

8 DAYS SOUTH MALE LOCAL ISLAND HOPPING

VALID TILL: 30 APRIL 2016

Coconut palm fringed islands, sparkling white beaches, tranquil lagoons, turquoise blue waters studded with coloured corals and an abundance of marine life all combine to form breathtaking beauty that is the Maldives and sets the backdrop to our adventure packages. The best way to experience this natural beauty and to gain an insight into the culture and tradition of Maldivian life is to travel to an inhabited island. This provides the opportunity to combine local island life with watersports and a little relaxation. Travel to local islands and stay in local guesthouses; visit family homes, mosques and boat yards, All combined with SCUBA diving and snorkeling, allowing discovery of the underwater beauty of the Maldives.

Hulhumale, North Male Atoll, is a suburban island just a 10-minute taxi ride from Male International Airport. This artificial island was reclaimed from the sea to offer alternative living space outside of Male and whilst not a 5* resort Hulhumale provides the ideal base for a budget dive holiday or as a start or finishing point to a liveaboard dive holiday.

There are plenty of local coffee shops, a handful of restaurants and a small local shopping area. The beach located along the east side of the island is an endless stretch of sand and provides the ideal location to swim, snorkel or just relax after a great days diving. The capital Male is just a 20 minute ferry journey away and for those who like to end their day with a beer the only hotel serving alcohol on a local island is a short bus journey close to the airport.

Maafushi is a very typical Maldivian local island, and since the introduction of local tourism Maafushi is proving a popular destination for those wishing to experience the Maldives without paying resort prices. Maafushi is located in South Male Atoll, which has been inhabited for a very long time and is a well-known fishing island. Only 90 minutes away from Male by ferry boat or 30 minutes by speedboat. There are two beaches on opposite sides of the island, one of which is a tourist bikini beach and you can see the ocean from almost any spot on the island. With a variety of local cafes and guesthouse restaurants, some situated on the harbour, Maafushi provides the ideal destination to discover the Maldives on a budget.

Guraidhoo also in South Male Atoll, it is a typical fishing island with about 2,300 inhabitants, with sandy roads and palm trees. A 30 minute walk around the island highlights locals going about their daily routine; carpenters at the local shipyard traditionally constructing typical local dhoni boats, locals drinking coffee in the many small coffee shops and children playing simple games in the street. Guraidhoo is a regular stopping point for safari boats and local shops have quickly adapted by offering all kind of souvenirs and a handful of local restaurants and coffee shops. Guraidhoo offers an insight in to the 'real Maldives'.

All of our guesthouse accommodation is handpicked to provide a balance of comfort, good service, local atmosphere and value for money. We have chosen a selection of locally operated guesthouses that provide comfortable clean rooms, friendly service and good food. All rooms have en-suite bathrooms, AC, ceiling fans and complimentary WiFi, whilst water, tea and coffee is always available. Most of the guesthouses are single or double story comprised of a maximum of 10 rooms. Some are set facing out to the ocean with a terrace or balcony. Others are built around a private garden or beach area, but in each you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Note: The Maldives is a Muslim country and therefore alcohol is not available on local islands. Subject to availability day/evening visits to resorts can be arranged. Bikinis are also not allowed to be worn on local island beaches; however most of our guesthouses offer private gardens or private beach areas for guests.

ITINERARY

DAY ONE:

Upon arrival at Male International Airport you will be greeted and transferred to your guesthouse on Hulhumale. Settle in after your flight before taking your first steps on the sands of this tropical urban paradise.

DAY TWO:

This morning your guide will accompany you on a tour of the capital city before transferring by local ferry to the local island of Guraidhoo, South Male. Visit the fish market and local market, Presidents Palace, Sultan Park and Friday Mosque. Stop for lunch at one of the many restaurants overlooking the water front before boarding the afternoon ferry. Upon arrival you will have time to settle in before either relaxing on the beach or on the terrace of your guesthouse to watch the sun go down, followed by dinner freshly cooked at the guesthouse.

DAY THREE:

Breakfast this morning is taken with a local family allowing you true access to Maldivian local life before exploring Guraidhoo. You will have the opportunity to learn about the local way of life including a visit to the Mosque, perhaps participate in a lesson at the school and at the boatyard learn how the common wooden boat known locally as a 'dhoni' is built. The afternoon is at your leisure before being taken to a deserted sandbank where you will be able to swim and snorkel before enjoying dinner served Robinson Crusoe style!

DAY FOUR:

Your day is spent on an uninhabited island where you have the opportunity to swim, snorkel or just lie back and relax before enjoying a BBQ lunch and then more of the same! Dinner this evening is spent with a local family. Just don't expect silver service as traditionally meals are eaten without the aid of a knife and fork!

DAY FIVE:

Transfer by local ferry to the local island of Maafushi before a half day snorkeling excursion takes you to some of the best reefs to discover this underwater world for yourself. Exotic colourful fish will be in abundance and if you lucky you may spot a turtle, reef shark or eagle ray.

Following an afternoon at your leisure, visit a local cafe to sample traditional 'hedika' - Maldivian savoury and sweet snacks served with black tea.

DAY SIX:

Today is yours to enjoy as you please. Relax on the beach or for those feeling energetic participate in the various optional watersport activities on offer. Optional diving trips can be organised for certified divers.

Just before sunset you will board a traditional Maldivian fishing dhoni in order to cruise the Indian Ocean and weather permitting enjoy a Maldivian sunset with the possibility to catch a glimpse of schools of dolphins. You can also try your hand at fishing Maldivian style. The Maldives is unique in that its history depends on tuna fishing and the locals are excellent fishermen using pole and line and are happy to share their line fishing skills with you. Your catch will be freshly prepared for you to enjoy as a BBQ.

DAY SEVEN:

Following breakfast served at the guest house today is a day of relaxation on the beach. Choose to visit a resort for the day or enjoy many of the water sport activities that are on offer. Dinner will be a selection of local dishes accompanied by traditional dancing and the beat of the cultural 'bodhu beru'.

DAY EIGHT:

Following breakfast you are transferred back to Male by the 07:30 public ferry and on to Male airport.

INCLUDED

- ✓ 7 Night Standard room 2* guesthouse accommodation based on double/twin share
- ✓ 5 Dinners including local dinner and cultural dinner
- ✓ 1 BBQ Lunch
- ✓ Airport and domestic transfer assistance
- ✓ Local Island Return transfer by public ferry
- ✓ Hedika Experience
- ✓ Sunset Cruise
- ✓ Evening Fishing trip
- ✓ Snorkeling Trip
- ✓ Uninhabited Island visit
- ✓ Sandbank visit
- ✓ Male Tour and Local island tour
- ✓ Services of local tour leader
- ✓ Local Tax

| 2016 RACK RATES | | DOUBLE SHARE PER PERSON | |
|-----------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| PACKAGE | Nights | Jan/Feb/March/Apr | May/June/July |
| | | 11th Jan - 30th Apr 2016 | 1st May - 31st July 2016 |
| SOUTH MALE HOP | 7 | 1399 | 1299 |

| 2016 RACK RATES | | SINGLE PER PERSON | | CHILD 2-12 Years |
|-----------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| PACKAGE | Nights | Jan/Feb/March/Apr | May/June/July | All Year |
| | | 11th Jan - 30th Apr 2016 | 1st May - 31st July 2016 | |
| SOUTH MALE HOP | 7 | 1699 | 1599 | 699 |

(SP:30/01/16)

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