



DELPHIS DIVING CENTERS

Royal Island

HORUBADHOO THILA

A boat trip of only 5 minutes brings us to the marine protected area in our backyard! Here, depending on the current, you can see it all; the most tiny creatures but also huge barracudas and gray-reef sharks cruise around this relatively small coral formation. Big rough blocks on the sides sweep up the currents and let huge schools of fusiliers escape the hunting tunas that are around. Batfish and a big school of common big eyes stare closely at you while you wish your air would last forever . . .

ANGA FARU

Only 15 minutes away by our speedy dhonies, you will get to know one of the most unique spots of the Maldives. Just a couple of dozen of meters away from the main reef we descend until we reach the thilas (small coral mountains). Calmly we move from thila to thila until we come arrive at a small bay back on the main reef. In this relatively shallow part we will be able to see the breeding grounds of the grey reef sharks of Baa Atoll. Depending on the day you can see here a couple or whole families of sharks, from the small children until the really big mamma, peacefully cruising around. Although this is not a nature protected area (yet) we do our utmost to protect this unique place and will visit it only after carefully monitoring the possible impact of our presence on this nursery.

DHARAVANDHOO THILA

Only 25 minutes on the boat and we arrive at the south side of the island of Dharavandho where this narrow but long coral formation is located. The middle part reaches to just under the surface and is connected to the reef of the island by a kind of coral wall offer shelter to schools of all kind of fish. Drifting slowly over the thila you can see skorpionfish, black snappers, oriental sweetlips, eaglerays, butterfly fish etc. The sand plate on the back offers a perfect place to spot mantas (in the season) while it gives you a good opportunity to end your dive comfortably in the shallower part.

DHONFANU THILA

This thila is reached after a 20 minutes boat trip and is worth the trip in all aspects. The amount of fish life you find here is really astonishing. Schools of fusiliers, blue-stripped snappers, basslets and black snappers inhabit



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this thila. A beautiful swim-through ending on the top of the reef, gives you a good view on hunting jackfish and big tunas. When the current is picking up you often can spot gray-reef sharks over here. In one word . . .astonishing!!

NELIVARU

Just a mere 15 minutes from our jetty we jump in the blue for another spectacular dive spot. From the atoll floor a big thila "arises" that is on one side very steep, while on the other accompanied by a shallower sand floor. In the season this is one of the best places to see the gracious manta rays coming by. Coral blocks offer a home to cleaning wrasses, which invite the mantas for "washing session" above them. When there are no mantas the north as well as the south corner of Nelivaru are creating turbulent currents in which fish life is overwhelming. A curious yellow-fin grouper inhabits this area and always comes to greet you somewhere in the dive.

AIDHOO FARU

We find this interesting dive spot just 45 minute from Royal island. The north side of the reef is a long steep wall that is facing a channel in which you can expect almost everything to swim by. The high light of this place are the caves, found between 18 and 25 meter depth, of which the ceilings are completely covered by blue soft corals.



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KIHAADHOOFARU THILA

Relaxing 30 minutes on the boat prepares you for this really exceptional underwater landscape. Huge overhangs facing the open sea will be the start of a dive that is getting better and better as you continue. Dolphins are spotted here! At the end of the thila we will pass over a wall that connects it to the reef of the island, which is really a treasure. Full of graceful coral this rough landscape offers shelter to oriental sweetlips, butterfly fishes and many different kind of snappers. The end of the dive you can make a long safety stop while swimming along the colorful reef of Kihaadhopperu.

ANGA THILAS

It will take around 15 minutes to reach the series of coral formations that lie south of Anga Faru. Parallel to the main reef we find here a rough structure of blocks full of holes and overhangs. On the south side of them you can see impressive smooth sea fans while on the north side you might spot a stingray or often a school of small barracudas on the sand plateau.

OHGALI HAA

This “bean shaped” reef we find just 35 Minutes south of Royal Island,. The north side has some beautiful overhangs / caves which offer a rich marine life. It is also home to a big school of curious batfish that will hang around you the whole dive. After the caves we slowly move up a bit shallower until we reach the south side where on the reef plateau you will discover several huge schools of blue-stripped snappers, humpback snappers and blue fusiliers. The last part being only around 6 meter deep, the sunlight will give you a view you will never forget!

FINOLHOSS BLUE HOLE

Up north for 30 minutes we arrive at the reef surrounding the island of Finolhos, which has a hole in the reef top. Wide enough for letting 2 divers go in at the same time; the tunnel ends at 22 meters of depth on white sand floor. In the last part of the cave you can find e.g. morays, lobster and often a couple of groupers that seem to have found their home there. After having explored the cave thoroughly we move out in the east direction to see a really impressive school of blue-stripped snappers.



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HANIFARU THILA

After 25 minutes on the boat we jump in the blue slightly west of the island of Hanifaru. The current will push us slowly towards the two small thilas that lie a bit deeper into the channel between the island of Dharavandhoo and Hanifaru. A rough landscape facing the open ocean gives you the possibility to spot . . everything. A big napoleon, tuna or maybe even a whale shark might pass you as we drift from thila to thila, to end our dive on the top of the bigger thila.

MAADDOO THILA

Traveling south for 30 minutes will bring us on a long reef in the middle of a channel between two islands. Strong currents may occur here, which means a rough landscape, with overhangs and a wide variety of fish life. The length of the thila makes it possible to see only one side of it during a dive. The other side. . . next time!

MILAI DHOO FARU

A trip of 45 minutes on the boat is more than worth the effort of this varying dive spot. Starting on a wall we first have time to check the deeper caves with their orange ceilings of soft coral. As we move on we reach a corner after which you will see the white sand floor shallower and the reef structure clearly changing. Now a slope, you will notice that also the coral formation differs from the beginning and that other fish inhabit this place. Schools of snappers, pufferfish, but also eagle rays and manta ray can be seen here, depending on the season. A beautiful relaxed dive with a wide variety of fish!