

Location: Central Atolls, Maldives

Start/End: Male

Number of dives: 3 per day, 16-17 in total for 7 nights

Atolls: North Male, South Male, North Ari, South Ari, Vaavu, (Rasdho)

When: Year-round. Itineraries are prepared and specific dive sites are carefully chosen depending on the monsoon.

Suitable for: Those who have completed 30+ dives.

If you are only Open Water Diver certified, you will need to complete an Advanced Open Water course onboard.

Familiarity with drift dives is recommended.

Highly recommended for non-divers!

Types of dives: Spectacular channel-drift dives, wrecks, pinnacles, world-famous night dives  
Marine life:

Divers will be astonished by the variety of marine life, from nudibranchs and eels, schools of reef fish, eagle rays, sharks and turtles, to manta rays and whale sharks.

This is simply the best of Maldives.

Dive Sites Maldives:

\*easy \*\*medium difficulty \*\*\*challenging

North Male Atoll:

Fish Tank\* Large schools of stingrays can be found on a sandy slope with rubble in front of a fish factory in the North Male Atoll. If there is current, you can hook there. You can also find all kinds of moray eels there. If you are lucky, a guitar shark or even a tiger or bull shark may appear.

Lankan Beyru (Manta Point) \* Manta rays come to the cleaning station during the southwest monsoon at the outer reef of the Paradise Island resort. The dive site is relatively easy to access, with small currents, and is very often considered a good dive to start the week. The cleaning station itself is a large coral block covered with anemones and full of fish life. It is also very common to come across whitetip reef sharks, turtles and napoleons.

South Male Atoll:

Embudu Kandu \*\*\* This is a famous channel between the ocean and Embudu Island, located east-west of Embudu Island. The channel is around 35-45 meters deep, and a thila is located on its North-East side where a variety of sea life such as sharks, hump head wrasses, eagle rays, and barracudas can be explored. The current is strong, making it ideal for experienced divers only. The best season to explore the site is during the Northeast Monsoon.

Kandooma Thila \*\*\* This is definitely the number one ranking dive site in the South Male Atoll. The long thila is located in the middle of the channel and offers spectacular conditions to observe grey reef sharks, whitetip reef sharks, eagle rays, big schools of jacks and snappers both with incoming and outgoing current. The north side of the pinnacle is nicely covered with soft corals, with the top of the reef being home to many reef fish and green turtles. Currents can be pretty strong, so a negative entry and fast descent are often required. Current hooks should be ready to use.

Rasdhoo Atoll:

Guraidhoo Corner Located south of Guraidhoo Island, this is a protected site hosting many pelagic species during incoming currents and presents several "washing machines" downstream currents. This site is thus only recommended for advanced divers with greater experience and should be avoided by beginners. This site is a great spot to watch eagle rays, whitetip sharks, and gray reef sharks, and is especially interesting during Northeast Monsoon.

Vaavu Atoll:

Fotteyo Kandhu \*\*\* Fotteyo Kandhu is a channel dive located in Vaavu Atoll and is a part of Felidhoo Atoll. The site is known for its abundance of marine life including reef sharks, eagle rays, and large schools of pelagic fish. The site has two cleaning stations where divers can see manta rays being cleaned by wrasses. The coral formations at the site are also beautiful and the thila in the middle of the channel is worth exploring. The current at the site can be strong, so it is recommended for experienced divers only.

Night dives: The Maldives is also famous for its spectacular night dives. Many dive sites come to life after sunset and offer unique and unforgettable experiences. During night dives, divers can spot a variety of nocturnal marine life, such as octopus, crustaceans, and different types of fish that hide during the day.

Overall, the Central Atolls of the Maldives offer some of the best diving in the world, with a wide variety of dive sites suitable for different levels of experience. From spectacular channel-drift dives to world-famous night dives, divers will be amazed by the abundance of marine life and the beauty of the coral formations.