



# CORAL RESTORATION PROJECT FERIDHOO MALDIVES

RESTART FROM CORAL REEF of Feridhoo

Feridhoo Island, Ari North Atoll, Maldives

University of Padua reference of the project

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## THE INTERNSHIP:

### INTRODUCTION

Coral reefs are one of the most biodiverse, complex and productive ecosystems on earth, supporting about 25% of all marine life. They also directly support hundreds of millions of people worldwide by providing coastal protection, valuable sources like fisheries and tourism. Maldivian coral reefs are the 7<sup>th</sup> largest in terms of area covered, contributing up to 5% of the world's reef area.

Sadly, they are also one of the world's most endangered ecosystems and the last several decades has experienced increasingly stressful conditions due to a combination of natural and anthropogenic factors.

Numerous countries around the world lack basic information on the health of their coral reef ecosystems, so now it is very important training students, managers, and biologists in identification, understanding, coral restoration management and awareness of tourists and local community.

### THE GOALS

This internship last **one or two months**, depending on the needs of the student.

The training course is organized in lessons and field activities, focused on the acquisition of **different management skills**:

- Construction and maintenance of a coral reef restoration site;
- Knowledge on coral biology and ecology;
- Analyze general health of reef organisms;
- Learn about the human impact and problems of climate change in the coral reef;
- Know the importance of sustainable tourism;
- Raise awareness among tourists and locals about waste and marine pollution.

Before the internship, this is **a life experience** determined by contact with other cultures, another environment, another lifestyle. After this journey, first of all you will be able to look at a different point of view.

This is most important teaching.

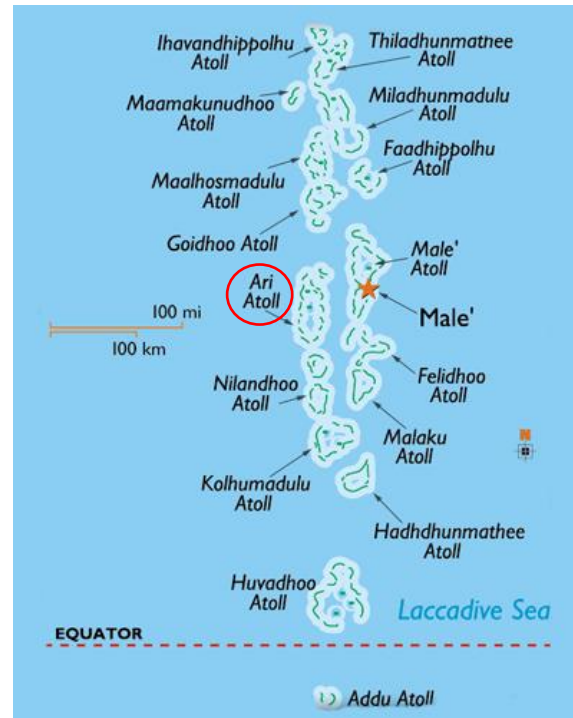
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By Noohiri Diving & Water Sport Center - Ahmadhee Magu, Feridhoo 09060



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**WHERE WE ARE:**



Feridhoo Island is a local island situated in the west side of Ari North Atoll.

Feridhoo is far from Malé and airport about 2 hours of speed boat.

The island is not large: 1 km long by 500 m wide, but it is very beautiful and hosts a beautiful coral reef around it.



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## THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The begin of internship is focalized to **ecological role of coral reef**, the student will learn to:

- Identify the common corals of Feridhoo house reef;
- Assess coral health conditions;
- Use different visual sampling techniques at different depths and methods (snorkeling and diving);
- Check dive and correct buoyancy to start the activities.

Then the internship continues with **coral reef restoration**, the student will learn the processes of:

- Nursery selection, construction and deployment;
- Nursery site assessment and fragment collection;
- Monitoring nursery-grown colonies;
- Transplantation of nursery-grown corals;
- Preparing for monitoring transplanted colonies;
- Data capture and analysis.

To give a complete picture of the importance of the coral reef and coral restoration, additional activities will be carried out in **contact with the local community and tourists**. The student will analyzes:

- The human impact to coral reef's ecosystem;
- The problems of plastic pollution and climate change;
- The perception of the tourists and the local community about the coral reef.

The program can be modulated according to the specific choice of the student's thesis, so some topics can be extended and others reduced.

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## ACTIVITIES

All activities are conducted at **Noohiri Diving & Water Sport Center**, A PADI 5 stars Resort with support of marine biologist and diving instructors. The diving center is in the centre of the island and a few minutes walk from the sea and the study points.



## DIVING REQUIREMENTS

All activities can be done with **snorkeling** and **peter diving system**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQ03X2WIYms>

A diving license is suggested and the students can be carried out the diving course directly during the internship with the release of the International licence PADI Open Water Diver (information and price on request).

All divers must have a valid Diving Insurance (DAN or similar) in order to perform diving activities.

The students must fill in a specific form before their arrival on the island including a medical questionnaire. In case of positive answer to any questions, an additional medical certificate will be required to attest the suitability to diving activities.

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## NECESSARY EQUIPMENT

**All students** need to have:

- Mask and snorkel
- Snorkeling fins or boots and scuba fins
- Shorty wetsuit
- Beachwear, towel and flip flop

**The divers** need to have:

- All diving equipment (BCD, regulator and long wetsuit)
- Diving computer

The equipment can be hired directly on site, depending of the size and availability (information and price on request).



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## USEFUL INFORMATIONS

### DOCUMENTS

To enter Maldives a **valid passport is required** (validity at least six months after the exit from the country) **with at least 2 empty pages.**

**If someone does not have a passport or needs to renew it, we remind you that the procedure may take a long time, so it is necessary to request it as soon as possible.**

### EXCHANGE

The Maldivian currency is the Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR). Euro and dollars are accepted in any bank and exchange office.

1 Euro = about 18 Rufiyaa ; 1 US \$ = about 15 rufyiaa

We accept credit card, VISA and Mastercard.

#### **Recommendation:**

**In the island there isn't bank or exchange office, but cash is useful for any purchases at grocery stores or souvenir shops. So it is better to bring cash from Italy, possibly dollars.**

### CLOTHING

The air temperature in Maldives is around 28-29°C. The weather is always pleasant, even during the rainy months. From May to November is wet season, from December to April is dry season.

Most of the time is dedicated to activities and it is better to wear comfortable clothes, no need for shoes but it's important to have sun cream and biodegradable personal hygiene products, as far as possible.

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The Maldives are one of the last earthly paradises and it is important to protect them.

The inhabitants of Feridhoo are the Islamic people, here everyone must respect the Muslim religion, avoiding too skimpy clothing. So the best clothes are t-shirts and shorts to the knee.



#### HEALTHY AND SAFETY

No vaccinations are required for travelers coming to Maldives from Italy, only Green Pass.

In case of illness, both the doctor and the pharmacy are here. However, it is still better to bring **basic medicines** from Italy.

Any field activity presents risks and dangers, upon arrival an accurate briefing will be carried out to explain some basic rules to be observed, throughout internship period (inside and outside the water).

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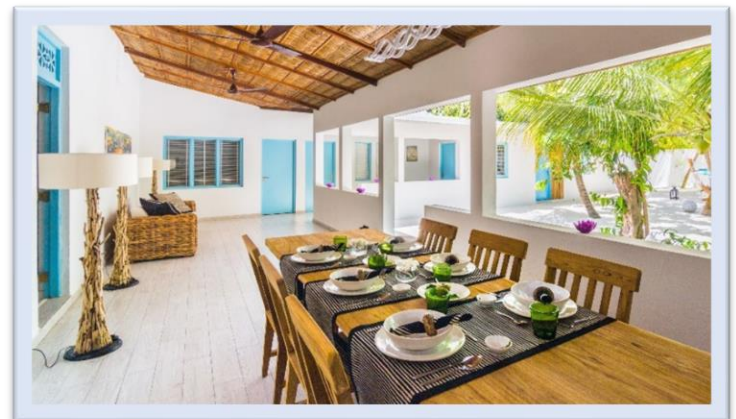
## ACCOMODATION AND MEALS



The accommodation has been organized at Villa Rosa guest house, in the centre of the Island, in double rooms with bathroom and full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner). Sheets and towels are provided.

The food is Italian with some references to Maldivian and oriental cuisine.

P.S: any allergy, intolerance or food choice, must be declared at the time of registration.



## COMMUNICATIONS

**Wi-Fi** is available in Noohiri diving center . We recommend the purchase of Maldivian phone card to have the data even outside the facilities.

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## COSTS

The price of internship of Coral Reef Restoration Project for one month per person is Euro 3.300 Tax included.

The price **includes**:

- speedboat transfer from/to Malé airport;
- full board treatment and accommodation in Villa Rosa guest house;
- lessons and activities at Noohiri Diving Center.

The the price **does NOT include**:

- flight to/from Malè;
- anything else not specified above;
- PADI Open Water Course on request Euro 500, equipment included.

All travel package will be organize by our travel agent if required :

IL COLORE DEI VIAGGI di Giulia Boretti

[www.ilcoloredeiviaggi.it](http://www.ilcoloredeiviaggi.it)

mail: [info@ilcoloredeiviaggi.it](mailto:info@ilcoloredeiviaggi.it) and phone: +39 348 5168139

## INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

For any general information, you can:

- consult our websites:

<https://www.coralrestorationferidhoomaldives.org/>

<http://www.noohiri.com/>

<https://www.villarosamaldives.com/>

For specific information and reservations, you can:

- write to Claudio Lovato: [diving@noohiri.com](mailto:diving@noohiri.com) and WhatsApp's +39 338 8149712

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