

The Essential Maldives

From **1/25/2021**
to **2/2/2021**

Ship: **LE LAPEROUSE**

From **Colombo**
to **Malé**

PONANT invites you to discover idyllic islands and atolls, following an **all-new itinerary** in the Indian Ocean. From **Sri Lanka** to **the Maldives**, set sail for a **9-day** cruise aboard **Le Lapérouse**.

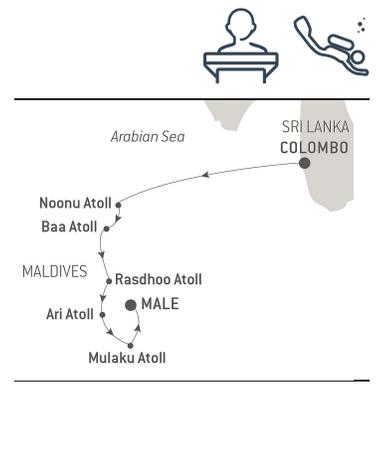
Your route will start from **Colombo**, the capital of Sri Lanka, located at the cross roads of the maritime trade routes between Europe and Asia.

Your ship will then set sail to the **Maldives**. Those island specks scattered across the warm, blue waters of the Indian Ocean, transport you to a marvellous and infinitely beautiful world. The archipelago counts some 1,200 islets and 19 atolls protected by coral reefs, offering travellers their transparent waters, home to millions of brightly coloured fish.

While snorkelling or scuba diving, you will have the chance to observe the magnificence of the marine life, which includes coral, whale sharks, manta rays and sea turtles.

At the heart of the archipelago, discover **Baa Atoll**. This exceptional site, listed as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 2011, is a perfectly preserved tropical paradise. The fifty-odd islets that make up the atoll offer visitors long stretches of white sand and beaches with crystal-clear water, lined with palm trees.

For diving fans, the Maldives are sub-aquatic heaven.





The information in this document is valid as of 2/20/2020

The Essential Maldives

YOUR STOPOVERS :

COLOMBO

Embarkation 1/25/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 1/25/2021 at 18h00

A former trading post along the Silk Route, the old quarter of Colombo offers you the fabulous sight of its picturesque streets. The city was known to Arab, Persian and Chinese traders as early as the 8th century and this former village, nestled between two dunes, was a trading post on the mythical Spice Route. Today the economic capital of Sri Lanka, the city offers picture-postcard scenery with its beaches stretching languorously along the south-western coast of the country. Here the sand dazzles you and the sea invites you to dream...

AT SEA

Arrival 1/26/2021

Departure 1/26/2021

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

NOONU ATOLL

Arrival 1/27/2021 midday

Departure 1/27/2021 late evening

BAA ATOLL

Arrival 1/28/2021 early morning

Departure 1/28/2021 evening

As your ship sails through the heart of the Maldives, discover one of the wildest lands in the archipelago: Baa Atoll. Listed as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the site shelters particularly remarkable fauna and flora, as well as one of the largest groups of coral reefs in the Indian Ocean. A real microcosm of the natural treasures of the Maldives, Baa Atoll will also offer you its superb sandy beaches stretching along a lagoon of turquoise waters.

RASDHOO ATOLL

Arrival 1/29/2021 early morning

Departure 1/29/2021 evening

Rasdhoos is one of the smallest atolls in the Maldives. Once occupied by Buddhist communities, the atoll is made up of five islands, two of which are uninhabited. Sitting at the heart of a stunning lagoon protected by a coral reef, this atoll is truly a paradise for lovers of the underwater world. It is an ideal location for scuba diving and snorkelling, offering the possibility of observing species that are emblematic of the Maldives, such as hammerhead sharks, rays, and turtles.

ARI ATOLL

Arrival 1/30/2021 early morning

Departure 1/30/2021 evening

MULAKU ATOLL

Arrival 1/31/2021 early morning

Departure 1/31/2021 evening

MALE ATOLL

Arrival 2/1/2021 early morning

Departure 2/1/2021 evening

MALÉ

Arrival 2/2/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 2/2/2021 at 08h00

The economic, political, financial and cultural centre of the Maldives, Malé is an exception in the landscape of this insular state in the Indian Ocean. Located on the eponymous island, the city has high colourful skyscrapers bordering narrow streets through which its 100,000 inhabitants hurry every day: a lively atmosphere that contrasts with the gentle lifestyle and idyllic setting of the rest of the archipelago. During your port of call, make sure you discover the Grand Friday Mosque. It is richly decorated and renowned as one of the largest and oldest mosques in the country.