

## READ BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Please issue this document to your clients

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

Emperor Fleet Airport Representative: 00960 768 0888

MV Orion Boat Manager: 00960 787 7039

MV Emperor Atoll Boat Manager: 00960 971 3249

MV Virgo Boat Manager: 00960 744 0837

MV Emperor Voyager Boat Manager: 00960 757 1981

MV Leo Boat Manager: 00960 741 9129

Emperor Fleet General Manager: 00960 749 3522

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

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

**Insurance:** We do require all divers to have valid insurance from a reputable company that covers diving accidents. You will need to bring proof of this with you to show the guides when you check in. Emperor Maldives use INDEPTH Insurance which is available to purchase onboard. As a temporary member you will be able to gain insured member benefits. Prices can be found here:

<http://maldives.emperordivers.com/pdf/prices/OnboardPriceList.pdf>

**On arrival:** Guests arriving at Male Airport on the "check-in" day (usually Saturday) will be met by a representative of Emperor Maldives who will be wearing an Emperor Maldives T-Shirt and holding an Emperor Maldives sign. The meeting point is near the Help Desk. Check-in time on the boat is from 13:00.

**Transfers to and from the liveaboard:** Transfer from the airport to the boat is at 13:00. If the boat is ready we will try our best to arrange an earlier transfer for guests who land early in the morning or late in the evening up to midnight (00:00). Transfers between midnight and 06:00 will be charged at €80 per transfer up to 4 people. Guests arriving the day before the cruise "check-in" day or earlier should book their hotel using [booking.com](http://booking.com) or similar. If you have made your own arrangements for a prior stay in The Maldives then you should make your way back to the airport by 13:00 on the cruise "check-in" day. The boat departs Male early on the morning following the "check-in" day. If your route does not start in Male and requires a domestic flight on arrival then you will be met and assisted with the check-in formalities for your flight. Full details will be provided at the time of booking. Check out is at 07:00 & 09:00 on the last day of the cruise. Guests will be in the airport by 07:30 & 09:30 accordingly. For guests continuing their vacation in the Maldives at a resort, hotel or another live-aboard, your on-going transfers need to be arranged by yourself from the airport. We will not be able to arrange direct transfers from the liveaboard to resorts.

**Information about Male Airport:** If you do have to wait for the 13:00 transfer on arrival then the airport is reasonably comfortable and has a shop for local SIM cards, a post office, money changer, and a few decent coffee shops / restaurants Inc. Thai Express, Burger King and a New Noodle. On departure you could use the airport hotel 24hr aircon coffee shop with Wi-Fi in the reception area. Day rooms can be booked for your departure day and includes lunch, transfers, Wi-Fi, discount in souvenir shop but use of the pool is extra. This day package costs \$81 per person plus tax, and pool use costs \$22 per person plus tax. If you wish to book a day use hotel please inform us at the time of booking. Payment is made locally.

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

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

**Hot water:** Short showers are the order of the day on liveaboards as hot water is in short supply. We ask guests to shower at different times to ensure everyone enjoys a hot shower. The Jacuzzi's are not electrically heated.

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

**House-keeping:** You will be provided with two towels on check in, one for showering and one for use on the sundeck. Dive towels are available on the diving dhoni. The housekeeping crew will clean your cabin daily, generally after your first or second dive of the day. Towels and bed linen will be changed every three days. For any additional cleaning required or change of towels please speak to the guides who will be able to assist you.

**Food & Drink:** The meals onboard are usually buffet style with a variety of dishes to suit everyone. Water, tea and coffee are complimentary. Soft drinks, fresh juices and alcohol (cocktails, liquors, wine and beer) are chargeable. **For any special dietary requests, such as vegetarian or any allergies, please inform us prior to arrival.**

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

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

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

**Diving:** There will be no diving on your first day and 17 dives offered per week (2-3 dives per day). Divers must ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their last dive and their flight departure (or going to altitude). For all diving sites visited en route our dive guides will give you a detailed and comprehensive dive briefing before you enter the water. All Emperor Maldives' dhonis have a minimum of two guides on board. All divers are required to dive in a buddy team; should you be a single diver a buddy will be allocated onboard. When the guide is in the water they will remain with the group to navigate the site and to look out for any interesting marine life to show you. The dive guide will not provide any dive training during the dive and you and buddy dive together at your own risk. As qualified divers you are responsible for your own and your buddy's safety during the dive and to 'plan your dive, dive your plan' using a personal dive computer. You must begin, execute and end the dive with your dive buddy. You are expected to be able to dive to a standard as per the certification and experience requirements outlined for each itinerary and as such be able to complete the dive with your buddy or by following the dive guide. The guides may decide upon seeing each diver's ability not to enter the water for every dive and will remain onboard providing surface support only.

The maximum depth for diving in the Maldives is 30 metres with an equally qualified buddy; please email

[info.safaris@emperordivers.com](mailto:info.safaris@emperordivers.com) for more details. Your maximum diving depth will be dependent on your level of training and

experience. It is your responsibility to check what depths your insurance policy covers you for before your arrival. Decompression diving, solo diving and technical diving is strictly prohibited.

**Courses:** We offer a range of courses on-board, from beginner to a range of speciality and side mount courses. Courses are subject to availability and itinerary and include course materials (where required) and certification fee. If arranged onboard an 8% sales tax will be added. Prices can be found here: <http://maldives.emperordivers.com/pdf/prices/OnboardPriceList.pdf>. For the Open Water Referral Course you will need to bring with you your referral form (signed and completed by your instructor dated within 12 months) as evidence that you have completed the theory and confined dives. Course paperwork needs to be signed by a parent or guardian for students under the age of 18.

**Dive equipment:** The dhoni has ample storage space for your equipment and there is a spares box onboard. We suggest that you bring the following:

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

Equipment is available for rent from Emperor Maldives and we ask that you pre-book your equipment before you arrive in resort. We need to know normal sizes, height, weight and shoe sizes to prepare the correctly sized equipment for you.

All divers are required to use a dive computer and SMB each for every dive and a torch each for night dives throughout their safari experience for safety reasons.

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

**Tanks & Adapters:** All tanks are fitted with 5/8's DIN valves. We strongly advise divers with M26 regulators to note that when travelling outside of Europe tanks with M26 valves or adapters to fit M26 regulators to 5/8's DIN tanks may not be available. Please remember to bring your own adapter with you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Taxes:** All environmental and bed taxes and port fees are included in the price of your safari package. Any equipment rental, special tank requests and onboard purchases paid locally will be subject to 8% sales tax.

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

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

**Packing; remember to bring:**

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

**Essential paperwork; remember to bring:**

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

**Nice to bring but not essential:** CDs, DVDs, books, laptop, mobile phone, video and photo camera, binoculars and chargers.

**And finally:** If you have never been on a liveaboard before, then expect a few adjustments from normal life in order to enjoy your week. If you experience any problems during the week, please ensure that these are raised with the dive guides as soon as is practically possible. The guides and Boat Manager can remedy the problem onboard the majority of the time. However, if something remains unresolved make sure you raise it with the Boat Manager at the end of your week. With all the will in the world, problems cannot be resolved unless you highlight them. If you have any concerns, please raise them.

For more details on Emperor Maldives' liveaboards, please email [info.safaris@emperordivers.com](mailto:info.safaris@emperordivers.com) or via our website <http://maldives.emperordivers.com/>