

EMPEROR LIVEBOARDS
SAFARI ROUTES

DIVE SITES

Best of Maldives	Rasdhoo Atoll, North & South Ari Atolls, Vaavu Atoll, North & South Male Atolls
Deep South & Southern Sharks	Huvadho Atoll, Fuvahmulah Island, Addu Atoll
South Central Atolls	North & South Male Atolls, Vaavu Atoll, Meemu Atoll, Thaa Atoll, Laamu Atoll, Huvadho Atoll
Sharktastic	South Male Atoll, Vaavu Atoll, South Ari Atoll, Meemu Atoll
Pelagic Magic	North & South Ari Atolls
Hanifaru & North	Baa Atoll, North Male Atoll, Lhaviyani Atoll, Raa Atoll
Northern Highlights	North Male Atoll, Lhaviyani Atoll, Baa Atoll, Rasdhoo Atoll, North Ari Atoll

Please note : Pelagic Magic, Hanifaru & North and Northern Highlights are “On Request” itineraries

BEST OF THE MALDIVES

Rasdhoo Atoll, North & South Ari Atolls, Vaavu Atoll, North & South Male Atolls

All Year | Male to Male

Itinerary Highlights

- Dive the best and most famous dive sites across Male and Ari Atoll.
- Dive channels, pinnacles, action-packed night dive with nurse sharks, get up close at the cleaning stations without disturbing the locals!
- Expect to see sharks, manta, reef fish, turtles, morays, eagle rays, abundant macro life. Possible hammerheads and whale sharks.
- We don't follow an exact itinerary; flexibility is key irrespective of the year you visit, this underwater world is yours (and ours) for the exploring.

This is the Best of the Maldives – and it delivers exactly that. This is where you dive the best and most famous dive sites of the Maldives in a week of wonderful liveboard diving across Male, Ari & Vaavu atolls.

Enjoy a dive holiday that gives you all you could wish for from the iconic sites of North Male, South Male, Ari & Vaavu Atoll. Awaiting you are channels (Kandus), pinnacles (Thilas) & cleaning stations where you have every chance of meeting mantas, a variety of sharks and mesmerising marine life of so many varieties.

This itinerary gives you a marine mix of big fish such as shark and manta dives as well as reef dives, reef fish, morays and macro life. Get up close at the cleaning stations without disturbing the locals! One of the best known dive sites is **Fish Head**; a marine protected site, this medium size pinnacle has many resident turtles, huge schools of fusiliers being stalked by trevally and patrolling grey reef sharks. Overhangs and a large school of blue line snapper, the iconic reef fish of the Maldives make this a genuinely great dive.

A sunset/night dive at **Alimatha**, Vaavu atoll is a must to have a memorable experience with the resident nurse sharks, these gentle sharks reach up to 3m and offer an up close encounter as they gather here at the end of each day.

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DEEP SOUTH & SOUTHERN SHARKS

Huvadho Atoll, Fuvahmulah Island, Addu Atoll

February and March | Huvadho to Addu or Addu to Huvadho

Itinerary Highlights

- Less crowded dive sites with plenty of action.
- Foammulah; Tiger sharks, oceanic manta and thresher sharks. Oceanic Island with incredible visibility.
- Huvadho; Whale sharks at night, tiger sharks, silver tips, grey reef sharks and many, many more.
- Addu Atoll; WWII wreck HMS British Loyalty and majestic manta cleaning stations.
- Laamu Atoll: Beautiful fish filled channels with great shark encounters.
- This itinerary has a lot of drift diving, so it is best suited to more advanced divers.

February and March are the best times to dive the southerly Maldivian atolls and experience the shark action in these out-of-the-way dive sites between Huvadho and Addu (Seenu) Atolls. Spend a week away from the madding crowds and dive Fuvahmulah and Huvadho on the lookout for the Indian Ocean's larger residents; tiger sharks, silver tips, grey reef sharks, whale sharks and many, many more.

From Male we take you to Huvadho (Koodoo) or Addu (Gan) by domestic flight to join your liveaboard, and then it is off on our adventure. Huvadhu, one of the deepest lagoons in the Maldives, the currents and channels are ideal for even more shark sightings including, hopefully, whale sharks and silkies, hammerheads and grey sharks spotted most of the time. You will dive many of the world class channels (kandus) here including; Vilingilli, Koodoo, Nilandho and Mareehaa. In Fuvahmulah you can expect to meet tiger, silky, silver tip and thresher sharks on the south plateaux. (note; we don't offer the Tiger Zoo shark feeding dive). Addu Atoll hosts the WWII wreck, HMS British Loyalty, as well as popular majestic Manta Cleaning station Maa Kandoo along with a more relaxing drift dive at Demon corner to either start or end the trip with too.

Please note: At Emperor, we believe in providing as authentic an experience with nature as possible. We do not believe it is appropriate to chum/bait for, nor feed, sharks and therefore will not dive or promote the experience known as "Tiger Zoo" in Fuvahmulah Atoll. We dive Fuvahmulah and regularly encounter Tiger Sharks there, as well as at other spots on our itineraries, and we believe these offer a far more natural experience.

SOUTH CENTRAL ATOLLS

North & South Male Atolls, Vaavu Atoll, Meemu Atoll, Thaa Atoll, Laamu Atoll, Huvadho Atoll

January to March | Male to Huvadhoor or Huvadhoor to Male

Itinerary Highlights

- Dive the action with speedy drift dives, mantas and sharks.
- Thaa Atoll for possible Hammerheads and whale sharks at night.
- Meemu Atoll; enchanting channels with pelagic action, Sailfish, sharks, Eagle rays and beautiful soft coral. Manta cleaning station.
- Expect to see sharks, manta, sail fish, schooling fish, eagle rays, abundant macro life. Possible hammerheads and whale sharks.
- This itinerary has a lot of drift diving so it's best suited to more advanced divers.

Looking for action? Speedy channel dives, mantas, sharks and diving several atolls? Our guides and crew make it their business to make sure you see mantas and sharks as well as potential magical creatures coming out from the depths of the blue.

January to March is the time to join us as this is when the current in the Kandus is largely incoming from the east. There are fewer boats and we visit atolls that have very few resorts and lots of uninhabited islands. You will either join your liveaboard in Male or Huvadhoor (Koodoo), and then it's off on our adventure.

The Channel dives of the eastern coast of the Maldives are the main order of the day. These *Kandus*, as they are known in the local language (Dhivehi), attract grey reef sharks, dog tooth tuna and eagle rays as standard but look out into the blue and you never know what surprises await. The outer walls and corners of the channels in Vaavu and Meemu have the bonus of beautiful overhangs draping in the blues, yellows and pinks of the majestic soft coral. Hammerheads can be found in Thaa as well as whale sharks who visit our boat at night attracted by the krill, which, in turn, are attracted by the lights. When the currents are running well, the channel dives here are outstanding. Abundant with schooling snappers, trevally, barracuda, white tips and greys, grouper, Napoleon wrasse, turtles, eagle rays and more. Laamu is an oval shaped atoll which has some of the top dive sites in the world such as Fushi Kandu & Maabaidhoor Kandu. Huvadhu, one of the deepest lagoons in the Maldives, the currents and channels are ideal for copious grey sharks and other tantalising experiences with pelagic life. You will start or end the trip here, diving the world class Vilingilli Kandu.

This itinerary has a lot of current channel diving so it's best suited to more advanced divers. With visibility being really good in the southern atolls, this is ideal for photographers and videographers looking for larger Pelagic action.

Fancy an extended trip? South Central matches up perfectly with Deep South Southern Sharks. Stay on board for a second trip and join us in the southern most atolls of the Maldives for even more exciting channels and adventures with pelagics from the blue.

SHARKTASTIC

South Male Atoll, Vaavu Atoll, South Ari Atoll, Meemu Atoll

January to April | Male to Male

Itinerary Highlights

- Dive the best and most famous dive sites across Male and Ari Atoll.
- Dive channels, pinnacles, action-packed night dive with nurse sharks, get up close at the cleaning stations without disturbing the locals!
- Expect to see sharks, manta, reef fish, turtles, morays, eagle rays, abundant macro life. Possible hammerheads and whale sharks.
- We don't follow an exact itinerary; flexibility is key irrespective of the year you visit, this underwater world is yours (and ours) for the exploring.

In this period the clean ocean water flows in from the eastern side of the Maldives, This means currents running from Sumatra, Indonesia to the Maldives bring with them not just fantastic visibility up to 40m but a mass of nutrients for fish to feed which in turn attracts an array of pelagic marine life.

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After the adrenaline pumping channel dives of eastern Maldives we cross over to South Ari Atoll to look for the whale sharks around the Maamagili area and mantas at Rangali Madivaru (Dhivehi for Manta Place) among other great sites such as Kudarah Thila and Kudimaa Wreck.

PALAGIC MAGIC

North & South Ari Atolls

April to July | Male to Male

Itinerary Highlights

- A manta and whale shark journey to iconic sites in North & South Ari Atolls.

- Get your whale shark fix at Maamagili and fill your logbook with shark and manta sightings.
- Maaya Thila night dive, lush corals and schooling fish at Reethi Thila and Kuda Rah.
- Expect to see grey reef sharks, whale sharks, manta, beautiful pinnacles.
- Dive sites will vary depending on diver experience levels, local conditions and where the best sightings have been.

On this route we take you on a manta and whale shark journey to the North & South Ari Atolls having crossed over from Male. Exact dive sites will vary depending on diver experience levels, local conditions and where the best sightings have been.

Pelagic Magic gets you face to face with the famous whale sharks of Ari Atoll. As this itinerary devotes more time here, you are certain to get your whaleshark fix at Maamagili. Iconic dive follows iconic dive as you sail from Male through North Ari and then onto South Ari. Then grab your snorkel and splash in to float only feet away from graceful whale sharks. Pelagics of all shapes and sizes await.

With 17 dives, as well as opportunities to snorkel with the whale sharks, this is an action packed week. The pelagic sightings start right from the beginning at Lankan manta point, this is a cleaning station with reliable manta sightings so just settle down and watch the manta swoop in. North Ari atoll offers BMK (Bathala Maga Kan thila), Maya Thila and Fish head are yet more iconic dive site where sharks are plentiful. Watch huge schools of fusiliers being hunted by Dog tooth tuna and Trevally whilst eagle rays and grey reef sharks cruise by. A night dive at Maya Thila is a chance to witness something incredibly unique; Marble sting rays, Morays and reef sharks are hunting with Giant Trevally alongside in what appears to be symbiotic behaviour.

As you reach South Ari keep a look out for the whalesharks near Maamagili, this is the best chance to find whale sharks at this time as they follow the seasonal currents. Manta rays chase plankton trails too and can be found on cleaning stations along the route. Between your pelagic encounters, the reef dives will not disappoint, discover the lush corals and schooling fish at the likes of 7th Heaven and Kuda Rah thila.

HANIFARU & NORTH

Baa Atoll, North Male Atoll, Lhaviyani Atoll, Raa Atoll

July to October | Male to Male

Itinerary Highlights

- Timed with new & full moon phases during July & October for best chances of Manta action.

- Chance to snorkel the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hanifaru Bay.
- Dive manta stations in the northern atolls of Lhaviyani and Baa plus renowned Kuredu Express and Kuredu Caves.
- Expect to see, manta, turtles, grey reef sharks and whitetip reef sharks.
- We've packed this itinerary with hotspots to hopefully give you manta sightings all week long. Sightings can't be guaranteed but diving at this time means your chances are high.

This itinerary runs around the New Moon phase when tidal ranges are greater resulting in a greater flow of plankton into the world famous Hanifaru Bay, where the massive majestic mantas aggregate for a plankton feeding frenzy between July and October each year.

We sail from Male to the northern atolls of Lhaviyani, Baa (Hanifaru Bay) and Raa taking in the renowned sites of Kuredu Express, Labyrinth and Shipyard amongst many more.

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

Thanks to the currents that sweep plankton into the shallow lagoons, mantas follow in vast numbers to feed. Although diving is not permitted in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hanifaru Bay, we are allowed to go in and snorkel with these gentle giants in the lagoon. After a manta has had its feed it needs to get cleaned, so we will take you to known manta cleaning stations in both North Male and Baa Atoll. So hopefully these will give you sightings all week long. Of course, sightings cannot be guaranteed but diving at this time means your chances are high.

NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

7 or 10 nights – North Male Atoll, Lhaviyani Atoll, Baa Atoll, Rasdhoo Atoll, North Ari Atoll

July to October | Male to Male

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

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

North Male offers the renowned Lankan manta point, Kandu Oiy Giri (Fish factory) and action packed Finger point reef. North Ari offer one of the best-known dive sites, Fish Head. For a chance of regular grey reef shark sightings, it's a visit to Rasdhoo Atoll in North Ari. Our extended 10 night trips include the best chances for whaleshark and manta encounters is South Ari Atoll. Although diving is not permitted in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hanifaru Bay, we are allowed to go in and snorkel with these gentle giants in the lagoon. After a manta has enjoyed its feed it needs to get cleaned, so we take you to known manta cleaning stations in both North Male and Baa Atoll. Hopefully, these will give you sightings all week long. Of course, sightings cannot be guaranteed but diving at this time means your chances are high.