

Welcome To Euro-Divers Vilamendhoo

diving with friends...

Euro-Divers is a PADI 5 Star dive center, customer focused, professional organization dedicated to providing you a safe, fun and memorable diving experience. Our highly qualified international team of PADI Instructors and Divemasters are at your service. We speak English, German, French, Spanish, and Japanese. PADI course materials are available in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Dutch and Japanese.

Our services and facilities include guided diving trips, guided night snorkeling, equipment rental and accessory sales, rental as well as a variety of PADI beginner and continuing education courses. We are proud of the our dive center which reflects the quality and high standards of the resort.

General Information

The dive center is located next to the Funama restaurant on the main pathway. The opening hours are from 08:30 until 12:30 and from 14:00 until 18:00.

Certified divers check in procedure

- Day of arrival between 10:00 - 12:30 or 17:00 - 18:00.
- Or, the following morning at 09:30, to join the Orientation Dive at 10:00.

At check in, bring your voucher (if diving is pre booked), your certification card and logbook; and medical certificate, if required. If not yet a certified diver, visit the dive center from 1700 to 1800 to sign up for Discover Scuba Diving, a great experience and the 1st step to the Scuba Diver and Open Water Diver course.

Welcome to the underwater world

The Maldives are beautiful coral islands surrounded by living reef, 26 Atolls in the middle of the Indian Ocean. The water temperature is warm throughout the year (26 - 30 degrees Celsius) and varies only very little with depth (0 - 30 meters). Coral is fragile and grows very slowly, about 2.5 cm per year, so to avoid damage, do not touch or step on it. In 2016, the extraordinarily warm waters of El Nino passed throughout the oceans, including the Maldives. The high temperature killed much coral, resulting in its bleached appearance. Now, the coral is growing, again, and we hope this continues so that in the future, it will be as magnificent as it was in the past. We also see an abundance and variety of other marine creatures found on the living reef, including 150 species of tropical fish such as sweet lips, trigger fish, butterfly fish, porcupine fish and many more. Most marine life that we encounter is harmless, however some, such as stonefish, scorpion fish and lion fish may give a dangerous sting. These fish are rarely found in a sandy lagoon but to be safe, always watch where you place your bare feet. The lagoon is a safe nursery in which juvenile sharks and rays grow and learn to survive. Eventually, they move outside the lagoon into the reef zone. It is interesting and fun to watch the baby sharks herd baitfish trying to catch the weak ones for a meal, or to watch the rays burrow into the sand looking for crabs to eat. In the Maldives, these marine creatures are considered harmless when treated in the proper manner.

Diving with reef sharks and manta rays is a popular attraction. You can see blotched fantail, porcupine, mangrove whip, torpedo and eagle rays. From May through November, it is the season to dive with Mantas at the east side of the Atoll. During that time we offer 2-tank trips to Mahibadhoo Manta Point on a regular basis. From December until April we offer full-day excursions to Rangalli Manta Point on the west side of the Atoll. All year, the waters around Vilamendhoo are well known for seeing whale sharks. Full day trips are frequently scheduled to the nearby Whale Shark National Park. You may also see white tip, grey, silvertip, nurse, guitar and zebra sharks. Hawksbill and green turtles may also be seen from time to time. Spinner dolphins are commonly seen, usually from aboard a boat because the dolphins are shy creatures.

The House Reef

The reef around Vilamendhoo is spectacular and very close to the beach. It is a wonderful experience to see the reef and its marine life while diving or snorkeling. To identify what you see, it is helpful to have a reef guide, which is a waterproof plastic card which you can read while in the water. These are sold in the Gift Shop and in the Dive Center. (Remember to follow the safety rules found in the Guest Services Directory in your room. A copy of the rules is posted on the bulletin board outside the Dive Center). To go to the reef, simply walk into the water and snorkel to the inside of the reef. Snorkel through any of the 10 "channels" through the reef to reach the outside of the reef, along the "wall". Snorkel along the reef, in the direction against the current, as there is always some current, sometimes weaker, sometimes stronger. If the current is too strong for your experience or comfort, then return inside the reef and return to the beach. When done snorkeling, return through any of the 10 "channels" through the reef to reach the beach.

Dive Courses

PADI Courses

Our Instructors are trained by PADI and certifications are recognized worldwide. Courses are structured to be safe, enjoyable and easy to learn. Beginner classes are held in small groups up to 4 students. We speak English, German, French, Spanish, Dutch and Japanese. PADI course material is available in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Dutch and Japanese.

Beginner Courses

Make your first bubbles underwater during the Discover Scuba Diving Program. No experience is needed to participate. The instructor will explain the equipment and the important rules, and after a short training session in the shallow lagoon you can make your first proper Open Water dive at the house-reef to a maximum depth of 12m. Ages: 10+

The first PADI scuba diving certification is called the "Scuba Diver". Learn a few beginner skills so that you feel comfortable with your equipment and

explore the reef to a maximum depth of 12 meters together with your Instructor. Duration: 2 days. Ages: 10+

The "Open Water Diver" is the world's most popular scuba diving course. You will be introduced to the physics, equipment, environment and joy of diving. With a combination of diving theory, lagoon practice and 4 open water dives you will be certified to dive independently with your buddy to a maximum depth of 12 to 18 meters (depending on the age). Duration: 3 to 4 days. Ages: 10+

Advanced Diving Courses

- Adventure Diver: The PADI Adventure Diver is a subset of the Advanced Open Water Diver. Complete 3 different adventure dives and gain further experience after your OWD certification. Duration: 3 dives. Age 12+
- Advanced Open Water Diver: Continue your training with the AOW course, built up your confidence by gaining more experience through 5 adventure dives such as deep dive, navigation dive, wreck dive or night dive. Duration: 5 dives. Age 12+
- PADI EFR & Rescue Diver: Learn how to anticipate and manage situations underwater. Your confidence will increase as you will know how to help other divers. Duration: 3 days. Age 12+

Specialties

Increase your training, knowledge and diving technique by choosing in between a wide range of specialties offered: Fish ID, Peak Performance Buoyancy, Underwater Digital Photographer, Night, Enriched Air, Emergency First Response, Shark, Manta, Drift and Wreck

Bubblemaker

A fun scuba dive for children in water shallower than 2 meters in our lagoon. Ages: 8+.

Diving

Orientation Dive

Orientation Dive - FREE for a certified diver. Every day at 10:00. Check in the evening before, or the same day until 09:30. Your Instructor goes with you in the Lagoon to review a few skills including practicing buoyancy control.

Dive Schedule

Dive Center Hours: 08:30 - 12:30 and 14:00 - 18:00 Enjoy more than 50 nearby dive sites

- Morning Dive: 2-Tank trip (different levels offered), meeting time: 07:45, back for lunch
- Afternoon Dive: Single-tank trip, meeting time: 14:15
- Full Day Excursions: 3 dives, meeting time 08:00, back between 15:00 and 17:00
- Whale Shark Excursions: full day trip, all year long, several times a week
- Manta Excursions: full day trip (Dec-Apr) or morning-2-tank trip (May-Nov), several times a week
- Night dives: only at the house reef, possible every day, guided night dive possible several times a week (min. 2 pax), fluo night dive possible

Dive Sites

Euro-Divers reserves the right to change dive sites based on the ability of the diver and diving conditions, which can change very quickly and are sometimes unpredictable.

Depth Limit

Maldives Law established a maximum diving depth:

- Level 1 Diver: 20m

- Level 2 Diver: 30m

Nitrox

Euro-Divers offers Nitrox free of charge for Nitrox certified divers. Nitrox reduces nitrogen intake thereby making diving safer vs. the same dive profile using Air. It may also increase bottom time.

Dive Boats

Euro-Divers provides 4 dhonis, each with fresh water shower, toilet and sun-deck. Each dhoni has 3-4 crew and 1-3 instructors depending on the number and experience level of the divers. The average number of divers per boat varies between 8 - 18 divers.

Boat Levels

- Easy: easy, possible to dive shallow, small currents divers with Level 1 or higher can join
- Medium: dive sites more exposed to currents, require quick descent and experienced divers, interesting points are often deeper than 20 meters, Level 2 or higher can join
- Difficult: dive sites probably with strong currents. Require quick descending and experienced divers to dive in independent buddy teams. The Instructor is acting as a "guide" only and will not "help you down". Interesting points are often deeper than 20 meters, divers with Level 2 or higher can join, Nitrox highly recommended

Important Rules

- Every diver has to carry a surface marker buoy and one buoy per group has to be deployed during the safety stop at 5 meters for 3 minutes.
- No decompression dives are allowed
- Maximum dive time is 60 minutes (including the safety stop)

General Safety Procedures

- Drink plenty of fluids, 2 - 3 liters of water and/or juice, especially during daytime
- Soft drinks, coffee, tea and alcoholic beverage are dehydrating
- Never drink alcoholic beverage then go swimming, snorkeling or diving
- Know yourself objectively evaluate your physical condition, and participate only within your limits
- Use sunscreen. Maldives is near the Equator. Avoid sunburn.
- Wash your ears with fresh water after being in the sea because the moistness and heat make a good environment for bacteria to grow and cause an ear infection.
- Ideally, softly rinse each ear under the shower for 10 - 15 seconds

Safety Procedures for Divers

Dive training teaches us that the following conditions may make us more susceptible to Decompression illness:

- Fatigue and/or vigorous exercise during a dive
- Dehydration
- Cold water temperature
- Older age
- Illness
- Seasickness
- Injury and/or a history of prior injury
- Consumption of alcoholic beverage
- Overweight
- Certain medications

- Women taking a contraceptive pill or other hormones
- You should not dive a minimum of 18 hours before flying

Therefore, if any of these conditions apply to you, then:

- Consult your Instructor for further information
- Plan your dive to give yourself a margin of safety of 5 minutes re: No Decompression Limit
- Plan your repetitive dive no deeper than 20 meters
- Ascend no faster than 18 meters/minute
- Make a safety stop at 5 meters for 3 minutes

2 recompression chambers are located within a 25 minute seaplane flight from Vilamendhoo.

Snorkeling

Snorkeling equipment can be rented from the dive center during the opening hours. Moreover guided night snorkeling and guided Fluo night snorkeling (see chapter Fluo Diving/Snorkeling) is offered at the house-reef. The sign-up lists for that can be found outside the dive center.

Fluo Diving/Snorkeling

Fluo diving and snorkeling is conducted in very small groups and equipped with special lights and mask filters you will discover the reef by night and reveal a totally different underwater world. The special lights and filters will enable you to see what no-one else would see otherwise - fluorescent corals, fishes and other marine life!

Manta Trust

Our resident marine biologist is available for all kinds of questions about the marine life and will join us on the different trips, giving you extra knowledge about the underwater world. Specialized in the Manta, every Friday at 16:30 a presentation will be given at the dive center about these magnificent creatures.

Retail Shop

Dive accessories, polo & T-shirts, DVDs, dive books and more are available at the dive center.

Events

The Euro-Divers Team presents a popular video each week showing the beautiful underwater world that you see around Vilamendhoo and its diving and snorkeling activities. The Dive Center staff looks forward to being of assistance and to answer your questions.

Water Sports Center

Opening hours: 09:00-18:00

We offer a variety of water sports (motorized and non-motorized) activities to enjoy including windsurfing, catamaran, kayak, glass bottom kayak, stand up paddle board, various jetski excursion, waterski, wakeboard, fun tubes, banana.

Equipment can be rented and lessons can be booked at the water sports center. Water sports services are subject to availability and weather conditions.