

Scuba Diving in the Maldives

15 MIND-BLOWING DIVE SITES YOU CAN'T MISS



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WORLD FAMOUS DIVE SITES

Welcome to the Maldives - A Diver's Paradise

Dreaming of **manta rays**, **sharks**, **soft coral gardens** and **exhilarating channels**? This handpicked list of **15 top dive sites** in the Maldives gives you a taste of what diving in paradise can really offer.

From current-swept **thilas** to **wrecks** and **whale shark hotspots** - here's where to find the best of the best.

Want the full picture? This is just a sneak peek of our **full Maldives Dive Guide**, with 200+ site descriptions, the best time to dive each region, liveaboard tips and more.



1. Fish Head (North Ari Atoll)

A top dive site in the Maldives, Fish Head in Ari Atoll offers thrilling **grey reef shark** encounters, schools of fish, turtles feeding on the reef top and strong currents over a submerged pinnacle with steep walls and some overhangs and terraces.

2. Madivaru Corner (Rasdho Atoll)

Madivaru Corner is one of Rasdho Atoll's most thrilling dive sites, known for its horseshoe-shaped ridge patrolled by **grey reef sharks, white tip sharks** and schools of **eagle rays**.

3. Shipyard (Lhaviyani Atoll)

At Shipyard, divers explore **two wrecks** between 18 and 29 metres (59–95 feet), swarmed by marine life and crowned by a surface-breaking bow that makes this one of Lhaviyani's most iconic dive sites.

4. Fotteyo Kandu (Vaavu Atoll)

Fotteyo Kandu is a world-class dive site famous for its **soft coral caves**, reef sharks, schooling pelagics and other big species.

5. Maamigili Beru (South Ari Atoll)

Around Maamigili Island in South Ari Atoll is one of the Maldives' top locations for seeing **whale sharks**. The Maamigili Beru reef is home to eagle rays, mobulas, lionfish and more. Whale sharks may appear year-round, with sightings shifting sides of the atoll depending on the monsoon season.

6. Miyaru Kandu (Vaavu Atoll)

Miyaru Kandu is a thrilling shark-filled drift dive in Vaavu Atoll, offering encounters with enormous schools of **grey reef sharks, rays and pelagics** along dramatic caves and coral-covered swim-throughs.

7. Hanifaru Bay (Baa Atoll)

Hanifaru Bay in Baa Atoll offers a rare chance to snorkel with **dozens of manta rays** and occasional **whale sharks** during the plankton-rich southwest monsoon from May to November.

8. Kudarah Thila (South Ari Atoll)

Kudarah Thila is a breathtaking, current-swept pinnacle dive in South Ari Atoll, offering rich coral formations and massive schools of **blue-striped snappers**.

9. Maldives Victory (North Malé Atoll)

The Maldives Victory is a massive **cargo shipwreck** that lies between Malé and Hulhumalé at depths of 15 to 35 metres (50–115 feet). Now an iconic artificial reef, it's home to a wide range of marine life including groupers, batfish, lionfish and macro species and a must-do dive in North Malé Atoll.

10. Lankan Manta Point (North Malé Atoll)

Lankan Manta Point offers up-close encounters with circling **manta rays** at a busy cleaning station in North Malé atoll from May to November.

11. Kandooma Thila (South Malé Atoll)

Kandooma Thila is a thrilling deep dive site with strong currents, ranging from 13 to 40 metres (43–131 feet), attracting **sharks, rays, tuna and large schools of fish** to its coral-covered pinnacle.

12. Villingili Kandu (Huvadho Atoll)

Villingili Kandu is a thrilling channel dive in the northeast of Gaafu Alif Atoll, where strong currents make for exciting drift diving. This site is famous for its **shark action**, especially large numbers of grey reef sharks and silvertip sharks congregating near the channel mouth. Divers often hook in to observe the show before drifting into the channel, where they may also encounter white tip reef sharks, schools of barracuda and eagle rays.

13. Tiger Zoo (Fuvahmulah)

Tiger Zoo is Fuvahmulah's signature dive site, where divers are guaranteed thrilling encounters with multiple **tiger sharks** in shallow, clear waters. Located at the harbor, the site has become a hotspot due to decades of fish waste attracting the sharks.

14. British Loyalty (Addu Atoll)

The British Loyalty, a **WWII-era 140-metre (459-foot) oil tanker**, lies between Maradhoo and Hithadhoo at depths of 16 to 33 metres (52 to 108 feet). Covered in coral and surrounded by marine life, the wreck features large swim-throughs and regular sightings of sharks, turtles, and schooling fish.

15. Okobe Thila (North Malé Atoll)

Located southeast in North Malé Atoll, Okobe Thila is a protected dive site renowned for its rich marine life and stunning **colourful soft corals**. Three coral pinnacles offer caves, overhangs and steep walls teeming with lionfish, morays, sweetlips, scorpionfish and squirrelfish. Expect to see blue-lined snappers, trevally, barracudas, tunas and Napoleon wrasses that often approach divers curiously.

ATOLL OVERVIEW

NORTHERN ATOLLS

HAA DHAALU

RAA

BAA

HAA ALIFU

SHAVIYANI

NOONU

LHAVIYANI

CENTRAL ATOLLS

THODDOO
RASDHOO

NORTH ARI

SOUTH ARI

FAAFU

NORTH MALE

SOUTH MALE

VAAVU

SOUTHERN ATOLLS

DHAALU

THAA

MEEMU

LAAMU

DEEP SOUTH

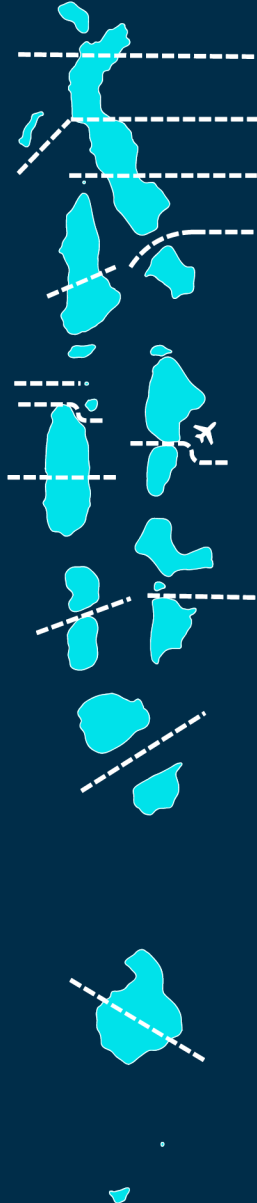
HUVADHOO

GAAFU DHAALU

ADDU

GAAFU ALIF

FUVAHMULAH



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- ✔ The **best time to dive** for each region
- ✔ **321 Dive Center + Liveboards**
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Hi, we are Maïke and Niels - The Scuba Couple.

We are **Scuba Diving Instructors** since 2021 and worked in the Maldives, Indonesia and Egypt.

As scuba diving content creators, we also share with you our **underwater adventures** and help you to turn your dive dreams into reality with our **dive bucket lists** and **destinations guides**.

**Disclaimer**

All information provided in this guide has been thoroughly and carefully researched and personally verified to the best of our knowledge and experience. However, details can change over time, and while we strive for accuracy and completeness, we are human - and despite all efforts, errors or omissions may occur. Therefore, we cannot guarantee the absolute correctness or completeness of the content.

Please note that while the information was personally researched and checked, AI-assisted tools were used in the writing and editing process to enhance clarity and readability.

We recommend confirming key details (e.g., prices, schedules, regulations) with official sources or providers before making travel or diving decisions.

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