



The Maldives are known as "the tropical paradise" for reasons such as its beauty. This tropical country has separated islands and islands are surrounded by its own lagoon. Each island has pure white sandy beaches.

The sea covers 99% of the Maldives and it is where you can see beautiful fishes and corals. There are over five thousand coral reefs and plenty of reef fish, corals, and many other marine lives you could see underwater. Diving in the Maldives would be memorable

A vacation in the Maldives would be relaxing with the white sand beaches and coconut palms surrounded. The first thing you will see when you look at an island from a distance will be coconut palms and green trees. If you are travelling from a seaplane you could see the beautiful islands from the window, and give you an amazing experience of seeing the small chained islands from above.

Maldives is an ideal destination for a family holiday or a honeymoon trip where you can enjoy and have a memorable vacation. Visiting and exploring the beauty of the Maldives would be a wonderful experience.



Stay in Maldives

The special look and feel of the Maldives is aided by the law that stipulates no building can be higher than the palm trees on its island.

Essentially there are two types of room on any resort: the beach bungalow and the water bungalow (they may also be called villas or suites). A couple of resorts have two storey blocks of rooms and a few upmarket resorts have mezzanine or second floors, but ninety odd percent of resort rooms are single storey with nothing above them. Beach bungalows are land rooms off the beach, water bungalows on stilts over the lagoon.

The best rooms are those that give you a sense of being at one with of the island; you are close to the beauty of its nature yet cocooned in comfort. That maybe the cosiness of rustic simplicity (harder to find these days in the Maldives) or it may be modernist high design, but it probably isn't 50" HD satellite television, Bose surround sound, thick concrete walls and heavy draped curtains

Some resorts have 'garden villas', which are not on the beach but somewhere in the middle of the island. These are the economy rooms or given out only when the resort is full.



Beach Villa With Private Pool



Beach Residence with Private Pool



Overwater Villa with Private Pool



Sunset Overwater Villa with Private Pool



Overwater Residence with Private Pool



Sunset Overwater Residence with Pool

Things to do Maldives



Surfing



Diving & Snorkelling

Whale Sharks: Gnaviyani Atoll
Whale Sharks: South Ari Atoll
Whale Sharks: North Male' Atoll
Whale Sharks: Baa Atoll
Diving In Addu Atoll
Diving In North Malé Atoll



Natural Attraction

Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve
Addu Nature Park



Cultural Hotspots

Kuruhinna Tharaagandu
Hukuru Miskiy & Munnaaru
Muleeaage, (Malé City)
Uttheemu Ganduvaru

Things to do

Surfing



The Maldives is located right in the middle of the Indian Ocean and benefits from full exposure to southern swells and to excellent surfing conditions on the outer reefs of atolls. With an average water temperature of around 28-degree Celsius, surfing conditions are good throughout the surfing season from in mid-February to November, however you can experience the best conditions from March to May and September to end of November.

North Male' Atoll was the first to be discovered for its waves and hence it is the most popular with surfers and the most accessible as well due to the large number of resorts and its close proximity to the international airport. The consistent waves at various surf points in the atoll offer some of the longest rides in the country. Some famous surf locations in the atoll include Cokes at Thulusdhoo, Lhohís, at Lhohífushi island, Jailbreaks, Honky's, Male' Island Point, Sultans and Ninjas, all along the eastern rim of the atoll.

For many surfers, Huvadhoo Atoll, in the southern group of the atoll chain offers the coolest waves in the Maldives, most of them located on the southern rim of the atoll. Beacons, Tiger Stripes, Castaways, Blue Bowls, Airports, Five Islands, Two Ways, Love Charms and Antiques are some of the well-known surf points in the atoll.



DIVING & SNORKELING



WHALE SHARKS: GNAVIYANI ATOLL

WHALE SHARKS: SOUTH ARI ATOLL

WHALE SHARKS: NORTH MALE' ATOLL

WHALE SHARKS: BAA ATOLL



DIVING IN ADDU ATOLL

Addu Atoll offers a choice of stunning dives in a range of diverse dive locations. The reefs of the atoll were not affected by the coral bleaching event of 1998 which affected the rest of the country and therefore you can expect to see healthier coral growth wherever you dive. The atoll is also suitable for less advanced divers as the currents are weaker than at most other dive sites around the country.

The atoll offers the opportunity to dive with mantas throughout the year. One of the most exciting dives in the atoll is the British Loyalty wreck, a British naval vessel that was torpedoed by German U-boats during World War II. Other highlights include the Shark Point where you can see grey reef sharks in what has become known as the 'Shark Hotel'; the Turtle Point where Hawksbill and Green Sea Turtles are seen regularly and the Kanduu Huraa Region, with four different dive points and home to a plethora of marine life including mantas, nurse sharks, turtles and rays. Gan Inside is perfect for beginners where it is shallower yet offers a variety of marine life round the year.



DIVING IN NORTH MALÉ ATOLL

Male' Atoll offers a large number of varied and well-established dive sites for the avid diver. Being the first atoll to have established tourism, the dive sites in the atoll are among the most popular in the country. Amazing underwater scenery, marine species ranging from colorful reef fishes to large species such as manta and sharks are all on offer in the atoll.

The Maldives Victory Wreck is perhaps the most popular wreck dive in the atoll. The wreck sits at a depth of about 35 meters and since it sank in 1981, it has been encrusted with an amazing array of colorful corals. Groupers, fusiliers and batfish are among its residents.

Although Ari Atoll is famous for its pelagics, North Male' Atoll offers some parallels. Located in the southeast of the atoll, Manta Point is famous for its mantas which gather at the site to feed during the southwest monsoon from May to October. The reef offers a colorful array of corals and a variety of marine life.

Nassimo Thila with its beautiful caves and coral formations, HP Reef with its caves and crevices, and Banana Reef with its wealth of fish and sea life are also some of the most popular dive sites in North Male' Atoll.



Natural Attraction



BAA ATOLL BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Baa Atoll located in the central region of the atoll chain that form the Maldives is considered globally significant in terms of its biodiversity. The atoll covers an area of over 139,000 hectares and is situated just north of the Kaashidhoo channel that geographically separates the northern chain of atolls from the central chain. Baa atoll consists of several habitats that support the rich biodiversity of the atoll and includes coral reefs, islands, sea grass beds and mangroves.

Coral reefs are the most important habitat type in terms of area as well as biodiversity and is home to a high diversity of reef species, which includes 1,200 reef associated marine species, 250 species of stony and soft corals and populations of marine turtles, manta rays, whale sharks and seabirds. These also include threatened and endangered species such as the green turtle, hawksbill turtle, Napoleon wrasses, and tawny nurse shark.

The reserve consists of nine core areas in which extraction of any kind is prohibited. The areas are highly protected and are conferred the highest levels of conservation. They are clearly defined management areas that have a high ecological significance in terms of marine and terrestrial biodiversity. The limited activities permitted within the boundaries of these areas are monitored through stringent management systems, codes of conduct and due diligence from all users. Anchoring of any boat, unless in emergencies is prohibited in these areas.





ADDU NATURE PARK

Addu Atoll is the southernmost atoll in the Maldives atoll chain. There are altogether five inhabited islands, which form six administrative districts, in the atoll. The islands on the western flank of the atoll are connected by a 16-kilometer link road and stretches from Hithadhoo in the north to Gan in the southernmost point of the atoll. The atoll consists of islands that have their very own unique characteristics that are quite different from the rest of the country.

Addu Atoll hosts the second largest wetlands area in the Maldives. The Addu Nature Park encompasses the beautiful Eydhigali Kilhi wetlands and protected Koathey area in Hithadhoo Island. The park features charming piers extending out to the lakes, mangroves and scenic cycling routes through the lush vegetation of the wetlands. You can take a guided nature tour through the park and observe the unique fauna and flora of the rich habitat. Canoeing in the bay area known as Bedhi famous for its beautiful red mangroves, baby stingrays and sharks is one of the most memorable experience in the Park.

The flight time to Gan from Velana International Airport is approximately one and a half hours. Several daily flights operate from Velana International Airport. International airlines also operate to Gan, mainly from Colombo.



Cultural Hotspots

UTHEEMU GANDUVARU (HAA ALIF UTHEEMU)



Utheemu Ganduvaru is the birthplace and home of Sultan Mohamed Thakurufaanu, one of the most revered heroes in Maldivian history. Utheemu Ganduvaru, which translates to Utheemu Palace is located in Utheemu in Haa Alifu Atoll, in the northernmost extremes of the Maldives.

In 1558 the Portuguese invaded the Maldives killing the Sultan in battle and establishing their rule over Maldives. Mohamed Thakurufaanu, and his brothers Ali and Hassan left the Maldives to Minicoy to make preparations for their campaign to free the country from Portuguese rule. Kalhuohfummí, the boat they built for their campaign, played a crucial role in their efforts. The band of fighters led by the Mohamed Thakurufaanu and his brothers fought the Portuguese for eight years. In order to evade capture, they would land on different islands in the darkness of the night, fought the Portuguese and left before daybreak. Eventually they landed in Male' and defeated the Portuguese leadership in the capital. Free from the shackles of the Portuguese, the people chose Mohamed Thakurufaanu as the Sultan.

MULEEAAGE, THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT (MALÉ CITY)



Today Muleeaage is the official palace of the President and is a must-see in any Male' tour. Muleeaage marked its hundredth anniversary in 2019. The Palace that stand today was built during the period 1914 to 1919. The site was the ancestral home of former Sultans and royalty. However, Muleeaage never served as a Sultan's Palace.

Muleeaage was built by Sultan Mohamed Shamsuddeen III for his son Prince Hassan Izzuddeen in preparation for his arrival in the Maldives after completing his education in Ceylon. The Prince occupied the Palace from 1920 to 1934. The Prince was arrested, and the building was in disuse until World War II. Since then except for brief periods the building was used for various government administrative purposes or as a residence for visiting heads of states and other dignitaries.

HUKURU MISKIY & MUNNAARU (MALÉ CITY)



Hukuru Miskiy built in 1658 and the minaret adjacent to the mosque built in 1675 are the oldest built structures in Male' today. In addition to being the most revered center of worship for many centuries, Hukuru Miskiy is of great cultural and historical significance to the Maldives and stands witness to the skills of Maldivian craftsmen of the time.

The mosque is built with interlocking coral blocks that are adorned with intricate coral carvings. The roof is supported by cut coral columns and its vaulted, decorated ceiling fashioned by master carpenters. Its interiors contain masterpieces of traditional Maldivian woodcarving and lacquer work.

The area adjacent to the mosque contains a 17th-century graveyard with intricately carved tombstones and tombs. The tombstones with rounded tops mark the graves of women and the ones with the pointed tops mark the graves of men. Gilded inscriptions on the tombstones indicate that the grave belongs to royalty.

KURUHINNA THARAAGANDU (KAAFU KAASHIDHOO)



The island of Kaashidhoo lies about 86 kilometers from Male, the capital. Although the island belongs to the administrative region of Male' Atoll, the Kaashidhoo atoll is a separate natural atoll north of Male' Atoll, separated by the Kaashidhoo Channel. Kaashidhoo is known for its agriculture and is one the biggest suppliers of fresh fruits and vegetables to the Male' market.

The island is the site of one of the largest archeological sites in the country that demonstrates the Buddhist past of the Maldives before the advent of Islam in the twelfth century.

The site known as the Kuruhinna tharaagandu are the ruins of an ancient Buddhist monastery believed to have been in use in the pre-Islamic period. The excavation conducted between 1996 and 1998 revealed the ruins of what would have been a sprawling monastery complex with multiple structures. The excavated site is almost 1900 square kilometers and revealed more than sixty coral stone structures, which archeologists believe is just a part of the whole complex. As one would expect only the lower part of structures have survived during the nine hundred years since it has been abandoned.

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