

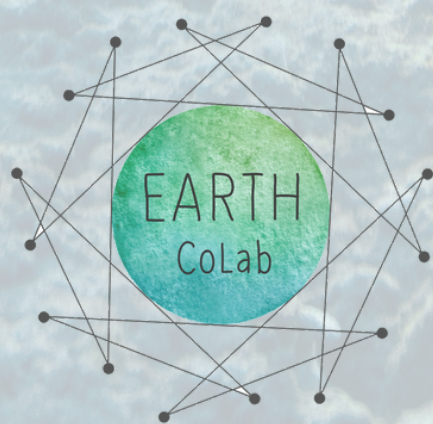


# **THE OCEAN SOUP**

marine invertebrate ecology 101

**22nd - 28th December 2023**

**AN ADVENTURE FOR BEGINNER DIVERS**





# DHIGURAH, MALDIVES

7 days  
10 dives

**ALREADY A CERTIFIED OPEN WATER DIVER,**  
EAGER TO LEARN ABOUT REEF ECOLOGY & OCEAN SYSTEMS?

**NOT A DIVER AS YET?**

YOU CAN GET OPEN WATER CERTIFIED WITH US!

Dhigurah Island, located on the eastern side of South Ari Atoll, is a 3-kilometre long sliver of white sand and green vegetation. It is one of our favourite islands in the region for a variety of reasons. Dhigurah gives us access to the best diving in the South Ari area. The region is graced with the presence of whalesharks year round. And the southern curve of Ari Atoll, exposed to the elements from the east, south and west, makes for very interesting underwater classrooms - in which can be observed both micro- and macro-processes that shape coral reefs.

Dhigurah's beautiful sand bar, stretching towards the south, lines the rim of the atoll, and feels like a vantage point on the edge of the universe.





## What will we be doing on this program?

Refining your underwater skills and self-sufficiency

Becoming conscious divers

Illuminating invisible lives of the marine world



## ITS ALL ABOUT SCALE & CONNECTIVITY!

Reframing how we think about micro and macro

Exploring an infinite world of squishy, crunchy and seemingly inanimate life forms

Tidal flow and zonation

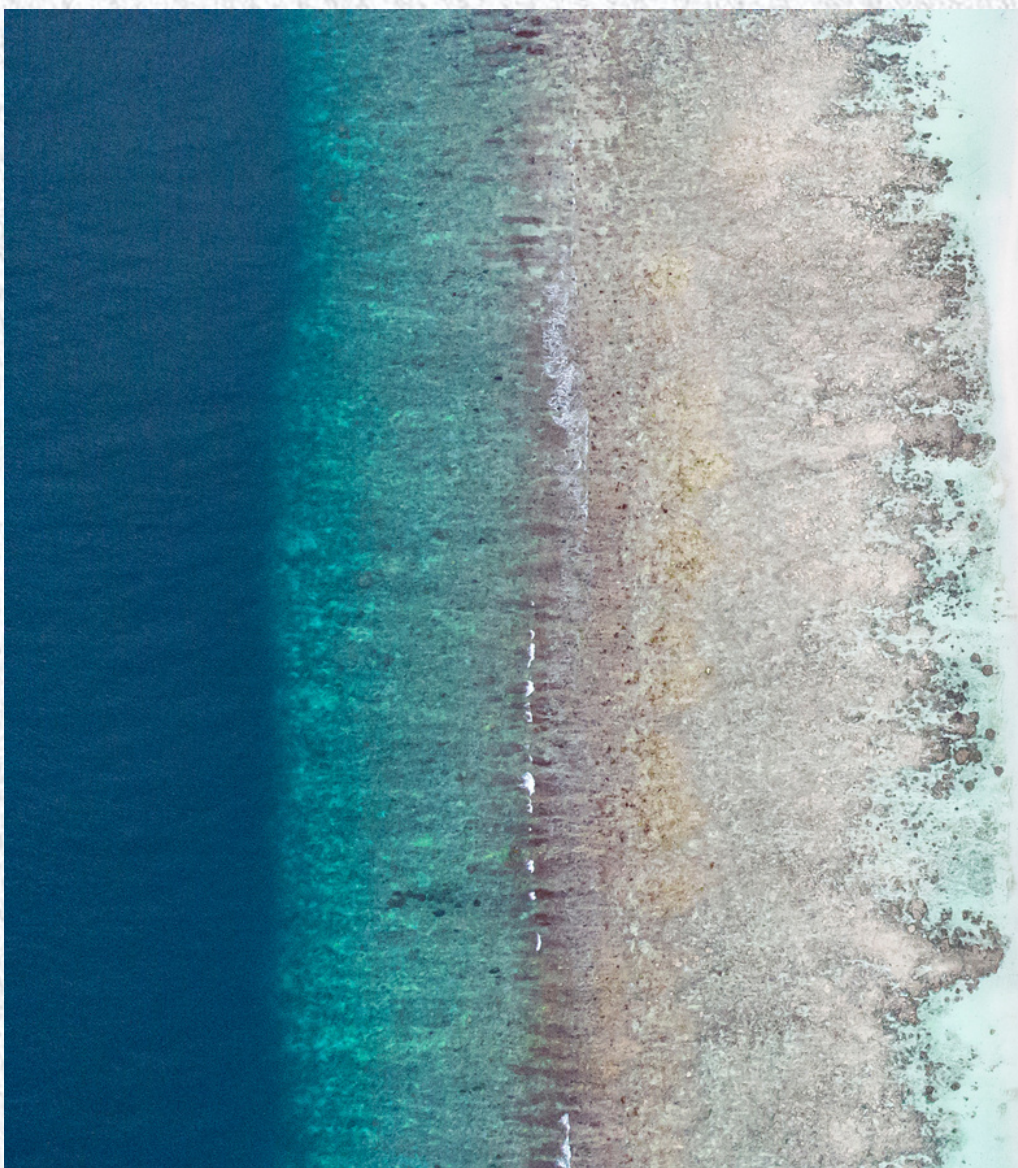
Natural navigation using invertebrates

Vertebrates and their invertebrate hosts / prey

Indicator species & functional groups









# OUR STAY

## ACCOMMODATION & BOAT

TME Retreats Dhigurah is a lovely beach hotel, opened in 2012. It is the first guest house opened in Dhigurah - located a little bit away from the village, yet close enough to walk and enjoy the local island lifestyle of Maldives. A few meters away from the rooms, is a 3km long white sandy beach.

The rooms are bright & airy with common spaces for all our activities post diving - a perfect place for an Earth Colab field learning base.

The dive boat is a big comfortable Dhoni with a small cabin on board as well as a marine toilet. The best part of the Dhoni is the top deck - perfect to catch some sun, post dives to warm up! On rainy days, there is plenty of shelter, a hot water flask for tea, and biscuits!





# YOUR GUIDES

**Umeed** would trade anything for a set of gills...

Initially having explored the world of academics through Marine Biology, Umeed realised that his heart and mind were happier while submerged. He has spent the last 25 years scuba diving, teaching and furthering the spirit of biophilia through his area of expertise. Professionally teaching as a PADI staff instructor, Umeed now conducts specialised underwater photography courses designed to address both ecology and photography. His imagery ranges from fine art to scientific documentation – his practice draws one’s eye to aquatic systems and the detail within. Umeed has applied this combination of skills and interests across fields – with numerous popular publications, book and film contributions, exhibitions, educational material and in the setting up of a marine research dive facility on the Andaman Islands. He has been diving and exploring the Maldives since 1996, and loves looking for little gems off the beaten path.



**Tasneem** will do anything to avoid wearing shoes...

She has spent the last 15 years facilitating interdisciplinary initiatives in the fields of ecology, conservation, education and science communication. Her formal training is in marine zoology and the development of experiential learning pedagogies. After a decade in the Andaman & Nicobar islands, Tasneem managed operations for the Diva Andaman live-aboard in Thailand & set up the Vessel for Inquiry - leading dive expeditions and marine learning programs in the eastern Andaman sea. She is currently exploring the Atlantic, working on setting up a marine observatory and learning centre in Ireland. Her photography and writing are visible across scientific and popular publications, book contributions and in curricular content. Beyond the scope of research and field education, she believes that learning across subject boundaries is fundamental. Sailing, diving, writing, image making and exploring are the binding factors in all her endeavours. She is a proficient diver and has led a number of learning expeditions in the Maldives.



## WHATS INCLUDED

Accommodation (twin sharing)

Inter-island boat transfers

10 dives (with equipment) / Course dives if applicable

Snorkelling gear

Buffet meals & refreshments

Earth Colab field equipment

## NOT INCLUDED & EXTRAS

International Flights (to the Maldives)

Travel & Dive insurance

Additional beverages or Alcoholic beverages

Additional dives

Room service / A la carte menu orders

### TOTAL COST

FOR CERTIFIED DIVERS

**\$2,180**

**BOOK**

### TOTAL COST

DIVERS ON COURSES

**\$2,290**

**BOOK**