



Snorkelling — Amilla

Did you know 99.5% of the official Maldives territory is water?
If you only stay above the surface, you're only seeing 0.5% of
the Maldives!

The Maldives is one of the world's best snorkelling destinations,
and Amilla is set right in the heart of our **Baa Atoll UNESCO
World Biosphere Reserve**, a protected area, famed for its marine
life.

We have a reef surrounding our island which is bursting with life.
Are you ready to take the plunge?

1. Gear Up

PRO TIP: If your mask keeps fogging up, try rubbing some toothpaste or baby shampoo inside it with your fingers, then rinse.

Have you picked up your snorkel gear yet from the H.U.B. Dive Centre? You'll need fins, a snorkel, and a mask. If you're not a strong swimmer, we recommend you use the life jacket provided in your villa. The team will help you find the perfect fit for all your equipment.

Please consider the health of the coral reef when choosing your sun protection. Many sunscreens contain ingredients that can also block the sun from the coral itself. Look for sun protection that states reef-friendly or wear a protective rash/sun shirt.





2. Clue Up

- Please read our advice before snorkelling to ensure your experience is as safe and as enjoyable as possible.
- Always snorkel with a partner if you can, and pop on a lifejacket if you're not a strong swimmer. While the water looks beautiful, sometimes the hidden currents can be strong.
- The current can be strong and changeable close to the reef villas and around the island, not only in areas indicated on the map. Be alert. Consult the Islanders regarding daily sea and weather conditions.
- Other islands on the horizon are much further away than they appear to be, with extremely strong currents and very deep water in-between them, so don't ever attempt to swim to another island.
- We advise always wearing fins, mask and snorkel whenever swimming in the sea.
- Give titan triggerfish a wide berth, particularly during nesting season (April-May). They are very territorial. If you find yourself close to one, swim away as quickly as you can in a horizontal direction (their territory is in a cone-shape, upwards from the ocean/reef floor). If necessary, kick with your fins as a barrier against them.
- Tread carefully and ideally use footwear (water shoes) in the sandy lagoons. Loose coral can scratch and burn your skin.
- Do not ever touch or stand on the coral. Please also take care not to kick it with your fins. Coral is a living organism, and you can kill it just by touching it. Coral helps protect our island from storms and erosion.
- Needlefish are as sharp as their name. Keep some distance when they dart around feeding, especially as dusk approaches.
- Don't swim in the channel where boats regularly arrive and depart the marina.
- Never try to touch or catch the sea creatures or crabs -they are protected by law here.
- Shells are most beautiful in their natural environment, and some are home to crabs. It's illegal to take them home with you. You may also be depriving a crab of a home. Or you could even get a pinch from a crab! Be particularly wary of cone-shaped white and red/brown shells (cone snail shells), as cone snail stings are very dangerous.
- Respect the juvenile black tip reef sharks seen hunting in the shallows. They're very cute and Instagrammable but they could bite (particularly if frightened or pestered). And as a keystone species which plays a vital part in the ecosystem, we don't want to scare them away either

3. Pick a Spot

We've compiled the following guide to help you explore our top snorkelling spots. Please bear in mind that these aquatic creatures and organisms will not only be confined to the indicated areas, since they are wild, and some will move around freely. However, the guide highlights where creatures have been found most frequently.

PRO TIP: Reef action picks up as dusk approaches.



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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Nemo's Spot | J. Lemon Point |
| B. Octopus Alley | K. Snapper Reef |
| C. Humpback Point | L. Beginners Lagoon |
| D. Blue Hole | M. Glassfish Hideaway |
| E. Angels Garden | N. Muraka Adventure |
| F. Gaahaka's House | O. Jungle Jetty |
| G. Casa Clam | P. Fusilier Reef |
| H. Miyaru's Dropoff | Q. Snapper Drop Off |
| I. Ray's Hangout | R. Amilla Viewpoint |

S, T, U - Do not snorkel in these areas.

A. Nemo's spot

Depth: 20m

Water conditions: Calm, gentle current

Sea floor: Mostly sand, with scattered coral

Experience level: Beginner

Are you ready to find Nemo? Try to spot tiny orange clownfish living in the anemone outside villas 108, 116, 119, 121.



B. Octopus Alley

Depth: 4m

Water conditions: Calm, gentle current

Sea floor: Mostly large colonies of coral, a few sandy patches

Experience level: Beginner to intermediate

Take a look around the water near the Reef Villa Jetty for an octopus. They're often spotted around here, although they're masters of camouflage.



C. Humpback Point

Depth: 12m

Water conditions: Calm, gentle current

Sea floor: Coral reef garden

Experience level: Beginner to intermediate

A large school of humpback snapper is regularly found at this spot on the reef. You'll recognise them by their beautiful their red pectoral fins.



D. Blue Hole

Depth: 20m

Water conditions: Medium current.

Sea floor: Coral reef with large cave hole, drop-off and coral-covered wall nearby

Experience level: Intermediate

Amilla's famous Blue Hole is the place to head to for all kinds of fish-life. You'll find them swimming in the blue above the hole. They include large schools of **black snapper**, **red snapper**, **surgeonfish**, **yellow-back fusiliers**, and **rainbow runners**. There are also large schools gathering here of the species of fish seen elsewhere around the island drop-offs (**redtooth triggerfish**, **bannerfish**, **black pyramid butterflyfish**, **sergeants**, **unicornfish**, etc.)



E. Ariels Garden

Depth: 12m

Water conditions: Calm, gentle current

Sea floor: Coral garden

Experience level: Beginner to intermediate

This is one of the prettiest areas of **coral** around the island, with different varieties of hard coral,

F. Gaahaka's House

GAAHAKA'S HOUSE

Depth: 15m

Water conditions: Medium current

Sea floor: Sandy with scattered coral colonies

Experience level: Intermediate

Try looking for the **brown giant clam**! It's on the drop-off, roughly facing villa 206. The reef landmark is a lifebuoy ring floating on the surface and tied down to the reef by a rope.



G. Casa Clam

Depth: 15m

Water conditions: Medium current

Sea floor: Coral garden and coral-covered drop-off

Experience level: Intermediate

There's a resident **green giant clam** at this spot. Search for it on the drop-off, facing villas 202/203. The reef landmark is an entanglement of the rope running along the surface at the drop-off.



H. Miyaru Drop Off

Depth: 20m

Water conditions: Medium current

Sea floor: Coral colonies and some large rocks, adjacent to a coral-covered drop-off

Experience level: Intermediate

Blacktip reef sharks and **nurse sharks** can be seen around the island but this is a particularly popular area for spotting both. Some of the more sizeable blacktips may be circling and hunting fish here. Nurse sharks can sometimes be seen resting under rocks here, too.



L. Ray's Hangout

Depth: 15m

Water conditions: Calm, gentle current

Sea floor: Sandy

Experience level: Beginner to intermediate

Stingrays and **eagle rays** can also be found around Amilla but this is a good spot to chance upon them feeding in the sandy shallows. Expect to also see a few **juvenile snubnose pompano**, too, when swimming in the shallows.



J. Lemon Point

Depth: 4m

Water conditions: Medium current

Sea floor: Coral colonies, rocks and sand

Experience level: Intermediate

Lemon sharks have been sighted many times in this area. If you're lucky you might be able to observe one of these amazing creatures.



K. Snapper Reef

Depth: 4m

Water conditions: Gentle to medium current

Sea floor: Coral garden

Experience level: Beginner to intermediate

A large, beautiful school of **bluestripe snapper** is frequently seen on the reef here.



L. Beginner's Lagoon

Depth: 20m

Water conditions: Calm, gentle current

Sea floor: Sandy, with small, scattered patches of coral

Experience level: Beginner

Outside villa 703, and very close to shore, you can often see **parrot fish**, a couple of nice **clams** and **other small fish species**. This is a good spot for children or newbie snorkellers to try snorkelling.

M. Glassfish Hideaway

Depth: 4m

Water conditions: Medium current

Sea floor: Wall and cave overhang

Experience level: Intermediate

If you're feeling confident, try duck-diving down a few metres to see thousands of **glass fish** around the small cave-like rock overhang.



N. Muraka Adventure

Depth: 20m

Water conditions: Medium current

Sea floor: Rocks, patches of coral and adjacent drop-off

Experience level: Intermediate

A few patches of rare **black coral** grow on the drop-off of this sometimes-accessible area. The landmark is roughly the area where the reef extends an arm a few metres outwards.

O. Jungle Jetty

Depth: 20m

Water conditions: Gentle current

Sea floor: Sandy, with patches of coral

Experience level: Beginner to intermediate

Peek under (and around) the jungle jetty to see several friendly **tallfin batfish**.



P. Fusilier Reef

Depth: 20m

Water conditions: Gentle current

Sea floor: Coral garden, adjacent to steep drop-off

Experience level: Beginner to intermediate

Large schools of **lunar, yellow-tail and yellow-back fusiliers** are frequently observed close to the reef or in the blue here. The landmark is fairly close to the jungle jetty.



Q. Snapper Drop Off

Depth: 20m

Water conditions: Medium current

Sea floor: Coral reef drop-off

Experience level: Intermediate

A large school of **bluestripe snapper** is often seen this part of the reef at the drop-off. The landmark is the seaplane platform during the rainy season – if you're here in dry season, just ask the H.U.B. Dive Centre team to help orientate you.

R. Amilla Viewpoint

Depth: 1m

Water conditions: Medium current

Sea floor: Sandy

Experience level: Intermediate

Amilla viewpoint – In between reef villas 116-118 is an interesting vantage point from which you can observe the island of Amilla rising vertically out of the deep. Swim a few metres into the blue, turn around, and soak up the views. Also try looking from close to the barrel buoys (when conditions permit).



S. DO NOT SWIM

Boat channel into marina. Do not snorkel here.

T. STRONG CURRENT

Beware the **strong current** that is very frequently found in this area. Do not snorkel here

U. STRONG CURRENT

There's also a **strong current** very often in this area. Avoid this area.



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