



GOOD TO KNOW

What are the VISA/PASSPORT entry requirements to travel to the Maldives?

To enter the Maldives you will need a passport with at least six month's validity, a complete travel itinerary including return journey confirmed tickets, and a prepaid confirmed hotel booking at a registered hotel or liveaboard. On arrival, you will be issued a free 30 day tourist visa. A Traveller Declaration must be filled in and submitted by all travelers travelling to and from Maldives, within 96 hours of the flight time. The form needs to be submitted electronically via [IMUGA](#).

Which Airport do I need to fly into and out of?

Almost all international flights arrive into and depart from Velana International Airport which is located on the Airport island called Hulhule and has the three letter IATA code of MLE.

Depending on your chosen itinerary, from there, you may then need a domestic flight to join the Spirit of Maldives for your departure. Some itineraries will also need a domestic transfer back to the Airport in Male.

Itineraries: Heart of the Maldives (Central Atolls), Wonders of the Northern Atolls, (Northern Atolls), Deep South (Southern Atolls) depart from Male Airport and do not need a domestic flight.

Itinerary: Explore the Far North (Far North) involves a 50 minute one-way flight from either Male to Hanimandhoo or Hanimandhoo to Male.

Itinerary: Equatorial Atolls and Male to Equatorial Atolls require domestic flights to/from Gan or Koodoo.

Domestic flights are with Maldivian Aero.

Domestic Flights - what are the luggage allowances and connection times?

Some itineraries require domestic flights which are taken with Maldivian Aero. These flights need to be booked well in advance to ensure availability.

Velana International Airport requires a minimum connection time of two hours between domestic and international flights and the domestic check-in desks open two hours before flight departure and close one hour before flight departure. Whilst two hours is the minimum connection time, flights can be subject to delays so please leave plenty of time between your domestic and international flight bookings.

What are the check-in/check-out times?

Transfers from the airport to the boat will be at 15.00hrs.

For check-out all guests will be transferred to the Airport by 07.00 am

For guests continuing their holiday in the Maldives at a resort or hotel we can assist you with your ongoing transfers, please ask for assistance from the Cruise Directors.



What's the weather like in the Maldives?

The Maldives is in the monsoon belt of the northern Indian Ocean, and experiences quite a complex weather pattern. People often think of monsoons as periods of high rainfall but, in fact, wind is the key factor. There are two seasons in the Maldives: a dryer northeast monsoon and a wetter southwest monsoon.

From May to November the prevailing winds are from the southwest and bring an average of 215mm of rainfall and 208 hours of sunshine per month. Around mid-December the winds veer to the northeast and, with the change in direction, bring a much drier climate with rainfall averaging 75mm per month and average sunshine 256 hours.

Maldivian days are hot and humid throughout the year, with temperatures of about 25-30 C and humidity at 70-80%.

The Maldives is sometimes affected by cyclones passing through the Bay of Bengal. These storms rarely pass close to the Maldives and if they do the effects are short-lived.

Currency

The local currency is Maldivian rufiyaa (MVR). You can exchange money at the airport when you arrive. Normally the exchange rate varies from 15 MVR to 15.42 MVR to 1 USD.

Be aware that only licensed shops are allowed to accept foreign currencies and USD are the most accepted.

Electricity

The most common standard for power outlets is the British system. UK 3 pin electrical sockets using 220 volts AC 50Hz.

WHILE ON BOARD

Is there WIFI available?

Yes, there is a Starlink Satellite Connection with an additional charge. Please contact reservations@spiritliveaboards.com for further information

What is it included in the package?

Meet and greet at the airport (at the pre-arranged times), transfers to the boat, 3 daily dives with night diving on request, three meals a day, and afternoon snacks. Unlimited



drinking water, tea, and coffee plus one house beer/wine per day, a BBQ dinner on a local island (weather permitting), and a local Island visit. Government taxes and bed tax are included.

How many dives are included per trip?

Our dive program averages up to 17 dives on a 7-night trip, 23 dives on a 9-night trip, 26 dives on a 10-night trip, 30 to 32 dives on a 12-night trip and 36 to 38 dives on a 14-night trip.

Dive Itineraries

At Spirit Liveaboards, we believe that a diverse range of itineraries is key to providing our guests with the most. These are some of the exciting itineraries available for you on board Spirit of Maldives:

Heart of the Maldives : 7 - 10 nights + - North Male Atoll - Rasdhu Atoll - Ari Atoll - Felidhu Atoll - South Male

Wonders of the Northern Atolls : 10+ nights – North Male Atoll - Lhaviyani Atoll - Noonu Atoll - Raa Atoll - Baa Atoll - Rasdhu Atoll - Ari Atoll

Explore the Far North (November to April) : 10+ nights – North Male Atoll - Lhaviyani Atoll - Baa Atoll - Raa Atoll - Shaviyani Atoll - Haa Alifu Atoll

The Deep South : 10+ nights - South Male Atoll - Felidhu Atoll - North and South Nilandhoo Atolls - Meemu Atoll – Thaa Atoll - Laamu Atoll.

Equatorial Maldives : 7 & 10+ nights - Huvadhu Atoll - Fuvahmulah Atoll - Addu Atoll

Male to Equatorial Atolls and vice versa 10 nights + - North Male Atoll - South Male Atoll - Felidhu Atoll - Meemu Atoll – Thaa Atoll - Laamu Atoll - Huvadhu Atoll - Fuvahmulah Atoll - Addu Atoll

Please refer to Maldives Page for a full detailed information about our different routes

Dive Support Boat

A 60ft (20m) spacious and well-equipped dive “dhoni” ensures seamless dive operations, providing ample space for gear storage and preparation.

Are there any conservation efforts or guidelines I should follow while diving in the Maldives?

Respect Marine Life: Do not touch, chase, or disturb marine life. Maintain a safe distance to minimize stress to animals and coral reefs.

Practice Responsible Diving: Ensure proper buoyancy control at all times to avoid damaging coral reefs or kicking up sediment that can harm marine life.

Do Not Feed Marine Life: Feeding fish or other marine creatures can disrupt their natural behavior and ecosystem balance.

Use Reef-Safe Sunscreen: Use sunscreen that is free from oxybenzone and octinoxate, which can harm coral reefs. Opt for mineral-based sunscreens instead.

Do not take shells, corals, or any marine life as souvenirs. Leave natural items in their environment to support the ecosystem.

Dispose of trash properly and never throw your rubbish overboard.

Minimize the use of flash photography, especially near sensitive marine life like nocturnal animals.



Educate Yourself and learn about the marine ecosystem. Understand the threats facing the reefs and how you can contribute positively to their preservation.

What is the visibility like underwater in the Maldives?

The underwater visibility in the Maldives is generally excellent and is one of the defining characteristics that make it a world-renowned diving destination. You can typically expect visibility ranging from 20 meters (66 feet) to over 30 meters (100 feet) depending on the season.

The visibility will vary depending on factors such as weather conditions, ocean currents, and the presence of plankton. Different dive sites in the Maldives may offer varying visibility depending on their location, depth, and proximity to currents. Sites closer to channels or oceanic drop-offs might have stronger currents but are also likely to have clearer water.

How does the weather affect the diving?

Understanding the weather and the current in the Maldives is essential if you are to make the most of your diving, the variability of the seasons is a huge reason to dive from a liveaboard rather than from a resort.

As a rule, in the months from May to November the winds and the currents are from the southwest and therefore the diving with the best visibility is going to be on the west side of the atolls, marine animals that like to feed on plankton will be found on the east. The reverse is true in the months from December through to April when the winds and currents are predominantly from the northeast. A liveaboard is able to move according to the seasons and currents in order to pursue the best diving.

What is the temperature of the water and what thickness wetsuit do you recommend?

Maldives water temperature is generally between 27 C and 30 C. Most divers are comfortable in a 3-5mm full length wetsuit.

What medical facilities are available in the Maldives in case of a diving emergency?

The Maldives maintains a network of medical facilities that cater to both residents and tourists, including those involved in scuba diving emergencies. While the remoteness of some islands means that access to comprehensive medical care can vary, the resorts and inhabited islands with tourism infrastructure generally have medical clinics or health centers that can be accessed to handle minor injuries and illnesses.

In the event of a scuba diving emergency, particularly decompression sickness (DCS), Spirit Liveaboards are equipped with basic first aid equipment and oxygen therapy. Our Cruise Directors are trained to provide initial stabilization and arrange for medical evacuation to medical facilities in Malé, or the nearest medical centre as appropriate.

There are currently five hyperbaric chambers operational in the Maldives.

It is essential for scuba divers to ensure they have adequate travel insurance that covers scuba diving-related incidents, including medical evacuation if needed.



Electricity onboard

Universal Sockets 220V

What kind of marine life can I expect to see while diving in the Maldives?

The marine biodiversity of the Maldives offers a diverse array of marine life. Manta ray cleaning stations are a notable feature, where these graceful giants gather to be cleaned by smaller fish. They can be found year-round at specific dive sites and the huge bonus of diving from a liveaboard is having the flexibility to move to different sites depending on the currents and weather conditions and it is this that gives us the best chance of seeing these remarkable animals. While searching for mantas, divers also have the opportunity to encounter whale sharks, the largest fish in the sea, which are frequently seen in the Maldives.

Various species of reef sharks, including white-tip reef sharks, black-tip reef sharks, and occasionally hammerhead sharks, patrol the reefs and channels. Green turtles and hawksbill turtles are commonly seen resting among the coral or gracefully cruising through the waters. Of course, the coral reefs of the Maldives are vibrant with an incredible variety of colourful reef fish such as butterflyfish, angelfish, parrotfish, and triggerfish. Macro photographers will find pleasure in capturing the diverse array of nudibranchs, shrimps, crabs, and other small critters that inhabit the reefs and sandy bottoms. The Maldives also boasts vibrant coral gardens with a rich diversity of soft and hard corals, providing essential habitat for numerous marine species.

Do you have dive equipment available for rent? And What about Nitrox?

High-quality diving equipment is available for rent, ensuring you have everything you need for a comfortable and safe diving experience. Nitrox is also available for certified divers, enhancing safety and bottom time for those unforgettable underwater encounters. There is an additional charge for the hire of equipment and Nitrox.

How can I pay on board?

We accept cash in USD and EUR. We also accept Visa, MasterCard, and Amex credit cards.

Can children come on board?

Yes, definitely. Please keep on mind that a parent or a designated adult must be supervising at all times the

0-2 years old – free of charge, share cabin & bed with parent

3-9 years old – 50% discount, share cabin & bed with parent

For children older than 9 years old full rate will be applied.

Are snorkelers welcome on board?

Yes, non-divers /snorkelers are welcomed onboard We request that all snorkelers wear a flotation device at all times.



Please be aware that certain itineraries or dive sites may not be suitable for safety reasons. Both snorkelers and non-divers must complete a liability form at check-in.

Other Activities and Wellness

Yes we do, such as cultural excursions to local islands, presentations on the history and culture of the Maldivian people and, of course, marine education and conservation awareness.

Indulge in ultimate relaxation with our onboard massage therapist, ready to rejuvenate you after an exciting day of diving. If you prefer, soothe your muscles in our hot tub or simply find a quiet corner to relax in the comfortable lounge where there is a library of books, movies, and documentaries.