

Princess Maani and Sachika



Before the cruise:

To enter the Maldives, your passport must be valid for at least one month after your arrival. Tourist visas valid for 30 days are issued free of charge to all nationalities upon arrival at the immigration counter at the Maldives International Airport. All visitors must have a return ticket. We recommend that you keep your voucher from Top Class Cruising or your tour operator/travel agency in case airport security requests it as proof of accommodation. In addition, all travelers must complete the online Imuga form—Declaration for Travelers (immigration.gov.mv)—within 96 hours prior to their flight time, both upon arrival and departure.

Check-in/Check-out:

Check-in is available from approximately 11:00 a.m. to midnight. On the day of departure, guests check out between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. or between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and arrive at the airport around 9:00 a.m. However, for guests with an early departure on the day of departure, we can arrange a special early check-out before 7:00 a.m. If you plan to continue your vacation in the Maldives at a resort, hotel, or another liveaboard, please arrange your own transfer from the airport, as we cannot provide direct transfers from the liveaboard to the resorts. If you need a room for the day, hotels and guesthouses are available in Hulhumale. Our boat manager will be happy to assist you with the arrangements, and payment is made on-site.

Malé Airport (Velana International)

If you're waiting for a transfer or a domestic flight upon arrival, the airport is quite comfortable and features a shop selling local SIM cards, a post office, a currency exchange, and several cafés and restaurants, including Thai Express and Burger King

Time

We are 5 hours ahead of GMT. There is no daylight saving time in the Maldives

Local Currency

The currency of the Maldives is the rufiyaa (MVR), which is closely pegged to the U.S. dollar at a rate of 1 U.S. dollar to 15.42 rufiyaa. Most resort islands and local tourist shops accept U.S. dollars, so there is no

need to exchange money for Rufiyaa. Major credit cards, including Visa, MasterCard, and JCB, are accepted at most resorts, hotels, liveaboards, and souvenir shops. Prices are usually listed in U.S. dollars. There is a local bank branch in the arrivals terminal of the international airport where you can exchange your money for U.S. dollars. Please note that traveler's checks are not accepted by any bank or resort island in the Maldives.

What currency should I bring?

We accept payments only in cash (euros and USD) as well as by credit card (Visa and MasterCard). Credit card charges are processed in USD plus a 4% surcharge. Please ensure that you are authorized to use your credit card outside your home country.

Electricity

British 3-pin outlets (Type G) with 220 volts AC and 50 Hz.

What is the maximum passenger capacity on board?

The maximum capacity for the Sachika is 22 to 23 passengers, while the Princess Maani can accommodate up to 28 passengers.

Can the chef accommodate vegetarians, and are there any medical or allergy restrictions to be aware of?

Our kitchen team strives to accommodate all dietary restrictions and preferences. We ask that you inform us of any special dietary needs or allergies at least 7 days before the cruise.

Are non-alcoholic beverages included in the package?

Our package includes self-service access to drinking water, Nescafé, and tea, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. However, soft drinks are not included in the package and are available for an additional fee.

Are children allowed on the trip?

Yes, children are allowed on the trip, but they must be supervised by a parent or responsible adult at all times while on board.

Are there activities for guests who don't dive?

For guests who do not dive, various activities are available, including visits to secluded islands, sandbars, barbecue evenings, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, fishing trips, local islands, happy hours, and karaoke. On the last day of the Central Atoll trip, guests can visit the modern and bustling city of Malé in the afternoon.

Is there a smoking ban on the liveaboard?

Yes, smoking is strictly prohibited in all indoor areas of the boat, including cabins and restaurants. However, smoking is permitted in the designated outdoor/open-air areas of the boat.

What is the cabin layout, and are single or double beds available?

The cabin layout depends on the specific boat, as they may have different configurations. Please refer to the specific information for the liveaboard to obtain all necessary details regarding the cabin layout.

Which deck and location is near the engine room?

The engine room is located on the lower deck at the stern of the boat.

Are there single cabins?

Yes, some cabins are suitable for single bookings, though an additional fee may apply. Please contact us for specific information about the liveaboard to get all the necessary details regarding cabin layout.

Is there air conditioning?

Yes, air conditioning is available in the restaurant/main lounge and in all cabins on the liveaboard.

Are there cabins with private bathrooms or shared bathrooms?

All cabins have private restrooms. In addition, each liveaboard has at least one public restroom.

Are beach towels provided?

Yes, we provide our guests with both beach towels and bath towels. Towels and bed linens are changed once a week, but an additional change is available upon request.

Are there charging stations for cameras and computers?

Each boat has a charging station area where guests can charge their cameras and computers.

Liability Waiver and Medical Certificates/Declarations:

Diving certifications (agency and numbers) are required when filling out the forms and may be requested by the boat manager/dive guide during the trip. Before participating in activities such as diving, snorkeling, or swimming, all guests must sign a medical self-declaration form at check-in. If a guest suffers from any of the medical conditions listed on the form, they must provide a doctor's clearance that is no older than 12 months to avoid delays, additional costs, or missing the trip. Guests participating

in a PADI course must sign a **Medical Form for Divers** before the course begins. For guests under 18 years of age, parents or legal guardians must sign all documents. If the medical declaration is not accepted, a medical certificate is required before the start of any water activity. The guest may be required to suspend or discontinue any diving activities if their health condition poses a danger to themselves or others.

Diving Procedures and Underwater Safety:

All dives with Top Class Cruising are led by professional, experienced dive guides and/or dive instructors. There will be no dives during which guests dive without the presence of dive guides. If a guest has not had the opportunity to dive for more than six months, Top Class Cruising recommends completing a Scuba Review on the first day of diving. Top Class Cruising advises all divers to complete a check dive before beginning any diving activities. The company reserves the right to restrict diving activities if the dive instructor has concerns regarding the divers' safety. Please accept any decision made by the captain and the dive guides, and remember that the safety of our guests is our number one priority.

Diving:

Three daily dives (except on check-in day and during the last 24 hours before the flight), including 1 night dive for the one-week trip and 2 night dives for the 10-night trip (so on the day of the night dive, there are 2 dives: one daytime dive plus one night dive). The dives take place on our comfortable dive dhoni. Tanks, belts, and weights are included.

There are typically 4 to 5 divemasters on each liveaboard. All dives are conducted from dhonis to ensure precise entry and exit points. Strong and unpredictable currents can occur at any time, especially during the new moon and full moon. Therefore, it's important to feel comfortable diving in currents. Top Class Cruising requires all guests to hold an Open Water Diver certification or an equivalent certification. For some dives, the recommended depth is less than 18 m; therefore, we recommend that our guests have Advanced or Deep Diver training. Please check the itinerary for each cruise to find out the required minimum number of dives.

What are the guidelines for solo, buddy, or group diving?

Solo diving is not permitted on the liveaboard. Instead, knowledgeable dive guides who are familiar with the dive sites and currents are available to assist you and will always strive to organize group dives. The ratio of dive guides to divers is favorable, with at least 4 dive guides on board. The liveaboard is flexible underwater and aims to meet the expectations and needs of all guests; however, guests are expected to behave appropriately toward marine life and other divers.

Non-divers:

For guests who do not dive, various activities are available, including visits to secluded islands, sandbars, barbecue evenings, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, fishing trips, excursions to local islands, happy hours, and karaoke. On the last day of the Central Atoll trip, guests can visit the modern and bustling city of Malé in the afternoon.

What is the dive schedule, including the times of the first and last dives as well as night dives:

The first dive usually takes place between 6 and 7 a.m. Before the first dive, we serve dry cookies with coffee or tea. After the first dive, a large breakfast buffet is served, followed by some downtime or activities such as diving courses. The second dive usually takes place between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch. After lunch, guests have some time to rest before the third dive, which usually takes place between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. After the third dive, the program varies. Sometimes an additional dive is included, such as a night dive between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., or activities like a happy hour on a sandbar or a secluded island, a walk on a local island, a tour of the capital city of Malé, or discussions on marine biology with our experts and dive guides.

What experience do I need to participate in a liveaboard:

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Can I take a diving course on board?

We offer various diving courses and specialty courses on board Top Class Cruising. Please contact us for details. Course availability depends on the itinerary, and if you intend to complete a certification course, it's best to let us know at least 7 days before the cruise begins.

Students under the age of 18 must have their course paperwork signed by a parent or legal guardian.

What about diving equipment:

The dive dhoni offers plenty of storage space for your gear, and dive towels are provided. We recommend that you bring your own mask, snorkel, fins, boots, wetsuit, regulator, BCD, SMB (with at least a 5-meter line for safety stops), and a dive computer with spare batteries. A flashlight is also required for night dives.

Rental Equipment:

All of the equipment listed above can be rented on board. If needed, we offer well-maintained rental diving equipment from top-tier brands and snorkeling gear for an additional fee. A surcharge also applies for renting a 15-liter steel tank. Please register in advance to ensure availability. To properly prepare the equipment, we need your usual height, weight, and shoe size. For safety reasons, all divers must use a dive computer and an SMB on every dive and carry reef hooks (which are distributed free of charge on board as needed). If you need help with your equipment, please ask what is available on board.

Use DIN or international tanks:

We are equipped with both DIN and INT tanks.

I've lost my certification card or logbook—can I still dive with you?

Certification card:

If you're a PADI, SSI, or TDI-SDI diver, don't worry—we can find you in the online database.

Logbook:

Yes, as long as you can prove that you're a diver. We may ask you to complete a check dive or a dive assessment before your arrival or on your first day. This depends on your skill level, how many dives you think you've done, and when your last dive was.

I haven't dived in a while. Do I need to take a course:

Your diving experience with Top Class Cruising depends on your skill level, the number of dives you've completed, and when your last dive was. If more than six months have passed since your last dive, many agencies recommend a Scuba Review.

If you plan to go on a liveaboard, please arrange this in advance before you arrive in the Maldives.

During your trip with us, regardless of your certification or experience, we'll conduct a check dive at a local, protected dive site. Our experienced guides will provide advice and feedback to ensure you have the best possible diving experience.

Maximum Diving Depth:

In the Maldives, the maximum diving depth is 30 meters when diving with a dive partner of equal qualification. Your depth limit depends on your training level and experience. Please be sure to check your insurance coverage for diving depth before your arrival, as this is your responsibility.

Water temperature:

The average water temperature is 27–29°C, so we recommend a 3-mm shorty or a Lycra wetsuit, which works well in tropical waters; however, some divers prefer a 5-mm wetsuit. It really depends on how you prefer to dive, but we'd be happy to advise you.

What marine life can I expect to see:

The coral reefs are home to a rich variety of marine life, including schools of reef and pelagic fish, several species of sharks, turtles, manta rays, eagle rays, and stingrays: They're all common companions on our dives, and every now and then playful dolphins make an appearance. With 26 atolls, the diving is varied, featuring channel dives that attract marine life from the depths, fast-current dives, and relaxing reef dives.

Behavioral Guidelines:

Antisocial, racist, homophobic, or aggressive behavior will **NOT be tolerated**, and individuals who disturb other guests may, if necessary, be removed from the ship with the assistance of local authorities.

Are there any special rules I need to follow:

We care about the environment. Wearing gloves is not permitted in the Maldives. Please also refrain from touching, riding, feeding, catching, or disturbing marine life. During the safety stop, you should still have at least 50 bar left in your tank. We typically enter the water with a negative buoyancy setting (BCD deflated). Solo diving and decompression diving are not permitted, and we ask that you maintain proper buoyancy at all times during the dive, especially when using cameras. By following these guidelines, we can all enjoy an excellent dive while protecting our environment.

Internet:

All our liveaboards are equipped with Wi-Fi, and internet access is available when a cellular signal is present. This service is intended for limited web browsing and connecting to communication apps. Upload and download speeds are very limited, so we ask guests to refrain from transferring large files. Signal strength may vary, which can result in intermittent and/or slow connections depending on the local mobile carrier. If you use the internet extensively, we recommend purchasing a local data SIM card upon arrival at Malé Airport; the Top Class Cruising representative can assist you with this.

Alcoholic Beverages:

Importing alcoholic beverages is prohibited under Maldivian law; they will be confiscated by customs upon arrival and returned to you upon departure, which can be a lengthy process. Alcohol can be purchased on board.

What is the difference between the seasons:

There are two distinct seasons in the Maldives: the southwest monsoon (rainy season), which typically runs from mid-May through November, and the northeast monsoon (dry season), which runs from January through March. The months of December and April are considered the monsoon transition period. Sharks, manta rays, and whale sharks can be spotted during both seasons. The main difference lies in the likelihood of rain and unstable weather, which is higher between May and November.

Itineraries:

All itineraries, dive sites, dives, and other activities are subject to unforeseen changes due to weather conditions and other unforeseen circumstances. In adverse weather conditions, the guides and captains of the boat and the dhoni have the final say on which dive sites to visit to ensure the safety of guests, staff, and the boat. In the unfortunate event that dives cannot take place or dive sites cannot be reached due to weather conditions or other unforeseeable changes, Top Class Cruising will not offer a refund or compensation.

Unforeseeable Events:

It is a condition of your contract with Top Class Cruising that you purchase dive insurance (available on board) that covers the diver for the entire duration of the trip.

Top Class Cruising is not responsible for financial losses beyond our control, such as weather, force majeure, or changes made by local authorities.

Guests are responsible, but not required, to purchase travel insurance that covers the following:

- a. Diving accident insurance: covers all risks, costs, and expenses that may arise as a result of a diving injury, including but not limited to hyperbaric chamber treatment, air evacuation, and loss or damage to personal property. This insurance should cover all diving or water sports activities you are likely to engage in during your trip.
- b. Medical evacuation insurance: Covers all risks, costs, and expenses arising from a diving or non-diving injury that requires your evacuation to a location with specialized care.
- c. Comprehensive Travel Insurance: to cover pre-departure cancellations if you must cancel your trip for a reason such as illness or a serious accident, changes or cancellations to your travel plans, and loss or damage to your luggage and its contents.

If you choose to travel without adequate insurance coverage, Top Class Cruising is not liable for any losses, however they may have occurred, for which insurance coverage would otherwise have been in place.

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