An underwater photograph showing several divers silhouetted against a bright light source, likely the sun, filtering through the water. The divers are swimming over a dark, textured coral reef. The overall color palette is deep blue and cyan.

DIVE DESTINATION:
the maldives

Diving from a superyacht offers the ultimate freedom and privacy, allowing guests to travel to extremely remote dive sites in sublime comfort. *Alev Karagulle* explores a new and exciting way to enjoy the Maldives.



There are many things about the Maldives that make these idyllic Indian Ocean islands the perfect superyacht destination, not least the quality of the underwater environment, renowned among scuba divers the world over.

The Maldives have over a thousand islands and three times that number of coral reefs. The water is warm and clear, with good visibility all year round. The incoming and outgoing tidal flows bring plankton-rich waters that attract a host of underwater species and some of the most amazing gentle giants. Manta rays and whale sharks are a rare sight elsewhere, but not here.

With hundreds of dive sites to explore, there's something for everyone, from total novices to experienced divers. Your 'Dive Butler' can take you diving for the first time in all safety on a tranquil reef, or escort you on some of the most thrilling drift dives in the world in currents up to four knots.

Diving in the Maldives usually takes place along a "faru" (an outer reef), a "thila" (a smaller, inner atoll reef pinnacle, usually circular in shape), or a "kandu" (a channel between two farus, where the atoll meets the ocean). You can also experience wreck dives and spectacular night dives with bioluminescence and rarely seen nocturnal creatures.

Yet combining superyachting with diving is not always simple. Many privately owned yachts carry scuba equipment, but only a few charter yachts offer full diving facilities for guests. What's more, there are complex diving regulations in the Maldives. Regardless of your diving experience, to stay legal it is better to dive with a scuba professional, but finding someone who can offer the right standards of service, safety and professionalism is not easy.

Enter Dive Butler International. Pioneers in the field of true luxury rendezvous diving, DBI provides private dive guides and instructors to superyachts and VIP individuals across the world. Now, Burgess and DBI are joining forces to add a new dimension to cruising in this unique tropical destination.



With over 1000 species of fish, 3000 coral reefs and hundreds of dive sites, the warm Maldivian waters offer great visibility, sometimes with water clear enough to see 50 metres and beyond.



Alexis Vincent is the genial French Canadian founder of DBI. He explains: "We first recognised the need for a personal, professional dive service in the Maldives, because while it is possible to locate a local dive instructor, it is more challenging to find a diver who can adapt to the level of service expected on a superyacht. Not all instructors can engage well with clients at this level and there may be language or cultural issues. Our multi-lingual instructors are carefully selected for their skills, geographical knowledge and experience in handling high profile VIP clients."

One of the main issues that many non-divers have is a fear of the unknown. Alexis Vincent emphasises that Dive Butler instructors spend time to build trust, establishing a calm frame of mind that helps beginners feel safe. "We allow you to grow into your comfort zone with a step-by-step approach to dive training - you achieve mastery of each skill necessary to dive safely before going to the next level, at your own pace."

With this approach even total novices can soon enjoy the wonderful weightlessness of underwater space, swimming amidst coral gardens alive with an abundance of beautiful, colourful marine life.

Alexis Vincent sums up the joy of diving in the Maldives when he says: "To be aboard your superyacht within reach of one of the world's most remote atolls where possibly no one has ever dived before, makes for a very special feeling."



Scuba diving during your superyacht holiday adds a wonderful dimension to the experience.

DIVE SITES NOT TO MISS IN THE MALDIVES

NORTH MALE ATOLL

HP Reef *"There are nearby dive sites for novices, but HP itself is for experienced advanced divers only."*

SOUTH MALE ATOLL

Guraidhoo Corner aka Guraidhoo Kandu *"Only experienced divers should attempt this when the current is strong."*

NORTH ARI ATOLL

Maalhos Thila *"An exciting dive for advanced divers only."*

Maaya Thila *"Fine for both novices and experienced divers."*

Fish Head aka Mushimas Mingili Thila *"For novices or intermediate divers."*

Batala Maaga *"Many ways to do this dive - beginners can have fun in shallower waters protected by the faru, while deeper water offers more challenges for experienced divers."*

SOUTH ARI ATOLL

Maamigili Beyru *"Good pelagic encounters possible, including whale sharks."*

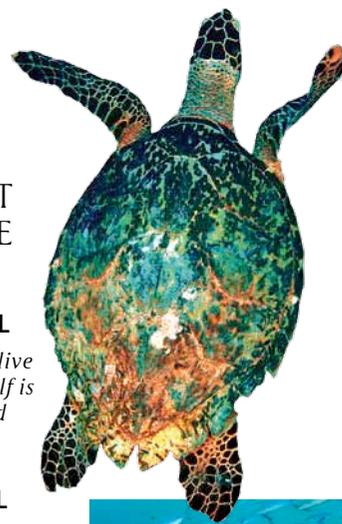
Madivaru Manta Point *"Good for manta rays in shallow water."*

RASDHOO ATOLL

Rasdhoo Madivaru *"Known as the hammerhead dive - for intermediate or advanced divers. Beginners can dive too, but with less chance of seeing the sharks as they are usually in deeper water."*

FELIDHU ATOLL

Fotteyo Kandu *"Off the beaten track, for advanced divers only."*



DBI can offer diving in almost any location on the planet, including unusual adventures like ice diving in the Nordic Seas. DBI is fully insured (removing the insurance liability risk for superyachts) and can supply all scuba and safety equipment to the most remote destinations. Every diving itinerary is tailored to the abilities of each guest, in an atmosphere of discretion and confidentiality. The company is also strongly focused on environmental awareness and conservation.

- » 35 private multi-talented, fully-qualified PADI dive instructors, including 7 Maldives experts
- » More than 20 languages spoken
- » More than 175 years of combined diving experience
- » Global reach, including Caribbean, Mediterranean, Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean
- » Itinerary planning and logistics support
- » Full third party liability insurance
- » 24 hour support service and hotline
- » Operating procedures covered by Just Dive™ brand promises

Contact your Burgess charter broker to discuss scuba diving options for your next charter: charter@burgessyachts.com

