

Know Before You Go - Maldives

General Trip & Destination Information

Flights and Transfers

Itineraries which cover northern or southern atolls require [domestic flights](#), which are not included in the liveboard price but we can arrange them on your behalf.

Please check your booking details carefully for embarkation and disembarkation locations and the itinerary-specific information sheet for domestic flight requirements and transfer arrangements.

Transfers from the embarkation location airport to Maldives Master and from the liveboard to the disembarkation location airport are by dhoni and included in the liveboard price.

Embarkation and transfers from the airport are at specific times only, as noted in the itinerary information sheets. *We can not arrange pick-up and transfers from hotels or resorts*; Guests are responsible for arranging transfers from their accommodation to arrive at the airport pick-up location in time for the earliest transfer to Maldives Master.

Advice on International Flights

Malé-Velana International Airport (MLE) is served by many worldwide airlines and charter companies.

To avoid potential problems caused by inbound flight delays or cancellations, ***we strongly recommend booking flights to arrive the day before embarkation and spending one night in Malé, Hulhule or Hulhumale before and after your liveboard.*** This is not only to make allowances for possible flight issues but also enables all guests to embark at the earliest designated time and ensures they are well-rested.

Please be aware that guests arriving after the designated embarkation date or transfer times for any reason will be charged for the additional transfer necessitated by their late arrival. Additionally, we can not be held responsible for disruptions to the liveboard departure, normal itinerary and diving schedule caused by guests arriving late.

Although we strongly advise against it, should you choose to arrange flights to arrive on the day of embarkation and depart on the day of disembarkation, you must book an ***early morning International arrival only*** and a ***late afternoon/evening International departure*** to allow for possible flight delays and ensure you have plenty of time to make your flight connections, especially if your itinerary requires a domestic flight.

It usually takes an hour and a half from the time of international flight arrival to clear immigration, retrieve luggage and go through customs clearance, which includes all bags being scanned for prohibited items. An additional two hours is then required for domestic connection.

PLEASE NOTE: *It is illegal to bring alcohol into the Maldives; if you purchase any duty-free alcohol on your inbound travels, or bring your own from home in your checked luggage, it will be confiscated by customs officials upon arrival at Malé International Airport.* However, duty-free can be purchased at Malé International Airport before departure of your homeward-bound flight.

Passports & Visas

Although Master Liveboards endeavours to keep information as current as possible, the following is provided as guidance only. *Regulations and requirements can change, and we can not guarantee the information here is always up-to-date. The traveller is responsible for checking government and travel advisories before making travel arrangements.*

Passport Validity

Passports must have at least one month's validity beyond the date of entry into the Maldives. Please note, however, that *some airlines and countries will not allow travel with less than 6 months' passport validity.* Please check with your airline to ensure you meet all travel requirements.

Israeli Passports

Effective from 15th April 2025, travellers arriving in the Maldives with an **Israeli passport will be denied entry**. Additionally, airlines have been advised that they are not permitted to carry passengers travelling on Israeli passports on flights to the Maldives.

Visas

Nationals of all countries can obtain a 30-day tourist visa, free of charge, upon arrival as long as they meet the basic entry requirements.

We strongly advise checking your home country's government travel advisory, Maldives Consulate, or the Maldives Immigration website (www.immigration.gov.mv/tourist-visa/) for the most up-to-date information.

Traveller Declaration

All non-Maldivian travellers must complete a [Traveller Declaration](#) within 96 hours before arrival in the Maldives. Airlines are required to check that passengers have completed the declaration before boarding their flight.

The Traveller Declaration is an electronic arrival form which can be submitted free of charge through the official IMUGA portal: <https://imuga.immigration.gov.mv/>. When you have completed and submitted the required information online, you will receive a QR code, which you need to present to immigration officials at the airport.

NOTE: When completing the **accommodation** section of the declaration, please select the name **MALDIVE QUEEN**, which is the name Maldives Master is officially registered as with the local authorities.

If you are travelling with medication, please bring a copy of your doctor's prescription with you. The amount you are carrying should not exceed your requirements for the duration of your stay in the Maldives.

Domestic Flights

Where required for the liveaboard itinerary embarkation or disembarkation, we can book domestic flights with favourable rates on our guests' behalf. This also enables us to easily deal with any changes that may be required. However, bookings that are either cancelled or changed within 72 hours before the scheduled departure date are subject to an administration fee, which the guest will be required to pay.

PLEASE NOTE: Guests who arrange their own domestic tickets are responsible for all aspects of their booking. Should a flight need to be rebooked for any reason, we regret that we can NOT assist with arranging new flights.

Itinerary Embarkation / Disembarkation Airports

- Central & Southern Atolls / Far South: Gaafu Alifu - Kooddoo Airport (GKK)
- Northern Atolls: Haa Dhaalu - Hanimaadhoo International Airport (HAQ)

Domestic baggage allowances:

- Hand luggage: 5kg per person
- Checked luggage: 20kg per person*

*Divers are allowed 25 kg of checked luggage, but they must be carrying diving equipment for this increased allowance to apply.

Additional checked luggage can usually be purchased at check-in and costs approximately 4-5 USD / kg, subject to availability on the day.

Domestic flight check-in closes 1 hour before the scheduled departure time.

Malé Domestic Terminal

The domestic flights terminal is a short walk from the international terminal building. Upon exiting the international arrivals hall, turn right and walk for approximately 100 metres; the ocean will be on your left and the domestic terminal will be on your right.

If your domestic flight is scheduled to depart within 2 hours of your arrival in Malé, you should make your way directly to the domestic terminal to check in for your flight.

If your domestic flight is scheduled to leave more than 2 hours after you arrive in Malé, or if your itinerary starts from Malé and you have time to fill before the embarkation transfer time, the following options are available at Malé Airport:

- Use the airport hotel facilities (Hulhule Island Hotel) - day-use packages range from 75 USD – 185 USD per person
- Leave your bags at the airport and take a water taxi, or walk across the bridge to Malé to explore the island for a few hours. The luggage storage facility is in the departures area and costs 7 USD per normal-size bag or 12 USD for oversized bags/heavy items.
- Enjoy the shopping and refreshments available at the airport.

Insurance

Insurance which covers scuba diving is mandatory. Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkelling activities, recompression chamber treatment and emergency evacuation costs. We strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance to cover any diving-related eventuality.

All guests must also carry full travel and cancellation insurance, as outlined under section 3 of our [Terms and Conditions](#). We cannot be held liable for delays occurring during the cruise, nor any delays or cancellations of flights, accommodations, tours or transfers that we organise on your behalf.

For further details on why travel insurance is a crucial part of your holiday arrangements, take a look at our blog - '[Do You Really Need Travel Insurance?](#)'

Master Liveboards act as a referrer for DAN World, which offers short-term diving accident cover for up to 30 days, and for DiveAssure, who offer dive and travel insurance policies, including short-term and multiple-trip policies. Dive Assure's comprehensive 'Dive & Travel Plus' plan has been specifically developed for diving liveaboard holidays and covers expenses in the event of missing your liveaboard departure due to flight delays or missed connections, and also provides cover for lost diving days if for any reason the boat is required to abort the cruise; for instance, due to a guest injury, mechanical breakdown of the ship, air supply failure, inclement weather conditions, etc.

Please consult our insurance webpage for details and direct links to DiveAssure and DAN World booking portals: www.masterliveboards.com/insurance.

Diving Information

Maldives Master has a 19-metre, custom-built dhoni (Blue Shadow) for transferring divers to and from the dive sites. The dhoni has a spacious dive deck with individual set-up spaces and under-bench storage for all guests and dive crew. She also has two compressors with a nitrox membrane for filling scuba cylinders, a sundeck, toilets and showers. Our dhoni crew are happy to assist guests who need help with their equipment and exiting the water.

IMPORTANT: Many diving areas visited on liveaboard itineraries in the Maldives exceed Open Water certification depth limits and are ***unsuitable for entry-level or inexperienced divers***. Diving throughout the Maldives, especially in northern and southern atolls, can be ***challenging even for experienced divers due to the topography and strong, sometimes unpredictable currents and upswells***.

Negative entries and drift dives are the norm, and reef hooks may be required on some channel dives.

All divers joining any itinerary on Maldives Master must have completed deep dive training that allows them to dive to a maximum depth of 30 metres. It is also strongly recommended that divers have ***previous experience diving in currents*** and are comfortable in conditions similar to those likely to be encountered on their chosen itinerary.

Guests' Certification & Experience Requirements

The minimum recommended or mandatory requirements for each itinerary are based on the diving conditions in the areas they cover. Please refer to the itinerary information documents which can be downloaded from the Master Liveboards website to ensure suitability for you, before confirming your liveaboard booking.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The **minimum number of logged dives** specified for each itinerary is a **mandatory** requirement.
- For **Central Atolls** itineraries, **Advanced Open Water** or equivalent certification is strongly **recommended**. (Guests with Open Water Certification **MUST** also have Deep Dive training).
- For itineraries that cover **Northern or Southern atolls**, **Advanced Open Water** is **mandatory**.

Any divers who do not fulfil the specified minimum requirements, or who the crew feel have insufficient experience or skills to dive safely in certain conditions, may be denied participation in some or all dives during the liveaboard.

You will need to provide copies of your certification card(s) when completing your pre-embarkation [API](#), and may also be asked to show them, and a record of your logged dives, as proof of experience when you board.

Maldivian Government Regulations

By law, the following apply to all scuba diving activities in the Maldives, regardless of whether it is resort-based or on a liveaboard and without exception:

- The maximum depth for all scuba diving in the Maldives is 30 metres.
- Dives exceeding 30 metres or requiring decompression stops are prohibited.
- Technical diving and solo diving are not allowed.
- Entry-level (Open Water) divers must remain within the depth limits set forth by the standards of their certification agency, but not exceeding 20 metres, unless they have received additional training in Deep Diving techniques.
- Divers are not allowed to wear gloves.
- All divers **MUST** carry an SMB with a reel for deployment before safety stops.
- The use of a dive computer is mandatory on every dive.
- During any night dive, every diver must have an underwater torch.

Non-Divers

Although some areas of the Maldives are suitable for snorkelling, these are mostly inside the atolls where the reefs are shallow and sheltered; The majority of sites visited on Maldives Master itineraries are along deep, outer reef walls and channels with strong currents and surge in the shallows making them hazardous for swimming or snorkelling. Therefore, ***opportunities for snorkelling are very limited***, and mostly only possible in the afternoon if and when the liveaboard is at anchor inside an atoll. Additionally, it is ***not possible to go onto the islands*** as the majority are protected areas or private property.

Fit to Dive

All divers are responsible for ensuring that they are fit to dive and are required to provide a completed medical statement before their liveaboard departure. ***Guests who are taking medication, or have any medical conditions or symptoms that could be restrictive to diving need to obtain a doctor's evaluation and clearance to dive before travelling.***

The medical statement is available in English, German, Mandarin and Spanish and can be downloaded from the Master Liveaboards' website at www.masterliveaboards.com/forms.

IMPORTANT: If any of the categories on the medical questionnaire apply to you, you **MUST** seek clearance from a physician in your home country and bring a copy of their approved evaluation with you. *There are no facilities in the Maldives for guests to obtain medical evaluation and clearance for diving.*

If you are unable to complete the medical statement as instructed, or provide a current doctor's certificate (less than a year old) clearing you to dive, you accept that you may not be able to take part in scuba diving activities on the liveaboard you have booked with us.

Diving Safety

All divers are responsible for their own dive profiles, must stay within the limits of their diving certification and must respect all local regulations at all times, which includes using a dive computer on every dive and ***SMB deployment with a reel or spool before surfacing.***

We ask all guests to always remain well within the limits indicated by their dive computer and comfort levels, follow the instructions of the cruise director and guides and make a *safety stop at the end of each dive.*

Diving Emergencies

In the unlikely event that a diving accident occurs, there are 5 hyperbaric facilities available in the Maldives. The largest and longest operating recompression chamber is on Bandos Island (15 minutes by speedboat from Malé). The others are located at Kuredu Island Resort (Lhaviyani Atoll), Kuramathi Resort (North Ari Atoll), Kandima Maldives Resort (Dhaalu Atoll) and ADK Hospital in Malé.

Please note that, depending on the itinerary and location of Maldives Master, transfer to the nearest available chamber may require emergency evacuation by speedboat, which needs to be paid for at the time it is requested.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your insurance will fully cover and reimburse all evacuation costs as well as recompression chamber and/or hospital treatment. We strongly urge all guests to purchase specific dive insurance before their trip.

Flying after Diving

Current studies indicate you should wait at least 18 hours before you fly after repetitive dives or multiple days of diving although ***we adhere to 24 hours no fly time.*** Please bear this in mind before you book your onward international or domestic flights.

Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

Water temperatures throughout the Maldives are fairly consistent at 26°-29°C (78°-84°F) throughout the year, although some areas in the south can drop to 24°C. Most guests are generally comfortable in a 3mm shorty or a 3mm full-length wetsuit; However, those prone to feeling cold should consider additional thermal layers or a 5mm suit.

Diving Equipment

In compliance with Maldivian Government regulations, ***all divers must use a dive computer on every dive and have an SMB with a reel to enable deployment underwater before or during safety stops.***

Dive gloves are not allowed. Reef hooks are strongly recommended.

Diving equipment is available to rent for an additional charge but is subject to availability and must be pre-ordered.

A single 11.1 Litre (AL80) cylinder with air fills, weights and weight belt are provided free of charge.

A limited number of 13.2 Litre cylinders (AL100) are available on request for an additional cost and ***must be pre-booked.***

PLEASE NOTE: Maldives Master does not have small cylinders, 15 Litre or steel cylinders.

Equipment rental and Nitrox costs can be viewed under 'Extras' on the vessel and itinerary pages of our website.

Please pre-book rental equipment and cylinders at the time of confirming your liveaboard holiday to ensure your requirements can be met.

Rebreather Diving

The liveaboard vessel and dhoni are not equipped to support rebreather divers, and we are unable to supply CCR cylinders, pony/bailout cylinders, booster pumps or CO² scrubber.

Destination Information

Language and Religion

The local language is Dhivehi although English is widely spoken throughout the country. Islam has been declared the state religion in the Republic of the Maldives since 1153 and it is prohibited to publicly practice any other religion.

It is illegal to bring anything into the Maldives that is deemed contrary to Islam, including alcohol, pork products, 'idols for worship' and Bibles. All luggage will be scanned by customs officials at Malé International Airport and prohibited items will be confiscated.

Alcohol

Resorts and liveaboards in the Maldives have special licenses allowing them to sell alcohol to tourists although this is strictly regulated. Alcohol can only be consumed where it was purchased meaning ***it is illegal to bring alcohol purchased in a resort onto the liveaboard vessel.***

Alcohol smuggled onto the liveaboard will be confiscated and disposed of.

E-cigarettes & Vapes

Importing vape products and individual parts of vape devices has been illegal in the Maldives since November 2024 and incurs a fine of 10,000 MVR (approx. 650 USD) per device. Guests are therefore advised not to bring vapes or e-cigarettes with them.

Additionally, since 15th December 2024, the possession and/or use, as well as the sale and distribution of all vape and e-cigarette products have been completely banned in the Maldives. The fine for being caught in possession of or using any electronic smoking device is 5,000 MVR (325 USD)

Local Fees & Taxes

The Maldivian Government collects a Green Tax for all visitors, which is 12 USD per person, per night. The applicable amount for your liveaboard itinerary will be added to your invoice at the time of booking, *to be paid before your liveaboard departure*.

Maldivian Government Tourism Goods and Services Tax (TGST - currently 16%**) applies to all goods and services provided by businesses classed as tourist establishments. These include tourist vessels, domestic flights, hotels, resorts, guesthouses, restaurants, shops, dive centres, water sports facilities, spas, etc.

**Effective from 1st July 2025, Tourism Goods & Services Tax will increase to 17%

Time Zone

Local time in the Maldives is UTC / GMT +5 hours.

Money Matters

The local currency is the Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR also abbreviated as Rf), with banknote denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000. 1 MVR is approximately 0.06 USD.

Most visitors may never see or use the local currency as the US dollar is generally preferred at most resorts, restaurants and tourist locations. All resorts will usually bill extras in USD which can be settled by credit card, or USD cash.

PLEASE NOTE: All USD banknotes must be in perfect condition without damage, tears, creases or stains. Local banks - and therefore hotels, shops and our vessel in the Maldives - will not accept old versions of USD banknotes: the newer \$100 banknote should have a blue security strip, and the \$20 and \$50 banknotes should not be dated older than 2006.

EUR and GBP are also accepted in many places although change will be given in Rufiyaa.

Health

Medical facilities in the Maldives are limited; there are 2 hospitals on Malé Island and 2 on Hulhumale. There are also health centres on most of the atolls.

We advise all guests to ensure their routine vaccinations are up-to-date and check with their doctor or local travel health clinic at least 6 weeks before travelling for the latest vaccination advice for the areas they will be visiting.

We also recommend taking sensible precautions with local food and drinking purified or bottled water only to minimise the risk of stomach upsets. Insect repellent and covering exposed skin is recommended to reduce the risk of insect-borne diseases.

Climate and Weather

The Maldives enjoy a warm, tropical climate all year round. The dry season with lots of sunshine lasts from November to April; the wet season is roughly mid-May to October. Year-round temperatures do not vary much: around 23°-25°C (73°-77°F) at night and 31°C (88°F) during the day.

Sun protection

We recommend bringing high-strength, reef-friendly sunscreen with you to the Maldives. We also suggest hats, sunglasses, protective clothing, and utilising shade as easy and environmentally-friendly ways to further protect yourself from sun damage.

Drones

Although the use of drones is not prohibited in the Maldives, there are specific rules and restrictions regarding where they can be flown and approval from the Maldives National Defence Force and the [Maldives Civil Aviation Authority](#), amongst others, is required. Permission must also be obtained from resorts and administrative areas where the drone will be flown. However, regardless of whether these requirements have been met, ***we generally do not allow drones to be used on, or from, Maldives Master or Blue Shadow.***

Trip Information

Advanced Passenger Information (API)

There are certain details that we require before you travel for domestic flight reservations and our administrative purposes. Guests are required to submit the necessary information via our secure online portal at www.masterliveboards.com/portal.

Forms

All guests must complete the following forms before their liveaboard itinerary starts: medical statement, liability releases and standard safe diving practices statement, which can be found at www.masterliveboards.com/forms.

To save time, and ensure you have no pre-existing conditions that could affect your diving, please download the forms from the above link, fill them in, and bring them with you. By completing and signing the forms, you confirm that you have read, understood, and accept the conditions outlined therein.

If you are unable or unwilling to complete the forms as instructed, you accept that you will not be able to participate in certain aspects of the holiday you have booked with us.

Life on Board

The main features of the vessel can be seen on the Maldives Master page of the Master Liveboards website: www.masterliveboards.com/boats/

All safety and dive briefings onboard will be provided in English. If you do not speak and fully understand English please let us know before arrival.

Accessibility

The layout of the liveaboard vessel and dhoni may provide challenges, or be unsuitable for guests with limited mobility, and is not suitable for wheelchairs. Please contact us for further details if you have any concerns.

Accommodation

Maximum capacity on Maldives Master is 26 guests in 12 double or twin occupancy cabins and 2 single cabins. Single occupancy of two-person cabins may be available on request and is subject to an 80% supplemental charge.

Cabin Facilities

All cabins have individually controllable air-conditioning, plenty of storage space and en-suite bathrooms with walk-in, dual-head rain showers and centrally heated hot water. Other facilities include towels and shower gel.

Food and Drink

Meals are provided on a full board basis including a light breakfast, full breakfast, lunch and dinner served buffet style in the indoor, air-conditioned dining area. We offer a wide choice of international and locally inspired cuisine served buffet-style and can cater for most special diets with advance notice.

Complimentary tea, coffee, drinking water, snacks and fresh fruit are available at all times. Carbonated soft drinks and fruit juices are also available for an additional charge.

If you have any specific dietary needs or food allergies please advise your sales consultant when confirming your liveaboard trip to ensure we can make provisions for you.

Please Note: Gluten-free and other products such as lactose-free, sugar-free, vegan and low-fat which are easily found in other countries, are either not available in the Maldives or are very limited in choice.

While we always do our best to accommodate dietary requests, please be aware that *there are limitations* meaning we may not be able to provide the same choices as you may have elsewhere. If the lack of certain items may constitute a health risk or seriously compromise your holiday enjoyment, you should consider bringing those products with you. However, *please bear in mind that it is illegal to bring pork products into the Maldives.*

IMPORTANT: While we will do our best to cater for guests with *coeliac disease* on Maldives Master, we can not completely eliminate the *possibility of cross-contact*. Please be aware that, *due to limited space and utensils, we cannot guarantee a completely gluten-free food preparation or serving environment.*

For hygiene and safety reasons, ***guests are not allowed to cook their own food***, either in the ship's galley or in their cabins. We respectfully ask guests not to bring any kind of electric cooker on board as they create a potential fire and health hazard.

ALCOHOL

Although it is illegal to bring alcohol into the Maldives, beer, wine and spirits are available for guests to purchase on Maldives Master. However, as Maldivian laws state it must be consumed where it was purchased, ***bringing alcohol from a resort onto the boat is deemed as smuggling and is illegal.*** It is also illegal to take alcohol purchased on board off of the boat.

Our crew will not provide service (i.e. storage, refrigeration, bar service, glasses, ice, etc.) ***for smuggled alcohol***, regardless of where it came from, ***or for non-alcoholic drinks that guests have purchased elsewhere.***

Guests are only allowed to consume alcohol which they have purchased on board. ***Alcohol that has been smuggled onto the liveaboard will be confiscated and disposed of.***

Electricity

UK-style, 3-pin (Type G) plugs are standard throughout the Maldives. Power outlets on Maldives Master are Universal, 230V 3-pin sockets that fit most European, North American and Asian plug types. Many of the outlets also feature USB sockets.

Clothing and Footwear

Dress on board is very casual and most guests feel comfortable in little more than swimwear, shorts and t-shirts; most people also prefer to be barefooted while on the boat. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives. We ask that guests respect the wishes of others by donning clothing for meal times.

Staying Connected

Should you wish to have internet access during your liveaboard itinerary, 1GB, 2GB or 5GB data package vouchers can be purchased on board Maldives Master; prices start from 10 USD for 1 GB and are subject to Maldives GST. To purchase a data package, please ask your cruise director who will give you a voucher which has an access code that can be used on a maximum of 2 devices. The router is located in the sky lounge so wi-fi is not available in the cabins or restaurant.

PLEASE NOTE

- Vouchers are only available to purchase on board; they can not be pre-booked or paid for in advance.
- There is no refund for unused data.
- There is no refund for lost vouchers.
- Data packages have a runtime of 14 days

We cannot guarantee a continuous service for the entirety of your cruise as connectivity is only possible when there is a mobile phone signal (3G/4G) so may not be available when travelling between atolls, or visiting some of the more remote areas. Data speed depends on the network and signal strength but is a maximum of 1 Mbps. Please also be aware that some websites may be blocked by the censorship authorities in the Maldives.

Before connecting your devices, please ensure you optimise them to avoid wasting data. This guide provides some useful tips: [Onboard-Internet-Access-General-Guidelines.pdf](#)

Underwater Photography and Videography

Maldives Master offers specialised features for underwater photography and videography equipment. These include:

- Indoor workstations for the preparation and maintenance of cameras
- individual storage drawers for cameras and peripheral items
- An outdoor camera table with an air gun and charging station
- Large rinsing tanks with fresh water changed frequently
- Our crew is thoroughly trained in the handling of delicate camera equipment and will bring your cameras to/from the dhoni for you.
- NOTE: *We do not allow the use of drones on or from Maldives Master or the dhoni.*

Smoking

Smoking on board is allowed in designated outdoor areas only. *Vapes and e-cigarettes are illegal.*

Fishing

Fishing is NOT permitted on Maldives Master or from Blue Shadow.

Environmental considerations

Although there are recycling programs and facilities in place in the Maldives, they are limited. Therefore, we ask our guests to consider the following to help with our mission to reduce our environmental impact.

Batteries

While some batteries may be available to purchase on board, please bring extras with you if your equipment requires a unique size, or is likely to need a lot of replacement batteries during your trip. We kindly request that guests take spent batteries home so that they can be recycled or disposed of properly. Alternatively, consider using rechargeable batteries as there are plenty of sockets to plug in a charger on board.

Water Bottles

We are dedicated to becoming single-use plastic-free across all of our fleets. Plastic straws and stirrers have been banned on all of our boats and we do not provide single-use plastic bottles on board.

If you own a sports bottle, we simply ask that you bring it with you, or you can purchase one on board. If you don't have one and you don't want to purchase one, we have plenty of cups on board that you can use to ensure you remain well hydrated.

Plastic bags and wrappers

We do not provide plastic bags for purchases made on board, although reusable canvas bags are available for sale. Please help us minimise plastic waste by removing plastic wrappers and packaging from items before travelling. If you bring plastic bags with you please reuse them and take them home.

Toiletries

We kindly ask that guests consider the type of products they are bringing with them. Where possible, only bring environmentally friendly toiletries for use on board and take partially or unused products home.

If you are bringing cotton buds (Q-tips) with you, please avoid the types that have plastic stems. There are many products available which use unbleached paper or bamboo instead of plastic and are therefore much more environmentally friendly.

Payments on Board

All taxes, surcharges and onboard prices are subject to change without notice.

Local Fees & Taxes

Tourism Goods and Services Tax *applies to all items paid for on board* and will be added to your bill for drinks and any optional extras that have not been paid for in advance.

GST does not apply to Hanifaru Bay and Tiger Harbour fees or extras paid for in advance.

- On itineraries that include Baa Atoll, if it is possible to visit **Hanifaru Bay a 30 USD visitor fee** applies per person. This is a government-controlled charge, ***payable on board in USD CASH only***, and is subject to change without notice. (GST does not apply).
- On itineraries that visit **Fuvamulah Atoll**, there is a charge of **30 USD per person for each dive at Tiger Harbour**. This fee is charged by the local dive centre, is ***payable on board in USD CASH only***, and may change without notice. (GST does not apply).

Optional Extras

Charges for items such as soft drinks, alcohol, Master Liveaboards merchandise, etc., as well as equipment rental and nitrox which have not been paid for in advance, can be paid on board in cash or by card.

Equipment rental and nitrox costs in USD can be viewed under 'Extras' on the vessel page of our website: www.masterliveaboards.com/boats/blue-voyager/. **Alcohol and soft drinks can not be paid for in advance.**

We can accept payment in USD cash, or by debit card and all major credit cards; however, in addition to TGST, a 3.5% surcharge applies for all card payments.

IMPORTANT: USD banknotes must be in perfect condition without any damage, creases, tears or stains. Local banks (and therefore the vessel) will not accept old versions of USD banknotes. **\$100 banknotes should have a blue security strip; \$20 and \$50 banknotes should not be dated older than 2006.**

Guests are advised to bring \$300–500 USD cash to cover Hanifaru Bay or Tiger Harbour entry fees, crew gratuities and additional sundry costs.

Tipping

At Master Liveaboards we believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel the crew has made your holiday extra special, they will certainly appreciate a tip as a sign of your appreciation. If you are unsure how much to give, we recommend 25 USD per guest, per day.

Please note **we can only accept tips in USD cash**. For your convenience, an envelope will be provided by your cruise director and gratuities will be divided equally amongst all of the crew, including the captain and dive guides.

Safety on Board

Emergency Management & Equipment

All crew members undergo rigorous training in emergency management procedures. A thorough safety briefing will be provided by your Cruise Director at the start of your trip. Practice scenarios may be performed during your cruise to assist our crew in keeping their skills sharp. The boat is equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps.

First Aid

Maldives Master is equipped with a fully stocked medical first aid kit for treating minor injuries and ailments, and for assisting trained medical professionals in remote locations. The boat has a full complement of medical-grade oxygen, which can be administered to divers through portable kits and a large O2 fixed station. You will also find on board an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which has been proven to greatly increase the survival rate in the eventuality of cardiac fibrillation.

Our dive teams are all qualified emergency responders. Should you feel unwell at any point during your cruise, please seek the advice of your cruise director who will be able to assist you.

CCTV on board

As part of our commitment to the safety and security of our guests and crew members, all Master Liveaboards vessels are equipped with CCTV cameras which are located in the following areas on each vessel:

- Engine room
- Dive platform
- Dive deck
- Sun deck
- Corridors
- Galley (kitchen)
- Communal indoor area(s), i.e. salon, camera prep area

We wish to assure all guests that the placement of all CCTV cameras is for the safety of all on board and that they are not set up or intended to invade privacy in any way.

Extending your holiday

Travelling to, from and within the Maldives can be made exceptionally easy when you book with Master Liveaboards. As well as domestic flights, we can organise hotels, excursions and tour packages, which can be arranged for before and/or after your liveaboard.

A popular stopover or extension that combines well with your Maldives liveaboard diving holiday is a visit to Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is renowned for its golden beaches, stunning natural scenery, majestic elephants, the famous Ceylon tea, interesting history and much more. When you just cannot get enough of the Indian Ocean, diving in Sri Lanka is beautiful; featuring gorgeous coral reefs brimming with life and quite a few shipwrecks resulting from an eventful colonial and trade history.

Ask our reservations team for our full list of excursions in Sri Lanka that will help you get the most out of your holiday.

Within the Maldives, we can arrange accommodation and diving packages in Fuvahmulah which is an ideal extension for guests on Central Atolls itineraries who would like to experience the thrill of diving in the South.

Further details can be found here: [Fuvahmulah Extension Packages](#)

FAQs

If you have any questions that have not been answered here, please visit our website's [frequently asked questions](#), or email us at dive@masterliveboards.com.

Contact Information

Thailand Office - Master Liveboards

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Maldives Master Cruise Director

Tel: +960 77 71 360 3

Master Liveboards 24-hour emergency number (calls only):

Please, only use the Master Liveboards 24-hour emergency number if you are unable to get a response from the local numbers listed above. Please do not SMS this number.

Mobile: +44 7862 126398

What to Bring

Our blog, [Packing for a Scuba Diving Liveaboard](#) provides useful tips on what to pack.

You can download a complete packing checklist [here](#), or from the Master Liveaboards [downloads page](#), under General Information.

The following is a list of essential items that you should ensure you bring with you for your trip.

Passport

☐

6 months validity with at least 2 empty pages for visa stickers and stamps

Travel Documents

☐

Flight tickets - International & Domestic; hotel booking; excursions

Cash & Credit Card for emergencies

☐

Recommended amount: 300 - 500 USD

Diving Certification & Logbook

☐

Including Nitrox Card if certified and intending to use Nitrox

Travel and Diving Insurance Documents

☐

To include emergency medical evacuation

Essential Diving Items

☐

Dive computer with full battery

Toiletries & Medications

☐

Including insect repellent and *Reef-safe sunscreen*
Inform the booking team of medical conditions

Essential Clothing Items

☐

Swimwear, hat and lightweight jacket

Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through International or Domestic Flights.