

# Baa Atoll, Maldives

A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of 75 coral islands, Baa Atoll is home to Hanifaru Bay — one of Earth's greatest manta ray and whale shark feeding grounds. No cruise terminal here: just open turquoise water, a tender ride, and one of the most biodiverse reefs on the planet.

- Tender port (no pier)
- Typical call: 6-8 hrs
- MVR / USD accepted at resorts
- Dhivehi & English
- Best May–Nov for mantas

## MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:

Arrive:

All aboard:

Excursion:

Notes:

## GETTING ASHORE

**Docking:** Anchor & tender — no cruise terminal in Baa Atoll

**Best For:** Manta ray & whale shark encounters at Hanifaru Bay

**UNESCO Status:** Biosphere Reserve since 2011; 250 coral species, 1,200 fish species

**Don't Miss:** Hanifaru Bay snorkel; lacquerwork at Thulhaadhoo island

🚗 Getting around:

## TOP THINGS TO DO

- Hanifaru Bay Manta Ray Snorkel** — Snorkel alongside hundreds of manta rays — and sometimes whale sharks — at this legendary protected feeding ground.
  - Scuba Diving — Thilas & Channels** — Baa Atoll has 30+ dive sites including Dhigali Haa, Nelivaru Haa, and Muthafushi Thila — dramatic coral formations, grey reef sharks, eagle rays, and...
- Island Hop — Thulhaadhoo & Local Villages** — Thulhaadhoo is renowned across the Maldives for its traditional lacquerwork (laajehun).
  - Sunset Dolphin & Whale Watching Cruise** — Spinner dolphins are a near-daily sight in Baa Atoll's deep channels, especially at dusk.
  - Private Sandbank Picnic** — Temporary white-sand banks appear between tidal cycles throughout the atoll.

## BEST WALKS

- Eydhafushi Town Wander** 30–45 min | Easy | Flat — Eydhafushi is the administrative capital of Baa Atoll.

## WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

**CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

|     | Mon | High | Low | Rain |
|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| Apr |     | 84°  | 81° | 15d  |
| Jun |     | 84°  | 81° | 18d  |
| Aug |     | 83°  | 80° | 18d  |
| Sep |     | 83°  | 79° | 19d  |
| Oct |     | 83°  | 79° | 22d  |

**DAYLIGHT & MONEY**

Apr 6:01AM–6:14PM · Jun 5:55AM–6:20PM · Aug 6:03AM–6:20PM · Sep 5:58AM–6:07PM · Oct 5:53AM–5:53PM

MVR / USD accepted at resorts

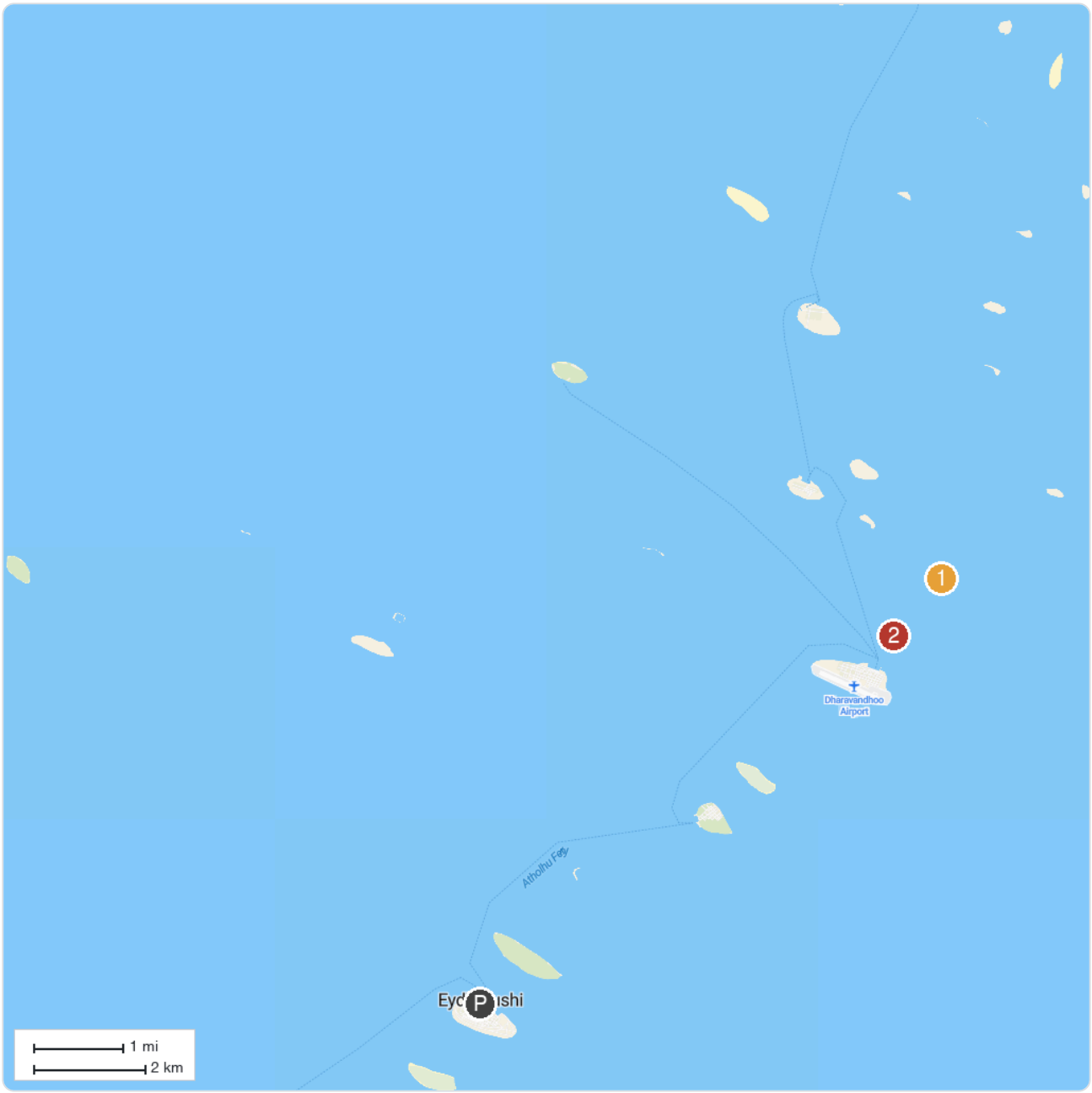
## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Manta season matters: May to November (peak July–October) brings massive manta ray aggregations to Hanifaru Bay. Outside this window, sightings are possible but not guaranteed.
- Book excursions before sailing: Hanifaru Bay access is capped and permits are regulated. Shore excursion spots fill quickly — secure yours onboard as early as possible.
- Cash and cards: Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) is the local currency, but US dollars are widely accepted at resort jetties and local tour operators. Cards are rarely useful on small islands.
- Dress respectfully on local islands: Eydhafushi and Thulhaadhoo are Muslim communities. Cover up when leaving the beach or jetty — shoulders and knees covered is the rule.
- No scuba inside Hanifaru Bay: Only snorkeling is permitted in the protected bay to minimize disturbance to feeding mantas. All diving happens at nearby thilas and channels.
- Don't touch the wildlife: Manta rays and whale sharks are protected. Touching, chasing, or blocking their path is prohibited and can result in removal from the water.

# Baa Atoll, Maldives — Port Map

[cruiseports.org](https://cruiseports.org)

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1 Nature Reserve** A UNESCO-recognized bay where reef manta rays and occasional whale sharks gather in feeding aggregations from May to November; snorkeling only, no diving.
- P Cruise port / terminal**

- 2 Village** The gateway village to Hanifaru Bay, known for traditional dhoni boat-building alongside its small domestic airport.