



**submaldives**  
*your adventure awaits*

# HANIFARU SPECIAL MANTAS

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## ROUTE

**7 NIGHTS  
18 DIVES**

[www.submaldives.com](http://www.submaldives.com)





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If you have any questions,  
please do not hesitate to  
contact [our team](#)

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## ABOUT MALDIVES

**T**he Maldives is located southeast of India, just above the equator. The various atolls that make up the Maldives are the peaks of submerged volcanoes, sculpted by ocean currents and covered over thousands of years by coral. In this region, there are two seasons:

Northeast current from November to April (our winter)

Southwest current from May to October (our summer)

Diving can be practiced throughout the year.

During the northeast current, the waters are clearer on the eastern side of the atoll, while during the southwest current, they are clearer on the western side. The active currents bring significant movement from pelagic predators, with a wide variety of sharks and rays, especially in the channels.

The nutrient-rich waters create a perfect environment for large plankton feeders, such as manta rays and whale sharks.

## HANIFARU SPECIAL MANTAS ROUTE

A route where the main protagonists are the manta rays, offering one of the most complete diving experiences in the Maldives. During a 7-night cruise, we will explore channels, thilas, and reefs teeming with marine life, covering the stunning reefs of Baa, Ari, North Male, and Rashdoo. Don't miss the opportunity to dive with grey reef sharks, whitetip sharks, nurse sharks, guitar sharks, tiger sharks, bull sharks, lemon sharks, hammerheads, spinners, and the majestic whale shark.

**Atolls visited: Baa Atoll, North Male Atoll, North Ari Atoll, Rashdoo Atoll**

You will also witness the incredible spectacle of mantas during the day and night at cleaning stations and, of course, the unforgettable visit to Hanifar Bay. At the perfect moment of currents and lunar phase, this small bay, protected by UNESCO, becomes a true marine sanctuary, where hundreds of mantas may gather to feed, often accompanied by whale sharks. A unique phenomenon in the world, in the country with the largest manta population on the planet. Experience it with us and discover the magic of the Maldives!

**HANIFARU SPECIAL  
MANTAS ROUTE**

04



# ITINERARY

## DAY 1

Arrival at Male Airport (Maldives). Transfer to the boat (boarding approximately at 11:00 AM). Introduction of the crew, briefing, and cabin assignment. Generally, the route starts towards North Male or North Ari, and we usually have a dive in the afternoon.

## DAY 2

Impressive Thilas and Night Diving with Mantas

We explore the most spectacular thilas in North Ari, such as Battala Thila and Fish Head, renowned for their biodiversity and the presence of large schools of fish and reef sharks. At dusk, we will enjoy a special dive in Fesdu Bay, where we can witness mantas feeding in the darkness—a truly unique experience.

## DAY 3

Atoll Change and Reef Shark Diving

We head north to Rashdoo Madivaru, where we will dive in channels and coral reefs, areas known for frequent encounters with reef sharks, rays, and schools of tropical fish.

## DAY 4-5

Exploring Baa Atoll and Hanifaru Bay

We venture into Baa Atoll, a fully protected marine reserve famous for its thilas and manta cleaning stations. For two days, we will monitor conditions for the opportunity to enter Hanifaru Bay, a UNESCO-protected sanctuary, where we can snorkel among dozens or even hundreds of feeding mantas—a truly breathtaking experience.

## DAY 6

Return to North Male and Dive with Pelagic Life

We begin our journey back to North Male, exploring reefs teeming with marine life. In this area, it is possible to spot eagle rays, large schools of fish, and other pelagic species in their natural habitat.

## DAY 7

An Epic Finale at Shark Tank

To end the cruise on a high note, we will complete two dives at the iconic Shark Tank, a dive site that amazes every diver. Here, you can encounter bull sharks, lemon sharks, the giant great hammerhead shark, spinner sharks, guitarfish, and stingrays. An unforgettable dive that will make you want to return to the Maldives.

## DAY 8

Farewell and Transfers

Breakfast on board and transfer to the airport at 8:30 AM. Depending on flight schedules, passengers can take advantage of the day to visit Male, relax at a resort, or stay in a guest-house. SubMaldives will be happy to assist in coordinating these options.

TOTAL OF  
18 DIVES

HANIFARU SPECIAL  
MANTAS ROUTE

06

HANIFARU SPECIAL  
MANTAS ROUTE

07



# HANIFARU SPECIAL MANTAS ROUTE

# 01

## BAA ATOLL

Baa Atoll was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2011. Its main attraction is Hanifaru Bay, named after the nearby uninhabited island. In July 2009, it was designated a marine reserve, becoming a major draw for divers. Under specific wind and current conditions during the southwest monsoon, this funnel-shaped bay becomes a massive plankton accumulator.

This natural phenomenon does not go unnoticed by large filter feeders—dozens of manta rays and several whale sharks enter the bay, intertwining in a majestic feeding dance. This sublime act of nature has seen gatherings of over a hundred mantas alongside multiple whale sharks at the same time. On the Baa Atoll Route, we can also dive in the stunning thilas near the bay

# 02

## NORTH ARI ATOLL

Both experienced and novice divers will find dives suited to their level in Ari Atoll, with its stunning hard and plate coral formations.





# Your adventure AWAITS

20 years of  
TRUSTED EXPERIENCE

## 03

### NORTH MALE ATOLL

Located in the heart of the Maldives, North Male Atoll is part of the capital, Male, and is one of the country's most popular diving destinations. One of its most well-known sites is Lankan Finolhu, where manta rays can be found during the south-west monsoon season. This cleaning station is an ideal spot to observe these majestic creatures up close as they are attended to by small cleaner fish. Another impressive site is Shark Tank, located near the fishing harbor. This breathtaking dive offers encounters with various shark species, including the spinner shark, giant hammerhead shark, lemon shark, bull shark, tiger shark, and the enigmatic guitarfish.

## 04

### RASHDOO ATOLL

Rasdhoo is an atoll located north of Ari, where we will dive in a channel with pelagics and shallow reefs, where we can observe blacktip reef sharks, marine life, and a great diversity of different species of coral and fish.



# TYPES OF DIVES

## KANDUS

These are the channels through which ocean water flows into the inner parts of the atolls, bringing a large amount of nutrients. As a result, we can observe the entire food chain—from small fish to large pelagic species—and it's where we'll find the majority of sharks, such as whitetips, grey reef sharks, and silvertips. Since this is the area where the reef “narrows,” the current coming from the open sea can be strong and intimidating. But as divers say: where there is current, there is life...

## GIRIS

These are small, round coral formations that rise a few meters from the sea floor, although they remain submerged. Like Thilas, they are rich in marine life and often feature caves and holes, creating a vibrant underwater environment.

## MANTA CLEANING STATION

Manta ray cleaning stations in the Maldives are key spots where these majestic animals gather to have small cleaner fish remove parasites and dead skin from their bodies. These sites, located across various atolls in the archipelago, offer unforgettable diving experiences, allowing divers to observe mantas' natural behavior up close in their habitat.

Diving at these stations provides prolonged encounters with manta rays as they gracefully glide over the reefs in a cleaning ritual. It is a unique opportunity for photographers and diving enthusiasts who seek to explore marine life with respect and admiration.

## SNORKEL WITH MANTAS HANIFARU

Hanifaru Bay, part of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the Maldives, is one of the world's most impressive marine sanctuaries. During the monsoon season, this site becomes a feeding hotspot for dozens of manta rays and, occasionally, whale sharks.

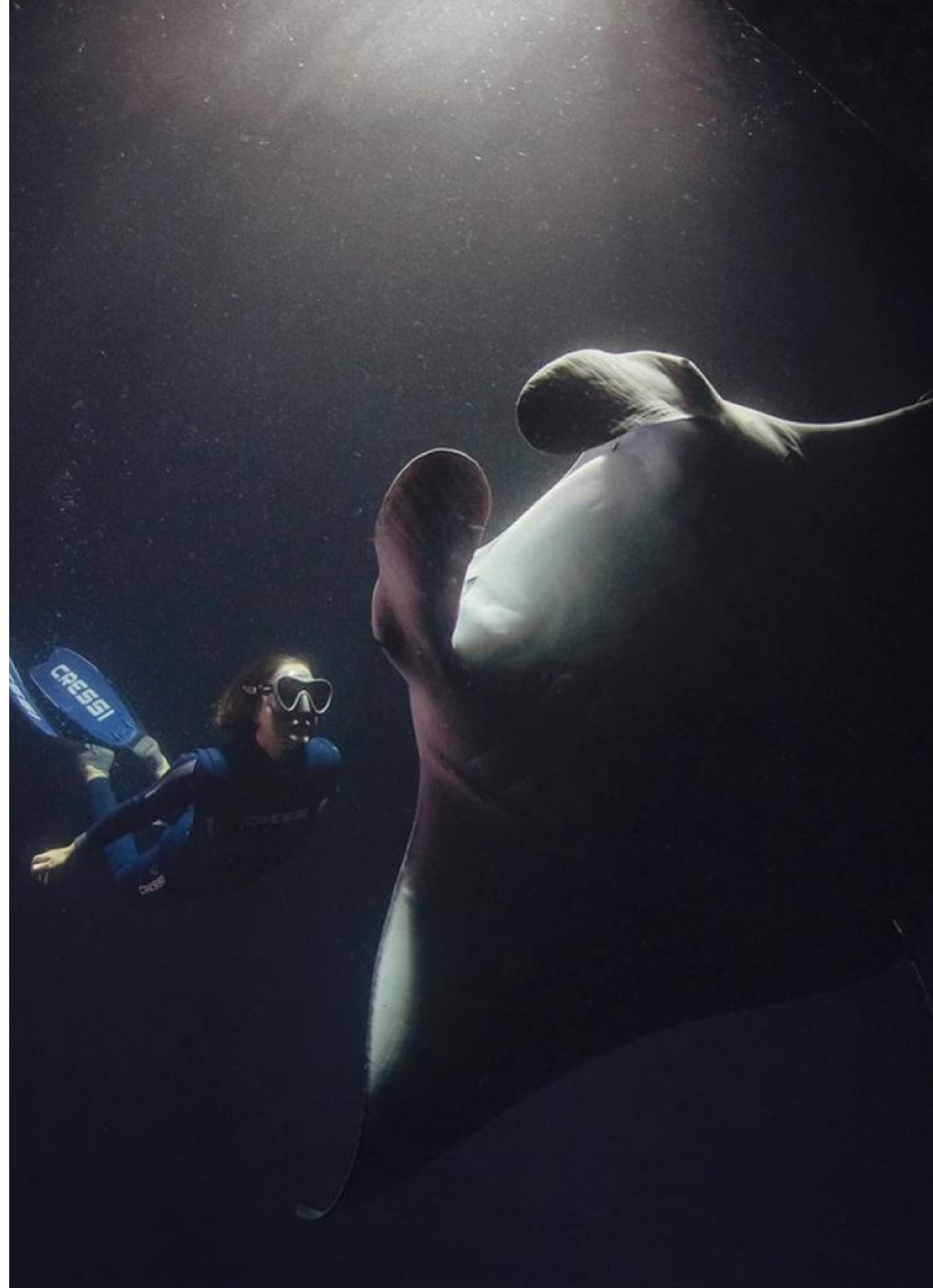
Unlike cleaning stations, where diving is allowed, only snorkeling is permitted in Hanifaru Bay to minimize human impact on marine life. Floating alongside these ocean giants in crystal-clear waters and watching them glide gracefully as they feed is an unparalleled experience.

## THILAS

A Thila is a submerged coral reef, usually with a flat top that rises to between 6 and 12 meters below the sea surface. Along the sides, you can often find crevices and overhangs. This type of dive site offers sightings of large schools of fish as well as both hard and soft corals. Thilas are commonly found both within the channels and inside the atoll.

## OUT REEF

The reef slope usually begins at a depth of about 2 meters and can reach down to 40 meters in deeper areas. On the outer side of the atoll, you'll find a transition zone teeming with marine life—both pelagic and reef species—along with the abundant hard coral typical of the Maldives.









# SEAROSE II

## OUR LIVEABOARD

# STAR

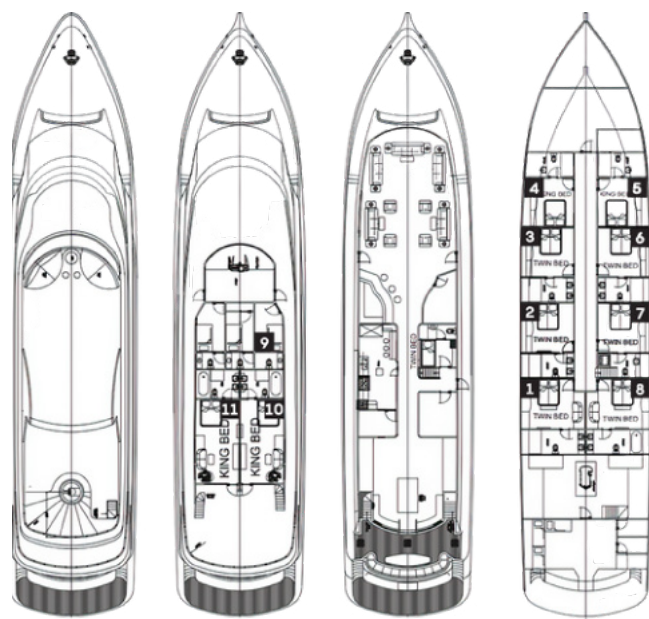
Discover the magic of the Maldives like never before aboard  
**SEAROSE II**

**T**he majestic SeaRose II, a 45-meter liveaboard, offers diving and snorkeling cruises year-round in the crystal-clear waters of the Maldives. Diving is conducted from a fully equipped, dedicated 17-meter dive dhoni (boat).

On the upper deck, the SeaRose II features 11 well-appointed cabins, each with its own air conditioning and private bathroom, accommodating up to 20 guests. On board, there's plenty of space to relax—whether in the dining area with a well-stocked bar, or in the spacious lounge with a flat-screen TV and entertainment system. Guests can also unwind outdoors on the sun deck, complete with a jacuzzi, and take in the stunning views of the Maldives.

Let the professional, experienced, and dedicated local and international crew, along with the Dive Masters and Instructors aboard the SeaRose II, help you create an unforgettable vacation in the Maldives.

### SEAROSE II – VESSEL SPECIFICATIONS



- **Year Renovated:** 2022
- **Length:** 45 meters
- **Beam (Width):** 40 feet (12 meters)
- **Maximum Speed:** 14 knots
- **Cruising Speed:** 9 knots
- **Engines:** 720hp V-type Doosan Daewoo Diesel
- **Maximum Guests:** 20
- **Number of Cabins:** 11
- **Number of Bathrooms:** 11
- **Tender:** 60-foot dedicated Dive Dhoni
- **Fresh Water Capacity:** 18,000 liters
- **Fuel Capacity:** 6,000 liters
- **Watermaker Capacity:** 2,000 liters/day

**HANIFARU SPECIAL  
MANTAS ROUTE**

**11**







# IRUVAI

## OUR LIVEABOARD

# ARTISAN BEAUTY

Discover the magic of the Maldives like never before aboard  
**IRUVAI**

**T**he Iruvai, which means Sunny Season in Dhivehi, is a wooden boat built in 2008 by local craftsmen in the Maldives. The wood used for the construction of the boat is also local and is resistant to salt water.

The ship is divided into three decks with indoor and outdoor areas for dining, lounge and bar, solarium with sun loungers, among others. All cabins are double occupancy with four beds on the lower deck, three beds on the upper deck and a Master Suite. All rooms have a private bathroom with hot and cold water and enjoy an air conditioning system based on seawater cooling with private temperature control.

### IRUVAI – VESSEL SPECIFICATIONS

- **Length:** 29.75m
- **Beam:** 8.5m
- **Draft:** 2.5m
- **Engines:** Yanma Deisel Engine 500HP
- **Cruising speed:** 12 knots
- **Safety:** Fire extinguishers, life jackets, life buoys
- **Cabins:** Max. 18 guests in 7 double cabins and 2 suites
- **Crew:** 12
- **Solarium with sun loungers and Jacuzzi**
- **Indoor and outdoor dining and lounge**
- **Indoor bar with cocktails, spirits and wines**
- **TV and Hi-Fi**
- **Indoor and outdoor rest and reading areas**
- **Outside sunbeds on the upper deck**
- **individual air conditioning control**
- **Private bathroom for each cabin with 24-hour hot water**
- **Western and asian cuisine**



# WHAT TO EXPECT

## DURING HANIFARU SPECIAL

# MANTAS ROUTE

### INCLUDED

- All necessary transfers in Maldives
- 7 nights aboard the IRUVAI in a standard double cabin
- Full board including water, coffee, and tea
- 18 dives (Includes 1 at night)
- 12l bottles and diving weights
- Maldivian local guides
- "Free" Nitrox\*

### NOT INCLUDED

- Flight ticket
- 15 l. bottles
- Necessary diving equipment
- Medical and dive insurance mandatory
- Alcohol
- Barbecue on a desert island (provided the weather conditions and timing are favorable)
- Nitrox
- Everything not specified in the section "the price includes" Entrance to hanifaru bay for snorkeling \$20 usd (2-3 times ) 100 dollars tip
- Government tax

*\*Nitrox is a complimentary service. Consequently, its unavailability for any reason shall not constitute grounds for compensation.*



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