STUART SCUBA FISH GUIDE FOR

Maldives

PART 1 OF 2 • Find these first



Meyer's Butterflyfish

Chaetodon meyeri

Up to about 8 in

Curving dark lines cross pale body and yellow-edged face.



Oriental Sweetlips

Plectorhinchus vittatus

Up to about 28 in

Adults have dark stripes; check the bright yellow fins.



Clown Triggerfish

Balistoides conspicillum

Up to about 20 in

Large white spots low on dark body; yellow lips.



Moorish Idol

Zanclus cornutus

Up to about 9½ in

Black-and-yellow markings, tubular snout and long curved dorsal streamer.



Yellow Boxfish

Ostracion cubicus

Up to about 18 in

Young fish look like yellow cubes with black dots.



Peacock Grouper

Cephalopholis argus

Up to about 24 in

Black-edged blue spots, sometimes with pale bars toward tail.

Compare shape and markings. Observe without touching or chasing.

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Background: Maldives atolls, NASA / USGS Landsat

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PART 2 OF 2 • Look a little closer



Spotted Garden Eel

Heteroconger hassi

Up to about 16 in

Thin pale eel with dark spots and prominent patches.



Bluestreak Cleaner Wrasse

Labroides dimidiatus

Up to about 5 in

Dark side stripe broadens toward tail; watch cleaning stations.



Coral Hind

Cephalopholis miniata

Up to about 20 in

Look for tiny blue spots on red-orange or brown.

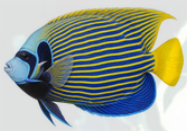


Giant Moray

Gymnothorax javanicus

Up to about 8 ft

Heavy moray with dark spots and a broad head.



Emperor Angelfish

Pomacanthus imperator

Up to 15 in

Adult has yellow-blue horizontal stripes and a dark mask.



Regal Angelfish

Pygoplites diacanthus

Up to about 10 in

Orange-yellow body crossed by blue-white, dark-edged bars.

Compare shape and markings. Observe without touching or chasing.

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