

Hanifaru and the North

You don't need a minimum number of dives but you should be comfortable with drift dives as currents can be unpredictable and strong.

If you are an Open Water Diver, some dives are below 18m therefore we recommend having advanced experience or taking your PADI Advanced Open Water course on board to maximise your enjoyment of the trip.

Inexperienced and beginner divers may find some dives challenging and might be asked by the Cruise Director to skip dives that are not suitable for their diving experience.

All diving is made from dhonis to give precise entry and exit points.

North Male Atoll: Beautiful Pinnacles.

Lhaviyani Atoll: Fushivaru Thila, Kuredu Express, and Kuredu Caves

Baa Atoll: Hanifaru Bay and Nelivaru Thila, Dhiggu Thila and many more

Rasdhoos Atoll: Hammerhead Dive, Beautiful Reef with Pelagics

North Ari Atoll: Grey Reef Sharks, Maaya Thila Night Dive, Multiple Manta Cleaning Stations

This itinerary combines some of the best and most famous dives sites from our Best of Maldives and Hanifaru & North itineraries, creating a trip with highlights from what is generally referred to as the 'Northern Atolls' and it delivers exactly that.

A diverse marine mix of reef animals, stony and soft corals, abundant macro life, marine turtles, manta rays and whale sharks awaits where you can get up close at the cleaning stations without disturbing the locals.

Some of the best channels for diving with Maldives reef sharks can be found in North Male. Often the best chances for whale shark and manta encounters can be found in Ari Atoll, such as at one of the best-known dive sites, Maaya Thila. For hammerheads, it's a visit to Rasdhoo Atoll in North Ari.

As well as mantas, you can get close to turtles, grey reef sharks and whitetip reef sharks. One of the big attractions is the chance to encounter mantas feeding and cleaning.

Although diving is not permitted in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hanifaru Bay, we are allowed to go in and snorkel with these gentle giants in the lagoon. After a manta has enjoyed its feed it needs to get cleaned, so we take you to known manta cleaning stations in both North Male and Baa Atoll.

Hopefully these will give you sightings all week long.

Of course, sightings can't be guaranteed but diving at this time means your chances are high.