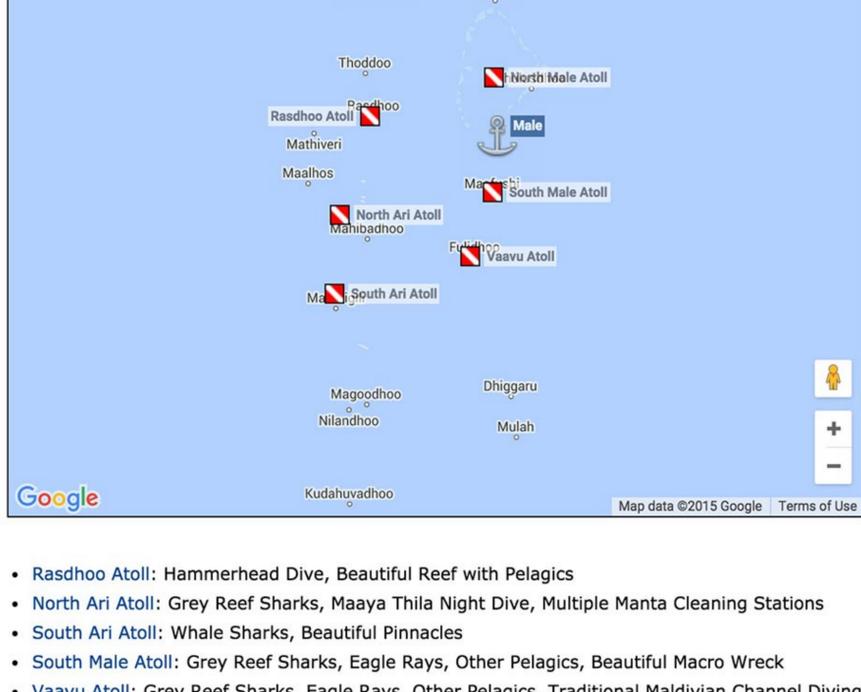


The Best of the Maldives

7 and 10 day trips

You don't need a minimum number of dives but you should be comfortable with drift dives. Currents can be strong. All your diving is made from dhonis or zodiacs to give precise entry and exits points. Experienced divers can dive in a buddy pair unguided.



- **Rasdhoo Atoll:** Hammerhead Dive, Beautiful Reef with Pelagics
- **North Ari Atoll:** Grey Reef Sharks, Maaya Thila Night Dive, Multiple Manta Cleaning Stations
- **South Ari Atoll:** Whale Sharks, Beautiful Pinnacles
- **South Male Atoll:** Grey Reef Sharks, Eagle Rays, Other Pelagics, Beautiful Macro Wreck
- **Vaavu Atoll:** Grey Reef Sharks, Eagle Rays, Other Pelagics, Traditional Maldivian Channel Diving
- **North Male Atoll:** Beautiful Pinnacles

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 liveaboard diving across Male and Ari atolls.

Enjoy a dive holiday that gives you all you could wish for from the iconic sites of North Male, South Male and Ari Atoll. Awaiting you are channels, drifts and pinnacles where you have every chance of meeting mantas, whale sharks and mesmerising marine life of so many varieties. We don't follow an exact itinerary; flexibility is the word so that no matter what time of the year you visit, this underwater world is yours (and ours) for the exploring.

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 the abundant macro life. Get up close at the cleaning stations without disturbing the locals! One of the best known dive sites is Maaya Thila; this pinnacle is approximately 30m in diameter and falls away to reveal sharks and fish a plenty.

A night dive from sheltered moorings here is a must! And the boat will also aim to find whale sharks so you can get in the water and snorkel with them...as long as they stay around long enough!

Manta Madness (July - November)

7 and 10 day trips

You don't need a minimum number of dives but you should be comfortable with drift dives. Currents can be strong. All your diving is made from dhonis or zodiacs to give precise entry and exits points. Experienced divers can dive in a buddy pair unguided.



- **Baa Atoll:** Hanifaru Bay and other great dive sites
- **Rasdhoo Atoll:** Hammerhead Dive, Beautiful Reef with Pelagics
- **North Ari Atoll:** Grey Reef Sharks, Maaya Thila Night Dive, Multiple Manta Cleaning Stations
- **South Male Atoll:** Grey Reef Sharks, Eagle Rays, Other Pelagics, Beautiful Macro Wreck
- **North Male Atoll:** Beautiful Pinnacles

This itinerary runs at the time of a New Moon when the manta are most prolific between July and November, sailing from Male to the northern atolls of Baa (Hanifaru Bay) and back again.

As well as manta, you can get close to whale sharks, hammerheads and reef sharks. One of the big attractions is the promise of manta encounters and diving at this time of the year will hopefully fulfil that promise.

Thanks to the currents that sweep plankton into the shallow lagoons, manta and whale sharks follow in vast numbers to feed. Here you'll see manta swim and loop at dive sites that have been chosen to hopefully give you sightings all week long.

Manta Point and Gangethi are well known stations that manta visit all year round and Rasdhoo and Maya Thila promise some fabulous diving with hammerheads, grey reefs and white tip sharks. And be sure to do the night dive on this trip!

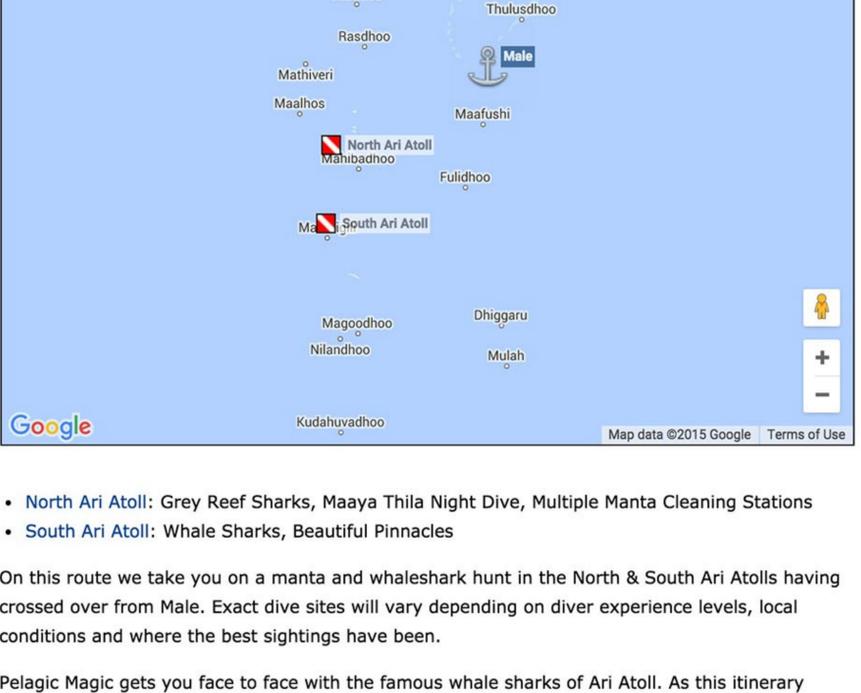
Of course, sightings can't be guaranteed, but diving at this time means your chances are very high!

Please note: Manta Madness will visit either the cleaning stations of Male, Ari and Vaavu atolls or Baa Atoll, which includes Hanifaru area. This is at the Cruise Director's discretion based on the weather and current conditions to ensure you get the most possible interactions with manta and whaleshark.

Pelagic Magic (April - July)

7 and 10 day trips

You don't need a minimum number of dives but you should be comfortable with drift dives. Currents can be strong. All your diving is made from dhonis or zodiacs to give precise entry and exits points. Experienced divers can dive in a buddy pair unguided.



- **North Ari Atoll:** Grey Reef Sharks, Maaya Thila Night Dive, Multiple Manta Cleaning Stations
- **South Ari Atoll:** Whale Sharks, Beautiful Pinnacles

On this route we take you on a manta and whaleshark hunt in 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; your log book will fill with shark and manta sightings as well as outstanding reef dives. Then grab your snorkel and in to float only feet away from graceful whale sharks. Pelagics of all shapes and sizes await.

With around 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. Manta Point (otherwise known as Lankan Finolhu) is a cleaning station with reliable manta sightings. Just settle down and watch the manta look in. Hafsa Thila and Maya Thila are yet more iconic dive sites where sharks are plentiful. Look out for baby white tips under the large table corals. But it is at night that Maya Thila really comes alive. Reef sharks and marble morays hunt dinner out as morays sink between the coral blocks.

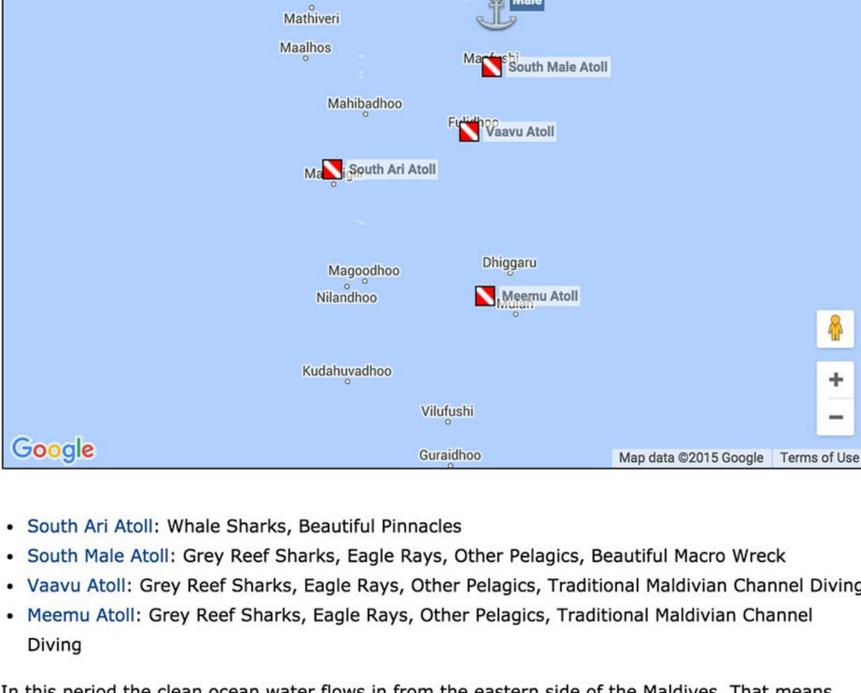
As you reach South Ari keep a look out for the whale sharks. Maamagili is the place to find whale sharks at this time as they follow the seasonal currents. Manta chase plankton trails too into the nearby lagoons. Between your pelagic encounters, the reef dives will not disappoint. Discover the lush corals and schooling fish at the likes of Reethi Thila and Kuda Rah.

This is a great itinerary for everyone. No matter what your experience level this is a Maldives itinerary you can enjoy. There can be some drift diving so some experience of diving in currents is advisable. Don't forget to take your reef hook to make shark watching all the easier. As so many of the best whaleshark encounters are snorkelling, everyone can feel the thrill of seeing these graceful creatures in their natural environment. Pelagic Magic runs when the pelagics sightings are at their optimum in North and South Ari. Don't delay - discover the biggest inhabitants of the Maldives for yourself.

Sharktastic - visiting 4 Atolls (January - April)

7 and 10 day trips

You don't need a minimum number of dives but you should be comfortable with drift dives. Currents can be strong. All your diving is made from dhonis or zodiacs to give precise entry and exits points. Experienced divers can dive in a buddy pair unguided.



- **South Ari Atoll:** Whale Sharks, Beautiful Pinnacles
- **South Male Atoll:** Grey Reef Sharks, Eagle Rays, Other Pelagics, Beautiful Macro Wreck
- **Vaavu Atoll:** Grey Reef Sharks, Eagle Rays, Other Pelagics, Traditional Maldivian Channel Diving
- **Meemu Atoll:** Grey Reef Sharks, Eagle Rays, Other Pelagics, Traditional Maldivian Channel Diving

In this period the clean ocean water flows in from the eastern side of the Maldives. That means currents running from Sumatra, Indonesia to the Maldives bring with them not just fantastic visibility up to 40m but also a variety of pelagic surprises coming to the reef for a quick feed.

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 added bonus of beautiful overhangs draping in the blues, yellows and pinks of the majestic soft coral.

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