

## READ BEFORE YOU LEAVE

### Emperor Maldives - Liveboards

**Contacting Emperor Fleet, Maldives:** Country Code is 00960 + local number dropping the 1<sup>st</sup> 0.

Emperor Fleet Airport Representative: 00960 768 0888 Emperor Fleet General Manager: 00960 799 6657

In the event of an emergency, family and friends can contact our staff can be contacted on any of the numbers above.

**Passports & Visas:** All guests must have a passport valid for at least six more months after arrival. 30-day tourist visas are issued on arrival at the immigration desk at Maldives International airport for all nationalities and are free of charge. All visitors must be in possession of a return/onward flight ticket.

**Insurance:** We recommend purchasing cancellation insurance, in the event of unexpected changes in your travel plans. Baggage/Dive Equipment Insurance is also recommended. We do require every diver to have valid accident and medical insurance. Should Diving Insurance not be obtained prior to your visit, this can be arranged in resort with INDEPTH Insurance.

**Information about Male (Velana International) Airport:** If you have to wait for a transfer on arrival or for a connecting domestic flight, the airport is reasonably comfortable and has a shop for local SIM cards, a post office, money changer, and a few decent coffee shops / restaurants Inc. Thai Express, Burger King and a New Noodle.

**On arrival:** Guests arriving at Male Airport on the check-in day (usually Saturday or Sunday) will be met by a representative, wearing an Emperor Maldives T-shirt and holding an Emperor Maldives sign. The meeting point is beside the Help Desk.

**Domestic Flights:** Check in will commence 2 hrs prior to departure and will close 1 hr prior departure. Each diver has 25kgs free baggage allowance (standard 20kgs). The name detailed on your e-ticket must match your passport. Where possible, you will be met by an Emperor Representative and assisted with the check-in formalities for your flight.

**Transfers to and from the liveboard:** Emperor arranged transfers depart from the airport to the boat at 11:00, 13:00 and 16:00 and are free of charge. Guests who use the 11:00 transfer accept that the boat will not be fully cleaned or ready. A light sandwich style snack will be provided for lunch. If you do not wish to wait for one of the above transfers or you arrive after the last transfer, taxis are available at the airport for around \$15, our airport representative will be happy to help you, however please note that boarding may not be possible before 13:00. If you are already in the Maldives, you should make your way to the airport for the 16:00 transfer. Our boats moor in port on arrival day and overnight, departing early on the morning following the check-in day. The boat moors in port mid-afternoon the day before departure and remains in port overnight until check-out from the boat.

**Check out** is at 07:00 and guests will be in the airport by 07:30. For guests continuing their holiday in the Maldives at a resort, hotel or another liveboard, your on-going transfers need to be arranged by you from the airport. We will not be able to arrange direct transfers from the liveboard to resorts. Day use rooms are available with hotel/guest houses on Hulhumale, the boat manager can help you arrange this on request. Payment is made locally.

**Diving in Maldives:** The maximum depth for diving in the Maldives is 30 metres with an equally qualified buddy. Your maximum diving depth will be dependent on your level of training and experience. It is your responsibility to check what depths your insurance policy covers you for before your arrival. Unpredictable and strong currents are to be expected anytime, but especially in periods of new and full moons. We recommend that you are certified to 30 metres and are comfortable with drift dives. Decompression diving, solo diving and technical diving is strictly prohibited.

**Diver Experience:** Emperor Maldives advises that all guests must be Open Water Diver or equivalent. On some dives the recommended depth is below 18m therefore advanced or Deep Diver training is advised. Please check each itinerary regarding any minimum number of dives required and for further information.

**Experienced Divers** can dive in a buddy pair unguided. **Inexperienced and beginner divers** may find some dives challenging and may be asked by the Cruise Director to skip dives that are not suitable for their diving experience.

**Scuba Review & Check Dive:** Emperor Maldives advises divers to follow the agency recommendation for safety reasons. Many agencies recommend a Scuba Review if it has been longer than six months since your last dive and should be completed prior to your arrival in resort and signed by an instructor in your diving logbook. Every diver, regardless of their qualification or experience will be scheduled to dive their first dive at local/sheltered dive site. This dive allows you to orientate yourself in your diving environment and acquaint yourself with your equipment. In the interests of safety, Emperor Maldives reserves the right to restrict diving activities if the instructor has any concerns regarding diver safety.

**The Dive Guides:** For all diving sites visited our dive guides will give you a detailed and comprehensive dive briefing before you enter the water. Emperor Maldives' have a minimum of two guides on board. When the guide is in the water they will remain with the group to navigate the site and to look out for any interesting marine life to show you. The dive guide will not provide any dive training during the dive and you and buddy dive together at your own risk. The guides may decide upon seeing each diver's ability not to enter the water for every dive and will remain onboard providing surface support only.

**Diving for Qualified Divers:** As qualified divers you are expected to be able to dive to a standard as per the certification and experience requirements outlined. You are responsible for your own and your buddy's safety during the dive and to plan your dive and dive your plan by using a personal dive computer. You must begin, execute and end the dive with your dive buddy. Should you be a single diver a buddy will be allocated onboard. There will be no diving on arrival and departure day and 17 dives offered per week (2-3 dives per day). All divers must ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their last dive and their flight departure.

**Courses:** We offer a range of courses on-board from beginner to a wide range of speciality and advanced training courses. Courses are subject to availability and itinerary. Prices can be found here: [Liveboard Price List](#), they include course materials, where required and certification fee. If arranged locally a 12% sales tax and service charge is included.

For the Open Water Referral Course, you will need to bring with you your referral form (signed and completed by your instructor dated within 12 months) as evidence that you have completed the theory and confined dives. Course paperwork needs to be signed by a parent or guardian for students under the age of 18.

If you are taking part in any course, you are required to sign a [PADI medical form](#) prior to starting the course. If you have, or think you have, any of the medical conditions listed you will need signed clearance from a doctor valid within 12 months of starting your course. Where doctor's clearance is needed, we ask you to arrange this before arrival where possible and to bring it with you to avoid any delays, additional costs or cancellation.

**Snorkelling/Non-divers:** Both snorkelers and non-divers will be required to complete a liability form at the time of check in. Snorkelling can be taken from the dhoni when an Instructor/Guide is onboard to observe or unless the snorkeler is accompanied in the water by a certified diver. We ask all snorkelers to wear a floatation aid at all times. Whilst every effort will be made for non-diving guests wishing to snorkel or guests wanting to try scuba diving, some itineraries or dive locations may not be permitted for safety reasons.

**The Captain:** An important man! He will decide, along with the dive guides, where you go and when. Often dive sites can look like a millpond on the surface and to the uninitiated seems perfectly acceptable to dive. However, if the captain and guides say no, please accept their decision. Safety is the foremost concern of our knowledgeable captain and dive guides. The sea is a dangerous place when not respected, so please accept the alternative plan as best you can.

**Itineraries & Dive Sites:** All itineraries and dive sites are subject to various unpredictable changes including weather conditions and changes in Maldivian Government approval. Whilst Emperor Maldives make every effort, we cannot guarantee diving at specific sites. In adverse weather conditions the guides and captain of the boat will have the final decision about which dive sites to visit to ensure that the guests, staff and boats safety is not compromised in any way. If in the unfortunate event that dives are missed, or dive sites are not reached due to weather conditions or other unforeseeable changes, Emperor Maldives will not offer a refund or compensation.

**Equipment** is available for rent from Emperor Maldives and we ask that you pre-book your equipment before you arrive onboard. We need to know normal sizes, height, weight and shoe sizes to prepare the correctly sized equipment for you. The diving dhonis have ample storage space for your equipment and there is a spares box onboard. We suggest that you bring the following:

- Mask, snorkel, fins, boots, wetsuit, regulator, BCD, SMB (with a minimum of 5 metres of line to deploy during the safety stop), a dive computer and torch (with spare batteries) and a reef hook, if you have one.
- The average water temperature is 29°C and we recommend a 3mm shortie or wetsuit.

All divers are required to use a dive computer, SMB and reef hooks for every dive and a torch each for night dives.

**Tanks & Adapters:** We have DIN tanks and INT adapters available on-board. We strongly advise divers with M26 regulators and have adapters to fit to DIN tanks to please remember to bring your own adapter with you.

**Nitrox:** Emperor Maldives are equipped to offer Nitrox facilities and Nitrox fills (normally 32%) are offered free of charge, subject to demand and availability. Please inform the dive guide in plenty of time to ensure that your tank is ready for your diving.

**Photo & Video equipment:** Recharging facilities and rinse tanks are available onboard. You are asked not to charge items in your cabin left unattended or while you sleep for safety reasons.

**Cabins:** All the cabins accommodate two guests either in a double-bedded cabin or twin berth cabin. Cabins are pre-sold and allocated prior to arrival.

**Bathrooms:** All bathrooms are equipped with a shower, sink and toilet. Please take extra care in the bathrooms not to slip and always use the shower curtain/door. Placing toilet paper down any toilet on-board is not acceptable. This not only risks blocking the system, but it also finds its way in to the delicate reef systems causing irreparable damage. Waste paper bins are provided in all bathrooms and are emptied regularly.

**Hot water:** Short showers are the order of the day on liveaboards as hot water is in short supply. We ask guests to shower at different times to ensure everyone enjoys a hot shower.

**Electricity:** 3 pin UK electrical sockets using 220 volts AC 50Hz.

**Air-conditioning:** All Emperor Maldives liveaboards have air-conditioning cabins with a fan. Air-conditioning uses a lot of power and energy, so we ask you to please be kind to the environment and don't leave the air conditioning on in your cabin when you are elsewhere on-board.

**House-keeping:** You will be provided with a bath and hand towel, plus an additional towel for use on the sun deck. Dive towels are available on the diving dhoni and are changed every day. The housekeeping crew will clean your cabin daily, generally after your first or second dive of the day. Towels and bed linen are changed once a week. For any additional cleaning required or change of towels please speak to the guides who will be able to assist you.

**Luggage:** Whilst you may be advised where to store your luggage, you leave your belongings there at your own risk.

**Food & Drink:** The meals on-board are usually buffet style with a variety of local and International dishes to suit everyone. Local food is traditionally a bit spicy, fish is available on-board, mostly frozen with a few fresh catches along the way. Water, tea and coffee are complimentary. Soft drinks, fresh juices and alcohol (cocktails, liquors, wine and beer) are chargeable. For any special dietary requests, such as vegetarian or any allergies, please inform us prior to arrival. We source items locally, therefore items such as, but not limited to; wholemeal pastas or flour, gluten free products or soya substitutes are not typically available.

**Alcohol:** Importing of alcoholic beverages is prohibited by law. Bottles containing alcoholic beverages will be confiscated at Customs upon arrival and returned to you at departure. Alcohol is available to purchase on board Emperor Liveaboards. Guests will not be permitted to dive after consuming alcohol or under the influence of a hangover as this seriously impairs your judgment and increases your risk of decompression sickness. If the guides deem that you are unfit to dive you will be asked to sit out the dive. Your safety and well-being are paramount so this request by the dive guides will only be made to avoid accidents.

**Behaviour:** Anti-social or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated and individuals who cause a disturbance to other guests may be removed from the liveaboard.

**Children:** Children aged 15 years or younger must be supervised by a parent or designated responsible adult at all times. Children may be accepted onboard for a full or private charter, subject to consent from the group leader. Emperor Maldives cannot provide a legal chaperon service.

**Entertainment:** There is a variety of nightly entertainment ranging from night dives, a BBQ on a local island (subject to weather conditions and the route), watching films or relaxing on the sundeck. A Male city tour is also included with a local guide upon request.

**Internet:** All our liveaboards are equipped with Wi-Fi and internet is available when a mobile signal is present normally only nearby or in port. This service is for limited internet browsing and to connect with communication applications. Upload/download is very limited; therefore, we ask guests to refrain from transferring large files. Signal strength can vary which may result in intermittent and/or slow connections. This service is dependent on the local mobile provider.

**Communications:** VHF & CB radios, satellite telephone and personal mobiles.

**Shopping:** There is a selection of T-shirts, merchandise and diving accessories available to purchase onboard or at the diving centre.

**Taxes:** All environmental and bed taxes and port fees are included in the price of your diving package or liveaboard. For any services or purchases made locally a 12% sales tax and service charge is included.

**Currency accepted:** All local prices are in US dollars however, we accept in cash Euros, Sterling and US dollars. Visa and Mastercard are accepted, charged in USD and a 4% surcharge will be added. Please check with your bank any international charges and exchange rates.

**Tips on board:** Emperor Maldives believe that tips should be on a voluntary basis depending on the quality of your service from the guides and the crew. You will find an envelope in your cabin and the general recommendation is \$150 per person. Please feel free to leave what you think is acceptable and it will be equally shared between the guides and crew.

**Language:** The national language is Dhivehi. English and other languages are widely spoken within tourist areas.

**Health:** Check with your local doctor for recommended vaccinations. And remember to bring any prescribed medicines.

**Time:** 5 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight savings time is not observed in the Maldives.

**Packing; remember to bring:**

- Personal clothing & toiletries
- Small medical first aid box & prescription medicines
- Ear plugs are recommended if you are a light sleeper
- Water-proof bags to store electronic items (land camera, passports) in case of water damage whilst on board
- Note: Hard suitcases are hard to store onboard so please use roll up/collapsible style bags where possible

**Essential paperwork; remember to bring:**

- Logbook with your most recent dives in
- Valid diving association certification proof
- Valid travel insurance
- A copy of valid diving insurance details per person (translated in English by your insurance company if not already) stating the start and ending date of the diving cover with the exact diving insurance covered by the policy. Without this document, you will be required to purchase diving insurance locally before you may begin diving.
- Booking voucher and holiday details (from your travel agency if not booked direct with Emperor Maldives).

**Nice to bring but not essential:** Media portable drives, tablet/laptop, mobile phone, video/photo camera and chargers.

**And finally:** If you have never been on a liveaboard before, then expect a few adjustments from normal life to enjoy your week. If you experience any problems during the week, please ensure that these are raised with the dive guides as soon as is practically possible. The guides and Boat Manager can remedy the problem on-board majority of the time. However, if something remains unresolved make sure you raise it with the Fleet Manager at the end of your week. With all the will in the world, problems cannot be resolved unless you highlight them. If you have any concerns, please raise them. For more details on Emperor Maldives' liveaboards, please email [reservations@emperordivers.com](mailto:reservations@emperordivers.com) or via our website <http://maldives.emperordivers.com/>

## **FORMS TO COMPLETE**

**Medicals:** All diving guests are required to sign a [self-declaration medical](#) before commencing any diving, snorkelling or swimming activities.

If you are taking part in a course, you are required to sign a [PADI medical form](#) prior to starting the course. In both cases, if you have, or think you have, any of the medical conditions listed you will need signed clearance from a doctor valid within 12 months of starting your course. Where doctor's clearance is needed, we ask you to arrange this before arrival where possible and to bring it with you to avoid any delays, additional costs or cancellation.

**Liability Release:** All diving guests are required to produce a valid certification/qualification and sign a completed registration form/waiver prior to the commencing diving activities. A sample can be sent on request.