



MALDIVAS

A DREAM COME TRUE



I am Judith de la Rosa. I have been in Maldives for 15 years, enjoying every instant, every moment, under the sea. This is what I want to transmit. My aim is to make all those around me happy, see their dreams come true as well as mine living in this blue paradise. What can be better than sensing happiness in their eyes and seeing how, in every dive, their fall in love with the wonders that the ocean offers us.

By Judith de la Rosa with images by Carlos Villoch

I inherited my passion for the sea from my father, who taught me to respect and protect this wonderful world. When I arrived in Maldives I knew this was my place. A paradise on Earth which preserves the best corals in the world and a diversity that is hard to find anywhere else.

Day after day I enjoy what I do and I am moved by every encounter the sea gives me. Sharing these encounters with you makes them even greater. Diving is an activity we should all try at least once. It brings peace and pure happiness.

As a child I was already fascinated by sharks but it wasn't until I first travelled as a tourist to Maldives and saw my first manta ray that I was shaken by something very powerful. In that moment I really felt that was my life and it changed everything in me. A deep, intense, thrilling, wild love that has never left me.

I love sharks, but I adore manta rays. I don't only dive with them every day but I am also involved in raising awareness about the need to preserve these species. For over 5 years I have been working with an NGO that is exclusively devoted to manta rays. We send them pictures, data, encounters... so that together we can learn more about them. What is even more important is to defend their preservation. To me it is the most wonderful animal and I want everyone to get to know it, respect it and admire it.

SUBMALDIVES

I got extremely lucky when I came across Hassan Shareef, a Maldivian who had begun his own underwater adventure in 1990. He is a great professional and undoubtedly one of the best guides in Maldives, with countless dives and discoveries, and together we founded the company Submaldives, that has kept growing ever since.



After diving, take a walk on the coral sand before having dinner on the beach.



Coral reefs surround all 1200 Maldivian islands.



Concentrations of manta rays are one of the main attractions in Maldives.



Maldives Crown vessel is the most exclusive option in Submaldives' fleet.

Two new partners joined the company, as committed and ocean lovers as we were. This means there is always one if us on board, which is key in order to react effectively to any unexpected event. Our priority is to guar-

antee maximum care and attention to the diver.

Our crew is more than just a crew: we are a family. We are deeply bonded, we take care of each other and this is transmitted to the way we treat our guests. When you come visit us we will make you feel this is your home.

A BOAT THAT WAS BUILT WITH LOVE

3 years ago I had the chance to make one of my dreams come true: we built our own diving boat, according to our taste, our experience, our love, where the divers as well as the crew can enjoy their experience to the fullest. This is how the best diving boat in the country was created: the Maldives Crown. We are extremely proud of this 50-meter long boat with 6 luxury cabins and 3 suites, with a capacity of 18 people.

Thanks to our crown jewel, Submaldives owns 4 boats and has become the biggest diving (liveaboard) company, the most experienced one and the only one with Spanish participation.

PASSION FOR THE SEA

Enjoying our job and making those who join us in every cruise feel it is the best reward for us, as we feel lucky to be passionate about what we do.

Our broad knowledge of the ocean depths, our wide experience and a powerful team that perfectly combines this Spanish-Maldivian mix are, without a doubt, the best warranty of a good job.

We are the only company that operates all year long as in Maldives, unlike some people



At the entrance of the atoll canals we can dive with the currents to spot sharks.



Diving around the Thilas we find tropical reef species such as butterflyfish.

think, it is possible to dive in all seasons. It is only necessary to know about the currents and winds in each of them to choose the best dives for every time of the year. Thanks to this you will be able to meet whale sharks and manta rays whenever you dive with us.

But Maldives offers much more in the six different routes we have designed for you. From the South Route (where we can find ocean sharks such as blacktips, thresher, manta rays, hammerheads and great hammerheads) during February and March to the 4 Atolls Route, available all year long and perfect for a first visit to this archipelago, as it gathers all its diversity.

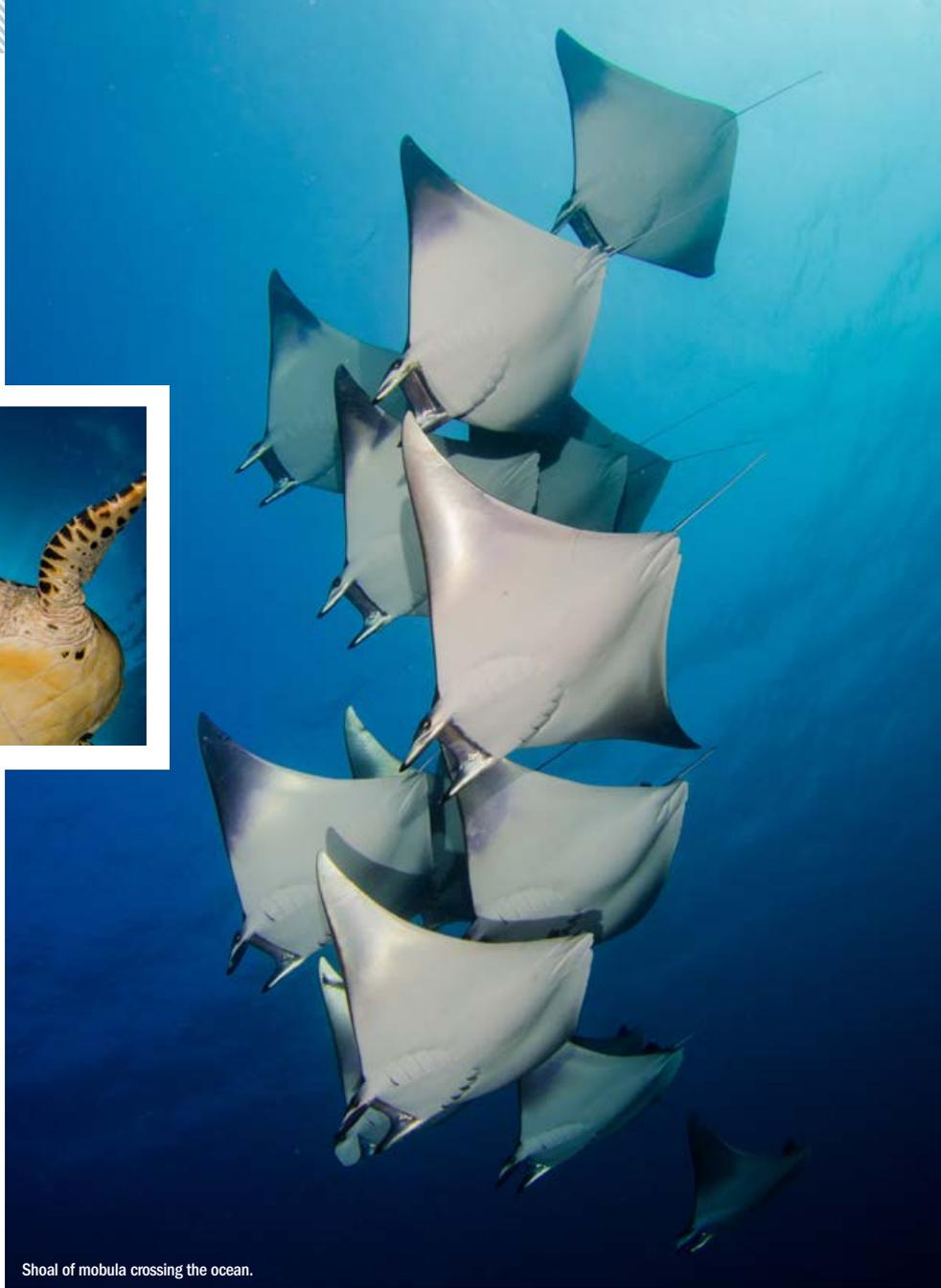


Hawksbill sea turtles are curious and confident.

UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT DIVES WITH NURSE SHARKS, MANTA RAYS AND WHALE SHARKS

There is no diver, however experienced he may be, that is not surprised and moved by the amazing night dives we enjoy in Maldives. The dive with dozens of nurse sharks that gather under a pier looking for food, attracted by fishing boats while they unload their catches, is unique in the world. In another thrilling night dive you will be surrounded by manta rays during their food delirium, and it is also unforgettable to swim among whale sharks as they filter plankton under the lights from the boat in the South Route.

Discovering the Maldivian rich underwater life under the lights is a fascinating night ride, especially if we do it surrounded by dozens of manta rays, nurse sharks or the amazing whale shark. These two breathtaking dives can only be found in one place in the world. Here.



Shoal of mobula crossing the ocean.

NEW ROUTE SOUTH 10

Created by Submaldives and starting on March 4th. We call it South 10 because it includes 10 nights on board during February and March. We mean to offer the most complete route, sailing to the second-to-last atoll in Maldives and diving in different spots through the itinerary, where we will see manta rays during the day and the night, thilas, whale sharks at night, blacktip sharks, tiger sharks, thresher, hammerheads and more... Both ways without domestic flights.

Next edition featuring Carlos Villoch from 3rd to 13th 2018. Don't miss it out!!



Night dive with dozens of great nurse sharks.



Whale sharks are often seen both when snorkeling and bottle diving.

Manta rays come hypnotized towards the stern of the boat, attracted by the light, because this is where the plankton is concentrated. In their delirium they don't even notice the divers who watch them as they swim above them once and again, open-mouthed, reaching their delicious food. They are so engrossed by their feast that they swim among the divers, even pushing them to get them out of their way. Dozens can gather there so it is hard to choose where to look as they surround you.

Equally fascinating is the encounter with the whale shark, that we attract to the boat using the same system we use to attract manta rays. Nothing can distract them from their main objective: food. This allows us to watch the show from a privileged position. Watching this huge animal swim once and again among the divers, eager to ingest as much plankton as possible, is unforgettable.

What can we say about the night dive with nurse sharks? Not even the most experienced diver can imagine such a gathering of these peaceful animals, nor their frenzy when food is at stake. Every day small fishing boats throw fish scraps from a pier, and sharks are used to going there at sunset in search of their booty.

What an amazing spectacle it is to see them get there by the dozen summoned by the main animal instinct. Neither the lights nor the presence of divers can distract them from their objective, while those who dive here for the first time watch the show in amazement. This is something we had never seen before and the memory will remain with us forever. ■



Submaldives' Iruvai.

Submaldives' Southern Cross with its Dhoni.





Face to face with the whale shark while bottle diving.

Atolls and desert islands form the Maldivian scenery.



Submaldives' vessel Veela offers personalized services for small groups.

Finishing the day with dinner on the beach.



TYPES OF DIVES

◆ THILAS AND GIRIS

These underwater mountains give us the perfect chance to enjoy the beautiful ocean depths, coral tapestries that have made Maldives one of the best diving destinations in the world. They are splendidly preserved and their diversity is difficult to find elsewhere.

It is an explosion of life with great gatherings of surgeonfish, porgies, batfish, triggerfish or fusiliers, as well as an infinite variety of small life such as nudibranchs, crabs...

On top of that, if we watch the blue for a few minutes we will find grey sharks, blacktips or whitetips and... who knows? Maybe other wonderful surprises like manta rays or whale sharks. These are the most complete dives and finishing them at shallow depth, on the peak of these underwater mountains flooded with light and life, is an unforgettable pleasure.

◆ "KANDU"

It means 'canal' in Maldivian language. Diving through these corridors between two islands is an unforgettable experience and many consider these the best dives in Maldives. The ocean currents leak into the atoll through these canals and the great pelagic fish use this door to get in the atoll too.

As we jump from the boat, we quickly swim down to the bottom so we can hold on to it and avoid being dragged by the current. It is like leaning out of a balcony and watching underwater life around us. A parade of dozens of sharks: grey sharks, whitetips, blacktips and an endless list of carangidae, eagle rays, tuna... a rush of adrenaline that will leave a smile on your face for the rest of the day.

◆ CLEANING STATIONS

Diving in a cleaning station with manta rays is a magical experience that can be enjoyed in very few places like Maldives. Manta rays accumulate big amounts of parasites during their long trips through the ocean and, as if guided by an accurate GPS, they visit fixed cleaning stations from time to time.

So all we need to do is slowly get close to them, find a comfortable spot on the bottom and forget about time to witness an unrivalled underwater show. In time for their appointment, manta rays arrive and swim once and again over these coral formations to let wrasses do their work: eliminate those annoying parasites that hurt their skin. Nearly always in groups, manta rays majestically dance over the divers' heads, who are hypnotized by the beauty of these magical beings.

TRAVELOGUE

MALDIVAS



In addition to pelagic fish and reefs, we can find shipwrecks during our dives.



Southern Cross.



Manta rays in cleaning station.

◆ SPECIAL WEEKS

We are constantly working hard to find new motivations for you, and this is how we have exclusively created special weeks for your different interests, so you make the most of your stay with us and you have a truly unique experience.

FAMILIES WITH KIDS

Spend your holidays on a liveaboard together with your family and enjoy the best dives. A doctor and two specialized caretakers will spend time with the kids who will have fun with different activities (t-shirt painting, treasure hunting...) while their mums and dads are diving.

DISCOVER MALDIVES

Maldives is the best place for you if you haven't dived for a while or if you want your unexperienced partner to join you. Our cruise is specific both for divers with little experience and for those who want to get started in diving.

EXCLUSIVE FOR SINGLES

This special cruise for singles allows you to discover Maldives even if you have no or little diving experience.

SPECIAL NIGHT DIVES.

BE THE ONE WHO DIVES THE MOST!

During one week in October, enjoy 22 exclusive dives, many of which will be night dives. You will be the one who will dive the most!

PHOTOSUB WITH CARLOS VILLOCH

Don't miss this week, specifically dedicated to photography, with Carlos Villoch on board.

Exclusively for Sumaldives! Learn from this amazing professional's experience and talks on a cruise that is especially designed to help you open a world of possibilities for your camera under the water.

◆ THE BOATS

Maldives Crown is, as its very name indicates, Submaldives' crown jewel, and in it we have made our ideal live on board come true. This is a luxury boat completely built in Maldives in teak and oak, especially designed by us. Its 50 x 11.6 meters and three docks can accommodate up to 20 passengers, and its three suites and six luxury cabins have ensuite bathroom and independently controlled air conditioner. There are lounges on the different decks, jacuzzi, cinema room, spa service and specialized cuisine to satisfy the most refined palates, as well as the unique services we have on all our boats that make Submaldives your favorite company.

Iruvai, which means "sunny season" in Dhivehi, is a wooden boat built in 2008 by local craftsmen in Maldives. The wood used to build this boat was grown locally. The boat is divided into 3 decks with indoor and outdoor dining areas, lounge and bar, sundeck with sun loungers, two suites and eight large and very comfortable cabins.

Velaa, a 30-meter long motorized sailboat, is ideal for groups of friends or families who want to spend their holidays in a diving cruise in Maldives. Handcrafted in Turkey, this boat offers a luxury experience and an alternative sailing style, different from most liveaboards across the country.

Southern Cross is our most veteran boat and the most widely known among Spanish divers. It is a mid-range boat that can accommodate a maximum of 22 passengers in 10 cabins and is available for full charters and individual bookings.

All rooms are fully air conditioned and have ensuite bathroom with cold and hot water. Southern Cross is a boat with a soul and special charisma.

◆ LAST BUT NOT LEAST...

Submaldives offers a totally unique experience, adapted to the needs of every person or group. Our four boats are fully equipped to live in them and our cruises last for one or two weeks, or in some cases 10 days. How do you imagine your perfect trip would be? Write to me, we will design it together. We can organize not only diving cruises but also surfing or snorkeling cruises, always visiting the best spots for each activity.

You can also enjoy our defined routes or our special weeks, during which we will visit the most beautiful local islands and desert beaches and we will have a big music and BBQ party on the beach. Every day will be filled with activities you will never forget.

◆ INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS

I am looking forward to meeting you and making you enjoy Maldives in a unique way. Do not hesitate to contact me for more information by email, judith@submaldives.com, Facebook or Instagram, /JudithSubmaldives

◆ PRICE

From 1.190 €