

### Welcome to the Maldives and the Maldives Blue Force 3!

We thank you for your trust in Blue Force Fleet to help you organize your diving holidays. We would like you to enjoy an excellent cruise, and therefore, the whole Maldives Blue Force 3 team will be at your disposal to help you fit your needs.

We would appreciate it if you could take a moment to read closely this document to solve some possible questions which may arise during your stay on board.

### Arrival in the Maldives Blue Force 3









Once onboard, depending on the arriving time, the cruise director will distribute the cabins before or after conducting a general briefing about the vessel, the crew, safety precautions, onboard services, meal times, codes of conduct, and common daily schedule, as well as collecting all necessary documentation together with the taxes payment.

Pre-arranged rental gear will be handed over after all forms and payments are concluded.










### Included and not included

It is important to review what is included or not in the price. Here is an overview:

#### Included in the price:

-  7 nights (Saturday to Saturday) aboard the Maldives Blue Force 3, in a double shared cabin.
-  3 daily meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) and extra snacks such as sandwiches, fruits, cakes, etc.
-  Cold and hot water, coffee, and tea.
-  18 dives along the week (if the flight schedules, weather, and conditions allow it)
-  Dive guides in every dive.
-  S80 Tanks, INT/DIN valves, air, and weights.
-  Airport transfers to/from the boat.
-  Basic travel insurance, dive insurance, and cancellations (up to 1.500 €). (See insurance conditions at [www.blueforcefleet.com](http://www.blueforcefleet.com)).

#### Not included in the price:

-  International and domestic flights.
-  Maldivian Tax: 185 USD (onboard payment) per person and week.
-  Green Tax: 42 USD (onboard payment) per person and week.
-  Service Tax: 130 USD (onboard payment) per person and week.
-  Nitrox: 70 USD per week.
-  Soft drinks, alcoholic drinks, and espresso coffee.
-  Rental diving gear, S100 tank, and softlime.
-  Optional stay at a hotel before and/or after the cruise.
-  Any possible extra charge in fuel and/or local taxes if there is any great increase on them at the time.

All mentioned taxes are to be paid on board upon arrival. Quantity appears in USD \$.

It is possible to pay in USD or EUR in cash or card (VISA or MASTERCARD) with a supplement of 4%. AMEX has a supplement of 5%

Rates and local onboard taxes and fees are subject to change without notice.

### Local Time in the Maldives

The Time zone in the Maldives is GMT+5.

### Dress code on board/ on land

The dress code on the Maldives Blue Force 3 is to be the usual for any tropical weather, casual, comfortable, and light: shorts, bathing suits, t-shirts, dresses, or pareos. Neither shoes nor flip-flops will be used onboard.









The Living room, dining room, and cabins are considered “dry areas”, and it is forbidden to enter or sit around wearing any wet clothes (such as a swimming suit or a wetsuit).

We beg you not to bring any food or drinks into the living room.

Onboard it is not adequate to go topless.

The Maldives is a Muslim country so you are advised to wear conservative clothing when visiting the local islands. Please ask your dive guides if you have any doubts.

### Dive equipment

-  Regulator, octopus, and air-gauge
-  Dive computer (**mandatory**)
-  BCD
-  Mask, snorkel, and fins
-  Wetsuit (water temperature between 28-30°C)
-  Torch (mandatory for night dives)
-  SMB, surface marker buoy (**mandatory**)
-  Reef hook (**mandatory**) Reef hooks are also sold onboard in case you do not have your own.

The mentioned gear is the minimum required for diving. You can bring your own equipment or rent it onboard.

We offer high-quality rental equipment, **but it is limited**, to assure the availability of suitable gear, it is indispensable to book it a minimum of 15 days in advance. If the rental equipment hasn't been booked sufficiently in advance, could be no availability or we might have to rent it from another supplier and would carry extra charges on the normal prices.

### Meals

All meals onboard the Maldives Blue Force 3 are buffet service style, with a wide variety of options to choose from: vegetables, chicken, beef, fish, seafood, pasta, rice, soups, fruits, desserts, and ice creams.

Breakfast consists of a buffet with beef bacon, sausages, sweets, brown and white bread, cereals, milk, yogurts, fresh juices, and freshly cooked eggs (boiled, scrambled, omelet...).

Cold & hot water, coffee, and tea are free and 24 hours available.

For any special meal requirements or allergies, it is indispensable to be informed at the time of the booking. We would try, to the possible extent, to adapt to your needs. Depending on your intolerance or dietary restrictions you might consider bringing some items with you. Pork products are totally forbidden in the Maldives.

### **Water and soft drinks**

Onboard you will find hot and cold water dispensers. You have glasses at your disposal, but we want to reduce plastic and detergent use, thus you will receive a water tank on the first day of the cruise to refill as many times as needed. The environment and Blue Force will thank you.

Although tap water is drinkable, we suggest otherwise.

If you are willing to drink soft drinks (Coca-Cola, Fanta, Sprite, Tonic...), mixed drinks, or fresh juices... you can make your order at the bar, where the waiter will open a tab for you to be paid at the end of the week.

### **Coffee and tea**

There is unlimited free coffee and tea available in the dining room.

There is also an espresso machine for some extra charge at the bar, that will be added to your tab at the end of the week.

### **Alcoholic drinks**

It is totally forbidden to bring alcohol into the Maldives. If there is any specific drink or certain quantity you would like to find onboard from Prosecco, Rose wine, extra beer, liquors, diet coke, etc., you can let us know in advance to make sure we have enough for you to enjoy during your stay. Please take into consideration the lack of a wide range of alcoholic options to choose from in the Maldives, even though we will try to find your requests, sometimes it is not available.

We offer a wide variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks on board. You may check the menu and price list on this [link](#)

### **Towels and bedsheets**

Inside each cabin, there will be two towels (one big and another smaller size) per guest that will be changed every two days. Every morning at the Dhoni you will get a different towel to use around the boat, after the diving, for sunbathing, and in the jacuzzi. This towel is to be used for the whole day and will be washed daily, getting a new one the next morning.

We would love to take care of the environment, reducing the waste of water and energy, as well as the use of detergents. We appreciate your collaboration to help us and the ocean not to wash bed sheets and towels unnecessarily. Bedsheets will be changed twice per week as well.

### **Toilets**

It is VERY IMPORTANT not to throw any items into the toilets, including toilet paper. We beg you to use the paper bin placed next to your WC, the boat crew will remove the wastes daily.

### **Electricity**

The official electric system in the Maldives is 220 v, 50 Hz, and three-pin plugs type G are used. You will receive a European-style two-pin adaptor per guest and per room, that has to be returned at the end of your stay. You will also be able to use the charging stations in the common areas for your laptop, camera, batteries, etc.

To avoid any possible electrical fatality, we ask you not to leave any unattended items charging inside your cabins while you are away, thank you.

### Cabins

In the unfortunate event that you identify anything not working properly in your cabin, please communicate directly with the crew to address that matter. There are two experienced technicians onboard that will do everything possible to overcome any problems, but sometimes due to the isolated location of the Maldives, it can be complicated to find replacements for specific materials, which can delay the repair of some items. If this was the case, we apologize in advance for any inconveniences and appreciate your comprehension.

### Currency and payments

The Maldivian Rufiyaa (MRV) is the official currency of the Maldives. However, tourists may pay in American dollars USD as well as Euros €, and/or with a card.

All prices onboard the Maldives Blue Force 3 are shown in USD.

Any payments onboard such as taxes, rental, drinks, souvenirs, etc., can be paid in **cash either in USD or €**, and **card payments VISA and MASTERCARD** suffer an increase of the **4%** charge due to bank fees, and **5%** (AMEX) charge due to bank fees. Neither Personal or Traveler Checks are accepted.

Only well-maintained bills, with no scratches or writings, will be accepted.  
American Dollar bills should belong to the series from 2006 onwards.

### Safety inside the cabins

It is not really necessary, but as a safety precaution, you will find a safe box inside your cabin. If you need any help setting it up, let any crew member know.

It is important to leave the safe box open when departure. It is your responsibility to take care of your personal belongings. If you have any other valuable items that won't fit this box, please communicate with the crew and we will find a safe place to guard them during your stay. Blue Force Fleet will not take any responsibility for any lost or damaged goods. It is possible to find your cabin door open during the cleaning and tidying of the room by our crew.

### Photography and Video

There are designated areas for underwater photography equipment in both, the Dhoni and the vessel, along with separate water tanks to rinse them.

It is very common for us to be taking videos and pictures throughout the week that will be published on our Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter...). If you are not willing to appear on any posts, please let us know.

All our photos and videos are available for free. We recommend you bring a hard disc, USB stick, or pen drive with high capacity (32GB minimum) to take a copy with you.

You may use the computer onboard to copy and share all contents throughout the week with the rest of the guests.

### Connectivity

The Maldives offers a great mobile signal along the archipelago, with 95% coverage. Ask your local operator about the roaming possibilities for its setup.

On your arrival you can purchase a local sim card from any of the companies available at Male's Airport, we recommend Ooredoo. Make sure you get a suitable package for your needs and that it is properly set up on your mobile before leaving the airport. This is the only chance for you to get connectivity during the week.

You can also buy an e-sim card through the following [link](#)

You need to understand the isolation of some areas in the Maldives that can make it difficult or sometimes impossible to have a great signal while navigating.

We do not offer WIFI service onboard.

### Onboard shop

Check out our shop at the Maldives Blue Force 3 for any souvenirs of the boat and the Maldives, along with any diving piece of equipment like masks, SMBs, reef hooks, Nautilus Marine Rescue GPS, antifog solutions, sunblock creams, etc.. that may come in handy during your stay.

Find all items and price lists at this [link](#).

### Activities onboard

There is an intense diving plan organized for the week for certified divers.

Non-divers may also enjoy other activities depending on the location, including snorkeling, paddle surf SUP, and kayaking, all free of charge.

When the weather and logistics of the route allow, a BBQ on an island will be arranged, a sunset sandbank Chill out, or even a visit to a local island accompanied by our crew.

### Service Tax and Tips

According to local custom and governmental fees, it is compulsory for every touristic establishment in the Maldives to charge a service tax. On the Maldives Blue Force 3, it is also required, being an important part of the salary of all guides and crew members. After a satisfactory service, the usual amount for a tip is widely agreed to be around 10-20% of the cruise price.

Blue Force has established the minimum quantity as a Service tax, leaving to a personal choice any extra voluntary add-ons. The minimum Service Tax is paid together with the rest of the taxes upon arrival. At the end of the week, you will be handed an empty envelope in case you want to add anything extra. It will be shared equally with all the crew members.

Your generosity will be very appreciated by all of them, that will be working hard to provide you with an unforgettable experience and make your stay as pleasant as possible on the Maldives Blue Force 3.

### **Diving with Maldives Blue Force 3**

During your week on board the Maldives Blue Force 3, you will be enjoying a total of 18 dives if conditions allow. The cruise director will conduct a Briefing before every dive, giving a detailed description of the site, the dive plan, possible marine life encounters, safety precautions, behavior, and any additional information characteristic from each dive site.

You will be diving from the Dhoni, a complimentary boat designed specifically for diving, 23 meters long, where the air compressors, NITROX membrane, and all dive gear are located.

All your dive equipment will stay at the Dhoni for the entire week.

The Dhoni is independent of the main boat and thanks to its high maneuverability, you will be able to access easily all diving areas and proceed to a more comfortable pick-up from the water.

At the end of each dive, you will perform the respective 3 minutes Safety Stop before surfacing, while being properly marked by a surface marker buoy.

We would like to reinforce the importance and obligation for each diver to carry its own SMB.

The first dive of the week will be a "Check Dive", mainly focused on checking all equipment, proper weighting and buoyancy, diving skills, air consumption, and organizing the diving groups for the week. The upcoming dives will be planned based on the selected route together with the weather conditions, targeting the most popular dive sites and main marine species typical of the area.

The use of a torch is mandatory for any planned night dive. If you don't have one, you can rent it onboard.

Tanks are refilled after every dive with air or NITROX (depending on your choice). Oxygen percentage must be checked before every single dive.

We highly recommend diving on NITROX in the Maldives. In case you are not a certified NITROX diver, you could take the course during your stay on board with us.

Tanks are aluminum S80 capacity, with both INT/DIN valves. It is possible to rent bigger tanks with S100 capacity if desired (we can only warranty their availability when booked in advance).

### **Available diving courses onboard**

The minimum diving level required to dive in the Maldives is Open Water Diver or equivalent. For better safety and full enjoyment of the dives due to its sometimes challenging conditions and strong currents, we recommend you to be an Advanced Diver or have at least 50 logged dives, and the use of NITROX throughout the entire week.

If you do not have taken your certifications before coming to the Maldives, you will also be able to obtain the Advanced Diver Course and/or NITROX specialty on board if requested.

You can find the available diving courses and price list on [this link](#).

### **Age restrictions**

Most international diving organizations consider the age of 12 as the minimum required for diving. In the Maldives and on the Maldives Blue Force 3, the minimum recommended age for diving is 15 years old.

All minors must be properly certified and always accompanied by their parent or responsible tutor.

## Safety
















The safety of our divers and passengers onboard is our priority. We consider that the best safety measurement is common sense, safety precautions and procedures at the vessel will be presented at the welcome briefing and specified for every dive at each briefing by the Cruise Director.

Each of our guides has a locating and communication device Nautilus Lifeline. If you would like to have your own one you can purchase it onboard.

We carry full safety equipment on board. Furthermore, we count on 50L Oxygen tanks, an automated external defibrillator, and a first aid kit.

## Diving standards

For your safety while diving, it is essential to meet the following requirements:

-  All divers must bring a valid diving certification. You will have to show them to the Cruise Director once on board.
-  For your safety and enjoyment, we recommend being a certified Advanced Open Water Diver or similar, and at least 50 logged dives.
-  **Guests joining the South Hemisphere Route must be already certified as Advanced divers or have more than 50 logged dives.**
-  All divers need to have all required gear, either own or rental, please remember to book any desired rental equipment before arrival.
-  We kindly ask divers to bring their own equipment to check they're well maintained for diving. For your safety and your diving buddies, if you find any irregularity in your equipment, communicate immediately with our staff.
-  **All divers need to be perfectly fit for diving. Upon arrival, you will be required to fill out and sign a Medical Statement. If you suffer from any medical condition, make sure to bring an official medical report specifically for diving.**
-  It is mandatory for everybody to attend the briefing conducted by our dive masters before every dive.
-  Because of the special characteristics of the Dhoni, all divers should be fit enough to come back on board by themselves.
-  According to the local diving rules, the Maldives is not allowed solo diving or decompression dives.
-  All divers will enter and exit the water following their divemaster's indications.
-  Dive Computer, surface buoy marker SMB, and reef hook is mandatory diving parts of the equipment that need to be carried at all dives, per diver, as well as a torch in case of night dive.
-  It is not allowed diving under the effects of tension, anxiety, hangover, use of any drugs or similar, after any alcoholic drink, or any other situation that can affect negatively the physical and/or mental state of the diver.
-  We recommend increasing your diving insurance policy through private diving insurance like DAN or similar. You can subscribe to your private diving insurance through the following [link](#).
-  If a diver does not have a valid diving certification, diving skills are not up to date, or are not fit enough for the level and conditions of any of the dive sites, the divemaster has the authority to cancel the upcoming dive(s). Blue Force will not make any deductions or refunds in this matter.
-  In the unfortunate case of bad weather or any other adversities, the Cruise Director is empowered to partially or totally modify the planned route with no notice in advance. There will be no refunds for these circumstances.

**Disembarking Maldives Blue Force 3**

The time of disembarkation will be between 6.00 and 7.00 on Saturday morning at Male Airport.

Generally, the opening of the airline's counters occurs between 2 and 3 hours before take-off. In case your flight departs later on the day, we recommend you spend your time at Hulhule Island Hotel, just a 5 minutes walk from the airport. You can book yourself a room through their online booking system on their website, or just walk into the reception to enjoy the "daily use" without any booking, which allows you to use all common areas (swimming pool, living room, common showers, dining room, storage room...). The price range is 70-150 \$ plus taxes, depending on your selected package.

The nearby island, Hulhumale, offers a wide variety of hotels with prices oscillating from 40 to 100 \$. There is no bikini beach on the island, which means that it is not allowed to be in a swimming suit at the beach.

Another alternative is visiting Male. At the airport, you will find a storage room that charges 6\$ per item. The airport and Male are connected by taxi and by a local ferry that runs every 15 minutes.

At the Southern Route, disembarking will proceed equally.

**We remain at your disposal**

Any questions or doubts related to your diving holidays with us on the Maldives Blue Force 3 we will be happy to answer any time. Please feel free to contact us.

**Comments and suggestions**

Help us improve. Please, collaborate with us with any comments or recommendations you may have about your experience on the Maldives Blue Force 3. We will appreciate it.

To thank your feedback, at the end of each season we will hold a raffle to win a FREE TRIP on any of our vessels from the Blue Force Fleet on any desired dates.

**<https://www.blueforcefleet.com/feedback/>**