

# Pilots, Dolphins & Mantas – A Maldives Cruise

Naturetrek Tour Report

15 – 24 February 2013



Blue Whales



Pilot Whales



Spinner Dolphin



Spinners offshore

Report and images compiled by Jenny Willsher



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   David Wilkinson  
   Julie Wilkinson  
   Frank White  
   Rob Burton  
   Caroline James  
   Philip Conway  
   Sue Conway

## Summary:

A successful and exciting week in and around this wonderful marine life paradise! After a brief stay in the lovely Bandos Island Resort we boarded the Ari Queen for an amazing week of early morning and evening snorkelling and days of relaxing on deck while watching out for some of the many dolphins and whales that patrol these waters. We marvelled at the staggeringly diverse species of fish, starfish and other reef creatures, were bowled over by the experience of sharing the water with a small group of Manta Rays and were privileged to see large groups of exuberant Spinner Dolphins, plus Bottlenose and Spotted Dolphins, a brief view of a Dwarf Sperm Whale (which is as good as it gets!), 30-40 Short-finned Pilot Whales, all three Killer Whale species and to cap it all a female Blue Whale and calf. All this in the company of Chas Anderson who is the acknowledged expert on the marine life here and many other aspects of the Maldives, and who generously entertained us every evening with illustrated talks...

## Day 1 – 2

Friday 15th – Saturday 16th February

### UK – North Ari Atoll (Maldives)

Following an overnight flight from the UK, via Dubai, we arrived in Male early Saturday afternoon. Before long we had boarded a boat and were making our way north towards Bandos Island Resort. After a long night of travelling we were keen to relax and enjoy a first swim or snorkel. Once rooms were sorted, everyone settled into life on a tropical island.

Those who snorkelled saw Green Turtle, Black-tipped Reef Shark and some of the amazing variety of fish we were to attempt to identify over the next week. Our bird list started at the airport with Great White Egret, Indian Pond Heron and House Crow. Some of the group had arrived earlier so it was good to meet up at dinner and enjoy a meal in the open air Sea Breeze Restaurant.

## Day 3

Sunday 17th February

### North Male Atoll

After a good night's sleep we enjoyed various aspects of island resort life, a leisurely breakfast, some snorkelling or swimming and some took a walk around the island to see the limited birdlife. Firstly we saw a noisy group of fruit bats high in one of the biggest trees on the island. Then we saw White-faced Waterhen, Common Sandpiper, Grey Heron, the noisy Indian Koel, Common Mynas and Maldivian House Crows. We also found a group of very colourful Eclectus Parakeets which had been introduced. Apart from Coconut and Oil Palms there were some lovely shrubs including Oleander, Bourgainvillea, Noni or Indian Mulberry, Frangipani, Orchid Tree (*Bauhinia*) and near the restaurant a huge Banyan Tree which was festooned with hearts and other decorations following Valentines Day!

We all gathered at the dock late morning and Chas arrived on our *dhoni* (the name of the local boats), Kaamiyaab. This would be our taxi over the next week between the Ari Queen and the reefs and islands. We soon boarded the Ari Queen, our home for the next week. After a quick introduction to the boat and a delicious lunch we moved out of North Ari Atoll and headed north along the western edge. We slowed down for our first dolphins – a group of Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins. Just as Chas explained that they are not so boat friendly as other dolphins, they moved in quite close and we had good views! This species is very similar to Common Bottlenose Dolphin but their behaviour, small size and 'inshore' location all pointed to this species. Our first sea birds were Lesser Noddy, Sooty, Little and Saunders Terns. There was an occasional burst of flying fish.

We moved back into the shelter of the atoll to anchor for the night and for an evening snorkel. The water was choppy and visibility low but we enjoyed some wonderful fish sightings including Powderblue and Lined Surgeonfish, various Butterflyfish, Orange Starfish and Sea Cucumbers. The coral was quite damaged but Chas explained later that this was natural storm damage.

Back on board, dinner was preceded by one of many fascinating talks from Chas, the subject of this one being the commoner dolphins of the Maldives and his long working association with the Maldives, as well as the formation of this string of atolls. *Atoll* is the only Maldivian word that is in the Greater Oxford English Dictionary! We started to ask about particular fish and other creatures we had seen but this could have taken all evening as everyone would have seen so many different things. There are possibly 35 species of Sea Cucumber, 200 species of coral, possibly 1200 fish, many being different colours depending on age and sex and many fish are yet to be identified, so Chas sensibly suggested we just enjoy looking and tick off those we could identify!

Some of us enjoyed the special offer cocktail from the bar, which was "Whaleshark"! Small prizes were awarded to the first 'spotters' of the day – Caroline, Frank and Jenny!

## Day 4

## Monday 18th February

### North Male Atoll – Baa Atoll

We woke to a cloudy day and a little drizzle. After tea/coffee and biscuits we were off in the *dhoni* for our first snorkel of the day. A different area of the reef which had Giant Clams with their deep blue 'lips', False Moorish Idol, Unicornfish and small groups of iridescent green or blue fish that retreated as one into their own piece of coral as you approached.

After breakfast we moved out of the atoll and north-west across the deep water between the atolls in anticipation of cetacean sightings. After a long vigilant morning some splashing was sighted on the horizon and we were soon surrounded by an exuberant pod of Spinner Dolphins. Chas explained that they probably spin to dislodge parasitic Remoras (Sucker-fish) which attach themselves by a large adhesive disc on the top of their heads. In Maldivian, Remoras are called *attamas*, a name used for clingy people! A few birds were seen – possibly a distant Osprey, Lesser Noddy, Bridled Tern and Grey Heron.

After lunch we settled down, some of the group members relaxing at the back of the boat and others preferring to be 'on watch'. We were soon alerted as the boat started turning! Chas had spotted some 'blows' on the horizon! We moved towards them and enjoyed 40mins in the company of 30-40 Short-finned Pilot Whales. We continued west, passing a small island that is a bird reserve for the Lesser Frigatebird and on queue we had a few circling overhead! The population of this 'pirate' bird is decreasing due to the decrease in flying fish which is their preferred food.

Our intended destination had a strong tide so we moved onto the next island of Mutafushi (so many to choose from!) and we were soon in the *dhoni* and excitedly off for our evening snorkel. Where the reef dropped away into deeper water there was a large shoal of Schooling Bannerfish. Other fish seen were Orange Soldierfish, Whiteline Lionfish, Barred Soapfish, Jacks, Oriental Sweetlips, various Butterflyfish, Regal Angelfish, Indian and Clown Triggerfish, the latter with its amazing white spotted black belly.

Lightning flickered on the horizon as we listened to our pre-dinner talk. Chas talked about Pilot Whales and other smaller whales. They feed at night on squid which come up from deep water.

## Day 5

## Tuesday 19th February

### Raa Atoll – Baa Atoll

Sunrise was very colourful. We headed off in the *dhoni* towards an uninhabited island. As we manoeuvred round the island we encountered a Manta Ray and had good views from the *dhoni*. Some of the group opted to take a walk around the island while the others returned to look for the manta and managed to get into the water with it. The walkers had a hot walk over the coarse coral sand, taking photos of the crabs, a pair of Lesser Noddy and seeing Common Sandpiper. Our boatman searched the island looking for coconuts.

After breakfast we moved out of Raa Atoll and headed north in the deep water of the Indian Ocean. It was a quiet morning until a small pod of Spotted Dolphins was seen. We got good views as the boat slowly manoeuvred towards them. Chas explained that they are normally seen in large numbers but not that day. A few Spinner Dolphins were also seen.

The few birds seen were Tropical Shearwater, Greater Crested, Common and Little Tern, Brown and Lesser Noddy. In the late afternoon we stop at the fishing community on the island of Meedhoo, in Raa Atoll. It is an attractive village of simple modern traditional houses with handsome Breadfruit trees and Coconut Palms, Frangipani and Oleander. Many houses had Pawpaw growing in their gardens. The harbour front had colourful tiled seats and a giant Marlin! We had to return to the boat by 6pm as the local law dictated that. This was to keep away itinerant backpackers who had slept on the beach in the past, smoking and other anti-social behaviour.

## Day 6

Wednesday 20th February

### Raa Atoll – Shaviyani Atoll

Another excellent pre-breakfast snorkel – we were beginning to recognise more of the fish we were seeing. Added to the list, amongst many others, were Thick-armed Starfish, various Soldierfish, Wrasse, Parrotfish and Fusiliers, Pipefish, Longnose and Black Pyramid Butterflyfish, Lined Surgeonfish, Indian and Picasso Triggerfish and a shoal of indigo blue Red-toothed Triggerfish.

After breakfast we moved further north along the outside western edge of Raa Atoll. It was a quiet morning and the approaching storm clouds prompted much discussion about the weather. Splashing on the horizon stopped the debate about whether we would miss the oncoming storm! As we moved towards the activity a Sailfish was seen limping along on the surface. Chas identified the commotion as 20-30 False Killer Whales, and described their hunting strategy. He explained how they would have hunted the Sailfish in small groups to wear it down, the Sailfish being the fastest fish in the sea, and then when it had tired they would have rammed it before finishing it off. We had mixed feelings about the plight of the Sailfish as it inevitably disappeared amongst all the activity around the boat. Despite the torrential rain, and the bell for lunch, we stayed with the False Killer Whales for an hour as small groups moved off and gave us a good display of breaching.

We left the rain behind and resumed our watch. Before we anchored for the night we saw a mixed group of Spinner and Indo-pacific Bottlenoses. Our overnight was off Dolidhoo Island, in Shaviyani Atoll. The island contained an unfinished resort that was 8yrs old but under dispute between the owners. Chas explain that all the islands are owned by the government but are leased out for 25yrs at a time. After another good snorkel Chas talked about the days sightings. He had not seen False Killer Whales for some time. He had a feeling that the tuna fishermen might shoot them as they had learnt to take tuna off long lines without getting snared themselves...

## Day 7

Thursday 21st February

### Shaviyani Atoll – Lhaviyani Atoll

After our usual pre-breakfast snorkel we moved south. One dolphin was seen under the bow but did not stay to play. It turned out to be a quiet day with very little cetacean or bird activity. Chas saw a fleeting view of a Dwarf Sperm Whale – which is as good as it gets apparently – and we stayed around to see if it would re-appear but no luck. One distant Manta Ray was sighted, also two turtles and one White-tailed Tropicbird was seen by a few of the group. We headed for our overnight mooring near Kamifashi Island, another part-built resort. The *dhoni* crew, who were already there had reported mantas in the vicinity, and we saw one as we entered the lagoon.

But by the time we were moored and ready to snorkel none could be seen. The water was rather choppy but some good sightings were had including Black-tipped Reef Shark, many species of sea cucumber, lobsters and a red Featherstar. Our pre-dinner talk by Chas was on the top deck of the boat and ranged from the stars to weather patterns and the amazing migration of particular dragonflies from India to Africa via the Maldives.

## Day 8

## Friday 22nd February

### Llaviyani Atoll – North Ari Atoll

If yesterday was ‘Thin Thursday’ then this was ‘Fantastic/Fabulous Friday’! Pre-breakfast the *dboni* took us around the island to look for Mantas. Some were sighted and we were soon in the water. Chas asked us to keep together and we jostled in anticipation, but were soon enjoying the amazing experience that is swimming with Manta Rays. These graceful creatures continued their balletic activity around us, somersaulting and gliding underneath us. The water was murky with plankton and sparkling with planktonic Sapphire Copepods. It had been an amazing experience and at breakfast the superlatives flew!

We continued south still excited by our individual Manta experiences and checking our photos. About mid-morning Chas spotted some fins and thought they could be Pygmy Killer Whales – a rare Indo-Pacific species. There were 20-30 individuals. He took many photos to aid identification as they are very similar to Melon-headed Whales. He later confirmed his original ID. Soon after that a large fin was sighted and we moved towards it to find a female Blue Whale and calf. Chas pointed out how we could see the vertebrae of the adult as she had lost weight feeding her calf. We enjoyed good views for 40mins but then left them in peace. The chatter over lunch was very animated but we soon abandoned lunch and were back on deck to see another lively display by 200 plus Spinner Dolphins. The patient crew tolerated our comings and goings from the dining room. They had regularly joined us to watch the various sightings. Our last cetacean sighting happened while we were all at tea! Only Chas saw the breaching Cuviers Beaked Whale, as it did not appear again. A few birds were seen – 7 Grey Herons, a Lesser Noddy and some lesser Created Terns.

We were late arriving at our overnight mooring so we only had a short snorkel in rather choppy water but were glad to get in the water after such a busy day. Chas talk was about the whales we had seen. The Blue Whale is so-called as it looks so blue in the water and the largest creature on the planet, weighing up to 50tons and having a 20ft fluke span. There are different populations around the world - the Antarctic sub-species being the largest and the N. Indian Ocean sub-species smaller. It has two seasonal peaks in the Maldives - Dec/Jan and again in April as it migrates between Sri Lanka and the Arabian Sea. The Dwarf Sperm Whale, related to the Sperm Whale - though quite common, is a shy animal and not easy to see in choppy water. Pygmy Killer Whales are a rare whale (Chas had only seen them on a few out of his many trips through the Maldives). Prizes went to Clive for his video of the Mantas, Linda who was determined to join in despite not feeling 100%, and to Alan for perseverance.

## Day 9

## Saturday 23rd February

### North Male Atoll

We had an earlier start for our first snorkel as the reef was 30 minutes away but it was well worth it.

The water was clear, there were outcrops of reef with sandy patches in between and we enjoyed many species of familiar fish and again many new ones. Caroline had a close encounter with a Hawksbill Turtle. Streams of blue fusiliers, Splendid Soldierfish, Goldies, shoals of small Blue-green Chromis, Humbug Dascyllus, deep blue Neon Damsel fish and many large Parrotfish were some of the fish we enjoyed.

After breakfast we moved out into the deep water to the east of Male Atoll. It was a quiet morning until almost lunchtime when a large fin was sighted. The boat had to make a sharp turn to follow the sighting and there was a crash from the kitchen and mutterings from the cook! A small group of Killer Whales had been sighted. Not everyone had good views as these stealth hunters rapidly disappeared but there was much excitement as Chas reported that we had seen all three species of Killer Whales which he had never done before in one trip! To appease the cook and to facilitate lunch we moved back into the shelter of the atoll with plans to move out again to have another look for Orcas. Sadly we did not see them again...

As it was a quiet afternoon we were soon mooring near Male and the airport. This gave us plenty of time to pack, relax, exchange emails addresses and reflect on what had been an amazing week. We took group photos and adjusted to the reality of the end of the trip and contemplating the return home. Some of the group were staying on at different resorts across the Maldives.

Chas's talk today was about Beaked Whales. Twenty five of the 90-100 species of whales are Beaked Whales, some only recently discovered. They often display scarring due to using their teeth when fighting. Prizes tonight went to Helen for spotting turtles in the harbour and Julie who was not always able to join in the snorkelling due to ear problems.

## Day 10

Sunday 6th February

### Male – UK

Early in the morning most of the group transferred to Male airport at the start of the journey back to the UK. As always the enthusiasm and good humour of the group contributed to the success of the trip, alongside the hard work and care of the crew of the Ari Queen and Chas's endless and fascinating knowledge about all things Maldivian. *Shukriya* to everyone!

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## Species Lists

### Cetaceans

	Scientific name	Common name	February										
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
1	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>									2		
2	Dwarf Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia sima</i>								1			
3	Pygmy Killer Whale	<i>Feresa attenuata</i>									20+		
4	False Killer Whale	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>							40+				
5	Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>										✓	
6	Spinner Dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>				200	✓				200+		
7	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>			✓				✓				
8	Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>								✓			
9	Pan-tropical Spotted Dolphin	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>						✓					
10	Short-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>				30-40							
11	Cuvier's Beaked Whale	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>									✓		

### Birds

1	Tropical Shearwater	<i>Puffinus bailloni</i>						✓	✓				
2	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>						1					
3	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>		1									
4	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			1		1	1	1	7			
5	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		1									
6	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>								1			
7	Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i>						✓					
8	White-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>								1			
9	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				✓							
10	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>		✓	✓								
11	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1	1			1					
12	Brown Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
13	Lesser Noddy	<i>Anous tenuirostris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
14	White Tern	<i>Gygis alba</i>											
15	Swift Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>						✓	✓		✓		
16	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>			✓			✓	✓				
17	Saunders's Tern	<i>Sternula saundersi</i>				✓							
18	Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>						✓					
19	Sooty Tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>				✓	✓						
20	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>							✓				
21	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>									✓		
22	Eclectus Parakeet	<i>Eclectus roratus</i>		✓									
23	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>								✓			
24	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i>	✓	✓					✓			✓	
25	Maldivian House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens maledivicus</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
26	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓									

### Fish

1	Giant Moray	<i>Gymnothorax javanicus</i>
2	Peppered Moray	<i>Siderea picta</i>
3	Yellow-margin Moray	<i>Siderea flavimarginatus</i>
4	Gold-spot Herring	<i>Herklotsichthys quadrimaculatus</i>
5	Robust Hardyhead	<i>Atherinomorus lacunosus</i>

6	Silver Hardyhead	<i>Hypoatherina barnesi</i>
7	Slender Lizardfish	<i>Saurida gracilis</i>
8	Reef Lizardfish	<i>Synodus variegatus</i>
9	Crown Squirrelfish	<i>Sargocentron diadema</i>
10	White-tail Squirrelfish	<i>Sargocentron caudimaculatum</i>
11	Spotfin Squirrelfish	<i>Neoniphon samara</i>
12	Sabre Squirrelfish	<i>Sargocentron spiniferum</i>
13	Trumpetfish	<i>Aulostomus chinensis</i>
14	Smooth Flutemouth	<i>Fistularia commersonii</i>
15	Common Lionfish	<i>Pterois volitans</i>
16	Spotfin Lionfish	<i>Pterois antennata</i>
17	White-line Lionfish	<i>Pterois radiata</i>
18	Smallscale Scorpionfish	<i>Sebastapistes oxycephala</i>
19	Squaretail Coral Grouper	<i>Plectropomus areolatus</i>
20	Black-saddle Coral Grouper	<i>Plectropomus laevis</i>
21	Peacock Rock Cod	<i>Cephalopholis argus</i>
22	Vermilion Rock Cod	<i>Cephalopholis miniata</i>
23	Slender Grouper	<i>Anyperodon leucogrammicus</i>
24	Lunar-tailed Grouper	<i>Variola louti</i>
25	Camouflage Grouper	<i>Ephinephelus polyphkadion</i>
26	Four Saddle Grouper	<i>Epinephelus spilotoceps</i>
27	Blacktip Grouper	<i>Ephinephelus fasciatus</i>
28	Yellow-tailed Basslet	<i>Pseudanthias evansi</i>
29	Orange Anthias	<i>Pseudanthias squamipennis</i>
30	Crescent-tail Bigeye	<i>Priacanthus hamrur</i>
31	Narrow-striped Cardinalfish	<i>Apogon angustatus</i>
32	Tapered-line Cardinalfish	<i>Apogon exostigma</i>
33	Slender Suckerfish	<i>Echeneis naucrates</i>
34	Giant Trevally	<i>Caranx ignobilis</i>
35	Blue-fin Jack	<i>Caranx melampygus</i>
36	Black Jack	<i>Caranx lugubris</i>
37	Big-eyed Jack	<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>
38	Mackerel Scad	<i>Decapterus macarellus</i>
39	Small-spotted Dart	<i>Trachinotus baillonii</i>
40	Longtail Silverbiddy	<i>Gerres longirostris</i>
41	Orange-finned Emperor	<i>Lethrinus erythracanthus</i>
42	Blackspot Emperor	<i>Gymnocranium harak</i>
43	Gold-striped Emperor	<i>Gnathodentax aureolineatus</i>
44	Oriental Sweetlips	<i>Plectorhinchus orientalis</i>
45	Black Snapper	<i>Macolor niger</i>
46	Kashmir Snapper	<i>Lutjanus kasmira</i>
47	Two-spot Red Snapper	<i>Lutjanus bohar</i>
48	Lunar Fusilier	<i>Caesio lunaris</i>
49	Yellow-back Fusilier	<i>Caesio xanthonota</i>
50	Neon Fusilier	<i>Pterocaesio tile</i>
51	Yellow-saddle Goatfish	<i>Parupensis cyclostomus</i>
52	Square-spot Goatfish	<i>Mulloidichthys flavolineatus</i>
53	Barred Goatfish	<i>Parupeneus trifasciatus</i>
54	Dash-dot Goatfish	<i>Parupeneus barberinus</i>
55	Black Pyramid Butterflyfish	<i>Hemitaurichthys zoster</i>
56	Raccoon Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon lunula</i>
57	Citron Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon citrinellus</i>
58	Yellow-head Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon xanthocephalus</i>
59	Long-nose Butterflyfish	<i>Forcipiger flavissimus</i>
60	Very Long-nose Butterflyfish	<i>Forcipiger longirostris</i>

61	Threadfin Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon auriga</i>
62	Bennett's Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon bennetti</i>
63	Collared Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon collare</i>
64	Double-saddle Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon falcula</i>
65	Klein's Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon kleinii</i>
66	Madagascar Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon madagaskariensis</i>
67	Meyer's Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon meyeri</i>
68	Blackback Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon merlannotus</i>
69	Oval butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon trifasciatus</i>
70	Teardrop Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon unimaculatus</i>
71	Indian Bannerfish	<i>Heniochus pleurotinia</i>
72	Schooling Bannerfish	<i>Heniochus diphreutus</i>
73	Masked Bannerfish	<i>Heniochus monoceros</i>
74	Regal Angelfish	<i>Pygoplites diacanthus</i>
75	Three-spot Angelfish	<i>Apolemichthys trimaculatus</i>
76	Blue-face Angelfish	<i>Pomacanthus xanthometopon</i>
77	Emperor Angelfish	<i>Pomacanthus imperator</i>
78	Multispine Angelfish	<i>Centropyge multispinis</i>
79	Forster's Hawkfish	<i>Paracirrhites forsteri</i>
80	Blackfoot or Maldive Anemonefish	<i>Amphipron nigripes</i>
81	Clark's Anemonefish	<i>Amphipron clarkii</i>
82	Humbug damsel	<i>Dascyllus aruanus</i>
83	Threespot Dascyllus	<i>Dascyllus trimaculatus</i>
84	Chocolate-dip Chromis	<i>Chromis dimidiata</i>
85	Blue-green Chromis	<i>Chromis viridis</i>
86	Indian Damsel	<i>Pomacentrus indicus</i>
87	Neon Damsel	<i>Pomacentris caeruleus</i>
88	White-saddled Damsel	<i>Chrysiptera biocellata</i>
89	Sergeant Major	<i>Abudefduf vaigiensis</i>
90	Warty-lip Mullet	<i>Crenimugil crenilabrus</i>
91	Fringe-lip Mullet	<i>Oedalechilus labiosus</i>
92	Variiegated Wrasse	<i>Coris batuensis</i>
93	Bird Wrasse	<i>Gomphosus caeruleus</i>
94	Lemon Meringue Wrasse	<i>Halichoerus leucoxanthus</i>
95	Adorned Wrasse	<i>Halichoerus cosmetus</i>
96	Checkerboard Wrasse	<i>Halichoerus hortulanus</i>
97	Cleaner Wrasse	<i>Labroides dimidiatus</i>
98	Moon Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma lunare</i>
99	Six-bar Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma hardwicke</i>
100	Napoleon Wrasse	<i>Cheilinus undulatus</i>
101	Slingjaw Wrasse	<i>Epibulus insidiator</i>
102	Cigar Wrasse	<i>Cheilio inermis</i>
103	Rockmover Wrasse	<i>Novaculichthys taeniourus</i>
104	Two-colour Parrotfish	<i>Cetoscarus bicolor</i>
105	Roundhead Parrotfish	<i>Chlorurus strongylocephalus</i>
106	Bullethead Parrotfish	<i>Chlorurus sordidus</i>
107	Bridled Parrotfish	<i>Scarus frenatus</i>
108	Greencheek Parrotfish	<i>Scarus prasiognathus</i>
109	Yellowbar Parrotfish	<i>Scarus scaber</i>
110	Dusky Parrotfish	<i>Scarus niger</i>
111	Maldivian Sandperch	<i>Parapercis signata</i>
112	Spot-tailed Sandperch	<i>Parapercis hexophthalma</i>
113	Maldives Triplefin	<i>Helcogramma maldivensis</i>
114	Moorish Idol	<i>Zanclus cornutus</i>
115	Powder-blue Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus leucosternon</i>

116	Night Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus thompsoni</i>
117	Yellow-fin Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus xanthopterus</i>
118	Lieutenant Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus tennenti</i>
119	Lined Surgeonfish	<i>Ancanthurus lineatus</i>
120	Convict Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus triostegus</i>
121	Brushtail Tang	<i>Zebrasoma scopas</i>
122	Saifin Tang	<i>Zebrasoma desjardinii</i>
123	Orange-spine Unicornfish	<i>Naso lituratus</i>
124	Big-nose Unicornfish	<i>Naso vlamingii</i>
125	Spotted Unicornfish	<i>Naso brevirostris</i>
126	Starry Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus stellatus</i>
127	Coral Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus corallinus</i>
128	Dogtooth Tuna	<i>Gymnocarda unicolor</i>
129	Long-nose Filefish	<i>Oxymonacanthus longirostris</i>
130	Mimic Filefish	<i>Palaluteres prionurus</i>
131	Orange-Striped Triggerfish	<i>Balistapus undulatus</i>
132	Clown Triggerfish	<i>Balistapus conspicillum</i>
133	Titan Triggerfish	<i>Balistapus viridescens</i>
134	Yellow-margin Triggerfish	<i>Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus</i>
135	Picasso Triggerfish	<i>Rhinecanthus aculeatus</i>
136	Red-toothed Triggerfish	<i>Odonus niger</i>
137	Boomerang Triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen bursa</i>
138	Half-moon Triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen chrysopterus</i>
139	Indian Triggerfish	<i>Melichthys indicus</i>
140	Yellow Boxfish	<i>Ostracion cubicus</i>
141	Black or Spotted Boxfish	<i>Ostracion meleagris</i>
142	Saddled Sharpnose Pufferfish	<i>Canthigaster valentini</i>
143	Bennett's Sharpnose Puffer	<i>Canthigaster bennetti</i>
144	Black-spotted Pufferfish	<i>Arothron nigropunctatus</i>
145	Spotted Eagle Ray	<i>Aetobatus narinari</i>
146	Manta Ray	<i>Manta alfredi (formerly birostris)</i>
147	Mobula Ray	<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>
148	Whiptail Stingray	<i>Himantura fai</i>
149	Feathertail Stingray	<i>Pastinachus sephen</i>
150	Grey Reef Shark	<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>
151	White-tipped Reef Shark	<i>Triaenodon obesus</i>
152	Black-tipped Reef Shark	<i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i>
153	Saifish	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>
154	Yellowfin Tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>
155	Skipjack Tuna	<i>Katsunonus palamis</i>
156	Flying Fish	<i>Exocetus spp</i>

### Other taxa

Fruit Bat, *Pteropus giganteus ssp maldivarum*

Hawksbill turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*

Green Turtle, *Chelonia mydas*

Common Spiny Lizard, *Coletes versicolor*

# Track of Tour - Pilots, Dolphins & Mantas - A Maldives Cruise

