

USEFUL TIPS



submaldives
your adventure awaits

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SUBMALDIVES LIVEABOARD GUIDE 2025

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AN UNDERWATER JOURNEY INTO ONE OF THE MOST BIODIVERSE MARINE ENVIRONMENTS ON EARTH.

ABOUT THE MALDIVES

The Maldives is an island country located in the Indian Ocean, southwest of India. It consists of 1,196 islands, of which 203 are inhabited. They are grouped into 26 atolls, each named after one or two letters of the Thaana script. Its capital and most populous city is Malé. The country has a tropical and humid climate, influenced by the monsoons. Islam is the predominant religion, and was introduced in 1153. It is the least populous country in Asia and the least populous of Muslim countries, and one of the smallest Asian countries in size. It is also the shortest country in the world and the one with the lowest maximum height on the planet, at just 2.3m.

The Maldives' economy has historically depended on fishing, until about four decades ago when tourism has gained in importance to become the country's main economic engine. The country's success with tourism, together with a management model that is not very interventionist with local customs and ecologically sustainable, is due to the chromatic richness of its waters and the abundance of its underwater life, which has made it one of the best destinations in the world for lovers of holidays at sea.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & VISA

To travel to the Maldives, residents of the European Union need to have a passport valid for more than six months after the dates of stay in the country and a ticket out of the country before 30 days, since at the time of arrival visitors will automatically receive a tourist visa that will allow them to stay in the Maldives for 29 nights/30 days.

Upon arrival on board, the local taxes must be paid.

Airport Departure Tax: There is currently no airport departure fee payable in Maldives.

Important: It's your responsibility to ensure you have valid documentation for entry, stay, and return. **Submaldives and its staff are not liable for issues caused by missing or invalid documentation.**



IMUGA HEALTH DECLARATION FORM



The IMUGA is a form that must be filled out, with a maximum of 96 hours before entering the country, all those people who want to access the Maldives.

It is a form that we must fill online and that can be done both from the computer, mobile for **FREE**. Once we access the official page, we must choose the option of **"New declaration"**. It is still being filled in with all the requested data. You can use the following link to get to the official immigration page.

<https://imuga.immigration.gov.mv/traveller>

It is important that you keep a screenshot of the confirmation because you do not receive confirmation via e-mail and in case you need it you will have to have at hand the QR or the confirmation code of your declaration.

MONEY & PAYMENTS

On board you can pay in euros or its equivalent in US dollars.

In the gift shops and tourist bars you can also pay in euros or dollars, so you do not need to buy local currency when you arrive. We recommend that you bring cash for the payment of government fees, crew tips, bar drinks on board, purchase of gifts and other expenses that you may have in the country. Just as in Male it is easy to pay by card, in the rest of the country it is not so common.

Important: In the Maldives they have **stopped accepting old dollars, only banknotes after 2009 are valid.**



ARRIVING TO MALDIVES

ONBOARD UTILITIES

Electricity: European, 230V, 3-pin UK plugs
On the boats we have adapters and 2-pin Euro-pean power strips with a large loading area. If you many plugs, we recommend that you bring your own power strip from home.

WI-FI: There is no WIFI available on board. How-ever, if you need to stay connected during the cruise you can buy a local SIM card for jailbroken phones, iPads or tablets. If your phone is not un-locked, we have a modem on board where you can put the Sim card you buy.

LOCAL SIM CARDS

Maldives' phone system and mobile network coverage is limited. The country code is +960 or 00960.

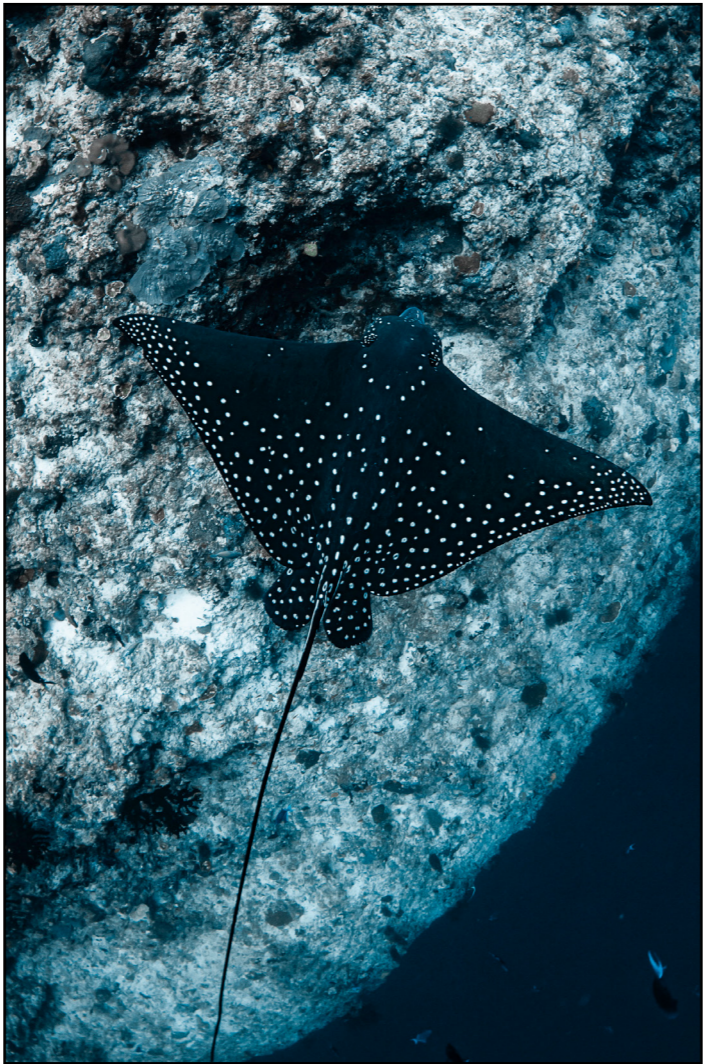
Data coverage, despite being limited, exists in almost all dive areas, with varying quality. The best way to stay connected in the Maldives is to use a local SIM card.

The SIM card has several recharge options and data packages depending on the use you want to give it, but the approximate price for 2GB is about €15 to €20, being able to share between two or more people. Two telephone companies, Ooredoo and Dhiraghu, operate in the Maldives,Vand the two have an office at the airport so that they can do the paperwork as soon as they arrive. **BE CAREFUL**, only for unlocked mobiles!! It is important that the store asks for the activation of the card because depending on the brand of the phone it has to be operated in a different way. Walk out of the store with the data working!

DIVING: REQUIRMENTS & GEAR

Do not forget to bring your scuba certification. The divemaster needs to check all your diving documentation before the first dive (certificate of diving level, Nitrox qualification and dive insurance).

If you do not have a Nitrox qualification and you are going to embark on one of our enriched air cargo safaris you can ask about the possibility of doing the course with us on board and thus be able to use Nitrox all week.



TRAVEL INSURANCE

Medical insurance and dive insurance are **MANDATORY**. We strongly recommend that all pas-sengers take out medical, accident, baggage, and trip cancellation or interruption insurance when booking. Travel insurance will prevent financial setbacks in the event of not being able to make the planned trip due to health reasons, illness of a family member or in case of unforeseen circumstances that prevent the airline or maritime company from conducting the planned trip.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL PRICING

Rental gear is available on board but must be reserved in advance due to limited supply. Prices are based on duration and item, and we offer rental packages for full sets or individual pieces of equipment.

For divers needing larger tanks, 15L cylinders are available by prior request for an additional fee. All tanks are compatible with both DIN and INT regulators.

Item	7 days	10 days	Lost / damaged
Complete equipment (NCD, wetsuit, regulator, fins, mask)	\$230	\$400	Table prices
Complete equipment (NCD, wetsuit, regulator, fins, mask + dive computer)	\$300	\$500	Table prices
Wetsuit	\$70	\$100	\$180
Regulator	\$80	\$110	\$400
Fins + mask	\$40	\$55	\$100
Buoy or reef hook p/ each	\$20	\$30	\$70
Torch	\$30	\$40	\$100
Computer	\$90	\$125	\$500
15 L tank	\$70	\$120	-
Weight (per kg)	Included	Included	\$15
Weight belt	Included	Included	\$20

HEALTH & SAFETY

The boats have a first aid kit on board that includes oxygen. You can bring motion sickness medication if you feel it is necessary. We recommend that you consult with your doctor about the options available, such as scopolamine transdermal patches, Biodramine, Scopace tablets or Stugeron. Currents and winds can cause occasional moderate movements of boats. We recommend a pre-trip medical check-up.

Ships' crew members are not allowed to store passengers' medication, even if it needs refrigeration. A passenger carrying medication that needs to be stored at a certain temperature will have to bring its own cooler or cold gel packs. The crew will help by storing the cold gel bags in the boat's fridge but cannot be held responsible for the proper care and storage of the medication, which must remain in the passenger's cabin. We recommend that you bring sunscreen, mosquito repellent (in case you disembark on a local island, as there are no mosquitoes on board) and basic medicines for frequent use in each passenger's personal first aid kit.

Do not forget to take basic precautions, such as being careful with wounds caused by corals, which tend to become infected and very annoying, and rinse your ears with fresh water after dives or after snorkeling as the abundance of microorganisms can cause irritation.

There are 3 hyperbaric chambers in Maldives.

SPECIAL OCASIONS

Whether it's your anniversary, birthday, honeymoon, wedding or if you're celebrating your 100th dive, please let us know so we can celebrate with you. Please notify your travel agent or Submaldives prior to your departure so that we can give the crew advance notice.

DIVING CONDITIONS

The temperature of the ocean water in the Maldives ranges between 27°C and 30°C all year round.

Many passengers do up to 3 dives a day, so they need to protect themselves; We recommend a 3mm wetsuit for the whole year or a 5mm wetsuit if you're colder.

All dives are done from a dinghy called a dhoni. All diving equipment will always be in the dhoni which will not always be accessible from the main boat. This needs to be taken into account when considering what is diving equipment and what is not.

Most of the dives are deeper than 12m, and on certain occasions we look for a current to find the marine fauna we want to see, so the junior open water will have limitations and will not be able to make all the dives.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DIVING

Recommended diving equipment for a cruise in the Maldives consists of:

- Light equipment consisting of mask, fins and snorkel.
- Complete regulator with two second stages and pressure gauge
- Vest.
- Wetsuit.
- Dive Light.
- **Important:** it is **mandatory** to have a dive computer and safety buoy, as well as knowing how to use them.

Standard scuba tanks are 12L aluminum.

If you want to rent a 15L bottle, you have to order it in advance, and it will cost an additional fee.

The bottles are adapted to the DIN regulator system and the international system.

On board we have equipment for rent, but being a boat, we do not have the same amount as the dive centers. It is necessary to communicate this well in advance so that we have it planned before your arrival.

Important: we **insist on the obligation** to have a dive computer and a safety buoy per person. Also be sure to brush up on buoy launch knowledge before you come.

CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

We recommend comfortable summer clothes, with specific clothing to cover shoulders and cleavage in the case of women for the day visiting the local island and/or Male city, since it is a Muslim country.

On board, each passenger will have **two sets of towels** (shower and diving/beach/pool), so you do not need to bring your own towel, we also provide a hygiene soap bar per person to avoid use of plastic bottles or bags.

It is recommended to bring from home in the toiletry bag, in addition to personal gel and shampoo (depending on the boat), after-sun cream and any other type of lotion you need, since in the Maldives you will only have the opportunity to buy personal hygiene items at the airport pharmacy when you land.

If you want to enjoy an espresso coffee we have a Nespresso® coffee machine on board, so you can bring the selection of capsules that you like the most from Spain (compostable, please) and use the machine at any time.



OCEAN RESPECT GUIDELINES

As those who know us know, Submaldives has a special concern for respect for the environment and its inhabitants, and that is why we collaborate with organizations that have the same concern, such as Parley or We Are Water. For this reason, we ask that on your visits to the Maldives, and indeed in your lives in general, you follow some basic sustainability guidelines.

In the Maldives, waste management is not easy, so **we ask for your collaboration to reduce it to a minimum:**

- Bring a reusable water bottle that you can refill at any time.
- Bring only compostable Nespresso compatible coffee pods.
- Use sunscreen with a physical filter that does not contain nanoparticles or titanium dioxide, such as port creams.
- Bring solid soaps and shampoos (there are also solid deodorants and toothpastes, compostable dental floss, bamboo toothbrushes with interchangeable heads, bamboo ear buds...).
- Environmentally friendly feminine hygiene products (menstrual cups, menstrual panties).
- Eco-friendly toothpaste and even wooden brush.
- Solid, environmentally friendly shower soap, shampoo and fabric softener without nanoparticles and natural.

While you're in the Maldives, **you can also contribute to the conservation of the environment.**

- Be a responsible diver by controlling your buoyancy and finning to avoid damaging the bottom. Don't touch anything. Don't stress the animals (chasing, blocking the way, etc.)
- Don't take anything from the ocean or the beach. Don't buy souvenirs made from coral or animals.
- Don't litter. It seems obvious, but, for example, you shouldn't leave things on deck that can be blown away and end up in the sea.
- Participate in waste collection in and out of the water (you can bring a net bag from home to go down to the dives) as we will do during the cruise based on our collaboration with Parley.
- Use the Muslim shower to reduce the use of toilet paper.
- Adjust your water consumption as needed to avoid energy consumption from desalination.
- Avoid food waste by serving yourself only what you are going to consume. You can repeat as many times as you want.

In fact, it's not just in the Maldives that you can help us live in a more sustainable world. When you return home, continue to live sustainably.

- Separate waste correctly.
- Reuse as much as you can, as many times as you can.
- Buy whenever you can in bulk. Always bring your own reusable bags, tupperware and containers.



- Keep using solid soaps, shampoos, deodorants and toothpastes, compostable flosser, bamboo ear buds, bamboo toothbrushes with interchangeable heads, etc. Avoid cosmetic products that contain microbeads or microbeads
- Avoid products with shark squalene (squalene can also be found plant-based)
- Reject promotional samples and miniatures in the hospitality industry (oil, vinegar, butter...) and avoid single-use products.
- Do not use wet wipes. How about installing a Muslim shower in your bathroom?
- Avoid polyester clothing.
- Consume seasonal and local products.
- Avoid eating overexploited fish (Tuna, shark...).
- Travel (whenever possible) by train rather than by plane and better by collective transport than individually.
- Consume consciously and responsibly. Consume less.



WHEN IN MALDIVES

ARRIVAL

Passengers arriving in the Maldives with individual bookings must land on the day of the start of the cruise before 11am, which is the latest check-in time, in order to depart on the same day. You will be greeted at the exit of the international airport by a uniformed member of our crew who will be holding a sign with the name of the ship (Sea Rose 2 or Iruvai) or Submaldives.

When you arrive, you will be able to buy the internet SIM card for your mobile phone (you have to make sure that the phone is unlocked). It is important that the store asks for the activation of the card to ensure that it works properly.

There is the possibility of buying an eSIM before traveling to the Maldives, online or through some apps. If your phone is unlocked and eSIM-compatible, you can do so to avoid queuing at the operator's shop at the airport.

When all passengers have arrived, they will be taken to the cruise by dhoni (typical Maldivian boat). The latest check-in time at the dhoni is 11:00 am.

Upon arrival on board, the welcome briefing will include the payment of government fees, rental of diving equipment and other supplements, if any.

The boat guide will review the qualifications and diving insurance.

From approximately 1:00 p.m., rooms will be distributed, and food will be served.

If weather and navigation planning permit, the first dive will take place on the same day of arrival. If the weather conditions and the logistics of the cruise allow it, 2-3 dives will be made daily.

LAST DAY OF DIVING

After the last dives of the cruise, the boats return to Male at approximately 1 pm.

Passengers can go shopping, visit the fish market, the local market (vegetables and fruits) or take a tour of the city of Male. During the tour there is a free guide service.

Dinner will be served on board.

NITROX

Available on the Iruvai and Sea Rose 2. Check with your agency or Submaldives.

TIPS

Crew gratuities are not included. We believe that tipping should be voluntary and based on the quality of service received. When you close your account on Friday, the guide will have an envelope for tips, which will be split equally among the crew.

Recommended indicative amounts:

SeaRose

- 4 Atolls Route, 7 nights 100€
- 4 Atolls Route, 9 nights 120€
- Top 12 Route 150€
- + than 14 nights 175€

Iruvai

- 4 Atolls Route, 7 nights 100€
- 4 Atolls Route, 9 nights 120€
- Top 12 Route 150€
- + than 14 nights 175€

CHECKOUT

On the last day in the morning, after a continental breakfast, passengers will depart for Velana International Airport, Male, at approximately 8:30 a.m., arriving at the airport around 9:00 a.m. If there is a flight before that time, a suitable pre-transfer will be arranged. Passengers who have the flight in the afternoon or at night, if they wish, can use the airport lockers, the price of which must be consulted at the airport, to enjoy their free time or they can also hire one of the hotel packages available at the airport, for which from approximately €90 (check prices directly with the hotel), which have access to luggage storage, swimming pool and internet.

CONTACTS IN MALDIVES

Sea Rose 2 and Iruvai

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