



Maldives Deep South Itinerary

Feb. 13th to Feb. 20th, 2022

Join Brass Anchor for a bucket list dive trip to the Southern Maldives Atolls aboard the Maldives Explorer. Exotic Deep South itineraries are the crown jewels of Maldives liveaboard diving! Far from the thrum of Male, the secluded atolls visited on these exclusive diving itineraries are truly off the beaten path. From electrifying channel dives with a multitude of shark species, to mantas and a spectacular diversity of fish life, these dive sites impress even the most experienced divers! Frequently oceanic blacktips, tiger sharks, thresher sharks, and hammerheads are seen. Occasionally, mola-mola also make an appearance.



- Most Southern itinerary dives will involve going to depth and diving in channels with strong currents, which can be challenging. Therefore, this schedule is not for inexperienced divers. We recommend you have 100 logged dives to join this trip and require that you are PADI Advanced Open Water or equivalent..

- Please note: Due to weather and diving conditions, it's not always possible to visit each Atoll. Your Cruise Director will decide the best ones to visit at the time of diving. Please see the Sample Itinerary below:

HUVADHOO ATOLL

Whaleshark Point

Huvadho atoll is known for being home to the biggest fish in the world. Just like in Thaa atoll there is now specific place where diving would guarantee an encounter with a whale shark but the common practice is to use a strong light in the evening at the back platform of the boat to attract the zooplanktons which will further attract the whale sharks. Scuba diving while having the shark at the back of the boat is rather discouraged as the bubbles may disperse the mass of the plankton. Sometimes the whale sharks will stay for hours.

Maareha Kandu

One of the best channel dives in the atoll, suitable for all diver levels depending on the entry point. With incoming current dozens of grey reef sharks can be seen as well as eagle rays and many species of fish that swim around the channel. Crossing the channel above the edge will be the most effective way to spot big amount of fish.

Nilandhoo Kandu

Another top ranking site and definitely a must dive spot. As most channel dives it offers the best conditions during incoming current in the northeast monsoon. It is possible to observe grey reef sharks, leopard sharks, nurse sharks, big barracudas, tunas, eagle rays and napoleons. Tiger sharks have also been seen in this place.

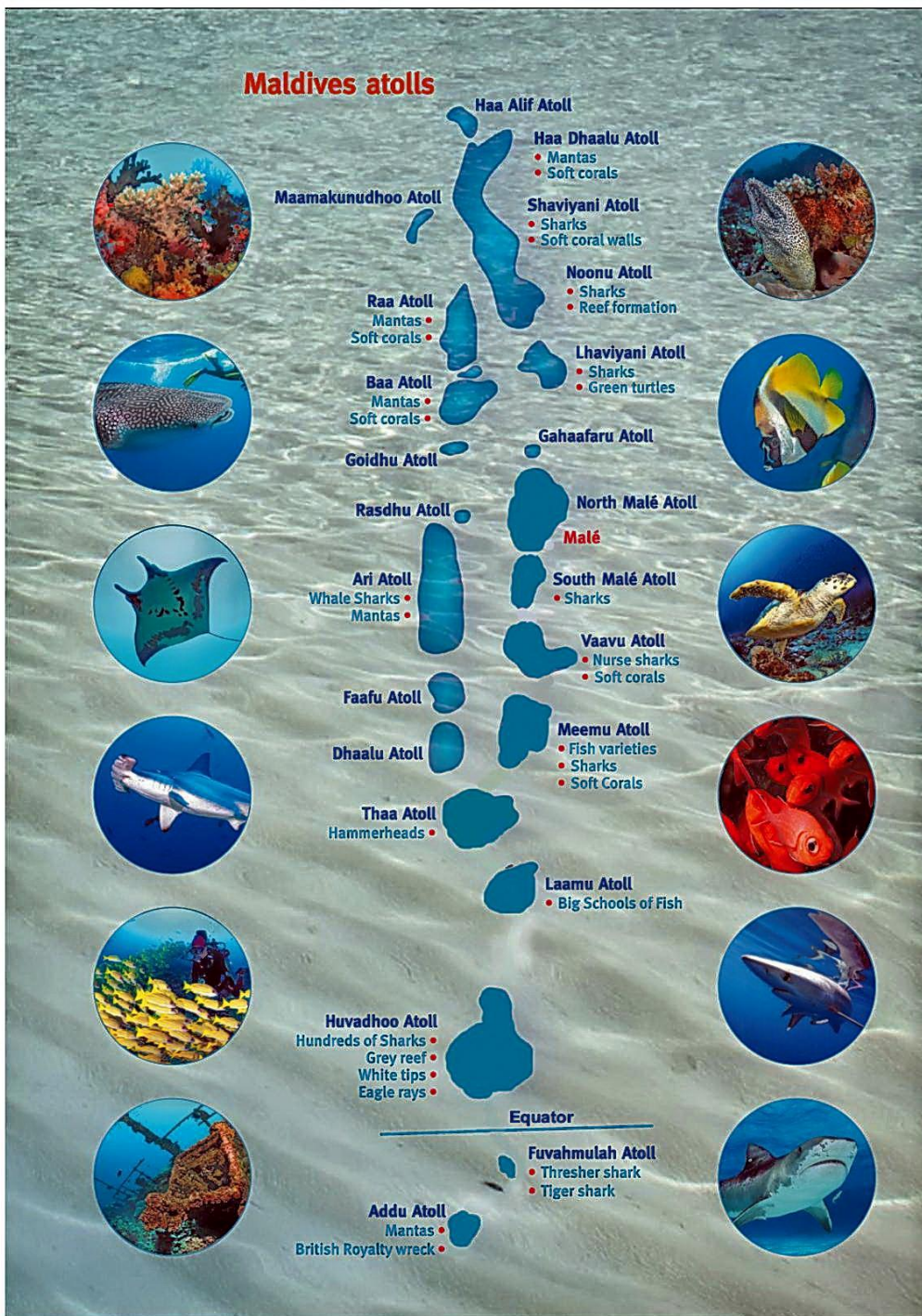
Turtle City

Unique place because of the number of green turtles that can be spotted. Very easy drift dive along the reef, suitable for all levels of experience. These turtles can get scared easily and often swim away as soon as they spot a diver, therefore divers staying in the back of the group may have much fewer encounters. More caution before coming up to the surface is recommended as there are many fishing boats arriving to or leaving the nearby port.



Viligili Kandu

This channel comparing to other channels in this area offers more technical conditions to observe big schools of grey reef sharks. The center of the channel is the place to be. Current hooks are a must. It is very easy to be tempted by the main edge which is deeper than maximum allowed depth of 30 meters. Divers have to remember though that the closer they try to get to the sharks the further the sharks will swim away.



FUVAHMULAH ATOLL

FUVAHMULAH south

This place offers one of the most incredible drift dives in the the archipelago. Unlike other atolls in the Maldives this one has no lagoon. Surrounded by depths in the middle of the Indian Ocean the site offers unique conditions to encounter species like tiger sharks, oceanic mantas, mola mola, thresher sharks, hammerheads, grey reef sharks and other big fish. With good visibility during the northeast monsoon and unpredictable and powerful currents, the biggest challenge might be to keep the maximum depth of 90 feet and not being taken beyond reasonable depths. Divers should watch computers more carefully to make sure they have enough air and time to finish the dive safely. The dive is mostly based on luck and common practice is to try the place two or three times before moving on to another atoll. With a bit of luck this might be the most memorable dive in your logbook.

ADDU ATOLL

British Royalty Wreck

This 420 ft long tanker is the biggest wreck in the Maldives, torpedoed twice during WW II and eventually sunk by the British in 1946. The vessel rests on its starboard side at around 33m.

Maa Corner

The place is known for its cleaning station hosting manta rays all year long. The main station is quite deep and the current in the channel can make it more difficult to handle for beginners. There are a few coral blocks a bit shallower, which are also considered cleaning stations and mantas can be seen there quite often. Current hooks are recommended to keep the right position and stay in one place for better observation.

For booking or additional info, please contact Brass Anchor Scuba Center 301-663-9363 * andre@brassanchor.com

TRIP AT-A-GLANCE

DATE: Feb. 13th to Feb. 20th, 2022

COST: \$2,669 Standard room
\$2,869 Main Deck Suite
\$2,969 Upper Deck Suites
(double Occupancy)

Local flight required \$530

\$300 deposit due upon reservation

INCLUDED:

- 18-20 dives aboard the *Maldives Explorer*
- 4 dives per day
- 3 meals per day and snacks
- Beer, wine, and soft drinks
- Tanks and weights

NOT INCLUDED:

- Travel to and from Maldives.
- Transfers to and from the airport
- NITROX
- Marine park fee of \$120 per diver
- Personal dive equipment
- Local flight cost \$530