



EXPLORE BAA & RAA ATOLL OF MALDIVES

Yasawa Princess will be operated in Baa and Raa Atoll from mid June to November. The main goal of this itinerary is to explore the first area of the Maldives to be declared as a biosphere reserve for its globally significant biodiversity including significant concentrations of whale sharks and manta rays and also a unique diversity of benthic fauna, including rare pink hydrozoan corals (*Distichopora nitida*), Bryozoans (*Bugula*) and sea slugs (*Tambja olivaria*) that are only recorded from Baa atoll. Baa has a particularly high density of the ring-shaped reef forms called faroes, a peculiar reef structure unique to the Maldives, as well as other unique reef forms, and to offer our loyal repeat customers a new experience in the Maldives. 15-day itinerary available. Please contact us for more details.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 (MONDAY) Anchorage: Dharavandhoo Region

- 1\ Meet & Greet at Ibrahim Nasir International Airport
- 2\ Our Representative at the Airport will assist guests to check-in for the domestic flights to Baa Atoll Dharavandhoo
- 3\ Our Guest Relations Officer will be at the Domestic Arrival Gate to arrange transportation to Yasawa Princess via Dhoni.
- 4\ Welcome Meeting including, Safety, Itinerary and Crew Introduction will be held at 1900Hrs in the evening.

DAY 2 (TUESDAY) Hanifaru Hura

Hanifaru Hura, A small uninhabited island located on the



Eastern edge of Baa Atoll. The island, the surrounding reef extending to 200m was declared a protected area.

Special Features

High biodiversity marine region possessing a unique dynamic water circulation system that during western monsoons, aggregated for feeding (whale sharks and manta rays) and mating (manta rays) in high numbers of endangered mega fauna animals (whale sharks and manta rays). The site is biologically and biodiversity significant for Baa Atoll, Maldives and globally. Nesting sites for green and hawksbill turtle. Occasional roosting site for black-naped tern, lesser noddies and brown noddies.

Morning and Afternoon will be spend on this island, A special Snorkeling session will be conducted inside Hanifaru Bay, if there have been recent sightings of Manta Rays and Whale Sharks. If there have been Sightings in Close Proximity, Snorkelers are welcome to join the Dive Dhoni for a snorkeling session on the dive sites.

Note: Hanifaru Island and Reef is a regulated area with Patrol Boats and special permits are needed.

Dive Sites:

Dharavandhoo Thila

This beautiful coral formation is situated on the south side of Dharavandhoo Island. The top of the reef has a depth of 5 meters. The reef has a sandy slope on one side while big coral blocks, beautiful overhangs and a steep wall connect the other

side of the Thila to the main reef of Dharavandhoo. This steep coral wall offers shelter to many kinds of different fish.

The sandy side provides a good opportunity to end the dive in the shallow part and see Manta rays during Manta season.

Dhonfaru Thila

Consists of a pinnacle which comes to a point and faces into the prevailing current. Starting depth of around 7 meters and has a diameter of 50 meters. This dive site offers overhangs swim troughs with soft corals and abundance of fish life. Especially during the North West monsoon Manta rays can be spotted on this site and with stronger incoming currents eagle rays and sharks can be spotted.

DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY) Mendhoo

Mendhoo, uninhabited island within the protected area of mendhoo region. Morning and Afternoon will be spend on the Island. Relax on the beach, or Snorkel around the surrounding Reef.

Mendhoo Region was declared protected on 5 June 2011 and the protected area of coverage includes the island of Nibiligaa Island and reef, Mendhoobinmathee Faru and Mendhoo Island and reef and Kaburu Faru.

Special Features

- Very high biodiversity and standing population of hard and soft



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corals and associated marine invertebrates and vertebrates.

- Nesting sites for green and hawksbill turtles.
- Nibiligaa is a key bird roosting and nesting site for Lesser Noddies and Brown Noddies as well as the Black-Naped Tern, Greater Crested Tern.

Dive Sites:

Nelivaru Haa

Nelivaru Haa is a unique underwater mountain starting at a depth of 14 meters. This coral formation sits on a sandy bottom at a depth of around 30 meters. Canyons open in a star-like formation from the middle of this structure and overhangs surround the reef. Many hard and soft corals of different colours make their homes here. As we swim around this reef and through the canyons and looking in the overhangs, we may see Stingrays, big Groupers, Bat fish or a school of Sweet Lips. During Manta season, all of Nelivaru Haa becomes a cleaning station. It is a very good place to see them up close and personal while they are being groomed.

Dhigali Haa

Is a popular Maldives dive site for scuba enthusiasts looking for a varied balance of spectacular marine life and coral formations.

In the past this dive site used to be busy location for shark hunters, and therefore is now a protected marine area. It remains a good location for sharks and other fish; it is not uncommon to find up to 6 grey reef sharks cruising in the depths at any given time.

There is also an abundance of fish in Dhigali Haa - you will find all kinds of Maldives marine life, such as: blue-fin jacks, fusilier, blue-striped and humpback snapper, batfish, barracudas, eagle rays, lionfish, angelfish, basslets, trumpet fish, black coral bushes, oyster clams, yellow sea fans, sponges, soft corals, trevally and more.

DAY 4 (THURSDAY) Nibiligaa

Nibiligaa, a tiny island within Mendhoo Protected Region, A full Day will be spent on the Island. Morning and Afternoon Snorkeling Sessions around the Surrounding Coral Garden.

Lunch will be served on the Island.

Dive Sites:

Anga Thila

This is a series of Thilas lying between Anga Faru and Dhigu Thila. The five rough blocks rising from the bottom of the atoll are covered with many different soft and hard corals. Divers drift in the mild current while hopping from one Thila to the next.

Each Thila offers many overhangs and holes which are the perfect habitat for the variety of fish life, which occurs around these formations.

DAY 5 (FRIDAY) Hulhudhoo



Morning will be spent on Hulhudhoo, Uninhabited Island Snorkel the Surrounding reef and sunbathe.

15-day itinerary available. Please contact us for more details.

Afternoon visit the Local Island Kendhoo for a bit of local culture

Please note:

Dive Sites: Huruvalhi/ Ran Faru

Itineraries are subject to change.

DAY 6 (SATURDAY) Milaidhoo

Milaidhoo, uninhabited island

Evening Beach BBQ

Dive Sites: Furagas/Giraavaru Corner

DAY 7 (SUNDAY) Reethi Beach

Visit Reethi Beach, Resort island with a beautiful House reef for Snorkeling, prior permission from the Resort is required for visits. If Reethi Beach is not available the next Uninhabited Island, Hirundhoo will be the alternative for the day.

Dive Sites: Hulhangu Nagu/ Kamadhoo Thila

DAY 8 (MONDAY) Dharavandhoo Region

Dharavandhoo Region for Change over Day, at least one excursion will be arranged for guests staying over for the second week.

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YOUR SHIP: YASAWA PRINCESS

YOUR SHIP: Yasawa Princess

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Yasawa Princess is a boutique styled yacht that can accommodate up to 56 guests in double or twin ensuite, air-conditioned cabins spread over 3 decks. We have a large indoor dining area with warm wood decor offers a variety of local and international cuisines and our bar serves beer, wine, cocktails and spirits. A fine variety of both local and international cuisine is prepared adding more exotic treats to your cruise. We also arrange private dining ashore on the excursion islands. The resident bar in the dining area offers a wide selection of fine wines, cocktails and spirits, and a variety of beer. Chill out in the forward Lounge in the air condition with a cocktail, browse through our library and catch up on some reading, watch videos, or mingle and make some new holiday friends. Extra activities For the more adventurous guests we offer a number of exciting experiences, from Introductory dives, night snorkelling to Whale shark & Manta snorkelling excursions.



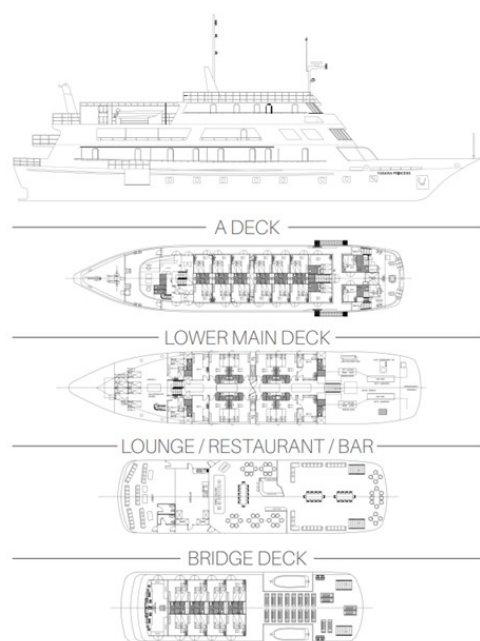
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