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MIDDLE EAST

## THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE MALDIVES

FAMILY RESORTS \* BAREFOOT ESCAPES \* ADVENTURE ISLANDS  
\* HONEYMOON DESTINATIONS

The St. Regis  
Maldives  
Vommuli Resort



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VIVANTA

CORAL REEF MALDIVES

BY TAJ

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

In this world of 24/7 news and round-the-clock connectivity, being able to escape and disconnect, unwind and recharge, is a true luxury. For me, the Maldives have always been that haven of tranquility, beauty and wellness. Right from the seaplane ride from which you can spot turquoise coral reefs surrounding uninhabited islands, there's a feeling of letting out your breath. Reading books, eating the fresh catch of the day with toes in the sand, signing up for world-class diving and getting to bed at 10pm each night for a full nine hours – there's nothing quite like it. With Eid and school holidays coming up this summer, there's no better time than now to book a getaway to these jewels of the Indian Ocean. Bring your flip flops and sunscreen. Leave the phone at home.

**RHEA SARAN** EDITOR IN CHIEF



## TREASURE ISLANDS

An archipelago of 26 atolls set in the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean, the Maldives are synonymous with luxury and dreams of desert island escapes, their pristine white sandy beaches and warm, shallow waters encapsulating paradise. Renowned for their magical underwater worlds of coral reefs and marine life, each of the 1,192 coral islands and sandbanks is surrounded by a crystal-clear lagoon, perfect for diving and snorkelling. Only around 200 of the islands are inhabited by the local population, but a further 100 or so are private tourist resorts offering an array of luxe vacation options, and it's thanks to those islands that the Maldives welcomes over one million visitors a year to its sandy shores.

Year-round sunshine is guaranteed here, given the Maldives' proximity to the Equator and, with its tropical monsoon climate and two distinct seasons, the Maldives are an ideal destination at any time of the year. The dry season, from November through April, sees warm, sunny days with average temperatures of around 28°C, with the highest rainfall arriving during November. The wet season between May and October sees an increase in rainfall overall, with June the driest month, but tropical storms pass quickly and there is still plenty of warm sunshine, accompanied by some great deals from hotels and resorts.

The rich culture and history of these islands is rooted in its Sri Lankan, Indian, Arab, Malaysian, North African and colonial heritage, and its location on the ancient spice routes played a key role in developing the culture and cuisine of this welcoming and friendly nation, well known for its hospitality. Whether it's for a romantic getaway or a family vacation, whether you're a committed scuba diver or interested in the more cultural aspects of the island, whether you enjoy fine cuisine or simply enjoy time away from the hectic centre of city life, there's something for everyone on these magical islands.

### ON THE COVER

The St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Island Resort

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BEST FOR ...

## DESERT ISLAND DREAMERS

### COCO PRIVÉ KUDA HITHI ISLAND

Channel your inner Robinson Crusoe at Coco Privé Kuda Hithi Island, the jewel in the crown of the Coco Collection's Maldivian properties, offering exclusivity and tailor-made experiences with dedicated individual service. This Guz Wilkinson-designed private island retreat accommodates up to 12 guests, with a master residence, five guest villas, dining room, cocktail bar, grape cellar, library, gym facilities and a 40m pool on your private 1.4-hectare island. Your personal staff includes your host, butlers, a private chef and personal spa therapists, as this intimate experience allows you to indulge every desert island fantasy you've ever imagined. From sunrise meditation with the in-house yoga instructor, or snorkelling with the resident turtles on the house reef, to watching your favourite film under the stars, the programme of activities is as individual as you are. It's fortunate that the private yacht transfer which delivers you to the island is on hand, otherwise you might be tempted never to leave.

*Prices upon request; 00960-664 8887, [cocoprive.com](http://cocoprive.com)*



### TAJ EXOTICA RESORT & SPA MALDIVES

As soon as you arrive at Taj Exotica Maldives, a haven of tranquillity on Three Coconut Isle, you are on Taj Time. Switching off and doing nothing is an art form here, and you're encouraged to relax by the infinity pool or on your private beach, lounge in a hammock over the blue waters or just star-gaze at night. The signature treatments, Indian and Ayurveda therapies and extensive range of yoga sessions at Jiva Spa help you to unwind further, boosting your sense of wellbeing. Yet, for those who want to keep busy, the resort's location in one of the largest lagoons in the Maldives makes it a divers' dream and the resident butlers can arrange other water sports on request. The island's 64 lavish sea-view villas and suites all enjoy unrivalled views, luxe amenities and double vanity bathrooms with rain showers and bathtubs overlooking the ocean, while the award-winning and opulent Rehendi Presidential Overwater Suite has its own dedicated 24-hour butler service, expansive sundeck with an 18m freshwater pool, guest room and overwater hammock. The finest ingredients, sourced locally and globally, are carefully selected to create dining delights, from the freshest seafood at Deep End or theatrical Teppanyaki and creative cuisine at 24 Degrees, to sunset cocktails at the Equator Bar. Taj Time sounds like a schedule we could keep to.

*Doubles from AED 2,830; 00960-664 2200, [tajhotels.com](http://tajhotels.com)*



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MALDIVES  
*Private Moments*



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 [facebook.com/velaaisland](https://facebook.com/velaaisland)  [velaaprivateisland](https://www.instagram.com/velaaprivateisland)



### GILI LANKANFUSHI

This resort so epitomises the Robinson Crusoe desert island ideal that guests are assisted throughout their stay by Mr Friday – the resort's butlers – and part of the property bears his name: the seven stand-alone Crusoe Residences, accessed by private rowing boat from the main island, which feature rooftop terraces with daybeds, mini grape cellars, kitchenettes and water hammocks. For even greater privacy, the 1,700sqm

Private Residence, 300m from its nearest neighbouring villa, offers seclusion with luxe amenities that include a fully equipped gourmet kitchen, a private spa, a cinema, a central open-plan living area with a natural coral pool at its heart, accessed by water slide, and resident butlers. Everything is done a little bit differently, from the glass floor panels beneath the massage tables in Meera Spa's overwater treatment rooms, to movie screenings in the Jungle Cinema or the resort's organic garden, which provides much of the produce used in its restaurants. Enjoy a culinary adventure at By The Sea, serving the catch of the day and home-grown organic produce, or descend glass stairs to explore the grape and food pairings in the Underground Grape Cellar and Chocolate Cave. Until September, the resort's offering a three-day surf programme, "Gili Goes Surfing", which includes tuition and guided surfing on a nearby break.

*Doubles from AED 3,375; 00960-664 0304,  
[gili-lankanfushi.com](http://gili-lankanfushi.com)*



**Best for pampering**

### DUSIT THANI MALDIVES

Blending graceful Thai hospitality with an idyllic setting in the Baa Atoll, Dusit Thani Maldives is a dream destination for pampering and indulgence. The resort's 94 elegant villas and residences feature cutting-edge tech and luxe amenities in a stylish blend of Maldivian architecture and Thai décor. Specially designed family beach villas, set within a private walled garden, include two bedrooms, a kitchenette and an outdoor BBQ, or, for the ultimate in barefoot luxury, the palatial three-bedroom residence will make you feel as though you have the island to yourself. Refresh with a swim in one of the Maldives' largest infinity pools, explore the island on the complimentary bicycles, take a Thai cookery class, or enjoy a game of tennis. Or relax instead with a good book from the library in a hammock on the beach. Kids will love the Baan Sanook Kids Club, with its own treehouse and outdoor playground, while you retreat to Deyarana Spa's treetop treatment pods. The Spa also offers three- or five-day detox, weight-management or rejuvenation wellness programmes, incorporating meal plans and workouts alongside bespoke spa treatments.

*Doubles from AED 2,940; 00960-660 8888, [dusit.com](http://dusit.com)*

TRAVELLER PROMOTION

## ISLAND RETREAT

Treat yourself to paradise at  
Shangri-La's Villingili Resort & Spa, Maldives

**C**ast away in the Maldives' Addu Atoll, Shangri-La's Villingili Resort & Spa is the largest resort in the archipelago, allowing for multiple activities, dining destinations, and for everyone to enjoy their own piece of paradise in utmost privacy. It boasts a golden mile of stunning white sandy beach, azure waters and a natural jungle with over 17,000 coconut trees and majestic Banyan trees.

As the second largest atoll in the Maldives, Addu has a thriving community offering guests a unique insight into the local culture with sightseeing of local villages and farms.

With a choice of spacious villas perched atop the emerald green jungle or strung along the turquoise shoreline,

the resort is the perfect haven for couples and families. A sense of serenity abounds and the overall design of the property complements its natural surroundings.

The resort offers the only nine-hole golf course in the Maldives with Mount Villingili, the highest point in the island nation standing at 5.1 metres above sea level. Located in the southern part of the island, the course's fairways offer spectacular views.

Divers and snorkellers will be in their element when visiting as the island is the only place in the Maldives to spot Manta rays all year round. A bounty of marine life can be discovered at a unique site - The British Loyalty Shipwreck. Guests can also enjoy activities such as surfing, dolphin cruises, nature trails and curated historical walks.



The resort's six restaurants and bars offer a wide range of fine cuisines inspired by the Indian Ocean, the Middle East, Asia and the Mediterranean. For a once-in-a-lifetime experience, the resort's unique location allows guests to dine on the equator aboard a luxury yacht.

Book a three-night stay at this private hideaway before July 31, 2017 and get a complimentary fourth night.

**From top:** The BBQ pit on the golf course; an aerial view of Shangri-La's Villingili Resort & Spa

For more information call 00960-689 7888 or visit [shangri-la.com](http://shangri-la.com)



## THE ST. REGIS MALDIVES VOMMULI RESORT

IF ASKED TO DESCRIBE A PICTURE-PERFECT DESERT island, it's likely that the image in your mind would resemble the private island that's home to the St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort. With 33 light-filled land villas and 44 overwater villas – their design and coastal-hued décor inspired by this eco-conscious island – and the spacious bi-level Caroline Astor Estate and presidential John Jacob Astor Estate, the resort aims to redefine barefoot luxury. All villas feature private terraces and pools, state-of-the-art facilities, including iPad room controls and Bang & Olufsen BeoVision TVs, romantic gazebos with bench swings and overwater hammocks complemented by soft daybeds and loungers. To ensure your every need is met, the signature St. Regis Butlers are on hand to provide discreet, bespoke service, day or night.

Families receive a particularly warm welcome at the resort, with special welcome amenities and turndown rituals including sweet treats, child-sized robes, slippers and equipment such as cots and step stools for the little ones, as part of the Family Traditions at St. Regis programme. Staff can arrange activities such as the Family Island Escape – a four-hour *dhoni* fishing trip with a sandbank BBQ lunch – or a Family Memories photo shoot.

Even big kids get to play, as guests aged over 16 can enjoy pool, table tennis, air hockey and games at the Socialite Club in Vommuli House, one of the largest recreational centres in the Maldives.

TO ENSURE YOUR  
EVERY NEED IS MET,  
THE SIGNATURE ST.  
REGIS BUTLERS ARE  
ON HAND TO PROVIDE  
DISCREET SERVICE

It's also home to the resort's fitness centre, anti-gravity yoga studio and tennis courts. In addition, the Vommuli Dive and Water Sports Centre offers tuition and equipment for exploring the wonders of the deep on the private house reef.

For those seeking a more leisurely pace, the 1,850sqm Iridium Spa provides the ideal location to unwind and rejuvenate. This tranquil overwater facility has six couple's treatment suites, including two Ayurvedic suites with private steam rooms, their sliding-glass doors revealing uninterrupted ocean views from the spa beds. The spa offers a holistic approach to wellness and rejuvenation: each guest receives a 15-minute Ayurveda consultation and the resort's expert therapists will create bespoke rituals according to your wellness needs.

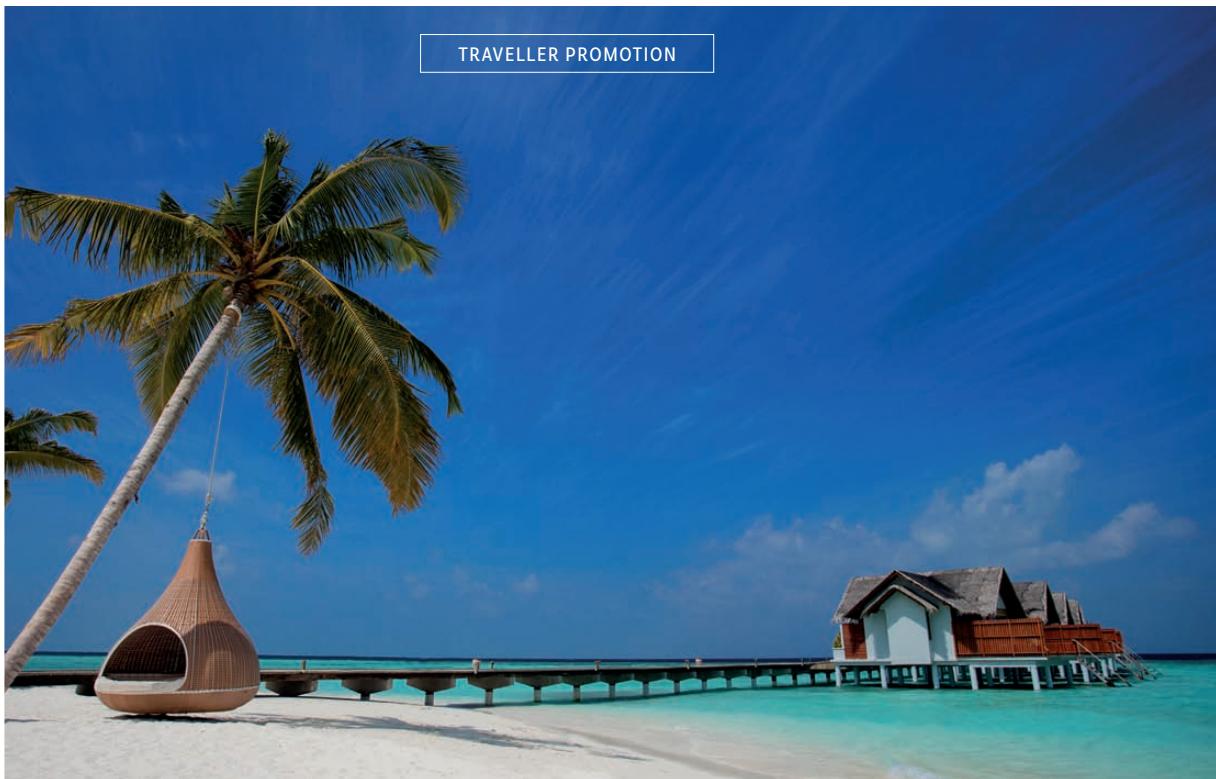
Guests can experience total relaxation in the Blue Hole Pool, the largest saltwater hydrotherapy pool in the Maldives, where heated seawater and whirlpool jets soothe both mind and body.

Tastebuds will be tempted at the six restaurants and bars, from Italian cuisine at signature restaurant Alba and pizzas at family-friendly Crust, to Asian delights at Orientale, gourmet street-food at pop-up diner Cargo, or the five-course degustation menu at Decanter. Or simply enjoy the sunset with tapas and craft cocktails at the Whale Bar.

*Doubles from AED 6,410; 00960-676 6333, [stregismaldives.com](http://stregismaldives.com)*



TRAVELLER PROMOTION



From top: a view of the Overwater Villas; A Dhoni Pool Villa bathroom; Beach Pool Villas feature cushioned day beds



## AUTHENTIC ISLAND CHARM

Find local beauty and a retreat with an environmental conscience at Furaveri Island Resort & Spa

**F**uraveri Island Resort & Spa provides a truly Maldivian experience. The island is owned by a local family who are passionate about the nation's cultural and geographical heritage. One can see this just by looking at the architecture and artwork in the 107 private villas which draw inspiration from the proud indigenous history and abundant surrounding natural beauty.

The award-winning resort has done its best to reduce any impact on the environment; almost all undeveloped areas of the island have been deliberately left in their original exotic state.

Social responsibility is of primary focus, as is sustainability. Organic products are sourced and recycling

is key. And many of the activities on offer have been conceived with clear influences of conscientious travel as a driving philosophy.

Achieving a balance of environmental protection and providing a luxury experience for their guests is something the team at Furaveri prides themselves on. The quality of the private space in the villas, the dining options and the range of leisure facilities available, all add to the hotel's list of ticked boxes - paperless ones, of course.

Whether travelling with children, celebrating a romantic occasion or even visiting for your own destination wedding - Furaveri Island resort and spa proposes something bold, something new, something authentic and something blue.

For more information, please call 0096-0658 2718 or visit [furaveri.com](http://furaveri.com)

TRAVELLER PROMOTION

## NATURAL BEAUTY

Enjoy a picturesque landscape and laid-back luxury at Milaidhoo Island Maldives

**M**ilaidhoo Island Maldives is a boutique resort in the heart of the Baa Atoll's UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. There you'll find island life and exquisite surroundings complemented by intelligently designed experiences. Travellers are encouraged to embrace "reinvented luxury" and the team at Milaidhoo

believes all travellers are storywriters. Nature is in the fibre of the island: a coral reef surrounds its bijou form which sits a 10 minute boat-ride away from Hanifaru Bay, home to the world's largest congregation of manta rays. Between June and November Milaidhoo's storywriters have an opportunity to make indelible memories by swimming with these incredible creatures. In

keeping with the organic feel of the resort, each of the villas (designed by a local architect) has an ocean view, private freshwater pool and natural thatched roof.

The stand-out feature of the property, however, may just be the dining. Overlooking the lagoon, the hotel's signature restaurant Ba'theli serves its bare footed-patrons a rarely encountered assortment of

Maldivian cuisine. It is set on a large traditional wooden sailing boat and one can dine on the deck beneath a glittering ceiling of stars or in the ship's cabin, with a simple glass floor setting you apart from the hypnotic underwater-scape of the Indian Ocean below.

Take advantage of Milaidhoo Maldives' summer offer with 40 percent off their best published rates.

For more information, please call 00960 665 4441 or [visit milaidhoo.com](http://visit milaidhoo.com)

Clockwise from  
left: Beach Pool Villa  
views; Milaidhoo  
Maldives is located  
in the Baa Atoll;  
inside a Water Pool  
Villa. Opposite:  
Water Pool  
Villa exterior





## BEST FOR ... EXPLORERS

### DHIGALI MALDIVES

A remote coral cay in the Raa Atoll, Dhigali Island opened last month and promises a luxury hideaway with a difference. The island's white sand perimeter is dotted with contemporary castaway beach villas, overwater bungalows and lagoon villas – all with fresh, minimalist décor in warm, earthy hues. The spacious Beach Villas are a great family choice, accommodating two adults and two children, while couples will love the romance of the three secluded 170sqm one-bedroom beach suites, each featuring a generous plunge pool and open-air bathroom. Or take luxe to the max in the 400sqm Dhigali Suite, with its own courtyard, a large sun deck, a private infinity pool overlooking the Indian Ocean and personal butler service. Dhigali's five restaurants and two bars serve a myriad of global flavours, and all outlets are included in the all-inclusive Dine Around option. The kids' club provides indoor and outdoor fun for the youngest guests and, you can indulge at Dhigali Spa with 12 treatment rooms and an outdoor plunge pool set in a verdant garden.

*Doubles from AED 910; 00960-333 2322, [dhigali.com](http://dhigali.com)*



## BEST FOR ... FOODIES

### KANUHURA

Laid-back Kanuhura, which re-opened last year following a full renovation, is synonymous with barefoot luxury. Not least because of its secluded, picture-perfect desert island, Jehunuhura, just a few minutes from the main island by boat, where tranquillity and privacy are assured as you relax on a soft sun lounger under a thatched umbrella. Alongside its award-winning spa, recreational facilities and kids club, if you're looking for a castaway experience with first-class food, Kanuhura is the island for you. Home to 10 restaurants and bars scattered across the island, its head chefs are intent on creating a gastronomic experience for guests. Speciality restaurants include Bottega, serving regional Italian cuisine; modern Maldivian and fusion cuisine at Dagas, with its open kitchen and Yakiniku style tables on the shore; herb-infused dishes and drinks at the Chef's Herbs Garden communal table set within the island's herb and spice garden; bubbles, oysters and caviar at sunset on board the resort's traditional dhoni; and grill restaurant Drift, on the sandbank at Jehunuhura private island. The only challenge lies in deciding what to sample first.

*Villas from AED 2,710; 00960-662 0044, [kanuhura.com](http://kanuhura.com)*



TRAVELLER PROMOTION



*Clockwise from left: The terrace of an Overwater Pool Villa; outdoor living at a Beach Pool Villa; Thari Bar*



## HIDEAWAY HERE

Escape to Amari Havodda Maldives, a hidden treasure in the Indian Ocean

**D**eep within the Maldives' southern Gaafu Dhaalu atoll, the most untouched archipelago in the Indian Ocean, lie the sands of Amari Havodda Maldives' pristine private beaches.

This five-star resort is hemmed by a natural coral reef and rolling shelves of purest blue waters. Offering both relaxation and

adventure, it caters for a varied whim: allowing you to sooth yourself with signature treatments at the Breeze spa, bask in the sun, or explore the kaleidoscope of marine life in the waters surrounding the island.

Enjoy contemplating serenity from the seclusion of a beach cabana, feeling every single one of those miles away from the hurried pace of the outside world.

The beach and overwater villas have been designed to reflect and enhance the natural beauty of their surroundings, rather than distract you from them. Contemporary architecture blends with traditional Maldivian elements, grounding you in the true spirit of this island paradise.

Indulge in authentic cuisine at the resort's restaurants. Organic produce is plucked from the hotel's

own garden, and freshly caught sea food is seared to order on the beachside barbecue. From delicate tapas to Asian gastronomy – the rich variety of flavours means that you will be treating your taste buds to a holiday, too.

Relaxation, romance, adventure and family fun are all easily discovered at Amari Havodda Maldives, depending on your need.

For more information, please call 00960-6844 888 or visit [amari.com/havodda-maldives](http://amari.com/havodda-maldives)

BEST FOR ...

## ACTIVE TYPES

### ONE&ONLY REETHI RAH

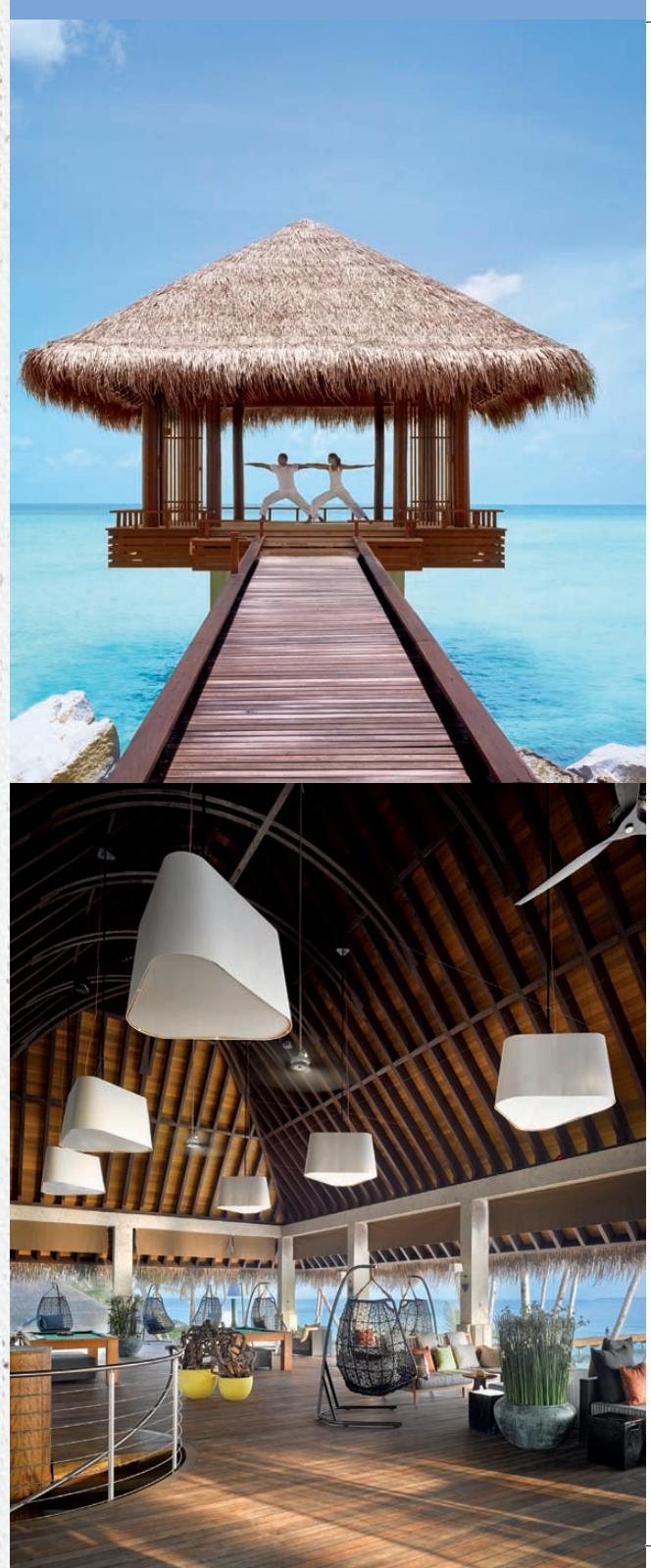
Set on one of the largest islands in the North Malé Atoll, the 128-villa One&Only Reethi Rah has a comprehensive programme of activities. Looking to unwind? Then head to the award-winning One&Only Spa for an indulgent treatment, blending ancient therapies and modern techniques from East and West. With six kilometres of private coastline including 12 pristine beaches, adult and family pools and a 30m lap pool, as well as 37 private villa pools and a full range of water sports, water babies will feel right at home and, with over 2,000 species of fish living in the local coral reefs, divers and snorkelers will be in their element. Bespoke activities for kids, tweens and teens ensure younger guests are catered for, too, and they even have part of the resort to themselves, with separate dining facilities, a clubhouse and a pool. ClubOne features entertainment for all ages including an art studio, a climbing wall and an indoor golf simulator, and the resort's sports facilities include two flood-lit tennis courts and a FIFA approved synthetic football pitch. If you can bring yourself to leave the island, whale shark spotting and big game fishing adventures await, or you can enjoy excursions by *dhoni*.

*Doubles from AED 5,880; 00960-664 8800,  
oneandonlyresorts.com*

### VELAA PRIVATE ISLAND MALDIVES

This tiny retreat in the Noonu Atoll has been designed using local materials with a contemporary flair, its architecture and design inspired by sea turtles. Accommodation includes beach and water villas and residences offering sunset or sunrise views, two-bedroom beachfront houses that are ideal for families, a large ocean pool house, Private Residences for up to 10 guests with private beach access, gyms and spa rooms, and the Romantic Pool Residence, accessible only by boat. The focus on food here is exceptional: buffet breakfasts, all day à la carte and wood-fired pizzas at Athiri; creative East Asian flavours at Tavaru; and modern European cuisine with an emphasis on organic produce at Aragu. The grape cellar features more than 500 bins, the largest collection in Maldives; you can savour some of the world's finest bubbles at the elegant CRU Champagne Lounge. Thrill-seekers can enjoy diving and water sports. Back on dry land, yoga, tennis, squash and beach volleyball are available and there's a 6m climbing wall. Little ones can keep busy at the kids' club, giving you a chance to explore the spa. Or practise your swing at the Jose Maria Olazabal-designed Velaa Golf Academy, with its nine tees, six greens, seven bunkers and a lake, where PGA professionals provide bespoke tuition.

*Doubles from AED 6,060; 00960-656 5000,  
velaaprivateisland.com*



TRAVELLER PROMOTION



## MALDIVIAN ICON

Visit one of the Indian Ocean's enduring classics: Baros Maldives

**A**s one of three original hotels in the Maldives, Baros has acquired more than 40 years' worth of experience in getting everything just right. An achievement that was recently recognised with nine separate honours by TripAdvisor in 2016.

The island retreat offers 75 high-spec teak-floored villas set in attractive surroundings and it is an ideal destination for a short romantic getaway.

A number of bespoke travel experiences are available and they are sure to enhance any stay. Follow a snorkelling guide on an underwater "Black Coral" reef adventure or enjoy the attention of a personal butler aboard the resort's own traditional *dhoni* (Maldivian sailing vessel) named *Nooma*.

Don't miss the chance to visit The Lighthouse Restaurant either. As Baros Maldives' gourmet restaurant, it is widely-regarded as one of the

best places at which to dine in the region and boasts panoramic ocean views.

At only a 25-minute speedboat journey from Malé, Baros is also delightfully accessible for those keen to reach relaxation without having to clamber over travel hurdles. With few destinations able to offer so much within such easy reach, it's no wonder this resort enjoys the volume of returning visitors it does.



Clockwise from top left: Dhoni cruises allow guests to explore; The Lighthouse Restaurant's deck; an aerial view of Baros Maldives; Water Pool Villa bathroom

For more information, please call 00960-664 2672 or [visitbaros.com](http://visitbaros.com)

## FURAVERI ISLAND RESORT & SPA

With a series of packages designed for individuals, honeymooners and families, Furaveri Island Resort offers the perfect getaway. From sunrise fishing and dolphin spotting to cultural experiences such as meeting schoolchildren on a nearby island or enjoying tea with a local family, this island offers an authentic Maldivian experience. Leisure facilities are comprehensive, with a fitness centre, tennis courts, a dedicated kids' club and a holistic spa. The 107 private villas include garden villas with private tropical gardens and interconnecting rooms for families or groups; beach villas with large decks leading on to the white sand beach; and beach pool villas, their wooden sundecks complete with cushioned day beds and loungers surrounding private 6m pools. The 200sqm Dhoni pool villas, inspired by the design of the islands' traditional fishing boat, offer privacy and space amid lush vegetation at the water's edge, overlooking the lagoon where 13 water villas and the capacious two-bedroom Family Water Villa feature steps leading directly into the clear waters of the ocean. The resort's house reef is rich and the experienced PADI 5 Star Dive team provides courses alongside daily dives, guided snorkelling trips and water sports. On the island's north shore, Jaafaeiy Restaurant showcases global flavours. Evening entertainment is served up with cocktails and mocktails at Udhares Bar, and bespoke destination dining.

*Doubles from AED 550; 00960-658 2718, [furaveri.com](http://furaveri.com)*

## SHANGRI-LA'S VILLINGILI RESORT & SPA

A private hideaway with 17,000 coconut trees and two kilometres of white sandy beaches, Villingili Island is all about extraordinary experiences. There are 132 villas in nine distinct styles, from overwater villas and beachside residences to pool villas, secluded jungle tree houses with sea views and two spacious Presidential Villas, ensuring couples and families alike will find their perfect pad. The sports and recreation facilities on the island cater for all the family. Kids will have a ball at the Cool Zone club or they can discover the biodiversity of the island with their Island Safari Handbook, become pirates for the day, or catch and race crabs. While they're having fun, you can find balance in a yoga or meditation session, enjoy a tennis match on the ITF-grade courts or join the daily activities. You can even tee off at Villingili Golf Course, the only nine-hole course of its kind in the Maldives, with par three and par four holes and fairways lined by palm trees. Then retire to CHI, The Spa at Shangri-La, set in its own spa village. Dining is an adventure here, too, from international flavours at Dr Ali's, to the seafood and steaks at Fashala, and the endless possibilities offered by the tailor-made Dine by Design experiences.

*Doubles from AED 1,610; 00960-689 7888, [shangri-la.com](http://shangri-la.com)*





**TRAVELLER PROMOTION**

# A FAMILY ESCAPE

Holiday at the award-winning  
JA Manafaru with your loved ones  
this summer

**S**cluded in Haa Alifu, one of the Maldives' most northern atolls, JA Manafaru is a 75-minute flight from Malé. Engulfed by pristine beaches and glittering turquoise waters, the 35-acre resort is the perfect haven for families.

For a relaxing break, the Calm Spa offers treatments including Maldivian and hot stone massages, there are complimentary yoga sessions at sunrise and sunset, or you can spend your days by your private pool or on the beach. For adventure seekers, there is an array of options from which to choose.

Water activities include diving with the hotel's own PADI 5\* Dive Centre, water skiing, seabobbing, catamaran sailing, speedboat excursions, and more. Guests can also learn about the underwater world at the marine research centre, Seatopia, with a resident

marine biologist. Other activities include Maldivian cooking classes, dolphin watching excursions and more. Exploring the island as a family is easy as adult bikes, kids' bicycles and tricycles are provided.

Children of all ages will be kept entertained at JA Manafaru as there is a supervised Kids Club, the CoolZone Kids' Club and the ChillZone teen's club. Dedicated children's programmes such as treasure hunting, culinary activities, water Olympics, and a crab race challenge ensure their holiday experiences are diverse.

In terms of dining options, there are seven restaurants all offering delicious cuisine and freshly prepared kids' menus. Highlights include The White Orchid which serves Asian fusion award-winning fare; Ocean Grill, where guests can enjoy fresh specialities and the catch of the day as well as the Andiamo Bistro and Pool.



*Clockwise from top: Sunrise Water Villa with infinity pool; sailing on a catamaran is one of the many activities at JA Manafaru; CoolZone Kids' Club; an aerial view of the resort*

For more information please call 00971-4-814 5577 or visit [jaresortshotels.com](http://jaresortshotels.com)

BEST FOR ...

## ECO WARRIORS

### COCO BODU HITHI

Simple sophistication is the order of the day at Coco Bodu Hithi, a Coco Resorts:Retreats property, part of the Coco Collection. This tear-shaped eco resort island in the North Malé Atoll blends traditional Maldivian architecture with modern luxury in its 100 beachfront and overwater villas. For those seeking greater privacy, the Coco Residences, a cluster of villas at the tip of the island, blend seclusion with luxury and are ideal for exploring the house reef, as steps lead down from your private terrace into the lagoon. Coco Bodu Hithi is serious about conservation and its resident marine biologist runs a guest education programme which includes guided snorkelling tours, diving and fishing trips, a weekly Marine Biology Show and information sessions. Staff work with guests to maintain the natural balance of the coral reef, stimulating and monitoring growth in its Coral Nursery Project.

Project, and guests can join fishing excursions where protected species are counted and recorded, with data forwarded to the Maldives Marine Research Centre.

*Villas from AED 2,275; 00960-664 1122, [cocoboduhithi.com](http://cocoboduhithi.com)*



### BAROS MALDIVES

Just 25 minutes from Malé by speedboat, the romantic Baros Maldives resort, reserved for adults and children aged eight and over, is a perfect getaway. The 45 beachside and 30 water villas are stylish and contemporary, their sandstone and timber design blending with the natural surroundings. All have direct access to the beach and lagoon and many have private pools, as does the large Baros Residence, an undisturbed haven hidden away from the rest of the island within a walled tropical garden and featuring dedicated butler service. Three restaurants include the iconic Lighthouse Restaurant and al fresco international fare at the Cayenne Grill, and there are two bars, as well as in-villa and destination dining. Couples can enjoy the spa together, as it features four private suites for treatments.

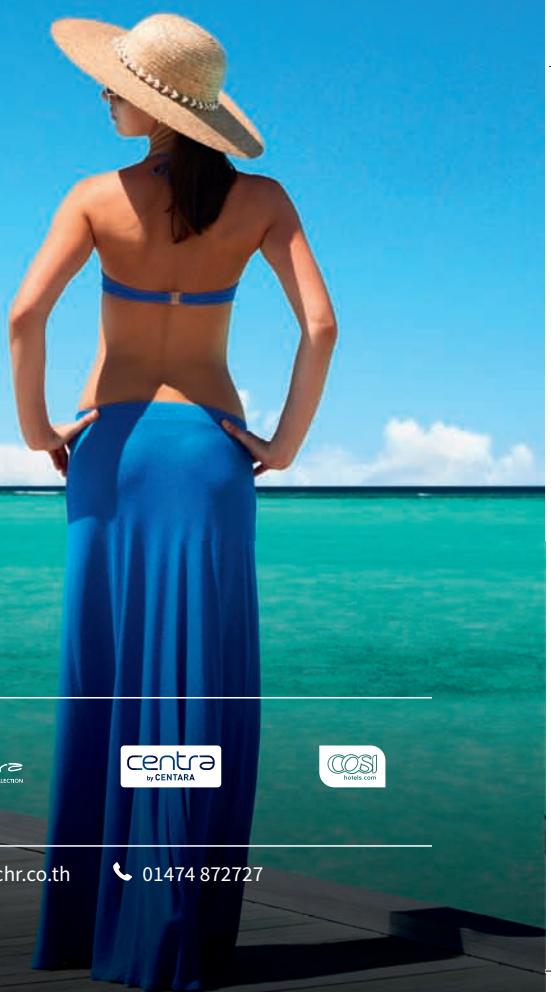
The island is an ideal base for exploring further afield, with excursions by dhoni or motor yacht, and is perfectly situated to discover the underwater world with two separate diving facilities. Baros is a pioneering eco-friendly resort in the region, educating and encouraging guests to respect the reefs, offering tours to neighbouring villages and islands to promote ecological understanding. The resort recycles water for irrigation, has lowered energy consumption using LED light systems, uses bio-degradable cleaning products and a heat exchange system to heat bathing water. So you can enjoy your vacation with a clear conscience.

*Doubles from AED 1,925; 00960-664 2672, [baros.com](http://baros.com)*



# EXPERIENCE A NEW LEVEL OF LUXURY IN THE MALDIVES

The Maldives is a gem when it comes to tropical retreats, and the family-friendly **Centara Grand Island Resort and Spa Maldives** is taking the experience up another level with its “**Ultimate All-Inclusive**” package, where guests can leave their credit cards at home because absolutely everything is included. From fabulous dining options, an open bar and daily breakfast with bubbly to fun off-island excursions and boat trips. And now, we’ve even added FREE SCUBA DIVING to the array of exciting activities available, so the options for guests are endless. The same goes for adult-only **Centara Ras Fushi Resort & Spa Maldives**, which offers an intimate escape for couples and honeymooners and of course an All-Inclusive, cash free experience.



**CENTARA**  
GRAND  
ISLAND RESORT & SPA  
MALDIVES

**CENTARA**  
RAS FUSHI RESORT & SPA  
MALDIVES

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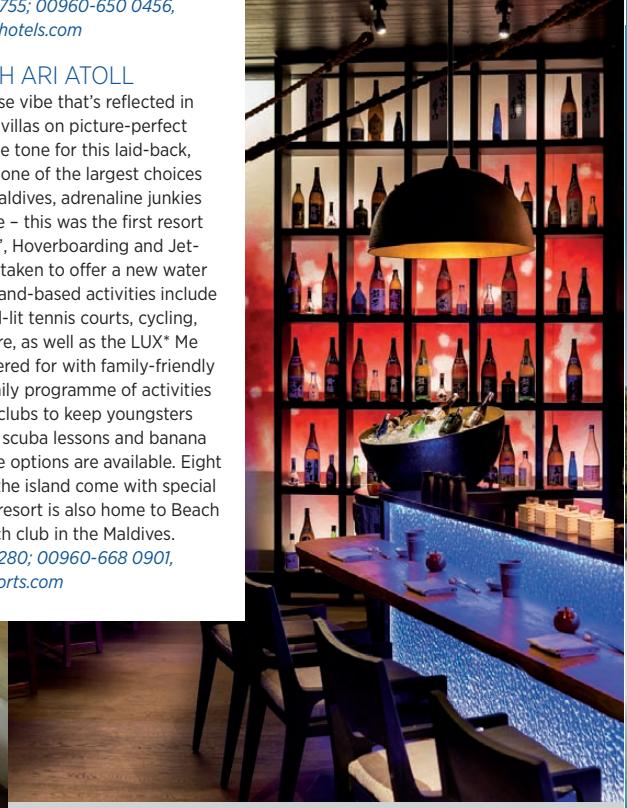
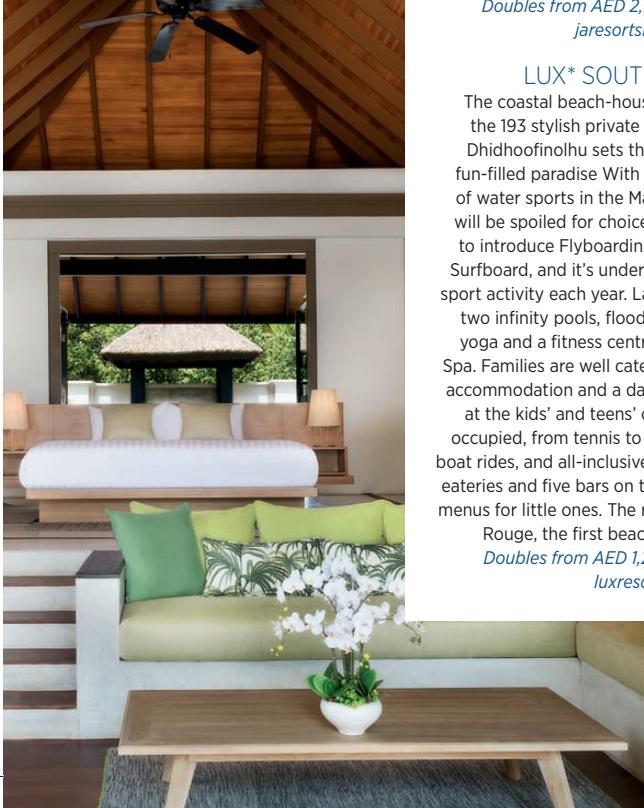
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BEST FOR ...

## FAMILY FUN

### JA MANAFARU

JA Manafaru truly caters for families, with spacious multi-bedroom villas amongst the seven different accommodation options available. On a 35-acre private island in the country's northern-most atoll of Haa Alif, the resort's 84 rooms and villas range from beach bungalows surrounded by tropical vegetation to sunrise or sunset water villas with private infinity pools – and all can accommodate family groups. The wealth of activities and recreational facilities on offer is exceptional, including three main swimming pools, a PADI dive centre offering tuition in nine languages, a water sports school and Seatopia, the resort's Marine Research Centre, where guests can learn about local marine life or explore the seas under the stars with night snorkelling. Parents will appreciate the ChillZone family entertainment area and the dedicated kids club for ages three to 12. Other family-friendly features including a babysitting service, infant sleeping area, children's menus and equipment such as cribs, monitors and bottle warmers.

*Doubles from AED 2,755; 00960-650 0456,  
[jaresortshotels.com](http://jaresortshotels.com)*

### LUX\* SOUTH ARI ATOLL

The coastal beach-house vibe that's reflected in the 193 stylish private villas on picture-perfect Dhidhoofinolhu sets the tone for this laid-back, fun-filled paradise. With one of the largest choices of water sports in the Maldives, adrenaline junkies will be spoilt for choice – this was the first resort to introduce Flyboardin', Hoverboarding and Jet-Surfboard, and it's undertaken to offer a new water sport activity each year. Land-based activities include two infinity pools, flood-lit tennis courts, cycling, yoga and a fitness centre, as well as the LUX\* Me Spa. Families are well catered for with family-friendly accommodation and a daily programme of activities at the kids' and teens' clubs to keep youngsters occupied, from tennis to scuba lessons and banana boat rides, and all-inclusive options are available. Eight eateries and five bars on the island come with special menus for little ones. The resort is also home to Beach

Rouge, the first beach club in the Maldives.  
*Doubles from AED 1,280; 00960-668 0901,  
[luxresorts.com](http://luxresorts.com)*



## JUMEIRAH VITTAVELI

FAIRY-TALE DREAMS CAN COME TRUE AT JUMEIRAH Vittaveli where a team of specialist wedding planners can help you create your perfect “I do” in paradise. From practical considerations, such as a dedicated area on the soft white sand, lapped by the azure waters of the Indian Ocean and set up for your celebration with a master of ceremonies, to the smallest details, including bouquets, cakes and boutonnieres, every aspect of your big day is taken in hand. From an exclusive wedding menu and a decorated wedding buggy, to a performance by traditional Bodu Beru drummers and a wedding gift, the resort will create an unforgettable experience. Honeymooners also receive special treatment at the resort, with a bubbly breakfast, four-course dinner on the beach and a signature couple’s massage at Talise Spa.

A diver’s paradise, Jumeirah Vittaveli is home to one of the most abundant house reefs in the South Malé Atoll, with five shipwrecks to explore. Non-divers and younger guests can discover the wonders of the deep, too, as the resort offers tours along the reef by semi-submarine, and that’s just the start of what’s on offer for little ones, as Vittaveli has one of the largest kids’ clubs in the Maldives.

The diversity of experiences and accommodation available makes Vittaveli ideal for all, from romance-seekers to family adventurers.

A DIVER’S PARADISE, JUMEIRAH VITTAVELI IS HOME TO ONE OF THE MOST ABUNDANT HOUSE REEFS IN THE SOUTH

MALE ATOLL

All of the 89 one- and two-bedroom villas and suites have private pools and direct access to the beach or lagoon, while the striking free-standing 256sqm Ocean Suites, accessed from the main island by boat, are an ideal choice for a romantic honeymoon retreat. Over two floors, the opulent Ocean Suites are private and spacious, giving you the feeling of being in a world of your own. Each has a covered terrace set on platform, with a split-level wooden veranda that leads directly into the clear waters of the lagoon. The mezzanine-level

bedroom, its en-suite bathroom featuring a sunken bath and infinity pool, has floor-to-ceiling windows with panoramic ocean views and the living room floor is also glass, allowing you to watch the magical underwater world beneath you.

Or escape to the new 3,500sqm five-bedroom Royal Residence, accommodating up to 14 guests and offering two private pools, a gym and spa, and a private overwater bar and restaurant manned by a personal chef. Dining options for the rest of the island are no less spectacular, including award-winning Indian cuisine at Swarna, elegant French overwater dining at Fenesse, or bespoke Dining by Design experiences. From island-wide treasure hunts to flyboarding, stingray feeding to beachside fitness coaching, and from yoga to natural, organic spa treatments at Talise Spa, trying to fit it all in to one visit could be your toughest challenge.

Doubles from AED 3,050; 00960-664 2020, [jumeirah.com](http://jumeirah.com)



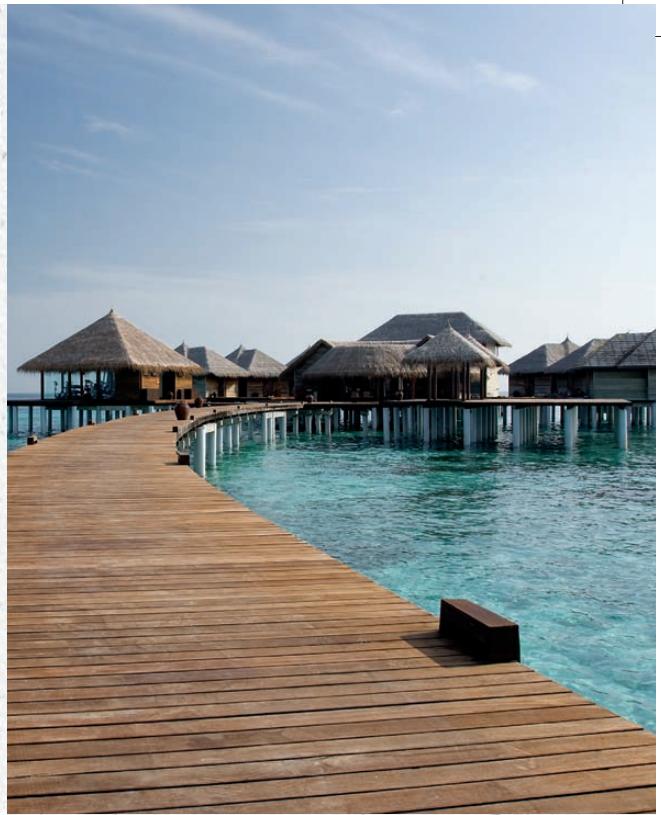
BEST FOR ...

## ALL INCLUSIVE

### OZEN BY ATMOSPHERE AT MAADHOO' MALDIVES

With its exclusive Atmosphere Indulgence plan, a stay at Ozen by Atmosphere is truly all-inclusive, with no hidden extras. In the South Malé Atoll on the island of Maadhoo, this property, the third from the Atmosphere group, opened in July 2016 with 41 contemporary beachfront villas, including family pool suites, and 49 overwater villas, a comprehensive range of water sport and leisure facilities, and a kids club with daily activities. The Atmosphere Indulgence package includes not only all meals, from breakfast with bubbles, snacks and beverages, to lunch, the in-room mini bar and dinner at any of the resort's five restaurants, but also features one fine-dining experience at M6m, the underwater seafood restaurant. Spa services and diving sessions are also included, the quantity increasing relative to the length of your stay, as are snorkelling excursions and your choice of adventures from a list of options.

*Doubles from AED 3,890; 00960-400 2222,  
[ozen-maadhoo.com](http://ozen-maadhoo.com)*



### ADAARAN SELECT MEEDHUPPARU

The 215 well-appointed coastal cool villas at Adaaran Select Meedhupparu, with modern amenities and colourful décor, are the perfect spaces in which to relax and take in the views of the island's turquoise waters. The white sandy beach hosts sports including beach football and volleyball and the beach disco provides the perfect chance to dance, the sand beneath you and the stars above. With the range of activities and excursions on offer, your days will be filled with fun, from table tennis and badminton to diving and water sports, simply catching rays poolside or indulging in the Chavana Spa. Off the island, excursions include fishing trips, coconut dhoni cruises, dolphin safaris and desert island escapes.

When the sun goes down, evening entertainment includes live music, DJs and karaoke, or you can just relax with friends over a game of darts or billiards. The resort offers two all-inclusive packages: the regular package, which includes meals, snacks, beverages and a range of sporting equipment and activities; and the enhanced Silver Package, which also includes a complimentary dinner at Café Mass, a discount on à la carte options, one excursion and complimentary access to the beach party and beach disco.

*Doubles from AED 1,150; 00960-658 7700, [adaaran.com](http://adaaran.com)*

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BEST FOR ...

## COUPLES

### MILAIDHOO ISLAND MALDIVES

A relatively new kid on the Maldives block, Milaidhoo opened in November 2016, inviting guests to create their own dream vacation and dubbing them storywriters, rather than holidaymakers. A tiny island in the Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, measuring just 180m by 300m, Milaidhoo is designed for couples and honeymooners and the resort's Perfect Honeymoon package even includes the opportunity to name a star. The 50 villas, which all open 180-degrees, are bright, spacious and filled with contemporary Maldivian art and custom-made furnishings, and every villa features a private freshwater pool on the sun deck and an *undhoali* Maldivian swing, as well as luxe modern amenities. Dining options including Ba'thehi Lounge & Restaurant, set on a Maldivian boat in the lagoon, with a magical underwater world visible through its glass floor and gourmet island cuisine inspired by the spice route on its menus. The resort's proximity to Hanifaru Bay, where the world's largest grouping of manta rays can be seen in season, and its own coral reef make Milaidhoo an ideal destination for nature lovers. The island's PADI diving centre offers a comprehensive range of courses and excursions to some of the world's finest sites, and water sports are also available. SUP at sunset with stingrays? Now there's a story to tell.

*Doubles from AED 3,800; 00960-665 4441, [milaidhoo.com](http://milaidhoo.com)*

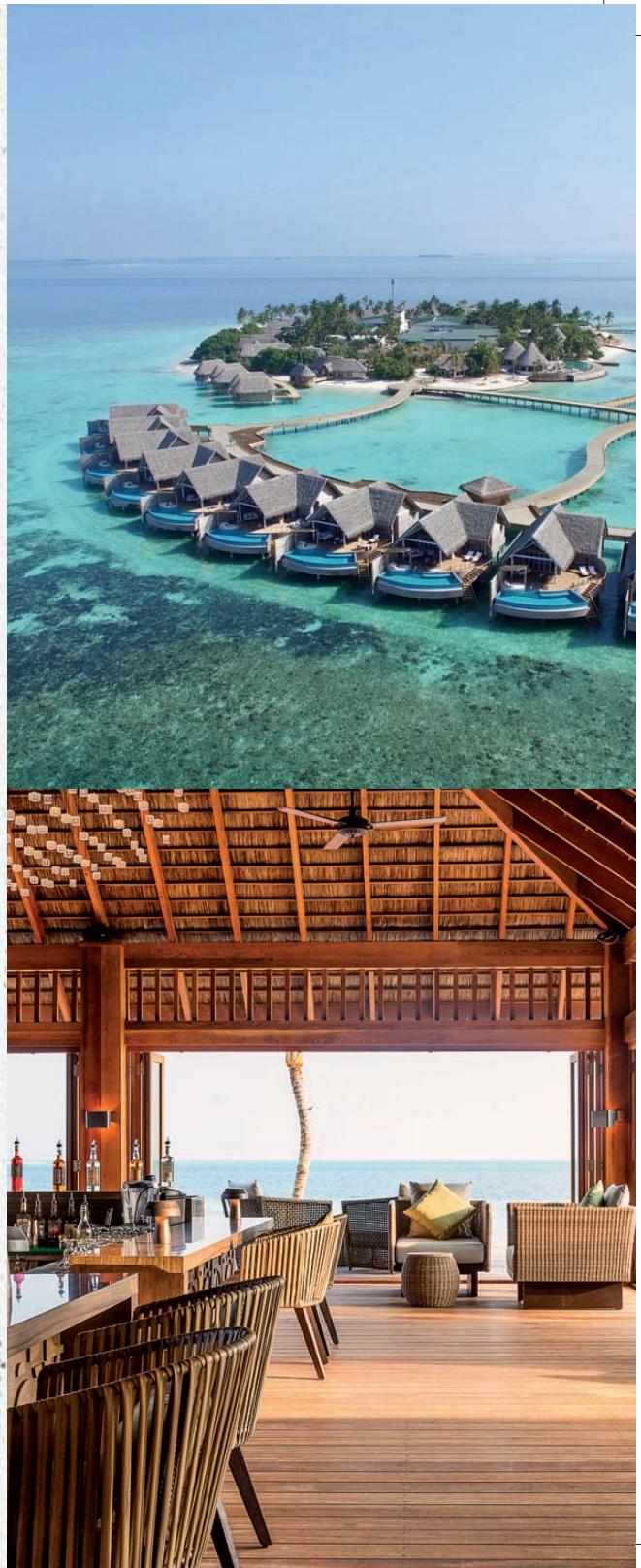
### HURAWALHI ISLAND RESORT

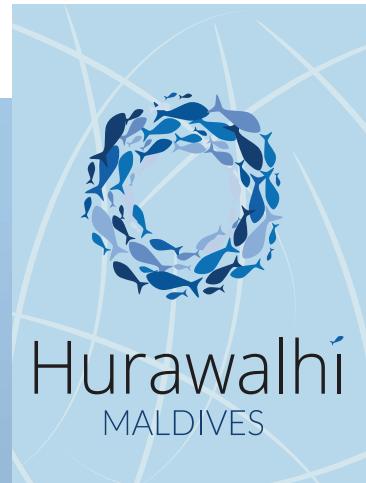
An enchanting private island in the pristine Lhaviyani Atoll, Hurawalhi Island Resort is an adults-only luxury resort that balances barefoot bliss, privacy and comfort with adventure and activities. The 60 contemporary overwater villas and 30 beach villas are decorated with natural materials, their design blending seamlessly with the natural surroundings.

Enticing restaurants and bars include the Champagne Pavilion at the end of the Ocean Villa jetty; the overwater Aquarium restaurant, featuring seafood and show cooking at its Teppanyaki grill; and 5.8 Undersea Restaurant – the world's largest all-glass underwater restaurant, situated beneath the lagoon, with just eight tables. From football on the astroturf to tennis, snorkelling on the house reef to diving excursions and water sports, there's something for everyone. For those seeking a more leisurely pace, pamper yourself at Duniye Spa, enjoy a cultural Maldivian dance presentation or learn about the conservation of the coral reefs and the local manta ray population from the resident

Manta Trust marine biologist. The resort's all-inclusive option includes daily buffet meals and a discount on à la carte options, afternoon tea, drinks, and activities.

*Doubles from AED 1,115; 00960-662 2000, [hurawalhi.com](http://hurawalhi.com)*





YOUR IDEAL GETAWAY IN THE MALDIVES AT A 5-STAR, ADULTS ONLY ISLAND

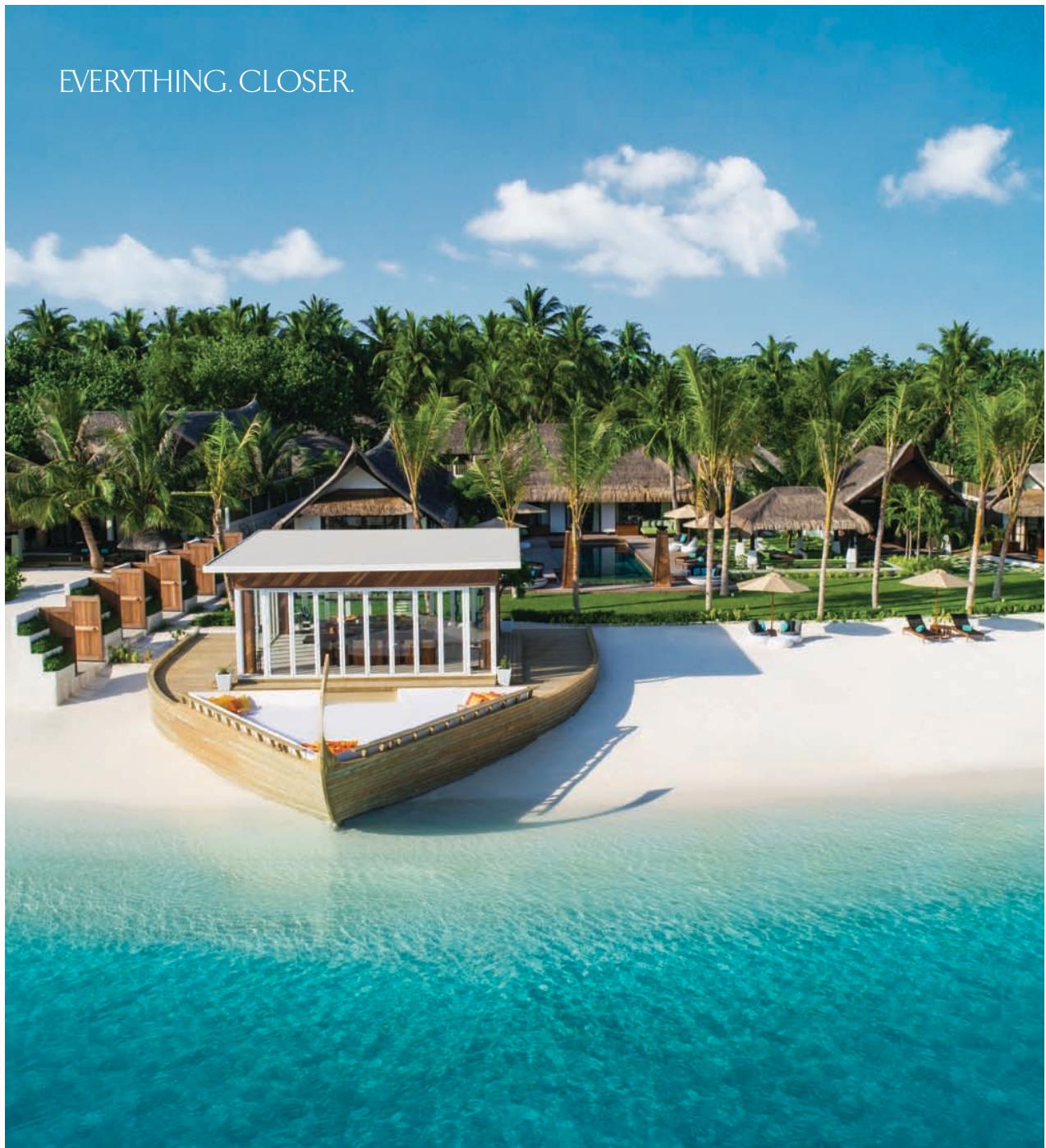
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