



SPORTS FISHING
FACTSHEET

Kurumba
MALDIVES

Need a little "Reel" Therapy?

Fishing is one of the main activities around the Maldives and during the day sports fishing in Maldivian seas will most likely be successful. Our boat "Scorpius" has been specifically designed for sports fishing and boasts all the latest fishing equipment associated with landing the ultimate pelagic species that inhabit the Indian Ocean. Expect to latch on to species such as Yellow Fin tuna, Barracuda, Trevally, Wahoo, Sail fish and Dorado.

Depending on the target species we can use a variety of light trolling gear to help maximize your change at a strike. You can be sure that even the smallest of Jack fish will put up excellent sport for the angling enthusiast.

We have been utilizing the new lightweight jigs that have been made popular by the Japanese, these are coupled with dedicated rods and braided line to maximize movement from the rod tip to the jig - we have found that this method has a better catch rate than live baits and can assure anglers that nearly everything with teeth can be caught using this method. Expect the most exciting sport from giant Trevally's where we offer the angler our boat to search the reefs early morning and evening with poppers cast to the reef and retrieved at a fast rate, the takes from these fish have to be seen to be believed, the experience of hooking one will have you addicted to this kind of angling.

This adventure activity will surely keep you engaged and thus prevent you from getting bored on your vacation.

We provide all the top gear including *Shimano*, *Daiwa* & *Penn*. We do not provide fly-fishing gear however this is becoming more popular with enthusiasts.

Scorpius Facts and Figures



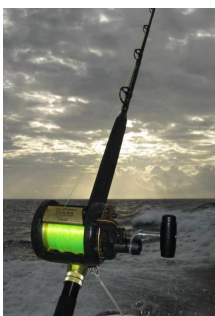
Size: 12 meters in length & 3.25 meters in width

Motors: YANMAR 6LYA-STP, 350 HP, with an ONAN 12 KV generator.

Safety Equipment: GPS, Life jackets, Life rings, CB-5 flags, fire extinguishers, First aid kit, depth finder, HF radio set and a mobile phone for easy communication.

Sports Fishing Equipment: Shimano, Penn and Daiwa fishing rods and reels with required lures for the targeted species.

Crew Qualifications: captain with crew trained and certified for techniques on international best practice recognized by IGFA.



Lures & Bait

The types of lure we use are surface running skirted trolling lures. When run behind the boat, trolled, they tend to 'work' in a repetitive cycle. A lure that is working properly runs through the following cycle: it comes to the surface, grabs air 'breathing', dives down leaving a long bubble trail, 'smoking' and when it stops smoking, it comes up for another breath. It should not run under the water without a smoke trail for any length of time.

All the different shapes and sizes go through these motions with different aggressions and timing. How often a lure goes through the working cycle depends on sea conditions, boat speed, lure position, line class and rigging.

When choosing lures we tend to specify them according to the species of fish we most desire to catch, such as Blue Marlin lures, Sailfish lures, Tuna lures, Wahoo lures, etc.

Our experienced fishing crew will make the best possible effort in catching the main game fish species in the Maldives such as Wahoo, Dorado, Trevally, Tuna or Sailfish. The crew will deploy various types of fishing lures for mainly trolling throughout the entire duration of your fishing trip to target these game fish depending on the time, day and sea conditions.

Casting surface popper lures along the reef edges to target mainly Jackfish will be another technique to increase your chance of a catch. This will also provide our fishing guests with the opportunity to actively participate onboard.

Lures for Billfish, Tuna, Dorado and Wahoo



* Shown above are some examples of the lures we deploy / utilize for the above mentioned fish.

Lures for Trevally (popper fishing)



* Shown here are some examples of the lures we deploy for popper fishing. These lures work best in shallow water over the reef and require a lot of casting.

FISHING FAQ'S

Can I catch a fish every trip?

Fishing is the same in the Maldives as it is in Russia, Britain or Spain. Sometimes the fish are on the bite and sometimes not. The reality is, the larger the fish you are targeting, the lower chance of a catch. Adding some time for bottom fishing or casting poppers for Trevally certainly increase your chance of at least catching something. We recommend trying a few different methods throughout your excursion.

If we are trolling with lures, will we get a strike straight away?

Sports fishing does require a lot of patience. The serious game fishing sportsman or women accept that you can go a whole day of towing lures and still not get a strike.

I have never use a game rod, if a fish strikes, how do I use it?

Game fishing is about patience, if you are lucky enough to get a strike, it is important to be patient. If you reel too hard, you will break the line or the fish will drop the hook. Hence, it is best to let the fish run, play the game and use the drop and reel technique. Drop the rod down when you reel in, and pull up the rod slowly without reeling. This will let the rod and the drag of the reel to ensure that the line should not break. If the hook is set, you are patient and methodical, it will greatly increase or chances of landing the fish. Let the drag on the reel do its work even on a smaller fish. Please note that the line can break from being over aggressive or being cut by the fish itself. If the fish turns and comes back to you, you will need to be quicker on the reel to avoid slack line and the change of the fish breaking the line or spitting the hook.

Why is it important to catch, take a photo and release?

Even in the Maldives, catching big game fish is becoming more difficult due to the reduced practice of catch and release. Hence it is important that we try our best to protect this for future visits and the environment. We greatly appreciate that you help us as we see a large fish kill as a quite sad event.

What is the best season for catching sports fish?

Generally the best period for "big game" sports fishing is January to April, however there is still a chance on a big strike in other times of year. If the season is in the southwest monsoon, we certainly advise that you mix it up a little with some big game fishing, throw some poppers for Trevally in the shallow waters and even do some reef fishing with baits to give yourself a chance with a Coral Trout, Red Sea Bass or Coral Cod.

January to April – Northeast Monsoon

From December, currents start to flow east to west through the atolls. Water clarity improves to 30+ metres on the eastern side of the atolls, with lots of action on the channel corners and submerged reefs due to the currents congregating the fish life. Currents tend to be stronger in February, but the surface water is calm, light winds and settled weather is the norm. Water temperature can rise to 30 degrees Celsius, so billfish often stay a little deeper. March and April continue along the same vein of calm conditions, until the storm clouds start to build from the southwest in late April. With the currents running out of the atolls on the west, the water is very plankton rich. Underwater visibility on the west of the atoll during this time is generally 10 – 15 metres.

May – November – Southwest Monsoon

Fishing on the western side of the atolls during the south west monsoon season can see some good Yellow fin fishing. Currents are generally less strong and again very good visibility of 30m+. Water temperatures are slightly lower which means billfish can be seen in closer to the atoll drop off. During the southwest monsoon, on the eastern side of the atolls can also be good yellow fin conditions, but often need to head out 10 – 15 kms off the atolls. Overall weather can be very unpredictable, with often strong winds and heavy rain periods generally lasting 1-3 days. This is the period with the highest rain fall per month, but can offer the biggest diversity of fish when you are able to get out. If the weather is poor, you are still besting holding tight to the edges of the atoll.

MALDIVES FISHING SEASONS

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marlin												
Sailfish												
Yellow fin Tuna												
Other Tuna												
Trevally												
Wahoo												
Dorado												
Barracuda												
			Very Good				Good				Fair	

SPORTS FISHING ZONES IN NORTH MALE ATOLL



Depending on the time of year, we normally do fishing around the northern region of North Male atoll and this also depends on your expected comfort level.

In these periods, we travel to fishing locations 30 to 45 minutes away from Kurumba before we wet the lines to give you the best chance.

Fishing grounds – location 1

Dhiffushi channel - 16 NM, 30 minutes from Kurumba (near Meeru Island Resort)

Fishing grounds - location 2

Vaadhoo channel - 7 NM, 20 minutes from Kurumba

Fishing grounds - location 3

Boduhithi channel - 15 NM, 45 minutes from Kurumba (near One & Only Reethi Rah)

*We do cruise beyond the specified locations to make the trip more successful for your satisfaction

RELEASING HINTS

As mentioned previously, we greatly appreciate any fish released as this will allow a future to sports fishing in the Maldives. A big game fish should be released alive as soon as possible and at times can take up to 10 minutes to revive.

There is a mandatory catch and release policy for all Billfish such as Sailfish & Marlin found in the Maldives. There is also a catch limit for other game fish species such as Wahoo, Dorado, Jack fish or Trevally & Tuna commonly caught. All undersized or mature breeding specimens must be released at the discretion of our crew to ensure the long term sustainability of these fish. Our fishing crew has been trained by an IGFA (International Game Fish Association) member to safely catch and revive all game fish as part of the ongoing effort to minimize the fishing impact in Maldivian waters. Fishing guests are encouraged to take a quick photo to minimize stress on the fish before releasing after proper revival. Generally, larger fish specimens such as a Sailfish or large Jack fish will take a longer time to resuscitate for a healthy release. Revival time taken will vary depending on the size of fish and time taken to reel in the fish. This again, is done at our crew's discretion. Our fishing crew will assist you in taking a few quick photos of the fish before release. For exceptionally large Marlin or Sailfish, in-water photos at the stern of the boat are encouraged as it will not be possible nor practical to safely bring onboard the fish for photos. Safety is the utmost priority for both fish & guests onboard.

CATCH AND RELEASE POLICY



Our team has been trained in catching and releasing billfish and we are keen to ensure future fishing stocks for the generation ahead. There is a policy that all billfish including Marlin and Sailfish have to be released. With regards to other pelagic species, we keep enough for lunch or dinner and release excess fish in healthy condition.

TARGET SPECIES - SAILFISH



The Sailfish belongs to the family Istiophoridae and is related to the Swordfish and the Marlin. Named after its high, deep blue and black dorsal fin, it has a pike-like upper jaw and small scales embedded in its skin. Their average length is 6 ft, although they can reach an impressive 10 ft. The Pacific Sailfish, *I. orientalis*, specifically grows around 100 lbs. Many sources believe that the Sailfish is the fastest fish, capable of swimming in bursts of 70 mph.

TARGET SPECIES - DORADO OR DOLPHIN FISH



Commonly called Dolphin Fish or Dorado, these beautifully marked pelagic and migratory fish inhabit all of the world's tropical seas. It is a prized light tackle sport fishing target and well respected for its acrobatic and aerial display. Vivid gold and blue when lit up during the fight it will readily take lures and flies cast around floating structure as well as baits cast in their vicinity when feeding.

TARGET SPECIES - WAHOO



Wahoo belong to an exclusive grouping of fish that also include Tuna and Mackerel. It is very similar in shape to Spanish mackerel but can be distinguished by its different jaw structure, the almost uniform length of its dorsal fin and its display of over 24 cobalt-blue vertical bars over their silvery sides. A truly majestic fish when lit up in hunting or fighting mode and a prime light tackle sport fish.

Wahoo are usually caught while trolling for other species and are a fairly solitary fish. They are a true tropical speedster, swimming and slashing at its intended quarry of flying fish, squid and small Tuna. Marlin fisherman have cause to curse their encounter with this fish as they are known to slash at the feathery spray of water coming from the point where the line enters the water during a big run. Many monster Marlin have been lost to this unfortunate event.

Their scissor like jaw action with razor sharp teeth can inflict a nasty cut, so use extreme caution when handling.

TARGET SPECIES - GIANT TREVALLY / JACK FISH / BLUE FIN JACK

More commonly called just GT's by most anglers, Giant Trevally are marauding brutes right up there with the best. Commonly caught by both lure and bait fisherman, specimens range from the smaller 2-3lbs school Trevally commonly caught in the estuary environment, right up to the 50lbs thugs. Caught around the reef structure and current lines, and these magnificent fighting fish probably offer (pound for pound) one of the hardest fishing contests in the Maldives.

They will repeatedly crash surface poppers and fizzers with great gusto until hooked, ambush deep diving lures around any structure and pick off a live baitfish. Fish to 25kgs (50lbs) are prime targets but will require the best of quality tackle, many big fish being lost to the razor coral edges. Good quality 6kgs tackle is the minimum required. There is a growing sector of the sport where GT's alone are targeted in the Maldives. Most common method to catch the Jack fish is by trolling using surface popper lures.

TARGET SPECIES - TUNA

Tuna is another popular pelagic fish found throughout the warm tropical seas of the Maldives although their average size is a bit down on those fish caught further south in the cooler waters.

They can be caught using trolled baits or lures, or site-casting chromed slice lures to quite large schools marauding bait fish on the surface. Matching the lure size to that of these bait fish is often paramount, tuna's having exceptional eye sight, will often refuse any offering not matching their single minded attack on these schools.

Fish up to 50 kg are quite common and are exceptional eating, raw tuna (sushi) is considered a delicacy and command very high prices for quality fish. Big yellow fin arrive just prior to the Marlin season while dog tooth are renowned tackle busters on the reef edges. The northern waters see huge schools of seasonal pods of northern Bluefin / longtail Tuna. These fishes are excellent targets on medium spin fishing tackle. When yellowfins hit, they hit hard, usually hooking themselves with no help from you and yanking the line off the reel at a rapid rate.

SPORTS FISHING BOOKING FORM

We hereby agree and accept that the terms and conditions stated on this Booking Form.

Names of the guest : _____

Total guests : _____

Day and date : _____

Room number : _____

Dietary requirements : _____

Price : _____ Total USD ++ _____

Special notes : _____

To consider

- There is a bathroom on board the game fishing boat.
- This activity could be cancelled due weather or other issues.
- A confirmation letter will be provided to advise what items you will need to bring.
- We understand that fishing has an element of chance and agree that the resort is not responsible if I do not catch a fish.
- We agree to the catch and release of all billfish.

Conditions & Indemnity

Any persons wishing to participate in any above mentioned activity, tour, transfer or associated services supplied with this activity hereby accepts to the following terms and conditions. For the purpose of this indemnity, Kurumba Maldives operating as Universal Resorts and its subsidiaries shall be referred to as Kurumba Maldives.

- A) The participant acknowledges and agrees that in undertaking the activity that the participant may expose themselves to certain risks, dangers and are aware of those.
- B) The participant agrees to conduct themselves in a safe manner.
- C) Agrees to release, indemnify and hold harmless Kurumba Maldives from all liability arising from participating in the activity. By signing this form, the participant agrees that they are over 18 years old and accepts the terms and conditions set out in this indemnity.

By signing this form, I hereby agree to the following Indemnity, terms and conditions signed overleaf and will not touch any coral or marine life.

Guest Signature

Date of Booking

Team Member