MAGIC MALDIVES · TRAVEL GUIDE

Gnaviyani Atoll

One island that is its own atoll — with freshwater lakes, a beach of pebbles rather than sand, and resident tiger sharks.

CAPITAL ISLAND **Fuvahmulah**	INHABITED ISLANDS **1**
FROM MALé **no ferry from Malé; fly to Fuvahmulah in about**	BEST MONTHS **Tiger sharks year-round; February to April is**
AIRPORT **Fuvahmulah (FVM)**	

Known for

Year-round tiger shark diving, two freshwater lakes, and Thoondu beach, made of smooth pebbles instead of sand.

About Gnaviyani Atoll

Fuvahmulah is a single island that forms an entire atoll, which makes it geographically unlike anywhere else in the Maldives. It has freshwater lakes, farmland, a pebble beach, and one of the world's most reliable tiger shark dives.

Getting here

No ferry from Malé. Either fly direct to Fuvahmulah in about eighty-five minutes, or fly to Addu and take the Highway Link ferry, roughly ninety minutes.

Tiger sharks

They are resident, not seasonal, and dived year-round at a site off the harbour. This is a serious dive with strong currents and large animals — go with an operator who runs it regularly.

What else is here

Two freshwater lakes, Dhadimagi Kilhi and Bandaara Kilhi, and Thoondu beach at the northern tip, which is made of smooth white pebbles rather than sand and shifts shape with the monsoon.

Highlights

- Resident tiger sharks, dived year-round
- Two freshwater lakes — almost unheard of in the Maldives
- Thoondu, a pebble beach rather than a sand one
- Its own dialect and a strong local identity

Getting there and getting around

Domestic flight, then boat

From Malé: no ferry from Malé; fly to Fuvahmulah in about 85 min, or fly to Addu and take the Highway Link ferry

There is no practical public ferry from Malé. The realistic route is a domestic flight, then a short boat transfer.

On a local island

A single large island with a real town. No alcohol. Fuvahmulah has a distinct dialect and identity — it is culturally its own place, not a generic Maldivian island.

Common questions

Where can you dive with tiger sharks in the Maldives?

Fuvahmulah. The sharks are resident rather than seasonal, so the dive runs year-round. It is an advanced dive with strong current.

Is Fuvahmulah an island or an atoll?

Both — it is a single island that forms its own atoll, which is why it has freshwater lakes and farmland that other Maldivian islands do not.