



**MASTER**  
LIVEBOARDS

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# The Maldives, Far South

7 / 10 nights

- **Embarkation:** Kooddoo (GKK), Gaafu Alifu (Northern Huvadho) Atoll\*
  - **Disembarkation:** Kooddoo (GKK), Gaafu Alifu (Northern Huvadho) Atoll @ 08:00
- OR
- **Embarkation:** Kooddoo (GKK), Gaafu Alifu (Northern Huvadho) Atoll\*
  - **Disembarkation:** Gan (GAN), Addu Atoll @ 08:00
- OR
- **Embarkation:** Gan (GAN), Addu Atoll\*
  - **Disembarkation:** Kooddoo (GKK), Gaafu Alifu (Northern Huvadho) Atoll @ 08:00

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

\*Embarkation times are dependent on domestic flight schedules

## Marine & Port Fees:

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

Additionally, an **entrance fee of 30 USD** per diver is charged **for diving at Tiger Harbour in Fuvamulah Atoll** which needs to be paid on board in USD cash only and is subject to change without notice.

## Minimum MANDATORY dive certification and experience:

Divers wishing to participate in this itinerary are required to have PADI **Advanced Open Water** certification, or equivalent, with a minimum of **50 logged dives** and experience diving in currents.

**Please note:** Diving in the Far South of the Maldives can be especially challenging with strong currents and is **only suitable for experienced divers**. We strongly recommend you have previous experience in currents and are comfortable with drift dives, negative entries and deploying an SMB.

*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.

## Itinerary Details

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

### Number of scheduled dives:

- 7 nights: Up to 17
- 10 nights: Up to 25

Whilst we attempt to ensure the number of dives indicated above is fulfilled, this is only indicative, and not guaranteed. Various factors can hinder the vessel's ability to reach, or remain at a specific area and may therefore affect the number of dives possible.

Additionally, this itinerary involves a long period of overnight cruising between the three atolls.

***Safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you or any of your group do not speak or understand English, please contact us.***

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

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

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

**Days 2-6 / Days 2-9:** We typically offer 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

\*where it is possible to offer a sunset or night dive, the schedule will be slightly amended

**Day 7 / 10:** For your last day of diving we usually schedule two morning dives\* before the boat heads back to port after lunch.

\*Dependent on domestic flight departure times to ensure a minimum of 24 hours between the final dive and the flight to Malé.

**Disembarkation Day:** Disembarkation and transfer to the domestic airport is usually after breakfast, although it may be later depending on flight schedules.

We wish to show you the very best diving possible, although a number of factors can determine which sites we visit. Weather, tides and currents are some of the considerations which determine the Cruise Director's and Captain's decision of which route the yacht takes and which sites are selected for diving.

The safety of all on board is paramount and we always do our best to offer diving at alternative locations should we be unable to visit those sites listed below.

The areas that are usually covered on Far South liveboard itineraries are:

## Huvadho Atoll

Also known as Gaafu Atoll, Huvadho 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 Huvadho (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, farus and small coral islets.

The outermost reefs of Huvadho 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 Huvadho'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 green turtles.

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

- **Villingili Kandu**
- **Kuredhdho Kandu**
- **Nilandho Kandu**
- **Kooddo Kandu**

## Fuvamulah Atoll

This solitary island atoll, also commonly called Fomulac or Foammulah Atoll, lies within the Equatorial Channel between Huvadho 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](#), Fuvamulah 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 the limits of recreational diving. 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 depths of 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.

## Addu Atoll

Just south of the Equator, Addu Atoll, previously known as Seenu, is the southernmost region of the Maldives Archipelago. This heart-shaped atoll is home to an underwater paradise that brings divers back to the Maldives again and again.

Designated as a [UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Addu Atoll](#) is one of the few places in the Maldives where manta rays can be found throughout the year. These graceful creatures frequent a cleaning station on the northern side of the atoll and feast on the nutrient-rich waters that flow into the channel. Several shark species, hawksbill turtles, green turtles, Napoleon wrasse and large schools of fish also call the channels and reefs of this atoll home.

On the southern tip of the Addu Atoll, Gan Island was previously a base for the British Navy during WWII, after which it was used as a base for the Royal Air Force until the British Military withdrew from the area completely in 1976. The old base and most of its buildings are now part of a resort, while the old RAF airstrip has been developed into what is now Gan International Airport.

Addu is also the resting place of the largest shipwreck in the Maldives - the [British Loyalty](#) - a 140 metres long, 5,583 tonnes oil tanker that was scuttled in 1946, when the British Navy withdrew from the Maldives.

### **Maa Kandu Corner**

Maa Kandu is a wide channel which cuts through the middle of the northern perimeter of Addu Atoll. Also known as Manta Point, the corner on the eastern side of the channel is regularly visited by manta rays on an incoming current. The reef top on the outside starts at 5 metres and forms a sandy slope into the channel levelling out at around 25 metres. Coral blocks along the slope between 20 and 30 metres are where the cleaning activities mostly occur; as currents bring the mantas in, we simply hook in and watch the display as the graceful rays soar and swoop above and around the reef.

### **Bodu Holholha Faru**

Body Holholha has the reputation of being Addu Atoll's best wall dive. This outside reef along the eastern side of the northwest section of the atoll starts at 5 metres and drops dramatically to more than 80 metres. The entire wall is covered in stunning soft corals and gorgonians as well as plenty of hard corals. Overhangs between 25 and 30+ metres form caves which are large enough for divers to enter and look for resting nurse sharks, banded shrimps, moray eels and a host of other delights. In the deep blue away from the reef large pelagics can often be seen, including silvertip sharks and sometimes tiger sharks. At shallower depths, near the reef top, green turtles forage amongst the corals and bountiful numbers of colourful reef fish.

### **British Loyalty Wreck**

Lying with its port side on the sandy seabed inside the atoll at a depth of 33 metres, the starboard side of the wreck is at 16 metres and, with good visibility, can be seen from the surface. The propeller at 28 metres is missing one of its 4, 2-metre long brass blades and is covered in large, black coral bushes. Holes in front of the engine room on the keel and the deck, which were probably caused when the vessel was scuttled, are large enough for divers to swim through from one side to the other. The wreck is remarkably intact and has a lot of hard and soft coral growth with plenty of marine life, mostly consisting of large groups of reef fish, although turtles and sharks can also sometimes be seen.

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 [dive@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com) who will be pleased to assist and advise you.