



MALDIVES CENTRAL ATOLLS & HANIFARU ROUTE

Maldives
Blueforce
Photo Credit: Rafa Fernández

From August to October is the best season to visit the North Atolls in the Maldives. This route, the Manta Expedition, starts with a first diving day in North Male where we look for a manta cleaning station, before sailing northbound to the Baa Atoll and Hanifaru Bay. On this atoll we try to enjoy snorkelling with mantas in the Hanifaru Bay Biosphere Reserve.

Depending on sea conditions, currents and sightings that week, we may modify the route in search of pelagics in Rasdhoo, and, with a bit of luck, diving or snorkelling with the whale shark on the Ari Atoll.

This route combines a large part of the classic route, the best known in the Maldives, with the Baa Atoll to the north of the central atolls. We explore the North Male and South Male atolls, visiting manta cleaning stations and thilas to see sharks such as Kandooma and Guraidhoo, crossing to the Ari Atoll to look for whale sharks and dive with mantas at night, then diving in Rasdhoo where the pelagics await. The cruise completes sailing north to Baa, in the Dharavandhoo area, next to Hanifaru Bay, where we enjoy manta ray diving and snorkelling.

Manta ray diving is one of the most exciting and unforgettable experiences in a scuba diver's life. Diving with tanks or just snorkelling, the sensation of being in the water with these awesome animals is incredible - watching them open their mouths to filter the water and feed on plankton is something very special.

Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1 (Saturday): Male - Central Atolls & Hanifaru Route

Arrival at Male airport. One of our staff members will be waiting for you at Male Airport (boarding from 11am). You will then get onto our auxiliary boat Dhoni for the transfer to Maldives Blue Force One or 3 for check-in, briefing of the liveaboard, diving and plan itinerary. Dinner onboard.

Days 2-7 (Sunday to Friday): Central Atolls & Hanifaru Route

The planned route (although it can be modified under the cruise management's criteria) will take a trip around North Male, Hanifaru, Ari, Rasdhoo and Baa atolls. During the cruise, an 18-dive programme for certified divers is developed, including snorkelling in Hanifaru Bay. On Friday afternoon we will anchor next to Male, so we will have the option to make a guided visit to Male.

Day 8 (Saturday): Male

Disembark at Male airport at 7am. If the return flight leaves in the afternoon there is a day hotel option near the airport, and even free time to optionally visit Male until the time of the return flight.

Included

- Transfers airport - boat - airport.
- Stay in a double cabin sharing on Maldives Blue Force One or 3, on a full board basis.
- Water, tea and coffee.
- 18 dives including S80 tanks, weights, guides and diving boat (Dhoni).
- Travel, diving and cancellation insurance.

Not Included

- Flights to Male.
- Local taxes and government fees, payable on board.
- Internet access.
- Soft drinks and alcoholic drinks.
- Day hotel option in Male (direct payment if used).
- Rental equipment (available on request, must be booked before departure).
- Nitrox, priced per person per week.
- Hanifaru Bay entrance fee, charged per snorkeller.

Important

It is recommended to have Advanced Open Water certification or similar, with 50 logged dives.