



Diving & Surfing Experiences

The Yacht

Soneva in Aqua sets sail from Soneva Fushi and combines all the luxuries of a Soneva villa with the freedom to explore the oceans. The yacht measures 23 metres in length and 6.40 metres in width, with a maximum occupancy of four adults and two children. Soneva in Aqua is equipped to take you on day and overnight charters around the Baa and Noonu Atolls for diving, snorkelling and surfing adventures.

The Reefs

The Baa and Noonu Atolls are dotted with snorkelling and dive sites that are home to a myriad of marine life. *Tilas*, which means shallow reef in Dhivehi, range in depth and difficulty. Soneva Fushi's House Reef is a thriving underwater world often visited by black tipped reef sharks, sea turtles and octopi. Beyond the resort divers can explore wrecks, overhangs, drop offs, and dives with currents ideal for drifting. Manta rays, eagle rays, batfish, Napoleon wrasse, turtles and nurse sharks can be spotted at the various *tilas*.

The Dive Team

Soneva Fushi's Soleni Dive Centre, run by Thomas Wälchli, has multi-lingual PADI instructors and small group sizes to ensure world-class diving experiences. A number of diving courses are available to choose from, including Discover Scuba, Resort Course, PADI Scuba Diver, and PADI Open Water. Thomas was one of the first foreign divers to visit the Maldives over 25 years ago, and has a wealth of knowledge about the area.

Soneva Surf

Surf the Maldives' secret and uncrowded surf spots with Soneva's new 100% eco-friendly and sustainable surfing programme. The Baa and Noonu Atolls are home to surf breaks that range from beginner to advanced levels of difficulty, with a surfing season that runs from May to September. Soneva in Aqua is a fantastic way to experience liveboard surfing charters.

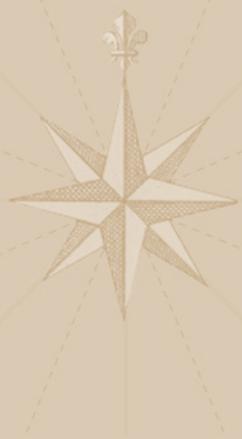
NOONU ATOLL

RAA ATOLL

SONEVA JANI

Charter Routes

-  1 Night
-  2 Nights
-  3 Nights
-  Diving sites
-  Surf breaks



Dive Site Descriptions

BAA ATOLL

(1.) Daravandhoo Tila

Level: Beginner to advanced

Description: This is a slightly curved, narrow tila with a sandy floor on one side, and coral blocks and a wall on the other side.

Things to see: Both large and small marine life can be seen around this tila. Spot manta rays cleaning during their season, and stingrays hiding in narrow overhangs. While leaf fish, shrimp and stone fish can be found on the shallow top.

Depth range: 5-26 metres

(2.) Kuda Tila

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Description: A small round tila.

Things to see: Swim through the chimney and follow the reef for about 20 metres and look for Napoleon wrasses, eagle rays and shoals of fusiliers. Finish at the top and watch the dance of numerous anthias.

Depth range: 8-30 metres

(3.) Kakka Tila

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Description: This is a large, triangular tila.

Things to see: Drift with the current along the north-east side of the reef. When starting from the east look out for eagle rays in deeper waters. From the north-west take your time around the deeper formations covered in soft coral. Don't forget to look out for resting nurse sharks and stingrays.

Depth range: 5-30+ metres

(4.) Milaidhoo

Level: Beginner to intermediate

Description: A resort house reef.

Things to see: Follow the current for easy caves and swim-through exploration. Explore the underwater magic of the colourful soft corals and perfect your nudibranch-spotting skills (if the tiny creatures remain hidden, look for Napoleon wrasses).

Depth range: 5-25 metres

(5.) Undhudoo

Level: Beginner to intermediate

Description: A long, narrow tila.

Things to see: Begin your diving holiday here with an easy and fun first dive, it is a great introduction to coral life in the Maldives. Divers will get to see healthy hard and black coral (ideal for spotting small marine life), anemones and ornamental coral fish.

Depth range: 10-25 metres

(6.) Maavaru Tila

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Description: A large tila with a sloping top.

Things to see: This is a reef ideal for ticking off big fish from the fish sighting chart: spot barracudas, eagle rays, Napoleons, shoals of fish and the occasional shark.

Depth range: 12-30 metres

Muthafushi Tila (not listed on the map)

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Description: A round tila with a narrow peak top.

Things to see: Begin with a deep swim with mesmerising clouds of blue-line snappers, then head into shallower water and drift with the current to see hunting jacks and giant trevallies, followed by an anemone field at 16 metres. This tila will make you want to keep coming back for more.

Depth range: 10-30 metres

RAA ATOLL

(7.) Vaadhoo Tila

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Description: A small, round tila with crevices and scattered coral blocks around it.

Things to see: Start where the current hits the reef to watch the spectacle of banner fish shoals and tuna hunting fusiliers (to see the blue-line snappers dive into deeper waters). At the end of the dive the well-preserved hard corals at the top of the tila will captivate your attention.

Depth range: 14-30 metres

(8.) Fenfushi Giri

Level: Everybody, even snorkellers

Description: A shallow reef.

Things to see: Advanced divers should not miss the schools of snapper around the deep coral blocks on the south-east side, while divers of all levels will get the chance to spot eagle rays, Napoleon wrasse and turtles in the shallower water.

Depth range: 6-30 metres

(9.) Sola Corner

Level: All levels

Description: Outside reef.

Things to see: Manta rays can be spotted here between December and April - every scuba diver's dream. On a relatively flat outer reef at about nine metres, there are coral blocks that are home to abundant fish life, sheltering different kinds of snappers. Eagle rays and manta rays frequent this cleaning station.

Depth range: 10-18 metres

(10.) Seven Blocks

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Description: A broken up reef with scattered coral blocks and dive-throughs.

Things to see: Travel back in time and see how the Maldives marine world was 30 years ago. This is another reef not to be missed, with a myriad of coral and fish, it is perhaps one of the most unspoilt dive sites in the Raa Atoll.

Depth range: 8-30 metres

(11.) Beriyan Tila

Level: Beginner to intermediate

Description: A shallow reef.

Things to see: Here a stronger current will help you drift along the reef, investigating the overhangs that cover the whole depth range. If the current is not too strong, one can cross to a deeper narrow reef with more overhangs where there is a good chance of spotting sharks.

Depth range: 8-30 metres

(12.) Anemone Tila

Level: All levels

Description: A round reef

Things to see: The name of this reef speaks for itself - it is covered with anemones (you might even spot a turtle feeding on them). Look up from the anemone fields to enjoy the omnipresent fusiliers and the occasional shark.

Depth range: 8-30 metres

(13.) Kotte Faru

Level: All levels

Description: An outside reef with a steep drop-off.

Things to see: Another dive site where you might encounter manta rays. Between June and November they are often seen cruising around or stopping by different cleaning stations.

Depth range: 5-30+ metres

(14.) Ifuru Kuda Tila

Level: Advanced

Description: A small tila.

Things to see: This reef lets divers explore small overhangs, crevices and coral blocks covered in abundant coral life that are home to shoals of fish. Tuna can be spotted hunting here, while eagle rays frequent the tila.

Depth range: 14-30 metres

(14.) Ifuru Bodu Tila

Level: All levels

Description: A large shallow reef.

Things to see: If the current is too strong for the Ifuru Kuda Tila, this larger tila is an alternative reef that lets divers enjoy the current and explore the huge caves along the reef.

Depth range: 7-30 metres

NOONU ATOLL

(15.) Christmas Tree Rock

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Description: A Christmas tree-shaped pinnacle rising from a sandy bottom.

Things to see: One of the most famous dive sites in the Noonu Atoll. It got its name from the shape of the pinnacle, and from the colours of the soft and hard corals, batfish and shoals of jack fish. At times the reef is completely covered by mesmerising silver clouds of bait fish. Look out for white tip reef sharks and stingrays underneath the pinnacle.

Depth range: 15-30 metres

'Tila' means shallow reef in Dhivehi.

(16.) Orimas Tila

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Description: This is a large sandy plateau, with a coral reef edge, shallow (22m) on one side, with a slope on the other.

Things to see: This is a "must see" reef in the Noonu Atoll. Shoals of jack fish, batfish, fusiliers, eagle rays, barracudas and stingrays can be found here. Sightings of grey reef sharks, white tip reef sharks and even guitar and leopard sharks can be spotted on the sandy bottom.

Depth range: 14-30 metres

(17.) Gemendhoo

Level: All levels

Description: A small round reef with many overhangs that can be explored with any current.

Things to see: This small circular reef can be visited in any current, and in any condition you can see small marine creatures go about their lives: shrimp, glass fish, and gobies. Now and then look around for the huge stingray that is resident in the area.

Depth range: 5-30 metres

RAA FUSHI (not listed on the map)

Level: All levels

Description: An island on the outside edge of the atoll.

Things to see: Dive below the waves to see fusiliers. Raa Fushi has vertical walls with many overhangs where you can find stingrays and sometimes the odd nurse shark. This dive site will suit any experience level, as you can choose to stay sheltered or drift with the current.

Depth range: 5-30 metres

LAVIYANI ATOLL

(18.) Kuredu Express

Level: Intermediate to advanced, depending current strength

Description: An outside reef by a channel entrance.

Things to see: This is a drift dive where you follow the current to observe pelagics: sharks, eagle rays, and tuna.

Depth range: 10-30+ metres

(19.) Kuredu Caves

Level: All levels

Description: An outer reef.

Things to see: A reef known and loved for the frequent encounters with green turtles that can be found napping in the numerous caves or gliding past divers.

Depth range: 5-30 metres

(20.) Huravali Channel

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Description: A split channel.

Things to see: Between June and November, when the currents push into the atoll, a large number of pelagics can be spotted here. You will only be able to cross the channel if the current isn't too strong.

Depth range: 15-30+ metres

(21.) Fushivaru Kandu Tila

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Description: A channel entrance with a tila nearby.

Things to see: Here divers can visit two dive sites. Start on the corner to see grey reef sharks and schooling eagle rays, then swim or drift to the tila to find Napoleons, humpback snappers, fusiliers and honeycomb moray eels.

Depth range: 10-30 metres

(22.) Shipyard (Wrecks)

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Description: Two shipwrecks lying close together, one vertical and one horizontal.

Things to see: The wreck can be seen from the surface as the bow is still above sea level. You can enter the wreck in shallow water and descend along the first one to about 28 metres, move east about 50 metres and to come across the other wreck lying on its side, this one hosts coral fish, batfish, gobies, sponges and occasional stingrays.

Depth range: 0-30 metres, snorkelling is possible if the current is not too strong

(23.) A spot where where mantas can be seen on the surface, between December to May.