



Planning Guide

Peter Hughes Diving

Liveboard Excellence

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Ocean Dancer

The Maldives

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Peter Hughes Diving Emergency Cell 305-778-8004

Maldives:

David Mesnard — Primary 00 or 011 then 960 778-7670 Cell

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Thank you for choosing Ocean Dancer for your live-aboard dive vacation. Our crew looks forward to your visit.

**Work Hard,[®]
Dive Easy.**

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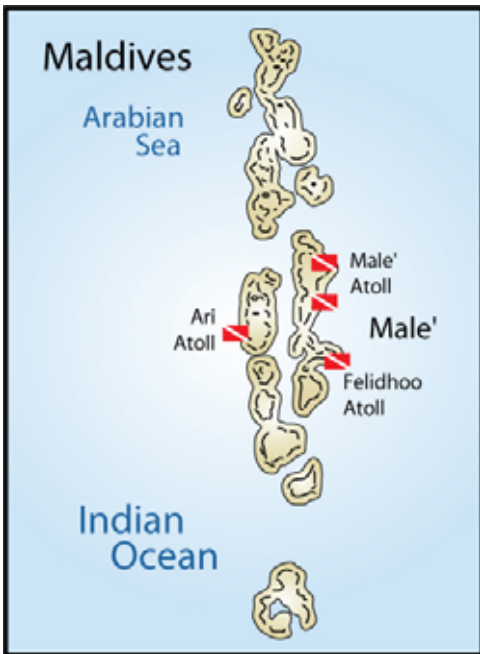


All information contained here is correct at the time of printing, however is subject to change without notice.

OVERVIEW

WHERE IS MALÉ, THE MALDIVES?

The Republic of the Maldives is a chain of 1200 islands stretching 750km across the Indian Ocean with the northernmost island at 7° 06" N and the southernmost island just crossing the Equator at 04° 42" S. The exact number of islands varies according to the season and method of classification - islands come and go with the wind and waves.



WHAT KIND OF DIVING IS FOUND AROUND THE MALDIVES?

Ocean Dancer operates during the prime diving season from November to April each year. Most diving trips take place in North and South Malé Atolls, Felidu and in Ari Atoll.

The northeast monsoon which arrives in January brings clearer water to most parts of the archipelago. In the clearest conditions you can see up to 70 meters (230 feet) below as you float over the reef edge. Tidal movements are also very important in determining visibility levels. Incoming tides bring clear water but outgoing ones carry sediment and can sometimes decrease visibility on the fringing reef and lagoon, and reef outlets nearby.

IN WHAT TIME ZONE IS THE MALDIVES LOCATED?

The time zone is Standard Time Zone, GMT+5hours with no daylight savings time.

WHAT WEATHER CONDITIONS CAN I EXPECT IN THE MALDIVES?

There are two seasons in the Maldives: a dry northeast wind and a wet southwest wind. From May to November the prevailing winds are from the southwest. December the winds veer to the northeast. A light wetsuit is necessary, though some people choose more thermal protection (a 3mm suit) to ensure continued core temperature warmth throughout their visit.

Malé, Maldives			
	Air Temp. High/Low	Water Temp. High/Low	Avg. Rain Days
January	86 / 79	80 - 86	3
February	87 / 80	80 - 86	1
March	88 / 81	80 - 86	1
April	88 / 81	80 - 86	5
May	87 / 81	80 - 86	9
June	87 / 80	80 - 86	7
July	87 / 80	80 - 86	8
August	86 / 79	80 - 86	8
September	86 / 79	80 - 86	9
October	86 / 79	80 - 86	10
November	86 / 79	80 - 86	6
December	86 / 79	80 - 86	5
Degrees Fahrenheit		www.climate-zone.com	

WHAT LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN ON BOARD?

The official and common language is Dhivehi, an Indo-European language related to Sinhala, a language of Sri Lanka. In all tourist destination areas English is the number one foreign language. Our crew will converse in English with the guests.

WHAT CURRENCY IS USED?

The Maldivian Rufiya (MVR) is the official currency. It is advisable to exchange currency at banks, as the most favorable exchange rates may not be obtained elsewhere. Most banks are open Monday to Friday. It is recommended that you exchange enough for island tipping and small pocket change. Major credit cards are accepted by most restaurants, hotels, car rental companies, and shops. Travelers checks are accepted everywhere.



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WHAT DOES MY OCEAN DANCER PACKAGE INCLUDE?

All staterooms are air-conditioned and fitted with private toilets, showers and sinks. Breakfast (cooked to order), buffet lunch and an elegant meal at dinner with table side service are served daily in addition to fresh mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks. Non-alcoholic beverages are complimentary while on board. Two beers or glasses of wine are served with dinner. Additional alcoholic beverages are available for purchase in limited supplies. Bathrobes and some toiletries are available for your use onboard. Linens are changed mid-week and fresh towels are placed in each stateroom daily as needed. Filled tanks, weights and weight belts are included. Group airport transfers are provided from Malé International on the day of embarkation and guests departing on the day of disembarkation.



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FOR WHAT ADDITIONAL EXPENSES WILL I BE RESPONSIBLE?

No air transportation is included in the Dancer package. An airport departure tax must be paid with purchase of your airline ticket. Please see the latest rate schedule for departure tax amount. If you are arriving or departing outside the group transfer, a fee will apply. Dive instruction, dive and photo equipment rentals and "Boatique" purchases must be settled onboard prior to departure. Acceptable methods of payment include: US Dollars, local currency, Traveler's Checks, or Credit Cards (AMEX, Visa or MasterCard). Personal checks are not accepted. Crew gratuities are not included.

LOCAL LAWS AND CUSTOMS - A WORD ABOUT ALCOHOL

In the Republic of Maldives alcohol is generally prohibited. There are no liquor stores or bars where it can be sold or consumed. It is also prohibited as an import item. Tourists may not bring alcohol into the country with them. All incoming luggage (including carry-on bags) are x-rayed and any liquor found will be confiscated by the customs authorities of the Maldives. There is a specific exception for licensed tourist operations catering to international clientele, such as Ocean Dancer. In these circumstances there are extremely strict regulations involving the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages and a strict quota system

in place that regulates the quantities available. In accordance with these restrictions and following local practices, a limited selection of two beers or glasses of wine are served with dinner as part of your Ocean Dancer package. At all other times, additional alcoholic beverages may only be purchased through the ships bar. While this is a departure from other Dancer Fleet yachts, it is Peter Hughes Diving's practice to first honor local cultural customs and regulations. As world explorers we visit foreign lands to experience the culture of those we visit. We embrace this spirit on Ocean Dancer.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MALDIVES AND ITS CULTURE

The earliest settlers were probably from southern India. Indo-European speakers followed them from Sri Lanka in the fourth and fifth centuries BC. In the 12th century AD, sailors from East Africa and Arab countries came to the islands. Today, the Maldivian ethnic identity is a blend of these cultures, reinforced by religion and language.

Some social stratification exists on the islands. It is not rigid, since rank is based on varied factors, including occupation, wealth and family ties. Members of the social elite are concentrated in Malé.

The early history of the Maldives is obscure. According to Maldivian legend, a Sinhalese prince named KoiMale was stranded with his bride--daughter of the king of Sri Lanka--in a Maldivian lagoon and stayed on to rule as the first sultan.

Over the centuries, the islands have been visited and their development influenced by sailors from countries on the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean coasts.

Although governed as an independent sultanate for most of its history from 1153 to 1968, the Maldives was a British protectorate from 1887 until July 25, 1965. In 1953, there was a brief, abortive attempt at a republican form of government, after which the sultanate was re-imposed. Following independence from Britain in 1965, the sultanate continued to operate for another 3 years. On November 11, 1968, it was abolished and replaced by a republic, and the country assumed its present name.



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TRAVEL INFORMATION

HOW DO I GET TO THE MALDIVES?

Most guests arrive into the Maldives by air. Malé International Airport (city code MLE) located on Hulhule Island is served by a number of scheduled International airlines and charter airlines.

If you need assistance with your flight arrangements, be sure to contact Dive Easy Travel, Peter Hughes Diving's travel specialist at 1-800-9DANCER or 305-669-9391 for the most competitive airfares and hotels.

WHAT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS WILL I NEED?

You are required to possess a passport valid for at least six months from the date of arrival and have proof of return or onward ticketing..

You may also require a Visa. You may qualify for a free Visa or a Visa on arrival depending on your citizenship. Please contact your local Embassy or Consulate for your destination or review the requirements one of the many travel visa information websites.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION?

At the airport, customs formalities are usually quick and trouble free. Tourists are allowed articles for use during their stay. These include items of personal adornment, wearing apparel, toilet requisites and any portable articles which someone can reasonably be expected to use during their stay.

WHAT ARE THE EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION TIMES?

Embarkation will be at 5:00 pm on the first day of charter and all guests will disembark at 8:00 am on the final day of the charter.

If a guest will be arriving after 5:00 pm on the day of embarkation, a special private pick-up time can be arranged (with advance notice and for an additional fee). Ocean Dancer does not leave the Malé lagoon area until early the next morning.

HOW DO I GET FROM THE AIRPORT TO OCEAN DANCER?

At 5:00 pm guests should be in the airport arrivals area. Look for an agent who will have a Peter Hughes Diving / Ocean Dancer sign. This agent will meet and greet all guests then escort them to the water taxi for transport to the Ocean Dancer. The yacht anchors in the Malé lagoon and is about 25 minutes from the airport.

HOW DO I GET FROM THE HOTEL TO OCEAN DANCER IF I ARRIVE EARLY?

Guests that arrive a day or more early or early on the day of embarkation can make arrangements at one of the local hotels for a room or a day pass. The Hulhule Island Hotel is located nearby on the same island as the airport and is the most convenient. The Nasandhura Palace (does not have a pool) is close by on the island of Malé (the capital) where the main city center is and offers affordable accommodations. The Bandos resort is about 20 minutes away by speed boat and offers a more upscale private island resort experience. Advance reservations are highly recommended and can be made by your Peter Hughes Diving reservations team.

Day passes at a hotel typically includes the use of pool (if available), towels, showers, a locker, luggage storage, and a meal. Day passes are limited to a maximum of 12 hours.

To board Ocean Dancer, guests will need to return to the airport and meet the agent at the arrivals area at 5:00 pm. All of the resorts use the airport and airport docks as a "central" hub for moving guests between the different islands.

WHAT DO WE DO ON THE DAY WE DISEMBARK?

The Ocean Dancer will return to the Malé lagoon around 3 pm the afternoon prior to the ending cruise date. The plan for that day is to offer 2 morning dives. That night is reserved for the farewell dinner. Guests are free to snorkel, swim or arrange to go ashore upon arriving back at the lagoon.

Disembarkation will be at 8-8:30 am on your final morning. Guests will arrive at the airport around 9:00 am.

Depending on your flight departure times, guests may want to obtain a hotel room or a day pass. We would recommend the Hulhule Island Hotel as it is the closest to the airport. Day passes typically include use of the pool, locker, showers, luggage storage, and a meal. Depending on which resort you choose – you could then take a Dhoni (skiff) into the island of Malé to walk around and explore, before returning in time to clean up before boarding your flight. Hotel occupancies in Male are at near capacity during the Ocean Dancer dive season. If you desire a day room—we strongly encourage you to make arrangements well in advance of your arrival in the Maldives.

HOW DO I ARRANGE FOR PRE AND POST CHARTER HOTELS AND TRANSFERS?

Dive Easy Travel™, Peter Hughes in-house travel agency has already done the legwork for you and created several packages that will fit most of your needs. Custom packages are also available. Please inquire with us if your schedule will permit.

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DO I NEED TRIP INSURANCE?

We strongly recommend that each guest purchase comprehensive accident, medical, baggage and trip cancellation and interruption insurance when space is reserved. Trip insurance will protect you from financial disappointment if you are prevented from making your scheduled trip due to illness or family illness, or in the event that unforeseen circumstances prevent the airline or yacht from making its scheduled trip. In an event where it is necessary to cancel or interrupt a charter due to weather or any matter beyond the control of Peter Hughes Diving, there will be no refund or credit issued. We also recommend diving accident insurance. Please inquire with our reservation office for assistance.

ON-BOARD

IF I AM TRAVELING AS A SINGLE, WILL I HAVE A ROOMMATE?

All rates are quoted on a share basis; therefore, unless you require a guaranteed single room and pay an additional supplement, you will very likely be sharing your stateroom with one other guest of the same gender.

WHAT TYPE OF FOOD IS PREPARED?

Meals prepared by our onboard chef consist of an international mix with a local flair. If you have any special dietary requirements, please advise our US office as soon as possible so we can adequately prepare to meet your needs. Certain special dietary and beverage requests may not be available on a consistent basis due to the remote nature of this location.



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WHAT KINDS OF BEVERAGES ARE AVAILABLE?

The Dancer's selection includes fruit juices, soft drinks, plenty of iced water, tea and coffee and a limited selection of local beer, wine and alcoholic beverages. Fresh milk may not be available, although UHT long life milk is provided onboard. We encourage you to consume lots of non-alcoholic liquids during the week to avoid dehydration. REMEMBER: ALCOHOL AND DIVING DO NOT MIX. For your safety, we recommend that the consumption of any alcoholic beverage be delayed until your dive day is complete.

WHAT ELECTRICAL CURRENT IS AVAILABLE?

The Ocean Dancer uses a 220/240volt AC at 50 cycles. Some transformers to 110 volt are available on board, however guests are advised to bring one with them as well.

HOW MUCH SHALL I PACK?

Please plan to travel light, as on all live-aboard dive yachts, space is limited. We recommend that you pack your gear in soft luggage such as duffel bags for easy stowage and to add to your comfort in your cabin, leave those large, rigid suitcases at home. Clothing should be lightweight, comfortable sportswear and bathing suits are a must. A light sweater or jacket is ideal for the evenings. Dress aboard is always casual. Light clothing that reflects the sun is best, and a hat is a recommended. Evening dress is informal. Additional items you may want to bring are sunscreen, sunglasses, walking shoes for your time on shore. We recommend you pack your regulator, dive computer, mask, bathing suit and change of clothes and essential items in your carry-on bag. This will make it easier in the event your luggage is delayed. Please check with your airline as to what weight restrictions will apply to your carry-on and checked luggage.

WILL THERE BE ANY OPPORTUNITIES TO GO ASHORE DURING THE CRUISE?

When the location is suitable, there is swimming, snorkeling and beach combing.

WHAT IF I AM PRONE TO SEA SICKNESS?

Currents and winds may cause moderate movement of the yacht at times. If you have a tendency toward seasickness we strongly urge you to bring some over-the-counter motion sickness medication or consult your doctor about prescription brands, such as the trans-dermal patch or Scopace tablets. Chewable ginger tablets or capsules of powdered ginger have also proved to be effective.

WHAT IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY ON BOARD?

All Dancer crews are trained in first aid and diving accident management. Each yacht is equipped with a complete first aid kit and a high capacity oxygen system. Each yacht also has direct contact with the closest hyperbaric chamber. Since emergency transportation and treatment cost is the responsibility of each guest, we strongly recommend that you dive conservatively and obtain special insurance for divers from Divers Alert Network, Dive Assure or similarly ranked company.

HOW CAN MY FAMILY CONTACT ME IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY AT HOME?

Your family may contact you in the case of a medical emergency by calling our Miami office at 1-800-932-6237 or 305-669-9391 during business hours (8 am – 6 pm EST weekdays and 9 am – 5 pm EST on Saturdays). If outside of our operating hours, you may call our emergency cell phone number, 305-778-8004. Please reserve calling this number for emergencies only.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MAIL, AND E-MAIL

Check with your local cell phone provider for service while visiting the Dancer yacht and it's destination. Smartphones (such as the I-Phone and Blackberry's) may be able to access a GSDM data network. Each Dancer is equipped with Satellite based phone and email for emergency communications.

IS SMOKING PERMITTED?

A designated area on the back of the outdoor lido deck is available for smoking. Smoking is not permitted in any other area for any reason.

IS THERE ENTERTAINMENT ONBOARD?

The Dancer has a multi-system TV/VCR unit for videotape and video camera playback, a compact disc player, a DVD player and stereo in the main salon. If you have a favorite movie, slide show or a video to share, we encourage you to bring it along! You may also bring your own favorite music CD's or DVD's. A small library of "books for exchange" is maintained onboard, as well as fish identification books for reference.

HOW CAN I CELEBRATE A SPECIAL OCCASION?

Our crew is delighted to help you celebrate any special occasion onboard including birthdays, anniversaries, honeymoons or weddings. Kindly advise our US office at least 30 days prior to departure so that we can adequately prepare.

IS IT CUSTOMARY TO OFFER A GRATUITY TO THE CREW?

Aboard Dancer Fleet yachts, gratuities are not included. We prefer that our guests reward our crew based on performance. If the crew performs to your expectations, we suggest that a gratuity of approximately 10% of the published package price be considered normal aboard a live aboard dive yacht. Payment of gratuities is entirely at the discretion of the guest. It is policy on all Dancer Fleet yachts to equally divide all collected gratuities among the crew. Payment of gratuities can be by cash, traveler's checks, or credit card (AMEX, MasterCard or Visa).

HOW CAN I PAY FOR MY EXPENSES AND PURCHASES ONBOARD?

Each Dancer yacht has a small, onboard "Boatique" which sells a selection of logo clothing, custom jewelry, sundries, diving accessories, batteries, logbooks, etc. A crew member will gladly assist you with your purchases at any time during the week. The US Dollar, local currency, Traveler's Checks or credit cards (MasterCard or Visa) are accepted onboard. Personal checks are not accepted. (Please note: a bank charge of 4% will be added to all credit card payments.)

DIVING OPERATIONS

HOW MANY DIVES WILL WE DO EACH DAY?

We will offer up to three dives per day (2 on the last day) and night dives one or two nights a week from our Diving Dhoni.

WHAT PAPERWORK WILL I NEED FOR DIVING?

Please bring your Charter Application, certification card and log book for verification of your dive training and experience. You will be required to complete and sign a standard release and waiver form prior to your arrival. Please remember that you alone are responsible for determining your medical and physical fitness to dive or to take part in any other activities during this trip. **DIVING ACTIVITIES ARE CONDUCTED AT YOUR OWN RISK.** We take no responsibility with respect to your determination. If you have any questions concerning your medical or physical fitness to dive or take part in any such activities, please consult your personal physician.

HOW WILL WE DIVE FROM THE OCEAN DANCER?

TENDER DIVING IS THE RULE RATHER THAN THE EXCEPTION. The "Diving Dhoni" is a 55 foot custom built yacht that was designed to hold the entire dive operation of the Ocean Dancer. All dive equipment (SCUBA tanks, air and Nitrox compressors, dive equipment, wetsuits, etc) stay onboard the Dive Dhoni for the duration of the voyage and is attended to by our crew nightly. The trips aboard the Dhoni from Ocean Dancer to the dive sites run between 10 - 15 minutes.



The Dhoni will be boarded from Ocean Dancer via the dive platform. During this process, the Ocean Dancer is moored in calm waters. Our experienced crew will be available to assist with the boarding and disembarking process to and from the Dhoni.

There are five exit points on the Dhoni where a giant stride entry can be performed. To re-board the Dhoni, guests hand up their fins and weight belts up to the crew and then use the ladder to re-board. Our crew will be on stand by help you climb the ladder and assist you back to your seat.

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For your safety, it is mandatory for each diver to carry an emergency SMB (safety sausage), Dive Alert (personal air horn), and mini-strobe light on all dives. If you do not bring any one of these devices with you they are available for rent on board the Ocean Dancer, however, quantities may be limited. If you do not possess these items, please notify our office prior to departure.

ARE THERE ANY LIMITATIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE DIVING?

It is a law of the Republic of Maldives that scuba divers limit depths to no deeper than 30m/98ft. Ocean Dancer strictly adheres to these regulations.

CAN I EARN ADVANCED DIVING CERTIFICATIONS OR SPECIALTIES ON BOARD?

Several diving specialty courses are offered on the every Dancer yacht, but it is necessary to give at least one month notice to Peter Hughes Diving in advance of your charter date to ensure that an instructor will have the time available and that all required paperwork is complete. **IMPORTANT:** If you intend to receive diving instruction onboard, you must complete a medical statement in advance and return it to Peter Hughes Diving prior to the departure date. A doctor's note will be required if you answer yes to any of the questions on the medical statement. A list of available courses and prices is located on our website.

ARE NITROX FILLS AVAILABLE?

Every Dancer is equipped with Nitrox facilities. Nitrox fills of up to 32% are normally available to all certified Nitrox divers for an additional charge. Nitrox Dive Profiles must be planned and executed with a Nitrox compatible computer. It is recommended that the planned PO₂ level be set within the limits of your certifying agency. All Nitrox fills must be analyzed by the divers using the mix and logged prior to each and every dive. Oxygen analyzers available for use by guests while onboard will be calibrated a minimum of one time per day by a crew member. Nitrox certifications are usually available onboard to all certified open water divers for an additional charge.

WHAT DIVING EQUIPMENT WILL I NEED TO BRING?

Equipment provided aboard the Ocean Dancer includes tanks (80 cu. ft. aluminum with yoke style "K" valves), weights and weight belts. Divers will also need the following equipment:

Basic Required Diving Equipment For Each Diver

- Regulator with alternate air source
- Depth and Pressure Gauge
- Dive Computer
- Buoyancy Compensation Device (BCD)
- Mask / Fins / Snorkel
- Wetsuit / Light Skin
- Night Dives: We require at least two light sources on a night dive.

Recommended (Additional) Dive Equipment

- Chemical (Cyalume) light sticks
- Dive Light with extra batteries or charging source

WHAT SAFETY EQUIPMENT DO I NEED TO HAVE?

We suggest that you bring your own, although the Ocean Dancer does stock a limited supply available for rental by our guests.

Mandatory Surface Safety Equipment For Each Diver

- Dive Alert (Air Horn)
- Inflatable Safety Sausage (redundant)*
- Personal Mini-Strobe

Additional Recommended Surface Safety Equipment

- Whistle
- Signaling Mirror



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ARE DIVE GEAR AND PHOTO/VIDEO GEAR AVAILABLE FOR RENT?

Every Dancer has a limited amount of diving equipment available for rent, so it is critical that you advise our US office staff in advance if you decide you want to rent gear. We offer ScubaPro BCD's with Dive Alerts and ScubaPro regulators. The photo shop offers digital cameras housed in an underwater housing.

I AM A PHOTOGRAPHER – WHAT CAN I EXPECT

Photo opportunities are abundant and no matter what system you have. Guests who are shooting digital photography may view their images on either of the two computers, a PC and a MAC, we provide in the salon for your use.

Camera Tables: Every Dancer has a camera table built into the dive deck for your use.

Charging Stations: There is a charging station for your use with 110V power available.

Rinse Buckets: There is a “cameras only” rinse bucket for the exclusive use of photographers onboard.

All divers are required to have a buddy with them at all times. When on a drift dive, photographers are expected to stay with the body of the group on their tender. You may move away from the group within reason – providing that the divemaster leading the dive is kept in sight at all times. You will not be permitted to separate from the group or carry your own drift line.

CAN I FISH OR SPEARFISH?

Fishing and spear fishing are not available. Spear fishing equipment is prohibited onboard the diving yacht.



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