



MASTER
LIVEBOARDS

Maldives, Central & Southern Atolls

7 / 10 nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation:** Malé Airport*
- **Disembarkation:** Kooddoo, Gaafu Alifu Atoll @ 08:00

OR

- **Embarkation:** Kooddoo, Gaafu Alifu Atoll
- **Disembarkation:** Malé Airport @ 08:00

Please check your booking details for embarkation and disembarkation locations for your departure dates, and refer [Southern Atolls Trip Information](#) document for transfer details including embarkation and disembarkation arrangements.

*There are two transfer times for embarkation in Malé - 12:30 and 16:00

Marine & Port Fees:

There are no marine park or port fees payable in the Maldives. However, there is a mandatory 6 USD per night Government Green Tax which must be paid in advance as part of your liveboard booking.

NOTE: If [Fuvamulah](#) is included in the itinerary, a 30 USD per person charge applies for diving at Tiger Harbour. This is payable on board, in USD cash only.

Minimum dive certification and experience:

Divers are required to have PADI **Advanced Open Water certification***, or equivalent, with a **minimum of 50 logged dives**. Please note that this itinerary will involve diving in currents; we therefore strongly recommend experience with diving in currents.

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience recommendations, or who the crew feel have insufficient experience in certain 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.

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

Itinerary Details

Due to the distances covered on this itinerary, you can expect some long, overnight cruising between some locations. Whilst we attempt to ensure the number of dives indicated below is fulfilled, this is only indicative, and not guaranteed.

- 7 nights: Up to 16
- 10 nights: Up to 25

In addition to extended cruising times, notably between Laamu and Huvadhu Atolls, various other factors can hinder the vessel's ability to reach, or remain at a specific location 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 understand English, please contact us.

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

Day 1: Meet our crew at the airport for embarkation. Embarkation is followed by introductions, boat and safety briefings and dinner. There is no diving on embarkation day.

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

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

*if we are able to offer a sunset or night dive, the diving schedule will be slightly amended.

PLEASE NOTE: Night dives are not possible in the southern atolls due to strong currents and depths in many of the locations. Depending on the itinerary duration, there may be 1 night dive or 1 sunset dive on each trip, but this is NOT guaranteed.

Day before disembarkation: For the last day of diving we usually schedule two dives* before lunch, after which the boat commences its cruise to the disembarkation port.

*The number of dives offered on the day before disembarkation is dependent on flight departure times (domestic or international depending on disembarkation point) to ensure a minimum of 24 hours between the final dive and flying.

Disembarkation day: Breakfast on board followed by disembarkation at 08:00.

While we wish to show you the best diving possible, a number of factors can determine which sites we visit. Weather, tides and currents, amongst others, are considerations which determine the Cruise Director's and Captain's decision of which locations are selected for diving. The safety of all on board is paramount and we will always do our best to offer diving at alternate locations should we be unable to visit the sites listed below.

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

Dive sites we usually visit during the Central & Southern Atolls liveaboard itinerary include, but are not limited to:

South Malé Atoll

Cocoa Corner

Cocoa Corner consists of a gently sloping reef from 5-30 metres on the outer edge of the channel which transitions into a steep wall leading into the atoll. The wall section nearest to the corner near the corner features many caves and overhangs which are adorned with a variety of soft and hard corals, sea fans and sponges. Further along, inside the channel itself, you will find some coral blocks at a depth of 20-30 metres where octopuses can often be found. Other regular sightings here include turtles, eagle rays, surgeonfish and of course, there are also reef sharks.

Kandooma Thila

Located inside the channel from Cocoa Corner, the reef is subject to strong currents at times. The ocean currents carry a lot of nutrients, supporting an abundance of sea life. The 300-metre long, teardrop-shaped thila boasts prolific fish life and beautiful underwater scenery and is considered by some to be one of the best dive sites in South Male Atoll. It is renowned for its soft coral growth, turtles, diverse fish life and invertebrates found on the reef top. Along the reef slope, you may also find black snapper, blue-fin jacks, sharks and eagle rays.

Guraidhoo Kandu

Guraidhoo Kandu is part of a protected marine area that also encompasses Lhosfushi Kandu and Medhu Faru, which separates the two channels.

As the eastern side of the Guraidhoo Kandu faces the open ocean, large predatory fish can regularly be spotted here and the area is renowned for sightings of sharks and schools of eagle rays. Occasionally, sailfish and hammerheads may also be seen although this is a rare treat rather than a guarantee. Most of the pelagic species can be observed around the channel opening where the reef drops off into the deep ocean. The best conditions to dive here are on an incoming current, beginning on the outer reef and going with the flow into the channel. Along the reef inside the channel, you can find 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, although the nature and direction of the dive are dependent on currents, or lack thereof.

Normally, we dive here on an incoming current, starting on the outside reef at Lhosfushi and crossing the narrow channel opening to the northern corner of Guraidhoo Kandu, 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.

Medhu Faru separates Lhosfushi Kandu from Guraidhoo Kandu and is possibly one of the most scenic dives you will experience in the Maldives. Around the corner area of Medhu Faru, at the channel entrance, a series of overhangs and blocks adorned with sea fans and soft corals play host to groups of reef fish, shrimps and eels. Depending on the season, mantas can also be seen here visiting the resident cleaner wrasse.

Vaavu Atoll

Fotteyo Kandhu

Many scuba divers consider Fotteyo Kandhu to be the best dive site in the Maldives, and it is also rated among the top 5 dive sites in the world. The mouth of the channel is exposed to the ocean and during northeast monsoon when the currents are incoming, a good variety of pelagic hunters gather at the entrance to the channel. Species commonly spotted here include grey reef sharks patrolling the channel mouth, jacks and tuna in the deeper water, schools of midnight snappers and red snappers in huge groups. The wall features caves, overhangs and swim-throughs at different depths which are filled with colourful soft corals and massive black coral bushes.

Miyaru Kandhu

In Dhivehi, Miyaru means shark, which gives an indication of 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 site can be dived on both incoming and outgoing currents, with plenty to see in either case.

The eastern end of the channel slopes from 30-35 metres before dropping off into deep, open ocean and the channel floor is mostly sand at a depth of approximately 25 metres, with a small coral garden towards the western 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.

Alimathaa

On the southern side of Miyaru Kandhu is the resort island of Alimathaa. Here we usually do a sunset dive on the resort's house reef, close to their jetty, which is well known for the large number of resident nurse sharks. There is no need to search for them; simply hook in, wait (not very long) and watch in awe as they circle around and above the reef and the divers. As if that wasn't exciting enough, you can also expect some eagle rays to put in an appearance just to mix things up a bit.

Golden Wall

The dive site earned its name from the abundance of yellow and orange soft corals that cover the 40-metre deep, vertical wall inside the channel. If the current isn't too strong, you can explore the caves and overhangs along the wall, where you will likely find moray eels, small reef fish and nudibranchs. At the corner of the channel mouth, there are usually large congregations of fish. As with most channel dives in the Maldives, you can also expect to see sharks and other pelagics patrolling the blue of the outside reef and the corner of the outside reef.

Rakeedhoo Corner

Rakeedhoo is located on the southernmost tip of Vaavu Atoll where we usually dive on and around the western corner of Rakeedhoo Kandhu. The reef starts from a depth of just 5 metres, extends outwards in steps to around 30 metres, then drops off almost vertically on the outside reef to the 50+ metre deep ocean floor. The channel itself is wide and over 40 metres deep, so it isn't possible to cross from one side to the other during a dive, and there's very little to see in the middle. Therefore, we go with the direction of the current along the edge of the channel and around the corner where there are lots of interesting features and marine life. There are a lot of overhangs and caves to explore with colourful

corals and anemones providing shelter for many different types of critters. There is plenty of fish activity too with groups of blue-fin trevally, fusiliers and snappers hanging around the corner area, as well as turtles, sharks and rays.

Meemu Atoll

Gaa Huraa

Also on the northern edge of Meemu Atoll, Gaa Huraa is a deep, narrow channel which is also known as Vanhuravalhi Kanduu. This is an amazingly colourful dive site with lots of soft corals and a varied abundance of reef fish. With crystal-clear water providing fantastic visibility, it can be likened to diving in an aquarium. Usually, we encounter large numbers of grey reef sharks here, as well as eagle rays and schools of barracuda. If we're really lucky we might even see pods of spinner dolphins but, even if they are not seen, there is still plenty of other marine life to enjoy.

Muli Corner

Also known as Hakura Express, Muli Kanduu is a wide channel on the eastern side of the atoll. Here we focus our attention on and around the southern corner of the channel which consists of a large underwater plateau. As currents are often very strong, we usually 'hook in' at the corner to watch the action for a while before letting go to ride the current. Along the way, you can expect to see thousands of snappers, groups of sweetlips, surgeonfish, and much, much more.

Kurali Manta Point

On the southern tip of Meemu, Kurali Kanduu is a narrow, mostly sandy, shallow channel. The channel floor, which has a scattering of coral blocks, hides an array of marine life including octopus, morays and garden eels, mantis shrimps and resting sharks and stingrays. Located in the channel entrance is a large block that serves as a manta cleaning station, which is why the dive site is referred to as 'Manta Point'.

Thaa Atoll

Part of the appeal of Thaa Atoll is the lack of resorts meaning that most of the sites are only accessible to divers on a liveaboard. Thaa is well-known for its abundance of aquatic life and variety of fish, sharks, turtles, and rays. The best diving is on the outer reefs and around the channels where you can expect lots of thrills, not just from the ocean currents, but also from the marine life.

Olhugiri Kanduu

This is a great location to witness lots of pelagic action. Large schools of fish attract hunting white-tip reef sharks; with them come tuna, jacks and eagle rays waiting to snatch up some of the leftovers.

The site offers different aquatic terrains and ecosystems, including an outside reef, corner, channel and a sandbank. Garden eels can be found on the sandbank as well as goatfish, shrimps and gobies. As you get deeper the variety of species grows and you will find soldierfish, scorpionfish, lionfish, groupers and sweetlips. Fusiliers, unicornfish, groupers, snappers and red-toothed triggerfish are abundant on the reefs and occasionally large Napoleon wrasse can be seen nibbling on corals.

Dhiffushi Kandu

Along the northern edge of Thaa Atoll, just west of Olhugiri Kandu, you can expect more pelagic sightings and lots of reef fish. The nature of the dive is determined by the direction of the current; On an incoming tide, you are likely to see large numbers of sharks making their way through the large, rocky channel mouth at a depth of 20-25 metres. When there is an outgoing current, a bowl-shaped area in the channel is a hive of swirling fish activity.

Dhiyamigili Corner

On the east side of Thaa Atoll, Dhiyamigili Corner offers the potential for Hammerhead shark sightings. Along the outside reef leading to and from the corner large numbers of jacks, snapper, tuna, Napoleon wrasse, reef sharks and stingrays can be seen.

Laamu Atoll

Laamu has an amazing coral reef forming the majority of the circumference of the atoll; where the reef breaks, it allows for channels which offer some exhilarating dives with plenty of pelagic action. Strong currents are to be expected, making many of the dive sites best suited for advanced and experienced divers.

Isdhoo

Isdhoo Island forms the northern tip of Laamu Atoll. The reef surrounding the island on the open ocean side comprises two separate dive sites, namely Isdhoo East and Isdhoo West. Normally, we will dive on the west side, which is a long, continuous wall between 5 metres and 30 metres deep with overhangs at depths of between 15 and 25 metres. Lots of colourful corals adorned the length of the wall with plenty of fish life all around, and pelagics patrolling the blue.

Fushi Kandu

On the eastern side of the atoll, directly south of Isdhoo, this is one of the most popular channel dives which starts on a shallow seabed at around 10-15 metres and descends to a plateau at 35 metres. The channel is roughly 250 metres long with several pinnacles across its width which attract large schools of reef fish. Nurse sharks and stingrays can often be spotted resting on the sandy bottom, and grey reef sharks, white-tip reef sharks and eagle rays are also regularly found here.

Vadinolhu Kandu

Along the northwest side of Laamu Atoll, the opening of this relatively narrow channel starts as a 30-metre deep drop-off on the outside reef which is where most of the action takes place, and the majority of the dive is spent. Where the channel enters the atoll, the bottom and sides are roughly 18 metres deep, becoming deeper the further inwards it goes. The strong currents attract an abundance of pelagics including white-tip reef sharks, eagle rays, tuna, trevallies Napoleon wrasse and schools of snappers.

Guraidhoo Kandu

This narrow channel cutting through the outer reef on the west side of the atoll is a superb dive offering a unique diving opportunity for viewing a wide range of fish life. The dive is dictated by whether the current is outgoing or ingoing but it is possible to observe schooling bannerfish, big schools of fusiliers, rainbow runners, tuna and trevally. Grey reef sharks and a school of eagle rays can also be seen.

Hithadoo Corner

At the bottom of Laamu is Hithadoo Island, which sits on the western corner of the very wide Gaadhoo Kanduu. The dive site is a large plateau extending from the corner of the island into the channel opening. Several big blocks at depths of 16 - 24 metres with a lot of fish activity around them are also known for being cleaning stations visited by mantas throughout the year. However, the highest numbers are usually during the mating seasons from October to November and April to May. Napoleon wrasse, turtles and reef sharks are also seen here along with schools of fusiliers, snappers, soldierfish and surgeonfish.

Huvadhu Atoll

Also known as Gaafu Atoll, Huvadhu is the deepest and second-largest atoll in the Maldives and one of the ten largest in the world. Administratively separated as Northern and Southern Huvadhu (Gaafu Alifu and Gaafu Dhaalu respectively), it consists of a circular-shaped ring of reefs enclosing a vast, deep central lagoon (65 metres wide and up to 85 metres in depth) with a small, thumb-like extension at the north. The entire atoll is studded with numerous smaller patch reefs, coral knolls, faros and small coral islets.

The outermost reefs of Huvadhu form a discontinuous barrier to the open ocean, made up of 40 reef segments separated from each other by deep channels connecting the open waters of the Indian Ocean with those of the interior lagoon, making for some fantastic diving and marine life sightings.

Crystal clear waters and stunning topography, coupled with diverse and plentiful marine life make this atoll a perfect location to experience some of the very best of what the Maldives has to offer. Vibrant reefs and walls, caves and tunnels, channels, thilas and outcrops provide a wide variety of dive options from exhilarating drift dives to relaxed reef dives while observing a variety of sharks, rays, barracuda, tuna and turtles, or searching for more elusive macro photo opportunities amongst the colourful corals.

For many people, the kandus (channels) are Huvadhu's biggest appeal due to the variety of sharks which they attract. Not just white-tip and grey reef sharks that are commonly seen throughout most of the Maldives, but also silver-tips, silkies, nurse and leopard sharks, and even very occasional hammerhead, tiger, bull and oceanic blacktip sightings patrolling the deep blue beyond the outer reefs.

Many of the channels are susceptible to much stronger currents than other atolls so when diving these, we usually hook in at the entrance at a depth of 30m to observe the sharks and other marine life. If possible, we end the dives along the wall inside the channel where we can often find big hawksbill and green turtles, nurse sharks and marbled rays.

Following are just a few of the channels that we often dive when we are in Huvadhu:

- Villingili Kanduu
- Nilandhu Kanduu
- Kooddoo Kanduu
- Mareeha Kanduu

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

Fuvamulah Atoll (special itineraries only)

This solitary island atoll, also commonly called Fomulac or Foammulah Atoll, lies within the Equatorial Channel between Huvadhu Atoll to the north and Addu Atoll to the south. Unlike other atolls, there are no thilas, giris or kandus; It consists of a continuous, low-lying coral formation that spans 4.5 km in length, is 1.2 km wide and extends deep towards the ocean floor. Designated as a [UNESCO Biosphere Reserve](#), Fuvahmulah boasts the most diverse coral ecosystems in the country, and also has the reputation of being 'the most beautiful island in the Maldives'.

Its location and underwater topography make Fuvahmulah and the surrounding waters home to a rare combination of pelagic marine life. Pristine, colourful hard corals entirely cover the top reef and the walls that drop off to the well beyond recreational diving depth limits. But, what sets this unique Maldivian atoll apart from others are its resident tiger sharks, as well as frequent sightings of black oceanic mantas, whale sharks, thresher sharks, silver tip and white tip sharks and even scalloped hammerheads, resulting in it also being known as Maldives Shark Island.

Tiger Harbour

Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of diving at Fuvahmulah is Tiger Harbour (previously called Tiger Zoo), so called for its large number of ever-present tiger sharks.

The location for this exciting diving experience is close to the harbour entrance at the southern end of the island. Here, the top of the reef is 6 metres deep, sloping down to 30 metres and beyond at the drop-off.

The diving at Tiger Harbour is stationary and led by an experienced guide from a local dive centre. Before the dive, a detailed safety briefing will be given by the guide outlining shark behaviour, group conduct, and emergency procedures. The shark encounters are very close and there can be up to 10 tiger sharks swimming around, making this an absolute must-do dive for adventurous thrill seekers.

In addition to the massive Tiger Sharks, groups of silver-tip reef sharks, giant trevallies, rainbow runners, snappers, and a variety of other species can also be seen in and around the harbour area.

PLEASE NOTE: The local dive centre charges an **entrance fee of 30 USD per diver**, which needs to be paid in cash on board and is subject to change without notice (*Payment in USD only*).

North Side

There are several potential dive locations around the northern tip of the island which features an abundance of healthy corals and reef fish. The reef top starts at around 6 metres and slopes down and outwards to 30 metres. Large coral blocks at 20-30 metres are gathering points for groups of triggerfish, snappers, groupers, trevallies, surgeonfish and reef sharks. When the conditions are right, there is also the possibility of spotting thresher sharks.

South plateau

The plateau located on the southern side of the island is at a depth of 35 metres to over 60 metres. Here we do a 'Bluewater dive' above the plateau to observe the pelagic actions.

Depending on the season and currents, it is possible to see up to 7 different types of sharks going about their sharky business. While white-tips, silver-tips and grey reef sharks are regular sightings, others that are seen here include tiger sharks, threshers, and scalloped hammerheads. Also depending on the time of year, and if you're really lucky, Mola Mola or whale sharks might even put in an appearance.