



GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION MALDIVES

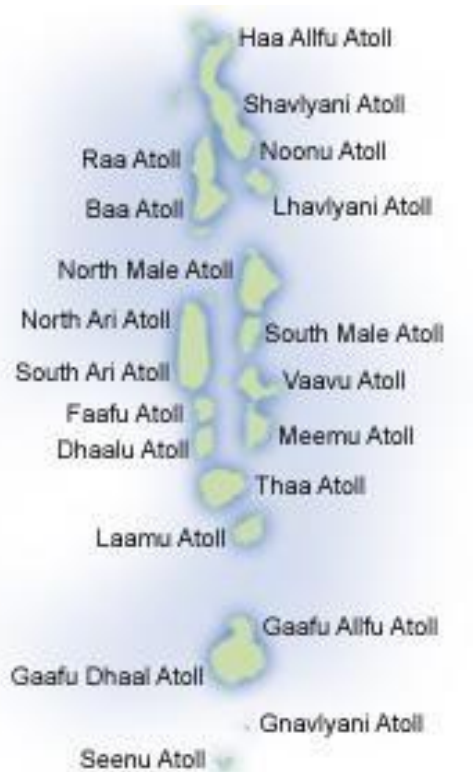


The Maldives, also known as the Republic of Maldives is a South Asian Country located in the Arabic Sea. Its closest neighbor is Sri Lanka and is a mere 1000 KM from the Indian Continent. The uniqueness about the Maldives is that it consists of many Islands clustered into "atolls". With a constellation of 26 Atolls, Maldives boasts a staggering 1200 Islands which are either inhabited or uninhabited. With a territory spanning 298 square kilometers and population of approx. 430,000, The Maldives holds the distinction of been the smallest Asian country by land and population. The Island nation is a devote Islamic state and Male city is the official capital. The Maldives was a British protectorate until its independence in 1965.

Though Maldives seems small and barely visible on a World map, it out beats most nations with its heartstopping beaches. A paradise right here on earth. Making the most of its blessed beauty, Maldives ventured into Tourism in 1972. The inflow of tourist is recorded to have started in February 1972 once the two resorts, namely Kurumba Island Resort and Bandos Island Resort opened its doors. Currently there are over 140 registered resorts in the Maldives with almost all International brands fighting for a place of prestige. The star-studded list of brands is endless from the Sheraton, Four Seasons, St. Regis, Astoria Waldorf etc fighting for bragging rights in the Maldives which attracts celebrities from Royalty, Music, Sports etc. This is mainly due the fact that it is mostly "one Island, one resort", thereby guaranteeing privacy, quality and relaxation.

The growth in Tourism has been phenomenal. With just two resorts in 1972, the Maldives is

now 140 plus resorts strong and it welcomed over 1.4 million tourists in 2018. With significant infrastructure growth, tourists could now easily access the island resorts via sea plane, domestic flights and speed boats. With its popularity growing each year, The Maldives has now become a must visit destination on most tourists bucket list. When you reach your preferred Island Resort, you literally leave the World and your worries behind. What more could you ask for!



The Maldives, a group of about 1,190 islands, separated into a series of coral atolls, is just north of the Equator in the Indian Ocean. Only 200 of the islands are inhabited

The Maldives is a long and narrow country formed by 26 natural atolls. Some atolls are in the form of a number of islands by time and in the form of isolated reefs, which could be classified as smaller atoll formations.

Helpful Tips

What to wear

- As Maldives has a hot, tropical climate, it is ideal to wear shorts and t-shirts or other lightweight clothing.
- Overly revealing swimsuits may be culturally offensive and should be avoided specially on local islands
- For cultural reasons, see-through clothing should be avoided
- Nudity including topless sunbathing is not allowed in the Maldives as it is culturally offensive and a punishable offence

Climate & Weather

- As Maldives is proximity to the equator, it has a tropical climate and is hot all year round and is influenced by the monsoons
- The south-west monsoons are from late April to September is stronger on the northern islands, and it's joined by strong winds which can make the ocean unpleasant
- The north-west monsoons are from October to December is much quieter and simply brings showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening, especially in the southern atolls.
- The driest period, outside the monsoons, runs from January to April and is felt more on the northern atolls.
- The temperatures in the Maldives are constant: the high is around 30°C and lows around 25°C most of the year.
- The best time to visit the Maldives runs from January to mid-April, since it is the driest and sunniest season of the year.

Safety

- Crime
 - Leaving goods unattended at the beach results in petty theft
 - Always take care of our valuables and other personal possessions, especially when travelling in Male or it is a good idea to always use the safe deposit boxes on island resorts
- Local travel
 - Travel between islands is by boat, seaplane and many of these services stop before sunset
- Swimming
 - The sea around the Maldives can have strong currents so always take local advice before entering the sea.

At Arrival

- Once the clients are done with immigration and baggage clearance the clients should report to the relevant counter which would be located at the Airport lobby.
- The counter numbers will be communicated to the clients at the time of booking confirmation.
- Thereafter the representative who will be based at the counter would assist client to their speedboat/sea plane/domestic flight depending on the resort.
- The transfers are combined and will consist of arrivals on different flights. (For more details refer the next section)

At Departure

- Detrovos Travels will be advising the flight details at the time of booking to the resort and the resort will be arranging the transfer accordingly.
- The resort will inform clients of departure times one day prior to their departure. (Since transfers are combined). Clients should report to the Airport

Airports in Maldives

International Airports:

There are 4 international airports in Maldives and let's start with –

Ibrahim Nasir International Airport (Also known as Velana International Airport)

Ibrahim Nasir airport is often referred to as Male International airport. It is the country's biggest, most well-known airport and is the primary gateway to the Maldives. Situated on its own island (Hulhule) this single runway airport is a 10-minute (1km) ferry ride to Male, the capital of the Maldives.

Gan International Airport

Situated in the southern-most atoll (Addu) of the Maldives is Gan International Airport. commonly abbreviated to GIA, its official airport letters are simply GAN. GIA is on Gan Island in Addu City. Flights into and out of Gan are far less frequent than Ibrahim Nasir but it serves useful purpose as an access point for the far south of the island chain.

Hanimaadhoo International Airport & Villa International Airport

The other two international airports of the Maldives do not receive as much international air traffic as Ibrahim Nasir and Gan. Hanimaadhoo International Airport (HAQ) has flights arriving and departing from neighboring country India, while Villa International Airport (VAM) is primarily used for domestic purposes, transferring travelers to different atolls.

Apart from the international airports there are domestic airports in different atolls in Maldives that travelers can visit.

Domestic Airport (mainly for domestic airline landings)

1. IFURU AIRPORT (IFU) FOR RAA ATOLL
2. DHARAVANDHOO AIRPORT (DRV) FOR BAA ATOLL
3. KUDAHUVADHOO AIRPORT (DDD) FOR DHAALU ATOLL
4. THIMARAFUSHI AIRPORT(TMF) FOR THAA ATOLL
5. KADHDHOO AIRPORT (KDO) FOR LAAMU ATOLL
6. KOODDOO AIRPORT (GKK) A. GAAFU ALIFU ATOLL
7. KAADEDHDHOO (KDM) A. GAAFU DHAALU ATOLL
8. FUVAHMULAH AIRPORT (FVM) FOR GNAVIYANI ATOLL

Transfer Modes

SPEED BOAT

In general Speed boats operate 24 hours. However, this will vary from each resort (certain resorts will not operate speed boats after 18.00hrs). Guests will be advised of their return flight time the day prior to departure. Since speed boat transfers are combinable (shared with other passengers) waiting time at the Airport may occur until all passengers have been collected. Alternatively, Private speed boat transfers can be arranged at a supplement.



SEA PLANE

In general Sea Plane operates during day light hours (06.00hrs – 15.00hrs). Since Sea Plane transfers are combinable (shared with other passengers) waiting time at the Airport may occur until all passengers have been collected. Guests will be advised of their return flight time the day prior to departure. Alternatively, Private sea plane transfers can be arranged at a supplement.

Resorts will require to receive the exact information about arrival and departure flight details / information at the time of reservation of the accommodation. In the event of early morning departure (prior to 0900hrs) and/or late arrival (after 1530hrs), an overnight stay in Male will be necessary and paid by the guests. Same night will not be refunded by the resorts.

Future fuel surcharge increase will be invoiced for new bookings confirmed after respective notice by Detroles Maldives. Baggage allowance per person is 20 Kg and 5 kg for hand luggage. Extra luggage charges have to be paid by the guest to the seaplane company directly. We hold no liability for any discrepancies or costs incurred arising from or in connection with the failure of the seaplane company to make adequate enquiries or for any variation imposed on transfer prices.



DOMESTIC FLIGHT

In general, Domestic flight operates 24 hours. However, this will vary from each resort (certain resorts will not accept arrivals from Domestic flights after dark). As per the policy clients need to report to the Domestic flight terminal 2 hours prior to departure time. Therefore, the Domestic flight transfer will be arranged according to client's arrival time to Maldives. Guests will be advised of their return flight time the day prior to departure by the resort. Please note that the Domestic flight operates on shared capacity.

Resorts will require to receive the exact information about arrival and departure flight details / information at the time of reservation of the accommodation.

Future fuel surcharge increase will be invoiced for new bookings confirmed after respective notice by Detrovos Maldives. Baggage allowance is 25 kg for checked baggage and 5kg hand luggage. Extra luggage charges have to be paid by the guest to the Domestic Airline company directly.

