



SCUBA DIVING ON KURAMATHI

Spectacular marine life, vibrant reefs, warm waters and big fish encounters make Kuramathi a diving destination not to be missed. Add this to the wonderful natural island beauty, comfortable accommodation and an excellent range of facilities and you have the perfect location for your diving holiday!

Rasdhoo Divers operates two dive schools on the island (both affiliated PADI Gold Palm/SSI facility/Barakuda/CMAS) so you are never more than a few minutes walk from the wonders of the Indian Ocean. Under the Anglo-Austrian management of Instructor trainers, Matt Berry and Helmuth Steuber since 1994, our experienced, multi-lingual dive team provides a friendly and professional service to our guests. Our enthusiastic instructors will inspire beginners to discover this extraordinary liquid world while experienced divers will find challenging dives with many types of sharks, mantas, turtles, rays, napoleons, barracuda and tuna as well the smaller, but no less interesting inhabitants of the reef such as frogfish, ghost pipefish and leaf fish.

Kuramathi is an ideal place to learn to dive with warm water (29°C), good visibility, a shallow lagoon for training on one side of the island and stunning reefs teeming with marine life on the other. Each year these near perfect conditions help us to introduce many guests to this incredible world. So if you have watched the breathtaking images of National Geographic or the Blue Planet with divers seemingly suspended in a blue void, surrounded by thousands of shimmering fish pulsating with the energy of a vast ocean and thought, "Wow that looks like an amazing world and I want to explore it too!" Now is your chance. Don't be intimidated even if you are apprehensive – being a little nervous is totally normal – just stop by and try it. Our "cool, calm and collected" professional instructor team will guide you through the first steps and do everything to help you have an excellent first diving experience.

Kuramathi is also blessed by having world-famous Hammerhead Shark Point a mere eight minutes away by boat – one of the few remaining places in the world where you can still see these magnificent creatures.

Comfort and convenience for diving guests is assured with fast, modern dive boats that reach more than 20 spectacular local dive sites in an average boat ride of just 15 minutes. Our local trips are supplemented by twice weekly full day safaris and half day trips to dive some of the best sites in neighbouring North Ari atoll.

Our knowledgeable team is complemented by the resident marine biologist divemaster and the Bio Station (complete with whale skeleton!) where you can find out everything you wish to know about marine life. We also provide nitrox for free to offer divers that extra safety margin and we are well-supported by the Kuramathi Medical Centre and Hyperbaric Chamber.





FACILITIES

Rasdhoo Divers has two locations on the island so wherever your villa is situated, you will never be more than a few steps away from your threshold to underwater adventure. One school is located in the middle of the island and the second near the arrival jetty between the Bio Station and Medical Centre. You can easily find both by checking out the island map. Guests are welcome to use either or both schools to suit their preference or schedule and can therefore benefit from a wider choice of programs and dive sites on any given day. In addition, having the two locations means that we have the chance to get to know you better so we can ensure you have a great time diving here!

We mainly use Scubapro dive equipment with Suunto dive computers, while our compressors are Bauer and NRC for nitrox. The diving boats are comfortable, spacious, 15 meter, purpose – built, modern, fiberglass diving dhonis with freshwater shower, toilet and safety equipment onboard. They are also fast which allows us to access many great dive sites in neighbouring Ari Atoll on half and full day trips.

In addition, we are fortunate to have the Kuramathi Medical Centre and Hyperbaric chamber (largest in the Maldives) on the island which is manned by a European diving physician and GP – just for peace of mind.

SAFETY

Your safety while enjoying your diving with us is paramount. Our safety system focuses on the prevention of incidents, but in the rare event that an emergency situation arises, we have the procedures, equipment and training to provide an immediate response and facilitate a favorable resolution.

Our Emergency First Responder dive staff onboard are supported by a 24/7 on call European Diving Physician plus a GP on the island. DAN twin cylinder oxygen kits and DAN First Aid kits provide immediate assistance. Kuramathi Medical Centre and Hyperbaric chamber provide further treatment if/when required. However, prevention is the key and we promote sensible practices to minimize potential problems. Nitrox is provided free of charge and we encourage all divers to make the small investment to become nitrox certified.





DIVE COURSES

BEGINNER DIVE COURSES – learning to dive with us

If you like snorkeling, the chances are you'll *love* diving – so why not take your first step into the blue with Rasdhoo Divers!? Ever imagined how would it feel to be immersed in a giant aquarium of colour, light and life or even swim eye to eye with a turtle or a huge manta ray? Well – if you've dreamt of any of the above, in your mind you're already a diver!

DISCOVER SCUBA DIVING

Discover Scuba Diving (DSD) is the well established half-day "try dive" course for complete beginners and is an easy and fun introduction into diving. It takes place in the shallow lagoon of Kuramathi and with maximum four participants per instructor. The course is just two and a half hours, but you will discover the amazing appeal and wonder of scuba diving – the feeling of weightlessness, breathing underwater, swimming with and like a fish! **Duration: 2 – 2.5 hours; Total Price: US\$100 including all equipment.**

THE PADI OPEN WATER DIVER COURSE

After your first experience, you have several options if you want to do more: Ideally, you should continue on **the Open Water Diver (OWD) course** which only takes four days including the DSD. With three dives off the boat on the outside reef (and one in the lagoon) you have a great opportunity to see turtles, rays, sharks, morays and numerous other reef fish. **Duration: four days including the DSD; Total Price: US\$645 including all equipment, four open water dives, confined water/lagoon lessons, instruction, certification, student materials, logbook and boat fees.**

Have you heard about nitrox? Nitrox is a great safety option for every diver and this is why we offer **the Open Water Diver course combined with Nitrox certification**. Please ask your instructor for more information about nitrox and its great advantages. Pay from just **US\$180 extra** (normal price from US\$280).





THE PADI SCUBA DIVER COURSE

Alternatively, the **PADI Scuba Diver** is a 2 day course (including the DSD) and includes one dive off the boat. This diver certification allows the holder to dive to max. 12m, but always accompanied by a PADI professional. The course is effectively the first half of the Open Water Diver course and is upgradeable to the OWD any time in the future. This course is perfect for guests who are short of time, but still want to get a certificate so next holiday they do not have to start as a total beginner again. This qualification is valid as a stand alone certificate without any time restriction and of course the possibility exists to upgrade in two days to the Open Water Diver. **Duration: 2 days including the DSD; Total price: US\$405 including all equipment, two open water dives, confined water/lagoon lessons, instruction, certification, student materials, logbook and boat fee**

If you just do not have time for a certification course, then you should at least try to do a **repeat discover scuba dive off the boat** to really experience the fantastic variety of marine life. You will see many more fish and will be accompanied by an instructor or a divemaster throughout your dive. **Duration: 2 hours; Total Price; US\$95 including all equipment and boat fee.**

Finally, if you did a diving certification course sometime in the recent past or even in the distant past and it has been a year or five since your last dive, no problem! We offer a regular half-day **Refresher course** to put you back into dive mode. We ease you back into diving with some basic skills with one of our instructors and follow this with a nice shallow dive in a beautiful ocean. **Duration: 2-2.5 hours; Total Price; US\$90 with your own equipment or US\$105 including all equipment.**

AFTER YOUR CERTIFICATION COURSE

Congratulations! – if you have done a certification course, you are now a certified diver. Maybe you are now addicted to the ocean and feel the need to do some more dives. If so, if you did the Open Water diver certification you may consider enrolling on the Advanced course (five dives –minimal theory), a nitrox course or even a specialty course like the Digital Underwater Photographer. Alternatively, if you feel you would just like to make a couple of more dives, then our pricelist “just for diving” can be found below at the end of this section.

Rasdhoo Divers is also a SSI Facility (Scuba Schools International) and Barakuda/CMAS dive school so the opportunity is also there to start diving with either of these two excellent globally recognized diver training organizations.





DIVING FOR KIDS, TEENAGERS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Scuba diving is an excellent adventure for kids. Did you know that kids can now start diving as young as 8 years old? Yes, it is amazing.

Don't you wish you had been lucky enough to have the chance to go scuba diving at an early age? Clearly for **8 and 9 year olds**, it is a very gentle introduction and at a **maximum depth of just two meters**, but they love it. This first dive experience for 8 to 9 year olds is called **the Bubblemaker** – a perfect name as it is simply about putting on a mini set of dive gear and swimming around just under the surface and making lots of bubbles. **Duration: 1 hour; Total Price: US\$75 including all equipment and Bubblemaker mini cert.**

From **10 years of age**, children can try diving with the **Discover Scuba Diving course** and even go on and obtain a **junior diving certification**. More and more kids are learning to dive at a young age. Many parents decide to learn to dive with their children and make it an excellent family adventure, but if this is not the case, our instructors will always take care of the kids and ensure they have a safe and fun experience.

(1) Discover Scuba Diving duration: 2 – 2.5 hours; Total Price; US\$100 including all equipment.

(2) Junior Scuba Diver duration: min. 2 days; Total price: US\$405 including all equipment, two open water dives & instruction, certification, student materials, logbook and boat fee.

(3) Junior Open Water Diver duration: min. three to four days; Total Price: US\$645 including all equipment, four open water dives & instruction, certification, student materials, logbook and boat fees.

If you would like your children to have the opportunity to try Scuba Diving, then please stop by the dive school and we can explain all the options and answer any queries or concerns that you may have.





OUR DIVE PROGRAM AND OUR DIVE SITES

We offer a wide variety of dive trips and dive sites to suit all abilities and levels. Please read on for our typical schedule and general information:

- 5.45 am (!) Hammerhead Shark Point dive – at least four times weekly
- 9.00 – Morning dive
- 14.00 – Afternoon dive
- 17.45 – Night dive – at least four times weekly
- 6.00 am (!) – Full day three dive safari to North Ari atoll – twice weekly
- 8.00 – Once or twice a week we will usually schedule a single dive to one of the nearer North Ari sites such as Maaya Thila, Hafza Thila, Whale shark Point (if the big boys are there) and leave a bit earlier for the longer trip.
- In addition: unguided house reef diving for those with min. the Advanced certificate and 50 logged dives (if conditions suitable)

Rasdhoo Atoll is a comparatively small atoll and we almost always dive on the outside reef which means we have deep water (+-160m) and this attracts many pelagic species. We have **different types of dive sites** which vary between channels, walls, reefs and thilas. We even have **three wrecks** (40m, 34m and 7m long) in the atoll, the first of which we dive regularly (as a night dive). Drift diving with the current along the outside wall of the atoll is usually easy while channel dives can have more current and are more challenging. (Please find more information about some of our 20 local sites at the end of this **section**.)

The **fish life** here in Rasdhoo Atoll is diverse and abundant. You can see several different types of sharks here, eagle rays, sting rays, manta rays (our manta season is really Nov-Apr), turtles (green and hawksbill), barracuda, tuna, napoleons, schools of trevally, groupers, morays, leaf fish, frogfish, ghost pipefish, ribbon eels and much more. Very occasionally we can see the elusive whale shark in Rasdhoo Atoll, but we have recently discovered an amazing whale shark area in Ari (short season only!) which is within easy range of our half day or full day trips to Ari.





Hammerhead Shark Point is naturally a great attraction and only eight minutes by boat from Kuramathi. Hammerheads can be seen all year round and there is no special season for them. It is possible to dive this point four times a week if you like the early mornings (5.45am)! It is a spectacular dive for Advanced divers. **Price: Normal dive price**

Our **dive safari to North Ari Atoll** on Mondays and Thursdays (minimum 10 divers) is not to be missed! We make three dives on some of the famous sites there. Breakfast and lunch onboard are included in boat fee. With the right conditions, this is a wonderful diving adventure and memorable day out on the magnificent Indian Ocean. We often select a few sites from: Maaya Thila, Hafza Thila, Dega Thila, Hohola Thila, Kandholhudhoo Thila, Fishhead, Malhoss Thila, Donkalo Thila, Gangehi Pass, Malhoss Bodu Thila (amazing manta point in season), Bathala Maaga Kanthila, Bathala Thila, Kandholhu house reef, Panettone, Himendhoo Thila, Fesdu Wreck, Orimas Thila, Moofushi Kandu, etc. We leave at 6.00 and return around 17.30. Nitrox is of great benefit on safari. **Price: Normal dive prices and US\$40 boat fee with Breakfast and Lunch included.**

Divers can dive unguided with their buddy on **the house reef**, but we specify that they have at least the Advanced certificate and 50 logged dives, as there is only one and the same entry/exit point and it is not always an easy dive!

Night diving is available on a 40 m long wreck or on the house reef at least four times a week. Night diving cannot be done unguided.

If you are concerned (or fascinated) about **sharks**, you will see sharks here and even juvenile black-tip reef sharks directly off the beach, but we do not have great whites! Divers will see sharks on most dives with frequent sightings of white-tips, black-tips, grey reef sharks and hammerheads, but leopard sharks, nurse sharks and silvertips can also be spotted. Many visitors, including some divers, are uneasy about sharks, but usually recognize from observing their behaviour that they are quite wary of us. Most divers find the experience of seeing sharks a fascinating encounter and one of the highlights of their diving adventure here. None of us working here has ever experienced or seen a shark attack and between us we have more than 25,000 dives!

So whether you are a beginner, a young diver, an experienced diver or someone who used to dive and wants to start again, we hope we have convinced you to come and dive with us and experience the beauty and adventure of diving in the Maldives with the Rasdhoo Divers team!





JUST DIVING

(All prices are in US\$)

DIVE PRICES (with 10l cylinder, weights & weightbelt only)

One dive	50
5 dive package	235
10 dive package	450
The Divers Dozen (2 dives a day for 6 consecutive days)	500
15 dive package	600
20 dive package	780

RENTAL & ADDITIONALS (per dive)

Equipment set (BCD jacket, Regulator set, dive computer, mask, fins, snorkel)	15
One item (BCD jacket, Regulator set, dive computer, wetsuit)	6
12 liter	4
15 liter (nitrox only)	6
Nitrox 32% fill	FREE
Night dive supplement	6
Kowalski torch plus strobe with back-up	10
UW digital camera	45

BOAT FEES (per dive per person)

One dive a day	12
Two dives a day	17
Three dives a day	22
Safari to Ari atoll (with Breakfast & Lunch included)	40
Beginner boat fee (Repeat DSD, Scuba Diver & Open Water)	5

All prices are in US\$ and are subject to change without prior notice

