deeper water, punctuated by wide overhangs and shallow caverns from 5 metres down to 30 metres that create an almost cathedral-like atmosphere as light filters through. Large table corals cover the top of the reef where schools of damselfish and sweetlips gather, while the caves and ledges are bursting with colourful life. Soft corals cling to the ceilings, glassfish and soldierfish crowd into the shadows, and moray eels peer from cracks in the limestone. Out in the blue, eagle rays and grey reef sharks are often seen patrolling the drop-off, while Napoleon wrasse and schooling trevally sweep past on the current. With currents varying from mild to moderate, Lankan Caves offers both tranquil exploration of its cavernous reef and the excitement of pelagic visitors gliding by in the open ocean.

South Malé Atoll

Cocoa Corner

Cocoa Corner is an exhilarating dive that balances drama and beauty, showcasing some of the best channel diving in South Malé Atoll. The site is shaped by a sweeping corner where the gently sloping outer reef bends into the channel mouth, creating an ideal spot to watch the ocean's traffic flow past. When the current runs into the atoll, divers can hook in along the edge and enjoy a living theatre of grey reef sharks, white-tip reef sharks, and schooling eagle rays riding the current, while tuna, barracuda, and trevally patrol the blue. The reef wall itself is alive with colour, draped in soft corals and punctuated by overhangs that shelter soldierfish, glassfish, and the occasional turtle resting in the shade. Shallower sections are frequented by schools of fusiliers and snapper, and manta rays sometimes make surprise appearances in season.

Kandooma Thila

Located inside the channel from Cocoa Corner, Kandooma Thila is a 300 metre long, submerged pinnacle that rises dramatically from the channel floor to within 15 metres of the surface. Considered by many to be the best dive site in South Malé Atoll, its position in open water means **currents can be strong**, but that's what makes it so spectacular. Grey reef sharks circle in steady patrols at the up-current end, while eagle rays glide along the flanks and giant trevallies sweep in to hunt among schools of fusiliers. The reef itself is no less impressive, with soft corals covering the walls in shades of pink and orange, and

overhangs and crevices filled with soldierfish, squirrelfish, and big-eyed trevally. The teardrop-shaped pinnacle's saddle at around 20 metres is often the focal point of the dive, where sharks, rays, and swirling schools of fish converge in a living maelstrom. Because of the depth and current, Kandooma Thila can be challenging, but for those prepared, it offers one of the most exhilarating dives in the Maldives, a perfect blend of coral beauty and pelagic drama.

Guraidhoo Kanduu

Guraidhoo Kanduu is part of a protected marine area that extends to Lhosfushi Kanduu, with Medhu Faru separating the two channels. The area is renowned for sightings of sharks and schools of eagle rays, especially around the channel opening where the reef drops off into the deep, open ocean. Occasionally, sailfish and hammerheads may also be seen, although this is a rare treat rather than a guarantee. The optimum conditions to dive here are on an incoming current, beginning on the outer reef and going with the flow into the channel. The reef along the inside of the channel features overhangs with plenty of soft coral growth and small fish.

Lhosfushi / Medhu Faru

When the conditions are conducive to doing so, we usually combine Lhosfushi and Medhu Faru in one dive, with the nature and direction of the dive dictated by currents, or lack thereof. On an incoming current, we start on the outside reef at Lhosfushi and cross the narrow channel opening, then drift with the current to finish the dive in the channel on the south side of Medhu Faru.

The outside reef at Lhosfushi is a steep slope where reef sharks, turtles, eagle rays and Napoleon wrasse can usually be found, as well as a variety of eels, leaf fish, blue triggerfish and big schools of jacks hanging around the corner. Featuring a series of overhangs and blocks adorned with sea fans and soft corals, playing host to groups of reef fish, shrimps and eels, Medhu Faru may be one of the most scenic dives in the Maldives.

Vellasaruu Caves

Tucked along the outer reef on the northern edge of South Malé Atoll, Vellasaruu Caves is a site that combines dramatic topography with a vibrant display of reef life. The reef wall drops to around 30 metres and is riddled with wide overhangs and shallow caves that create a sense of mystery as you drift past. Soft corals in shades of pink and orange cling to the ceilings, while glassfish, soldierfish, and sweepers cluster in the shelter of the shadows. Out in the blue, schools of fusiliers and jacks flash past, often pursued by trevally or tuna, while eagle rays and turtles are frequent companions along the drop-off. The site's atmosphere is tranquil yet full of surprises: one moment you're gliding through shafts of light filtering into the caves, the next you're watching a grey reef shark cruise just beyond the reef's edge. With its mix of colourful coral formations, dramatic caverns, and pelagic encounters, Vellasaruu Caves is a quintessential South Malé dive, offering both serenity and spectacle in equal measure.

North Ari Atoll

Rasdhoou-Madivaruu

Administratively part of Alifuu Alifuu Atoll, the Rasdhoou region is a small atoll in its own right, with Rasdhoou Island being North Ari's administrative capital.

Rasdho-Madivaru is a lively channel area at the southeast corner of Rasdhoo Atoll, famed for its prolific marine life and early morning scalloped hammerhead shark encounters. Forming a dramatic hook-shaped corner and plateau, the reef begins at around 8 metres, then drops in stages to 25–30 metres before plunging into the deep. This unique shape syphons nutrient-rich currents through the channel, creating a natural stage for a wide variety of aquatic creatures.

On an incoming tide, we often simply “hook in” along the reef edge and watch the action unfold as grey reef sharks patrol in steady loops, trevallies dart in to hunt fusiliers, and schools of barracuda and jackfish hang effortlessly in the current. Eagle rays gliding across the blue are a common sight, while the vibrant reef bursts with colour where hard corals, sponges, and soft corals shelter turtles, Napoleon wrasse, and rainbow swirls of anthias.

Between the exhilarating pelagic action at the corner and the rich coral slopes along the reef, Rasdhoo-Madivaru delivers the perfect mix of adrenaline and beauty, warranting more than one dive, and is justifiably regarded as one of the Maldives’ must-dive sites.

Fish Head

Fish Head, also known as Shark Point or Mushimasingili Thila, fits the classic definition of a thila; Roughly 80 metres wide, this isolated pinnacle rises steeply from a depth of 40+ metres to form a flat-topped reef, 10 metres below the surface. The underwater scenery, along with a wide variety of marine life and large numbers of grey reef sharks, has earned it a reputation as one of the top ten dive sites in the Maldives. It features a series of caves and ledges at varying depths and a large undercut between 25-30 metres, and can easily be circled in a single dive if the currents are favourable.

Maaya Thila

Where Fish Head is known as one of the best locations for grey reef shark encounters, Maaya Thila boasts the same with white-tip reef sharks. Grey reef sharks are also present but are largely outnumbered by the white-tip population. Maaya is very similar in size and topography to Fish Head, although slightly shallower. Apart from the sharks, there is plenty of fish activity to feast your eyes on; turtles, dog-toothed tuna, great barracuda, Moorish idols, batfish, parrotfish, butterflyfish, angelfish, clown triggerfish, lionfish, fusiliers, snappers, along with soft corals and sea fans add a rainbow of colour to the reef.

Fesdhoo Lagoon

Sheltered inside North Ari Atoll, Fesdhoo Lagoon is an area where, during the southwest monsoon (roughly *May-November*), manta rays often congregate in the late afternoon and evening to feed. By day, the lagoon itself is picturesque but unassuming: a sheltered basin of sand and coral heads near the island of Fesdhoo, with calm waters and little current. But after sunset, the place transforms.

If we visit the lagoon as an overnight anchorage, the crew will attach lights to the rear of the boat, illuminating the water column and drawing in swarms of plankton. This, in turn, usually attracts the manta rays, which sweep gracefully through the beams, looping and spiralling in slow motion as they feed. *If the mantas put in an appearance*, divers may be offered the opportunity to do *a stationary night dive* at the back of the boat to passively observe the rays while they are feeding.

While mantas are the stars, other nocturnal life emerges too: hunting jacks dart through the baitfish, nurse sharks cruise the edges of the lights, and stingrays stir in the sand. But

nothing rivals the spectacle of the mantas silhouetted against the glow, feeding in elegant loops into the night.

South Ari Atoll

Angaga Thila

Located in the middle of South Ari, this small seamount starts at a depth of 8-10 metres, dropping steeply on all sides to the sandy seabed at 35 metres. Measuring roughly 80 metres in diameter, the circumference of the thila is dotted with overhangs of varying size at a depth of between 15 and 25 metres, where resting stingrays can often be found. Mantis shrimps, nudibranchs, octopuses and various types of moray eels are amongst the other occupants seeking shelter in these nooks, while white-tip reef sharks, trevallies and barracuda patrol the perimeters. Coral blocks on the shallow reef top provide hiding places for nurse sharks with colourful reef fish flitting above them.

Kudima Wreck

Also known as the Machchafushi Wreck, this former Japanese cargo ship was deliberately sunk in 1998. Sitting upright at a maximum depth of 30 metres, this 52-metre-long steel wreck has become an impressive artificial reef with plenty of soft and hard coral growth, sponges and ascidians covering the decks. It is a great dive site for macro lovers with many species of nudibranchs, shrimps and crabs, frogfish and ghost pipefish. Large holes purposely cut out of the hull before the vessel was scuttled allow easy penetration and exploration of some of the wreck's interior.

Kudarah Thila

Located inside a large channel, Kudarah Thila is a small, isolated reef which is covered in beautiful soft and hard corals, teeming with fish, and one of the most colourful dives in South Ari. The top of the thila is 14-16 metres deep and drops off sharply to 27 metres all the way around. If the current is not too strong, it's possible to navigate the entire thila in one dive and explore the top of the reef for macro species. Around the eastern end, there is a swim-through and two large overhangs decorated with yellow daisy corals on the ceilings and giant gorgonians on the floors. Thousands of blue-lined snappers surround the reef, as well as large schools of humpback red snappers and bannerfish. Grey reef sharks are also regularly seen cruising the peripheries.

Lily Rock / Manta Point

Located just inside the atoll on the eastern side of South Ari, Lily Rock is one of the atoll's most reliable manta ray cleaning stations and a highlight for divers seeking close encounters with these graceful giants. Topographically similar to Lankan Manta Point, a gently sloping outer reef that begins at around 8 metres descends to a sandy plateau at 20–25 metres, where a series of coral bommies and overhangs act as natural cleaning stations. During the northeast monsoon (roughly November-April), mantas usually gather here in impressive numbers, hovering effortlessly above the corals as cleaner wrasse pick over their wings and gills. Divers position themselves on the sandy bottom, keeping still and maintaining respectful distances, as the mantas take centre stage, looping back again and again, often in pairs or small groups, coming in close enough to fill the frame of a wide-angle lens. Around the edges of the cleaning stations, the reef is busy with reef fish, turtles, and the occasional eagle ray drifting by, but nothing distracts from the graceful choreography above.

To the north of Lily Manta Point, there is another manta cleaning station at Mahibadhoo Thila, which we may visit as well, or instead.

10 night itineraries only

Vaavu Atoll

We regret that we are no longer able to dive at Alimathaa Resort or its jetty.

Miyaru Kanduru

In Dhivehi, Miyaru means shark, indicating what to expect at this channel dive location, specifically grey and white-tip reef sharks in large numbers in the middle of the channel around the entrance. The channel opening slopes from 30-35 metres before dropping off into the deep, open ocean on the eastern side of the atoll; leading into the atoll, the channel floor is approximately 25 metres deep and mostly sand, with a small coral garden towards the end. Depending on which way the current is flowing, we hook in on one of the corners to watch the action before continuing the dive as a drift either into the channel or out and along the outside reef.

Devana Kanduru

One of Vaavu Atoll's signature channels, Devana Kanduru showcases the Maldives at its most exhilarating. The channel funnels strong ocean currents that carry plankton-rich water, drawing in a stunning cast of pelagic life. Depending on the conditions, divers can hang at the channel mouth or drift along the edge to watch schools of grey reef sharks patrol the drop-off, white-tip and nurse sharks resting on the sandy floor, and eagle rays soaring effortlessly in the flow. Napoleon wrasse, barracuda, and tuna are regular visitors, while the outer reef walls are decorated with hard corals and vibrant soft coral overhangs that shelter fusiliers, snappers, and other reef fish. An incoming tide often brings the clearest water and the most action, but even in stronger outgoing currents, the drift can be thrilling. Devana Kanduru is a classic Maldivian channel dive offering a heady mix of current, colour, and big-fish drama in one of the country's most unspoiled atolls.

Dhiggiri Kanduru

Dhiggiri Kanduru on the northeastern corner of Vaavu is known for its mix of gentle drifts and high-energy pelagic action. The channel opens wide, with reef walls that slope from the shallows into deeper water, dotted with hard corals, small overhangs, and sandy ledges where white-tip reef sharks are often found resting. When the current is incoming, divers can hold position near the channel mouth to watch grey reef sharks, barracuda, tuna, and eagle rays drawn in by the flow, while clouds of fusiliers and snappers pulse along the reef edge. On quieter days, the channel floor reveals stingrays half-buried in sand and the occasional nurse shark tucked beneath a ledge. With depths from five to over thirty metres, the site offers both relaxed drifts along the reef and more thrilling hook-ins when the current runs strong. Best dived on an incoming tide for clearer water and more marine life, Dhiggiri Kanduru delivers a rich variety of encounters and a real taste of Vaavu's channel-diving character - part serene reefscape, part pelagic theatre.

Should you have any questions regarding the areas covered on this itinerary, or whether the diving is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team at dive@masterliveboards.com who will be pleased to assist and advise you