

SNORKELLING AND DIVING AT JA MANAFARU

The Maldives is blessed with waters that are unlike anywhere else in the world. With colours emerging from the deepest blue to true turquoise lagoons there is much to explore in the warm waters.

Haa Alifu Atoll is a place of tranquillity. Offering seclusion from other resorts, JA Manafaru is the only private island in this atoll which means our guests are most often the only people at dive and snorkel sites in the area.

Dive on in and experience the abundant marine life that calls the waters surrounding our private island their home.

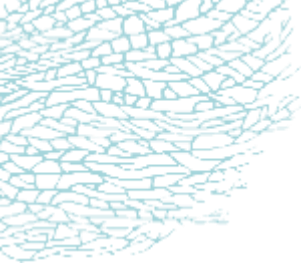
SNORKELLING MAP



- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| A Banana Point: | Beginner level, 2 schools of Blue Striped Snappers |
| B Tornado Pass: | Beginner to moderate level, a big group schooling of Humpback Snapper |
| C Coral Nursery: | Moderate level |
| D Shark Rock: | Moderate level, resting Nurse Sharks can often be spotted under the rocks |
| E The Aquarium: | Moderate level, wide variety of reef fish can be spotted |
| F South Point View*: | Moderate to experienced level, located at the south of the house reef |
| G Do Not Enter | Please do not snorkel in these areas |

**(close to 200 series water villas)*





SNORKELLING

SNORKELLING LESSON

We offer complimentary scheduled snorkelling lessons in one of our island pools. These sessions are ideal for those who have not snorkelled for a while or will be embarking on their first adventure.

EQUIPMENT

With our water sports centre partners 'Best Dives', we offer all guests complimentary use of snorkelling equipment such as mask, snorkel and fins. We also offer and recommend using a life jacket to support less confident swimmers, these are also offered complimentary.

Please consider the health of the coral reef when choosing your sun protection. Many sunscreens contain ingredients that can also block the sun from the coral itself. Look for sun protection that states reef-friendly or wear a protective rash vest / sun shirt.

INFORMATION

Please read our advice before snorkelling to ensure your experience is as safe and as enjoyable as possible.

Always snorkel with a partner if you can, and pop on a lifejacket if you're not a strong swimmer. While the water looks beautiful, sometimes the hidden currents can be strong. The current can be strong and changeable close to the water villas and around the island, not only in areas indicated on the map. Be alert. Consult the water sports centre team regarding daily sea and weather conditions.

Other islands on the horizon are much further away than they appear to be, with extremely strong currents and very deep water in-between them, so don't ever attempt to swim to another island.

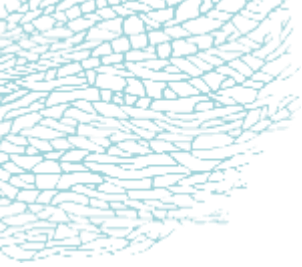
We advise always wearing fins, mask and snorkel whenever swimming in the sea. Give Titan Triggerfish a wide berth, particularly during nesting season (April-May). They are very territorial. If you find yourself close to one, swim away quickly in a horizontal direction (their territory is in a cone-shape, upwards from the ocean/reef floor). If necessary, kick with your fins as a barrier against them.

Do not ever touch or stand on the coral. Please also take care not to kick it with your fins. Coral is a living organism, and you can kill it just by touching it. Coral helps protect our island from storms and erosion.

Needlefish are as sharp as their name. Keep some distance when they dart around feeding, especially as dusk approaches.

Shells are most beautiful in their natural environment, and some are home to crabs. It is illegal in the Maldives to take them home with you. You may also be depriving a crab of a home, or they could nip your fingers. Be particularly wary of cone-shaped white and red/brown shells (Cone Snail shells), as Cone Snail stings can be dangerous.

Respect the juvenile Black Tip Reef Sharks seen hunting in the shallows. They are very cute and 'Instagrammable', but they could snap (particularly if frightened or pestered). Sharks in general are a keystone species, which plays a vital part in the ecosystem, we don't want to scare them away either.



SNORKELLING

HOUSE REEF

While you can snorkel from a variety of spots on the island, we recommend taking a walk out to the end of the Coral Jetty to our House Reef. Every day is different on a coral reef so each time you snorkel you will see different species of marine life, even on the same stretch of reef.

Some of the common species you will discover on the House Reef are;

- Snapper
- Nurse sharks (resident)
- Black tip reef shark (occasionally)
- Parrot fish
- Sweetlips
- Anemone fish
- Angel fish
- Butterfly fish
- Sting rays

While our coral reef, like almost everywhere, has had damage caused by the increased water temperatures, you will see these types of coral; Acropora, Pocillopora, Staghorn coral, and Boulder.

We are currently undergoing an evaluation process with the view to installing a large-scale coral restoration project in 2024.

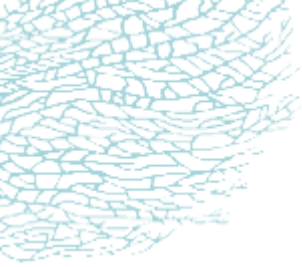
NIGHT SNORKELLING

A guided snorkel of the house reef at night will open your eyes to many different creatures that appear after dark. Using our powerful torches, you can see another world of colourful fish as well as Nurse Sharks and Stingrays.

RESIDENT TURTLES

JA Manafaru is a haven for turtles, both for feeding and nesting on our wide sandy beaches. We are home to two lovely ladies, Hawksbill Turtles named 'Dhon Hiyala' and 'Caroline'. Both are registered with Olive Ridley Project. Keep your eye out for them while snorkelling our house reef.





SNORKELLING

SNORKELLING EXCURSIONS

If you would like to stretch your sea legs and adventure further afield we have weekly scheduled shared snorkelling excursions, or you can book a private trip at a time to suit.

We are spoilt for choice for locations and the best spot will be chosen according to weather and sea conditions, but here are some of our favourite sites, all within a 30-minute boat trip.

Gallandhoo

The top reef gently slopes at around 3-5 metres where you will find large corals full of reef fish, great for beginners and experienced alike. There are many groups of fish like Triggerfish, Batfish, Bannerfish, Black Snapper and Butterflyfish. Check for camouflaged Scorpionfish and always keep an eye in the blue for Eagle Rays.

Coral species such as Blue Coral, Pocilopora, Porites (massive Boulder Coral) and Brain Coral can be found.

Madulu

A shallow reef that breaks down on a wall, with vibrant colours, excellent for beginners and just as wonderful for advanced snorkellers. Black Tip Sharks and turtles can be spotted as well as a variety of reef fish. Expect to see Table Coral and Acroporas.

Huvahandhoo

Perfect for beginners, a protected shallow reef with soft coral gardens and sponges. Look out for Yellow Dimpled Sponge, Mushroom Leather Coral, Brassy Leather Coral.





SCUBA DIVING

EXPERIENCE SCUBA

As a complimentary introduction, try out the experience of getting your first breaths underwater with scuba equipment in the safety of the swimming pool. Make bubbles while exploring the pool and take your first step before joining a Discover Scuba Dive (DSD) course and exploring our house reef.

LEARN TO SCUBA

Our 5-star dive partner 'Best Dives' offer PADI certifications for all levels of diving:

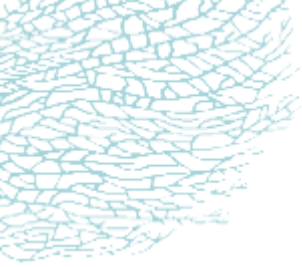
- Bubble Maker – from 8 to 10 years
- Discover Scuba Diver – 10 years and above
- Open Water Diver
- Advanced Open Water Diver
- Adventure Diver
- Rescue Diver

Full information and guidance is available from the experts at 'Best Dives'. [Click here](#) for more details.

NIGHT DIVING

If the thrill of diving during the day wasn't enough for you, challenge yourself to an even greater experience at night. There is nothing like slipping beneath the inky waters of the Indian Ocean with torch in hand, diving below to explore the mysteries of the nighttime marine world.





SCUBA DIVING

DIVE EXCURSIONS

Daily dive trips are offered for both single tank and double tank dives. The team at 'Best Dives' specialise in Haa Alifu Atoll sites. Dive instructors will share their local knowledge with you and plan out your dive to just a few of the top 33 sites in the Maldives, all within 25 minutes of JA Manafaru.

Some of the most popular sites we visit are;

GALLANDHOO FARU

This reef slopes gently from the top at 3-5 metres. Large coral and a rich variety of reef fish can be seen. Suitable for beginners through to experienced divers. Maximum depth 25 metres.

MULADHOO CORNER

The reef is at 6 to 8 metres with a true wall going down to 35 meters. The wall is rich with the smallest of fascinating marine life such as Nudibranch and Shrimps as well as Moray Eels. Suitable for beginners through to experienced divers. Maximum depth 30 metres.

MULADHOO NORTH

Some of the biggest corals are found at the reef top of 6 metres. The wall is covered in small hard corals. A variety of fish life can be found including Nurse Sharks sleeping under overhangs. Suitable for beginners through to experienced divers. Maximum depth 27 metres.

MADULU CAVES

Outstanding soft corals can be found inside the caves. A multitude of fish life can be seen on the top reef. Suitable for intermediate through to experienced divers. Maximum depth 20 metres.

HUVAHANDHOO CORNER

The top reef of 8 metres is resplendent with reef fish and turtles as well as stingrays are frequent visitors. Suitable for beginners through to experienced divers. Maximum depth 20 metres.

KUROLI THILA

From the 6-metre top reef this dive descends steeply with overhangs to 30 meters. Many Moray Eels, large Napoleon Wrasse, Lobsters and more can be spotted. Suitable for experienced divers. Maximum depth 30 metres.

Information on all local dive sites can be found on the [PADI website](#).

DIVE SITES

HAA ALIFU ATOLL,
MALDIVES

JA
MANAFARU
MALDIVES



BEST DIVES
MALDIVES



MANAFARU
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