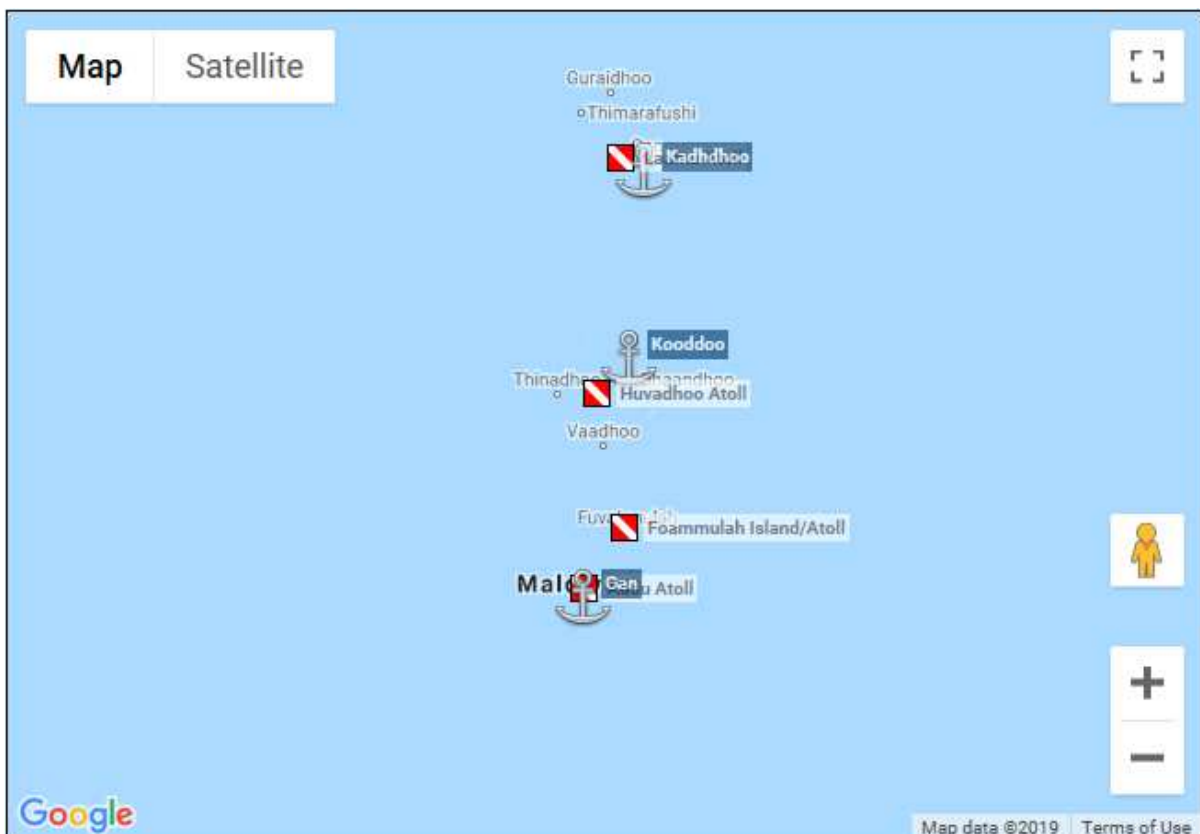


Deep South & Southern Sharks (February & March)

7 day trips - Laamu to Addu / Addu to Laamu

Most dives will involve going to depth and diving in channels with strong currents, which can be challenging, therefore this itinerary is not for inexperienced divers. We recommend you have 100 logged dives to join this trip and require that you are Deep Diver/Advanced Open Water or equivalent. Divers may find some dives challenging and may be asked by the Cruise Director to skip dives that are not suitable for their diving experience. All diving is made from dhonis to give precise entry and exit points.

Please note: Due to weather and diving conditions, it's not always possible to visit each Atoll. Your Cruise Director will decide the best ones to visit at the time of diving. For safety reasons there are no night dives offered on this itinerary.



- [Laamu Atoll](#): Beautiful fish filled channels with great shark encounters.
- [Huvadho Atoll](#): Whale sharks at night, abundant grey reef sharks, oceanic black tip sharks, fast and exciting channel dives - don't take your eyes off the blue; silky sharks, great hammerhead sharks, mola-mola and bull sharks seen from time to time.

- [Foammulah Island/Atoll](#): Tiger sharks, oceanic manta and thresher sharks. Oceanic Island rising from the deep with incredible visibility.
- [Addu Atoll](#): The most southern atoll of the Maldives, which is located south of the equator and used to be a British Royal Air Force base.

February and March are the best times to sail to the southerly Maldivian atolls and dive into the shark action in these out-of-the-way southern dive sites between Huvadhoo and Addu (Seenu) Atolls. Spend a week away from the madding crowds and dive Foammulah and Huvadhoo on the lookout for the Indian Ocean's larger residents; tiger sharks, silver tips, grey reef sharks, whale sharks and many, many more.

From Male we take you to Laamu (Kadhdhoo) or Addu (Gan) by domestic flight to join your liveaboard, and then it's off on our adventure. Laamu is an oval shaped southern atoll, which has some of the top dive sites in the world such as Guraidhoo and Gan. In Foammulah you can expect to meet tiger and silver tip sharks. At Huvadhoo, one of the deepest lagoons in the Maldives, the currents are ideal for even more shark sightings including, hopefully, whale sharks and silkies, hammerheads, tiger and grey sharks spotted most of the time. There are swift channel dives with several kandus; Vilingilli, Nilandhoo, Mareehaa and Kondeey. Addu Atoll hosts the WWII wreck, HMS British Loyalty, as well as popular majestic Manta Cleaning stations with more relaxing sites to either start or end the trip with too.

This itinerary suits experienced divers (100+ dives) looking for 'away from it all and different diving' with quite a focus on drift diving.

Laamu Atoll

Laamu Atoll (also known as Haddhunmathi Atoll) is an oval shaped southern atoll. It measures 48 km in length and 35 km in width and has some of the top dive sites in the world such as Guraidhoo and Gan; this Maldives Atoll is situated 32 km south east of Kolhumandulu Atoll and 95 km north of Huvadhoo Atoll. Laamu Atoll boasts numerous pristine dive sites with many different features like caves, steep drop offs, swim-throughs, not to mention the abundance of marine life and beautiful topography. Expect beautiful fish-filled channels with great shark encounters.

Here are some possible sites you may visit:

- **Fushi Kandu** has a fantastic channel with a relatively shallow entrance at 15m allowing for an extended channel dive, which permits crossing the channel to maximise the sightings. This dive site is commonly described as Fish Soup, and it rarely disappoints with its resident grey reef sharks, barracuda, big eye jacks, and abundant fish life.
- **Laamu Manta Point**; simply relax and watch these graceful beasts do a fly-by over your head to join the queue of Manta each waiting their turn for a clean-up from cleaner wrasse, resident to an active, nearby coral block.

Huvadho Atoll

Huvadho Atoll, also known as Gaafu Atoll, is one of the southern and the deepest atoll in the Maldives. Here are numerous pristine dive sites filled with caves, steep drop offs and beautiful underwater landscapes, as well as breath-taking coral formations and fish life.

Here are some possible sites you may visit:

- Diving at **Nilandhoo Kandu** sees divers likely to face the strongest current near the entrance of the channel and the drop-off. Expect to see mantas, leopard sharks, grey reef sharks, silky sharks, schools of barracudas, eagle rays, schools of jacks and turtles on the sandy bottom. Nilandhoo Kandu is popular with 'shark trips' and underwater photographers.
- **Mareehaa Kandu** is a channel dive perfect for underwater photographers wanting some macro shots. At this site divers drift the reef, wall and look out for big fish. At the entrance of the channel it is possible to see grey reef sharks, eagle rays and trevallies. There are also schools of silversides and bluefin trevallies, as well as various shrimp and crabs near the hard corals. Hawksbill turtles and whale sharks are spotted occasionally.

Foammulah Island/Atoll

Tiger sharks, oceanic manta and thresher sharks. Oceanic Island rising from the deep with incredible visibility.

- **Foammulah Thila** is a deep reef with the shallowest part at about 22 m. However, we don't jump on top of this reef but some 100 metres off in the blue water. While descending to about 30 metres in the blue water we wait for the big fish to appear. Here we have a very good chance of tiger shark and hammerhead shark encounters! Back on the reef we might meet some thresher sharks. This is a blue water dive.

Addu Atoll

The most southern atoll of the Maldives, which is located south of the equator and used to be a British Royal Air Force base.

Here are some possible sites you may visit:

- The **Manta Cleaning Station in Maa Kandu** is located inside the northern channel at a depth of 16-20 metres. Here the manta rays fly in to get cleaned. Divers just hook on and hover above the corals and enjoy the show. Keep an eye to the blue to spot eagle rays and white tip sharks swimming by.
- **HMS British Loyalty**, a WWII wreck is, with its 140 metres length, the biggest shipwreck in the Maldives. It lies at a depth of 31 metres with its port side about 16 metres below the surface. It has a good covering of soft corals. Turtles, jacks and other reef fish can be seen here.