



## ***MALDIVES AGGRESSOR II***

From rushing channels surging with pelagic action to reefs teeming with the tiny, exotic Maldives offers divers a something-for-everyone smorgasbord underwater

**A**bundant pelagic life, from whale sharks and oceanic mantas to Napoleon wrasse and hammerhead sharks, distinguishes the Maldives, an island nation south of India that is beloved by divers.

The majority of dives are timed with incoming and outgoing tides, giving guests the chance to ride the flow, which not only makes for an exciting dive experience but also attracts legions of hunters eager to take advantage of

a surge that pushes a buffet of life in their direction. The opportunists include big schools of barracuda, giant trevally jacks, unicornfish, snappers and more. Beyond the rush and the big animals, these islands are home to reefs teeming with macro life, such as nudibranchs and ghost pipefish, daily finds in this Indian Ocean outpost.

Altogether, the destination contains 1,190 islands, far more than any vessel could visit in a week. Because of

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**BOAT SPECS** Length/Beam 135 feet/28 feet **Passenger-to-Staff Ratio** 22/16 **Staterooms/Beds** 11/19 **Bathrooms** Staterooms have private head and shower, individual climate control, toiletries, fresh towels daily and hair dryer **Sun Deck** Yes, with Jacuzzi, wet bar and shaded area **Food/Beverages** Yes, including local beer and wine **Wi-Fi Available** Email is available on board through the satellite system; there is a charge for incoming and outgoing email



## NEED TO KNOW

### HOME PORT

Depends on itinerary

### DIVE SEASON

Year-round

### DIVE CONDITIONS

80–86°F

### TRAVEL TIP

There are no dress requirements while on board, but when on land, modest clothing and covered shoulders are recommended. Guests are not permitted to bring alcohol into the country from other airport gateways, but local beer and wine are included during the charter.

this, *Maldives Aggressor II* splits its time among eight itineraries in three areas.

In the area known as Best of the Maldives, which includes North Male, South Male, North Ari Atoll, South Ari Atoll and Rasdhoo, guests can choose between three separate itineraries that focus on different islands within the region. Highlights of this area include drift dives alongside gray reef sharks, whitetip reef sharks, eagle rays and other pelagic life.



Divers who visit the Maldives have a multitude of options when it comes to dive sites among the nation's nearly 1,200 islands. Guests on *Maldives Aggressor II* will travel on one of eight itineraries in the region, relaxing with onboard amenities such as a wet bar and Jacuzzi in between dives that offer experiences for nearly every type of diver, whether searching for sharks and mantas in current or hunting macro finds such as nudibranchs and ghost pipefish. What's more, the region offers year-round chances for whale shark encounters.

This area also serves up dives on wrecks and pinnacles.

The Southern Hemisphere area is largely devoted to channel diving, so divers need to be comfortable in this environment. Here, the rewards are many: oceanic mantas, whitetip reef sharks, gray reef sharks and Napoleon wrasse, as well as massive schools of tunas and jacks.

The third area, referred to as Far South and the Deep South, is only visited in February and March, and targets some truly exceptional spots, including Whaleshark Point and a night dive at Alimatha House Reef, where stingrays and jacks feed in an action-packed frenzy that makes for adrenaline-filled viewing.

### CONTACT INFO:

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### GET MORE

Sri Lanka is a common jumping-off point for Maldives-bound travelers—and is home to the Aggressor Safari Lodge. From this upscale tented lodge, guests will travel to the grass plains and watering holes of Wilpattu National Park to encounter leopards, sloth bears, water buffalo and more, and to Minneriya National Park to watch the socialization of groups of Indian elephants. Day trips can also target the palace of Sigiriya, a wonder built in the fifth century atop a towering rock formation. Visit [aggressor.com](http://aggressor.com) for more information.

Even if you opt to remain in-country, the white-sand beaches of the Maldives are legendary, not just for that sugar-soft sand but also because, with so many atolls and such a small population, visitors can spread out, luxuriating in privacy. Whether you're traveling solo or with a loved one, this exotic paradise warrants a few extra days lounging on the beach or in an overwater bungalow, such as those of Bandos Island Resort or Lily Beach Resort and Spa, both of which Aggressor Travel can arrange.