

Extended Maldives Explorer 8 Nights: Liveaboard Dive & Island Discovery

Prepared by TourGrids

Destination
Maldives

Duration
8 Nights 9 Days

Starting from
Rs. 2,90,000 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

✓ Malé · 1N

✓ Liveaboard – Central & South Atolls · 6N

✓ Island Resort / Local Island · 1N

Overview

An immersive Maldives tour package blending world-class diving, vibrant coral reefs, and authentic island experiences. This 8 nights / 9 days Maldives Adventure tour package is designed for divers and ocean lovers seeking both action-packed underwater exploration and relaxed island discovery. Perfect as an 8 and 9 Maldives Adventure tour package, it covers the best of Malé, central and southern atolls via a comfortable liveaboard and finishes with a restful island stay.

Highlights:

- Liveaboard diving across Central & South Atolls (6 nights)
- Malé cultural highlights: Hukuru Miskiy & Sultan Park
- Snorkel with turtles, reef sharks, and seasonal manta rays
- Sandbank picnic & island hopping experience
- Sunset dolphin cruise and night dives for experienced divers

Special notes: Best diving months are November–April for visibility and May–October for pelagic sightings; manta ray sightings are seasonal. Divers must present certification cards. Check baggage restrictions for domestic seaplane or speedboat transfers.

✓ What's Included

- ✓ Accommodation: 1 night in Malé/hotel, 6 nights aboard the liveaboard, 1 night at an island resort/local island.
- ✓ All meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner on liveaboard and specified meals on land days.
- ✓ Transfers: Airport–hotel–pier transfers and all liveaboard transfers. (Seaplane/speedboat charges included when specified).
- ✓ Diving: Up to 3 guided dives per day (as per itinerary) for certified divers, tanks & weights included.
- ✓ Snorkeling gear, life jackets, and guided island visits.
- ✓ Park fees, local taxes, and onboard Wi-Fi (where available).
- ✓ Guided cultural walk on a local island and a sunset dolphin cruise.
- ✓ Note: Dive equipment rental (BC, regulators) may be extra unless pre-booked; advanced bookings recommended.

✗ Not Included

- ✗ International flights to/from Malé.
- ✗ Dive insurance (compulsory for divers) and personal travel insurance.
- ✗ Nitrox, specialty dives, and equipment rental (unless pre-booked).
- ✗ Alcoholic beverages on liveaboard/resort (unless package states 'all-inclusive') and premium drinks.
- ✗ Optional spa treatments, personal expenses, and gratuities.
- ✗ Government arrival visa fees (if applicable) and any optional excursions not listed.
- ✗ Important: Excess baggage charges on domestic transfers and seaplane weight limits are not included.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Malé & Transfer to Hotel

Arrive at Velana International Airport (Malé). Meet-and-greet with transfer to your hotel on Malé / Hulhumalé. After check-in, enjoy a relaxed afternoon exploring the capital: visit Hukuru Miskiy (Old Friday Mosque), Sultan Park, and the local fish market. Evening welcome briefing about the liveaboard schedule and diving plan. Tip: Keep your dive certification card and passport handy for liveaboard check-in tomorrow.

Day

2

Embark Liveaboard & Introductory Dives

Transfer to the pier and board your liveaboard vessel mid-morning. Safety briefing and gear setup followed by an afternoon shallow reef dive or snorkel excursion to acclimatize. Evening navigation towards the first dive region. Onboard chef serves fresh Maldivian cuisine. Note: Debrief with your DM about dive profiles and night-dive preferences.

Day

3

Diving for Pelagics & Manta Cleaning Stations

Full day of diving at top manta cleaning stations and pelagic-rich channels (seasonal). Expect drift dives over steep coral walls and chances to see manta rays and schooling tuna. Afternoon surface interval on a secluded sandbank for snorkeling and sunbathing. Remember: manta sightings are seasonal—your itinerary may be optimized based on current reports.

Day

4

Shark & Shark Cleaning Station Dives

Explore famed reef pinnacles known for reef sharks, white-tip and grey reef sharks, and abundant macro life. Optional photography-focused dive to capture vivid corals and schooling fish. Evening night dive for nocturnal species (for certified night divers). Ensure dive torches and backup lights are charged.

Day

5

Ari Atoll Classics: Maaya Thila & Fish Head

Day dedicated to iconic sites such as Maaya Thila and Fish Head (codename for prime pelagic spots) — renowned for encounters with tuna, napoleon wrasse, and bigger pelagics. Surface intervals include reef-top snorkeling and onboard conservation talk about reef protection. Non-divers can join guided snorkel trips.

Day

6

Island Discovery & Turtles Encounter

Morning dives followed by an island excursion to a local island for a cultural walk and shopping of local crafts. Afternoon snorkeling at lush coral gardens with high probability of seeing turtles and colorful reef fish. Evening onboard barbecue on a private sandbank (weather permitting).

Day

7

Final Liveboard Dives & Sunset Dolphin Cruise

Last full day of scheduled dives—targeting any missed highlights and favorite sites. After disembarkation preparations, enjoy a sunset dolphin cruise while the crew repositions toward the main atolls. Farewell dinner onboard with a slideshow of expedition photos. Tip: Back up underwater photos before disembarkation.

Day

8

Disembark & Island Resort Stay

Disembark in the morning and transfer to a nearby island resort or local island (e.g., Maafushi) for a relaxing day on the beach. Enjoy island activities: kayaking, optional spa, or a guided island-hopping trip to nearby inhabited islands. Evening free to explore local cafes or enjoy resort amenities.

Day

9

Departure via Malé — End of Tour

Leisurely breakfast and morning at the resort. Transfer back to Velana International Airport (Malé) according to your flight schedule. Final souvenir shopping if time permits. Important: Check domestic transfer and international flight timings; seaplane transfers often operate only during daylight hours.

🔍 Frequently Asked Questions

🔍 When is the best time to visit the Maldives and what's the weather like?

The best time to visit the Maldives is during the dry season from November to April, with peak conditions from December to March. During this period, expect clear skies, calm seas, and excellent underwater visibility for snorkeling and diving. Temperatures remain tropical year-round (26–32°C). The wet season (May–October) brings occasional tropical showers and livelier seas, but it's also the best time for surfing and manta ray encounters, especially in Baa Atoll. This period offers better value with fewer crowds. Note that the Maldives has no 'winter' or snow – it's tropical throughout the year. The country is 30 minutes behind Indian Standard Time, which is helpful for planning transfers and activities.

❓ **How do I reach the Maldives from India and what are the transportation options?**

The easiest way to reach the Maldives from India is by direct flights to Velana International Airport (MLE) near Malé. Multiple airlines operate direct flights from Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Kochi, Chennai, and Thiruvananthapuram, with flight times ranging from 2–3.5 hours. Once in the Maldives, transportation options include speedboats (10–120 minutes to resorts), scenic seaplanes (daytime only to distant atolls), domestic flights to regional airports followed by speedboat transfers, and budget-friendly public ferries for local islands. Within Malé and Hulhumalé, taxis are available. Most resort transfers are pre-arranged and included in packages, so confirm your transfer method when booking accommodation.

❓ **Do Indian citizens need a visa to visit the Maldives?**

Indian citizens receive a free 30-day visa on arrival in the Maldives – no advance application required. You'll need a valid passport with at least 6 months validity, confirmed accommodation booking, return flight tickets, and sufficient funds for your stay. The immigration process is straightforward at Velana International Airport. Ensure you have your hotel confirmation or guesthouse booking details readily available, as immigration may ask for these. If you plan to stay longer than 30 days, you'll need to apply for an extension through Maldivian immigration authorities. The visa allows for tourism purposes only, and you cannot work on a tourist visa.

❓ **What are the local transportation options within the Maldives?**

Transportation in the Maldives is primarily water-based due to its scattered island geography. Speedboats are the most common option for resort transfers and inter-island travel, taking 10 minutes to 2 hours depending on distance. Seaplanes offer scenic transfers to distant atolls but operate only during daylight hours. Domestic flights connect to regional airports like Gan, Maafaru, and Hanimaadhoo, followed by speedboat connections. Public ferries provide budget-friendly inter-island transport but are less frequent and slower. Within Malé and Hulhumalé, taxis and buses are available. On resort islands and local islands, walking and bicycles are common due to their small size. Most resort transfers are pre-arranged, so coordinate with your accommodation.

❓ **What accommodation options are available and which areas should I stay in?**

The Maldives offers accommodation for every budget. Luxury resorts feature overwater villas and beachfront suites on private islands, with options like Conrad Maldives, Baros, and Gili Lankanfushi. Mid-range resorts like Kurumba and Meeru offer excellent value with good facilities. Budget travelers can stay in guesthouses on local islands like Maafushi, Fulidhoo, or Ukulhas, which offer cultural experiences and are significantly cheaper. North and South Malé Atolls provide quick speedboat access from the airport. Baa Atoll is perfect for manta ray encounters, while South Ari Atoll offers whale shark experiences. Choose based on your priorities: quick transfers (Malé Atolls), marine life (Baa/Ari), or budget (local islands). Book early for peak season (December–March).

❓ **What are the must-visit attractions and places in the Maldives?**

Top attractions include Malé City with its Grand Friday Mosque, Islamic Centre, and vibrant local markets. Hulhumalé offers family-friendly beaches and a relaxed atmosphere. Baa Atoll's Hanifaru Bay is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve famous for seasonal manta ray aggregations (June–November). South Ari Atoll is renowned for year-round whale shark encounters. Addu Atoll lets you cross the Equator and explore WWII history. Vaadhoo Island occasionally displays bioluminescent 'Sea of Stars' phenomena. Don't miss house reef snorkeling, sunset dolphin cruises, private sandbank picnics, and island-hopping to experience local culture. Each resort typically has excellent house reefs for snorkeling, and many organize excursions to nearby attractions. The key is choosing your base atoll according to your interests.

❓ **What local food and cuisine should I try in the Maldives?**

Maldivian cuisine centers around fresh seafood, coconut, and rice. Must-try dishes include Mas Huni (shredded tuna with coconut and chili, served with roshi flatbread), Garudhiya (clear tuna broth with rice and condiments), and Rihaakuru (rich tuna paste). Sample hedhikaa snacks like gulha (tuna dumplings), bajiya (curried pastries), and bis keemiya (vegetable rolls). Coconut and seafood curries range from mild to spicy. Resorts offer extensive international menus with vegetarian and Jain-friendly options. In Malé, try Seagull Café House for local flavors or Sala Thai for excellent Thai cuisine. Local islands provide authentic Maldivian experiences at lower prices. Fresh tropical fruits, coconut water, and locally-made ice cream are perfect for the tropical climate.

★ **Traveller Reviews**



Vinayak Rao

★★★★★ 5/5

Dreamy Honeymoon

Our honeymoon here was nothing short of a dream. Private beach dinners and romantic strolls made it picture-perfect.



Heena Verma

★★★★★ 5/5

Unbeatable Views

Waking up to such breathtaking views every day was surreal. The photographs don't even do it justice!



Nitin Mathur

★★★★★ 5/5

Best Vacation Ever!

This has honestly been the best vacation we've ever had! We fell in love with the islands, the view, the food, everything!



Sandeep Kaur

★★★★☆ 4/5

Traveling with Friends

Great place to travel with friends! We had a fantastic time trying out all the activities together.



Reema Joshi

★★★★★ 5/5

Incredible Marine Life

Every snorkeling session revealed stunning coral reefs and vibrant fish. A true marvel of nature!

Why Choose TourGrids?

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