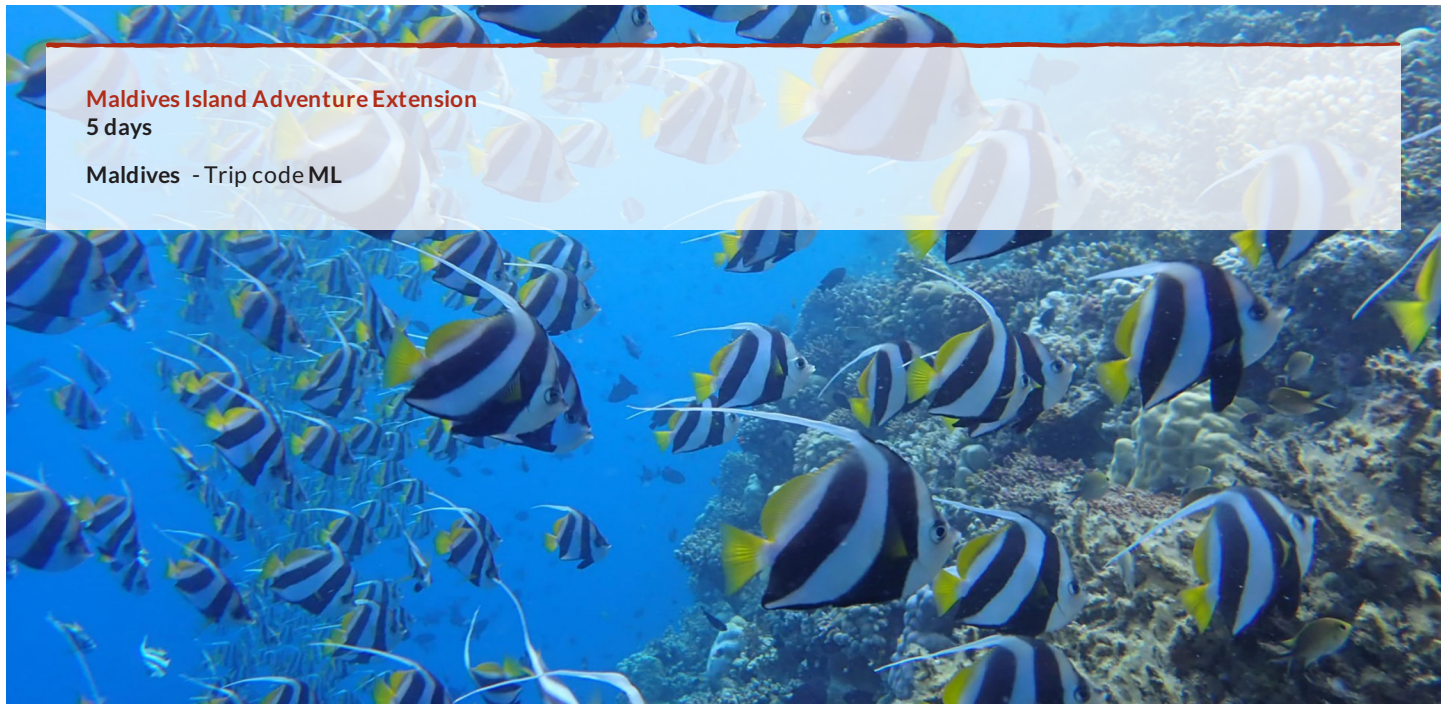


EXPLORE!



Maldives Island Adventure Extension

5 days

Maldives - Trip code ML

Maldives Island Adventure Extension

Why not extend your trip with five days relaxing and exploring the Indian Ocean island paradise of the Maldives? We enjoy the beautiful beaches and warm seas teeming with colourful life, and learn about the culture of this small and remote nation, meeting the locals to get an insight in to how they live.

Trip highlights

- ★ **The Maldives Explore Style!** - Escape the all-inclusive and meet the locals
- ★ **Underwater world** - Reef snorkelling to explore the famously colourful sea life
- ★ **Maldivian food** - Join a family for dinner in their home and try 'hedika'
- ★ **Authentic Maldives** - Travel by ferry and mix with local people

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:

Relaxed

You can enjoy easy-going activities and experiences on these Relaxed pace tours, with opportunities to absorb the sights and immerse yourself in the local surroundings, but still come home feeling relaxed and refreshed.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip in Male and ferry to Diffushi

Joining our trip at Male airport, we'll be met by our representative for a short ferry crossing to Male. After a quick taxi journey to the jetty, we board the public ferry to Diffushi North Male Atoll, a journey of around 3 hours. Travelling across the tropical seas of the Indian ocean, rubbing shoulders with the locals, we'll start to get a feel for the Maldives and its wonderfully relaxed way of life. We'll arrive and check in to our guest house just in time for sunset. Dinner this evening can be taken at the guesthouse, or the island is small enough for you to venture out to one of its handful of local cafes.



Accommodation: Bibee Guesthouse (or similar)



Standard Guesthouse



Single room available



Meals Provided: Dinner

DAY 2 - Explore Dhiffushi and dine with a local family

After breakfast we explore the island. There are two mosques and we'll see them both, getting a sense of how the Islamic faith underpins the archipelago's culture. A visit to the harbour area will show us how fishing and the sea are integral to the lives and livelihoods of the Maldivian people, and if we are lucky, we'll get to see the day's catch being brought in. We'll sit with the local women and learn how to fashion brooms and souvenirs from palm fronds and in the late afternoon we spend some time on the beach, giving back to the community that has welcomed us by helping the locals with a beach tidy. Our reward will be the traditional afternoon treat known as hedika - black tea and small savoury and sweet bites such as Gulha - bite-sized balls of tuna, onions and grated coconut wrapped in thin flatbread-type dough and paan boakibaa - bread cake stuffed with dates and nuts. Both our lunch and dinner today will be taken in the home of a local family, providing us a real insight to Maldivian life; we'll get to try food such as maashuni, a mix of tuna, coconut, chili and onion, and garudiya, a tuna fish broth.



Accommodation: Bibee Guesthouse (or similar)



Standard Guesthouse



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 3 - Free time to relax and afternoon boat ride to a nearby reef for snorkelling

The morning is kept free to relax and enjoy the idyllic surroundings, perhaps wandering along the palm fringed beach, or snorkelling in the clear, shallow waters that are teeming with life. In the afternoon we take a boat ride to a nearby reef to explore the fascinating and colourful underwater world with our snorkelling guide. We will see abundant sealife such as turtles, reef sharks, sting rays, and a multitude of colourful fish including oriental sweetlips, clown fish and parrotfish. Afterwards, we'll make our way to a nearby deserted sandbank in time to enjoy the sunset with nothing other than a few seabirds for company - the perfect end to a relaxing day.



Accommodation: Bibee Guesthouse (or similar)



Standard Guesthouse



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Explore nearby Thulusdhoo Atoll and dine on the beach

A 40 minute chartered boat ride this morning will take us to the nearby island of Thulusdhoo, the administrative capital for North Male Atoll and historically a hub of activity for island traders. Thulusdhoo is famed for its great surf breaks and for being the first island to have 24 hour electricity. It is also the only place in the world where Coca Cola is made from sea water! We stroll around the island to see the colourful houses and how the locals make a living outside of tourism, mainly from fishing. After lunch at a local restaurant we'll return to Dhiffushi where the afternoon is free for you to relax on the beach and perhaps take a dip in the warm tropical sea. In the evening our dinner is served on the beach while we are entertained by traditional dancing and the beat of the 'bodu beru' drums, played at a gradually increasing tempo before reaching a crashing crescendo.



Accommodation: Bibee Guesthouse (or similar)



Standard Guesthouse



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 5 - Trip ends in Male

Your ferry leaves early for Male, arriving around 10.00. We have a day room available to store our luggage and freshen up and we'll spend the time before your flight exploring the capital. We visit Hukuru Miskiy, the location of the old Friday Mosque and the tomb of Al-Hafiz Abul Yoosuf Al-Barbari, the man responsible for bringing Islam to the Maldives in 1153 AD. We also visit the Grand Friday Mosque where the National Museum is based in the old Sultan's Palace grounds known as Sultan's Park. The guide will spend the day with you and take you to the airport in time for your flight.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

Why book this trip

The Maldives is a tropical island paradise that is easily accessible from Sri Lanka and India, and is the perfect relaxing end to a tour in the region. The beaches are invariably beautiful and palm fringed, and, protected by coral reefs, the coastal waters are shallow, clear and warm. The underwater life is famous for both its abundance and its vibrancy, and the Maldivian people are friendly and laidback with a culture that is deeply connected to seafaring and the ocean. Travelling to and from the island of Diffushi by public ferry, staying in a guesthouse and enjoying a lunch and a dinner with a local family means that this trip to the Maldives will not only leave you feeling relaxed and refreshed, but also with the sense that you have seen something of the culture of this nation of tropical islands.

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 4
Lunch: 1
Dinner: 3



Transport

Boat



Trip staff

Local Guide(s)



Accommodation

4 nights standard guesthouse

Trip information

Country information

Maldives Holidays & Tours

Climate

Day time temperatures are remarkably consistent throughout the year ranging from 30°C to 32°C dropping to between 25°C and 26°C at night. Although rain is heaviest in June, July and August, heavy rain can fall at any time of year - even in February and March when statistically only 50mm usually falls during those months combined. The south-west monsoon lasts from May to November and not only brings the rains but also stronger winds and storms, although the transitional periods of early May and late November are supposed to be calm with exceptionally clear water.

Time difference to GMT

+5

Plugs

3 Pin Flat

Religion

Islam

Language

Dhivehi, English

Budgeting and packing

Clothing

Only lightweight clothing is needed. Local people in Male and in villages on the islands can find western styles of dress offensive. Brief shorts, tight fitting clothing etc. should be avoided by both men and women. A sarong and something to cover shoulders (for women) is recommended. Don't forget swimming gear and clothes to protect you from the sun including a wide brimmed hat. You may consider wearing a tee-shirt whilst snorkelling to avoid sunburn on the back and shoulders.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes and sandals.

Luggage

20kg

Equipment

You may like to bring your own snorkel and mask although they will be provided on the snorkelling trip. Also high factor sun protection and a hat. We recommend Factor 30 plus for snorkelling as the water intensifies the sun's strength.

Country Information

Maldives Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£7.50

Dinner price

£12.00

Beer price

£3.50

Water price

£1.70

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Rufiyaa.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

US Dollars are widely accepted in the Maldives and are the best currency for exchange.

ATM Availability

No Access

Credit Card Acceptance

Not accepted

Travellers Cheques

Not accepted

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Boat

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid

paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Non refundable permits

Maldives Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, infectious hepatitis & polio. Travellers may wish to immunise themselves against meningitis. Please consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.
