



SELECTION PROCESS OF BAA ATOLL BIOSPHERE RESERVE TOUR GUIDE

- The applicant must fill the required application form and Submit all necessary documents mentioned in the application form to Environmental Protection Agency
- The applicant must have thorough knowledge of Hanifaru Management plan and Hanifaru Management Regulation.
- The certification must be made available to all operators and individuals with a fee of 300 rufiyaa for each certificate.
- The applicant must be familiar with the following laws and regulation
- Environment Protection and Preservation Act 4/93
- Hanifaru management Regulation
- Whale Shark Guideline
- Knowledge of Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve
- Knowledge of Marine Environment and Mega Fauna
- Baa Atoll Conservation Program and its UNESCO zonation system,
- The applicant must have general knowledge about the Maldives Marine Environment
- The applicant must be able to speak and write in English
- The applicant must have pass 85 % and above from the Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Tour Guide Registration Exam

QUALIFICATIONS;

To become an in water Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve tour guide an individual should be an **ACTIVE** certified dives master or above.

THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

According to the Hanifaru Management Plan any person who wish to be registered as a Baa Atoll



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Biosphere Reserve tour guide must apply to Environment Protection Agency. The Application form must be accompanied by:

- 2 ID sized photos
- Registration fee of Rf 300 (nonrefundable)
- Copy of Dive Qualification
- Updated curriculum Vitae

All applicants must complete an Exam given provided by Environmental Protection Agency

HANIFARU TOUR GUIDE REGISTRATION EXAM

- After the application form is submitted to EPA, If the applicant is eligible for a Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve tour guide he or she must complete a Multiple Choice exam provided by Environmental Protection Agency.
- The exam consists of **FIFTY (50) multiple** choice questions which includes questions from Maldives environment law, Hanifaru management plan, Whale Shark Guideline, Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve, Protected Areas of Maldives, Baa Atoll Conservation Program and its UNESCO zonation system.
- The applicant should score minimum 85% to become a certified biosphere reserve Tour Guide.

RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION

Any person registered as a Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve tour guide, must renew 1 month before the end of the period for which he or she has been registered.

LOST OR DAMAGED CARD OR BADGE

If a badge or a card issued to the tour guide has been destroyed, lost or damaged, the tour guide must apply in writing for the replacement thereof and the application must be accompanied by a fee of R100.

CONDUCT OF TOUR GUIDES

• All in-water tour guides MUST have an official government certification by EPA to undertake guiding activities within Hanifaru Marine Protected Area.





- This certification can be used as a permit to enter Hanifaru Bay as well.
- All the operators will be responsible for their guides to obtain and maintain their certification.
- All tour groups (visitors) must be accompanied by an official certified tour guide with a maximum of 10 clients per guide.
- The number of persons in the water of the Bay at any one time shall not exceed 80.
- Certified guides would be responsible for the education of all clients associated with Hanifaru bay and the mega fauna.
- All tour guides need to ensure all clients entering Hanifaru Bay are fully aware and abide by the specific requirements of their permit and the Hanifaru Management Regulation.
- Only free diving (snorkeling) is permitted from January 2012.
- SCUBA diving is prohibited from January 2012.
- All physical contact (e.g. touching, ride on) with the mega fauna is prohibited.
- All visitors and guides are to maintain a minimum distance of three (3) meters from all mega fauna and every effort must be taken not to actively swim directly in front of any animal. In the case that an animal swims directly at a tourist the individual needs to remain motionless (e.g. floating) at the surface until the animal moves away.
- The Certificate of Tour Guides will be revoked for any breach Hanifaru Management Regulation, will be penalized according to the Hanifaru Management Regulation.

PROHIBITIONS TO THE ACT

- No person who is not a registered Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve tour guide or whose registration as a Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve tour guide has been suspended or withdrawn, may for reward, whether monetary or otherwise, act as a Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve tour guide.
- Any party who breaches the Hanifaru Management Plan and Hanifaru Management Regulation shall be subjected to penalties as defined in Hanifaru Management Regulation and Environmental Liability Regulation (regulation number R-9 /2011).
- Hanifaru Management Authority reserves the right to withdraw/suspend,





permits/licenses for those who breach the Management Plan.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT :

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