



MALDIVES SCUBA DIVING ADVENTURE



SCUBA DIVING HOLIDAYS WITH ZANNA VAN DIJK
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **MASTER LIVEBOARDS**



Zanna van Dijk - The Maldives Adventure

7 nights - A bespoke itinerary around the Central Atolls, curated by Zanna

- **Embarkation:** Malé International Airport*
- **Disembarkation:** Hulhumalé Harbour, Malé @ 08:00

Embarkation & Disembarkation Transfers

*Our meeting point for embarkation is in front of Burger King in the airport terminal where our representative will be waiting to collect you and holding a Master Liveboards sign.

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

At these two times only, the dhoni will dock at the pier in front of the airport and transfer guests directly to Blue Voyager.

PLEASE NOTE: *We can not arrange pick-up and transfers from hotels.* Guests staying in a hotel or resort before their liveboard need to arrange transport to be at the airport in time for the 12:30 transfer to Blue Voyager.

Disembarkation day transfer is also by dhoni from Blue Voyager to the airport only.

Diving Information

Please be aware that *some of the dive sites* that may be included on this itinerary can **have strong and unpredictable currents** making them challenging or unsuitable for novice or inexperienced divers.

All divers are required to use a dive computer and carry an SMB and reel on every dive.

Minimum dive certification and experience:

Divers joining a Central Atolls liveboard itinerary are required to have:

- PADI Open Water certification, or equivalent
- A minimum of 30 logged dives
- Nitrox certification* is highly advantageous and **strongly recommended.**
*We offer SSI Nitrox certification onboard for those not already certified.

Ideally, you should also have previous experience in currents and be comfortable with drift dives, negative entries and deploying an SMB underwater.

Guests who the crew feel have insufficient experience or fitness for the diving 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.

All divers are responsible for their own dive profiles and must remain well within the limits of their dive computer and certification level. We also ask all guests to always follow the instructions of the cruise director and guides and make a mandatory safety stop at the end of each dive.

Diving Emergencies

The largest and longest operating recompression chamber is on Bandos Island (15 minutes by speedboat from Malé). The others are located at Kuredu Island Resort (Lhaviyani Atoll), Kuramathi Resort (North Ari Atoll), Kandima Maldives Resort (Dhaalu Atoll) and ADK Hospital in Malé.

IMPORTANT: Transfer to the nearest available chamber is likely to require emergency evacuation by speedboat, which needs to be paid for at the time it is required. *It is your responsibility to ensure that your insurance will fully cover and reimburse all evacuation costs as well as recompression chamber and/or hospital treatment.*

We strongly urge all guests to dive conservatively at all times, follow Dive Guides' advice and purchase specific dive insurance before their trips.

As outlined in our [Terms & Conditions](#) dive insurance and travel insurance are mandatory.

Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

Water temperatures throughout the Maldives are fairly constant at 26°-29°C (78°-84°F) throughout the year. Most guests are comfortable in a 3mm shorty or full-length wetsuit. However, those who are prone to feeling cold may be more comfortable in a 5mm suit. Guests who are prone to feeling cold are advised to bring additional thermal layers such as a vest, hood or skinsuit to wear under their wetsuit.

Itinerary Details

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

The Central Atolls scuba diving itinerary takes you to some of the best dive sites around the central Maldives atolls. During your liveboard cruise, you will have the opportunity to dive at various locations around North and South Malé, North and South Ari, Rasdhoo and Vaavu Atolls. Dive sites that we visit can change from one trip to the next depending on itinerary duration, environmental conditions and other factors.

Fees & Taxes:

There are no marine park or other fees payable for the areas that are covered on this itinerary. However, there is a Government Green Tax, which is 6 USD per person, per night and must be paid in advance as part of your liveboard booking.

Number of scheduled dives:

- **7 nights:** Up to 17

While we endeavour to ensure the number of scheduled dives 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 therefore 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 fully understand English, please contact us.

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

Day 1: Meet our crew at Malé Airport for transfer to Blue Voyager. Once all guests are on board, the crew will conduct boat orientation and safety briefings followed by dinner. There is no diving on embarkation day.

Full diving days: 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

* if we offer a sunset or night dive, the schedule will be slightly amended

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

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

*Guests are kindly asked to check their flight departure times to ensure a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and flying.

Disembarkation Day: Breakfast on board, followed by disembarkation and transfer to the airport at 08:00.

Following is an overview of the areas covered on the Central Atolls itineraries and some of the dive sites that are usually included. However, while we wish to show you the very best diving possible, various factors determine which sites we visit; Weather, tides, currents and marine life activity are just some of the considerations that influence the Cruise Director's and Captain's decision of which route the boat takes and the sites that 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 any of the sites listed below, for any reason.

North Malé Atoll

H.P. Reef

Also known as Rainbow Reef or Girifushi Thila, this is a marine protected area and a truly exceptional dive site with an abundance of soft corals and interesting features. As the thila is located in the middle of a channel, ***currents are to be expected and are often strong.***

The southwest section of the thila features numerous coral outcrops, caves and crevices; A large rock formation separated from the reef by a narrow, sandy channel on the northwest side drops steeply from 15 to 24 metres where you will find a large cave with a chimney swim-through leading back up to the top of the rock. Marine life includes sharks, eagle rays, stingrays as well as large schools of pelagic and reef fish.

Lankan Manta Point

Starting at a depth of around 7 metres, a group of large coral rocks along the outside reef of Lankanfinolhu act as a cleaning station where mantas can be consistently observed throughout the year as they stop by to be serviced by the resident blue-stripe cleaner wrasse. As the mantas awaiting their turn to be cleaned circle above, those that are done fly away down the reef scooping up mouthfuls of zooplankton in the shallows as they go.

Lankan Caves

Roughly 200 metres from Manta Point, on the southern tip of Lankanfinolhu Reef, a series of caves and overhangs ranging in depth from 5 metres down to 30 metres along a steep wall provide interesting nooks and crannies to investigate. Large table corals cover the top of the reef where schools of damselfish and sweetlips gather. Sharks, turtles, stingrays and Napoleon wrasse are just a few of the other creatures that often frequent the area.

Rasfari North Corner

At Rasfari on the western side of North Malé Atoll, we dive along the outside reef and around the corner into the channel. Depths range from 8 to 30 metres with overhangs, coral blocks and white sandy patches adding to the points of interest. In the blue and along the reef we often see white-tip, black-tip and grey reef sharks, barracuda, rays and large numbers of sweetlips. Turtles and Napoleon wrasse are also common sightings.

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 features many caves and overhangs which are adorned with a variety of soft and hard corals, sea fans and sponges. Inside the channel itself, you will find some coral blocks at 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 Malé 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 Kandhu

Guraidhoo Kandhu is part of a protected marine area that also encompasses Lhosfushi Kandhu and Medhu Faru which separates the two channels and is an area 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 open-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 features 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, 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 Kandhu from Guraidhoo Kandhu 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.

Vaavu Atoll

Fotteyo Kandhu

Many scuba divers consider Fotteyo Kandhu to be the best dive site in the Maldives. The mouth of the channel is exposed to the open 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, indicating 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 channel opening slopes from 30-35 metres before dropping off into the deep, open ocean on the eastern side of the atoll; leading into the atoll, the channel floor is approximately 25 metres deep and mostly sand, with a small coral garden towards the 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 Kandu 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 go searching 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 of the channel. If the current isn't too strong, you can spend time exploring the caves and overhangs along the wall where you are likely to find moray eels, small reef fish and nudibranchs. At the corner of the channel mouth, there are usually large groups of fish and, 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 channel entrance.

Rakeedhoo Corner

Rakeedhoo Kandu is located on the southernmost tip of Vaavu Atoll where we usually dive on and around the western corner of the channel. Starting at 5 metres, the reef extends outwards in steps to around 30 metres then drops off almost vertically on the outside reef to the 50+ metre deep ocean floor. 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 lots of overhangs and caves to explore with colourful corals and anemones providing shelter for many different types of critters and 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.

South Ari Atoll

South Ari boasts numerous superb thilas, most of which are located in the channels from the outside reefs, although there are several inside the atoll as well. You will have the opportunity to dive at several of these while we are in South Ari and some of the manta cleaning stations that the atoll is famed for. The locations that we visit depend on the time of year as this dictates where the best action is likely to be. These may include some or all of the following:

Rangali Madivaru

In Dhivehi, Madi means "ray" and Faru, or Varu, means long reef; Between December and April, this is a superb location for manta ray activity. As with many good manta points, the reef slopes steadily downwards from its top at 8 metres to the atoll floor at 30 metres. In addition to numerous cleaning stations along the reef slopes, there are overhangs, caves, a couple of swim-throughs and plenty of other marine life including schools of blue-striped and midnight snappers, surgeonfish, squirrelfish, Napoleon wrasse and sharks.

Kudarah Thila

Located inside a large channel, Kudarah Thila is a small, isolated reef which is covered in beautiful soft and hard corals, teeming with fish and one of the most colourful dives in Ari Atoll. The top of the thila is 14-16 metres deep and drops off sharply to 27 metres all the

way around. If the current is not too strong, it's possible to navigate the entire thila in one dive and explore the top of the reef for macro species. Around the eastern end, there is a swim-through and two large overhangs decorated with yellow daisy corals on the ceilings and giant gorgonians on the floors. Thousands of blue-lined snappers surround the reef, as well as large schools of humpback red snappers and bannerfish. Grey reef sharks are also regularly seen cruising the peripheries.

Maamigili Beru

On the southern tip of South Ari, Maamigili is best known for whale sharks which can be seen in this area throughout most of the year. Maamigili Beru is the long, open ocean facing reef which slopes steadily downwards from 5 metres to a sandy bottom at 30 metres. The top of the reef features large hard coral formations which are surrounded by hundreds of colourful, small reef fish as well as providing homes for a variety of moray eels, shrimps and hunting grounds for lionfish. As well as whale sharks, mobula rays and turtles are also common sightings here. Along the outer edges of the reef, you will find lots of schooling fish and occasionally, eagle rays and reef sharks.

North Ari Atoll

Fish Head

Fish Head, also known as Shark Point or Mushimasmingili Thila, fits the classic definition of a thila; Roughly 80 metres wide, this isolated pinnacle rises steeply from a depth of 40+ metres to form a flat-topped reef, 10 metres below the surface. The underwater scenery, along with a wide variety of marine life and large numbers of grey reef sharks have earned it a reputation as one of the top ten dive sites in the Maldives. It features a series of caves and ledges at varying depths and a large undercut between 25-30 metres and can easily be circled in a single dive if the currents are favourable.

Maaya Thila

Where Fish Head is known as one of the best locations for grey reef shark encounters, Maaya Thila boasts the same with white-tip reef sharks. Grey reef sharks are also present but are largely outnumbered by the white-tip population. Maaya is very similar in size and topography to Fish Head although slightly shallower. Apart from the sharks, there is plenty of fish activity to feast your eyes on; turtles, dog-toothed tuna, great barracuda, Moorish idols, batfish, parrotfish, butterflyfish, angelfish, clown triggerfish, lionfish, fusiliers, snappers, along with soft corals and sea fans add a rainbow of colour to the reef.

Rasdhoo-Madivaru

The Rasdhoo region is a small atoll in its own right but is classified as part of Alifu Alifu Atoll with Rasdhoo Island being North Ari's administrative capital. Rasdhoo-Madivaru is a channel on the southeastern edge of the Rasdhoo region which is famed for the large groups of Scalloped hammerhead sharks that emerge from the depths just before sunrise. The reef formation in this area is possibly one of the most stunning and confusing in the whole of North Ari.

A narrow spur, peaking at around 12 metres, extends outwards from the reef into the channel between Madivaru and Rasdhoo Islands. On the open ocean-facing side, the reef drops off to more than 200 metres while the sandy bottom inside the channel is around 30 metres. There is a prolific amount of fish life around the spur ranging from pelagics such as barracuda, tuna and trevallies to colourful reef fish in all shapes and sizes.

Fesdhoo Lagoon

Inside the atoll, Fesdhoo Lagoon is an area where manta rays often congregate in the late afternoon and evening to feed. To enable our guests to experience these magnificent creatures up close, the crew will attach lights to the stern of the boat which attracts plankton and, hopefully, mantas too. If the mantas put in an appearance, divers will have the opportunity to make a stationary night dive at the back of the boat to passively observe the rays while they are feeding.

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



GENERAL TRIP INFORMATION & FAQs



MASTER
LIVEBOARDS

Know Before You Go - Maldives

General Trip & Destination Information

Flights and Transfers

Itineraries which cover northern or southern atolls require domestic flights, which are not included in the liveboard price but we can arrange them on your behalf.

Please check your booking details carefully for embarkation and disembarkation locations and the itinerary-specific information sheet for domestic flight requirements and transfer arrangements.

Transfers from the embarkation location airport to Blue Voyager and from the liveboard to the disembarkation location airport are by dhoni and included in the liveboard price.

Transfers from the airport are at specific times only, as noted in the itinerary information sheets. ***We can not arrange pick-up and transfers from hotels.*** Guests staying in a hotel or resort before their liveboard need to arrange transport to arrive at the airport in time for the earliest transfer to Blue Voyager.

Advice on International Flights

Malé-Velana International Airport (MLE) is served by many worldwide airlines and charter companies.

We recommend ideally spending one night in Malé before and after your liveboard to avoid potential problems caused by international and domestic flight delays and to ensure you are well rested. Alternatively, we advise booking an *early morning International arrival* and a *late afternoon/evening International departure* to ensure you have plenty of time to make your flight connections.

PLEASE NOTE: *It is illegal to bring alcohol into the Maldives; if you purchase any duty-free alcohol on your inbound travels, or bring your own from home, it will be confiscated by customs officials upon arrival at Malé International Airport.*

However, duty-free can be purchased at Malé International Airport before departure of your homeward-bound flight.

Passports & Visas

Although Master Liveboards endeavours to keep information as current as possible, the following is provided as guidance only. *Regulations and requirements can change* and we can not guarantee the information here is always up-to-date. *The traveller is responsible for checking government and travel advisories before making travel arrangements.*

Passport Validity

Passports must have at least one month's validity beyond the date of entry into the Maldives. Please note however that *some airlines will not allow travel with less than 6 months' passport validity*. Please check with your airline to ensure you meet all travel requirements.

Visas

Nationals of all countries can obtain a 30-day tourist visa, free of charge, upon arrival, as long as they meet the basic entry requirements.

We strongly advise checking your home country's government travel advisory, Maldives Consulate, or the Maldives Immigration website (www.immigration.gov.mv/tourist-visa/) for the most up-to-date information.

Traveller Declaration

All travellers to Maldives must complete a Traveller Declaration (IMUGA) within 96 hours of their arrival and departure.

This is an electronic arrival and departure self-declaration form which can be submitted, free of charge through the official IMUGA portal: <https://imuga.immigration.gov.mv/>. When you have completed and submitted the required information online you will receive a QR code, which you need to present to immigration officials at the airport.

Domestic Arrangements

The domestic departure terminal at Malé Airport is a short walk from the international terminal; Upon exiting the international arrivals hall, turn right and walk for approximately 100 metres; the ocean will be on your left and the domestic terminal will be on your right.

Domestic flight check-in closes 1 hour before the scheduled departure time.

If your domestic flight is scheduled to leave within 2 hours of your arrival in Malé, you should make your way directly to the domestic terminal to check in for your flight.

If your domestic flight is scheduled to leave more than 2 hours after you arrive in Malé, or if your itinerary starts from Malé and you have time to fill before the embarkation transfer time, the following options are available at Malé Airport:

- Use the airport hotel facilities (Hulhule Island Hotel) - day-use packages range from 75 USD – 185 USD per person
- Put your bags into storage for a few hours and take a water taxi to Malé to explore the island. To utilise the luggage storage, please go to the information desk in the arrivals hall. Storage costs 6 USD for each normal-size bag or, 10 USD for oversized bags/heavy items.
- Enjoy the shopping and refreshments available at the airport.

Itinerary Embarkation / Disembarkation Airports

- Central & Southern Atolls / Far South: Gaafu Alifu - Kooddoo Airport (GKK)
- Northern Atolls: Haa Dhaalu - Hanimaadhoo International Airport (HAQ)

Domestic baggage allowances:

- Hand luggage: 5kg per person
- Checked luggage: 20kg per person*

*Divers are allowed 25 kg of checked luggage but must be carrying diving equipment for this increased allowance to apply.

Additional checked luggage can usually be purchased at check-in and costs approximately 4 USD / kg, subject to availability on the day.

Insurance

Insurance which covers scuba diving is mandatory aboard all of our vessels. Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkelling activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation. We therefore strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance to cover any diving-related eventuality.

All guests are also required to carry full travel and cancellation insurance, as outlined under section 3 of our [Terms and Conditions](#). We cannot be held liable for delays occurring during the cruise, nor any delays or cancellations of flights, accommodations, or tours and transfers that we organise on your behalf.

For further details of why travel insurance is a crucial part of your holiday arrangements, take a look at our blog - '[Do You Really Need Travel Insurance?](#)'

Master Liveboards act as a referrer for DiveAssure who offer dive and travel insurance policies, including short-term and multiple-trip policies. Their comprehensive 'Dive & Travel Plus' plan has been specifically developed for diving liveboard holidays and covers expenses in the event of missing your liveboard departure due to flight delays or missed connections, and also provides cover for lost diving days if for any reason the boat is required to abort the cruise; for instance, due to a guest injury, mechanical breakdown of the ship, air supply failure, inclement weather conditions, etc.

Please consult our webpage for details and a direct link to DiveAssure's booking portal: www.masterliveboards.com/insurance.

Diving Information

Maldivian Government legislation states that the ***maximum depth for all scuba diving in the Maldives is 30 metres***; gloves, solo diving and technical diving are not allowed. Carrying an SMB with a spool or reel and the use of a dive computer is mandatory on every dive.

Diving in some areas of the Maldives, especially in the northern and southern atolls, can be challenging even for experienced divers due to strong, sometimes unpredictable currents. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that divers have previous experience and are comfortable diving in similar conditions to those expected on their chosen itinerary.

Blue Voyager has a 19 metre, custom-built dhoni for transferring divers between the main vessel and the dive sites. The dhoni has a spacious dive deck with individual set-up spaces and under-bench storage for all 26 guests + dive crew. She also has two compressors with a nitrox membrane for filling scuba cylinders, a sundeck, toilets and showers. Our dhoni are happy to assist guests who need help with their equipment and exiting the water.

Guests' Level of Diving

The minimum certification and experience requirements for each itinerary are based on the diving conditions in the areas they cover. Please refer to the itinerary information sheets, which can be downloaded from the Master Liveboards website, to ensure the suitability, before confirming your liveboard booking.

Any divers who do not fulfil the specified minimum requirements, or who the crew feel have insufficient experience in certain conditions, may be denied participation in some or all dives during the liveboard.

You will need to provide copies of your certification card(s) when completing your pre-embarkation [API](#), and may also be asked to show them, and a record of your logged dives, as proof of experience when you board.

Fit to Dive

All divers are responsible for ensuring that they are fit to dive and are required to provide a completed medical statement before their liveboard departure. ***Guests who are taking medication, or have any medical conditions or symptoms that could be restrictive to diving need to obtain a doctor's evaluation and clearance to dive before travelling.***

The medical statement is available in English, German, Mandarin and Spanish and can be downloaded from the Master Liveboards' website at www.masterliveboards.com/forms.

IMPORTANT: There are no facilities for guests to obtain medical evaluation and clearance for diving in the Maldives. *If any of the categories on the medical questionnaire apply to you, you MUST seek clearance from a physician in your home country and bring a copy of their approved evaluation with you.*

If you are unable to complete the medical statement as required, or provide a current doctor's certificate (less than a year old) clearing you to dive, you accept that you may not be able to take part in scuba diving activities on the liveboard you have booked with us.

Diving Safety

All divers are responsible for their own dive profiles, must stay within the limits of their certification and respect local regulations at all times, which includes using a dive computer on every dive and ***SMB deployment before surfacing which requires the addition of a reel or spool.***

We ask all guests to always remain well within the limits of their dive computer and comfort levels, follow the instructions of the cruise director and guides and make a *safety stop at the end of each dive.*

Diving Emergencies

In the unlikely event that a diving accident occurs, there are 5 hyperbaric facilities available in the Maldives. The largest and longest operating recompression chamber is on Bandos Island (15 minutes by speedboat from Malé). The others are located at Kuredu Island Resort (Lhaviyani Atoll), Kuramathi Resort (North Ari Atoll), Kandima Maldives Resort (Dhaalu Atoll) and ADK Hospital in Malé.

Please note that, depending on the itinerary and location of Blue Voyager, transfer to the nearest available chamber may require emergency evacuation by speedboat, which needs to be paid for at the time it is requested.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your insurance will fully cover and reimburse all evacuation costs as well as recompression chamber and/or hospital treatment. We strongly urge all guests to purchase specific dive insurance before their trip.

As outlined in our [Terms & Conditions](#) dive insurance and travel insurance are mandatory.

Flying after Diving

Current studies indicate that you should wait at least 18 hours before you fly after repetitive dives or multiple days of diving although we recommend 24 hours. Please bear this in mind before you book your onward international or domestic flights.

Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

Water temperatures throughout the Maldives are fairly constant at 26°-29°C (78°-84°F) throughout the year, although some areas in the south can drop to 24°C. Generally, most guests are comfortable in a 3mm shorty or full-length wetsuit; However, those who are prone to feeling cold should consider additional thermal layers or a 5mm suit.

Rental wetsuits on Blue Voyager are 3mm shorties.

Diving Equipment

In compliance with Maldivian Government regulations, ***all divers must use a dive computer on every dive and have an SMB with a reel to enable deployment underwater during safety stops.***

Dive gloves are not allowed.

Reef hooks are strongly recommended.

Diving equipment is available to rent for an additional charge but is subject to availability and must be pre-ordered.

A single 11.1 Litre cylinder (80 cu ft - **referred to as 12L on board**) with air fills, weights, weight belt and an SMB are provided free of charge.

There are a limited number of 13 litre cylinders (100 cu ft - **referred to as 15L on board**) available on request and at an additional cost which must be pre-booked.

Equipment rental and Nitrox costs can be viewed under 'Extras' on the vessel and itinerary pages of our website.

Please pre-book rental equipment and cylinders at the time of confirming your liveaboard holiday to ensure your requirements can be met.

Rebreather Diving

Blue Voyager is equipped to support rebreather divers; Booster pumps are installed to ensure rebreather cylinders can be filled to 135 bars/ 2000 psi and we have stage tanks available for your use. We can also facilitate the purchase of Sofnolime scrubber although there are additional charges for both this and oxygen.

Pre-booking of any rebreather supplies is essential to guarantee availability. Please contact our reservations team to place your order and for up-to-date prices.

If rebreather diving is permitted on your itinerary and you intend to participate in rebreather diving during your cruise, please complete the technical diving release form, which can be found at www.masterliveboards.com/forms/ and email it to dive@masterliveboards.com to ensure we can cater for your equipment and gas requirements. This needs to be completed no later than 3 weeks before departure.

Underwater Photography and Videography

Our vessels offer specialised features for underwater photographers and videographers. These include:

- Indoor workstations for the preparation and maintenance of cameras with individual storage drawers for cameras and peripheral items
- An outdoor camera table with an air gun and charging station
- Large rinsing tanks with fresh water changed frequently
- Our crew is thoroughly trained in the handling of delicate camera equipment and will bring your cameras to/from the dhoni for you.

General Information

Advanced Passenger Information (API)

There are certain details that we require for the airlines and our administrative purposes before you travel. Guests are required to submit the required information via our secure online portal at www.masterliveboards.com/portal.

Forms

All guests are required to complete the following forms before the commencement of their liveaboard itinerary: medical statement, liability releases and standard safe diving practices statement, which can be found at www.masterliveboards.com/forms.

To save time, and to ensure you have no pre-existing conditions that could affect your diving, please download the forms from the above link, fill in, and bring them with you. By completing and signing the forms, you are confirming that you have read, understood, and agree to the conditions outlined in the forms.

If you are unable to complete the forms as instructed, you accept that you will not be able to take part in certain aspects of the holiday you have booked with us.

Time Zone

Local time in the Maldives is UTC / GMT +5 hours.

Money Matters

The local currency is the Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR). Most visitors may never see or use the local currency as the US dollar is the preferred currency throughout most of the Maldives. EUR and GBP are also accepted in many places although change will be given in Rufiyaa.

All extras in your hotel will be billed to your room in USD and can be settled by credit card. **USD banknotes must be in good condition**, without damage, tears, creases or stains. Local banks - and therefore hotels, shops and our vessel in the Maldives - will not accept old versions of USD banknotes: the newer **\$100 banknote should have a blue security strip**, and the **\$20 and \$50 banknotes should not be dated older than 2006**.

Language and Religion

The local language is Dhivehi although English is widely spoken throughout the country. Islam has been declared the state religion in the Republic of the Maldives since 1153, and it is prohibited to publicly practice another religion.

It is illegal to bring anything into the Maldives that is deemed contrary to Islam, including 'idols for worship', bibles, pork products and alcohol. All luggage will be scanned by customs officials at Malé International Airport and prohibited items will be confiscated.

Alcohol

Most resorts and liveaboards have special licenses permitting them to sell alcohol to tourists although this is strictly regulated. Alcohol can only be consumed where it was purchased which means it is also illegal to bring alcohol purchased in a resort onto the liveboard vessel.

Duty-free can be purchased at Male Airport, when leaving the country.

Health

Medical facilities in the Maldives are limited; there are 2 hospitals on Malé Island and 2 on Hulhumale. There are also health centres on most of the atolls.

We advise all guests to ensure their routine vaccinations are up to date and to check with their doctor or local travel health clinic well before departure for the latest vaccination advice for the areas they will be visiting.

We also recommend that travellers take sensible precautions with local food, and drink purified/ bottled water only to minimise the risk of stomach upsets, as well as using insect repellent and covering exposed skin to reduce the risk of insect-borne diseases.

If you are travelling with medication, please bring your physician's prescription with you.

Climate and Weather

The Maldives enjoy a warm, tropical climate all year round. The dry season with lots of sunshine lasts from November to April; the wet season is roughly mid-May to October. Year-round temperatures do not vary much: around 23°-25°C (73°-77°F) at night and 31°C (88°F) during the day.

Sun protection

We recommend bringing high-strength, reef-friendly sunscreen with you to the Maldives. We also suggest hats, sunglasses, protective clothing, and utilising shade as easy and environmentally-friendly ways to further protect yourself from sun damage.

Life on Board

The main features of the vessel can be seen on the Blue Voyager page of the Master Liveboards website: www.masterliveboards.com/boats/blue-voyager/

All safety and dive briefings onboard will be provided in English. If you do not speak and fully understand English please let us know before arrival.

Accessibility

The layout of the boat may provide challenges, or be unsuitable for guests with limited mobility, and is not suitable for wheelchairs. Please contact us for further details if you have any concerns.

Accommodation

Maximum capacity on Blue Voyager is 26 guests in 13 double or twin occupancy cabins. Single occupancy may be available on request and is subject to a supplemental charge.

Cabin Facilities

All cabins have individually controllable air-conditioning and en-suite bathrooms with centrally heated hot water. Other facilities include towels and shower gel.

Food and Drink

Meals are provided on a full board basis including a light breakfast, full breakfast, lunch and dinner served buffet style in the indoor, air-conditioned dining area.

We offer a wide choice of international and locally inspired cuisine served buffet-style and can cater for most special diets with advance notice.

Complimentary tea, coffee, drinking water, snacks and fresh fruit are available at all times; Carbonated soft drinks and fruit juices are also available for an additional charge, as are beer, wine and spirits.

Should you have any specific dietary needs or food allergies please advise your sales consultant when confirming your liveboard trip to ensure we can make provisions for you.

Please note: It can be very difficult to find soya, gluten-free, low-fat and various other items that are common elsewhere. While we always do our best to accommodate dietary requests, please be aware that there are limitations and consider bringing certain food products with you if the lack thereof may constitute a health risk or seriously compromise your enjoyment of your holiday. However, please bear in mind that it is illegal to bring pork products into the Maldives.

ALCOHOL

Although it is illegal to bring alcohol into the Maldives, alcohol is available for guests to purchase on Blue Voyager and in resorts. However, as it must be consumed where it was purchased, *bringing alcohol from a resort onto the boat is deemed as smuggling and is illegal.*

Our crew will not provide service (i.e. storage, refrigeration, bar service, glasses, ice, etc.) for alcohol that has been smuggled onto the boat, regardless of where it came from. Guests are only allowed to consume alcohol which they have purchased on board.

Additionally, it is illegal to take alcohol purchased on board off of the boat.

Clothing and Footwear

Dress on board our vessels is very casual and most guests feel comfortable in little more than swimwear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives.

We request that guests respect the wishes of others by donning clothing for meal times. Most guests prefer bare feet on board the vessels; however, island visits may require sturdy sandals or cross-trainers.

Electricity

UK-style, 3-pin (Type G) plugs are standard throughout the Maldives. Power outlets on board are mostly UK 3-pin although guest cabins and common areas also feature USB sockets and a combo of European two-pin sockets/UK 3-pin at 230V.

Staying Connected

Should you wish to have internet access during your liveaboard itinerary, 1GB, 2GB or 5GB data packages can be purchased on board Blue Voyager; prices start from 10 USD for 1 GB which is payable on board only and subject to Maldives GST. Please note that, although internet connectivity is available in the majority of areas across the Maldives, we cannot guarantee a continuous service for the entirety of your cruise, especially when travelling between atolls, or visiting some of the more remote areas.

Smoking

Smoking on board is permitted in designated outdoor areas only.

Environmental considerations

Although there are recycling programs and facilities in place in Maldives, they are limited. We therefore ask our guests to consider the following to help with our mission to reduce our environmental impact.

Batteries

While some batteries may be available to purchase on board, please bring extras with you if your equipment requires a unique size, or is likely to need a lot of replacement batteries during your trip. We kindly request that guests take spent batteries home so that they can be recycled or disposed of properly. Alternatively, consider using rechargeable batteries as there are plenty of sockets to plug in a charger on board.

Water Bottles

We are dedicated to becoming single-use plastic-free across all of our fleets. Plastic straws and stirrers have been banned on all of our boats and we do not provide single-use plastic bottles on board.

If you own a sports bottle, we simply ask that you bring it with you, or you can purchase one on board. If you don't have one and you don't want to purchase one, we have plenty of cups on board that you can use to ensure you remain well hydrated.

Plastic bags and wrappers

We do not provide plastic bags for purchases made on board, although reusable canvas bags are available for sale. Please help us minimise plastic waste by removing plastic wrappers and packaging from items before travelling. If you bring plastic bags with you, please reuse them, and take them home.

Toiletries

We kindly ask that guests consider the type of products that they are bringing with them and, where possible, to bring environmentally friendly toiletries for use on board, and to take partially or unused products home with them.

Payments on Board

Local Fees & Taxes

The Maldivian Government collects a Green Tax for all visitors, which is currently charged at 6 USD per person, per night and must be paid in advance of your trip departure.

Maldivian Government Goods and Services Tax (currently 16%) applies to all payments made on board and will be added to your on-board bill for equipment rental, nitrox, drinks and other optional extras that have not been paid for in advance.

- On itineraries that include Baa Atoll, if it is possible to visit **Hanifaru Bay** a **30 USD visitor fee** applies per person. This is a government-controlled charge, **payable on board in USD cash only**, and is subject to change without notice. (GST does not apply).
- On itineraries that visit **Fuvamulah Atoll**, there is a charge of **30 USD per person for each dive at Tiger Harbour**. This fee is charged by the local dive centre, is **payable on board in USD CASH only**, and may be subject to change without notice. (GST does not apply).

Optional Extras

Additional charges on board for items such as soft drinks, alcohol, Master Liveboards merchandise, etc. as well as equipment rental and nitrox which have not been paid for in advance, can be paid in cash or by credit card.

Alcohol and soft drinks can not be paid for in advance.

Equipment rental and Nitrox costs can be viewed under 'Extras' on the relevant vessel page of our website: www.masterliveboards.com/boats/blue-voyager/. All onboard prices are in USD.

We can accept payment in USD cash, or by debit card and all major credit cards; however, a 3% surcharge will apply for credit card payments. Guests are advised to bring \$300–500 USD cash to cover any additional sundry costs and crew gratuities.

All taxes, surcharges and onboard prices are subject to change without notice.

IMPORTANT: USD banknotes need to be in good condition; without damage, creases, tears or stains. Local banks (and therefore the vessel) will not accept old versions of USD banknotes: the newer \$100 banknotes should have a blue security strip, and the \$20 and \$50 banknotes should not be dated older than 2006.

Tipping

At Master Liveboards we believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that your crew has made your holiday extra special; then they will certainly appreciate a tip. If you are unsure how much to tip, we recommend 25 USD per guest, per day. Please note **we can only accept tips in cash**. For your convenience, an envelope will be provided by your cruise director and gratuities will be divided equally amongst all of the crew, including the captain and dive guides.

Safety on Board

Emergency Management & Equipment

All Master Liveboards crew members undergo rigorous training in emergency management procedures. A thorough boat safety briefing will be provided by your Cruise Director at the start of your trip. Practice scenarios may be performed during your cruise to assist our crew in keeping their skills sharp. The boat is equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps.

First Aid

Master Liveboards vessels are equipped with a fully stocked medical first aid kit for treating minor injuries and ailments as well as for assisting trained medical professionals in remote locations. Each yacht has a full complement of medical-grade oxygen, which can be administered to divers through portable kits and a large O2 fixed station. You will also find on board an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which has been proven to greatly increase the survival rate in the eventuality of cardiac fibrillation.

Our dive teams are all qualified emergency responders. Should you feel unwell at any point during your cruise, please seek the advice of your cruise director who will be able to assist you.

Extending your holiday

Travelling to/from and within the Maldives can be made exceptionally easy when you book with Master Liveboards. As well as domestic flights, we can organise hotels, excursions and tour packages, which can be arranged for before and/or after your liveboard.

A popular stopover or extension that combines well with your Maldives liveboard diving holiday is a visit to Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is renowned for its golden beaches, stunning natural scenery, majestic elephants, the famous Ceylon tea, interesting history and much more. When you just cannot get enough of the Indian Ocean, diving in Sri Lanka is beautiful; featuring gorgeous coral reefs brimming with life and quite a few shipwrecks resulting from an eventful colonial and trade history.

Ask for our full list of excursions in Sri Lanka that will help you get the most out of your holiday. Kindly contact our reservations team at dive@masterliveboards.com.

FAQs

If you have any questions that have not been answered here, please visit our website's [frequently asked questions](#), or email us at dive@masterliveboards.com.

Contact Information

Thailand Office - Master Liveboards

10/512 Moo 3,
Tambon Vichit,
Muang Phuket 83000,
Thailand

Open Monday - Friday 08:30 - 18:30 and Saturday 09:00 - 17:00 ICT (UTC+7)

Web: www.masterliveboards.com

Email: dive@masterliveboards.com

Thailand Office: +66 (0) 76 367 444

UK number: +44 (0) 208 099 2230

USA (Toll Free): +1 866 258 6398

WhatsApp: +66 (0) 93 574 4529)

Local Contacts

Destination Manager (Rainer): +960 77 77341

Emergency only: +201220840755

Blue Voyager Cruise Director

Tel: +960 77 71 360 3

Master Liveboards 24-hour emergency number (calls only):

Please, only use the Master Liveboards 24-hour emergency number if you are unable to get a response from the local numbers listed above. Please do not SMS this number.

Mobile: +44 7862 126398

What to Bring

Our blog, [Packing for a Scuba Diving Liveaboard](#) provides useful tips on what to pack.

You can download a complete packing checklist [here](#), or from the Master Liveaboards [downloads page](#), under General Information.

The following is a list of essential items that you should ensure you bring with you for your trip.

Passport

6 months validity with at least 2 empty pages for visa stickers and stamps

Travel Documents

Flight tickets - International & Domestic; hotel booking; excursions

Cash & Credit Card for emergencies

Recommended amount: 300 - 500 USD

Diving Certification & Logbook

Including Nitrox Card if certified and intending to use Nitrox

Travel and Diving Insurance Documents

To include emergency medical evacuation

Essential Diving Items

Dive computer with full battery

Toiletries & Medications

Including insect repellent and Reef-safe sunscreen
Inform the booking team of medical conditions

Essential Clothing Items

Swimwear, hat and lightweight jacket

Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through International or Domestic Flights.