

Indian
Sub-continent

Maldives Dhoni Photography Expedition with Paul Zizka



trip highlights

- Travel with world-renowned photographer Paul Zizka
- Daily photography workshops, image reviews and in-field coaching
 - Learn landscape, travel, wildlife and storytelling photography techniques
- Photograph pristine islands, turquoise lagoons and dramatic tropical sunsets
- Snorkel vibrant coral reefs filled with turtles, reef sharks and colourful marine life
- Cruise aboard a traditional Maldivian dhoni with an intimate small group
- Capture authentic island life and Maldivian culture
- Beach BBQ under the stars and overnight anchorages in secluded bays
- Plenty of one-on-one instruction and personalised feedback throughout the expedition



Trip Duration	8 days	Trip Code: SOG9851
Grade	Discovery and Cruising	
Activities	Cruising	
Summary	8 day trip, 6 day cruise, 7 nights incl 1 night in Male	

welcome to World Expeditions

For over 50 years, we've been creating high-quality, expedition-style adventures for active travellers with a curious spirit. From our very first trek in the mountains of Nepal to pioneering remote routes across all seven continents, our journeys are built for those who want to truly explore – not just visit.

At the heart of what we do is a simple philosophy: take the paths less travelled.

This means travelling with care, supporting local communities, minimising our impact, and unlocking experiences that most travellers will never have.

If you're ready to go further and dig deeper, we invite you to join us on the Maldives Dhoni Photography Expedition with Paul Zizka, a journey that captures the essence of a unique adventure.

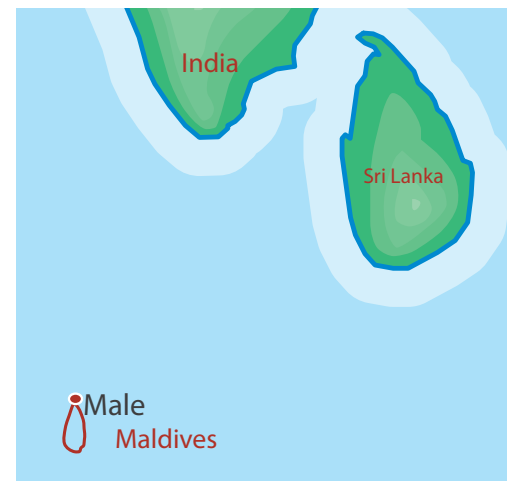
why travel with World Expeditions?

This cruising safari is an ideal way to explore the remote islands of the Maldives. With our specially equipped boat – the traditional styled Dhoni - we have the opportunity to explore both inhabited and uninhabited islands a world away from the tourist resorts. A sense of fun and a flexible approach will ensure that you have a great time - our feedback has been consistently positive since 1980 when we operated our first Maldives safaris.



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UTracks will endeavour to arrange for single travellers to share accommodation with another participant of the same gender. Single cabins are not available.

For competitive airfares and stopover ideas, contact our expert staff today to receive a detailed quote.

the trip

Join internationally acclaimed adventure and landscape photographer Paul Zizka on an unforgettable small-group photography expedition through the Maldives aboard a traditional private dhoni.

Scattered across the Indian Ocean are nearly 1,200 coral islands grouped into 26 atolls — one of the lowest-lying, most water-defined nations on earth, and it shows in everything you photograph here. Beneath the surface, reef life gathers in extraordinary density: hawksbill and green turtles glide over coral gardens, reef and nurse sharks patrol the shallows, and spinner dolphins ride the bow wake between atolls. The water itself does much of the work — impossibly clear, lit from above, shifting from turquoise shallows to deep indigo channels within a single crossing. Above the surface, the Maldives offers a different kind of stillness: white sandbars, palm-fringed islets, and skies that turn molten at sunset. Experiencing all of this aboard a traditional Dhoni means waking at anchor off islands few travellers ever reach, let alone photograph, and stepping straight from your cabin into the reef.

Designed for photographers of all levels, this immersive liveaboard combines daily photography guidance, hands-on field instruction, impromptu image reviews and creative coaching with the incredible beauty of the Maldives. From turquoise lagoons and pristine sandbanks to vibrant coral reefs, marine wildlife and spectacular tropical sunsets, every day presents new opportunities to build your skills while capturing extraordinary images, whether they be aerials, among the waves, or under the surface.

Whether you're shooting sweeping seascapes, underwater scenes, drone imagery or authentic island life, Paul will guide you every step of the way, helping you return home with stronger photography, unforgettable experiences and an outstanding portfolio.

about your leader/escort

Based in Banff, Canada, Paul Zizka is an award-winning landscape, adventure and expedition photographer, mountaineer, and Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Renowned for his striking imagery of remote wilderness, mountains, night skies and polar landscapes, Paul has spent decades exploring the world's wildest places in search of extraordinary perspectives. His photographs have been featured by National Geographic, Outside Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, Canadian Geographic, Maclean's, Alpinist, and many other leading publications. He has also worked with globally recognized brands including Canon, Apple, Arc'teryx, Panasonic, NHL, MEC, and Parks Canada.

Paul has travelled and photographed on all seven continents, completing remarkable expeditions including an unsupported double crossing of Iceland on foot and a solo crossing of New Zealand's South Island. He is the author of eight photography books, including the award-winning *The Canadian Rockies: Rediscovered*, winner of the Mountain Image Award at the Banff Mountain Book Competition. His work has also earned numerous international photography awards, including multiple victories at the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival and the Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival.

A passionate educator for more than 15 years, Paul has helped thousands of photographers develop their technical skills, creative vision and confidence through workshops and expeditions around the world. His teaching emphasizes storytelling, composition, working with natural light and creating meaningful images while fostering a deeper connection with the landscapes we photograph.

at a glance

DAY 1	ARRIVE MALÉ, OVERNIGHT HOTEL
DAY 2	CRUISE TO KUDI BOLI
DAY 3	LOABI FARU & BONGO VELI
DAY 4	CRUISE TO FULIDHOO



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trip dates

2028 03 Dec - 10 Dec

important notes

BP - Base Price

fast facts

Countries Visited:
Maldives

Visas:
Yes*

Vaccinations:

Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

Private Groups:

Private group options are available for this trip*

Leader:

Expert English speaking guide

Advice for people with limited mobility

This trip is not suitable for people with limited mobility.

*Ask our staff for more information.

DAY 5	DOLPHINS & FULIDHOO ISLAND VISIT
DAY 6	CRUISE TO SOUTH MALÉ ATOLL
DAY 7	CRUISE TO MALE ATOLL
DAY 8	IN MALÉ, TRIP CONCLUDES

what's included

- Photography workshop led by Paul Zizka
- Small group learning environment
- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 6 dinners
- One night hotel accommodation in Malé
- 6 nights aboard a traditional private Maldivian dhoni (twin share)
- Experienced local expedition guide, captain and crew
- Basic snorkelling equipment
- Basic fishing equipment
- All sightseeing and activities as per itinerary

No local payments policy: Local cash payments are becoming increasingly popular with many operators. The policy seems to benefit the tour operators, more than the local economies or travellers, as it avoids local taxes and transfers the cost and risk of cash handling to travellers. In accordance with our Responsible Travel practices.

what's not included

- International flights
- Underwater housing
- Alcoholic & aerated drinks
- Items of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry etc.
- Tips
- Airport & departure taxes
- Visas
- Underwater housing

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Arrive Malé, overnight hotel

Upon arrival at Velana International Airport in Malé, you will be met and transferred to our group hotel in the heart of Old Malé. After time to settle in and relax, we'll head out around 4:00pm for an introductory walk through the city. Although Malé covers just four square miles (around eight kilometres), it is a vibrant and bustling capital offering a wonderful first taste of Maldivian life. As we explore the President's Palace, Sultan Park, the historic Friday Mosque, and the lively fish and local markets, there will be countless opportunities to capture colourful street scenes, everyday life, striking architecture, and environmental portraits as we ease into our photographic adventure. Overnight at Somerset Hotel (or similar).

meals: NIL

DAY 2 Cruise to Kudi Boli

This morning after breakfast we transfer to the dock and begin our Dhoni adventure. After settling into our cabins and meeting the crew, we'll enjoy a detailed safety and itinerary briefing before cruising south toward the island of Guraidhoo. Our first snorkel over the island's house reef offers an excellent introduction to underwater photography, with butterflyfish, wrasses, colourful corals, and the occasional moray eel providing ideal early subjects. (Beach towels, snorkels, and flippers are provided

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thoughtful travel

The environments we travel through are fragile. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimise the impact of our presence.

World Expeditions were the proud recipients of the inaugural Australian National Travel Industry's Environmental Achievement award for our Responsible Travel Guidebook.

This detailed guide to responsible & sustainable travel is provided to all World Expeditions clients before they travel.

Please ask your consultant if you have not received your copy of our award winning book. Alternatively, you may like to download a copy from our website

www.worldexpeditions.com

trip grading Discovery and Cruising

These are our least demanding trips. These journeys of discovery and cruises involve little or no extended activity and are suitable for people with a basic level of fitness and good health. The itinerary may take place in remote areas (with basic facilities) and may involve long travel days on various types of transport. Sightseeing may be conducted on foot and all participants should be capable of carrying their own luggage from vehicle to hotel rooms. These adventures do not go above 2500m and rarely involve camping. Suggested preparation: Once or twice a week, we recommend you walk on undulating terrain for an hour, for at least 2 -3 months prior to departure.

on board.) Continuing toward Vaavu Atoll, we'll explore Turtle Reef, where hawksbill turtles, vibrant reef fish, and crystal-clear water create exceptional photographic opportunities both above and below the surface. Later, at Kudi Boli, the reef comes alive with clownfish, stingrays, parrotfish, and, with luck, reef sharks. Between snorkelling sessions, the changing light, turquoise lagoons, and traditional Dhoni provide endless inspiration for seascapes and life aboard.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 3 Loabi Faru & Bongo Veli

Our morning begins at Loabi Faru, where colourful coral gardens, angelfish, wrasses, and the occasional octopus reward patient observation and careful composition. In the afternoon, we arrive at tranquil Bongo Veli, a picture-perfect tropical islet surrounded by dazzling white sand and impossibly clear water. Whether photographing sweeping tropical landscapes, intimate beach details, or exploring the nearby reef once more, there is no shortage of creative possibilities. As evening falls, a beach barbecue (weather permitting) offers a wonderful opportunity to capture the warm atmosphere of island life beneath a canopy of stars. Those wishing to stay out a little longer may also enjoy photographing the tropical night sky from this secluded island setting.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 4 Cruise to Fulidhoo

Today's underwater explorations begin at Kuda Anbara Reef, where healthy coral formations and shimmering schools of damselfish and fusiliers create colourful, dynamic compositions. Later we visit the dramatic reef wall at Acho/Kacho Reef, where larger species such as trevally and snapper patrol the deep blue. The striking contrast between the reef face and open ocean offers exciting opportunities for wide-angle underwater photography. As we cruise toward Fulidhoo, keep your camera close at hand—the changing light across the Indian Ocean often produces spectacular seascapes and sunsets from the deck.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 5 Dolphins & Fulidhoo island visit

This morning we visit the Vaavu shipwreck, now transformed into an underwater ecosystem where soft corals, batfish, and schools of snapper make fascinating photographic subjects. As we cruise toward Dhiggiri, watch for playful pods of spinner dolphins, often surfacing and leaping alongside the boat. During our afternoon snorkel at Fulidhoo Coral Garden we'll search for colourful reef life, from tiny macro subjects to vibrant coral scenes. Later, a visit to Fulidhoo village provides an opportunity to document local life, colourful homes, and genuine cultural interactions before ending the day with an energetic Boduberu performance, where rhythmic drumming, expressive dancers, and evening light create memorable cultural photography opportunities.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 6 Cruise to South Malé Atoll

One of today's highlights is Nurse Shark Bay, where we'll have the opportunity to photograph nurse sharks cruising through remarkably clear, shallow water. After breakfast we continue toward South Malé Atoll, enjoying expansive ocean views and opportunities to photograph life aboard our traditional Dhoni. This afternoon,

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adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant of travel agent.

important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price.

near Biyadhoo, we hope to spend time with graceful green turtles as they glide effortlessly among coral bommies—an unforgettable subject for underwater photographers.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 7 Cruise to Male Atoll

Our final day on the reefs offers one last opportunity to refine underwater techniques while photographing colourful hard corals and tropical marine life. Later we visit the beautiful Itaafushi Sandbank, whose pristine white sands, turquoise waters, and endless horizons provide classic Maldivian landscape photography opportunities. We hope to spend our final evening anchored at Lagoonaa, where golden-hour light, reflections across calm water, and a celebratory sunset toast provide a fitting conclusion to our week together. Should weather require, we'll instead anchor at Hulhumalé Harbor for a comfortable final night.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 8 In Malé, trip concludes

After breakfast aboard the Dhoni, we transfer to the airport, bringing to a close an unforgettable week of photography, exploration, and discovery in one of the world's most spectacular island destinations.

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

country information

The Maldives are located in the Indian Ocean and consists of 1190 tiny coral islands forming an archipelago of 26 major atolls. The Maldives are 820 kilometers north to south and 120 kilometers east to west. The islands are low lying with the highest natural point only 2.2 meters tall. The islands have been populated for over 5000 years. The Maldivian culture has been derived from a number of sources. Its close proximity to Sri Lanka and Southern India has meant that there has been major cultural influence from these regions. Originally the inhabitants of the Maldives were Buddhist but in the 12th century Islam was introduced and it remains the country's national religion. At one stage a colony of Portugal (1558) then the Dutch (1654) and the British (1887) the Maldives gained its independence in 1965. Several years later in the early 1970's the first tourists came to the islands.

climate

The Maldives has a tropical climate and as such there is relatively little change in the overall temperature throughout the year. The hottest month is April and the coldest is December although the average daily temperature is 30°C. The region is subject to a double monsoon. The south west monsoon occurs from May to November and the north east monsoon prevails from December to April. The north east monsoon does not attract the same degree of cloud over or rainfall as the south west monsoon, and the occasional afternoon shower will not detract from your enjoyment of the islands. Night temperatures are pleasantly warm, although sea breezes can be quite cool.

dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure.

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Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

accommodation on the trip



In the Maldives we use several different dhonis; cabins are cosy and comfortable with bunk beds. Some dhonis do not have ensuite bathrooms, and may have detached or shared bathrooms (depending on group size and time of travel). Each vessel is equipped with an outside dining area. Facilities include a bar, dining area, library, sun deck, television, DVD/VCD player, music player, snorkelling gear, fishing line, dinghy with outboard engine. Wifi is not available on board. The crew is made up of four including the captain and chef.

arrival and departure information

The normal check-in time is 1200hrs from Airport or capital Male City Port and check-out time is 0900hrs to the Airport or capital Male City Port.

visas

Australian, British, Canadian, United States and New Zealand passport holders can obtain a free 30 day visa upon arrival in the Maldives provided that you:

- *possess a valid passport
- *possess a return air ticket
- *have proof of sufficient funds (designated as US\$50 per day)

All other nationalities should check with your nearest embassy or consulate.

Please bear in mind that visas may be required for countries you are visiting en route or transiting through on the way to your destination. It is important that you check the requirements of all countries you will visit. Visa costs and requirements do change regularly so we suggest you check with your travel agent or World Expeditions reservations consultant. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary visas.

webinars & events

World Expeditions invites you to attend our inspiring adventure travel slide shows. These special evenings are designed to inform and entertain and are hosted by our most experienced and passionate adventure travellers and mountaineers. Ask our staff for a slide show schedule or register on our website - www.worldexpeditions.com. Shows can fill early so it is important to register your attendance so we know to save a seat, or two!

private groups

The adventures featured in our brochures, and on our website, are just a starting point for many of our private group travellers. Working closely with our Groups Department we can organise

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custom designed itineraries for groups of friends, clubs, charity's, schools or even work colleagues. Our team will assist you with all aspects of your private group adventure from itinerary design to group flights. Contact our team today.

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social networking

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YOUTUBE: World Expeditions

Subscribe to our channel at [youtube.com/worldexpeditions](https://www.youtube.com/worldexpeditions)

Share the love

Use the hashtag #WorldExpeditions on your best travel photos and videos to be featured.

trip availability

If this trip seems right for you then we encourage you to call us now to check availability as we operate strictly small group adventures. Many of our adventures require us to secure services on your behalf; such as permits, hotels and flights to name but a few. The demand for these services is increasing each year making it difficult to join a trip last minute. To ensure we can assist you onto your adventure of a lifetime we ask that you check your trip availability with our team at your earliest convenience.

how to book

To book a World Expeditions trip, you will need to complete a booking form which is found at the back of our brochure or can be downloaded from our website www.worldexpeditions.com. On completion, fax or post the form to your nearest World Expeditions office along with your non-refundable deposit. World Expeditions has access to competitive airfares to Maldives. Call your nearest World Expeditions office or travel agent for assistance with your travel arrangements including flights, travel insurance and additional accommodation.