



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO - SPIRIT OF MALDIVES

EMERGENCY CONTACT: In an emergency, family, and friends can contact us at +17023593519 / +447441422010 or +9607644995 (guest relation manager Anna) or email us on reservations@spiritliveaboards.com.

PASSPORT & VISAS: To enter the Maldives, you will need a passport with at least six months' 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 travellers traveling to and from the Maldives within 96 hours of the flight time. The form needs to be submitted electronically via [IMUGA](#).

INSURANCE: You are required to obtain comprehensive dive and travel insurance tailored to your booking. Spirit Liveaboards is not liable for any financial losses caused by events beyond our control, such as weather conditions, natural disasters, or changes imposed by local authorities. It is your responsibility to ensure you have coverage for dive injury insurance, medical evacuation insurance, and comprehensive travel insurance.

Your insurance should meet all your needs, including covering pre-existing medical conditions, trip cancellations, medical costs, repatriation in case of accidents or illness, diving-related injuries, and medical evacuation. If you travel without adequate insurance, we cannot be held responsible for any losses that would have been covered by such insurance.

Important Travel Information:

Attached, you'll find the Know Before You Go guide – please review it at your convenience.

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 months' validity.

A complete travel itinerary, including confirmed return journey tickets.

A prepaid, confirmed hotel booking at a registered hotel or liveaboard.

Note: When completing your Traveller Declaration, please select Aqua Queen —this is the official registration name for the Spirit of Maldives vessel.

ARRIVAL & TRANSFERS:



Male International Airport - MLE (Velana): If you have to wait for a transfer on arrival or for a connecting domestic flight, the airport is reasonably comfortable and has a shop for local SIM cards, a money changer, and a few decent coffee shops/restaurants Inc.

On arrival: Guests arriving at Male Airport on the check-in day will be met by a representative, wearing a Spirit Liveaboards Uniform and holding a Spirit Liveaboards sign.

Gan International Airport (Gan International) Airport: Gan International Airport is an important transportation hub for the southern atolls of the Maldives with very limited facilities.

On arrival: Guests arriving at Gan Airport on the check-in day will be met by a representative, wearing a Spirit Liveaboards uniform and holding a Spirit Liveaboards sign. The meeting point is after passing through the arrivals hall.

Domestic Flights: It is highly recommended that travellers arrive 2 hrs before departure for domestic flights. It is also recommended to book either the earliest possible flight to the departure city of the boat or to arrive a day before boarding in case of delays or scheduled flight changes. You should check any baggage limitations and weight allowances with the domestic airline at the time of booking to avoid excess charges or your bag being uplifted to a later flight.

Return Airport Transfer to/from the boat: Spirit Liveaboards arranged return transfers from the airport to the boat at 12:00 and 16:00 free of charge.

If you arrive after the transfer, taxis are available at the airport, our airport representative will be happy to help you.

If you are already in the Maldives, you should make your way to the airport for the transfer (we doing a 2 pick-up daily, 12:00 and 16:00). Our boat moor in port on arrival day and overnight, departing early in the morning following the check-in day.

***NOTE:** When packing, please place your dive equipment at the top of your baggage. This way it will be easy to access, as we'll be setting up your gear right after arrival, during the transfer from the airport on the diving dhoni (dive boat).

Check-out is at 07:00 and guests will be in the airport by 07:30. For guests continuing their holiday in the Maldives at a resort, hotel , your on-going transfers need to be arranged by you from the airport. We will not be able to arrange direct transfers from the liveaboard to resorts. Day-use rooms are available with hotel/guest houses in Hulhumale.

The boat moors in port mid-afternoon the day before departure and remains in port overnight until check-out from the boat.

For later flight on the day of departure from the boat it is recommended to book a Day room use with hotels/guest houses in Hulemale, it is advised to arrange these before your arrival due to availability, rates for day rooms start from \$60 in Hulemale. .

The Hulehule airport hotel offer "layover refresh package" and "Day Pass" package starting at \$65. Hulehule hotel contact : Whatsapp +960 796 1607. Email : reservations@hih.com.mv



They also provide free transfer from the airport to the hotel and back to the airport ready for your flight home

Hulemale Guest house suggestions are H78, Ocean Grand and Express Inn. Taxis can be meet at the airport to your guest house and they will except dollars, these are normally around \$15 one way. H78 provide transport which can be arranged with the hotel on booking.

DIVING GUIDELINES IN MALDIVES

The maximum depth for diving in the Maldives is 30 meters. Your allowed diving depth will depend on your certification level and experience. Before your trip, ensure your insurance policy covers you for your planned diving activities. Strong and unpredictable currents are common, especially during new and full moons, so be prepared. We recommend you hold certification for diving up to 30 meters and feel confident with drift diving. Please note that decompression diving, solo diving, and technical diving are strictly prohibited.

All guests must have an Open Water Diver certification or an equivalent qualification. Some dive sites feature recommended depths below 18 meters, so Advanced or Deep Diver training is advised. Please review the specific itinerary for any minimum dive requirements or additional details before your arrival.

*Recommended that all guests hold an Advance Open water certification or equivalent before arrival. Advance courses can be booked in advance, completed and paid for on board.

You are responsible for your safety and dive using a personal dive computer. You must dive with a dive buddy. If you are a single diver, a buddy will be allocated on board. Due to arrival times no diving will take place on your arrival day, and no diving will take place on departure days.

All divers must leave at least 24 hours between their last dive and their flight departure.

We provide **Nitrox** facilities (included in the price) typical nitrox fills range from 30% - 32% If you are not Nitrox qualified then Nitrox course can be provided and paid for on board, this will need to be book in advance to allow materials to put in place.

All divers are required to use a dive computer that's allows Nitrox usage, SMB and a torch for night dives, (Reef hooks are very useful when diving in current) SMB, torches and SMB can be provided on board free, but will need to be paid for if lost on a dive. If a Nitrox computer is needed, then this will need to be booked in advance and paid for on board.

Courses: We can provide Advanced Open Water Course and Nitrox courses on board. Their availability depends on the itinerary and must be arranged in advance before your arrival.

Itineraries: All itineraries and dive sites are subject to various unpredictable changes including weather conditions and changes in Maldivian Government approval. Whilst Spirit Liveaboards makes every effort, we cannot guarantee diving at specific sites. In adverse weather conditions, the guides and captain of the boat will make the final decision about which dive sites to visit to ensure that the guests, staff, and boat safety is not compromised in any way. Suppose in the unfortunate event that dives are missed, or dive sites are not reached due to weather conditions or other unforeseeable changes. In that case, Spirit Liveaboards will not offer a refund or compensation.

Our dive program averages up to 15 dives on a 7-night trip, 21 dives on a 9-night trip, 24 dives on a 10-night trip, to 30 dives on a 12-night trip, to 36 dives on a 14-night trip.



Dive Support Boat: A 60ft (20m) spacious and well-equipped dive “dhoni” ensures seamless dive operations, providing ample space for gear storage and preparation to navigate and explore the pristine and less-traveled regions of the Maldives.

Rental Equipment: High-quality diving equipment is available for rent, ensuring you have everything you need for a comfortable and safe diving experience.

We ask that you request your equipment before you arrive on board. We need to know normal sizes, height, weight and shoe sizes to prepare the correctly sized equipment for you. The diving dhoni have ample storage space for your equipment and there is a spare box on board.

Recharging Areas: Add plenty of charging points in the saloon, both UK standard plugs and international plugs.

We suggest that you bring the following:

Mask, snorkel, fins, boots, wetsuit, regulator, BCD, SMB (with a minimum of 5 meters of line to deploy during the safety stop), a dive computer and torch (with spare batteries), and a reef hook if you have one.

The average water temperature is 29°C and we recommend a 3/5mm shortie or wetsuit. We provide shortie wetsuits, a full-length rash guard is recommended to be brought for full body protection when hiring kit, these are also useful when snorkelling and take up very little space when traveling.

All divers are required to use a dive computer, SMB, reef hooks for every dive, and a torch for each night dive. There are no night dives on Deep South itineraries.

Tanks & Adapters: We have DIN tanks and INT adapters available on board. We strongly advise divers with M26 regulators and have adapters to fit to DIN tanks to please remember to bring your own adapter with you.

Recharging Area: Recharge and rinse tanks are available on board. For safety reasons, you are asked not to charge items in your cabin left unattended or while you sleep.

ACCOMMODATION & ENTERTAINMENT

Cabins: Each cabin is air-conditioned and equipped with ensuite bathrooms, providing the utmost comfort and privacy.

Common Areas: Spacious lounge and dining areas with modern furnishings create a welcoming atmosphere perfect for both relaxing and socializing.

Guests can enjoy a range of nightly entertainment options, including night dives (not available on Deep South itineraries)

A BBQ on a local island included on Heart of Maldives Itinerary (weather and route permitting), and movie screenings.

Also, certain locations and land visits can be arranged to feel the essence of the country and friendly islanders.

Sundeck: Soak up the Maldivian sun or unwind under the stars on our expansive sundeck, complete with comfortable loungers and stunning ocean views.



Internet: Starlink provides uninterrupted Internet service with an additional charge: of 10 USD/ day up to 5Gb

Electricity: Universal Sockets

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Food & Drink: The meals on board are with a variety of local and international dishes to suit everyone. Local food is traditionally a bit spicy, fish is available on board, mostly frozen with a few fresh catches along the way. Water, tea, and coffee are complimentary. Soft drinks, fresh juices, and alcohol (cocktails, liquors, wine, and beer) are chargeable.

For any special dietary requests, such as vegetarian or any allergies, please inform us prior to arrival

Alcohol & Diving: Importing alcoholic beverages is prohibited by law. Bottles containing alcoholic beverages will be confiscated at Customs upon arrival and returned to you at departure. Guests will not be permitted to dive after consuming alcohol or under the influence of a hangover as this seriously impairs your judgement and increases your risk of decompression sickness. If the guides deem that you are unfit to dive you will be asked to sit out the dive. Your safety and well-being are paramount so this request by the dive guides will only be made to avoid accidents.

PAYMENTS & GRATUITIES

Taxes & Fees Included: Cabin & Government Taxes, Green Tax, Port Fee, Fuel Surcharge, and Marine Fee (if any) are included in the price of your package. For any services or purchases made locally a 16% sales tax and a 10% service charge are applied.

Currency accepted on board: All local prices are in US dollars however, we accept in cash Euros, and US dollars. New and undamaged notes only, no coins. Visa and Mastercard are accepted. Please check with your bank regarding any international charges and exchange rates.

Tips on board: Spirit of Maldives believes that tips should be on a voluntary basis depending on the quality of your service from the guides and the crew. You will find an envelope in your cabin and the general recommendation is 10% of the price paid.

Please feel free to leave what you think is acceptable and it will be equally shared between the guides and crew.

Local island Visits: Where possible local island visit will be arranged, it is recommended to wear light. Cool clothing and Ladies will need to respect local culture and wear long shorts, skirt or dress and shoulders will need to be covered. Also, it's advised to bring some small USD notes for purchasing souvenirs. Cards may be excepted in some shops and US dollar is excepted in most shops.

Other recommendations: USB for sharing memories/photo's

- **Personal clothing and toiletries:** Comfortable clothing for both day and evening



- Light layers for cooler evenings
 - Swimsuits and cover-ups for pool and beach
 - Flip-flops/sandals and water shoes
 - Personal toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
 - **A small first aid kit:** Include essentials like plasters, antiseptic cream, pain relievers, and earplugs (earplugs are recommended for light sleepers)
 - **Prescription medications and a prescription mask if required:** Keep these in your hand luggage while traveling
 - **Waterproof bags:** To protect electronics like cameras, phones, and passports from water damage
 - **Note:**
Hard suitcases are difficult to store on board, so opt for roll-up or collapsible bags whenever possible
 - **Mosquito repellent:** Highly recommended for evening and outdoor activities
 - **Sunscreen protection:** High SPF for prolonged sun exposure
 - **Wind stopper:** For breezy evenings or any cool weather
 - **Proof of valid diving certification:** From a recognized diving association (required for divers)
 - **Valid travel insurance:** Ensure it covers medical and travel-related emergencies
 - **A copy of your diving insurance:** To ensure coverage during dives and related activities
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- **Other recommendations:**
 - Sunglasses, hat, and scarf for sun protection
 - Reef-safe sunscreen
 - Personal snacks (if preferred)
 - Waterproof phone case
 - A camera or GoPro for underwater memories
 - A power bank for electronics
 - Lightweight backpack for excursions

Liability Release:

All diving guests must present proof of valid certification and complete a signed registration form/waiver before diving activities can begin.



