Leira
MALDIVES

ITINERARY

BEST OF CENTRAL ATOLL



BY

SEVEN DEGREES NORTH

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LEIRA MALDIVES

14-NIGHT CENTRAL ATOLLS SNORKELING & DIVING CRUISE

Explore the Central Atolls of the Maldives aboard Leira, with an itinerary covering South Malé, Vaavu, and Ari Atolls. Designed for both snorkelers and divers, this cruise combines exceptional marine encounters with visits to pristine sandbanks, deserted islands, picnic islands, and local communities.

Cruise highlights

- Snorkeling with nurse sharks, stingrays, and giant trevally in Vaavu Atoll
- Whale shark excursions along the southern edge of Ari Atoll
- Seasonal manta ray excursions and night manta encounters
- Vibrant coral reefs, channels, pinnacles, wrecks, and protected dive sites
- Sandbank picnics and deserted-island visits
- Local-island experiences and souvenir shopping
- Sunset cruises, traditional night fishing, beach barbecues, and cocktails

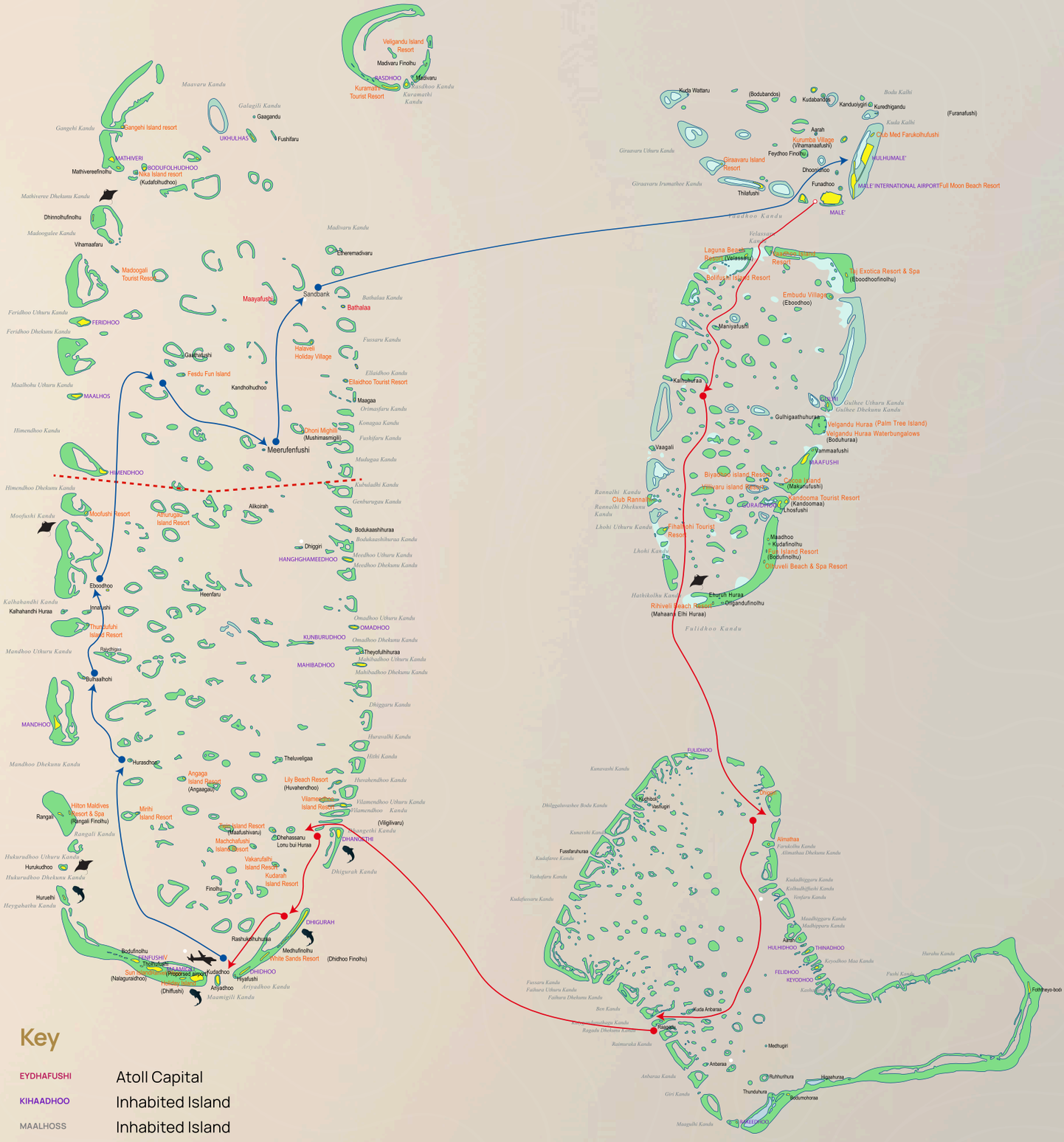
Cruise schedule	Monday to Monday
Duration	14 nights
Mid-cruise transfers	Guests staying for 7 nights will take a domestic flight on Day 8 to or from Malé and Maamigili.

The itinerary is subject to weather, sea conditions, island availability, currents, marine-life sightings, and the captain's discretion*

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MAP OF THE JOURNEY

Best of Central Atoll



Key

EYDHAFUSHI	Atoll Capital
KIHAADHOO	Inhabited Island
MAALHOSS	Inhabited Island
DHARAVANDHOO	Domestic Airport
	Island
	Reef
	Lagoon
	Protected Marine Biosphere Reserves
	First week cruising route
	Second week cruising route

OVERVIEW

Day 1	Malé — Arrival, tender transfer and welcome aboard.
Day 2	South Malé — Kalhuhuraa Sandbank; cruise to Vaavu.
Day 3	Vaavu — Optional nurse shark excursion; sandbank and night fishing.
Day 4	Rah Gandu Huraa — Sandbank; sunset crossing to Ari Atoll.
Day 5	Dhangethi — Sandbank snorkeling and local-island visit.
Day 6	Dhigurah — Local-island visit, sunset cocktails and beach barbecue.
Day 7	Ariadhoo — Optional whale shark excursion in South Ari Atoll.
Day 8	Maamigili — Mid-cruise arrivals, departures and onboard activities.
Day 9	Hurasdhoo — Deserted island; optional seasonal manta excursion.
Day 10	Bulhalhohi — Island excursions, sunset cruise and night fishing.
Day 11	Embudhu — Beach excursions; conditional night mantas at Fesdhoo.
Day 12	Meerufenfushi — Picnic island, sunset cocktails and beach barbecue.
Day 13	Maaya Sandbank or Rasdhoo Madivaru — Excursions; return to Malé.
Day 14	Malé — Final snorkeling, optional Shark Tank dive* and city visit.
Day 15	Departure — Breakfast and airport transfer.

- Nurse shark, whale shark and seasonal manta excursions are chargeable and subject to availability and conditions.
- Marine-life sightings are not guaranteed.
- *Shark Tank: certified divers only, with a minimum 24-hour pre-flight interval and Captain and dive-team approval.
- The itinerary is subject to weather, sea conditions, island availability, currents and the captain's discretion.

DAY 1 *MONDAY*

Arrival in Malé | Welcome Aboard
Anchorage: Near Malé

Welcome to the Maldives. Leira will be anchored off Villigili, approximately 20 minutes by boat from Velana International Airport.

Upon arrival, your Guest Relations Officer will welcome you and assist with your transfer by private tender to Leira. Once onboard, the crew will help you settle into your cabin and provide a welcome briefing covering safety procedures and the cruise experience.

Meet your fellow guests, dive team, and crew before enjoying a pre-dinner cocktail on the bar and restaurant deck while watching the sunset over the Indian Ocean.

DAY 2 *TUESDAY*

South Malé Atoll | Sandbank Experience

Leira will depart the Malé anchorage and cross Vaadhoo Channel toward South Malé Atoll. Enjoy morning and afternoon visits to Kalhuhuraa Sandbank, where you can swim, relax, and soak up the sun in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. Beach umbrellas will be provided when conditions permit.

Diving

- **Vaagali Caves**
  An easy introductory dive outside Vaagali Picnic Island, featuring overhangs, schooling fish, Napoleon wrasse, whitetip reef sharks, and stingrays.

- **Vaagali Thila**
  A large pinnacle in Vaagali Channel with beautiful coral growth and abundant marine life. During incoming currents, schooling sharks may be seen cruising through the channel.

After the day's excursions, Leira will cruise approximately 25 nautical miles toward Vaavu Atoll, arriving in time for dinner.

DAY 3 *WEDNESDAY*

Vaavu Atoll | Nurse Sharks and Sandbank Relaxation

(Optional early-morning excursion)

Nurse Shark Snorkeling and Diving

Enjoy an early-morning excursion to one of the Maldives' most famous nurse shark sites. The early departure helps avoid crowds and offers the opportunity for close encounters with these impressive animals.

This excursion is chargeable and subject to availability and conditions.
After the excursion, Leira will cruise toward a sandbank on the eastern edge of Vaavu Atoll. Surrounded by a turquoise lagoon and bordered by an attractive reef, it is ideal for swimming and snorkeling.

Spend the morning and afternoon on the sandbank, with lunch served onboard. Beach umbrellas will be provided when conditions permit.

Evening activity

- **Traditional Night Fishing**
  From approximately 17:30 to 19:30, the crew will organize a traditional hand-line fishing experience.

- **Diving**

- **Miyaru Kandu**
  A channel dive offering the possibility of encountering larger pelagic species, including sharks and eagle rays.

- **Devana Kandu**
  A narrow channel with a reef in the center. The site is known for larger fish such as sharks, Napoleon wrasse, and eagle rays. Turtles may also be seen in the shallower sections.

DAY 4 *THURSDAY*

Vaavu Atoll | Rah Gandu Huraa Sandbank

Enjoy a short early-morning cruise to Rah Gandu Huraa, a long, narrow sandbank on the western side of Vaavu Atoll. The surrounding reef is healthy and well suited to snorkeling. Spend the morning and afternoon on the sandbank, with lunch served onboard. Beach umbrellas will be provided when conditions permit.

After the excursions, Leira will begin crossing the atoll toward Ari Atoll. Enjoy cocktails as the sun sets during the approximately 30-nautical-mile journey to Dhangethi Sandbank.

Diving

- **Rakeedhoo Kandu**
  Located at the corner of Rakeedhoo Channel, this site features well-developed hard coral and overhangs covered in soft corals. Larger pelagic species may be seen during incoming currents.

DAY 5 *FRIDAY*

Dhangethi | Sandbank and Local-Island Visit

Leira will anchor near a sandbank close to Dhangethi. After breakfast, the tender will be ready to take guests ashore.

The reef surrounding the sandbank features abundant healthy hard corals and is particularly popular with snorkelers. Lunch will be served onboard, followed by a return visit to the sandbank in the afternoon.

Local-island visit

From approximately 16:30 to 18:00, visit Dhangethi to experience local Maldivian life, explore the island, and shop for souvenirs.

Diving

- **Five Rocks**
  Five rocky outcrops arranged roughly in a circle, with fissures, caverns, and overhangs. The dive descends to approximately 25–30 metres, with pink sea fans visible between the rocks and along the reef slope.

- **Kahanbu Thila**
  Known for black coral trees surrounded by schools of glassfish. The reef is also home to “Fred,” the resident frogfish, as well as lionfish, scorpionfish, cometfish, and whitetip reef sharks.

DAY 6 *SATURDAY*

Dhigurah | Local Island and Beach Barbecue

Dhigurah is a beautiful island in Alif Dhaal Atoll, known for pristine beaches, crystal-clear water, and rich marine life.

Enjoy a full day on this intimate local island. Leira will anchor near the western beach in a large lagoon, providing easy access to the shoreline and surrounding waters.

A picnic lunch will be served back onboard at approximately 16:00. Guests will return to the island around 17:30–18:00 for sunset cocktails followed by a barbecue evening.

Diving

- **Kudarah Thila**
  A marine-protected reef since 1995 and one of the Maldives' most renowned dive sites. Large schools of blue-stripe snapper attract sharks, tuna, giant trevally, and jacks.

- **Kudhimaa Wreck**
  A medium-sized steel wreck intentionally sunk in 1998 near the Machafushi house reef to create an artificial reef and dive site.

DAY 7 *SUNDAY*

Ariadhoo | Optional Whale Shark Excursion

Optional excursion

- **Whale Shark Search**
  Join the dive support dhoni in search of whale sharks. The southern Ari Atoll region is one of the best places in the Maldives to encounter these gentle giants.
  This excursion is chargeable and subject to availability and conditions.

Diving

- **Maamigili Corner and Kudadhoo Beyru**
  Wall dives outside the atoll, offering the possibility of spotting whale sharks and other large marine species.

DAY 8 *MONDAY*

Maamigili | Mid-Cruise Arrivals and Departures

Leira will anchor off Maamigili Domestic Airport to facilitate mid-cruise arrivals and departures.

Guests continuing onboard for the second week will enjoy excursions and activities arranged for the day.

Diving may be arranged depending on dhoni availability.

DAY 9 *TUESDAY*

Hurasdhoo | Deserted Island and Manta Excursion

Enjoy a short cruise northwest through Ari Atoll to Hurasdhoo, a small deserted island surrounded by white sand. The island offers easy access to a pleasant house reef for snorkeling. Beach umbrellas will be provided when conditions permit.

Optional excursion

- **Manta Ray Excursion**
  Travel to Rangali Madivaru, a known manta ray cleaning station. The peak season is generally from January through April. This excursion is chargeable and subject to availability and conditions.

Diving

- **Angaga Thila**
  A small pinnacle with a top reef at approximately 6–8 metres. Turtles often feed on the coral while sharks may cruise in the current.

- **Aiyabe Thila**
  A 100-metre-long pinnacle with beautiful hard and soft corals beneath a large overhang. Sharks may be seen during drift conditions.

DAY 10 *WEDNESDAY*

Bulhalhohi | Deserted Island and Night Fishing

Visit Bulhalhohi, a small deserted island with easy access to a vibrant house reef. Enjoy morning and afternoon excursions, with lunch served onboard.

Sunset cruise and night fishing

Combine a sunset cruise with traditional hand-line bottom fishing. Enjoy music and a drink as the sun sets before trying to catch reef fish.
Guests are encouraged to practice catch-and-release and sustainable fishing. The crew will be happy to retain a fish for dinner when appropriate.

DAY 11 *THURSDAY*

Embudhu | Beach Excursions and Night Manta Encounter

Visit Embudhu, a small deserted island on the western edge of Ari Atoll. The island features a long white-sand beach, a few plantations, and a good house reef for snorkeling. Turtles and eagle rays may be seen with a little luck.

Morning and afternoon excursions will be arranged, with beach umbrellas provided when conditions permit.

Night manta snorkeling

After the island excursions, Leira will cruise toward Fesdhoo Lagoon.

The dive support dhoni will depart early to secure a suitable location and illuminate the lagoon with floodlights to attract plankton. If manta rays are present before dinner, divers and snorkelers will be transferred by tender to the dhoni for an unforgettable night-feeding experience.

Diving

- **Moofushi Kandu**
  A channel dive featuring a manta ray cleaning station. The site is rich in marine life, and incoming currents may bring grey reef sharks, whitetip reef sharks, and eagle rays.

- **Embudhu Thila**
  A small pinnacle with a shallow top reef at approximately 5–6 metres. Healthy coral surrounds the pinnacle, which is home to many reef fish.

DAY 12 *FRIDAY*

Meerufenfushi | Picnic Island and Beach Barbecue

Spend the day at Meerufenfushi, a small picnic island in the center of Ari Atoll. Its well-developed surrounding reef is popular with snorkelers, and turtles, rays, and abundant fish may be seen.

Morning and afternoon excursions will be arranged.

In the evening, enjoy one of the highlights of the cruise: sunset cocktails followed by a beach barbecue and a small celebration on the island.

Later, Leira will cruise toward Maaya Sandbank.

Diving

- **Fish Head**
  One of the region's most famous underwater pinnacles, featuring dramatic overhangs and abundant marine life.

- **Kandu Thila**
  A narrow submerged reef inside a wide channel. White-tip reef sharks, grey reef sharks, and Napoleon wrasse may be encountered.

DAY 13 *SATURDAY*

Maaya Sandbank or Rasdhoo Madivaru | Return Toward Malé

Visit **Maaya Sandbank** or **Rasdhoo Madivaru**, a large sandbank on the northern edge of Ari Atoll. Common seabirds may be seen resting on the sand, while the surrounding reef offers attractive snorkeling with coral and abundant fish.

After the day's excursions, Leira will begin the approximately 40-nautical-mile journey back toward the Malé region, generally cruising after sunset. In favorable conditions, the boat will anchor before bedtime.

Diving

- **Maaya Thila**
  One of the Maldives' most famous night dive sites. Sharks and stingrays are often active here after dark.

- **Bathalaa Maaga Kan**
  An extension of the reef that slopes into a channel, where larger pelagic species may pass through.

DAY 14 *SUNDAY*

Final Excursions | Malé City Visit

Enjoy a final snorkeling excursion in the morning aboard the dive support dhoni—the perfect opportunity for one last swim in the Indian Ocean.

Final dive — Shark Tank

For certified divers, an optional final dive may be arranged at Shark Tank, renowned for its impressive marine life. Depending on conditions and a little luck, divers may encounter:

- Schools of spinner sharks
- Hammerhead sharks
- Tiger sharks
- Bull sharks
- Guitar sharks
- Stingrays

Important: This dive is available only to guests with a minimum 24-hour pre-flight interval. Guests departing before the required 24-hour surface interval will not be permitted to participate. The dive is also subject to weather, sea conditions, currents, safety considerations, and Captain and dive-team approval.

In the afternoon, the dhoni will transfer guests to Malé, the capital of the Maldives. Explore the local and fish markets, stroll through the city, enjoy an ice cream, or shop for last-minute souvenirs.

DAY 15 *MONDAY*

Departure

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast overlooking the Indian Ocean before the crew arranges your transfer to the airport.

Guests remaining onboard for the following cruise may enjoy a relaxing day on Leira.

Important information

- Optional excursions are available on request and are subject to availability, weather, sea conditions, and marine-life sightings.
- The itinerary may change due to weather, currents, island availability, operational requirements, or the Captain's discretion.
- If a planned island is unavailable, an alternative destination offering similar activities will be provided.
- Beach barbecues will be arranged on the island when weather conditions permit. If necessary, the barbecue and evening entertainment will be moved onboard.
- The following day's itinerary will be reviewed during the evening briefing.
- Chargeable excursions will be added to your cabin account and settled at check-out.
- No islands or sandbanks are located near Malé for visits on arrival or departure days.
- Dive sites listed in this itinerary are examples and are not guaranteed. Final dive-site selections will be made during the daily briefing based on season, currents, weather, sea conditions, marine life, and other operational considerations.
- Marine-life sightings, including nurse sharks, manta rays, whale sharks, turtles, and eagle rays, cannot be guaranteed.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING

Leira

MALDIVES

We look forward to welcoming you aboard for an unforgettable journey through the Central Atolls of the Maldives.

SEVEN DEGREES NORTH

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