



P R E S S   R E L E A S E -   3 0   S e p t e m b e r   2 0 1 7

## Top 3 dive sites nearby Maafushivaru

Being set in a remote location of the Maldives, in the southern region of the Ari Atoll archipelago; diving experiences near Maafushivaru bring forth wonderful tales with a mere plunge into the aquatic realm below. 30 dive sites accessible by Dhoni provide expansive options on varying tiers of difficulty and qualification, offering the best of the thriving marine ecosystems in the Maldives.

The dive team at Maafushivaru shares their top 3 recommendations; (please note that for all 3 dive sites a check dive is required!)

### **Kudarah Thila:**

A marine protected dive site for Advanced Open Water divers only. Reachable in 25 minutes from Maafushivaru; it comprises of a small 'thila' (pinnacle) that could be circled twice in 1 dive. The reef top is 12 to 14 metres; declining into 30+ meters on the side. Expect large overhangs with sea fans, massive schools of blue striped snappers and red snappers, grey reef sharks if lucky and if very lucky even lemon sharks! It is a fantastic dive site for everyone who loves big fish sightings but also for macro lovers as there are good chances of seeing small critters like nudibranchs or shrimps. The corals at this 'thila' are outstanding, it has one of the best reef tops in South Ari atoll.

### **Maamigili Beyru:**

This is part of SAMPA (South Ari Marine Protected Area) and one of our main spots to see whale sharks. This dive site is for beginners and for experienced divers (minimum requirement of Open Water certification) and can be reached in 1 hour, (we only do this as part of half day diving trips of 2 tank dives) . Briefly described as a simple wall dive beginning around 7-12m on the reef top and dropping down in a slope to 30+ meters, where we usually dive it around 15m.

Fantastic coral life, mainly hard corals. High chance to see whale sharks, the gentle giants of the ocean but also there is always a chance to see schools of mobulas, eagle rays, napoleons, grey reef sharks and sometimes even dolphins. Besides that, it is also one of our main macro spots (ghost pipefish, nudibranchs, flatworms, etc)



**maafushivaru**

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### **Manta Block:**

This dive site is a cleaning station for reef mantas and can be reached within 45 minutes. We do this dive site as part of our half day manta trips (2 tank dives), Open Water and Advanced Divers will both love this site! When the mantas get cleaned at this dive site all you have to do is relax and watch them! We provide reef hooks if there is current so you don't have to move at all for 1 hour and can just enjoy these huge rays swimming close over your head while they are getting cleaned. If you are very lucky we will have more manta rays on a close by reef so after the dive you can directly go snorkeling with them before we go for the second dive of the day.

Sign up for an intense expedition with the dive team at Maafushivaru!



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**Note to Editors:**

Maafushivaru Maldives is a typical island epitomizing all the one dreams of when thinking of the Maldives. With its small island charm, lush vegetation surrounded by the white beaches and a house reef that provides an enchanting snorkelling experience. The island is just over 500 metres in length and even has its own baby island, Lonubo, just 5 minutes away. Lonubo is exclusively for the use of Maafushivaru guests and a holiday on Maafushivaru will not be complete without at least one visit to this beautiful deserted islet.

Refurbished in 2010, the resort is owned and managed by Universal Resorts.

Bookings for Maafushivaru can be made through Maafushivaru website [www.maafushivaru.com](http://www.maafushivaru.com)

**Note to Picture Editors:**

Images of Maafushivaru can be viewed via the website [www.maafushivaru.com](http://www.maafushivaru.com)

High resolution images are available for download at: <http://www.universalimagesonline.com/maafushivaru/index.html>

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