

## weekly

### SUD-EST: Male Nord-Male Sud-Felidu-Wattaru-Mulak



The cruise takes place amongst the beautiful atolls where the **water's surface** has **splendid colours** varying from intense blue to softer shades of green along the reef and incredible turquoise in the lagoons. There are some desert islands with palm trees and mangroves and beautiful sandbanks. Here **snorkelling is really beautiful** and interesting with the possibility of encountering **large animals**. Along the route there are many fishing villages, some are full of souvenir shops and others have remained wild and native where you can encounter the local cultures and take pictures of splendid sunsets or shells left on the beach.

#### DECEMBER-APRIL:

Scuba-diving along the oceanic passes and walls, medium-strong currents, clear water. **Large pelagic fish** (sharks, sea-eagles, tuna, etc), turtles. 1 mantas point, 1 dive with the possibility of encountering Hammer Sharks, colourful walls and caves with alcionarie corals.

The scuba-dive normally takes place along the oceanic "pass" and it's walls. The currents can be medium-strong and the water is usually very clear. It's easy to encounter pelagic fish such as **sharks, sea-eagles, bit tuna, shoals of barracuda fish and carangidea**

Along the walls you will encounter turtles, moray eels, and shoals of coral fish such as butterfly, dentex, fusilier etc. this scuba-diving site is particular for its morphological confirmation and is frequently home to the mantas even in the winter period, and groups of mobule a dwarf mantas which looks the same but is smaller. Along the **oceanic walls caves** have been carved out by the seas currents and here soft corals such as the alcionarie and the gorgonia can be found dominating the walls with their colonies. Amongst these, Fotteyo, in the Felidoo Atolls which represents one of the best scuba-dives of the Maldives with its spectacular environment, yellow colours of the alcionarie and an uncountable amount of bentonico as well as sea-eagles, sharks and many more. But it's at sunrise that it reveals its secrets when the **Hammer Shark** comes up from the deep and the barrier becomes full of little sharks, skates, turtles and many colourful reef fish.



Exceptional snorkelling with very clear waters and good possibility of seeing pelagic fish such as the white tip reef shark, tuna etc. many reef fish. Excellent for towing and ledger-line fishing.

#### MAY-NOVEMBER:

Scuba-diving mainly takes place along the oceanic walls and along the corners of the "pass", along the shallows and internal reef. The sea currents are light and the water is cloudy because it's **rich with plankton**. In this season, the big filterers (mantas and whale shark) move about in this part of the Maldives, where they can find large quantities of plankton. On some sites, **the mantas** can also be numerous, they block the sun and scuba-diving with these creatures is really spectacular. The reef in which they stay isn't very deep and the mantas gyrate themselves with their mouths wide open. You can also observe all of this from the water surface using mask and snorkel - an unforgettable experience. The walls are rich with coral fish, splendid soft and hard corals. The alcionarie open up with spectacular colours. It isn't good for towing but good for ledger-line fishing. **Exceptional scuba-diving** with the possibility of seeing mantas and whale sharks.



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### WEST: MALE NORTH-MALE SOUTH-ARI-RASDHOO

The itinerary takes place amongst **the most famous Atolls of the Maldives** where most of the holiday villages can be found. Therefore, it's sometimes possible to organise a dinner on the beach of a resort or an evening at the disco. The cruise also stops at splendid desert islands and enchanting sandbanks. During the journey you will encounter many **fishing islands** with local cultures and you can go shopping for souvenirs. The submerged part of the Ari Atolls is now at its best for over 20 years. The reef is healthy and rich with hard and soft corals which have re-grown after the bleaching in 1998.



#### DECEMBER-APRIL

Scuba-diving along the **internal shallows** and oceanic walls, medium currents, cloudy water. The Ari Atoll had many internal shallows, some of which are situated in front of the grand pass of the Atolls, and are hit by strong currents which bring nourishment to the coral and fish. Many of the shallow are **real paradises** because of the quantity of coral and fish life to be found. The coral fish find shelter and protection amongst the coral colonies and many can't be seen there. In the winter the water becomes full of plankton which comes from the Atolls facing east. Along the oceanic walls and in the corners of the pass the large filterers, mantas and whale shark meet. The oceanic walls offer you the possibility of encountering a **rich and interesting micro-fauna**. Sea-slugs, triple-tail fish, and phantom pipe-fish are a delight to photograph.

This wonderfully colourful reef is ideal for swimming with mask, fins and snorkel allowing you to see the wonderful **coral, mantas, rays, turtles** and if you are lucky the **whale shark**. It isn't good for towing but good for ledger-line fishing.



#### MAY-NOVEMBER:

Scuba-diving takes place in the **internal shallows** which are characterised by lots of soft corals. In this season the water is very clear and therefore it's the best time to enjoy this beautifully coloured environment. With medium-strong currents the shallows and, above all, the corners of the pass become full of pelagic fish. Along some of the oceanic walls you will find large gatherings of grey sharks and white-tip reef shark, shoals of sea-eagles, big barracuda and carangidea. It's also possible to see the Hammer Shark. These animals come to the surface at sunrise and move closer to the reef to catch their prey and

it's the best time to see them. This is the ideal period for snorkelling because **the waters along the reef are very clear**. Multi-coloured corals, shoals of colourful fish, turtles, napoleons, skates and sea-eagles complete the setting of an unforgettable holiday.

Excellent for deep-sea fishing (vela fish, wahoo, tuna, barracuda and lampughe) and with ledger-line fishing dentex, groupers, etc).

### NORTH: North Male - Lhavyiani - Noonu - Baa

This cruise amongst the Atolls is **less visited by tourists**, because of the small amount of holiday villages and boats. The deserted islands which are visited by tourists here are usually small. Here there are many big islands surrounded by dreamlike lagoons. **The sandbanks are beautiful**, set amongst these lagoons and they are full of small fish hiding from the big hunters. **The colourful reef is ideal for snorkelling** and offers you the chance to see the green turtle, mantas, napoleon, rhinoceros etc. The villages have conserved their local culture and are still genuine.



#### DECEMBER - APRIL:

In the winter period scuba-diving mainly takes place **along the oceanic pass** where the ocean current enters the Atolls, attracting big hunters such as **sharks, sea-eagles, large tuna, barracuda and carangidea**. These very clear waters permit really **spectacular diving amongst lots of pelagic fish**. The corvines are home to butterfly, rifleman and tropical corvine fish. There are many shallows which are home to large quantities of reef fish, napoleons, turtles, anemone hosting clown fish etc. Along the ocean walls caves have been carved out by the sea currents and they are

completely covered by **colourful alcionarie**. While at the bottom it's home to a large quantity of gorgonie fish and protects the small organisms.

This area also offers a couple of really particular dives down to **the famous Shipyard wreck of Lhaviyani**. The outside walls of the Raffushi and the Goidho where you can admire the **pink coral** and many rare species. This coral lives in harmony with little gorgonia coral. Even though this area is abandoned the natural matching of the yellow and pink colours makes these walls unique. Both the walls and the corners of the pass are beautiful from the surface using masks and fins. You can encounter a large variety of **reef fish, butterfly, dentex, tropical corvine, groupers etc. and also large turtles, sea eagles, skates and napoleon fish**.

#### MAY - NOVEMBER:

The password on this cruise will be **MANTAS AND WHALE SHARKS**. During the summer months this itinerary will offer many points where it's really easy to encounter these big filterers. **HANIFARU Bay** is the first in the BAA Atoll. From May to November we fix an appointment with hundreds of mantas and also other Mantas' points such as **PARADISE, FUSHIFARU TILLA** etc. It is one of the few itineraries where, even in the summer, you can **scuba-dive enthusiastically along the oceanic pass**, as most of the itineraries move west. The water here is limpid coming from the big channel which separates the Ari Atolls from the Baa, attracting **many pelagic fish** which gather in the "pass" hit by the current. **Large tune, barracuda, sharks, trigoni** are frequently seen and now and again the **vela fish** with their big dorsal fins unfolded greet the scuba-divers. During this period, the wrecks in the shipyard are at their best and are visited by many fish which enter the pass.



Finally, not to be forgotten, the colourful shallows inside the BAA which are completely covered with enormous quantities of soft coral. The difference from other Maldivian Atolls where they are pasted in colour, these are bright red to orange, passing onto fuchsia. **The massive quantity of coral** here means that there are less reef fish in respect to other Atolls. But these unique and spectacular shallows are home to a large quantity of invertebrates and small rare fish which merit a visit. Even in the summer period it's possible to scuba-dive in 2 points where **pink coral** is found. Snorkelling is really nice thanks to the splendid colours of the reef and you can even watch the big filterers from above.