Leira

MALDIVES

ITINERARY

EXPLORE SOUTH



BY

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Leira
MALDIVES

LEIRA MALDIVES

14-NIGHT EXPLORE SOUTH SNORKELING & DIVING CRUISE

Explore South Malé, Vaavu and Ari Atolls aboard Leira. This itinerary combines snorkeling and diving with visits to sandbanks, uninhabited islands and local communities, with a seven-night option and mid-cruise transfers through Maamigili.

Cruise highlights

- Kalhuhuraa Sandbank and a local-island visit to Guraidhoo
- Alimathaa nurse shark encounters and traditional night fishing
- Keyodhoo island life and the crossing to Ari Atoll
- Optional whale shark and seasonal manta ray excursions
- Reefs, pinnacles, channels, protected sites and wreck diving
- Dhigurah beach barbecue and Meerufenfushi picnic island
- Maaya Sandbank or Rasdhoo Madivaru and a final Malé City visit

Cruise schedule	Saturday to Saturday
Duration	14 nights
Mid-cruise transfers	Seven-night guests transfer on Day 8 via a domestic flight between Maamigili and Velana International Airport.

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

Explore South



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, dhoni transfer and welcome aboard.
Day 2	Kalhuhuraa Sandbank — Morning and afternoon beach visits.
Day 3	Guraidhoo — Local-island and beach visits.
Day 4	Alimathaa Sandbank — Optional nurse sharks and night fishing.
Day 5	Keyodhoo — Island visit; crossing toward Ari Atoll.
Day 6	Dhigurah — Full-day visit, optional whale sharks and barbecue.
Day 7	Dhangethi — Sandbank, local island and optional manta excursion.
Day 8	Ariadhoo / Maamigili — Mid-cruise arrivals and departures.
Day 9	Machafushi / Hathikolhu — Sandbanks; optional whale sharks.
Day 10	Hurasdhoo — Island visits, night fishing and optional mantas.
Day 11	Emboodhoo — Beach visits and optional night manta excursion.
Day 12	Meerufenfushi — Full-day island visit and beach barbecue.
Day 13	Maaya / Rasdhoo Madivaru — Island visits; optional mantas.
Day 14	Malé region — Final swim, optional Shark Point dive* and city tour.
Day 15	Malé — Departure and dhoni transfer to the airport.

- Optional nurse shark, whale shark and seasonal manta excursions are subject to availability and conditions. Charges apply as advised onboard.
- Marine-life sightings are not guaranteed.
- *Shark Point: 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 *SATURDAY*

Arrival in Malé | Welcome Aboard

Anchorage: Near Malé

Your journey begins in Malé, where Leira awaits in tranquil waters near the airport region. Upon arrival, our guest services agent will greet you before escorting you by dhoni to the yacht.

Settle into your cabin, meet the crew and enjoy panoramic views of the Malé skyline. The evening onboard introduces the cruise experience and the adventures ahead.

DAY 2 *SUNDAY*

Kalhuhuraa Sandbank | South Malé Atoll

Spend the morning and afternoon at Kalhuhuraa Sandbank, surrounded by clear, shallow waters and vibrant reef life. Snorkel in calm turquoise waters, enjoy a leisurely swim or relax in the sun.

Diving

Vaagali Thila
A small pinnacle in Vaagali Channel, with its summit at approximately 10 metres. Explore the blocks and terraces around the reef.

Vaagali Caves
An easy dive outside Vaagali Picnic Island, featuring wall overhangs, schooling fish and possible sightings of Napoleon wrasse, whitetip reef sharks and stingrays.

DAY 3 *MONDAY*

Guraidhoo | Local Island and Beach

Guraidhoo is a lively inhabited island known for its friendly community, small shops and Maldivian character. Join a guided tour in the morning, then explore the island at your own pace in the afternoon.

Discover traditional architecture, local cafés, clothing boutiques and handcrafted souvenirs. Learn about island life and observe fishermen at work before Leira continues toward Vaavu Atoll.

Diving

Guraidhoo Corner
A challenging dive on the southern side of Guraidhoo Channel. The reef slopes from approximately 1 to 12 metres before a vertical drop-off to 40 metres. Strong currents may be present, with varied marine life around 20 metres.

Kandooma Thila

DAY 4 *TUESDAY*

Alimathaa Sandbank | Vaavu Atoll

Spend the morning and afternoon exploring Alimathaa's shallow lagoons, beaches and marine life. Snorkel among coral gardens and tropical fish, or enjoy a relaxing swim.

Optional excursion

Nurse Shark Experience
An optional excursion offers the opportunity to encounter nurse sharks in the clear waters around Alimathaa. Availability and sightings depend on conditions.

Evening activity

Traditional Night Fishing
As evening falls, experience a traditional Maldivian fishing activity on the water.

Diving

Miyaru Kandu
A channel dive featuring small caves on both sides of the channel and numerous overhangs.

Devana Kandu
A drift dive in Vaavu Atoll.

DAY 5 *WEDNESDAY*

Keyodhoo | Vaavu Atoll

Keyodhoo is a welcoming island community with narrow sandy streets and a relaxed pace of life. Spend the morning and afternoon enjoying the designated beach area, where clear waters offer snorkeling over coral patches, swimming and relaxation.

Walk through the island, meet residents and visit small markets for an insight into everyday Maldivian life.

After the island visit, Leira begins the crossing toward Ari Atoll, with sunset views over the open ocean.

Diving

Golden Wall
Located in southern Vaavu Atoll, this site combines an outer channel, where larger pelagic species may be seen, with a colourful inner reef wall.

Kuda Kandu
A shallow sandy-bottom site at approximately 12 metres, with a channel around 10 metres wide. Stony and soft corals provide shelter for blue-striped yellow snappers.

DAY 6 *THURSDAY*

Dhigurah | South Ari Atoll

Spend a full day at Dhigurah, a long island known for its sandy beach, lush greenery and proximity to whale shark sites. Relax on the shore, swim or join snorkeling trips by dinghy to nearby coral reefs.

Optional excursion

Whale Shark Search
An optional excursion offers the opportunity to search for whale sharks in the waters around Dhigurah. Sightings cannot be guaranteed.

In the evening, enjoy sunset beach cocktails followed by a bonfire barbecue dinner under the stars, weather permitting.

Diving

Kudarah Thila
A renowned South Ari pinnacle covered with colourful soft corals.

Dhigurah Beyru
An outer reef sloping from the shallows to approximately 10 metres, followed by a steeper wall extending beyond 40 metres with small overhangs. The dive route depends on the current.

DAY 7 *FRIDAY*

Dhangethi | Sandbank and Local-Island Visit

Spend the morning and afternoon at Dhangethi Sandbank, with snorkeling, beach time and a local-island visit. Explore the island's small streets and shops and experience its friendly atmosphere and culture.

Optional excursion

Manta Ray Encounter
Seasonal manta snorkeling excursions may be offered depending on sightings and conditions.

Diving

Five Rocks
A pinnacle divided into five formations over thousands of years of erosion. The rocks lie at depths of approximately 12 to 40 metres.

Fanghamas Thila

DAY 8 *SATURDAY*

Ariadhoo / Maamigili | Mid-Cruise Arrivals and Departures

Guests continuing for a second week can enjoy the quiet, uninhabited island of Ariadhoo, with white-sand beaches, calm waters and opportunities for swimming, snorkeling, birdwatching and relaxation.

Guests completing a seven-night cruise depart via a domestic flight from Maamigili to Velana International Airport. New guests join for the second week.

Diving

Maamigili Beyru

DAY 9 *SUNDAY*

Machafushi Sandbank / Hathikolhu | South Ari Atoll

Spend the morning and afternoon at remote sandbanks surrounded by clear, shallow waters, soft sands and colourful reefs. Enjoy snorkeling, swimming, sunbathing, beach games and exploring the gentle sandy slopes into the water.

Optional excursion

Whale Shark Search
Optional whale shark excursions may be available from this area, depending on sightings and conditions.

Diving

Machafushi Wreck
An accessible wreck dive offering the opportunity to explore an underwater vessel and its surrounding marine life.

Kahanbu Thila
A pinnacle where divers may encounter hawksbill turtles.

DAY 10 *MONDAY*

Hurasdhoo | South Ari Atoll

Spend the morning and afternoon exploring Hurasdhoo's clear waters and vibrant reefs. Shallow lagoons offer relaxed swimming and gentle snorkeling.

In the evening, enjoy another traditional Maldivian night fishing experience.

Optional excursion

Manta Ray Encounter
A manta excursion may be offered depending on sightings and conditions.

Diving

Angaga Thila
A reef frequented by turtles. Stonefish, juvenile sharks and octopuses may be found around the coral blocks.

Dhigu Thila

DAY 11 *TUESDAY*

Emboodhoo | South Ari Atoll

Spend the morning and afternoon at Emboodhoo, a quiet island with sandy beaches and coral-rich snorkeling areas. Explore the shoreline, swim in the lagoons or snorkel among the reef life.

Optional excursion

Night Manta Encounter
A seasonal night manta excursion may be available, offering the chance to observe manta rays under lights. Availability depends on conditions and sightings.

Diving

Panettone
A drift dive featuring a large cave, overhangs and a healthy reef. Currents can sometimes exceed two knots.

Moofushi Kandu
A channel where grey reef sharks, manta rays, eagle rays and other larger marine species may be seen.

DAY 12 *WEDNESDAY*

Meerufenfushi | North Ari Atoll

Enjoy a full day at Meerufenfushi, an uninhabited island surrounded by palms and white sand. Snorkel the reefs, relax beneath the trees or explore the shallow shoreline.

A relaxed beach picnic is followed by sunset cocktails and a beachfront barbecue dinner, weather permitting.

Diving

Fish Head
A protected reef shaped like a circular plate, with a top depth of approximately 10 to 14 metres. Steep walls descend to around 35 metres, with overhangs and caves.

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DAY 13 *THURSDAY*

Maaya Sandbank / Rasdhoo Madivaru | Return Toward Malé

Spend the morning and afternoon exploring the sandbank and surrounding reefs, with a local-island visit. Clear waters offer swimming and snorkeling among coral formations and varied reef fish.

Optional excursion

Manta Ray Encounter
The nearby Madivaru area offers a final opportunity for an optional manta encounter, depending on sightings and conditions.

After the day's excursions, Leira begins the return journey toward Malé.

Diving

Bathalaa Thila
A submerged pinnacle east of Bathala Island. The reef top is approximately 40 metres long and begins at depths of around 6 to 10 metres. Anemones, soft and hard corals cover the reef, with overhangs from 10 to 20 metres.

Maaya Thila
A protected marine reserve where grey reef sharks and whitetip reef sharks may be seen circling the reef.

DAY 14 *FRIDAY*

Malé Region | Final Swim and City Visit

Enjoy a final exploration of nearby reefs and one last swim before visiting Malé City. Discover markets, historical sites, mosques and local shops, and experience the capital's lively atmosphere before the cruise concludes.

Diving

Nermathi — Shark Point
An optional final dive offers the possibility of encountering sharks and rays, including tiger sharks, bull sharks, spinner sharks, hammerheads and guitar sharks. Marine-life sightings cannot be guaranteed.

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

DAY 15 *SATURDAY*

Departure from Malé

The crew bids you farewell with warm Maldivian hospitality as you transfer by dhoni to the airport, carrying memories of your Explore South journey aboard 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 Leira for an unforgettable Explore South journey through South Malé, Vaavu and Ari Atolls.

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