



BAROS
MALDIVES

DIVE SITES

NASIMO THILA



In the Maldives the word 'thila' refers to submerged coral towers and caves.

This thila offers one of the most spectacular dives in the Maldives. A section of the reef has broken off, leaving huge coral boulders at 18-30m down, covered with a blanket of soft and hard corals. Where the reef has broken off a long series of overhangs and crevices remain for exploration. The ceilings of these overhangs are covered with a beautiful layer of blue soft corals. Needless to say, there is a wealth of fish and marine life to be seen at this site.

Location: 45 minutes east of Baros Maldives

Highlights: Marine Protected Area; overhangs with beautiful blue soft coral; pinnacles of soft corals scattered at various depth from 18-25m. This is one of the most spectacular dive sites in the Maldives.

Marine life: Shark, tuna, trevally, turtle, schools of snapper and fusilier, violet soldierfish

Reef: Big thila with overhangs, inside the atoll

Diving depth: Min. 8m – Max. 30m

Experience: For the more experienced diver

OKOBE THILA



A spectacular dive site, with myriad features. Off this reef is a continuous line of ledges and overhangs which are covered with a thick layer of soft corals. On the north end of the reef is an outcrop with abundant fish life, including large groups of bluestripe snapper, oriental sweetlips and fusiliers. On the eastern side is a bigger outcrop where barracudas, Napoleon wrasses, big tuna and trevally can be found. The reef is also known for its excellent coral growth.

Location: 35 minutes east of Baros
Maldives

Highlights: A broken off coral block; overhangs covered in soft corals; and an abundance of fish life

Marine life: Shark, tuna, trevally, turtle, schools of snapper and fusilier, violet soldierfish

Reef: Small thila with overhangs inside the atoll

Diving depth: Min. 8m – Max. 30m

Experience: For the more experienced diver

KUDA HAA



A legendary site, dubbed by divers 'fish soup'. This reef is in a protected marine area and teems with colourful fairy basslet. The site comprises two peaks that rise up from the atoll bed and resemble a camel's back. The larger of the two humps is about 30m in diameter with steep sides. Its peak is just 8m below the surface. The second hump has its shallowest depth at 13m. Both are covered with newly grown hard corals, which offer protection for a diversity of colourful fishes.

Location: 25 minutes south of Baros Maldives

Highlights: An abundance of fish life in a protected marine area

Marine life: Napoleon wrasse, turtle, moray eels, large groups of blue striped snapper, red tooth triggerfish and basslet, scorpionfish, stonefish

Reef: Two small thilas inside the atoll

Diving depth: Min. 6m – Max. 27m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

BAARI THILA



Exclusive to Baros, this thila is located inside the atoll. The top of the thila starts at about 15m. Sharks and rays are regularly spotted sleeping in the sand on the east side of the thila, while barracudas and eagle rays can be seen in the deeper waters. Schools of oriental sweetlips can also be found here, a big favourite among underwater photographers.

Location: 30 minutes southwest of Baros Maldives

Highlights: This reef is exclusively dived by divers from Baros Maldives

Marine life: Sharks, eagle ray, tuna, barracuda, Napoleon wrasse, oriental sweetlips

Reef: A small thila detached from the main reef, inside of the atoll

Diving depth: Min. 6m – Max. 27m

Experience: For the more experienced diver

RAMEEZ PLACE



Dive this reef to the west of Baros and be delighted with a host of surprises. Come at the right time of the year and you will see manta rays gliding majestically over the reef, or maybe a grey reef sharks or whitetip sharks. Stingrays, nurse sharks and lobsters make themselves at home in the overhangs of this reef, while tuna, trevally and eagle rays are regular visitors. There is also plenty of smaller marine life, such as pipefish, frogfish and the eye-catching leaf fish.

Location: 30 minutes west of Baros
Maldives

Highlights: The chance to see mantas
and many kinds of shark

Marine life: Grey reef shark, whitetip
shark, nurse shark, eagle and stingray,
Napoleon wrasse, tuna, trevally

Reef: Thila with overhangs in a channel
featuring mainly stony coral

Diving depth: Min. 8m – Max. 30m

Experience: For beginners and
advanced divers (when conditions are
suitable)

BANANA REEF



As legendary as Baros itself, this reef is one of the first dive sites discovered in the Maldives and is a protected marine area. The reef is very popular among photographers due to the amazing marine life and the shape of the reef. The northeast side of the reef features spectacular caves, canyons and precipitous overhangs that are home to sharks, barracuda, trevally and black snapper. Spectacular schools of yellow snapper, humpback red snapper and oriental sweetlips also light up this beautiful reef.

Location: 45 minutes east of Baros Maldives

Highlights: Marine protected area; big overhang at southern end of the thila packed with bluestripe snappers; spectacular canyons and caves

Marine life: Green turtles, Napoleon wrasse, snappers, fusiliers

Reef: Medium-size thila with overhangs

Diving depth: Min. 4m – Max. 25m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

MANTA POINT (LANKANFINOLHU FARU)



For lovers of mantas – this reef is irresistible to manta rays during the southwest monsoon season, with astonishing numbers congregating here. The reef slopes gently down to 40m, dotted with massive Porites corals which house colonies of cleaner wrasse that attract the manta rays. The manta rays come in from the deep water and hover over the coral heads while the wrasses get to work. Even without the manta rays, this is still a tremendous dive site with huge schools of fusilier, oriental sweetlips and Napoleon wrasses as well as turtles and moray eels.

Location: 60 minutes east of Baros Maldives

Highlights: A feeding and cleaning area for manta rays from May to December; some whale shark sightings

Marine life: Manta ray, Napoleon wrasse, turtle, reef shark, fusilier, oriental sweetlips, cleaner wrasse

Reef: Big thila on the outer reef

Diving depth: Min. 9m – Max. 28m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

BODUHITHI THILA



This is a gargantuan thila located in the middle of the inner atoll, just 55 minutes from Baros. The top of the reef is 8-10m below the surface with three bays in the reef between 15-25m. These sandy bays are sometimes known as 'Manta Road', as mantas often gather here for cleaning between January and May. As many as 10 manta rays can be seen gathered here at one time. This is a long reef with the best diving at the southern end. There is a huge cave at 17m where nurse sharks are regularly spotted.

Location: 70 minutes north of Baros
Maldives

Highlights: Cleaning and feeding area for manta rays from January to May; some whale and nurse shark sightings

Marine life: Mantas, Napoleon wrasse, turtles, reef sharks

Reef: A huge thila on the inner reef

Diving depth: Min. 9m – Max. 25m

Experience: For the more experienced diver

FURANA THILA



You can easily swim around this small thila in a single dive. The top of the thila is at 4m and gently slopes down to the atoll bed at 25m. The reef consists of healthy hard corals and is home to a colony of thousands of redtooth triggerfish and basslet. A group of bluestripe snappers can be found around the overhang at the northeast corner of the reef. Different kinds of moray eel can also be found here, including the beautiful honeycomb moray eel with its amazing pattern, the giant moray eel, the bearded moray eel and the undulated moray eel.

Location: 40 minutes east of Baros Maldives

Highlights: Different kinds of moray eels; a vast variety of marine life

Marine life: Large schools of basslet and redtooth triggerfish, scorpion fish, lionfish, different kinds of moray eel

Reef: A small thila, inside the atoll

Diving depth: Min. 4m – Max. 24m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

BAROS HOUSE REEF



The Baros house reef encircles the island and is known as one of the best house reefs in the Maldives. Just a few metres from the Baros shore, the reef is easily accessible. Gently sloping to 20m it hosts a breathtaking variety of marine life. Our house reef is a nursery ground for blacktip sharks, which can be seen here every day in their natural habitat. Turtles can often be seen in the shallower waters. Buddy pairs can access the reef from 9 am to 5 pm while night dives are also available.

Location: Just a few metres from the Baros beach

Highlights: Nurse sharks, blacktip sharks, turtles, rays and an abundance of other marine life just metres from your villa; two wrecks

Marine life: Sharks, rays, batfish, groupers, tuna, schools of fusilier surgeonfish

Reef: Two reefs connected by a sandy bottom, where one of the two wrecks can be found

Diving depth: Min. 2m – Max. 30m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

NIGHT DIVES



Explore the difference between day and night with a night dive in the house reef. As corals open up and extend their colourful flower-like tentacles, lionfish, lobster, shrimp and other nocturnal species leave their holes to look for food. The waters of Baros come alive at night as phosphorescent plankton light up the ocean with their blue bioluminescent effect. Night dives are conducted regularly by boat at the Black Coral reef as well as on the house reef from 5:45 pm to 7:30 pm.

Location: At the Baros house reef or by boat at the Black Coral reef

Highlights: Nocturnal marine life

Marine life: Lobster, squid, lionfish, shrimp, flatworm, nudibranchs

Diving depth: Min. 5m – Max. 18m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

BLACK CORAL REEF



The top of this reef lies just 3m under the surface and drops dramatically to the bottom at 30m. Throughout the reef, you can find overhangs and swim-throughs to explore at depths of 5-25m. At 25m, there are large overhangs with leather corals, whip corals and black coral bushes. At 5-15m, you will find many ledges and overhangs where ceilings are covered with different coloured sponges and Faulkner's coral that light up spectacularly during night dives. Black coral, meanwhile, is a protected species that derives its name from its black internal skeleton. On the outside, it has beautiful branches with small polyps. Get up close and you will see the black coral shrimp inside – great for macro photography!

Location: Five minutes southeast of Baros Maldives

Highlights: Wall with overhangs, black corals, night dives

Marine life: Turtles, humpback snapper, a school of bannerfish

Reef: Steep wall with overhangs and ledges from 5-25m

Diving depth: Min. 2m – Max. 25m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

RASFARI CORNER



Manta rays and more – this dive site is located in the channel to the northwest of Baros. Manta rays can be seen here from January to April when they gather in shallower water for cleaning. The dive starts at the beginning of a drop that gently slopes down to 20m. In the middle of the dive you will slowly ascend to the plateau at the top of the reef where the manta rays can be found. Stay calm and keep as close to the reef as possible and you will be amazed at how close you can get to these majestic creatures as they glide just over your head.

Location: 60 minutes north of Baros
Maldives

Highlights: Manta rays can be seen here from January to April

Marine life: Manta rays, Napoleon wrasse, stingrays, eagle rays

Reef: A plateau with a sharp drop-off in the channel

Diving depth: Min. 2m – Max. 15m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

KUHLA FARU



Fish in abundance – this reef, located outside the atoll, rises gently from the depths to 8m at its highest point. It mainly consists of hard coral in very good condition, with hundreds of red tooth triggerfish, schools of fusilier, as well as tuna and trevally. Because this site is located outside the atoll, bigger marine life can be found here, such as eagle rays, stingrays and a variety of sharks. Keep an eye out for sharks such as the whitetip shark, grey reef shark, leopard shark and maybe even an oceanic whitetip. Remember to look out from the reef, or risk missing out on seeing bigger marine life in the blue waters.

Location: 30 minutes west of Baros Maldives

Highlights: A beautiful reef with very healthy coral growth and an abundance of fish life

Marine life: Triggerfish, fusilier, tuna, trevally, whitetip shark, grey reef shark, eagle ray, stingray

Reef: Outer reef

Diving depth: Min. 8m – Max. 23m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

DHIGU THILA



The sun's reflection on the coral here creates a magnificent sight. This gently sloping reef is suitable for shallow dives at about 15m. You will find beautiful table and branching corals that are home to schools of goldspot emperor, two-spot snapper, bluestripe snapper and fusilier. Because of the beauty of the coral here, it is advisable to spend extra time on the reeftop at 3-5m.

Location: 25 minutes south of Baros Maldives

Highlights: Stunningly beautiful coral and an abundance of fish life

Marine life: Two-spot snapper, goldspot emperor, fusilier, whitetip shark, eagle ray

Reef: A gently sloping reef that is perfect for shallow dives

Diving depth: Min. 5m – Max. 15m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

ALIBABA CAVE



Full of treasures, like its namesake, this reef has a steep wall that descends to 20m. At 15-20m, you will find large overhangs that you can swim under, spotting sleeping stingrays or nurse sharks as you go. There is also plenty of invertebrate life, such as colourful nudibranchs and flatworms. In some seasons the whole reef is covered in a thick layer of sweeper fish, attracting predators such as tuna and trevally. After 30-40 minutes it is recommended to ascend to the reef-top where you will find schools of bannerfish, surgeonfish, parrotfish and more.

Location: 10 minutes to the northeast of Baros Maldives

Highlights: A steep wall with large overhangs and an abundance of marine life

Marine life: Nurse sharks, stingrays, schooling bannerfish, nudibranchs, flatworm

Reef: Steep wall

Diving depth: Min. 3m – Max. 15m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

ANEMONE REEF



This oval thila can be easily rounded in a single dive. The reef-top starts at 5m, dropping slowly to a depth of 20m. As the name suggests, a variety of anemones can be found here, including Bulbtenticle, Haddon and Merten anemones. The aptly-named Magnificent Sea Anemone steals the show here, one of the largest single-structured tropical anemones, and is dominant on this reef. The reef is even more spectacular in cloudy conditions when the anemone closes and shows off its vividly colourful exterior. Turtles, whitetip reef sharks, scorpionfish, lionfish and schools of fusilier can often be found on this reef.

Location: 20 minutes southwest of Baros Maldives

Highlights: Different species of anemone

Marine life: Clark's anemonefish, Maldivian anemonefish, turtles, scorpionfish, lionfish

Reef: A thila inside the atoll

Diving depth: Min. 5m – Max. 20m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

KODDIPARU



An excellent site for macro photography. The southeastern part of Koddiparu is a steep wall, while to the north the reef slopes down with ledges at depths of 5-10m. You will find the cushion starfish and the sea star shrimp here; along with the amboin shrimp and the thin-armed shrimp, which can be found near anemones. On the steep wall, there are some outcrops covered with anemones where lionfish can be found – the perfect place for keen photographers. Spear mantis shrimp also make their home on this reef.

Location: 20 minutes southwest of Baros Maldives

Highlights: Macro marine life, including different shrimps, nudibranchs and flatworm

Marine life: Lionfish, scorpionfish, frogfish, a school of bluestripe snappers

Reef: A wall reef inside the atoll

Diving depth: Min. 5m – Max. 20m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

MOON VALLEY



This is a gentle drift dive that carries you along a wall at depths of 10-30m. During the northeast monsoon (January to April) manta-like mobula are regularly spotted here, as well as eagle rays and Napoleon wrasses. During afternoon dives you will often see tuna as they hunt among schools of fusilier. At the top of the reef, you will find goldspot emperors, oriental sweetlips and spectacular displays of schooling fish.

Location: 25 minutes south of Baros Maldives

Highlights: Gentle drift dive along a wall

Marine life: Napoleon wrasse, turtles, tuna, mobula, eagle rays, oriental sweetlips

Reef: Channel dive

Diving depth: Min. 10m – Max. 30m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

FURANA NORTH



Drift and explore this thin thila, with a reef top at 10m and an eastern point that faces the ocean and slopes down to the atoll plate. When the currents are funnelling through the channel it attracts many types of pelagic fish. Following the thila on the right you drift along the southern wall, which is interspersed with caves and overhangs. You can often find nurse sharks and turtles here.

Location: 50 minutes east of Baros Maldives

Highlights: Pelagic fish

Marine life: Trevally, tuna, barracuda, nurse shark

Reef: Thila in the channel

Diving depth: Min. 10m – Max. 25m

Experience: For advanced divers

KANDU OIY GERY



The reef starts at 5m and drops steadily down to the ocean floor at 25m. On the northern side, the reef makes a sharp corner to the left. On the reef slope, you will find honeycomb moray eels as you drift towards the corner. At the corner, in front of the overhangs, a large coral block has broken off the main reef and creates a protected area for a wealth of marine life. It is worth spending extra time at this corner as you can see schools of snapper, batfish and fusilier. Look from inside the cave into the blue waters outside to see vibrant marine life and spectacular underwater views.

Location: 40 minutes east of Baros

Highlights: Overhangs with coral boulders

Marine life: School of snapper, batfish, fusilier, honeycomb moray eels, jackfish, basslet

Reef: Sloped reef

Diving depth: Min. 5m – Max. 25m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

LANKAN CAVES



The Lankan Caves dive site is an extension of Manta Point Lankan Caves. It features a collection of impressive overhangs and caves, where parrotfish, trevally, surgeon and emperor fish drift among the hard and soft corals in large numbers. Divers can also expect to catch a glimpse of tuna, jacks and the occasional Napoleon wrasse or sea turtle.

Location: 60 minutes east of Baros Maldives

Highlights: Big overhangs

Marine life: Trevally, surgeonfish, parrotfish, tuna

Reef: Reef slope with caves

Diving Depth: Min. 5m – Max. 25m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

SHALLOW POINT



This is a circular reef that rises gently to a shallow plateau at 8m. You can easily swim around this small thila. Twinspot and blue striped snapper can be seen here, along with the stonefish and scorpionfish that hide among the boulders on the reef-top. Clownfish can also be seen here sheltered among the anemones.

Location: 5 minutes southeast of Baros Maldives

Highlights: Offers lots of surprises, including seldom-seen marine life

Marine life: Stonefish, scorpionfish, lionfish, clownfish, snapper

Reef: A small thila just minutes from Baros

Diving depth: Min. 8m – Max. 25m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

GIRAAVARU CAVES



The views from inside the caves at this dive site are simply spectacular! The site features an incredible drop-off with large overhangs and caves – the perfect place for large schools of playful fish to zip to and from the hard and soft corals. Midnight snapper, pelagic fish and eagle rays are common visitors to these caves.

Location: 30 minutes south of Baros Maldives

Highlights: Caves and overhangs

Marine life: Eagle ray, whitetip shark, tuna, trevally, fusilier and snapper

Reef: Channel reef

Diving depth: Min. 5m – Max. 25m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers (when conditions are suitable)

HIMMAFUSHI



This reef drops steeply away in a channel from 5-6m to 30m. When the currents are flowing into the atoll you can drift with the reef on your left shoulder. At the corner of the channel you can find a lot of marine life, such as whitetip reef sharks, eagle rays and Napoleon wrasse.

Location: 70 minutes northeast of Baros Maldives

Highlights: A spectacular drift dive with plentiful marine life

Marine life: Schools of redtooth triggerfish, Napoleon wrasse, whitetip shark

Reef: Channel reef

Diving depth: Min. 5m – Max. 30m

Experience: For more experienced divers, private excursions only

AQUARIUM



The Aquarium dive site is located along the southern edge of Lohifushi Island. It harbours a treasure trove of marine life, ranging from the very smallest underwater creatures to large pelagics. Outcrops of coral rock are scattered along the reef and provide shelter for many fish species. During the southwest monsoon (May to November) there is an excellent chance you will see manta rays. Divers can also expect to see Napoleon wrasse, oriental sweetlips, turtles and more.

Location: 80 minutes northeast of Baros Maldives

Highlights: An abundance of marine life, and a good chance of seeing manta rays during the southwest monsoon

Marine life: Napoleon wrasse, tuna, barracuda, trevally, moray eels, turtles and oriental sweetlips

Reef: Channel reef

Diving depth: Min. 2m – Max. 30m

Experience: For beginners and advanced divers, only by private excursion

HP REEF



HP Reef is located just off the main reef of Himmafushi Island. The thila is made up of huge coral boulders with plenty of overhangs, caves and crevices. The whole area is covered in beautiful blue, orange and yellow soft corals. Many sea fans and black coral bushes can be seen here also, along with a spectacular variety of marine life, including sharks, eagle rays, tuna and barracuda.

Location: 70 minutes northeast of Baros Maldives

Highlights: Overhangs covered with blue, orange and yellow soft corals

Marine life: Sharks, eagle rays, tuna, barracuda and an abundance of reef fish

Reef: A thila in the channel

Diving depth: Min. 7m – Max. 30m

Experience: For the more experienced diver, only by private excursion.