

Welcome to the Maldives and to the Maldives Blue Force One!

Thank you for trusting Blue Force Fleet with organizing your diving vacation. We hope you enjoy an excellent cruise, and to ensure this, the entire Maldives Blue Force One team is at your disposal for anything you need.

Please read this document carefully, as it will help you resolve some of the possible questions you may have on board.

Arrival at Maldives Blue Force One









Once on the boat and depending on the arrival time of all passengers, the cruise director will distribute the cabins and give a general presentation of the boat, the crew, safety rules, on-board services, meal schedules, cohabitation rules, and daily details, as well as the collection of necessary documentation and payment of fees.

Previously reserved rental diving equipment will be delivered once the documentation and payments have been completed.











Included and Not Included

It is important to remember what is included and not included in the cruise price, summarized below:

Included in the cruise price:

-  7 nights stay (Saturday to Saturday) aboard the Maldives Blue Force One in the chosen cabin type in shared double accommodation.
-  3 daily meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) plus snacks like cookies, cakes, fruit, etc.
-  Cold and hot water, filter coffee, and tea.
-  18 dives during the week (weather, itinerary, and flight schedules permitting).
-  Diving guides.
-  S80 bottle with INT/DIN valves, air, and weights.
-  Airport-boat-airport transfers.
-  Basic travel, diving, and cancellation insurance (up to €1,500). (Check insurance conditions at www.blueforcefleet.com).

Not included in the cruise price:

-  Government taxes: \$185 USD (paid on board) per person per week.
-  Green Tax: \$42 USD (paid on board) per person per week.
-  Service fees: \$150 USD per person per week.
-  Nitrox: \$80 USD per week.
-  Soft drinks, alcoholic beverages on board, and espresso coffee.
-  Optional rental of diving equipment, S100 bottle, and softnolime.
-  Optional hotel before and/or after the cruise.
-  Internet.
-  Tips.
-  Possible fuel and/or local tax supplements if there is a significant increase.

The indicated fees are paid on board on the day of arrival. The amount is in USD (US dollars).

It is possible to pay in USD or Euros (€) either in cash or by credit card (VISA or MASTERCARD with a 4% surcharge and AMEX with a 5% surcharge).

On-board prices and fee amounts are subject to change without prior notice.

Local Time in the Maldives

The time zone in the Maldives is GMT+5.

Clothing on Board / On Land

The clothing on board the Maldives Blue Force One is typical for a warm climate: comfortable, informal, and light clothing such as shorts, swimsuits, t-shirts, polos, dresses, and sarongs.

On the boat, we are always barefoot, so no shoes or flip-flops are worn.




The dining room and cabins are considered "dry areas," so it is forbidden to enter and sit around with any wet clothing (like a wet swimsuit or wetsuit).

Please do not bring any food or drink into the interior lounge.

Topless sunbathing is not appropriate on board.

During possible visits to islands with local populations, keep in mind that we are in a Muslim country, so we advise women to wear shorts/long skirts below the knee and avoid low-cut blouses. Men should wear pants (shorts are also possible) and at least a t-shirt.

Minimum and Mandatory Diving Equipment

-  Regulator, octopus, and pressure gauge.
-  Dive computer.
-  BCD.
-  Mask, snorkel, and fins.
-  Wetsuit (water temperature between 28 and 30°C).
-  Torch/light.
-  Signal buoy with reel (available on board if you don't have one).
-  Current hook (available on board if you don't have one).

The listed diving equipment is the minimum required for diving. You can bring your own equipment (which we recommend) or rent it on board, including buoys and torches.

The rental diving equipment on board is varied, of good quality, and usually sufficient to meet normal needs, but it is limited, so to ensure its availability, it is essential to have reserved it at least 15 days before arrival on the boat.

If the diving equipment has not been reserved in advance or is requested once on board, it may not be available, or we may have to rent it externally, which may result in prices higher than those published for the equipment available on board.

Meals

Meals and dinners on board the Maldives Blue Force One are buffet-style and vary daily. They usually consist of vegetables, chicken, beef, fish, seafood, pasta, rice, soups, fruits, and various desserts.

Breakfasts are buffet-style, including beef bacon, sausages, sweets, sliced bread and whole grain, cereals, milk, yogurts, juices, and freshly made eggs to each guest's liking (omelets, scrambled, fried...).

Cold and hot water, filter coffee, and tea are available free of charge 24 hours a day.

If you need special meals or have any food intolerance issues, you must notify us when making your reservation. We will try to accommodate your request or need as much as possible, but depending on your intolerance or serious dietary issue, you should consider bringing your own food, as we cannot guarantee it.

Pork and pork-derived products are prohibited in the Maldives.

Water and Soft Drinks

The boat has hot and cold potable water dispensers on the main deck (main deck restaurant area and bar on the upper deck). There is also one on the dhoni, although its use is limited due to its small capacity.

Of course, there are cups at your disposal, but we try to avoid the use of plastic and detergents, so we will give you a bottle on the first day of the cruise to refill and use whenever you need. The Environment and Blue Force will thank you.

Although tap and shower water is drinkable, we recommend not drinking it.

If you want to have soft drinks (Coca Cola, Fanta, Sprite, Tonic...), cocktails, juices... please request them at the on-board bar. They will be noted on an individual account of services offered on board and billed at the end of the week.

Coffee and Tea

Filter coffee and tea are available free of charge 24 hours a day on the dining room counter.

There is also optional espresso coffee available. If you want this type of coffee, please request it from the waiter. It will be noted on your individual account of services offered on board and billed at the end of the week.

Alcoholic Beverages

It is strictly prohibited to bring alcohol into the Maldives. If you bring it and it is detected at the airport, it will be confiscated until your departure from the country.

If there is any special drink (wine, liquor, soft drink, beer...) you would like to consume during your days on board, and you notify us at least 2 weeks in advance, we will try to obtain it for you. Please note that the availability of alcoholic beverages in the Maldives is scarce, limited, and restricted, so it may happen that some brands or types of drink are not available (even if reserved in advance).

We have a wide selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for exclusive consumption on board. Check our menu and prices at this link:

https://www.blueforcefleet.com/wp-content/uploads/drinks_price_list_BF1_for_QR.pdf

Towels and Sheets

Each cabin has two towels per person (one body towel and one smaller towel) that are changed every two days. Our staff will provide clean beach towels daily, which you can use on the diving dhoni, on the solarium, and in the jacuzzi.

We love preserving the environment by trying not to waste energy or potable water, as well as not using more detergent than necessary. We appreciate your collaboration with us and with the health of the sea by helping us not to wash sheets and towels unnecessarily.

Bathrooms

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** not to throw any solid waste, not even toilet paper, into the toilets and sinks. Use the bin located next to the toilet; the crew will empty it daily.

Electricity

The official electrical system in the Maldives is 220v 50Hz. The usual plugs are three-pin type G. Upon arrival on board, an adapter will be provided per person and cabin, which must be returned on the last day of the cruise.

For safety and to avoid possible fires, please do not leave batteries charging in your cabin. There is a special charging area in the lounge for charging your computer, tablet, mobile phone, and batteries.

Cabins

If you notice that something in the cabin is not working properly, please let us know as soon as possible, and we will try to fix it. We have two experienced mechanics on board, and we will do everything possible to solve any problem, but the extreme difficulty of finding technical assistance and spare parts in the Maldives means that a simple problem

in another country can be very difficult to solve here. In such a situation, we apologize in advance and appreciate your understanding.



Currency and Payments

The official currency in the Republic of Maldives is the Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR), also known as the Rufiyaa.

If you shop at the airport and even in some local shops, it is possible to pay in cash in Rufiyaas and dollars, and in some places also in euros (at their exchange rate), although it is very likely that change will only be given in Rufiyaas or dollars.

On board the MALDIVES BLUE FORCE ONE, all prices are indicated in USD (US dollars).

Payments on board, such as fees, rentals, drinks, on-board shop, etc., can be made in:

-  Cash in USD and Euros (€) (only clean, undamaged euro and dollar bills will be accepted. US dollar bills must be from the 2006 series onwards).
-  Credit card (VISA and MASTERCARD with a 4% surcharge and AMEX with a 5% surcharge).

Safety in the Cabins

It is not usually necessary, but as a precaution, each cabin has a small safe for its occupants. If you need help operating it, just let us know.

It is important to leave the safe open on the day of departure. It is each passenger's responsibility to safeguard their valuables. If the cabin safe is not sufficient, please let us know, and we will try to store your items securely in a larger safe kept by the captain. Blue Force Fleet is not responsible for any loss, theft, or damage to materials on board.

It is possible that cabin doors may be temporarily left open for ventilation, especially during cleaning.

Photography & Video

There is space available on the boat and the dhoni for underwater cameras, as well as a freshwater tank for rinsing them.

It is very common for photos and videos to be taken during the week, both above and underwater, and some of them are published on social networks like Facebook and Instagram. If you have any concerns about appearing in any of them, please let us know.

There is a PC available to passengers on the boat where you can download, view, share, and copy photos and videos.

Communications on Board

There is no WIFI internet on the boat.

In the Maldives, there is a wide mobile phone system with coverage in 95% of the country, but in some areas we will navigate, like crossing from one atoll to another, the internet quality and intensity may be very low or non-existent.

If you did not buy a SIM card at the airport and want one, you can try to purchase an e-SIM card through the following link: www.ooredoo.mv/webapps/shop/public/marketing/two?plan=4&type=esim

On-Board Shop

We have a shop on the boat where you can buy souvenirs from the boat and the Maldives, such as t-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, as well as some diving equipment like masks, signal buoys, current hooks, Nautilus GPS, sunscreen, anti-fog liquid, memory cards, etc., which you can also purchase if you wish.

Check the usual items for sale in our on-board shop at the following link:

https://www.blueforcefleet.com/wp-content/uploads/Shop_ONBOARD_BLUE_FORCE_ONE.pdf

On-Board Activities

During the cruise, an intense diving program is developed for certified divers.

For non-divers, complementary activities such as trips to islets, sandbanks, or deserted beaches, as well as snorkeling, fishing, kayaking, and paddle SUP (available on board for free), will be planned as much as the route and weather permit.

If logistics, route, and weather allow a BBQ dinner or meal on an island is usually organized.

Service Fees and Tips

As a government regulation in all tourist establishments in the Maldives, it is mandatory to charge a service fee for the services provided. In the case of the Maldives Blue Force One, this is also the case, with the service fee being an important part of the crew and guides' salary. The usual tip expected after good service is between 10% and 20% of the cruise amount.

At Blue Force, we have established the minimum expected service fee, but the maximum is left to your discretion. This minimum fee is paid along with the rest of the fees on the day of arrival on board. At the end of the cruise, an empty envelope will be provided in case you want to add to this minimum service fee. The service fees will be distributed among all crew members.

Your generosity will be greatly appreciated by the crew, who will work hard throughout the week to make your stay on the Maldives Blue Force One absolutely satisfying.

Snorkeling and Diving Fees

In certain special dive sites related to sharks like Fuvahmulah or Gan or snorkeling sites like the UNESCO reserve of Hanifaru, a local fee is usually required to optionally conduct the activity.

Diving with Maldives Blue Force

During your week aboard the Maldives Blue Force One, under normal conditions, 18 dives are planned.

Each dive will have a pre-dive briefing by the cruise director. You will be informed about the diving site's conditions, marine life, precautions, safety rules, communication, and ecological behavior during the dive, as well as other specific details of each diving site.

Diving will be conducted from our 23-meter auxiliary boat, the dhoni, where the air compressors, NITROX membrane, and diving equipment are located. The diving equipment will remain on the dhoni throughout the week.

The dhoni is completely independent of the boat, so thanks to its maneuverability, it can access dive sites more easily, and the pickup of divers is more comfortable.

At the end of each dive, the mandatory safety stop will be performed before surfacing and duly signaled by the buoy.

Let us remind you that it is mandatory for each diver to carry a decompression and signaling buoy, a diving computer, and a current hook.

The first dive of the cruise (check dive) will be mainly for equipment checks, weight adjustment, and buoyancy control, as well as group organization for the week. The rest of the dives of the cruise will be planned at selected dive sites with the intention of spotting and encountering the target species of the route underwater.

For night dives, it is mandatory to have at least one light or torch per person. If you do not have any of these items in your diving equipment, you can rent them on board.

Tanks are refilled after each dive with air or NITROX (as requested in advance). The oxygen proportion of the tanks should be checked by each diver before each dive.

It is recommended to use NITROX for all dives of the week in the Maldives. If you do not have the certification to dive with NITROX, it is possible to take the corresponding course on board.

The tanks normally used are the classic S80 aluminum ones with INT/DIN valves. It is possible to rent optional S100 tanks with greater capacity (we only guarantee their availability if reserved in advance).

Courses Available on Board

The minimum mandatory level to dive on the cruise is Open Water Diver or similar. For greater safety and enjoyment of the dives conducted during the cruise, we recommend the Advanced Open Water level or similar and about 50 certified dives, as well as the use of NITROX for all dives.

If you do not have the appropriate certification, Advanced and NITROX Diver courses are offered on board.

The prices of the courses and certification are available on page 24 of the brochure, which you can download at the following link: https://www.blueforcefleet.com/wp-content/uploads/Shop_ONBOARD_BLUE_FORCE_ONE.pdf

Age Restrictions for Diving

Most international teaching organizations consider that the minimum age to certify a diver is 12 years. In the Maldives and on the Maldives Blue Force One, the minimum recommended age for diving is 15 years.

All minors who wish to dive must have the appropriate certification and always be accompanied by one of their parents or a responsible guardian.

On-Board Safety








The safety of our passengers/divers on board is a priority. We understand that the best safety measure is common sense, prevention, and following the rules indicated by our expert guide team.









Each of our guides has the Nautilus Lifeline diver-boat positioning and communication system. If you want one exclusively for yourself, you can buy one on board.

We have complete safety equipment on board, including an oxygen system with a 50-liter tank, an automatic defibrillator, and a comprehensive first aid kit. If you need anything, please let us know.

Diving Safety Standards

For your diving safety, it is essential to comply with the following requirements:

-  All divers must hold an internationally recognized diving certification. It is essential to present the certification to the diving staff.
-  For safety and greater enjoyment of the dives, we recommend having the Advanced Open Water certification or similar and 50 certified dives.
-  For Southern Hemisphere cruises, this recommendation becomes mandatory, so it is essential to dive with NITROX, have an Advanced Open Water certification or similar, and at least 100 certified dives.
-  All divers must have the basic equipment indicated, whether their own or rented on board (remember the need to have reserved it in advance of arrival on the boat).
-  Divers with their own equipment are asked to ensure it is in optimal maintenance conditions for diving. For your safety and that of your dive buddies, if you detect any anomaly, please let us know as soon as possible.
-  All divers must be in optimal health conditions for diving. At the end of this document, you will find a medical statement that you must complete. If you answer affirmatively to any of the questions in the medical statement provided upon arrival on board, you will need to present an official medical certificate. If you suffer from any medical condition or are taking any medication, you must present a specific diving medical certificate certifying the possibility of conducting hyperbaric activities safely.
-  It is mandatory for each diver to attend the briefing conducted by the staff before each dive.

-  Due to the special characteristics of the Dhoni (support boat for dives), all divers must be self-sufficient to board the boat after each dive.
-  Due to local diving regulations, solo and decompression diving is not allowed.
-  All divers must enter and exit the water during dives as instructed by the diving staff.
-  All divers must carry their own dive computer, signaling buoy, and current hook for all dives and use at least one light/torch during night dives.
-  Diving under stress, anxiety, intoxication, drug or similar substance ingestion, after consuming alcohol, or any situation that may negatively affect the physical or mental state of the diver is not allowed.
-  To dive in the Maldives, it is mandatory to have health insurance that covers this activity.
-  If a diver does not have the appropriate certification for the type of dives to be conducted or the diving guide responsible for accompanying the divers considers that, for any reason, a client is not fit to conduct a dive, they have the authority to prevent the client from conducting that dive. Blue Force does not commit to any deduction for this.
-  Due to sea conditions, weather conditions, or other factors, the boat/cruise staff reserves the right to change the itinerary in whole or in part without prior notice. No refund will be made for these circumstances.

Disembarkation from Maldives Blue Force One

Disembarkation from Maldives Blue Force One will be at 7:00 AM on Saturday at Male airport.

As a rule, international airline check-in counters at Male airport open three hours before the flight's start time. If you have a long wait until your flight departure, we recommend the Hulhule Island Hotel. You can book a room through their reservation system on their website, or the most common option is the "Day Hotel." This modality offers several packages that do not include a room but do include the use of common areas like the pool, changing rooms, luggage storage, lunch or dinner, WIFI, boat transfers to Male (15 min), microbus transfer to the airport (5 min), and prices range from \$70 to \$200 plus taxes depending on the services included in the chosen package. It is not necessary to book in advance, and payment is made directly at the hotel.

On Hulhumale Island, where the airport is located, it is possible to stay in a hotel for a medium price of approximately \$50 to \$100 and spend the day. On the island, the beach is governed by local laws that prohibit women from not being decently dressed or wearing swimwear.

Additionally, or as a complement to the day hotel, you can visit Male. Male airport has a baggage storage service for a cost of approximately \$5 per suitcase. The airport and Male are connected by taxi and a small local ferry that departs approximately every 15 minutes.

For Southern Hemisphere routes, disembarkation will be early in the morning (maximum 9 am) on the island and airport corresponding to each week (Kooddoo or Gan) with enough time to take the domestic flight to Male.

We Are at Your Disposal

Please do not hesitate to ask us any questions or information you need to have an excellent cruise aboard the Maldives Blue Force One. We are at your disposal.

Comments and Suggestions

Help us improve, please. For this, we need your cooperation, and we would greatly appreciate your comments and suggestions through our system by entering here <https://www.blueforcefleet.com/feedback/>

To encourage you and thank you for your help, at the end of each season, we will draw a FREE cruise on any of the Blue Force Fleet boats among all the received questionnaires to enjoy whenever you want.
