



Frequently Asked Questions

What about Baggage Allowances?

Check with your international carrier regarding luggage allowance.

For domestic flights on air [Maldivian](#) you are allowed 20kg of checked luggage and a 5kg (Max size: 20" x 12" x 7") carry on. Excess baggage is approx \$1.30 per kg with 32kg max.

If you are flying from Colombo to Gan via [Sri Lankan Airlines](#) you are allowed 30kg of checked luggage and a carryon 7kg. Excess baggage can be pre-purchased on their website.

Visa and Travel Documents.

Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your entry into the Maldives. Please ensure that you have an onward or return ticket with you. You will also need to ensure that you have AT LEAST TWO full Visa pages in your passport for the visa sticker. All guests staying under 30 days will be eligible for a [30-day free visa on arrival](#). It is highly recommended that you bring two color copies of the personal information pages of your passport, as immigration officials in the provinces will require them. For guests staying in the Maldives more than 30 days you can extend the visa, PRIOR to expiration, at the local immigration office.

Note: This is a Muslim country under Sharia Law which means you must be dressed properly at all times, carry no alcohol, pork products, pornography, or idols of worship. You will be denied entry at immigration if any of these items are found.

Do I need vaccinations before I travel to the Maldives?

This is something that you should discuss with your personal physician. When travelling in remote areas it is always wise to be up to date with all necessary vaccinations. There is no Malaria in the Maldives, but depending upon the time of year you are travelling you may wish to adopt bite avoidance measures.

Note: When you are outside, off the boat, cover up and use mosquito repellent.

What money will I need?

USD is widely accepted in the Maldives. However, you can easily pick up a little cash upon arrival. Just outside the baggage claim area you will see currency exchanges. As with most airport currency exchanges, the ones in the Maldives give poor rates and charge a 3% handling fee. They will **NOT** exchange it back either. 15 EUR or AUD is more than enough to get you to your hotel. The **only** ATM's are in Male however they allow limited withdrawal amounts and frequently run out so you shouldn't rely on them. See the list below of what is not included. This will give you a better idea of how much you will need to have if paying by cash.

Eco Blue accepts USD, EUR and MVR onboard. Credit card is accepted on board for everything except tax, service fees and tips. Please be advised that foreign notes should be clean, new, and crisp. Maldivian banks and currency exchangers MAY not accept old notes or notes which are damaged in any way. You may have trouble processing credit cards in Male so bringing a little more cash to cover onboard expenses is probably a good idea.

It is not uncommon for the bank to put a block on the card if you use it in an exotic location without notifying them first so please contact your bank before departure.



Frequently Asked Questions

Package Includes:

- o Airport Transfers to/from Eco Blue *
- * Between 12-6pm in Gan and 7-9am in Male
- o 10 nights' double occupancy cabin
- o Breakfast, lunch, dinner & snacks
- o Up to 3 dives daily - schedule permitting
- o Use of tanks, weights and belts
- o Unlimited coffee, tea, water
- o Group Leaders - Peter & Kristine
- o 30 day free visa on arrival

Package does not include:

- Domestic Airfare & hotels
- Trip cancellation insurance (suggested)
- Dive insurance **REQUIRED**
- Alcoholic, coffee machine, soft drinks
- Crew Gratuities (\$150 p.p. suggested)
- Green tax \$6 per day
- Nitrox (USD 15 per day)
- Bottles of wine, liquor and juice
- Airline baggage fees

What type of electrical outlets and voltage do you have on the boat?

The vessel is fitted with 110/120V AC and 220/240V (3 Pin Sockets UK). We suggest you bring a power strip and at least one adaptor. Most electrical items will take 220v, however you should check your electronics (including electric razors, and blow dryers etc) to be sure. There are no converters on the boat so if you need one, bring it along.

What about phone and internet access?

If you have an unlocked mobile phone, you can pick up a pay as you go plan upon arrival in the Maldives that can access local phone coverage. They are relatively inexpensive. Please keep in mind we will be traveling to a remote area where signals aren't always available. Alternatively, Eco Blue has 2GB plans available for \$20, again this is based on signal availability.

What kind of food can I expect to be served?

Eco Blue serves up a mix of international and Asian dishes. Usually served buffet style. Please notify the cruise director of any allergies or food requirements on the booking sheet.

Tea, Nescafe and water (soda and juice - for a fee) are available all day long. Beer, liquor, and wine are not included and available after you've finished your last dive of the day.

Clothing and what to bring?

You are going to a Muslim country under Sharia Law so please dress appropriately (ladies - shoulders and knees covered) in public areas, such as the airport. On board, dress is usually informal due to the warm, humid climate and lightweight fabrics are recommended. Shorts and t-shirt by day and at night the dress code is casual. Also consider a light windbreaker, wrap, or sweatshirt as it can cool down at night (or in case of the occasional rainstorm). It's also a good idea to bring a muck stick and a reef hook although the boat has a few onboard.

Do you recommend any special insurance?

We hope that you do not have to use your insurance but we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance to cover any unexpected issues, such as illness or anything else that could prevent you from traveling.

Checking your personal medical insurance policy to confirm overseas coverage is a very good idea. If it is inadequate, you may wish to arrange for a short-term travel medical rider.



Frequently Asked Questions

Supplemental dive insurance is a must and REQUIRED by the boat. It can be purchased from Divers Alert Network (DAN), PADI, and Dive Assure to name a few. These companies may offer dive-related policies that also include travel, gear, and accident coverage all in one comprehensive policy. Eco Blue does offer insurance for an additional \$30 for the trip.

Embark and Disembark Eco Blue

Please keep us updated on any changes to your flight schedule. Guests arriving at Gan Airport on the check-in day will be met by a representative holding an Eco Pro Divers Maldives sign at 12 pm (earliest check in) in front of the arrivals exit door. Later arrivals will be collected directly at the respective flight times. The cabins must be free at 7am on departure day. Transfer to airport from boat is between 7am and 9am. (Group transfer) Latest check out is at 9am (later transfers 15 USD per person).

*If you are arriving in Gan the night prior, please contact the hotel for transfers from the airport to your hotel.

In case you have any problems you can call Alex - GM +960 7 658528, or Shakko (Cruise Manager) +960 7468690. Peter and I will try and get local Sim cards to monitor Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp to assist. We will also provide you with our airline/hotel schedule if you'd like to arrange your travel to correspond with ours.

What do I need for diving in Maldives?

- Each diver must be open water certified with a recognized agency such as SSI, CMAS, NAUI and PADI or similar with 30 logged dives in the last 5 years.
All divers must produce a written/stamped logbook with your last dives.
- Each diver must show proof of certification including Nitrox (which we highly recommend)
- Each diver must use a computer (Eco Blue has a limited number of computers available for rent if you don't have your own). You may want to have your computer serviced before the trip. At the very least, you should bring a spare battery.
- All divers must have a surface-signaling device (SMB's are available if you don't own one).
- Water temperatures in the Maldives averages 83-85f (28-30c). Sometimes we encounter thermoclines but they don't usually last long. We recommend wearing either a 3mm or 5mm full-length wetsuit depending on your sensitivity to cold with a 1-3mm hooded vest added for night dives. We have never heard divers complain about being too warm.

What can I bring to help the local village and children?

For the local children, we recommend anything educational or healthy. Note pads, pencils, erasers, maps, rulers, craft supplies, crayons or basic school or coloring books would be greatly appreciated. Soccer balls, barrettes, and small sewing kits are also appreciated. Since the kids don't get dental care we try and stay away from candy.