

HANIFARU BAY, MALDIVES

MANTA FESTIVAL 2025

..more than just a trip

9 July – 14 July, 2025 | 5N/6D

Trip Fee

INR 129,000 per person

Domestic Flights (Maldives) | 8-9 Guided dives |
2 Trips to Hanifaru Bay |
Stay (5 N) | All Meals | Plenty of Extras

Eligibility – Open water certified SCUBA diver

No. of Spots – Upto 18 Divers

Spot Reservation fee – INR 20,000

Hanifaru Bay

A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

In the eastern edge of the northern Baa Atoll in Maldives lies **Hanifaru Bay, a place where hundreds of manta rays congregate** to gorge themselves in the plankton-rich waters. This is the largest known aggregation of reef manta rays in the world.

There are only handful of places in the world where visitors can get so close to so many manta rays, and snorkel alongside them as they barrel-roll and create 'fly' in formation through the dense plankton.

From May to November, there can be found more than a hundred mantas and several whale sharks. This happens due to the unique structure of the bay's outer reef — strong tides overcome the force of the monsoonal current, sucking plankton-rich water from the depths outside the atoll back into the shallow channels. These currents form a back eddy or reverse current, that traps and concentrates plankton inside Hanifaru Bay.

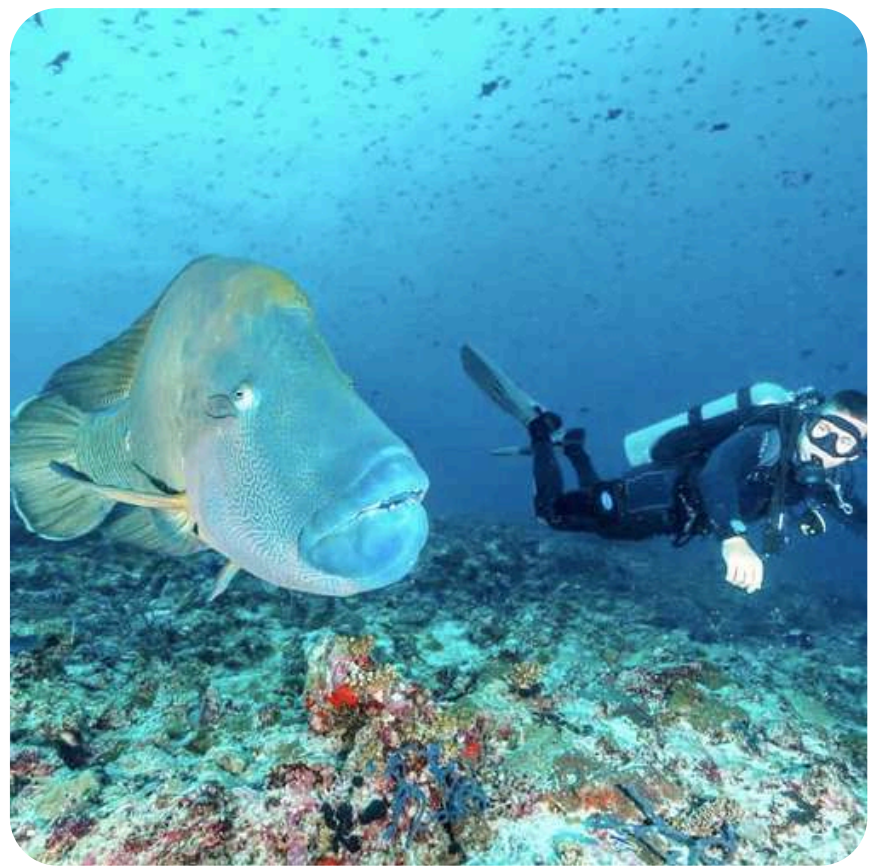
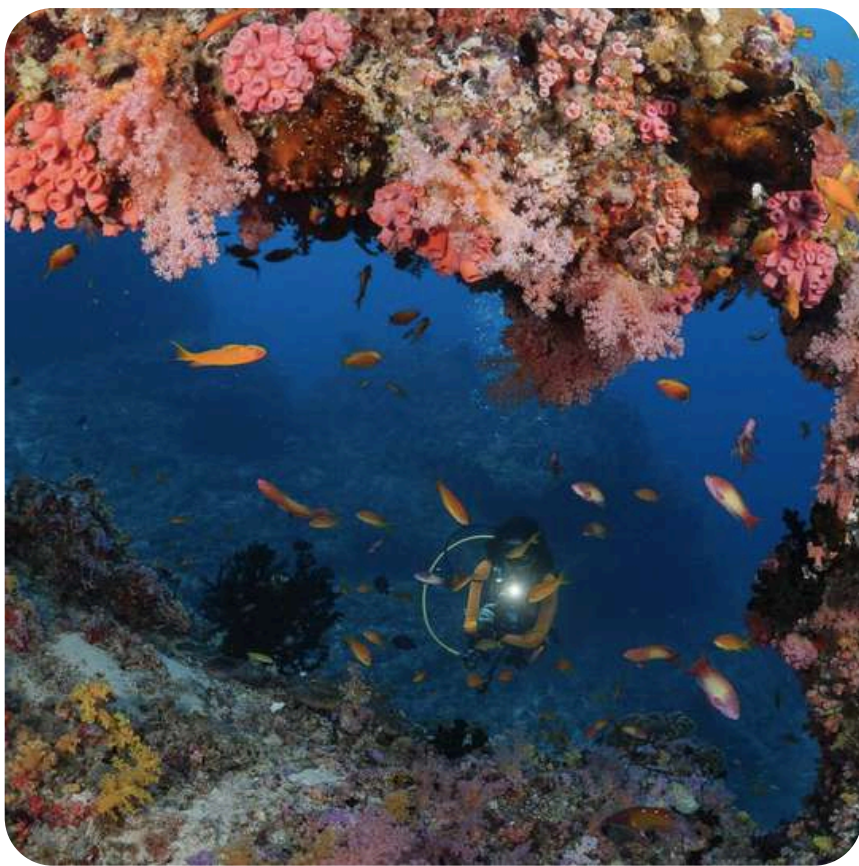


Swim with the World's Largest
Manta Ray Gathering

Marine Life Highlight

Diverse dive sites around Hanifaru Bay

Dive into the diverse mesmerising marine world around Hanifaru Bay, where each site, from the captivating coral formations of Dhonfanu Thila to the thrilling encounters with pelagic species at Nelivaru Haa, offers a unique glimpse of underwater treasures. Explore Dhigu Thila's dramatic caves, marvel at Kakani Thila's colorful soft corals, and witness sharks at Dhigali Haa's sanctuary with six or more grey reef sharks circling at any one time. Fish life is varied with bluefin jacks, fusilier, blue-striped and humpback snapper, batfish, schools of barracuda and eagle rays in the open water. Encounter lively ecosystems at Aidhoo Corner and Dharavandhoo Corner before heading to Hanifaru Corner's cleaning station, where captivating manta rays awaits!

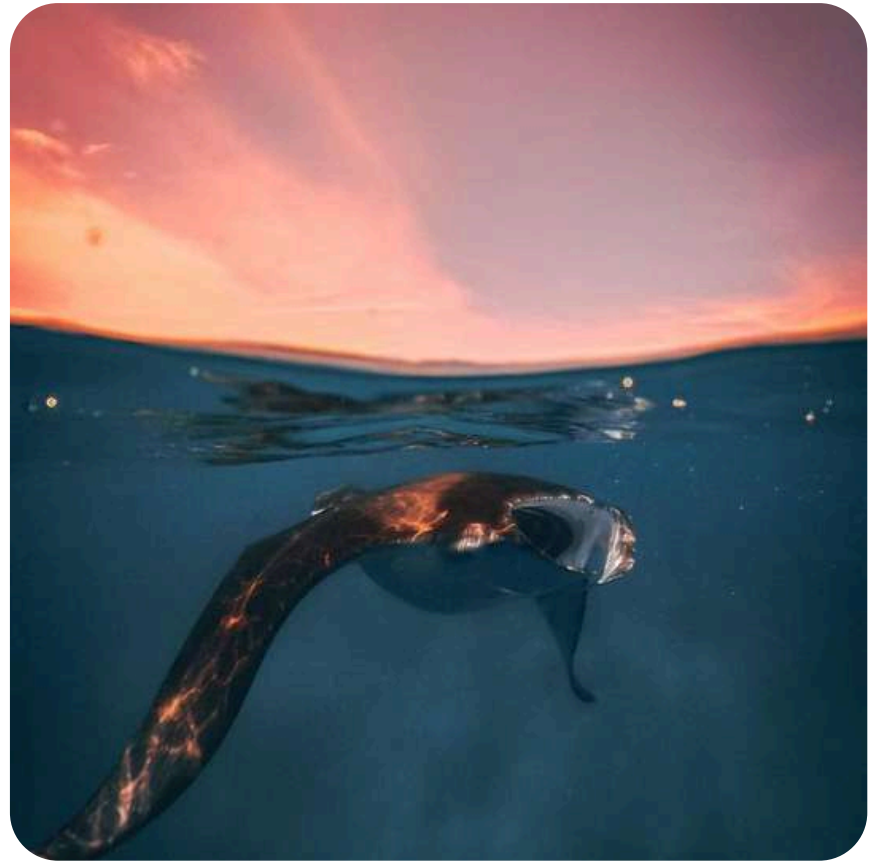


The Island

Dharavandhoo Island, Baa Atoll

At a Stone's throw distance from Hanifaru bay, Dharavandhoo Island is 25 minutes by domestic flight from Velana International Airport, Male. The beautiful Dharavandhoo lies in the heart of the only UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the Maldives, and is ideally located to explore the most iconic dive sites in Baa Atoll.

Whale sharks sometimes cruise into the bay for a plankton feast, adding to the magic of manta season (May-Nov). The surrounding reefs are alive with turtles, napoleons, fusiliers, batfish, and vibrant reef fish. Deeper dives may reveal grey reef sharks, eagle rays, or even mobulas. Visibility can vary, but the payoff is some of the Maldives' most dynamic and spectacular marine life action.

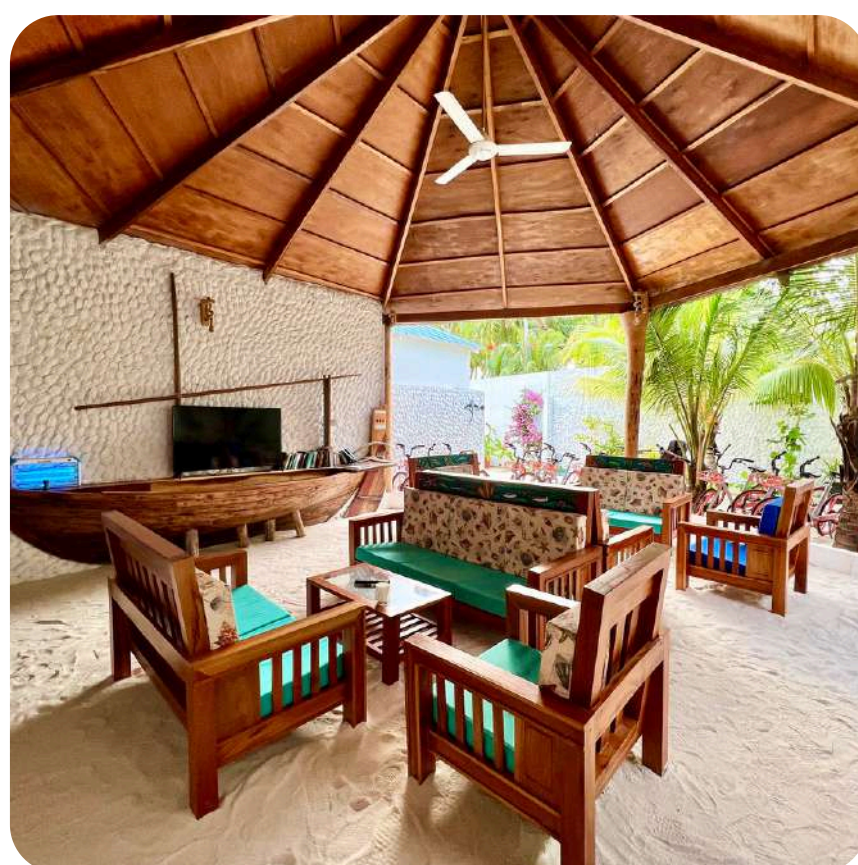


The Stay

Perfect blend of Local + Luxury

Born from love and dedication to nature, the sea and this country full of natural wonders and surprises, the guest house & their warm staff are waiting for you to make your precious holiday a memorable experience – far from the common.

- Located at a walking distance from the Airport
- Free Buggy service for pickup and drop
- Free Bikes to go cycling around the island
- 6 mins from the Bikini beach
- In-house restaurant with carefully curated menu
- Spacious common chill-out area
- Garden and terrace

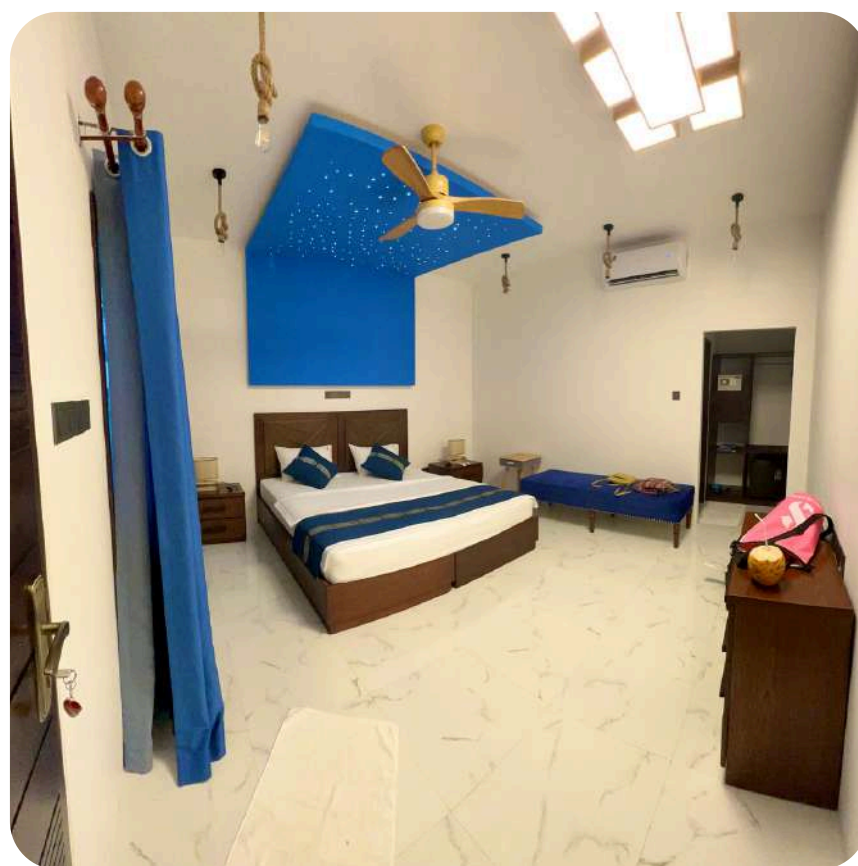
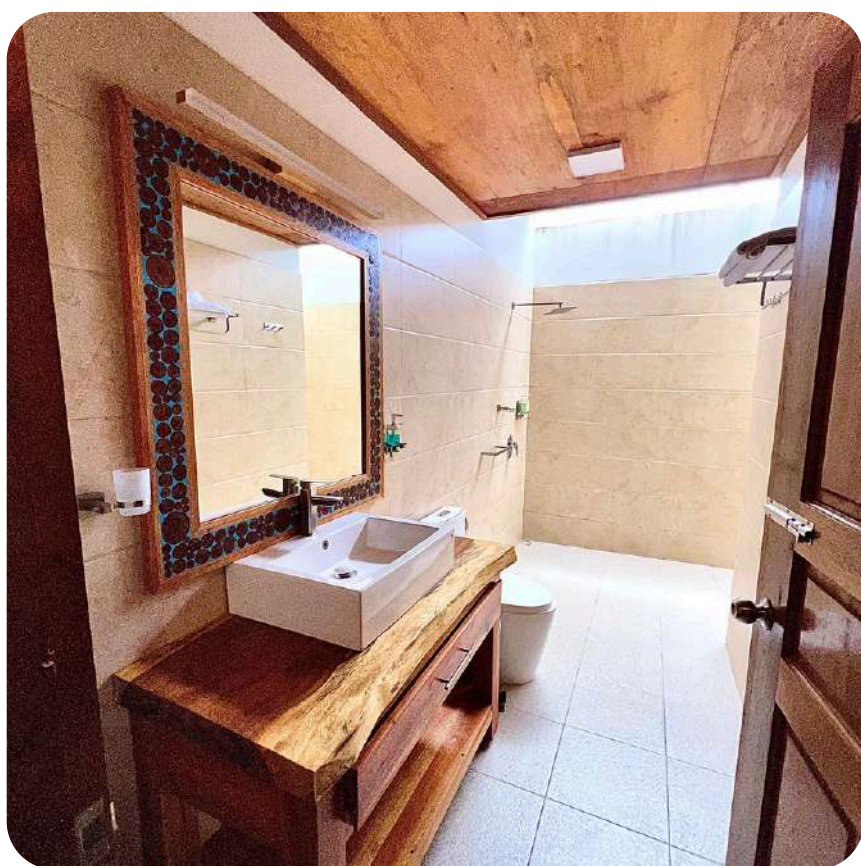
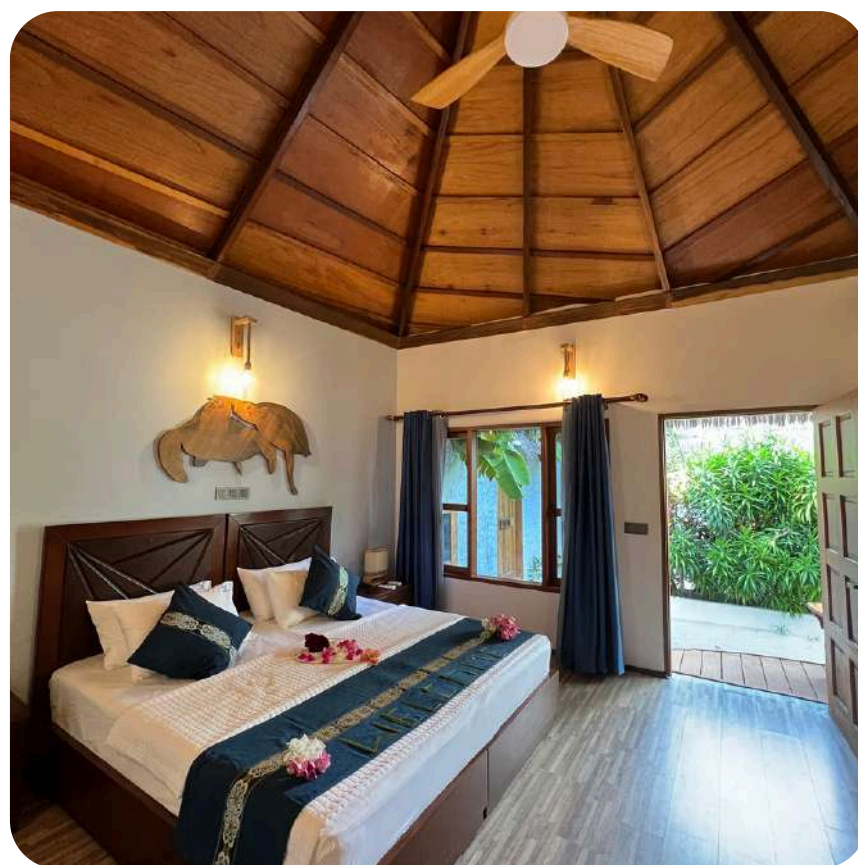


The Rooms

Bungalow-style Luxurious Rooms

Spacious rooms thoughtfully designed with divers in mind, featuring ample storage and a private patio where you can unwind and enjoy your own peaceful retreat.

- Bungalow-style rooms with elegant design
- Private outdoor patio for relaxation
- Large windows that fill the space with natural light
- Air-conditioned comfort
- Ensuite bathroom
- Complimentary Wi-Fi, tea, coffee, and drinking water
- Each room uniquely themed after a marine creature
- Outdoor seating area to unwind and enjoy the surroundings

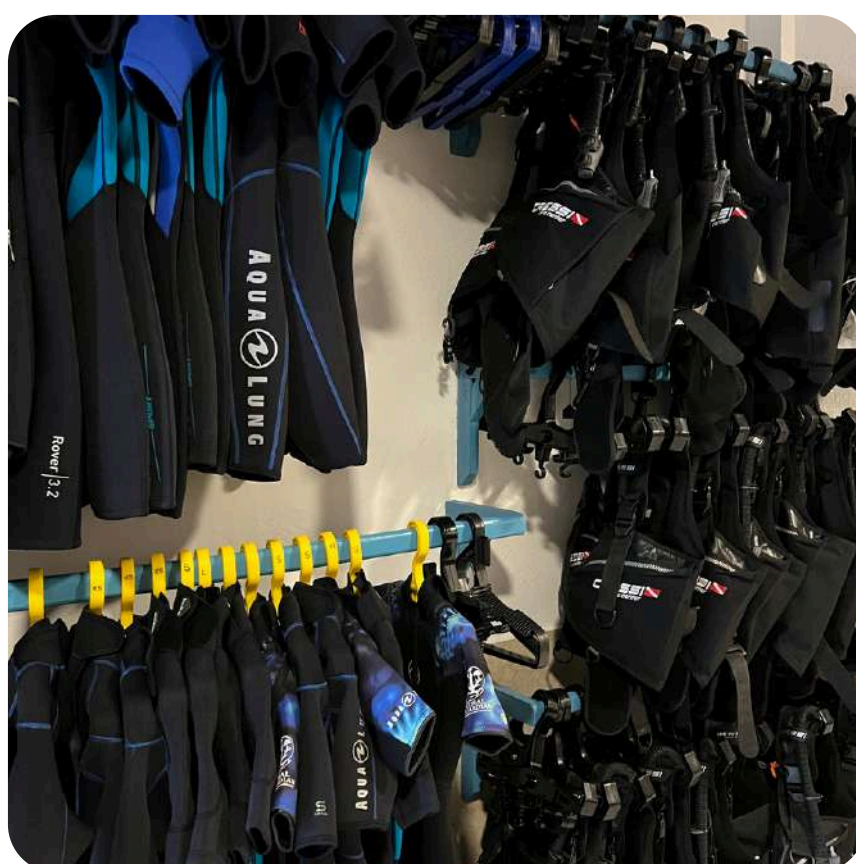


The Dive Centre

PADI 5 Star IDC Centre

Founded in the year 2016 with a team of local divers with decades of experience at your service, the dive centre provides incredible diving experience at some of the most stunning dive sites in Baa Atoll

- Expertise with Excellence: Highly trained and certified dive professionals
- Top-of-the-line Equipment: Best quality equipments, state of the art dive facility and well-maintained dive boat
- Environmental Stewardship: Actively supports marine conservation efforts & encourages responsible diving practices
- Safety Above All : Safety isn't just a priority; it's a way of life



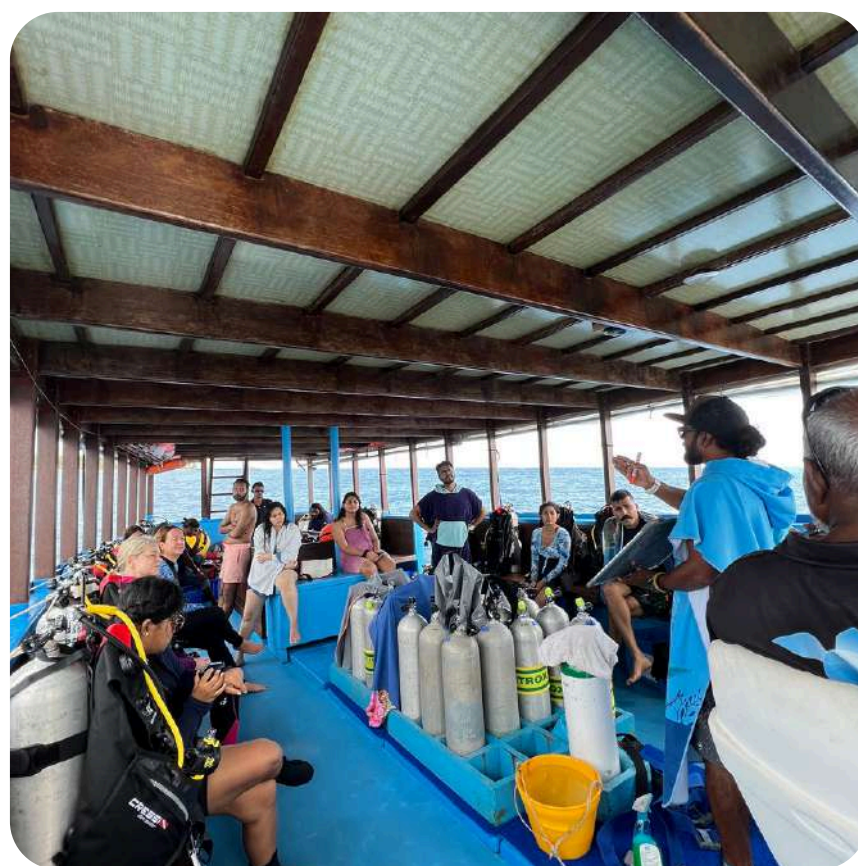
The Dive Boat

Eco - friendly Maldivian dive boat

Dhonis are made from locally sourced materials, using traditional boat-building techniques that have been passed down through generations, few advantages of this are:

- Lower carbon footprint compared to larger, modern vessels
- Environment friendly for eco-conscious travellers
- Close-knit & friendly atmosphere
- More authentic and cultural experience
- Excellent stability crucial for the comfort & safety of divers

Customised for diving, has a toilet, fresh water supply for shower after dives, sundeck and front sitting area. Equipped with radio (VHF), life jackets, first aid kits and emergency oxygen.



Inclusions

- Domestic Flights (Male - Dharavandhoo - Male)
- 8-9 Guided Dives
- 2 Snorkelling trips to Hanifaru Bay
- 5 Nights Stay (twin-sharing)
- All Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner), Tea/Coffee, Drinking water
- Plenty of Extras - Marine Conservation Talk and Workshops, Sunset Sandbank Trip, Ocean Merch, One Special Barbeque Dinner, Underwater videos (google drive)

Exclusions

- International flights
- Dive Equipment
- 5% GST, 5% TCS (refundable/reclaimable)
- Maldives Green tax (\$6 per night)
- Tips and Gratuity
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions

Payment Terms

- INR 20,000 to be paid for spot reservation at this link <https://rzp.io/rzp/mantafestival2025>
- Balance to be paid 30 Days before the departure date
- Bookings are Non-refundable & Non-transferrable

Flight Timings

- Male to Dharavandhoo - 10:15 AM, 12:30 PM, 5:15 PM
- Dharavandhoo to Male - 06:25 AM, 11:20 AM, 12:30 PM

Flight timings may change without notice. In such cases, travelers will be rebooked on the next available flight.

Other Inclusions

Not just a trip..It's a Festival

- Special Ocean Merch
- Marine Conservation Talk
- Maldivian Art Workshop
- Sunset Sandbank Visit
- Traditional Cooking Workshop
- Special Barbeque Dinner

Participants also get edited Underwater Photos/Videos



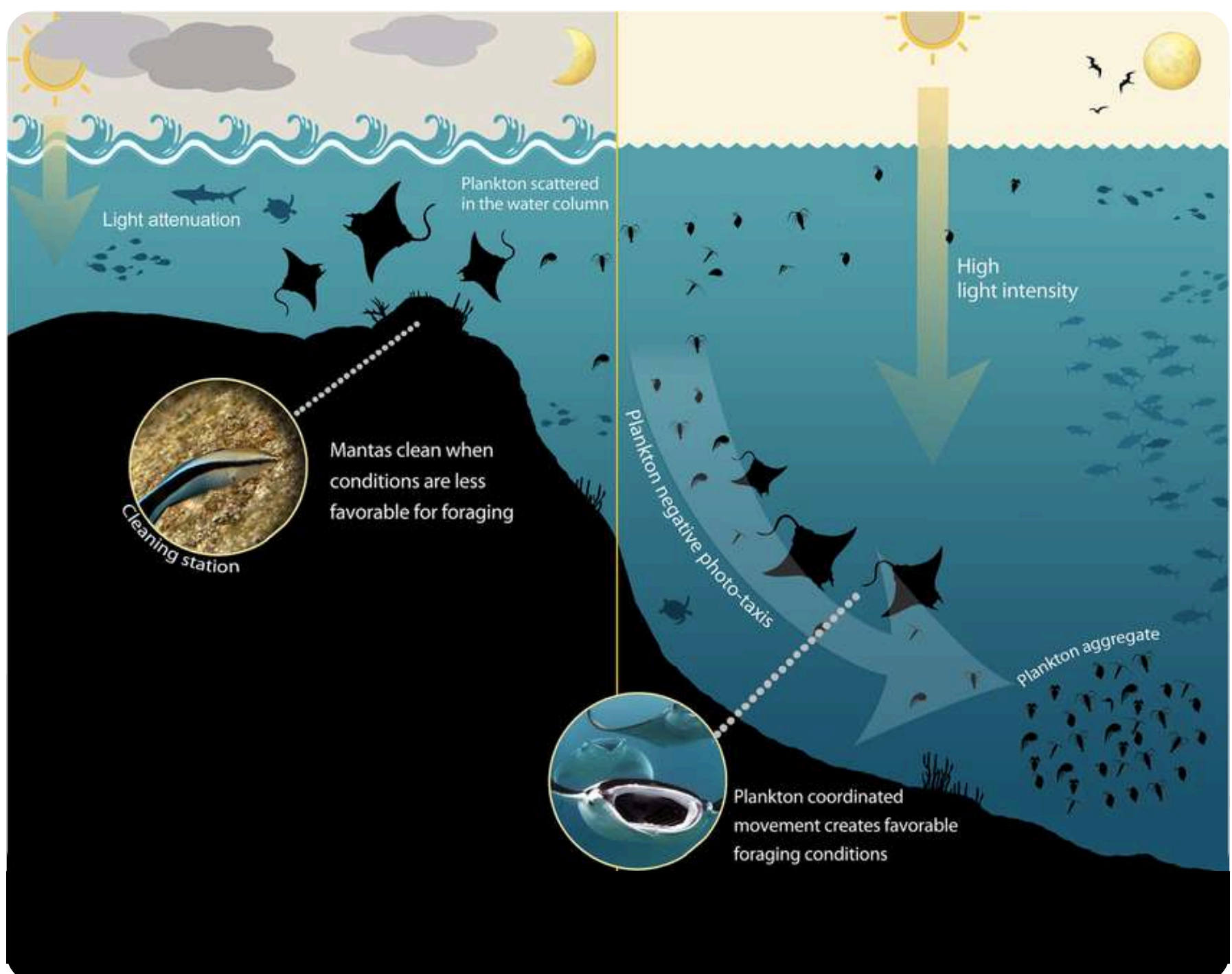
Best Time to Visit

How the Full Moon Influences Manta Aggregation in Hanifaru Bay

We've meticulously scheduled our trip to Hanifaru Bay from July 9 to July 14, 2025, aligning with the **full moon on July 10**. The full moon plays a key role in manta ray aggregation at Hanifaru Bay by creating strong tidal currents (called spring tides) that push plankton-rich water into the bay. With Hanifaru's unique funnel shape, this plankton gets trapped, attracting dozens—sometimes over a hundred—manta rays who gather to feed in their dramatic cyclone-feeding formation.

Backed by science: Studies (e.g. [Anderson et al., 2011](#)) show that manta aggregations strongly correlate with lunar cycles, especially full and new moons, when plankton blooms peak.

In short: Full moons supercharge the tides → the tides drive plankton → the plankton attracts mantas. That's why by planning the trip around these lunar windows gives us the best chance to witness this unforgettable natural event.



About Us

Mad Over Maldives

Mad Over Maldives are the leaders in organizing curated group trip in local islands of Maldives. Our crew and dive guides know these waters so well, which means we can show you the best dives available. With literally decades of experience with them, prepare to be dazzled with their knowledge and warm welcome. We're sure you will have the diving holiday of your dreams and, like so many of our loyal guests who think we are the best in Maldives, keep coming back for more.

www.madovermaldives.com

@madovermaldives

Oceaon

Welcome to Oceaon, where passion converges with purpose beneath the waves. Committed to the protection and conservation of the Earth's most invaluable resource—the Ocean—we aspire to inspire change by raising awareness and promoting education about the enchanting marine world.

At Oceaon, we meticulously plan and execute dive trips to captivating destinations globally. Our scuba diving courses accommodate all skill levels. Through our vertical, Mad Over Maldives, we've successfully organized over 100 trips to date.

www.oceaon.com

@oceaon_expeditions

Got a question?

Please write to us at bookings@oceaon.com

We are also available on WhatsApp [+918297670739](https://wa.me/918297670739)

What makes us Excellent?



Safety First

Prioritizing your well-being, we adhere to the highest safety standards, ensuring a secure and worry-free diving experience.



Experienced Team

Dive into the depths with confidence, guided by our team of seasoned professionals who bring years of expertise and a passion for marine exploration.



Top Accommodation

Our carefully selected accommodations offer a perfect blend of luxury and relaxation.



Attention to Detail

From itinerary planning to personalized services, we pride ourselves on the little things that make a big difference, ensuring your journey is seamless and memorable.

Crafted by Experts

Explore truly unique destinations and witness world's most remarkable marine life

2,200+

Happy Travelers

150+

Trips done

Terms & Conditions

- Bookings are non-refundable and non-transferable.
- Flight timings for domestic flights are subject to change. In such a case, we will try to book you on the next available flight. In the unlikely event of flight cancellation with no viable alternative options, any costs incurred to make necessary arrangements will be the responsibility of the travelers.
- Marine life is wild and unpredictable. We do not promise or guarantee any specific wildlife sightings.
- In the event that a dive is cancelled for any reason, we will try our best to reschedule it for the next available day. However, if rescheduling is not possible, no refund will be provided.
- Trips to Hanifaru Bay will be organized according to ranger reports on the presence of Manta Rays.
- No refunds will be provided for any inclusions that are not availed by the travelers.
- Scuba diving is prohibited in Hanifaru Bay.
- We do not guarantee same-gender rooming arrangements.
- We under no circumstances whatsoever will be liable to the travellers for: Any death, personal injury, sickness, accidents, loss, delay, discomfort, increased expenses, consequential loss and /or damage or theft caused during the trip.
- We shall not be held liable for any claims arising from missed international and domestic flights, due to delay/cancellation or any other factors beyond our control.
- We reserve the rights to post pictures, videos, testimonials from the trip on our social media and website.

TCS Rules

Tax collection at source, a mandatory advance tax for any foreign travel. If your cumulative payment(s) from April 1, 2025 for leisure foreign travel has crossed 7 lacs, a 20% TCS will be applicable on top of the trip fee. Otherwise, **only 5% TCS** will be charged (TCS is 100% Refundable/Reclaimable). TCS Refund can be claimed against the tax payable while filing ITR, it is shown in Form 26AS as tax credit.

Gallery

Some Glimpses of previous years



MANTA FESTIVAL 2025

For all your attention

THANK YOU

We look forward to hosting you on this very special journey and exploring the Maldives together.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT HERE

Got a question?

Please write to us at bookings@oceaon.com

WhatsApp : +918297670739

Call : +91 8447367821 (Nishi) +91 7678035865 (Tisha)



[Mad Over Maldives](https://www.madovermaldives.com) www.madovermaldives.com



[oceaon expeditions](https://www.oceaon.com) www.oceaon.com