

# Maldives Traveller

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## Want a true Maldivian Expedition? Get on Atoll Explorer

BY MALDIVES TRAVELLER STAFF  
26 MAY 2011

★★★★★ (Rated 5 Stars by 2 votes)



Courtesy: Atoll Explorer

Maldives is a little piece of heaven on Earth where people from all over the world come down to relax, away from their mundane lives. From luxurious to budget travellers and divers to backpackers, there is always a choice. But what do you do when you want to experience everything there is to Maldives with in just two weeks?

Atoll Explorer is the simple answer. Cruising since 1996, it is the country's first first-class cruiser taking tourers from one island to another, and offering them dive trips throughout its two-week itinerary. Their two-week itinerary can be taken individually as a one-week cruise but most of the time tourists end up staying on board until the end of the two weeks experiencing an exciting on the go vacation.

Whether you stay for a week or the whole of two weeks, you can be sure of one thing. Maldivians' hospitality, stunning shallows to deep blue oceans, talcum white beaches and bright eye-warming greenery would be an unforgettable experience.

The cruise sets off on its adventure ride Monday. After arriving from the main airport to the capital city Malé, you take a 15-minute transfer to where Atoll Explorer awaits in the middle of the sea, to welcome you for some exciting days ahead.

While the liveaboard cruises you in the cerulean waters of the Maldives, you relax and unwind in your cosy cabin. At the balcony, you could breathe in the brisk ocean air and you know that you are all geared for the fun ahead. Shoals of dolphins are often spotted skipping along, as friendly and as coy as you heard they are.

On the second day, you depart to Velassaru Maldives, a tiny island in the middle of a stunning lagoon and 25-minutes away from the main airport. You could relax on the expansive sparkling lagoon, soaking up the rays or even go snorkelling to see the colourful fishes swimming around the coral garden merrily.

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In the evening you would be enjoying a virtual ride into the depths of the ocean, following the incredible varieties of inhabitants in the sea; an underwater slide show will be shown to you.

It is the most favourite hotel in the world for [Greg Davies](#) with its eye-catching foliage of greenery and eco friendliness. After spending your third morning in the 'green' Kuramathi Island Resort, you head for some sport fishing experience in nearby Rasdhoo island. Night fishing would be something that you might want to take up as your favourite spare-time activity.

Day four, and you are off to the island of Bathala for another snorkelling experience. Remember, you always have new things to discover under these turquoise waters. As the sun wraps up her duty of shining and blazing for the day, the cruiser sets it up for your entertainment. Boduberu, the most famous traditional folk dance and singing is quite an affair, and you would be so tempted to dance along to their beats as well.

On the fifth day, you slowly sail to Meerufenfushi, recalling all the fun you had the previous night. It is again another snorkelling exploration and by sunset, you hit Dhiggiri island for a beach barbecue. You stay overnight until the sixth morning for an all-day picnic on the island, lazing on the beach, catching lots of sun, a little pour now and then, the lagoon and also some beach games. Into the evening, and you are back in the ship to relax while the Captain hosts you his special dinner.

The final day of the first week and you would already be craving another week onboard too. However, even if you choose to wind up, you do it in style. So you sail to Atoll Explorer's associate resort, Kurumba Maldives - 10-minute speedboat ride from main airport - for a day of relaxation and snorkelling. You could pamper yourselves with spa treatments; hit the bar for some refreshing beverages all at discounted rates.

Day eight, and you head back to Malé and say farewell, else it is another week for more fun travelling around with a new troupe on board. Relax; take time to make a new set of friends and share with them the thrills of your sail as you wait impatiently for another sunrise to take you to your next destination.

The routine is quite the same except that you get to discover new islands during the second week and that it just gets a little bit better.

Day two of the second week and you head towards Maadhoo for snorkelling while at evening you watch an underwater marine slide show. Third day - Wednesday - you cruise to Theluvelliga for swimming, snorkelling as well as night fishing - a sport that many Maldivians like to do to loosen up.

Fourth day's snorkelling would be by the island of Rai Dhigga after which you groove to the beats of the ship crew as they perform Boduberu for you. On the fifth morning, you sail to Huhuelhi for snorkelling and set off to Ariadhoo where you would enjoy watching the docile whale sharks swimming around the reef.

It would also be great to spend the afternoon strolling around the small village of Maamigili, where you could buy souvenirs and other treasures to take home. By evening, you are back at Ariadhoo for a barbecue dinner. Until sunrise, you could veg out, and start your day off with a fun-filled morning picnic.

By evening, you would go back to the cruiser for the Captain's dinner - the Saturday special. The last day is again your day to decompress spaying, or simply mellowing with refreshments at Kurumba Maldives. In the evening, a local band will perform for you live, while you wrap the memories carefully before you set to head back to the capital the next day, and then back home.