

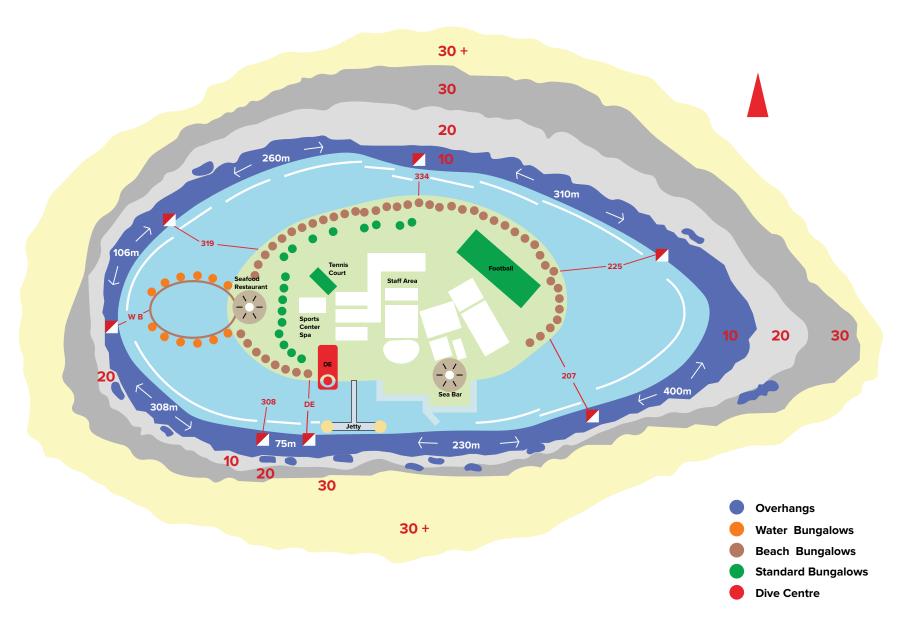




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A GUIDE TO REFS



ELLAIDHOO HOUSE REEF

THE WATERS AROUND ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Ellaidhoo plays host to a truly beautiful house reef in the Maldives. On the south side, a steep wall welcomes you with abundant overhangs adorned with sea fans, gorgonians, and black corals. Meanwhile, the north side offers a gentle slope where you can discover a variety of reef dwellers such as fish, moray eels, and crustaceans. Keep an eye out for Whitetip Reef Sharks, Stingrays, Eagle Rays, Napolean Fish, and the captivating sight of large schools of Bannerfish, Snappers, Trevallies, and Sharks.

DIFFICULTY:

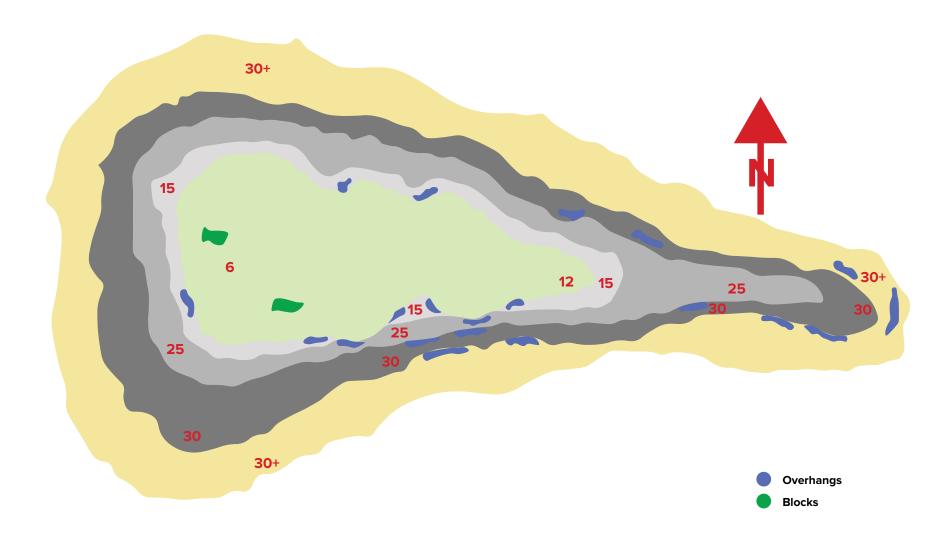
Ellaidhoo, situated in a channel, occasionally experiences strong currents, making diving challenging at times. When facing a medium to strong current, take advantage of the opportunity to seek refuge in the ample overhangs on the south side. Our underwater haven is here to be explored, even when currents pose a challenge.

DIVING GUIDE:

Ellaidhoo offers seven entry and exit points, each marked with ropes guiding you from the shallow lagoon to the reef's edge. Underwater buoys ensure that won't miss your exit during your dive. On the north side, you'll find exit points near rooms 225, 334, and 319. The south side features a gap by the Dive Centre, with additional points near rooms 207 and 308. Keep in mind, there is a shallow entry point at the Water Bungalows on the west corner.

Before your dive, check the current at the Jetty by letting a bit of wet sand fall into the water. Observe the direction and speed to gauge the conditions. Along the south wall, discover overhangs for a relaxed dive, reaching a maximum depth of 18 metres. If you're eyeing the wreck in front of the jetty at 30 metres, watch out for the Bluestripe Snappers.

On the north side, the slope and wall may have fewer overhangs, but it still promises a great dive. With a gentle current and good air consumption, explore the west and east corners to encounter huge swarms of fish and their predators, including Eagle Rays and Sharks. Rest assured, your equipment will be handled by our team, delivering it to your chosen entry point, and you can conveniently leave your tanks at the exit point.



ELLAIDHOO THILA

10 MINUTES NORTH OF ELLAIDHOO IN THE CHANNEL

FAUNA & FLORA:

Discover big, beautiful overhangs adorned with Gorgonian Fans and Black Coral bushes, adding vibrant colours to your underwater adventure. The macroworld here is simply amazing, featuring Whitetip Reef Sharks and Stingrays, gracefully crossing the top reef. Nurse Sharks may be found in the overhangs or beneath one of the blocks on the top reef.

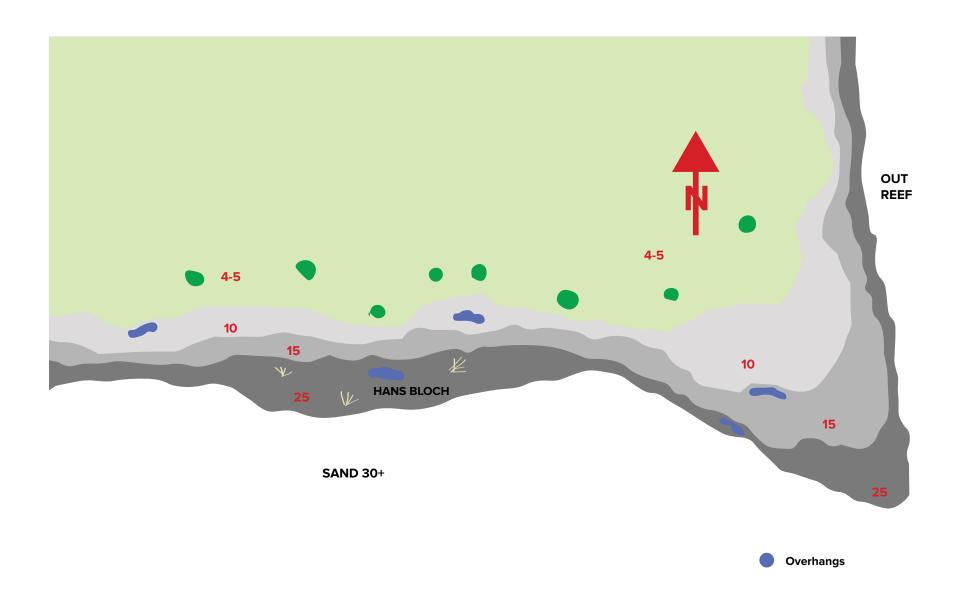
DIFFICULTY:

Be mindful of the occasional challenging current. Remember to make a quick descent, and once you're over the reef edge and along the side, you can easily navigate this dive.

DIVING GUIDE:

For the best exploration of overhangs and crevasses, go with a small east current. We'll drop you on the east edge of the Thila, where you can descend along the overhangs. Start with the deeper ones and work your way up to the shallower caves, enjoying the fascinating underwater landscape. Keep the reef on your right shoulder, ideally at about 14 metres, to encounter more overhangs. As your dive time winds down, explore the top reef, where the corals may not be as impressive, but you'll be surprised by what you find between the blocks.

If you must approach the Thila from the west side first, follow it with your left shoulder at mid-depth until the first overhangs appear. Then, navigate along them, finishing your dive on the edge of the top reef.



KUNA GAA

30 MINUTES SOUTH OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Take in the enchanting beauty of Kuna Gaa, a vast reef that unfolds with an outer expanse on the east side and a channel facing wall on the south side. The east corner, resembling a nose, gradually slopes down to over 30 metres, offering a peek into the world of larger fish such as Sharks, Tunas, and Eagle Rays, alongside schools of smaller fish. At the south side behind the corner, discover a charming small bay with a delightful overhang at 12 metres.

Beyond the bay, a wall descends to the sandy channel bottom, ranging from 22 to over 30 metres. Adorned with numerous small caves and overhangs, this wall is a picturesque home to various reef fish and small creatures, while Stingrays often rest on the sandy bottom of the overhangs, and Turtles gracefully feed on the leather corals. Explore the single blocks at levels from 22 to 24 metres, each with its unique allure. The shallow reef top, just 4 to 5 metres below the surface, offers an excellent spot for an extended safety stop, with large coral blocks and cleaning stations attracting a diverse array of fish.

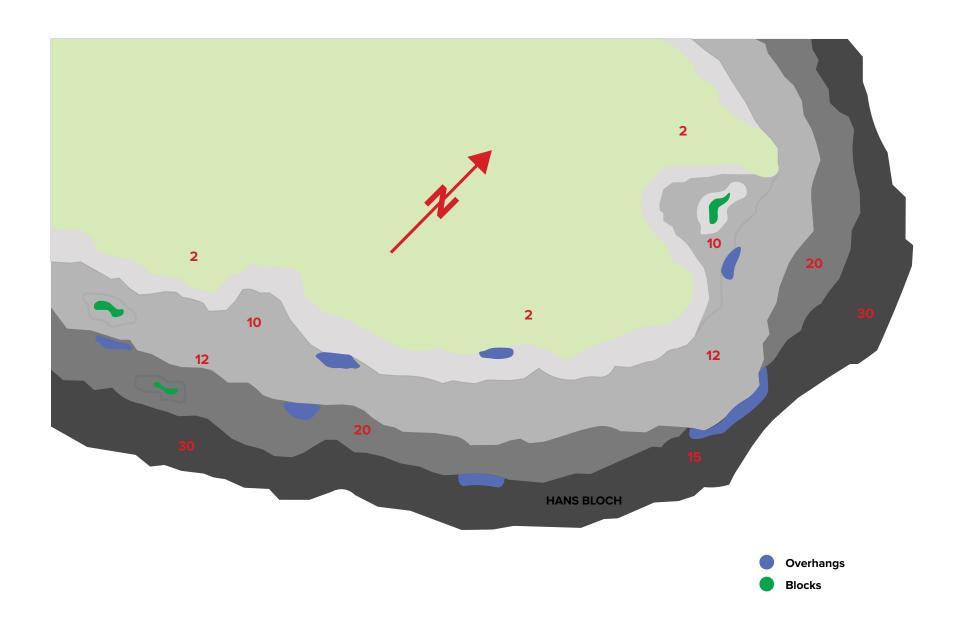
DIFFICULTY:

Even with the presence of a strong current, Kuna Gaa remains an accessible dive site. Embrace the opportunity to jump into the water, drift with the current, and relish the underwater flight. A shallow dive profile is also easily achievable.

DIVING GUIDE:

When the current runs in (from the east), commence your dive either at the outer reef or directly at the corner. Spend some time at the split point to witness the presence of larger fish, including Sharks and Eagle Rays. Continue with the reef on your right shoulder until reaching the wall, where numerous caves and overhangs await exploration.

Peek behind the glass fish, and you may encounter a curious Moray Eel or other fascinating creatures. Occasionally glance into the blue water, where big Tunas, Napoleon Fish and Whitetip Reef Sharks may make an appearance. For those who prefer a deeper profile, don't miss visiting the blocks at 22 to 24 metres. If the current runs out, simply dive the other way around, revealing the wonders of Kuna Gaa in a different light.



ELLAIDHOO GIRI EAST

10 MINUTES WEST OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Immerse yourself in a beautiful wall dive that invites you to explore the fascinating macroworld. Along the wall, discover rich overhangs adorned with Gorgonian Fans and Black Coral bushes. The entire dive showcases an abundance of red sponges in various sizes, and the cleaning stations scattered along the reef offer a chance to spot new shrimp species.

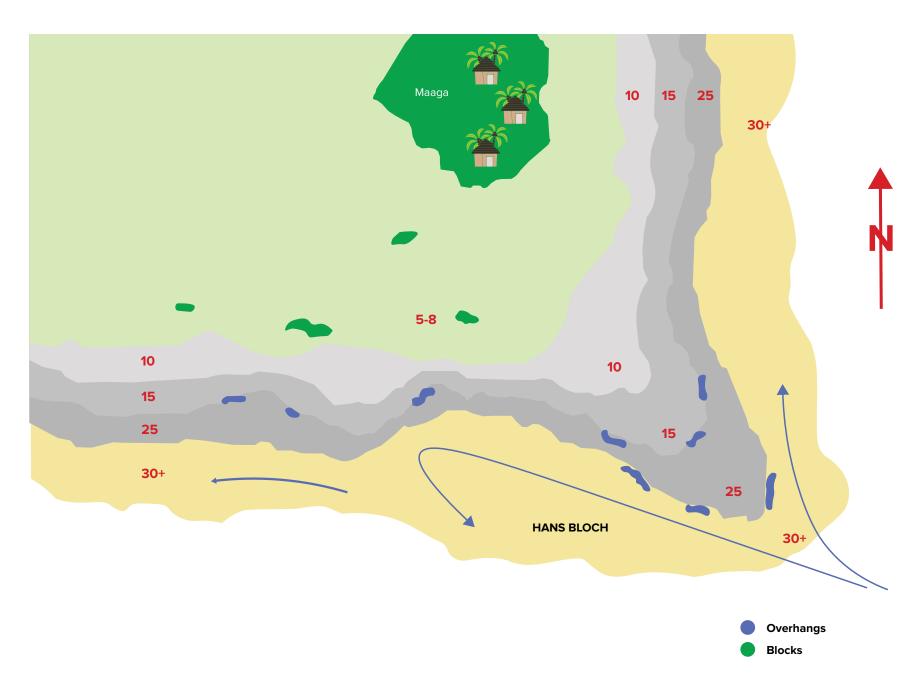
DIFFICULTY:

This dive is exceptionally easy, making it accessible to divers of all skill levels.

DIVING GUIDE:

Embark on a westward dive starting on the south side of the Giri, keeping the reef on your left shoulder. Begin by crossing a sloping area with stunning coral blocks at a depth of 20 metres. As you continue, the reef transforms into a wall, maintaining this formation for the remainder of the dive. Upon turning to the east side, encounter a significant overhang with a spacious swim-through at 23 metres – a feature worth exploring.

Towards the end of the dive, at shallower depths, you'll reach a corner with a crack, where a lively group of Surgeonfish gathers. This marks a good point to turn around and conclude the dive at the edge of the drop-off. In the presence of an eastward current, this becomes the starting point of your dive. Once the wall segment concludes, proceed along the reef, exploring diverse coral blocks along the way.



MAAGA CORNER

ABOUT 15 MINUTES SOUTH OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

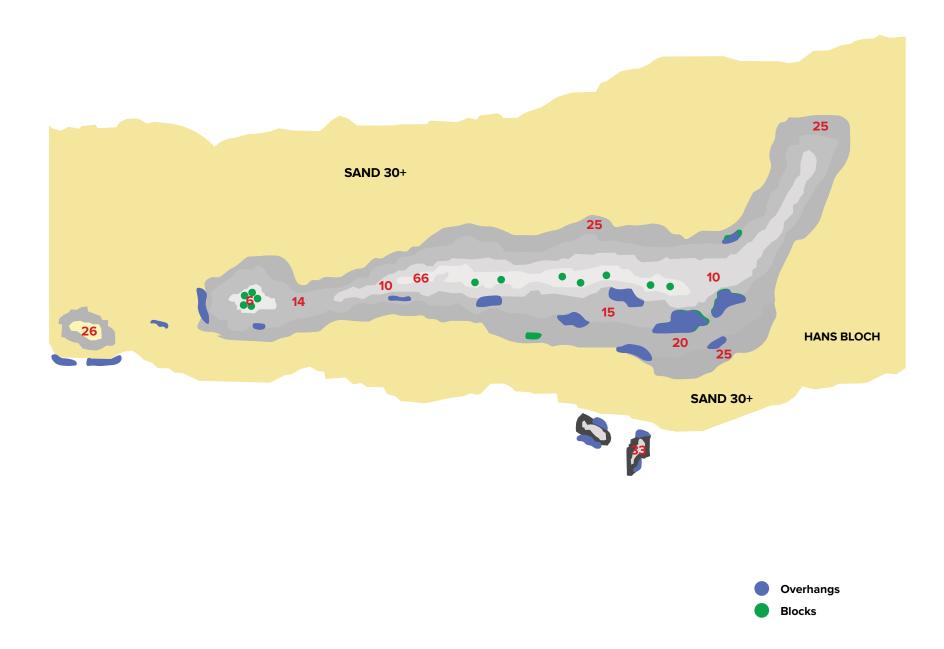
Come around to the captivating Maaga Corner, where the east side forms the outer reef, and the south side extends into the channel. The shallow reef top, ranging from 5 to 8 metres, features large coral blocks teeming with fascinating fish life. The east corner impresses with terraces descending beyond 30 metres and adorned with delightful overhangs. Witness the lively hunting scenes of Big Tunas and Jackfish preying on swarms of Fusiliers, Red Tooth Triggerfish, and Snappers. Sharks and Eagle Rays make occasional appearances. On the steep slope of the south side, discover small caves and overhangs in depths between 12 and 20 metres. Encounter colourful reef fish, Turtles, Stingrays, Moray Eels, Lobsters, and various small creatures like branches and crabs.

DIFFICULTY:

Maaga Corner welcomes divers of all levels with open arms, offering an easy dive experience even in the presence of a strong current. Drift along the extensive reef, and enjoy the option for a shallow dive profile. Note that during a very strong eastward current (IN running), there might be a backwash at the corner.

DIVING INSTRUCTIONS:

When facing an ongoing current, begin your dive at the outer reef near the corner, spending time at the split point. Look into the blue water, anticipating the passage of larger marine life. Continue your dive with the reef on your right shoulder, exploring the dynamic south side. Delve into the caves and overhangs, serving as habitats for numerous small creatures. Conclude your dive with a safety stop at the shallow reef top, relishing the rich fish life and the presence of substantial coral blocks. If the current runs out, initiate your dive at the south side, culminating close to the east corner.



ORIMAS THILA

15 MINUTES SOUTH OF ELLAIDHOO, IN THE CHANNEL NEXT TO MAAGA ISLAND

FAUNA & FLORA:

Dive into one of the most picturesque reefs in this area, offering an immersive experience akin to swimming in a vast aquarium. The reef boasts stunning coral formations, including Coral Trees, Table Corals, and expansive Black Coral bushes. Alongside these, discover long, substantial overhangs providing shelter during currents. This dive spot has it all – from a variety of small inhabitants to schools of Snappers, Fusiliers, groups of Sweetlips, Yellow Trumpet Fish, and the occasional Whitetip Reef Shark.

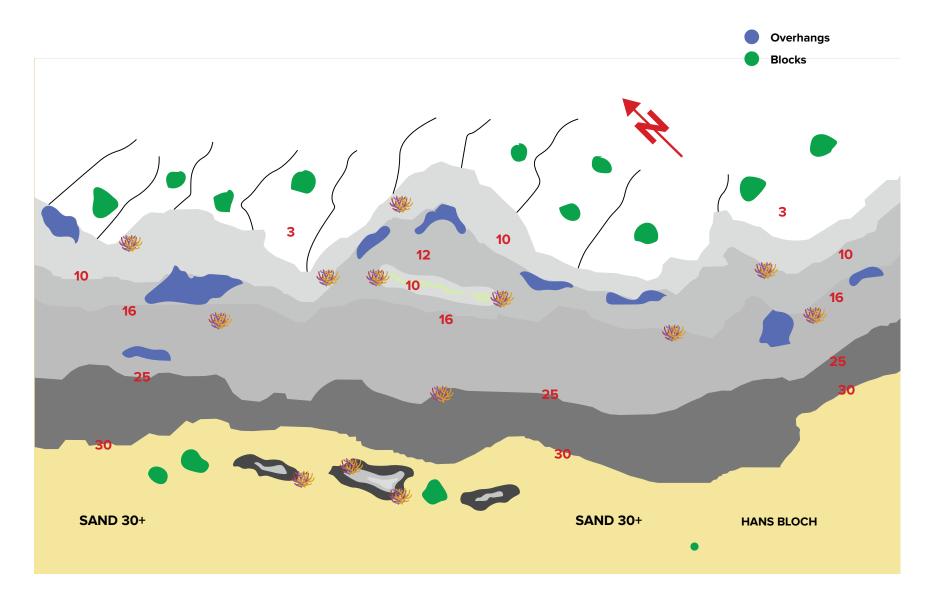
DIFFICULTY:

While this dive site is a treat, it can pose a challenge when currents are strong.

DIVING GUIDE:

When facing an eastward current, we'll tailor the approach based on its strength. You may be dropped in the blue away from the Thila, allowing ample time for a descent to the edge. Alternatively, with a milder current, we can start directly at the Thila, keeping the reef on your left shoulder. Experienced divers can explore the deeper part, possibly encountering a Guitar Shark. However, remember to swim back against the current to the main reef. Passing a saddle-like area with sea grass near the Thila, stop and search for Ghost Pipefish. Proceed to the Aguarium-like zone, adorned with myriad colours and diverse coral species. Cross the canyon, explore the big overhangs with sunrays filtering through, ideal for photo or video capturing. If time permits, follow the top reef at 14m, observing schools of Bluestripe Snappers and Whitetip Reef Sharks balancing in the current. Don't miss exploring the vibrant shallow part of the top reef.

With a westward current, commence the dive on the finger at 14 metres, proceeding along the reef with it on your right shoulder. Explore the two large overhangs, navigate to the area with the canyon, and search for the elusive Grass Ghost Pipefish in the saddle. Circle around the coral block with anemones, ascend the canyon, and conclude your dive on the top reef.



MAAGA INSIDE CORNER

5 MINUTES SOUTH-WEST OF ELLAIDHOO, BY MAAGA FARU

FAUNA & FLORA:

A delight for macro enthusiasts, this dive spot caters to those who appreciate the finer details of reef life. As a protected area, it offers a gentle dive experience even when currents swirl around Ellaidhoo. The presence of swim-throughs, overhangs, and a captivating wall enhances the already intriguing nature of this site.

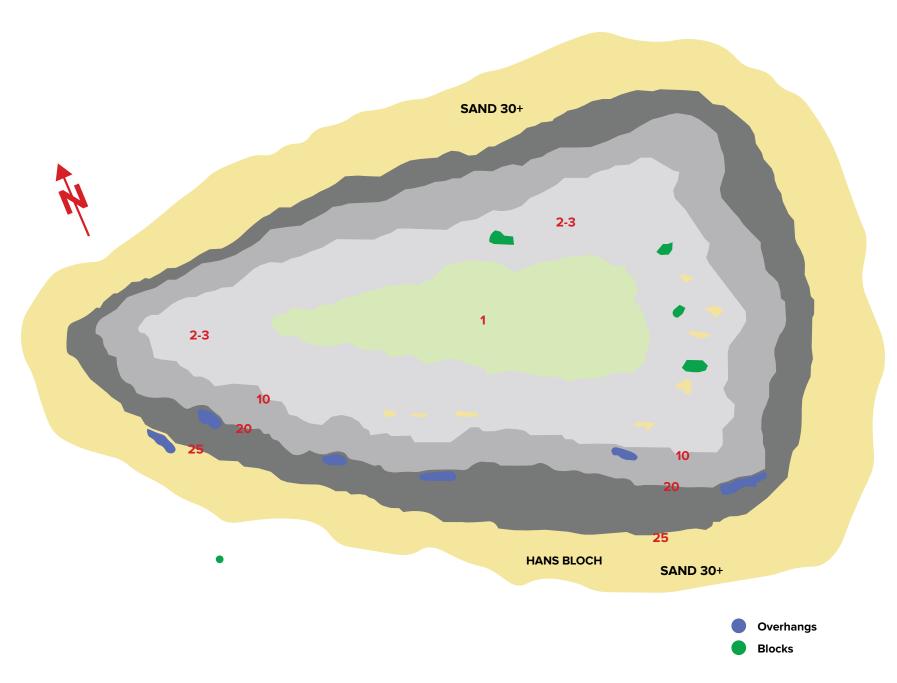
DIFFICULTY:

Suited for divers of all levels, this dive promises ease and accessibility.

DIVING GUIDE:

We recommend initiating the dive with the reef on your right shoulder, starting at the corner before it veers towards the south side. At the outset, at 18 metres, discover a charming swim-through, often brimming with glass fish in the summer months. Fear not; a simple hand gesture opens a path for you. Along the wall, maintain a depth of approximately 15 metres, where delightful cleaning stations host numerous cleaner shrimps ready to provide a pampering manicure. Patience may be required if someone else is already in line. As you reach the expansive bay, navigate around the coral block forming a small canyon. Beneath the blocks, a sizable Grouper often hides, while a large group of Red Snappers gracefully cruises in the blue. Proceed to the shallower area, where Turtles frequently forage for food. A school of Black Snappers, accompanied by other reef fish, adds a splendid finish to this dive.

If starting at the north corner, before exploring the bay, venture towards the west in the blue direction. A pinnacle emerges from around 40 metres, with its top at approximately 22 metres. This area is shared by a significant school of Bluestripe Snappers, large Emperors, and, if the season is right, Manta rays. Note that the depth may limit full exploration, so swim out only if your air consumption is good, and ensure the current doesn't carry you away from the main reef, as you'll need to return.



FUSHI FARU BODU GIRI

35 MINUTES SOUTH OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Sip a proverbial spoonful of what we affectionately call a "Fish Soup"! The south side of the Giri teems with a diverse array of Maldivian reef fish, creating a vibrant underwater spectacle. Discover a scattering of lovely overhangs and coral-adorned blocks nestled in the sandy expanse.

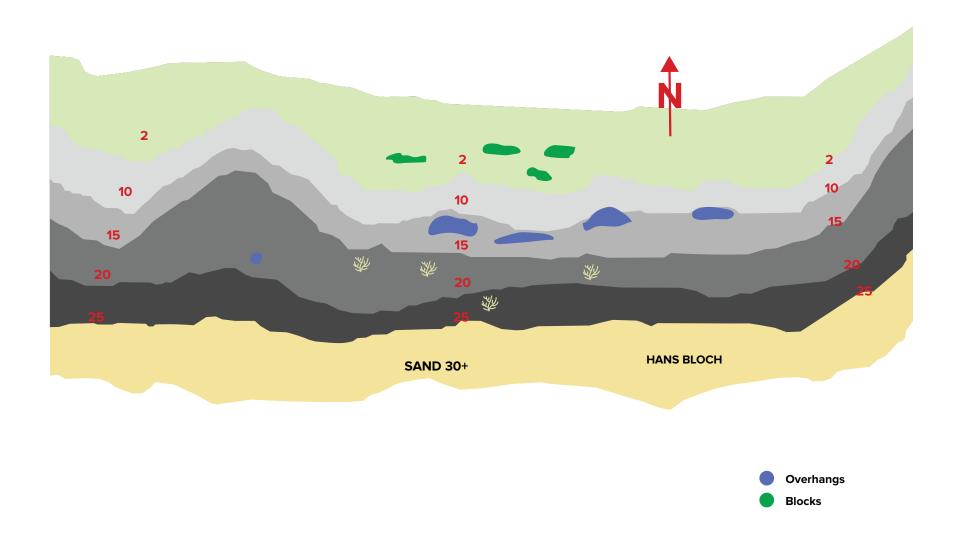
DIFFICULTY:

An easy dive suitable for the entire family.

DIVING GUIDE:

Our focus is primarily on the south side of the Giri. We typically start on the west side, and if there's an incoming current, we opt for the east side descent. On the east side, you'll descend through a captivating display of Banner Fish, interspersed with Fusiliers, Snappers, and other reef fish.

Venturing to the west side, your journey begins with a few enchanting overhangs. Along the wall, you'll encounter a mesmerising sight – hundreds of Bluestripe Snappers gracefully standing in the current. This is an ideal spot to linger and explore. Navigate around the coral blocks, keeping an eye out for Stonefish, Scorpionfish, and various other marine treasures. Returning to the Giri wall, conclude your dive at a depth of 5 metres, where a friendly turtle is likely to bid you farewell.



ORIMAS FARU

25 MINUTES SOUTH OF ELLAIDHOO AT THE CHANNEL ENTRY POINT

FAUNA & FLORA:

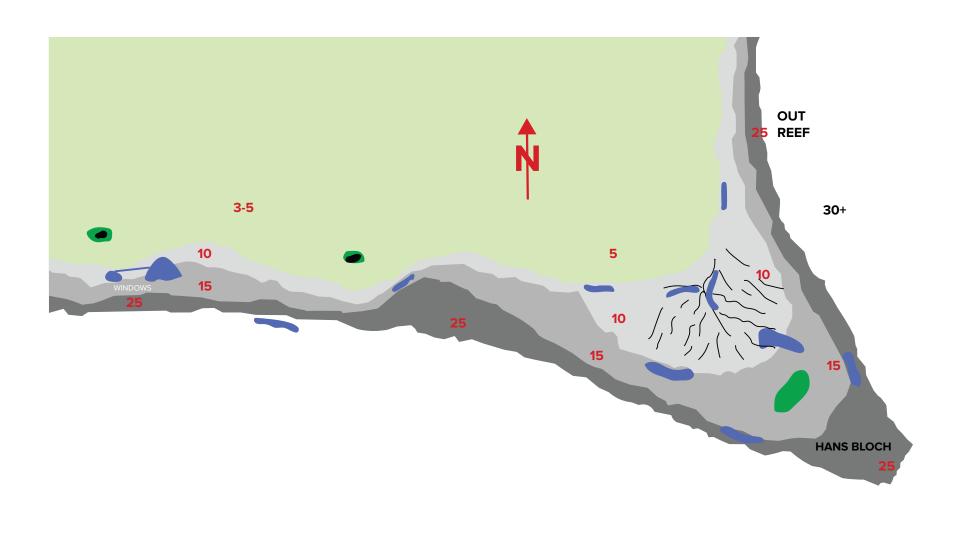
Explore an extensive wall adorned with Sea fans, Gorgonians, and impressive overhangs. A torch is recommended to unveil the hiding lobsters in the deeper caves. The wall comes alive with the presence of large schools of Fusiliers, Humphead Snappers, and graceful Turtles. Being a channel entry dive, larger fish are a common sight.

DIFFICULTY:

Embrace the perfect dive, especially during strong currents. Simply jump into the water, adjust your buoyancy, and relish the effortless drift. Suitable for divers of all levels.

DIVING GUIDE:

Depending on the current, we navigate either from west to east or east to west. In stronger currents, seek refuge in the substantial overhangs found towards the east section of the wall. Descending to 30 metres, encounter the possibility of observing sleeping or feeding Stingrays in the sandy depths. At the top edge, delight in the company of various reef fish families and the graceful presence of Turtles.





FUSHI FARU

30 MINUTES SOUTH OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

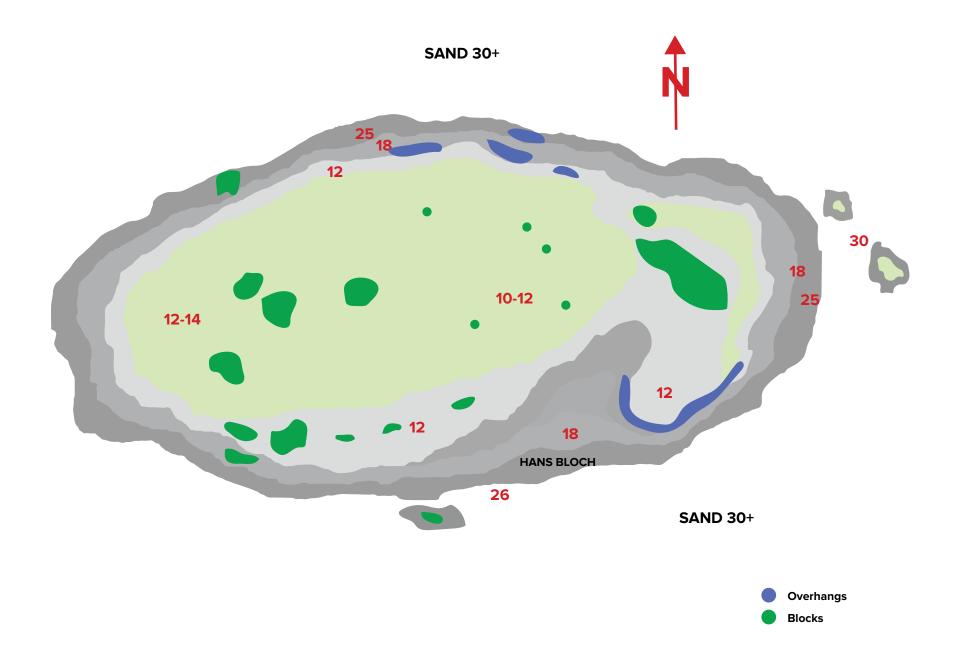
Experience the allure of Fushifaru, an extensive reef formation boasting an outer reef to the east and inner reefs facing the channel. The shallow top, ranging from 2 to 4 metres, reveals large blocks that emerge during low tide. Depending on the current, our exploration focuses on the east corner and the south side. During incoming currents at the east corner, encounters with Napoleons and Batfish swarms are common, often playfully guiding your journey. The south side features a sloping terrain leading to the sandy channel bottom at 20 to 25 metres, adorned with small caves and overhangs housing a variety of small creatures, making it a haven for macro photographers. Turtles and Stingrays are frequent visitors, while the proximity of the outer reef invites glimpses into the blue water, where Tunas, Jacks, and Eagle Rays may appear.

DIFFICULTY:

Despite its length, Fushifaru is an easy dive site, even in the face of a strong current. Achieve neutral buoyancy, and relish the sensation of effortless flight. A shallow dive profile is also a viable option.

DIVING GUIDE:

During an incoming current, commence the dive at either the east corner or just behind it, keeping the right shoulder on the reefs and continuing along the south side. When the current flows out, initiate the dive with the left shoulder on the reefs and conclude near the east corner. The shallow top invites a leisurely safety stop, offering the perfect opportunity to observe the vibrant marine life.



FISH HEAD

30 MINUTES SOUTH OF ELLAIDHOO, PASSING THE ISLAND OF DHONI MINGHILI, ALSO KNOWN BY THE OLDER NAME MUSHIMAS MINGILI

FAUNA & FLORA:

Immerse yourself in the captivating world of Fish Head Thila, where the marine life unfolds into a mesmerising spectacle. As you descend, a welcoming committee of Napoleons greets you amid a bustling school of Fusiliers and Bluestriped Snappers. This lively scene is further animated by giant trevallies and tunas orchestrating the fascinating ballet of predation.

Watch in awe, as they corral the fusiliers into a massive ball before making their swift moves to catch their prey. Delve into greater depths, or when the current is stronger, to spot Grey, White, and occasionally the Oceanic Whitetip Sharks. Turtles, Moray Eels, Scorpion Fish, and their reef companions add to the vibrant tapestry of this underwater haven.

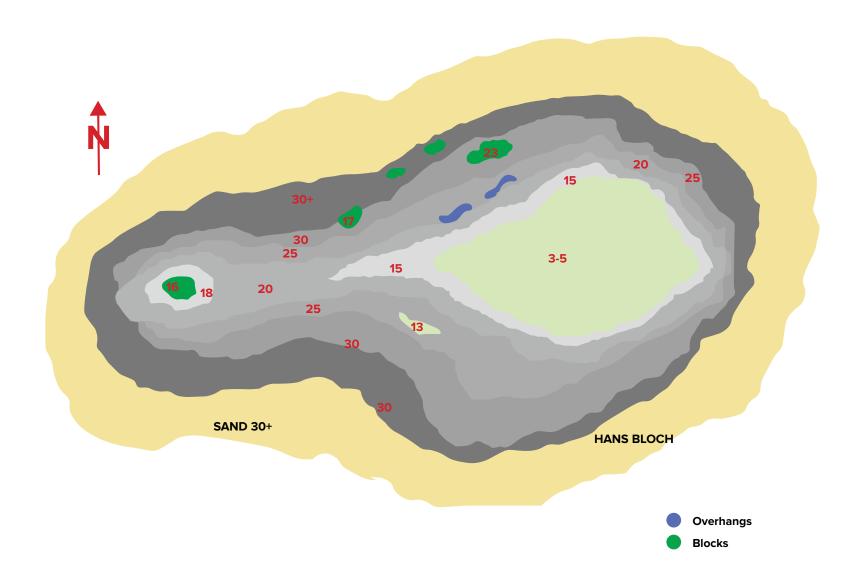
DIFFICULTY:

The presence of strong currents can pose a challenge, yet with a swift descent, this dive remains accessible to divers of all levels. Take the opportunity to experience the extraordinary marine life awaiting beneath the surface.

DIVING GUIDE:

With west, or eastward currents, the typical starting point for your dive is the south side of the Thila. Depending on the current strength, consider staying a few metres away from the Thila in the blue water to savour the company of Fusiliers. Choose either the right or left shoulder to navigate this compact Thila, likely circling it once during your dive. Exploring the northwest side (right shoulder) reveals enticing overhangs, sometimes harbouring a sleeping Turtle.

Ascend to around 15 metres at the last overhang, entering an open plateau with a small canyon. Peer beneath the overhang in the canyon, a favoured haunt of sizable Groupers. In strong currents, head to the top reef's edge for a chance encounter with larger fish in the blue water. Opting for the other side (left shoulder) initially, you'll encounter sloping terraces with a delightful overhang featuring a school of Bluestripe Snappers. Navigate around to discover the canyon from a different perspective, ensuring you stay above 18 metres to appreciate its wonders.



KUBALADY BODU THILA

45 MINUTES BY DHONI, SOUTH OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Wander the expansive Thila, conveniently located near Kubalady Faru in a channel. As part of three Mini Atoll reefs, it exhibits characteristics of an outer reef. Depending on the current, navigating around the Thila is easily achievable. A notable feature on the north side is a large overhang, partially cracked and positioned in front of the Thila, creating a captivating contrast. Overhangs are also present on the east and south sides.

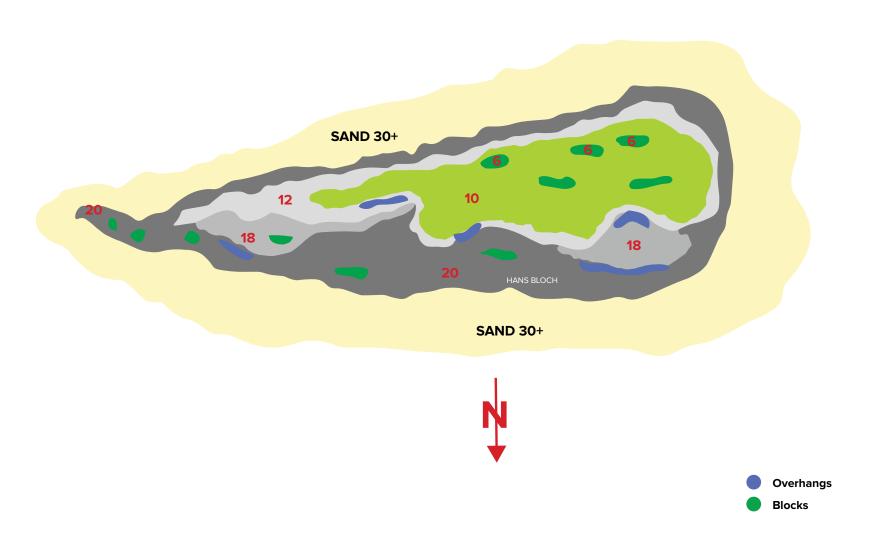
The Thila gradually descends to approximately 30 metres, concluding on the sandy bottom, with surrounding blocks visible on the north and east sides. The reef top rises to about 4 metres. Towards the west side, you can explore a smaller Thila at a depth of 18 metres, intricately connected to the main Thila. On the up-current sides, witness vibrant schools of Fusiliers, Redtoothed Triggerfish, Tuna, Barracuda, Jackfish, Groupers and occasional Shark sightings.

DIFFICULTY:

Given its location in a channel near the atoll edge, expect currents and waves, adding a dynamic element to the dive.

DIVING GUIDE:

Begin the dive on the up-current side. Due to the Thila's size, there are various routes to explore. Your guide will carefully plan a route tailored to the current conditions, ensuring an engaging and memorable underwater experience.



ATAVARU THILA

65 MINUTES SOUTH OF ELLAIDHOO,
IN A CHANNEL CLOSE TO THE OUTER REEF

FAUNA & FLORA:

Absorb the charm of Atavaru Thila, a small, oval-shaped reef formation. The top reef, ranging from 6 to 10 metres deep, unveils beautiful, larger blocks waiting to be discovered. The west and south sides present a dramatic drop-off, while the north and east sides feature gradual slopes with terraces hosting individual blocks and overhangs at depths from 10 to approximately 23 metres.

Dive into a vibrant world of diverse reef fish, peeking into overhangs to uncover Moray Eels and various hidden creatures. Witness swarms of Fusiliers, Snappers, and Jackfish gracefully navigating the currents. Encounter Napoleons and Whitetip Sharks guarding their hunting territories, alongside smaller wonders like Mantis Shrimps, Cleaner Shrimps, Crabs, and Branches.

DIFFICULTY:

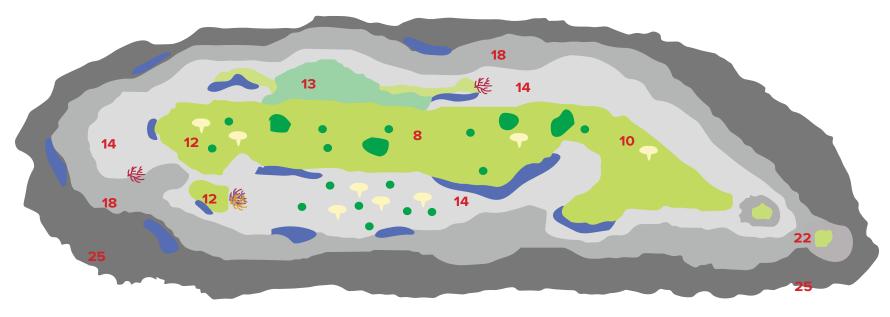
In the presence of a strong current, Atavaru Thila becomes a more challenging dive due to its compact size, necessitating navigation against the current. However, with a small or medium current, the site accommodates divers of all levels.

DIVING GUIDE:

Begin the dive on the up-current side, choosing the east corner for an incoming current or the west corner for an outgoing current. Given the Thila's small size, you can navigate it at least once during the dive, starting either with the right or left shoulder. Ample time allows for exploration of overhangs and blocks on the north/east side. Reserve the last 10 to 15 minutes of your dive for the top reef, where Scorpionfish, Octopuses and baby Sharks.



SAND 30+



SAND 30+



FANKA THILA

1 HOUR AND 20 MINUTES SOUTH OF ELLAIDHOO, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CHANNEL BEHIND HANGHAM EDHO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Delight in the captivating landscape of this reef, where expansive overhangs offer refuge during currents, revealing a diverse array of reef inhabitants, including Nudibranchs, Moray Eels, Lionfish, Groupers, and vibrant cleaning stations with various shrimps. Encircling the entire Thila and the two coral blocks to the east, immerse yourself in the presence of numerous reef fish and distinctive blue-pinkish sea fans, adding a special touch to this dive site. Situated in the channel, the potential for encounters with Eagle Rays, Sharks, Tuna Fish, and, during the right season, Manta rays adds to the allure.

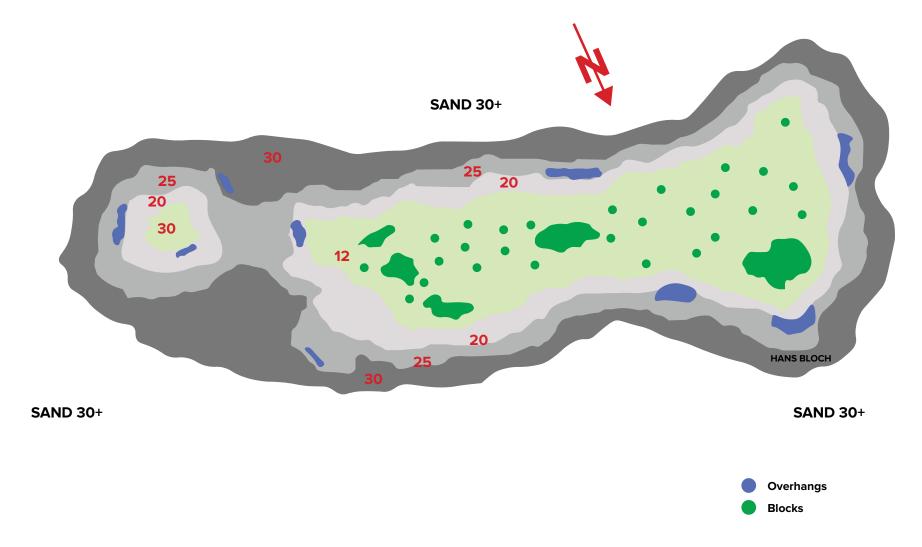
DIFFICULTY:

Suited for divers of all levels, this site accommodates even stronger currents with ease.

DIVING GUIDE:

With an east current, choose between a drop in the blue (for stronger currents) or on the east side of the Thila for an easy view of the top reef. Begin by exploring the deeper blocks; their breathtaking beauty might captivate you for the entire dive in mild currents. Continue with the reef on your right shoulder (south side), passing small overhangs until reaching the sloping terrace. Traverse a stunning hard coral garden with a lively school of Bluestripe Snappers along the reef edge. If air and time permit, explore the west side for a grand overhang, but be mindful of no-decompression limits, and allocate more than 5 minutes for the rich top reef to conclude your dive.

During a west current, initiate the dive on the west side of the Thila. Opt for either the right shoulder (north side) for larger overhangs initially or the left shoulder (south side) along the charming terrace towards smaller overhangs. Save air and time to explore the two blocks east of the Thila or conclude your dive on the enchanting top reef.



HOHOLA THILA

50 MINUTES WEST OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

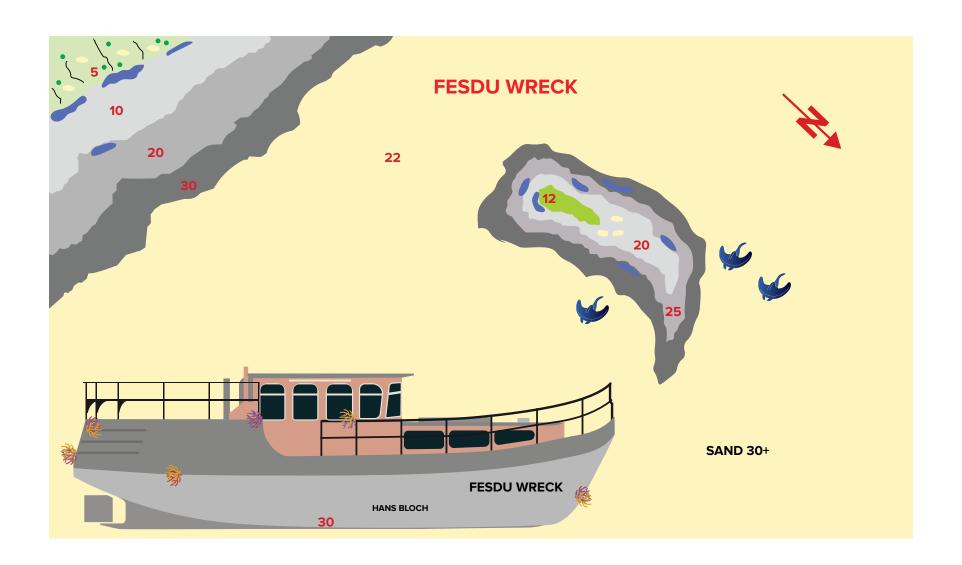
Dive into the enchanting world of a small Thila teeming with rich underwater life. The real stars of the show are the vibrant blue, red, and orange Frogfish, gracefully swimming across the reef top – a sight you'll want to capture on video. Beyond the Frogfish, the reef holds a treasure trove of wonders. A friendly group of Batfish accompanies you throughout the dive, and you'll encounter Stone, Scorpion, and Lionfish, along with a diverse array of common reef inhabitants, creating an unforgettable underwater experience.

DIFFICULTY:

Nestled in the heart of the Ari Atoll beside a large Faru, this Thila is generally well protected. Even if there's a current, there's always a sheltered side, making it an easy dive suitable for all experience levels.

DIVING GUIDE:

Explore the Thila at your own pace, making sure to circle it at least once. The east side features a coral block connected through a saddle to the main reef. Around this block, Blackcheek Moral Eels abound – exercise caution, as they can be quite aggressive and may bite. Conclude your dive at the top reef on the west side, where a substantial 'Pavonas Clavus,' or Potato Coral, awaits. Inside and around this coral block, you'll discover hidden Stonefish. Take your time, and you're sure to spot these intriguing creatures.





FESDU WRECK

55 MINUTES WEST OF ELLAIDHOO, NEAR THE TOURIST ISLAND, FESDU

FAUNA & FLORA:

Nineteen years ago, Fesdu Island intentionally sank a boat for diving purposes, and beyond the captivating wreck lies a hidden gem. Adjacent to the wreck is a beautiful Thila, offering the chance for a "2 dives in one" experience. Both the wreck and the Thila are adorned with sea fans, black corals, soft coral trees, and anemones. In the sandy surroundings of the wreck, observe the mesmerising dance of garden eels swaying to the rhythm of the current.

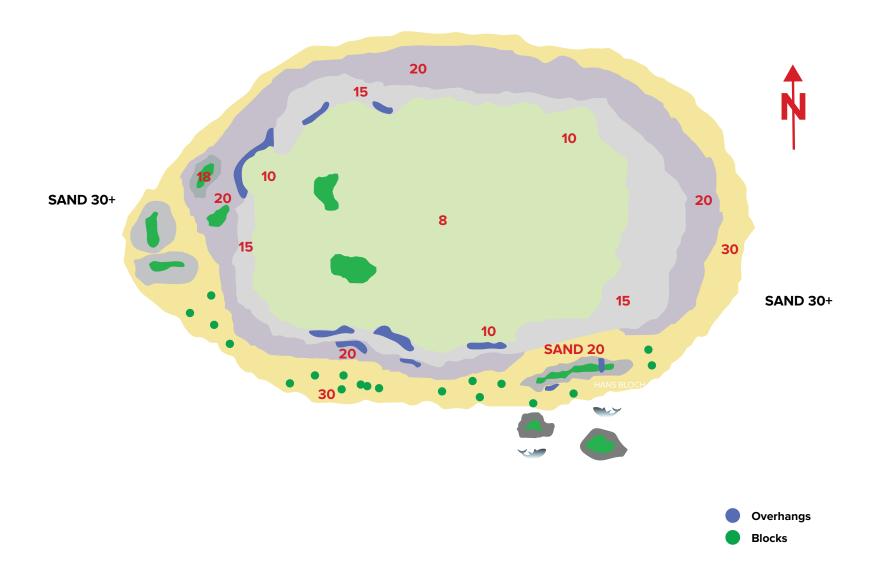
DIFFICULTY:

The wreck, starting at 20 metres, may not be ideal for Open Water Divers, but it provides a captivating sight. You can explore the entire wreck and then gradually ascend to the Thila, which rises to 7 metres.

DIVING GUIDE:

A rope will be securely tied from our dive dhoni directly to the wreck, ensuring a controlled descent even in strong currents. Descend slowly to 20 metres and find yourself atop the Fesdu wreck. Leisurely navigate around the wreck, keeping a close eye on your no-decompression time as your average depth is 20 metres or deeper. When satisfied or prompted by your computer, head to the bow, and on the west side, you'll discover the beginning of the Thila.

If the current permits, conclude your dive on the top reef, surrounded by numerous anemones. On the south-west side of the Thila and the wreck, a large Faru awaits exploration, providing a captivating wall during the dive's conclusion.



MAAYA THILA

55 MINUTES NORTH OF ELLAIDHOO BY THE PICNIC ISLAND MADIVARU

FAUNA & FLORA:

Dive into the famed richness of underwater life at this remarkable Thila. The reef top starts at a modest 7 metres and gradually descends to approximately 40 metres all around. Discover large overhangs adorned with substantial black coral bushes, where you might spot the elusive Long Nose Hawk Fish and, if luck is on your side, a Ghost Pipefish. With the right current, find yourself surrounded by a bustling school of Fusiliers, Batfish, Big Eye Soldierfish, and the graceful presence of Grey and Whitetip Reef sharks. Explore for the Yellow Leaf Fish and encounter the playful antics of two to three Octopi on the top reef. Keep a vigilant eye on the blue expanse for a potential sighting of the giant Barracuda or the graceful "one fin" Eagle Ray.

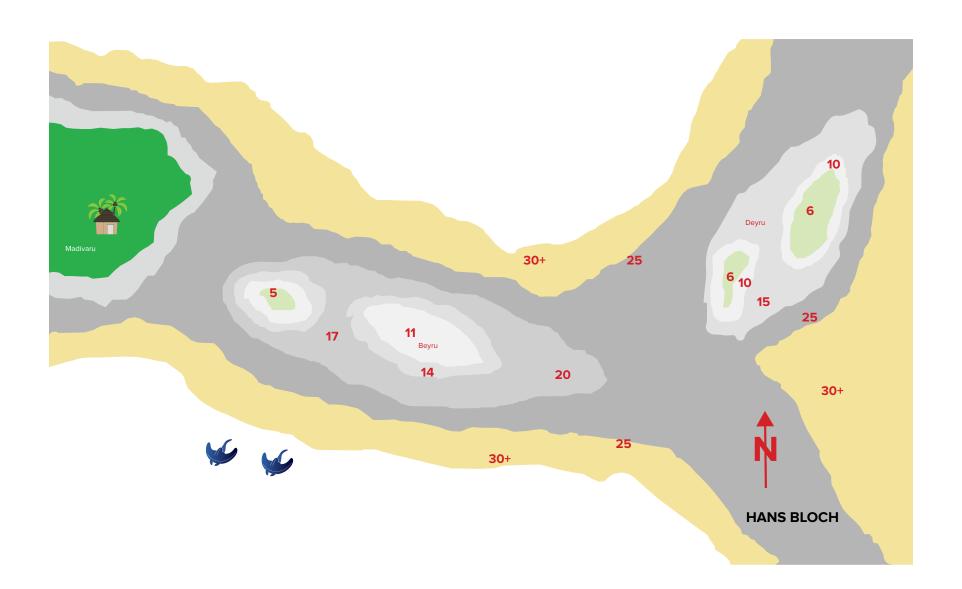
DIFFICULTY:

A dive suitable for all levels.

DIVING GUIDE:

Whether facing an east or west current, we'll drop you on either side. The Thila is compact enough to circumnavigate, requiring you to swim against the current on one side. If starting on the southeast side with a moderate current, stay slightly up current, away from the reef, and observe the marine life that comes your way. Follow the reef on your left side until reaching a saddle that leads to a captivating pinnacle. At about 18 metres, the pinnacle boasts abundant marine life, so navigate around its deeper and shallower sections. Returning to the main Thila, encounter a sizable overhang.

Follow the wall past additional overhangs until you reach the distinctive nose-shaped overhang. From here, explore the top reef or venture into the blue for encounters with larger creatures. If you choose to go reef with the right shoulder, discover a block around 22 metres, adorned with impressive black coral bushes surrounded by Bluestriped Snappers and a school of Batfish. Back at the main Thila, follow the wall, passing more overhangs until you spot the saddle leading to the pinnacle on the left side. Be mindful of your no-decompression time, ensuring you have enough left to explore. Don't worry; exploring the top reef will unveil a surprising array of marine wonders.



MADIVARU BEYRU/ DEYRU THILA

50 MINUTES NORTH OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Delve into the vast expanse of a substantial Thila, seamlessly linking the outer reef to the island. On one side, it presents as a wall, where encounters with Whitetip Reef Sharks, Eagle Rays, big Tunas and various bluewater fish are commonplace. Yet, the inner side of the Thila unveils equally captivating sights — splendid coral formations surrounded by bustling schools of reef fish. Keep an eye out for sleeping Whitetip Sharks and feeding Eagle Rays gracefully navigating the sandy bottom.

DIFFICULTY:

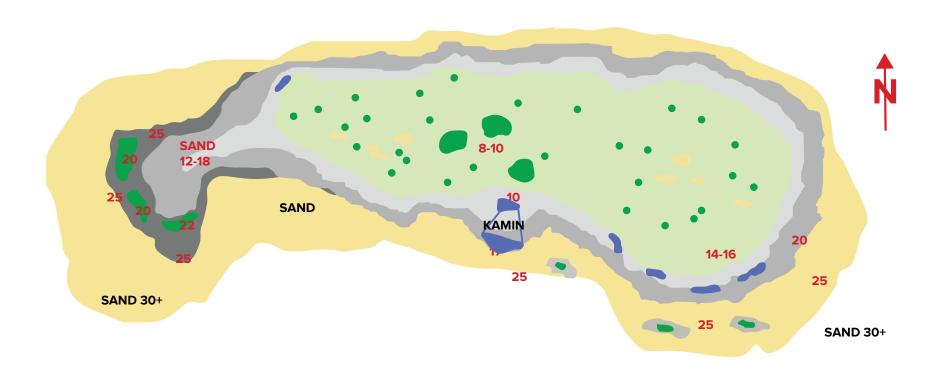
Generally, an easy dive.

DIVING GUIDE:

The intriguing reef structure of this dive site allows for exploration in various ways. In the presence of an east current, we gently drop you at the edge where the out reef corner converges with the Thila. There's no urgency to descend straight to 30 metres. Instead, we recommend spending the initial minutes along the top reef of the significant main Thila. Observe both sides – the south, resembling a wall where larger fish, including sharks, may swim against the current, and the north, offering protection from the current and boasting rich marine life beyond the prominent species.

Navigate to the last Thila, adorned with abundant leather corals. After circumnavigating it, head northwest towards the outside of the lagoon, concluding your dive at the house reef wall of the island, facing west.

If you find yourself on the south side of the Thila with a moderate current, consider crossing into the lagoon. Stay at a shallow depth of 10 to 13 metres and identify a gap in the wall. Here, a conspicuous school of Snappers atop the Thila guides your way. You'll now be positioned at the end of the substantial Thila, just in front of the block adorned with numerous leather corals.





DIGU THILA

45 MINUTES NORTH OF ELLAIDHOO, IN THE CHANNEL

FAUNA & FLORA:

The Thila stretches from west to east, with the top reef ranging from 3 to 5 metres in the middle and 10 to 12 metres in the west. The east side extends deeper, concluding in a plateau at 18 metres that bends southward. Caves and overhangs adorn the east and south sides at levels between 22 and 26 metres. Depending on the current, encounters with Whitetip Reef Sharks and sleeping Stingrays in the up-current are likely. Napoleons, Nurse Sharks, and the occasional appearance of Eagle Rays add to the diversity. A stronger current may bring forth a mesmerising swarm of Barracudas. Exploring the pinnacles at the west corner, located 20 to 30 metres away from the main reef, could unveil sightings of Grey Reef Sharks.

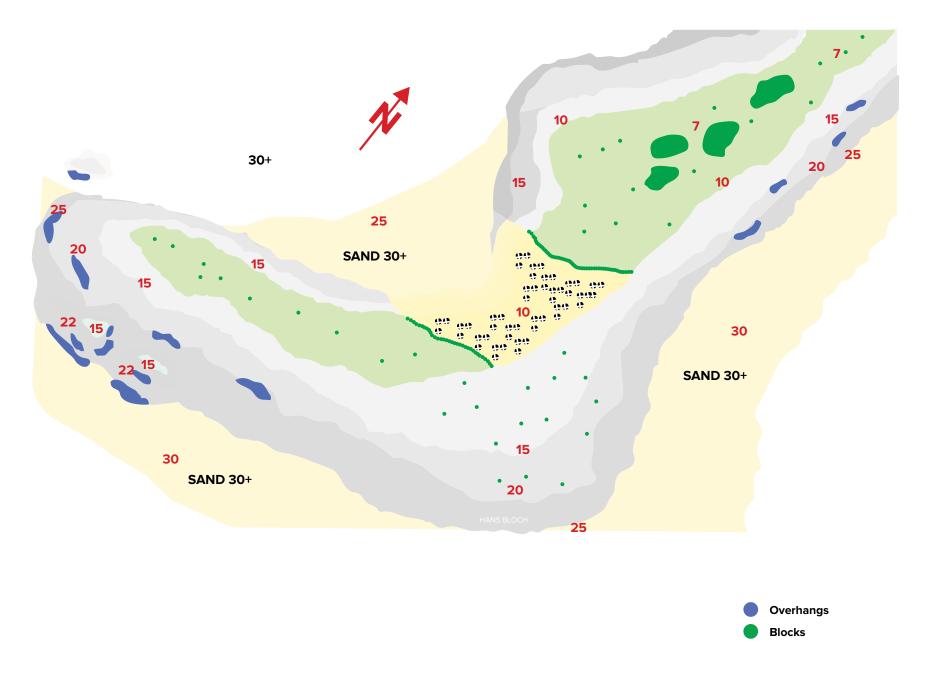
DIFFICULTY:

Suitable for all levels, the expansive Thila offers an easy dive, even in strong currents. A shallow dive profile is also achievable. Diving the west-corner pinnacles, situated at greater depths, is recommended for more experienced divers.

DIVING GUIDE:

If the current flows in, commence the dive at the east corner, observing Stingrays and Whitetip Reef Sharks on the sandy bottom. In the presence of a stronger current, expect bustling swarms of Fusiliers, Jackfish and Tuna. Follow the reef on your right shoulder until reaching a large overhang adorned with reef fish, sea fans, and sponges. Continue along the reef, passing a single block at approximately 25 metres, leading to a wide chimney starting in an overhang at 19 metres with an opening at 11 metres.

Napoleons and Nurse Sharks are frequent visitors. Exercise caution as you proceed in shallow water after the chimney to maintain a safe dive profile. Explore the shallow reef top, featuring three prominent blocks hosting Nurse Sharks, Scorpionfish and more. For those opting for deeper levels, follow the reef contour along the south side toward the west corner, passing overhangs at 20 to 14 metres. Conclude your dive at the shallow reef top. If the current runs out, start either at the west corner or the pinnacles and continue on the left shoulder.



KARI BERU THILA

35 MINUTES NORTH OF ELLAIDHOO IN THE CHANNEL BETWEEN BATHALA ISLAND AND THE NEXT FARU

FAUNA & FLORA:

Engage in an unmissable dive! Unparallelled in its variety of fish, this site earned its status as a national park in 1998. Witness the thrill of big Tunas and Jacks chasing bustling schools of Fusiliers. Observe the graceful presence of Grey Reef and Whitetip Reef Sharks gracefully navigating the outer edge, while a captivating circle of Barracudas forms in the deep blue. The underwater spectacle extends beyond the fish life, with diverse corals at different stages and forms adorning the Thila. Seek refuge among big stamp corals and captivating black coral bushes that provide shelter for smaller reef inhabitants.

DIFFICULTY:

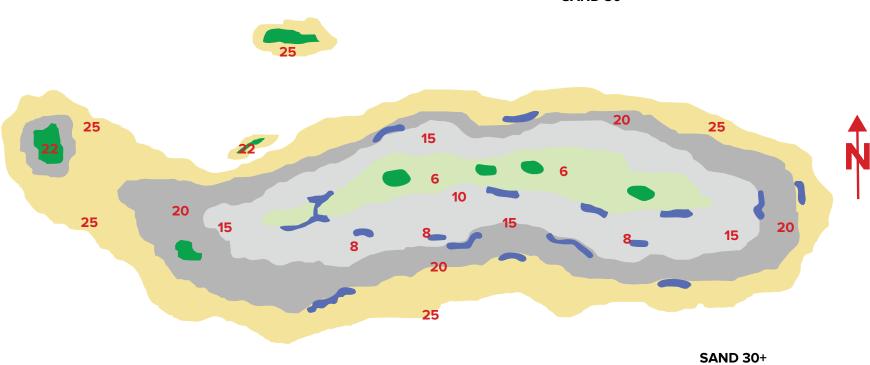
This versatile dive site accommodates various approaches, making it accessible even in strong currents. Begin with a quick descent, and once at the reef, effortlessly choose between the sheltered side or the current-rich area, where most activity unfolds. A dive suitable for every adventurer.

DIVING GUIDE:

Your experience hinges on the current's strength and direction. Optimal exploration of overhangs and crevices occurs when starting at the southwest end of the Thila. In moderate currents, venture into the blue for a spectacle amid Tunas and Fusiliers. If the current flows from the west, stick to the Thila's inside, heading north with the reef on your right.

Don't be disconcerted by a seemingly lifeless area; continue, and you'll reconnect with the reef. In strong currents, pivot, taking the reef on your left, leading to a delightful area with numerous overhangs and stunning corals. Around the corner, on the east side, typically starting the dive in the presence of an east current, you'll find the up-current side, attracting significant marine life. Conclude your dive by drifting along the reef, ending at the north side. Explore the shallow water's substantial coral blocks for a delightful finale to this enriching dive.





SAND 30+

Overhangs
Blocks

DEFAFALHU THILA

35 MINUTES NORTHWEST OF ELLAIDHOO NEAR THE TOURIST ISLAND HALAVELI

FAUNA & FLORA:

Immerse yourself in a truly spectacular underwater landscape featuring terraces and overhangs. The richness of marine life on this Thila is exceptional. Witness mesmerising displays as large schools of Fusiliers, Bluestripe Snappers and Glass Fish gracefully navigate around coral blocks. Explore the terraces teeming with Nudibranchs, Flatworms, various Moray Eel species, Scorpion Fish, and other vibrant reef inhabitants. Seek refuge in the overhangs where big black coral bushes and Gorgonians find shelter.

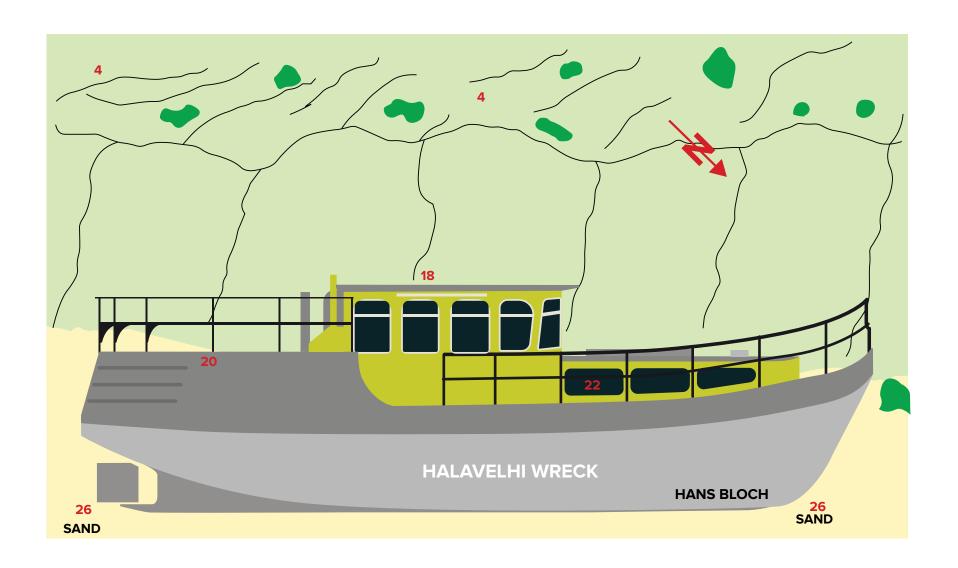
DIFFICULTY:

Unsuitable for diving in strong currents, but otherwise, an easy and unmissable dive for everyone.

DIVING GUIDE:

Whether facing a west or east current, we'll drop you on the south side of this small Thila, ensuring you brave the current in one direction. The south side presents three terraces reaching down to 25 metres. If the current permits, begin with the deeper terraces and gradually ascend.

This area offers ample opportunities to spend a significant portion of your dive. Move on to the north side, where small coral blocks are scattered along the slope. Take time to linger around the top reef, surrounded by a multitude of Fusiliers. During the summer months, witness the captivating spectacle of thousands of Glass Fish, orchestrating a different figure every second.



HALAVEHLI WRECK

A 35 MINUTE BOAT TRIP NORTH FROM ELLAIDHOO, BEFORE TOURIST ISLAND BATHALA

FAUNA & FLORA:

Explore the Halaveli Wreck, a 39-metre cargo vessel intentionally sunk in 1991 by the diving school on Halaveli. While the wreck showcases black coral bushes, soft coral trees, and small table corals, overall, the coral growth is modest.

A captivating school of Trevally often approaches divers curiously, and the wreck is now home to Moray Eels and a charming family of Pufferfish. Keep an eye out for occasional appearances of Manta rays and Mobulas passing by in the blue.

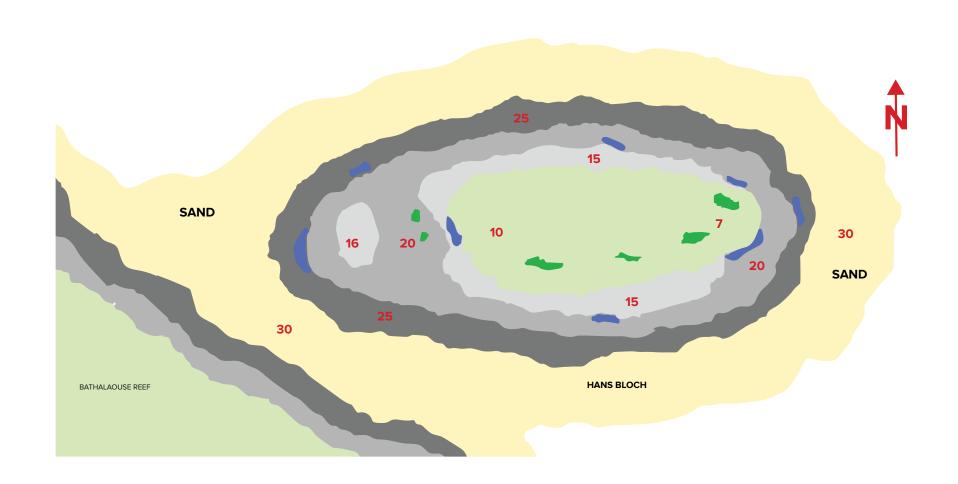
DIFFICULTY:

Not suitable for diving in very strong currents, but otherwise accessible to divers of all levels.

DIVING GUIDE:

Descend along the rope secured to the bow of the wreck. Even in medium to strong currents, this dive is manageable. Seek shelter between the bridge and the bow if the current picks up. Explore the significant holes that occasionally harbour turtles. Move along the sides or, in stronger currents, consider staying along the top towards the front.

Find shelter by the stern, where the structure provides protection and offers a unique perspective over the edge, giving the sensation of being on a sailing boat. Keep a close eye on your non-decompression time and consider concluding the dive at the nearby Faru on the west side of the wreck.





BATHALA THILA

A 35 MINUTE BOAT TRIP NORTH FROM ELLAIDHOO, IN FRONT OF THE TOURIST ISLAND BATHALA

FAUNA & FLORA:

A paradise for fish enthusiasts, this dive site brings together an impressive congregation of Bluestripe Snappers, Batfish, Surgeonfish, Red Snappers, and vibrant Fusiliers. A captivating school of Banner Fish often graces the current side, creating an entrancing spectacle.

Don't be in a hurry to move away; with the right video camera and lighting, this could be your most memorable dive for fish life. Whitetip Reef Sharks gracefully rest on the sandy bottom or patrol the top reef. Venture closer to the reef, and you'll discover a living fish encyclopedia, including Nudibranchs, arious Shrimps, Moray Eels, Octopuses, Scorpionfish, and, if you're fortunate, the Nurse Shark in its usual spot. During the right season, Manta rays may even make an appearance. Overall, an absolute must-dive experience!

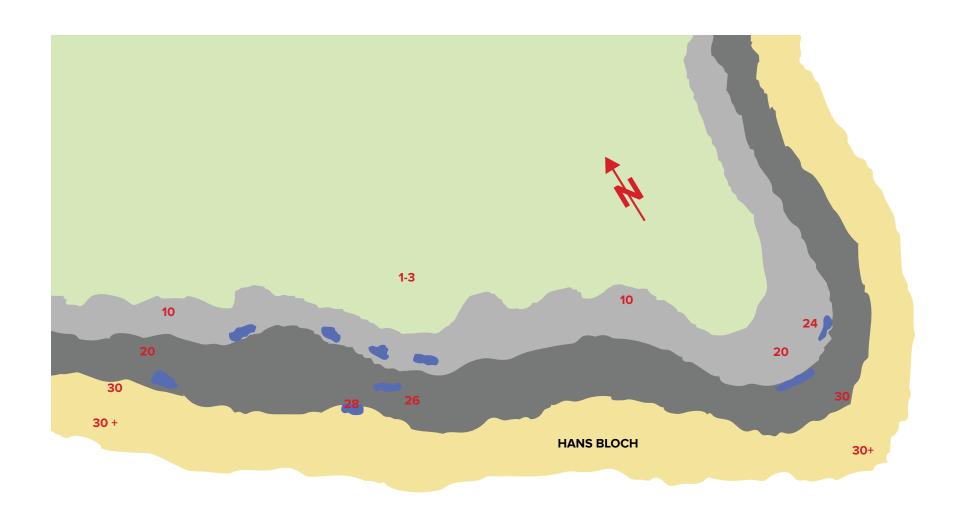
DIFFICULTY:

While this dive may pose a slight challenge, depending on the current, a quick descent is the key to overcoming it. Once you're below, a protected side awaits, making it suitable for divers of all levels.

DIVING GUIDE:

With an east current, your drop-off point depends on its strength either in the open blue water or on the east side of the Thila. During west currents in the winter months, you'll be dropped on the north-west side of the Thila. In either case, aim for a swift descent to reach the Thila's side and avoid being swept to the other side. Staying against the current reveals a vibrant underwater world. Dive the reef on either side, choosing between left or right shoulder orientation.

As you approach the north part, discover overhangs in various depths, also present at the south corner. If visibility allows, catch a glimpse of Bathala's House Reef on the north-north/west side. When diving with a strong east current, consider drifting to the house reef with your left shoulder. Alternatively, spend quality time on the top reef, where a diverse array of species awaits exploration.





BATHALA MAAGA FARU

30 MINUTES BY DHONI SOUTH OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Dive into the beauty of this extensive reef featuring a shallow top reef, ranging from 1 to 3 metres, adorned with substantial coral blocks. The east side opens to the outer reef, while the southwest side faces the channel, offering diverse landscapes, including alluring overhangs and caves at the east corner in depths of 20 to 30 metres. Along the entire southwest side, discover overhangs beginning at a shallow 8 metres and descending to 30 metres.

DIFFICULTY:

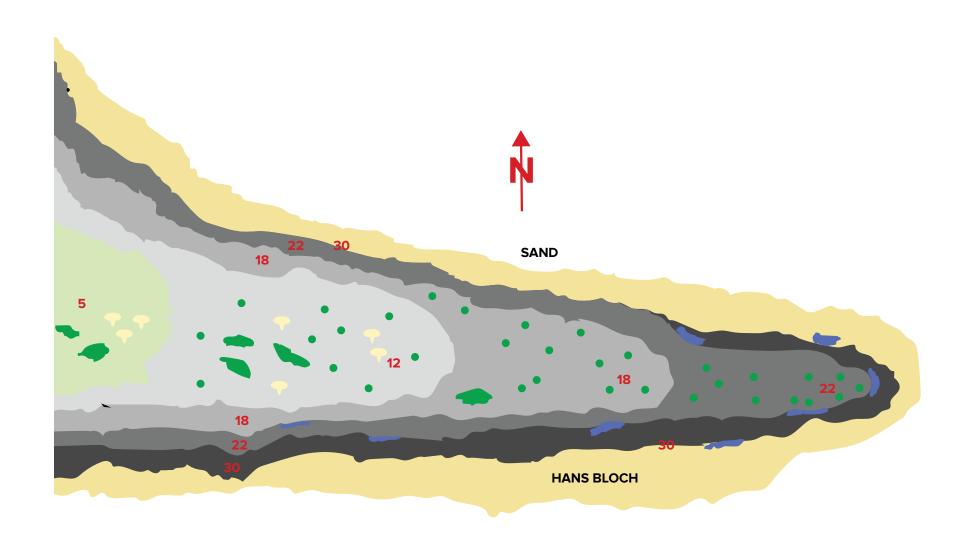
Bathala Maaga Faru extends a warm invitation for a comfortable and easy dive suitable for all experience levels, even in the presence of a strong current. Drift effortlessly and immerse yourself in the captivating underwater world.

DIVING GUIDE:

When encountering an incoming current, commence the dive at the east corner and continue along the right shoulder. For those opting for a deeper profile, explore the enticing overhangs at the corner before venturing towards the southwest side.

The Bathala Maaga Faru accommodates both deep and shallow dive profiles, boasting caves and overhangs at various levels, adorned with Sponges, Whip Corals, and Gorgonias. Keep an eye out for the small wonders such as Shrimps, Crabs, Worms, and Nudibranchs, and with a stroke of luck, encounter a resting Stingray on the sandy bottom of a cave.

Don't forget to gaze into the blue water, especially in strong currents, where the passage might be graced by big Tunas and Eagle Rays. In the presence of an outgoing current, initiate the dive at the southwest side, exploring the site with the left shoulder.





BATHALA MAAGA KAN THILA

30 MINUTES NORTH OF ELLAIDHOO, ON THE EDGE OF MAAGA KANDU

FAUNA & FLORA:

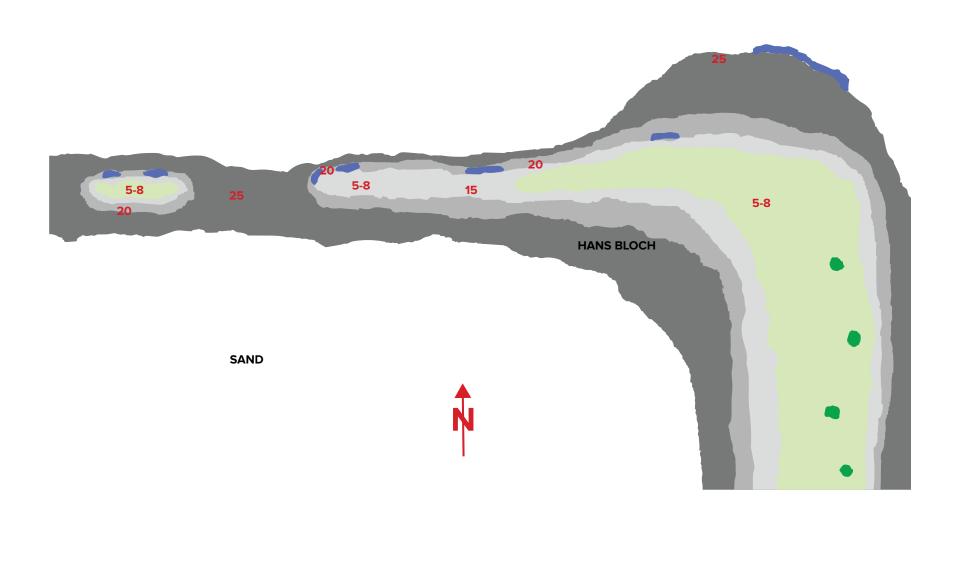
Positioned on the edge of the Kandu (channel), this reef offers a great opportunity to encounter large sea inhabitants. Silvertip, Whitetip, and Grey Reef Sharks frequent the area, alongside Eagle Rays, schools of Barracudas, big Tunas, and countless Fusiliers navigating the channel's edge. While the Thila itself may not boast elaborate coral growth, the vibrant fish life compensates abundantly. Explore the shallower sections to find Oriental sweetlips in sizable groups, accompanied by the majestic presence of Humphead Snappers. Turtles and Napoleons gracefully traverse the top reef.

DIFFICULTY:

Generally, a straightforward dive allows you to commence in the shallow part and descend along the edge. However, in the presence of a strong current, basic current dive skills become essential, including a swift descent.

DIVING GUIDE:

Optimal conditions occur with an incoming current, originating from the East side. For experienced divers comfortable with a swift descent to 18 metres in the current, this is the preferred start. Jump in, descend to the reef's edge, and head north until reaching a bay-like area. Hold on if necessary, observe the underwater scene, and regularly monitor your air and no-decompression time.





MEDU CORNER

20 MINUTES NORTH OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

This elongated reef features its outer side to the east, while the north side opens up to the channel. Our focus will be on the captivating northeast corner, renowned for its intrigue. The reef's topography varies, with a relatively shallow top ranging from 5 to 8 metres adorned with sizable coral blocks. Moving westward, the topography forms a small valley reaching a depth of 15 metres. A small Thila lies approximately 30 metres from the main reef, starting at 5 metres on its top and descending in steps to 25 metres.

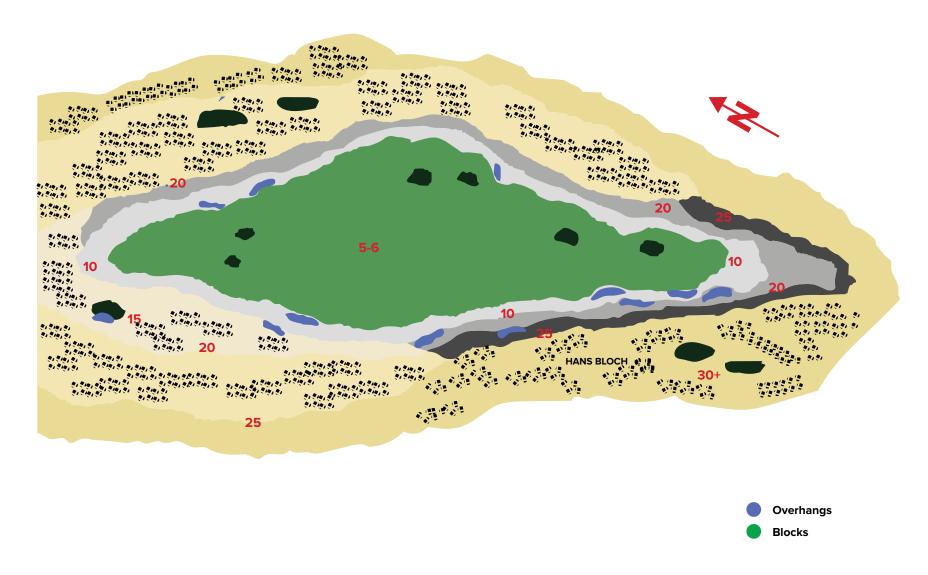
The outer side of the reef boasts overhangs at different levels, plunging steeply to depths exceeding 30 metres. On the inner side, facing the sandy lagoon, take your time exploring the overhangs and discovering small wonders like Nudibranchs, Shrimps, Lobsters, Crabs, and the occasional Stingray enjoying a nap. The proximity to the outer reef provides opportunities to encounter larger fish; just cast occasional glances into the blue water for possible sightings of Eagle Rays, Napoleon Fish, Tunas, or Sharks.

DIFFICULTY:

With a shallow top and considerable length, this dive site welcomes divers of all levels and remains easily navigable even in the presence of a strong current.

DIVING GUIDE:

In the presence of an incoming current from the east, commence your dive either at the outer reef or near the east corner, proceeding with the reef on your left shoulder. Drift with the current, exploring overhangs and caves at depths ranging from approximately 12 to 27 metres. Depending on air consumption, consider exploring the small Thila towards the end of the dive by crossing the sandy valley. Alternatively, remain at the shallow reef top for a comfortable safety stop. In the case of an outgoing current, begin with the small Thila, diving the reef on your right shoulder.



BODU THILA

20 MINUTES NORTH OF ELLAIDHOO ALOND WITH KUDA AND MEDU THILA

FAUNA & FLORA:

Experience a unique Thila that transitions seamlessly from sandy expanses to substantial overhangs and back to the wall. This Thila stands out with its significant contrasts, offering a distinctive underwater environment. Remarkable coral growth within the overhangs shelters a thriving school of Big Eye Solderfish. Whitetip Reef Sharks gracefully navigate the reef, occasionally resting in small caverns. Reef fish families abound across the entirety of the Thila.

A special highlight is the sandy portion, where taking a leisurely 15-minute traverse can reveal a fascinating marine life haven. Lie on the ground and witness the intrigue of a sandy reef, with Sand Eels popping out of their holes, accompanied by multi-coloured gobies and their shrimps—a perfect subject for captivating photos.

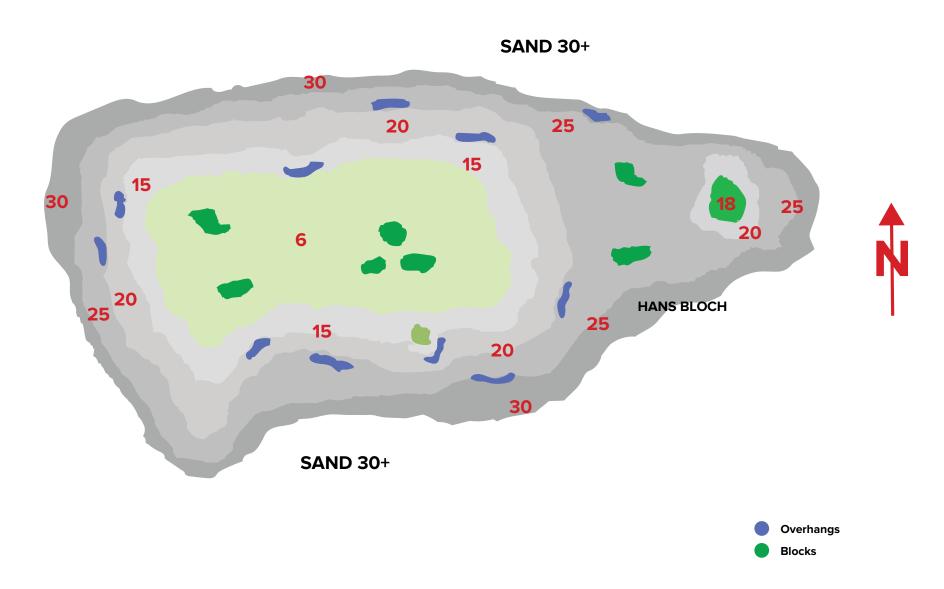
DIFFICULTY:

An effortlessly accessible dive suitable for all levels, even in stronger currents.

DIVING GUIDE:

In the presence of a west current, commence the dive at the sandy section, descending through a vibrant school of yellow and blue Fusiliers. Explore a small coral block at 12 metres, adorned with numerous shrimps ready to assist with their cleaning duties. Progress (keeping the left shoulder towards the reef) along the sandy expanse at an optimal depth of 12 to 15 metres. Upon crossing the sandy part, encounter a series of overhangs—both deep and shallow—leading to the north side of the Thila, where a wall descends into the sand.

For those less inclined towards the sandy area, consider keeping the reef on your right shoulder, heading west immediately. This approach is feasible when the current is moderate. Cross over to the north part to discover a small bay teeming with fish, and witness the presence of Whitetip Reef Sharks. Continue past the bay to reach the wall and the shallow overhangs on the south side. In the face of an east current, initiate the dive at the overhangs, keeping the reef on your right shoulder, and conclude in the sandy part. If, for any reason, you find yourself pulled towards the north side, continue the dive along the wall until reaching the bay.



MEDU THILA

15 MINUTES NORTH OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

This Thila bears a resemblance to Kuda Thila, its neighbouring counterpart, with the distinction of featuring more extensive overhangs, providing ample exploration opportunities during your dive. An additional Thila on the east side, connected by a saddle, offers a unique diving experience. Rich soft coral growth and abundant marine life characterise this site, showcasing all common reef fish. Keep an eye out for Whitetip Reef Sharks, and in stronger currents, Grey Reef Sharks may gracefully navigate the up current between the main reef and a small block on the east side.

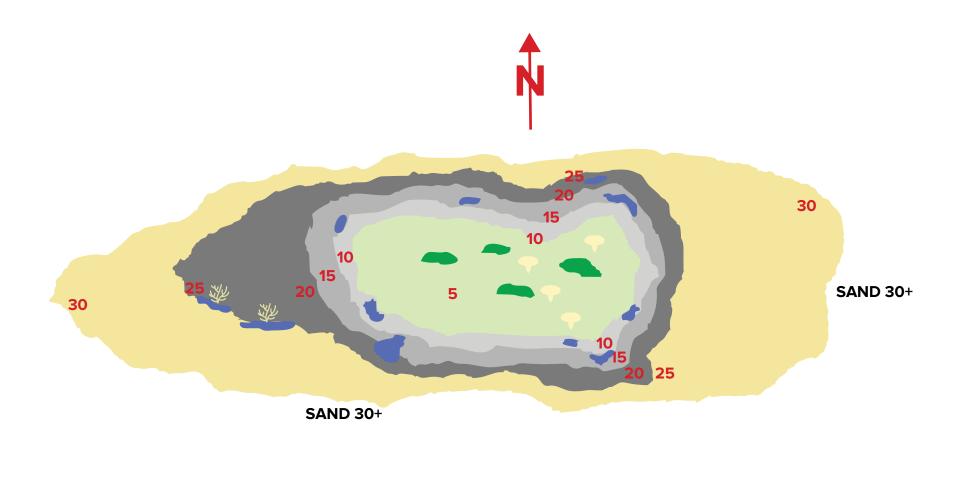
DIFFICULTY:

Suitable for divers of all levels, especially as the north side is typically shielded from strong currents.

DIVING GUIDE:

Ideally with an east current, we'll drop you away from the Thila, so remember to descend promptly. A pinnacle connected by a saddle lies in front of the main Thila, descending to over 30 metres in the sand, where Whitetip Reef Sharks may be found. As you ascend, spend time at the top (18m) of this Thila, showcasing delightful soft coral growth and vibrant marine life. Keep the main Thila on your right shoulder, passing successive overhangs. If current resistance is preferred, take the north side with the reef on your left shoulder, usually sheltered from the current. Conclude your dive at the Thila's edge to catch the action on the top reef and observe the underwater activity below.

In the case of a west current, commence your dive on the opposite side of the Thila. Strive to stay up current, as reaching the area where the current splits may require effort but proves rewarding. Once you've savoured the spectacle of large fish, navigate with the reef on your left shoulder, exploring successive overhangs. If time and air permit upon reaching the east side, follow along the saddle and explore the pinnacle's top.



Overhangs Blocks



KUDA THILA

25 MINUTES NORTH OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Delve into the wonders of Kuda, aptly named for its focus on the smaller marvels of the underwater world. Uncover a remarkable array of shrimps, crabs, and other crustaceans, alongside the resident White Leaf Fish. This modest reef surprises with appearances by Whitetip Reef Sharks, Eagle Rays and Stingrays, with the occasional sighting of a solitary Grey Reef Shark. The coral formation mirrors other reefs, boasting sizable black coral bushes, staghorn corals, and striking large anemones.

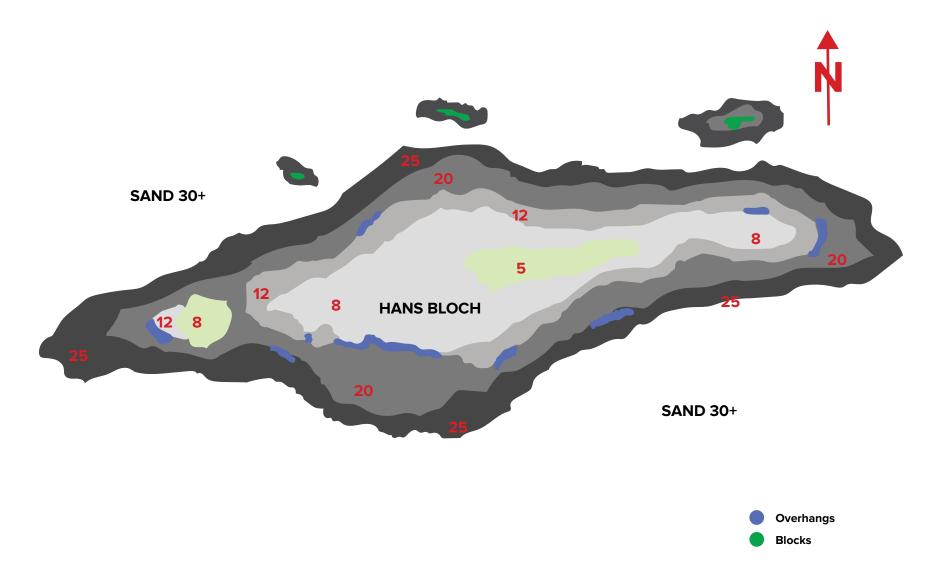
DIFFICULTY:

Suitable for divers of all levels, especially as the north side is typically shielded from strong currents.

DIVING GUIDE:

Given its size, the drop-off point isn't crucial, and you'll navigate against the current only once. Typically, as you traverse the Thila's edge into greater depths, the current diminishes. The south side reveals enchanting overhangs extending to 30 metres, often hosting a school of Bluestripe Snappers. In clear visibility, venture into the blue to spot Whitetip Reef Sharks on the sandy floor below. Progressing with the reef on either your right or left shoulder at a depth of 15 to 20 metres, you'll encounter black coral bushes and small overhangs until reaching the north side with captivating red anemones—a perfect spot for photography.

If the current is manageable, the top reef merits more than a brief visit. Seek out the elusive stonefish or spot Ghost Pipefish in the seagrass. At around 9 metres on the north side, a White Leaf Fish awaits your discovery.



KADHOLHUDHOO THILA

30 MINUTES WEST OF ELLAIDHOO NEXT TO THE TOURIST ISLAND KANDUHULHUDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

This is quite a "petite" Thila featuring overhangs, slopes, and a diverse array of marine life. On the west side, the Thila gently slopes to 20-25 metres into the sand, offering encounters with Whitetip Reef Sharks and sizable Groupers. Eagle Rays, and in season, Manta Rays, occasionally grace the surroundings.

The north-west side is home to significant schools of Bluestripe and Humphead Snappers Frogfish. Notably, two frogfish—one red and the other blue—add to the highlights. The expansive overhangs may reveal the presence of baby Stingrays and sizable Potato Groupers. A Nurse Shark is also a frequent visitor, making it a delightful and colourful dive.

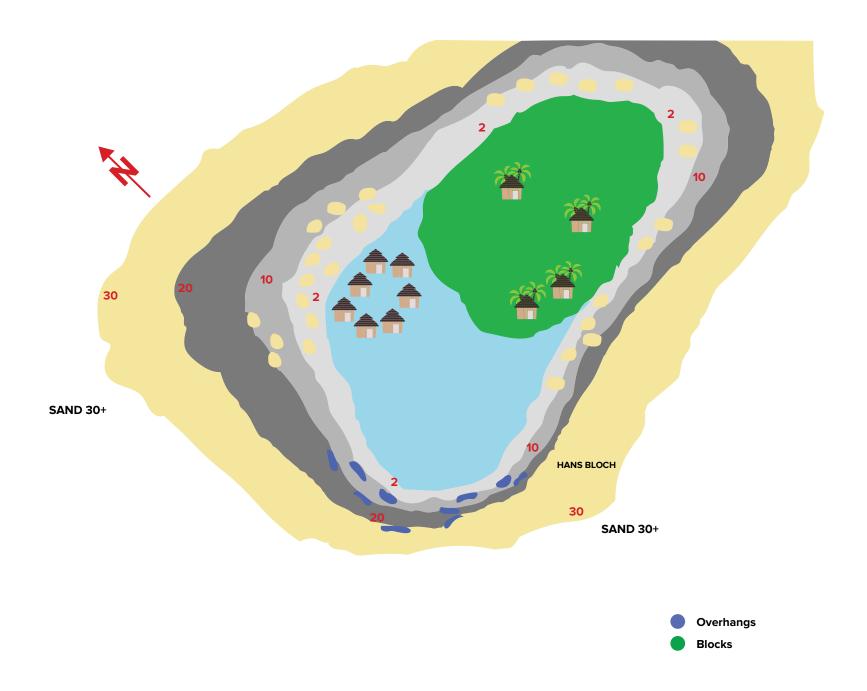
DIFFICULTY:

An easy dive suitable for all levels.

DIVING GUIDE:

Depending on the current, we will drop you on either the north-east or south-west side of the Thila. Due to its small size, you can complete a circumnavigation in approximately 50 minutes. Starting on the southwest side, keep the reef on your right shoulder. At the bottom (20-25 metres), scan the blue expanse for a chance encounter with sleeping Whitetip Reef Sharks or an Eagle Ray in search of sustenance. Sizeable coral blocks on the reef provide refuge for Octopuses or Scorpionfish. As you approach the north side, choose to stay shallow or descend to 25-30 metres, where a large school of Bluestripe Snappers awaits. Dive to a shallower depth near the Snappers, and around 20 metres, discover a substantial black coral bush hosting Red Frogfish—look for the red colour. Continuing along the reef, you'll encounter another overhang at 14 metres. Despite potential currents, reach the overhang, where Nurse Sharks, large Groupers, and Stingrays share the space. If time permits, explore the top reef, unveiling Anemones, Stonefish, and their companions.

If dropped on the north-east side, it's recommended to begin with the east side, keeping the reef on your right shoulder.



KADHOLHUDHOO HOUSE REEF

35 MINUTES WEST OF ELLAIDHOO BY THE TOURIST ISLAND KANDUHULHUDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Immerse yourself in a dive that unfolds two distinct scenes – one side featuring expansive overhangs and the other showcasing a captivating hard coral garden. This site stands as a rare gem in the Maldives, boasting impressive table corals in remarkably shallow waters. The entire wall is teeming with small reef inhabitants; keep an eye out for Stonefish, Scorpionfish, and tiny Crabs concealed within the table corals.

The dive reveals a rich tapestry of marine life, including Nudibranchs, Snails, and a variety of Shrimps. Explore an overhang harbouring a large Lobster family, while schools of Fusiliers gracefully traverse the entire reef, accompanied in the open blue by Tunas and Whitetip Reef Sharks.

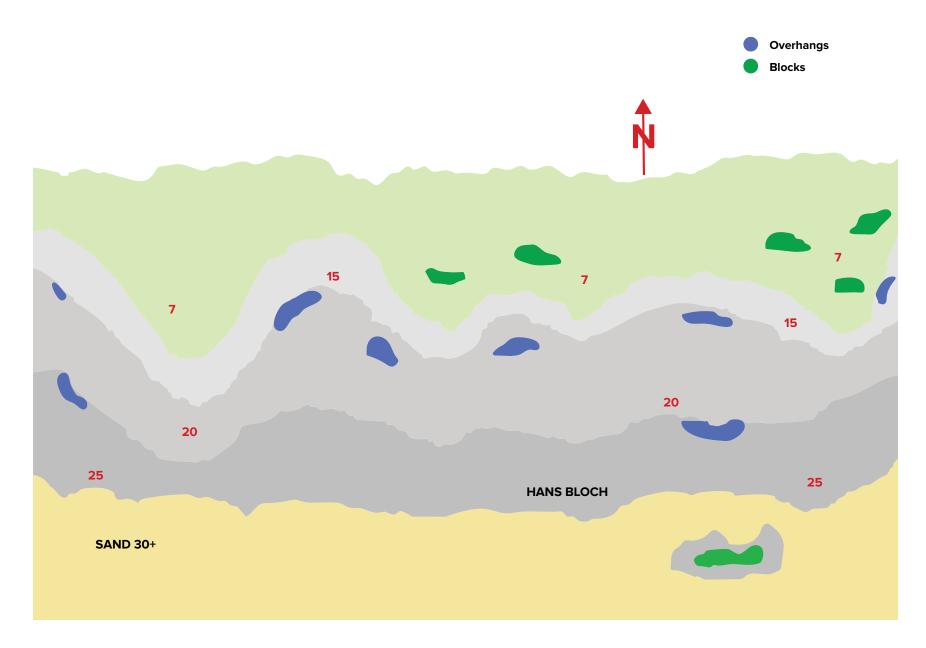
DIFFICULTY:

An easy dive accessible to all levels.

DIVING GUIDE:

Currents are a rarity here, allowing for a leisurely exploration. We typically commence the dive with the overhangs, starting from the west side of the island with the reef on your left shoulder.

Take your time to thoroughly explore each overhang. Transition to the exquisite hard coral garden on the south side, maintaining a depth of no more than 10 metres. Continue for approximately 30 metres before turning around to conclude your dive at the astounding top reef — a true marvel of nature.



FUS FARU

15 MINUTES NORTH OF ELLAIDHOO, AT THE CHANNEL ENTRY POINT

FAUNA & FLORA:

Serving as an entry point to the channel, this wall welcomes frequent sightings of impressive marine life, including Napoleon, Tunas, Sharks, and various Rays. Beyond the charismatic larger species, the wall itself offers a rich tapestry. In the shallower region, extending to about 15 metres, vibrant Yellow Sea Fans adorn the area. Numerous cleaning stations along the wall make this dive a delightful experience for macro enthusiasts. Keep a keen eye on the edge of the drop, where occasional encounters with Turtles add to the underwater charm.

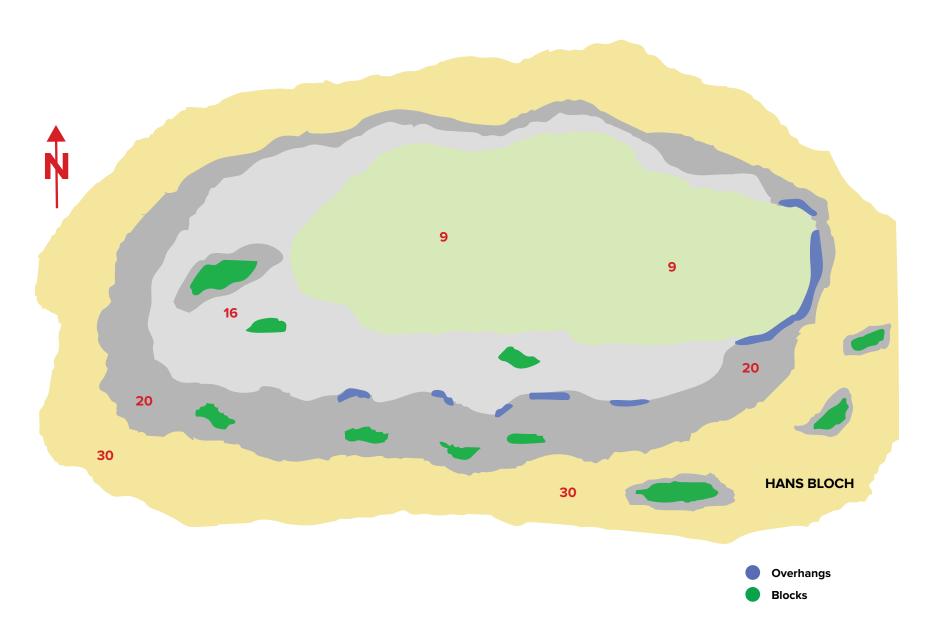
DIFFICULTY:

Enjoy an easy dive, where even in strong currents, drifting along the wall is the simple and serene approach.

DIVING GUIDE:

During an east current, your descent begins at the channel's start, ensuring the reef stays on your left shoulder. At the reef's commencement, discover a small bay providing a protected haven, perfect for lingering in current conditions. Along the reef, explore overhangs, often filled with Glass Fish during the summer months.

If the current flows westward, dive the wall with it on your right shoulder, culminating the dive in the sheltered bay.



HIMANDHOO THILA

2 HOURS FROM ELLAIDHOO, WEST OF THE ARI ATOLL, NEAR THE ISLAND HIMANDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Encounter a substantial Thila nestled in the heart of a channel, offering terraces at varying depths on the west end and captivating overhangs and coral blocks on the east end. From November to May, this site becomes an excellent spot for observing Manta rays, often showcasing breathtaking views at a cleaning station. Even without the presence of Mantas, the dive remains delightful, featuring soft corals, Napoleon Wrasse, Turtles and Whitetip Reef Sharks.

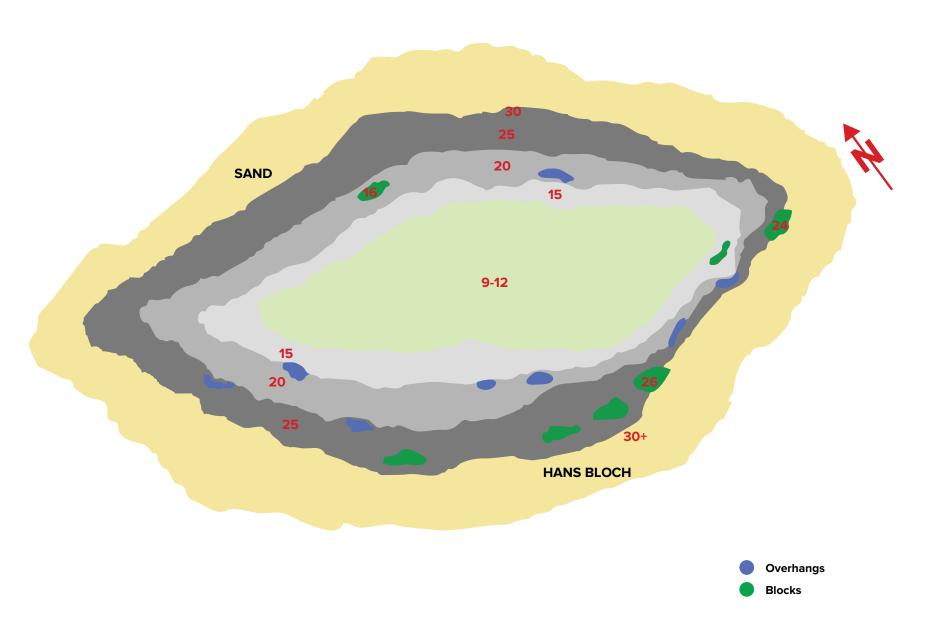
DIFFICULTY:

While a quick descent is advisable in stronger currents, the dive is accessible for all certification levels under normal conditions.

DIVING GUIDE:

To enhance the chances of encountering Mantas, we prefer an east current or outgoing current. Jump in at the southeast end of the Thila for this thrilling dive. Begin with a prominent overhang to your right and a school of Jacks on your left in the open blue. In stronger currents, you might swiftly pass by the school of Jacks. Keep the reef on your right shoulder, and after a few minutes, notice substantial blocks at depths of 20 to 30 metres on your left. If possible, dive around these blocks to witness an impressive gathering of diverse fish species.

Progressing along the reef, you'll encounter a canyon; take a moment to explore its wonders. As you drift along the terrace formation at a depth of 16 metres, increase your pace to reach the cleaning station more efficiently. At the end of the Thila, you may feel the current against you, signalling your proximity to the block where Mantas receive cleaning. Maintain a respectful distance, especially if you're a photographer or videographer. Patience is key, as Mantas might gracefully glide overhead. By staying away from the block, you ensure an undisturbed experience for all, allowing everyone to enjoy the Mantas until it's time to ascend for the safety stop.



DONKALO ETHERE THILA

ABOUT 75 MINUTES WEST OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

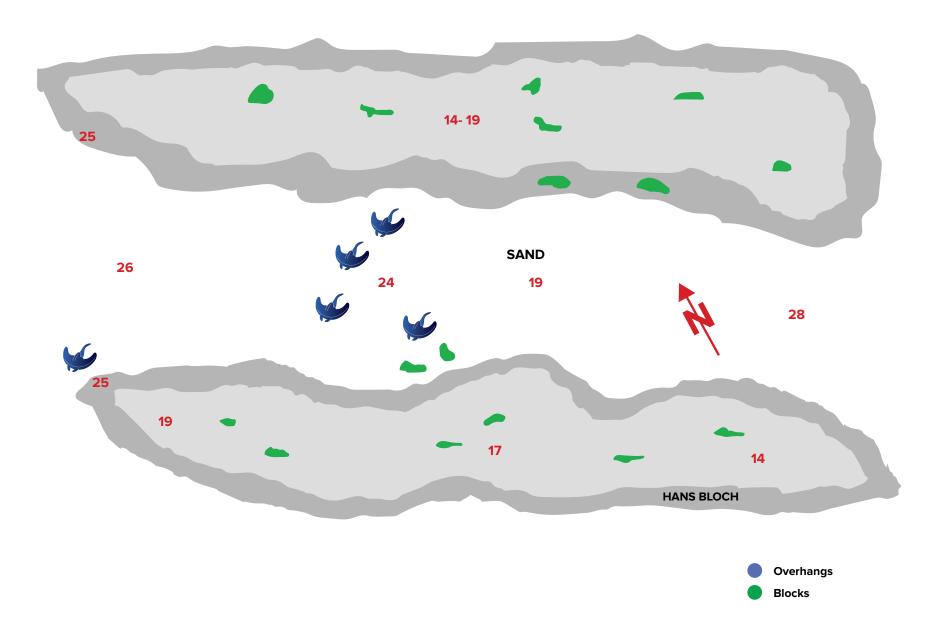
Explore the expansive beauty of Donkalo, a sizable Thila situated in a wide channel. Our focus is on the enchanting south side, offering a diverse range of landscapes. The reef's top, found at 9 to 12 metres depth, boasts significant coral blocks. Moving to the southeast corner, discover a slope adorned with overhangs and small caves, while the steeper south and west sides feature stunning overhangs embellished with Gorgonia and blue soft corals. Noteworthy blocks rest on the seabed at depths between 25 and 30 metres. Witness vast schools of Fusiliers and Snappers, alongside their predators—the Jackfish and Tunas. Donkalo Thila is home to Napoleons, Sharks, Turtles, and a myriad of reef fish.

DIFFICULTY:

The sheer size of the Thila makes it an effortlessly enjoyable drift dive suitable for divers of all levels.

DIVING GUIDE:

When the current flows in from the west, commence the dive with the reef on your right shoulder. Explore the overhangs and deeper blocks before concluding the dive at the slope or reef top near the east corner. Conversely, when the current flows out, opt for the opposite direction.



DONKALHUU BEYRU THILA

ABOUT 80 MINUTES WEST OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Donkalhuu stands out as the destination for witnessing Manta Rays at the Ari Atoll, particularly during the season from December to April. In the peak months of January to March, we've had the incredible experience of diving with up to 100 of these magnificent giant rays.

The site consists of two small Thilas forming a narrow channel with a sandy bottom, ranging from depths of 12 to 30 metres. Manta rays frequent this channel, heading towards cleaner stations along the Thilas' slopes. Witnessing 50 to 100 of these majestic creatures gliding through the blue water is a breathtaking sight. These sociable Mantas often come remarkably close to divers, unreservedly enjoying a bubble bath as they hover above us. This encounter promises an unforgettable experience.

The small southern Thila also offers intriguing features. If you prefer not to ascend directly into the blue water after encountering the Manta Rays, continue to explore the left shoulder of the Thila. At 18 metres, discover numerous

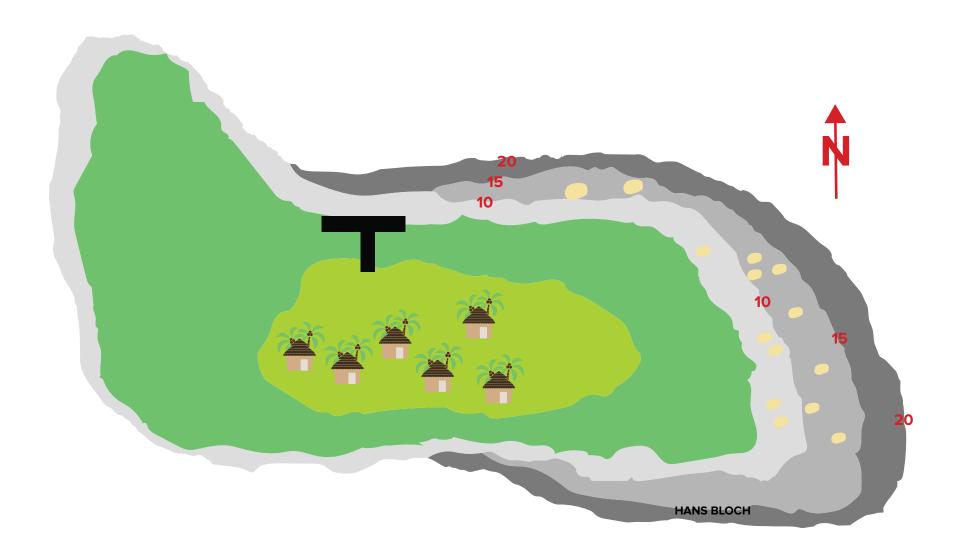
reef cracks housing Ghost Moray Eels, Nudibranchs and Flatworms. The reef top, at 12 to 14 metres, is adorned with beautiful hard coral, leather coral, and vibrant soft coral growth. Honeycomb Moray Eels, Turtles, and Whitetip Reef Sharks often grace the reef top. The water comes alive with large swarms of Fusiliers in shades of blue and yellow. During the Manta season, the abundance of Krill Shrimp in the water increases the likelihood of occasional Whale Shark encounters.

DIFFICULTY:

This site accommodates divers of all levels, although a moderate current may be present at times.

DIVING GUIDE:

Begin your descent into the blue water, positioned right in the channel but still within visible distance of the Thila. This is where you'll encounter the Manta Rays. An ideal depth range to enjoy your time is between 15 to 20 metres please be mindful of your bottom time. Following the mesmerising Manta encounter, you have the option to make a blue water ascent or continue your dive along the Thilas' left shoulder, spending the final 10 minutes at the reef top before ascending for the safety stop.



MAHLOS HOUSEREEF

2 HOURS FROM ELLAIDHO, WEST OF THE ARI ATOLL

FAUNA & FLORA:

Mahlos Island, situated in the channel at the western outer reef of the Ari Atoll, offers a captivating dive experience focused on the most intriguing section of the reef, approximately 400m long, facing the inner side and the channel. This chosen spot provides protection from strong currents. The reef's top, a mere 1m deep, unveils breathtaking hard coral gardens, descending to over 30m with an abundance of exquisite hard coral formations and expansive table corals.

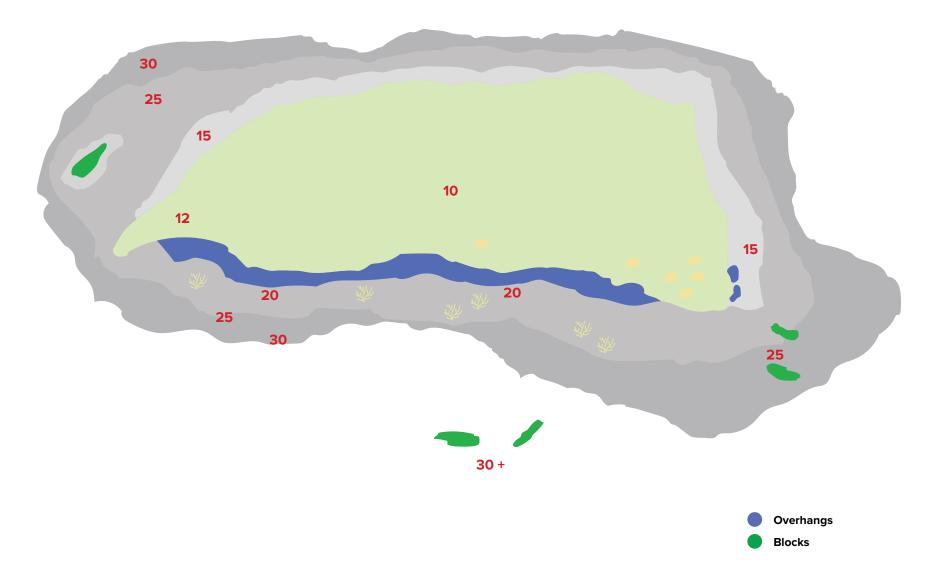
The marine life is equally impressive, featuring large schools of Fusiliers, Snappers, and Red Tooth Triggerfish gracefully hovering above the corals. Turtles traverse the area in search of their favourite leather coral fish, while Rays and Whitetip Sharks make regular appearances. Enthusiasts of small creatures may spot Nudibranchs, and a glance into the blue water may reveal larger fish such as Sharks and Eagle Rays due to the proximity to the outer reef. Surface cruises by schools of Dolphins and seasonal visits from Manta Rays heading to cleaning stations add to the allure.

DIFFICULTY:

This dive is effortlessly accessible for divers of all levels, typically characterised by mild or no currents. A shallow dive profile is entirely feasible.

DIVING GUIDE:

During an incoming current from the west, we commence our dive with the left shoulder leading, and vice versa if the current is outgoing. Following the reef, we relish the underwater beauty, with the flexibility to adapt to the prevailing conditions.



MAHLOS THILA

2 HOURS ACROSS FROM THE ARI ATOLL ON THE WEST, NEAR THE ISLAND MAHLOS

FAUNA & FLORA:

Immerse yourself in the enchantment of an incredibly beautiful dive. When the current is just right, the soft corals unfold like a snowy mountain landscape glistening in the sunlight. Blue soft coral trees adorn pinnacles and gracefully drape from the ceiling of expansive overhangs. Gorgonians provide hiding spots for Bluestripe Snappers and Soldierfish. The top reef is a thriving ecosystem, captivating you with a diverse array of underwater organisms, making you feel a part of this natural beauty.

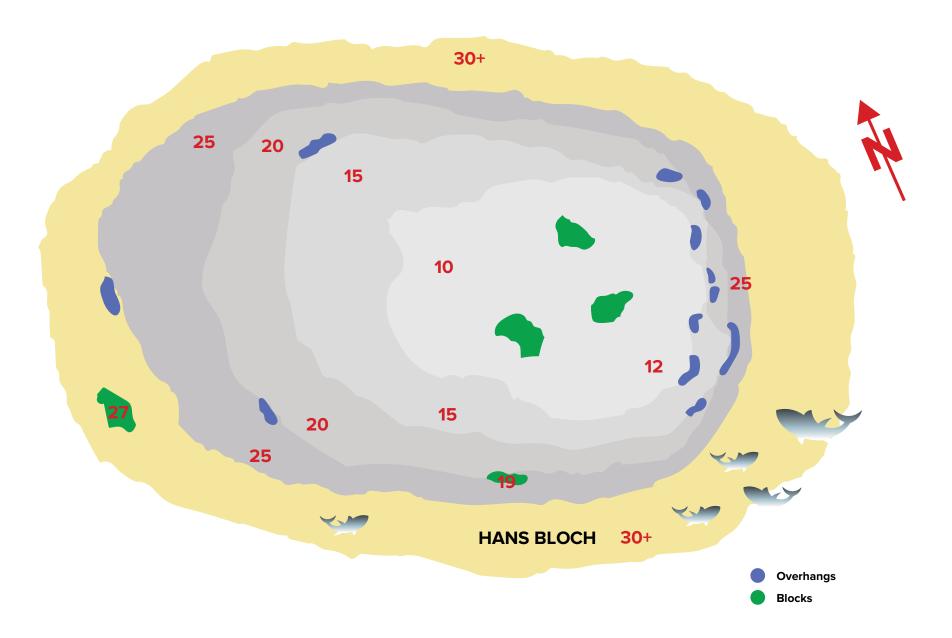
DIFFICULTY:

While a quick descent may be needed, navigating through the reef becomes easy once you're below. A dive not to be missed.

DIVING GUIDE:

Approach this site as you would a mountain route, experiencing the challenge of swimming against the current at times. Begin at the corner where the Thila starts, moving along the reef with it on your right shoulder. Stay relatively shallow, not exceeding 15 metres, and encounter a large school of Sweetlips near a small block. As you turn onto the south side, discover three big pinnacles on your left, away from the Thila.

If the current permits, explore these beautifully adorned structures with bluish and purplish soft corals. The blocks, starting at 18 metres, extend down to over 30 metres. Return to the main Thila, where the overhangs begin, and after the second significant one, explore the smaller, shallower overhangs above the larger ones with the reef on your left. Upon reaching the Thila's starting point again, revel in the incredible hard corals on the top reef.



HAFSA THILA

ABOUT 70 MINUTES BY DHONI IN THE NORTHWEST DIRECTION OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Nestled in the heart of the Atoll, Hafsa is a petite, nearly circular Thila. With a gentle current, a single dive could encompass circling the Thila twice. The reef top, ranging from 10 to 15 metres, boasts captivating overhangs at both the west and east corners. Noteworthy is the abundance of marine life at Hafsa.

In the up-current, witness Mackerels and Tunas hunting vast swarms of Fusiliers and Snappers. Various reef fish species call Hafsa Thila home, with curious Batfish often accompanying divers, a school of Barracudas in the blue water, and frequent encounters with Turtles. For Shark enthusiasts, this is a must-dive site, as Grey Reef Sharks and Whitetips gracefully cruise along the reef top's edge. Take time at the reef top to appreciate the thriving hard coral growth, hosting baby Sharks under table corals, Octopuses, Moray Eels, Scorpionfish, and a friendly small Eagle Ray.

DIFFICULTY:

In the presence of a strong current, Hafsa may pose a more challenging dive due to its small size and deep reef top.

DIVING GUIDE:

Depending on the current, our dive commences in the up-current, either on the west or east side. At a depth of approximately 12 metres, we usually swim against the current for a short distance to reach the edge of the reef top. Here, we linger, observing Sharks and the vibrant swarms of fish.

Once satiated with the Fish Soup, descend over the edge to explore the enchanting overhangs. Navigate the reef along its left or right shoulder, encountering large bushes of black coral and sponges on the north and south sides, along with several smaller caves. Conclude your dive at the reef top, allocating at least 10 minutes to spot baby Sharks, Turtles, and other marine life in the shallower waters.





MADIVARU KUDA THILA

ABOUT 50 MINUTES NORTHWEST OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Madivaru Kuda Thila presents a small, circular Thila with a shallow reef top ranging from 3 to 6 metres. Our focal point, however, is a semicircular, narrow reef located just 25 to 50 metres west of the small Thila. To access this reef, we traverse a sandy plateau lying at depths of 12 to 20 metres. In the centre of the semicircle, an oval reef plateau rises to 10 metres, allowing exploration of both wings. The inner side offers a gentle slope, while the outer side descends to over 30 metres, featuring terraces with captivating overhangs that house various small creatures and large fish swarms.

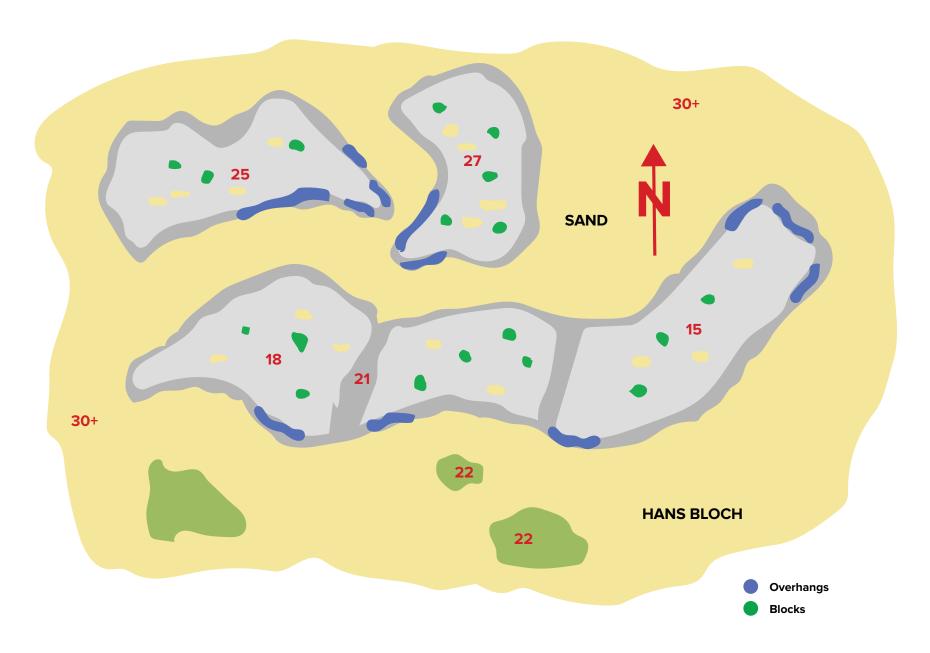
Noteworthy single blocks on the sandy bottom often greet us with the presence of Napolean Fish. Whitetip Sharks gracefully cruise or rest on the sand. The narrow reef's top is adorned with exquisite hard coral and vibrant soft coral growth. Encounter Clownfishes (Nemos) guarding their charming Red Anemones, while millions of Orange Anthias hover above the corals.

DIFFICULTY:

This dive site calls for a deeper dive profile, but with a light current, it remains manageable for all levels. In the presence of a strong current, it's recommended for more experienced divers.

DIVING GUIDE:

With an incoming current from the east, especially if strong, we initiate our dive at the small Thila. We then traverse the sandy plateau to reach the east corner of the semicircle. Continue the dive on the left shoulder. In the case of an outgoing current from the west, we descend into the blue water at the west corner of the semicircle, diving the reef on the right shoulder. For very mild currents, we attempt to descend directly above the small oval reef plateau, allowing you to continue in either direction. Generally, if the current isn't too strong, it's possible to explore the reef twice in any direction. We recommend concluding the dive at the shallow reef top of the small Thila.



NIKA POINT

ABOUT 120 MINUTES NORTHWEST OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Nika Point boasts an impressive landscape with solitary blocks interconnected by canyons. When currents are gentle, exploring these canyons unveils a rich marine life nestled in crevices and niches. Two tunnels at depths of 21 and 23 metres offer glimpses to the other side of the reef, but diving through is discouraged to protect fragile coral growth. Instead, take your time to investigate the blocks while keeping a close eye on your bottom time. Even the reef's top is shallow at 15 metres, making it easy to exceed limits.

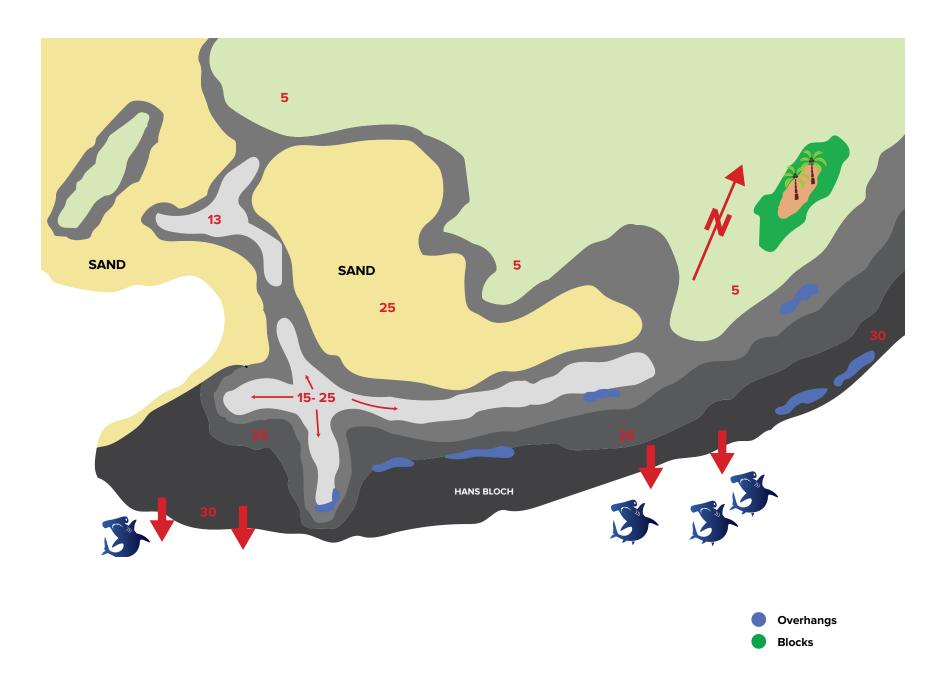
The blocks host vibrant swarms of Snappers, Fusiliers, and Surgeonfish, with Napoleons and Triggerfish also making appearances. Delight in overhangs adorned with beautiful corals, where you can spot Scorpionfish, Nudibranchs, Hermit Crabs, and Mantis Shrimps.

DIFFICULTY:

Nika Point presents a more challenging dive due to its currents and depth levels, making it better suited for experienced divers.

DIVING GUIDE:

Dive planning at this fascinating reef offers various routes. Begin the dive at the up-current and follow the reef contour along either the left or right shoulder. Reserve the last 10 minutes to explore the top of the reef, ensuring a comprehensive underwater experience.



RASDHOO MADIVARU CORNER

2 HOURS NORTH OF ELLAIDHOO IN THE RASDHOO ATOLL (FULL DAY DIVE SITE)

FAUNA & FLORA:

Explore the fascinating dynamics of this dive site, offering diverse exploration opportunities. The site features an outer wall descending to greater depths, followed by protruding fingers extending into the open ocean and concluding with a bay. Keep an eye out for Hammerhead Sharks, giant Barracudas, and Eagle Rays cruising along with the current. Witness the hunting spectacle of massive Tunas and the graceful presence of Whitetip Reef Sharks. Throughout this underwater journey, marvel at the beauty of the coral formations lining the reef.

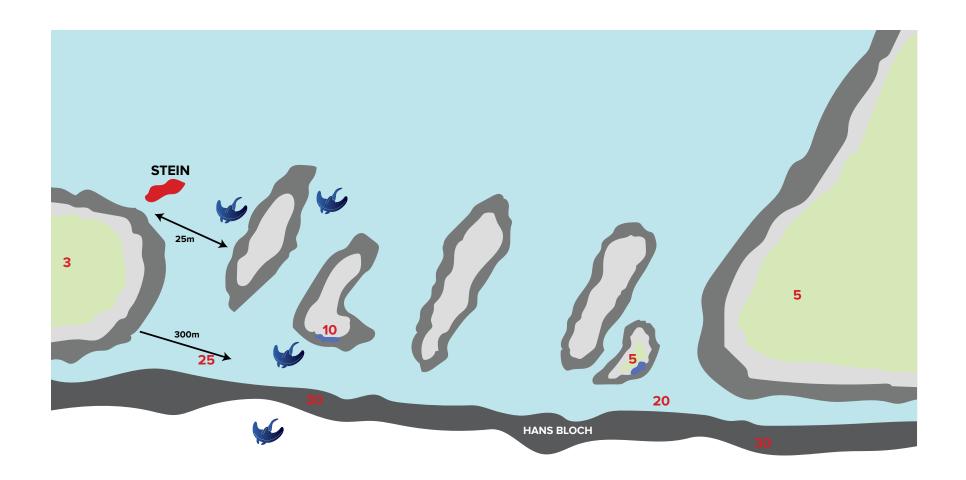
DIFFICULTY:

While Advanced Open Water divers can fully appreciate the depths of this site, divers of all levels can enjoy its wonders. A dive not to be missed.

DIVING GUIDE:

To increase the chances of encountering Hammerhead Sharks, we hope for an incoming current. Begin the dive on top of the first outgoing finger, swimming until you reach a designated mark point. Then, venture 90° into the open blue at a depth of around 20 metres, ensuring the Surgeonfish and wall are no longer visible. Exercise patience, checking underneath and behind you, and with luck, the Hammerhead Sharks will emerge. Be mindful of your non-decompression time, and if needed, drift with the current, set your buoy, and complete the safety stop.

For the corner dive, initiate the journey with the wall on your right shoulder, tracing it until the finger extends. Stay at the top, approximately 20 metres, observing the sandy lagoon to your right and the open blue to your left. Continue until reaching a crossing point where, with luck, you may spot the resident family of eagle rays in the current. Proceed inside the corner heading north, exploring various routes around the reefs before ascending for the safety stop. An incredible dive offering a glimpse into fantastic marine life.





VELIGADU NORTH CHANNEL

2 HOURS NORTH OF ELLAIDHOO IN THE RASDHOO ATOLL (FULL DAY DIVE SITE/MANTA POINT)

FAUNA & FLORA:

Dive into the allure of four Thilas nestled between a substantial central Thila and the out reef corner. These underwater formations host impressive residents such as the Grand Napolean Wrasse, elegant Stingrays, and the intriguing Honeycomb Moray Eels. However, the true highlight lies in encountering the majestic Manta Rays. Cleaning stations atop the smaller Thilas play a vital role in helping Mantas rid themselves of parasites.

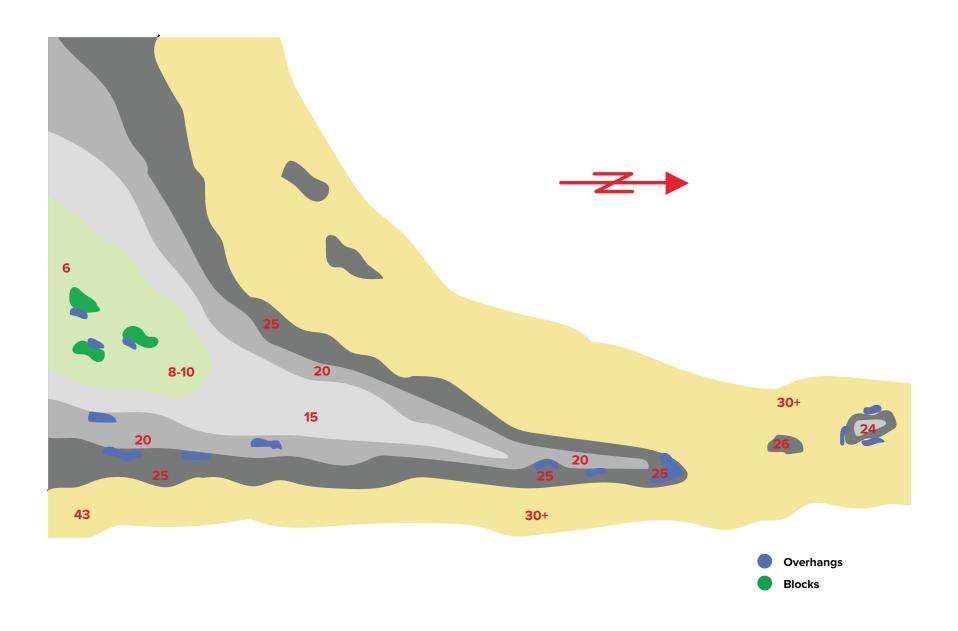
DIFFICULTY:

Delight in an easy, shallow dive accessible to everyone.

DIVING GUIDE:

Choose your drop point based on the current's direction, opting for either side of the corners. Always position yourself at the Thilas' beginnings near the Kandu. Prevent the current from sweeping you too far into the channel, as returning may prove challenging.

While the individual Thilas are reasonably close, the final gap to the central Thila requires a bit of distance. Head South East, reaching the Thila that rises up to 5 metres—an ideal spot for your safety stop, offering a chance to witness more passing Mantas.



FAANA THILA

45 MINUTES SOUTH OF ELLAIDHOO

FAUNA & FLORA:

Faana Thila, a relatively large reef, unfolds its beauty on the east side as the outer reef, adorned with small overhangs and cafes, while the north and south sides extend into the channel. Delight in the charming overhangs at the reef's top edge, ranging from 3 to 10 metres in depth. The north part features a lengthy nose with terraces cascading down to the sandy bottom, connected by a bridge to two captivating blocks.

Exercise caution with your bottom time while exploring these blocks, where a multitude of glass fish and reef inhabitants flourish. Keep an eye out for Napoleons in this area. The west side, slightly sandier, slopes towards the channel bottom, providing an opportunity to encounter substantial marine life such as Sharks, Tuna, and Eagle Rays during this out reef and channel dive.

DIFFICULTY:

Faana Thila offers various diving approaches. With a shallower profile and a drift along the outer reef, it caters to divers of all experience levels, even in the presence of a strong current. Diving to the blocks at the north corner poses a more demanding challenge.

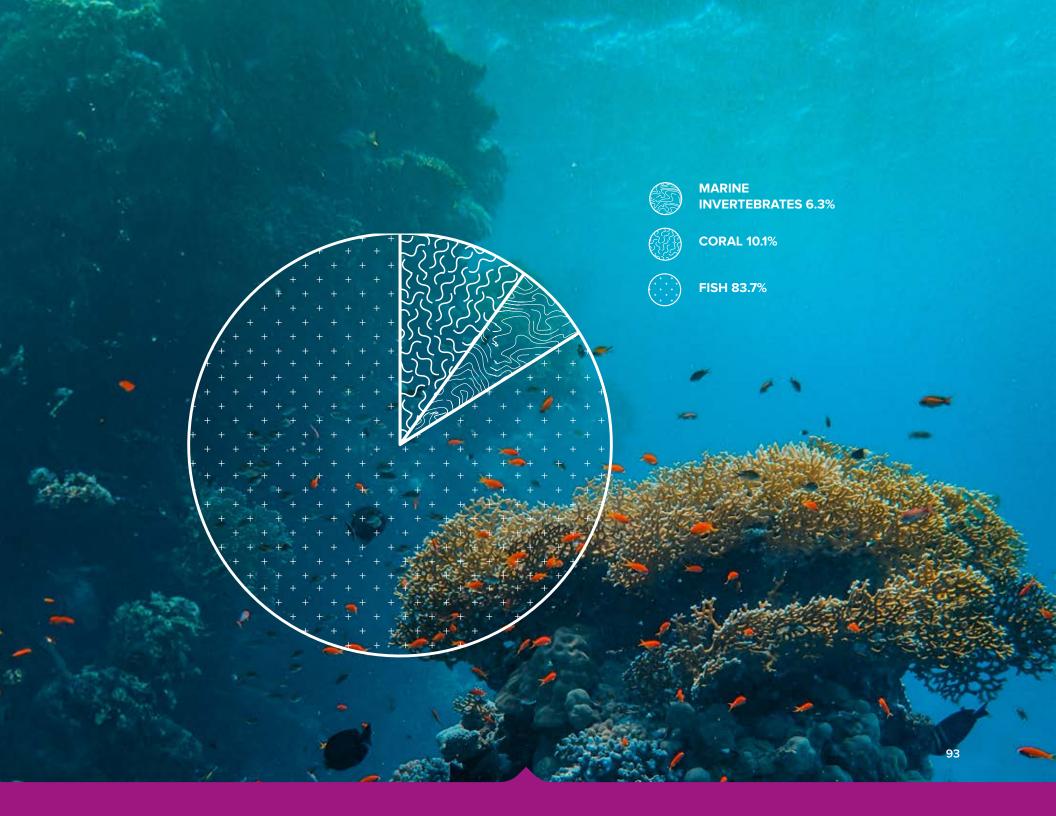
DIVING GUIDE:

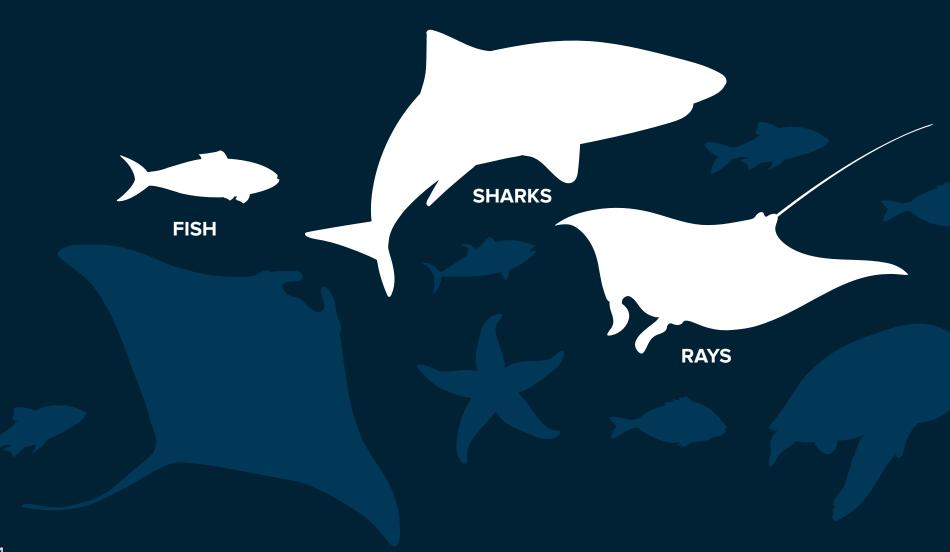
In the presence of an incoming current (from the east), initiate your dive on the left shoulder at the southern part of the out reef. Drift along with the current, exploring overhangs, and occasionally glance into the blue water for potential encounters with larger marine life. As you approach the north corner, anticipate the mesmerising sight of schooling fish.

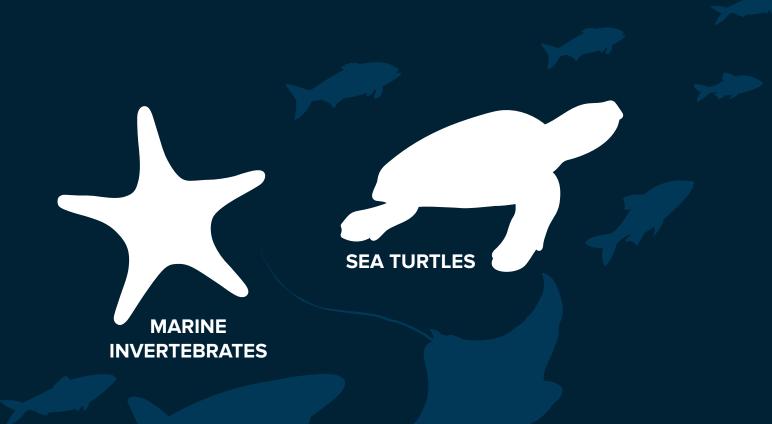
Navigate around the corner, reaching the bridge connecting to the blocks. Return to the main reef, gradually ascending in steps, concluding your dive at the shallow reef top.



THE ABUNDANCE OF SPECIES LIVING ON OUR HOUSE REEF







FISH



ORANGE CLOWNFISH

RAINBOW PARROTFISH



CLARK'S ANEMONEFISH



GREENBLOTCH PARROTFISH



WHITE BONNET ANEMONEFISH



CLOWN TRIGGERFISH



DAISY PARROTFISH



BLUE PARROTFISH



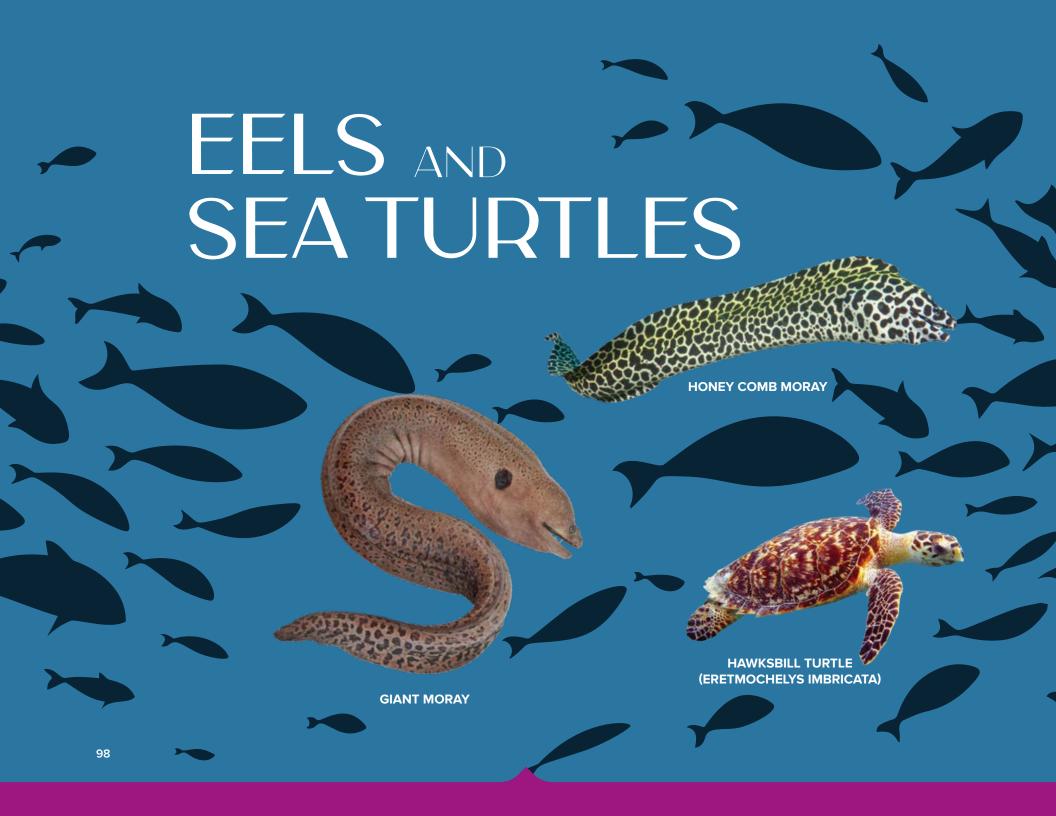
REEF TRIGGERFISH



RED TOOTHED TRIGGERFISH



TITAN TRIGGERFISH





RAYS AND SHARKS

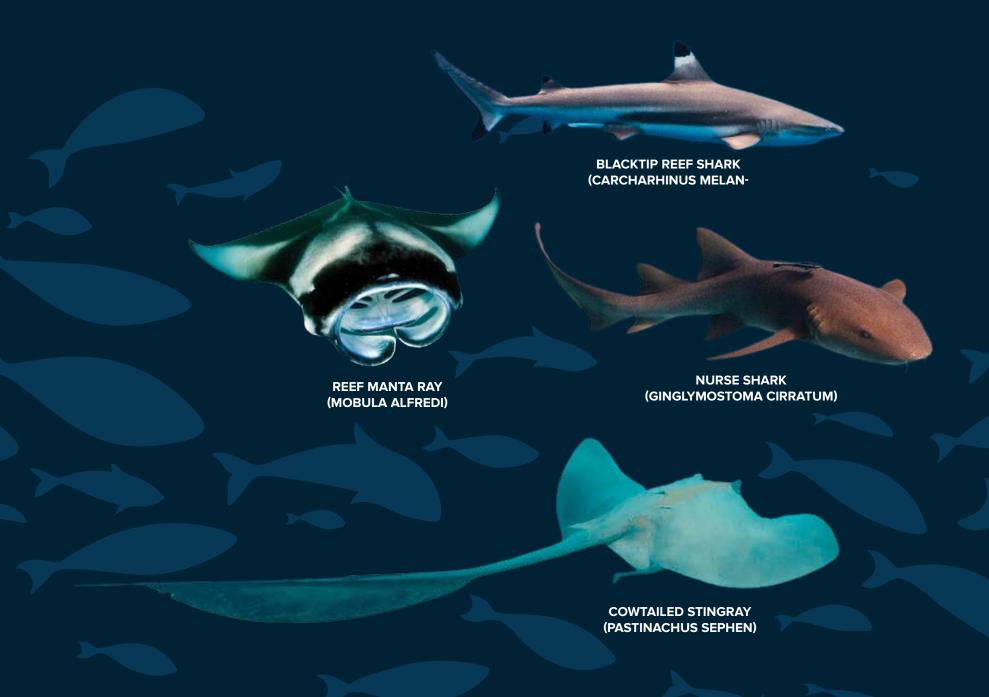


MARBLED ELECTRIC RAY (TORPEDO MARMORATA)

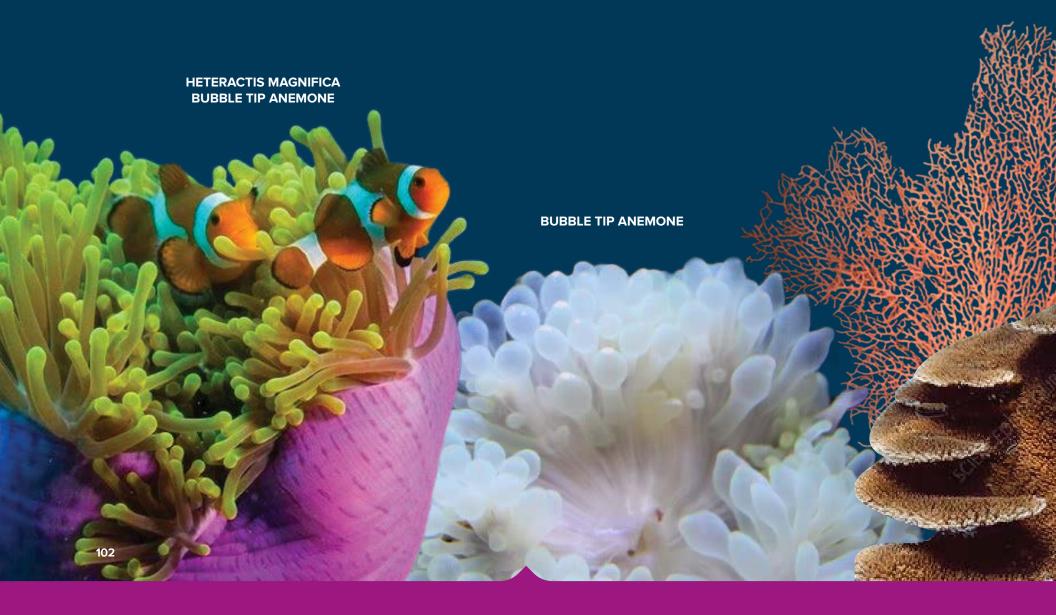
GREY REEF SHARK
(CARCHARHINUS AMBLYRHYNCHOS)

WHITETIP REEF SHARK (TRIAENODON OBESUS)

SPOTTED EAGLE RAY (AETOBATUS NARINARI)



MARINE INVERTEBRATES









LEADING SUSTAINABLE CHANGE IN THE MALDIVES

In recent years, Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts has transformed substantial amounts of materials over 35 tons of wood, more than 40 tons of plastic, 68 tons of metal, and almost 46 tons of glass underscored by our dedication to sustainability.

At all four Cinnamon resorts in the Maldives, we've harnessed waste materials such as wood, cans, and plastic barrels to cultivate organic gardens, providing our guests with fresh produce. This initiative not only minimises waste but also encourages self sufficiency and fosters a commitment to a healthy, sustainable diet.

Our Maldives resorts play a pivotal role in coral reef preservation, safeguarding 3% of the world's coral reefs. Our in-house efforts include a comprehensive biodiversity assessment by our ecologists, digital mapping of reefs and sensitive areas, and the strategic placement of data loggers to monitor ocean temperatures. These actions aim to eradicate coral bleaching, protect endangered species, and contribute to biodiversity conservation, in collaboration with the Maldivian government for national data collection.

OUR ESG INITIATIVES AT ELLAIDHOO MALDIVES BY CINNAMON

PLASTIC REDUCTION

Over the past three years, our commitment to ocean conservation has driven significant changes in our approach to plastic use. Our initiatives have resulted in substantial reductions, such as replacing plastic garbage bags with reusable cloth, preventing the disposal of 243,450 bags into landfills. Similarly, the transition from plastic to paper for laundry bags has saved 27,000 bags from contributing to landfill waste.

We've also made strides in eliminating plastic bottles by introducing refillable flagons, preventing 758,000 bottles from entering landfills. Additionally, soda dispensers have replaced traditional plastic bottles, avoiding the disposal of another 283,000 bottles.

In guest rooms, the switch from plastic to reusable glass bottles has led to a commendable annual reduction of 12,485 plastic bottles. Our eco-friendly measures include opting for paper alternatives over plastic straws and stirrers, resulting in a reduction of 130,500 straws and 42,300 stirrers.

Our commitment extends to replacing plastic amenities with ceramic bottles, preventing 64,800 tubes from reaching landfills. Wooden alternatives have been for plastic and metal bins, festive decorations, key cards, and hanger cards.

Additional eco-conscious changes include transitioning from plastic wristbands to fabric and replacing plastic bin liners with paper, reducing the use of 50,400 plastic bags. Lastly, all takeaway containers are now biodegradable.

REPURPOSING UMBRELLAS FOR A CAUSE

Damaged umbrellas find new life as unique beach bags, priced at 6.50 USD each. Crafted from recycled umbrellas, all proceeds from these sales—100%—contribute to both environmental and social causes in the Maldives. Specifically, the funds support providing aluminium water bottles to local children in schools, aiding in the reduction of plastic waste and nurturing a more sustainable future for the community.

WATER BOTTLE DONATION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Our initiative to donate water bottles to school children on Inhabited Islands in the Maldives aims to enhance their well-being. By supplying reusable water bottles, we address the critical need for clean water and promote environmental sustainability by reducing single-use plastic. This project not only supports the health and education of students but also instils a sense of responsibility towards the environment, fostering a positive impact within the community.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

We installed 428 solar panels, generating 150kW, resulting in the remarkable savings of 59,560 litres of diesel every year.

CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCTION

We successfully decreased CO2 emissions by 157,320 kg, demonstrating our dedication to a greener future. Additionally, our total carbon emission reduction reached 174,669 kg, contributing to a more sustainable and eco-friendly environment.

WATER CONSERVATION

Our comprehensive water conservation efforts include promoting towel reuse for a minimum of 2 nights, resulting in a substantial annual saving of 766,500 litres of water. Additionally, we proactively minimise flush volume by 0.5 litres in water closets through the innovative use of repurposed plastic bottles. This initiative alone results in substantial water conservation, amounting to 1.2 million litres per year. Further contributing to our commitment, the installation of 150 water flow regulators in staff and guest rooms achieves a noteworthy daily water saving of 3,500 litres. Emphasising sustainability, we also repurpose wastewater to irrigate our gardens and farms, ensuring a holistic approach to water conservation.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES

In our on-site organic gardens, we prioritise sustainability and pesticide-free cultivation, emphasising environmental health and yielding fresh, wholesome crops. Additionally, we've installed a food composting machine, resulting in the production of fertiliser as a byproduct. This dual approach ensures our commitment to eco-friendly agricultural practices, contributing to a healthier environment.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT WITH KADJAN ROOFING

In partnership with the ladies from the inhabited island of Haggnaameedhoo, we incorporate traditional craftsmanship by fashioning kadjan roofing from palm leaves. This collaborative endeavour not only fosters sustainability but also empowers the Haggnaameedhoo community by acknowledging and supporting their unique craft in kadjan creation.





Ellaidhoo Maldives by Cinnəmon.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US ON INFO@CINNAMONHOTELS.COM / ELLAIDHOO@CINNAMONHOTELS.COM, OR VISIT WWW.CINNAMONHOTELS.COM