

Maldives Active Adventure

Country(ies): Maldives

Tour type: Small Group

Transport: Domestic flights, boat trips, jeep

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 0

Days: 8 Days

Start location: Male, Maldives

End location: Male, Maldives

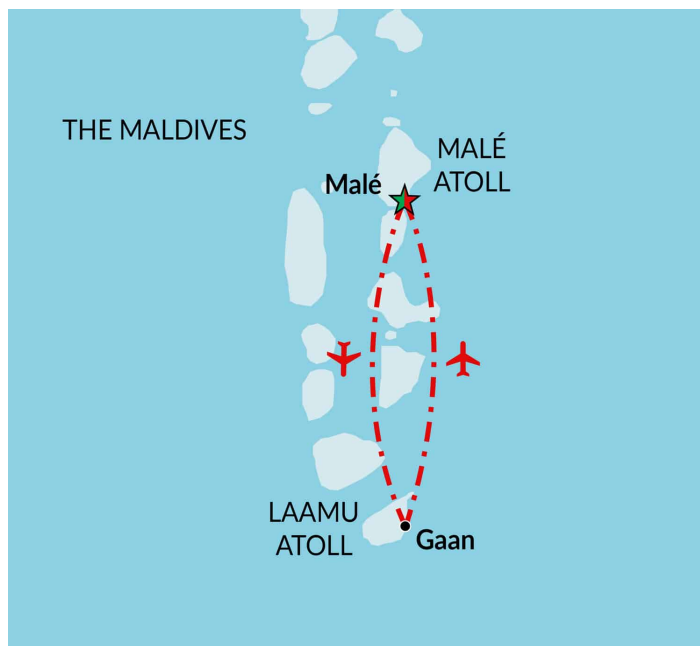
Departs On: On request

Meals: Breakfasts - 7, Lunches - 2, Dinners - 7

Highlights:

Boat trips, snorkelling over the coral reefs, island exploration by jeep & bicycle, sea kayaking safari, paddle boarding, scuba diving, uninhabited islands, beach barbecue, free time to relax

Places Visited: Male & Gan



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Male, transfer to Gan

Upon arrival at Male International Airport you will be greeted by our representative and transferred approximately 35 minutes by air by domestic flight to the island of Gan, in the southern atoll of Laamu. Gan is the biggest island of the Maldivian Archipelago and is home to the longest beach existing in the Maldives (7.8km of white sand). Lammu atoll was also used as the location for the planet Scarif in the recent Star Wars Rogue One film.

On arrival you transfer to Reveries Guesthouse which will be your base for the week. Reveries is built in a unique contemporary Maldivian style nestled in a beautiful garden setting on a lovely beachfront location. This 4* property with 23 rooms has been welcoming guests from all parts of the world to explore the hidden treasure of untouched reefs, and discover the ancestral heritage of the locals islanders. Reveries offers full services and facilities for a great holiday experience and a comfortable, relaxing holiday destination. Complete with a restaurant, roof top mocktail bar, garden BBQ, Boutique, Gym, Entertainment area, plunge pool and wellness centre, Reveries offers a unique experience. Female guests are also able to sunbathe in bikinis within the confines of the hotels private beach/garden area.

Settle in after your flight before taking your first steps on the sands of this tropical paradise or explore the facilities of the guesthouse. Later there will be a pre-dinner group briefing.

OVERNIGHT: Gan - Reveries guesthouse or similar

MEALS: Dinner

EXTRAS: Extra day in Hulhumale - pre-tour || Single room supplement (MASGMA)

Day 2: Kayak safari, snorkeling and picnic lunch

Following breakfast served at the guesthouse the day will be spent sea kayaking, providing opportunity to explore the east side of the atoll. You will be coached on how to paddle and manoeuvre the kayak before heading off into the inner atoll. There will be plenty of time to stop off at sandbanks and uninhabited islands to snorkel and gain your first experience of the amazing underwater world of the Maldives. A picnic lunch will be eaten and there will be time to relax before heading back to Gan.

The remainder of the afternoon is free for you relax on the beach, snorkel the house reef or just chill in the plunge pool.

OVERNIGHT: Gan - Reveries guesthouse or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 3: Jeep discovery safari & Hedika experience

Today the morning is free is free for you relax on the beach, snorkel the house reef or just chill in the plunge pool. You can arrange extra activities including snorkelling and scuba-diving trips locally.

This afternoon you will have the opportunity to explore the island of Gan by jeep. Gan has some unique features such as a fresh water lake in its centre (the Red Lake, so-named because of its red colour water from the tree-leaves falling into it) that was believed to be bottomless, as well as some ancient Buddhist ruins. You will visit a number of historical places and learn more about the history of the Maldives and local life, even visiting a fish factory and a local vegetable farm. The trip will end with a visit to a local cafe; to sample traditional 'hedika' - Maldivian savoury and sweet short eats served with black tea.

OVERNIGHT: Gan - Reveries guesthouse or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 4: Scuba Diving

Today is your chance to give SCUBA diving a go! Reveries dive club is a PADI registered dive school operated by Europeans and locals and was the first PADI scuba diving and water sports centre on a local island in Laamu Atoll. For those who have not dived before we offer a Discover Scuba Diving Course where you learn the basic safety guidelines and skills needed to dive under the direct supervision of a PADI Professional. You will complete two dives from the shore. Qualified divers can take 2 dives by boat to explore this virtually untouched paradise (ensure you bring your log-book with you to prove your qualification).

If you don't want to do any scuba-diving, then please advise us before you depart and an extra snorkelling boat trip can be provided instead at no extra cost.

OVERNIGHT: Gan - Reveries guesthouse or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 5: Stand up paddle board, explore the island by bicycle

This morning you head out to the water for the opportunity to learn to stand up paddle. With an instructor, learn and practice the skills required on land before testing them on the water. After lunch together with your guide we explore the northern parts of Gan by bicycle. Ride along the Link Road, a boulevard of palm trees connecting Gan to the islands of Fonadhoo, Kadhdhoo and Maandhoo, which together make up the largest local community settlement in the Maldives. At the end of your journey be rewarded with fresh coconut water known locally as 'kurumba'.

OVERNIGHT: Gan - Reveries guesthouse or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 6: Free day, various options available

Following breakfast served at the guesthouse the day is yours to enjoy as you please, visit some of the Star Wars Rogue One filming locations, relax on the beach, or if you're feeling energetic, you can practise some of your new found skills. Optional diving trips can be organised for certified divers, further snorkelling tours are available, and a visit to the Six Senses resort can be organised (subject to availability).

OVERNIGHT: Gan - Reveries guesthouse or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 7: Picnic island and BBQ

Following breakfast served at the guesthouse we head to a Robinson Crusoe style uninhabited island with your guide. Relax and sunbathe on the powder white beaches, swim or snorkel the beautiful azure waters and enjoy a

freshly prepared BBQ lunch. After lunch enjoy more of the same before returning to Gan. Fruit cocktails will be served at sunset before our farewell dinner.

OVERNIGHT: Gan - Reveries guesthouse or similar

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 8: Transfer to Male airport for departure

After breakfast you are transferred back to Male by domestic flight (please arrange flights departing Male in the afternoon or evening). Those travellers booking a resort extension will transfer from Male airport on to their resort via the resort's own transfer boat. Our local representative will assist you with meeting this transfer though there may be a short wait depending on the resort boat's schedule. Extra nights' accommodation are available in Hulhumale if you need to catch a departure flight tomorrow morning.

OVERNIGHT: N/A

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: 3-night resort island extension || Extra day in Hulhumale - pre-tour || Day-use room & airport transfers in Hulhumale || Extra day in Hulhumale - post-tour

Included

- 7 nights half-board guesthouse accommodation
- All transport and transfers including domestic flights
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Meals: 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 7 dinners
- Services of local representatives, boat crews and instructors
- Free 30-day tourist visa on arrival to all nationalities
- All activities as detailed in the itinerary with required equipment
- Snorkelling gear during stay at Gan guesthouse

Excluded

- International flights (available on request)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, available on request)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks, tips and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Extra optional activities
- Any other items not mentioned above

Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting.

However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements.

Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

Extra day in Hulhumale - pre-tour

Min numbers: 1

Is your flight arriving early or departing late? You can easily add an extra day in Hulhumale either at the start or the end of your tour. The price is based on the Hulhumale Inn and is per person, with a minimum of 2 people sharing. Single room supplements apply. Your airport transfer is included.

Price: Starting from - \$55

Single room supplement

Min numbers: 1

Due to the style and nature of this tour, we do not arrange room shares between people not travelling together. This option therefore provides a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour and should be added by all solo travellers. Note: Single supplement prices may vary seasonally.

Price: Starting from - \$1020

Extra day in Hulhumale - post-tour

Min numbers: 1

Is your flight arriving early or departing late? You can easily add an extra day in Hulhumale either at the start or the end of your tour. The price is based on the Hulhumale Inn and is per person, with a minimum of 2 people sharing. Single room supplements apply. Your airport transfer is included.

Price: Starting from - \$55

1. Accommodation

The guesthouse accommodation on this tour is designed to provide a balance of comfort, local atmosphere and value for money. These are not luxury properties, but are clean, comfortable, have friendly staff, and often provide some excellent local food. A range of mid-level and luxurious island resort stays are available as extensions at the end of the tour for those looking for some extra comfort and luxury.

2. International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don't include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to book your flights for you, and our ATOL (UK flight sales license) covers all holidays booked together with a flight from the UK.

Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from. Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included whether you book your flights independently or through us.

Please plan for your international flights to depart Malé after around 1pm on Day 8, as you need to allow time for your domestic flight to arrive from Gan.

Some resort islands may require an extra sea-plane transfer to be taken if you have an early departure flight from Malé. This will also be at an extra cost - please ask for details.

3. Tour Leaders/Guides

We have permanent representatives in Malé and Hulhumalé to assist at the start and finish of the tour. One of our local guides is based in Gan and will meet you at the airport on your arrival there and look after you during the tour. Tour guiding in the Maldives is a fairly new concept but our guides are keen, friendly, speak good English, and are delighted to be able to provide tourists with a different experience of the Maldives to the normal resort island holiday. A range of boat crews are also used for the various water-based activities. Fully trained instructors are provided for the water sports activities where required.

At Encounters Travel we aim to only use local tour guides as we feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing as well as supporting the local population.

4. Dates & Prices

This tour is available privately departing on any date throughout the year. Prices are based on a minimum of 2 people travelling, and discounts are available for families and parties of 5 or more people booking together - please contact us for details. Solo travellers are also very welcome and will join with other people in the Guesthouse for some of the activities. A small supplement will apply.

5. Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please [contact us](#) if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

6. Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.

We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see [our website](#) or [booking conditions](#) for more information.

7. Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudice: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

8. Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

www.facebook.com/encounterstravel

[www.twitter.com/encounterstravl](https://twitter.com/encounterstravl) (yes, without the 'e')

9. Before you travel

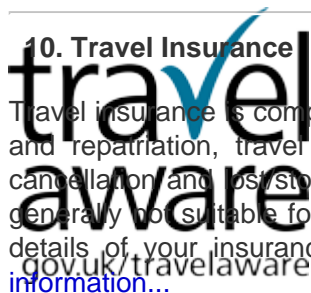
It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current [official government travel advice](#) for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

10. Travel Insurance

The logo for 'travel aware' is displayed. The word 'travel' is in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. The word 'aware' is in a smaller, blue sans-serif font, positioned below 'travel'. A blue checkmark is superimposed over the 'a' in 'aware'. Below the main text, the URL 'gov.uk/travelaware' is written in a small, blue, sans-serif font.

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event). [More information...](#)

You may arrange your own insurance, or you can take advantage of a comprehensive policy that we can arrange for you through Endsleigh Insurance which has been designed to be suitable for our tours. The policy is available to travellers of all nationalities and you do not need to live in the UK to take out the policy. For full details of cover provided, prices and to apply for one of our policies, please complete [travel insurance application form](#).

Note: Any country that borders the Mediterranean is considered as 'Europe' for the purposes of travel insurance (including Turkey, Israel, Egypt and Morocco). If you are doing a tour that visits one country in 'Europe' and one that is 'Worldwide' (for example, an Egypt and Jordan tour), then you need a 'Worldwide' policy. When completing the form you should enter your travel dates including any extra days involved in overnight flights or connecting travel between your home and the tour. Our policies are not able to cover any extra time or activities other than your tour and options booked with us and your travel to & from home.

Note - to comply with insurance sales regulations, our travel insurance policies are only available to customers booking directly with us. If you have booked through a travel agent you will need to arrange your own insurance.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.

Covid-19

Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable. Details about our own policies cover levels are given [on our website](#).

11. Scuba Diving in the Maldives

The Maldives is rightly famous for the huge variety of different marine life you can see around the various islands, lagoons, coral reefs and shipwrecks. Much can be seen from the surface and just below on snorkelling trips. However, going scuba-diving opens up a whole new range of opportunities to see different species, corals and environments. There are many different types of dives available, from high coral walls, to shallow reefs, wrecks, lagoons and some decent shore dives.

You can scuba-dive all year round in the Maldives though during the rainier season of May to November the visibility can be poorer with stronger south westerley winds. Visibility tends to be best between December and April with lower wind speeds from the north east. The water temperature all year round averages a comfortable 28C. Currents are affected by both the tides and winds and can be unpredictable. It is important to listen to your diving guides carefully about this and take particular care if you are diving in an area where strong currents can be expected. The maximum depth allowed for leisure diving in the Maldives is 30m.

Virtually all islands have their own dive centre offering boat trips around that island as well as further afield.

If you are already a qualified diver you should ensure you bring along your log-book to prove your qualification and recent experience. We recommend also bringing your own mask and snorkel for comfort. You can bring further equipment as well but please check with your airline first for any excess baggage costs.

If you are a novice diver and have not got a PADI Open Water or equivalent (or higher) qualification, you can still enjoy scuba-diving in the Maldives and see a wealth of different fish and corals. All dive centres will offer a 'Discover Scuba' experience where you are introduced to the equipment and accompanied underwater one to one with a Dive Master or Instructor. You can do this at many different dive sites, though ones with strong currents will not be available.

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Note: Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.
