

THE WRIGHT GETAWAY

MALDIVES

TRAVEL GUIDE



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Welcome to Maldives

I hope you've packed your sunscreen. We're going to be spending a lot of time on the beach! It's not just Asia's smallest nation by land area but also the lowest-lying (with a "high point" of a mere 17 feet).

The Maldives are ancient islands, settled in the days before Christ, that have endured changes in regime, shifts in religion, and natural disasters such as horrific tsunamis. Despite it all, they've come out of it all as a shining example of island tourism done right.

Today the Maldives attract people from all over the globe that partake in heart-stopping water sports, like the appropriately-named "flyboarding", or to sample their unequaled cuisine – prepared from fresh, local ingredients by Michelin star-rated chefs.

Whether you're into history or nature, thrills or relaxation, this travel guide will help you to plan your unforgettable Maldivian trip!

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QUICK INFO

CAPITAL:

Malé

POPULATION:

379,270

CURRENCY:

Maldivian rufiyaa

VISA:

A 30-day visa-on-arrival is issued for free to all nationalities

SAFETY RANK:

Not ranked on the Global Peace Index

LANGUAGES:

Dhivehi (official), English

TIME ZONE:

UTC+5 (Maldives Time)

So when is the best time to visit?

High Season: November to April (dry season)

Shoulder Season: April-May and October-November

Low Season: May to October (rainy season)

HIGH SEASON – THE DRY SEASON (NOVEMBER TO APRIL)

The dry season is the best time to visit the Maldives. It's also the busiest time for tourism. Everything – from activities to the resorts – will be more occupied and busy.

During this time of year, it will be harder to adjust your travel plans at the last minute and expect availability for popular activities.

However, there's a big advantage to visiting the Maldives - many resorts are located on their own islands. So, even during the high season, crowds are typically still manageable!



SHOULDER SEASON – APRIL TO MAY AND OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER

The Maldives don't have much of a shoulder season.

There are really only two seasons here, and you're safer visiting in the height of the dry season. Shoulder season is unpredictable. You could have great weather for your entire vacation or it could rain cats and dogs for multiple days!

LOW SEASON – THE WET SEASON (MAY TO OCTOBER)

There's not much joy in being in the Maldives if it's pouring so hard you can't go outside!

However, this is actually the best time for surfers to come to the islands as the waves are higher during these months.



What are the top 5 things to do in Maldives?

01. STAY ON THE WATER

If you've never been to the Maldives, odds are that you've never heard the term "overwater". Well, it's exactly what it sounds like. Overwater bungalows and suites – and whole resorts, even – are built less than 3 feet above the ocean's clam surface.

There are countless options, ranging in glamour and size, but many of them come with an open-air shower and an infinity pool where you can relax and meditate in serenity with nothing to distract you from the pure blues of the water and sky. Whichever resort you choose, a stay in an overwater bungalow or suite is a must for any Maldivian vacation!

2. GET YOUR ADRENALINE PUMPING

The country is over 99% water. So it makes sense that water activities are the main thing to do here.

There are the classic options available like wakeboarding, jet-skis and motorboats. Then there are some options you've probably never heard of, like "fun tubing", that you should embrace and give a try. All the resorts offer an array of water activities that you can choose from to fully enjoy all the Maldives has to offer.

3. GET UNDER THE WAVES!

Whether it's snorkeling, scuba diving, or just observing the wildlife through the floor of a glass-bottomed boat, there are countless opportunities to get under the water that surrounds these beautiful islands. While you're in the Maldives, give up on trying to stay dry!

Also in Maldives, you have a unique opportunity to experience lunch or dinner in an underwater restaurant. Take advantage of this and watch manta rays glide by between courses being served. Maldivians live as one with the ocean – so get into it!

4. SOAK IN OVER 2,000 YEARS OF HISTORY

The Maldives have a long history. It started with early settlers that practiced Buddhism. You can still see their stupas in places like Isdhoo. Later the country became a sultanate and, it remains an Islamic country to this day.

There is an Islamic Centre in the capital city, Malé, with the Grand Friday Mosque – a marvel of engineering, constructed out of blocks of coral. Built in the seventeenth century, it's one of the largest such buildings in all of South Asia, able to accommodate up to 5,000 worshippers.

As another point of interest, during World War II Maldives was a British colony. You can find the British War Memorial on the island of Gan.

5. DELIGHT YOUR TASTE BUDS

As a premier resort destination, the Maldives have no shortage of excellent dining. Try a plate of sushi from three-Michelin-star chef Kenji Gyoten at *So Hands On* on the island of Soneva Fushi. Additionally, try a plant-based Maldivian delight at *Shades of Green* at the same resort.

Craving Indian food? Feeling like Chinese? Many cuisine options are available here. The cuisine brings the world to this set of small islands with that special, local touch.



explore maldives





Is there anything else to do in the Maldives?

There are 1,192 islands that make up Maldives which presents many with opportunities for things to do:

After Malé, **Hithadhoo** is the second-largest island in the Maldives. With ancient, mysterious ruins (an old fort at Koatthey) and an impressive nature reserve (the Eydhigali Kilhi wetlands), it's worth staying here for a day or two.

Biyadhoo Island is perfect for scuba divers and snorkelers. With easy access to phenomenal ocean life, you'll come home with pictures that your friends won't believe are real!

Who's interested in being pampered? On **Alimatha Island**, you can receive an ayurvedic massage from the experts, or if you prefer, just lounge at one of the resort's blissful retreats.

Important information travelers need to know about the Maldives

DO:

- Respect the local religion. Dress properly with your shoulders and knees covered (and hair for women), and enter a place of worship barefoot.
- Buy a waterproof case to protect your phone. The best ones let you take pictures of the marine life underwater!
- Walk around local markets to get a feel for them. Purchase souvenirs from locals not just at the airport.

DON'T

- Don't sunbathe topless. This is a Muslim society. Even the use of bikinis is restricted outside of the resorts.
- Don't bring alcohol into the Maldives. If you must have a drink, you can likely get one at your hotel. There is NO drinking in public.
- Don't smoke, eat, or drink in public during Ramadan. This is disrespectful, and in some cases illegal.
- Don't forget to have a great time. Also, graciously thank the staff when you leave!



Maldivian Foods to Experience:

A trip to the Maldives isn't complete without a taste (or several) of the islands' fabulous culinary delights. And – with the country's exceptionally high number of star chefs per capita – your taste buds are sure to get excited!

Coconut: It's hard to walk far in the Maldives without stumbling on a coconut palm. And it's hard to order a plate of food on these islands without finding some form of coconut in your dish. Fortunately, this fruit is extraordinarily versatile, providing delicious coconut water, savory flakes of dried coconut meat, and a thick milk that's ideal in curries. It's a must in Maldivian dishes.

Fish: For the ancient Maldivians, the creatures of the sea were the only source of protein and were featured in just about every dish. The seafood here is exceptionally fresh. It's taken straight from the ocean, often on the very same day that the chef is going to cook with it. There may not be much red meat here, but the variety of aquatic creatures make up for it!

Starches: The third component of the trio that makes up most traditional Maldivian foods is starch and, it comes in several forms on these islands. Carbohydrates found in the Maldives range from rice to more unusual things like breadfruit. There are plenty of tubers (like sweet potato and cassava) that you'll experience as well. Make sure you try screwpine at least once!



How to get around?

There are really only two ways to get around the Maldives: fly or take a boat! Let's look at some specific options:

Seaplane: This is an adventure in itself. These marvels of engineering can land and take off straight from the water. It's the quickest and, sometimes the only way, to get to the country's more remote islands.

Speedboat: Speedboat transfers are typically available to closer islands, and they're fairly fast and reliable. This is an adequate option if you prefer not to fly.

Dhoni: This is a traditional cargo boat used by the locals. They're slow, and oftentimes dirty, but they have that true local flavor. If you're willing to step out to experience something new, traveling in one of these will be a real experience!





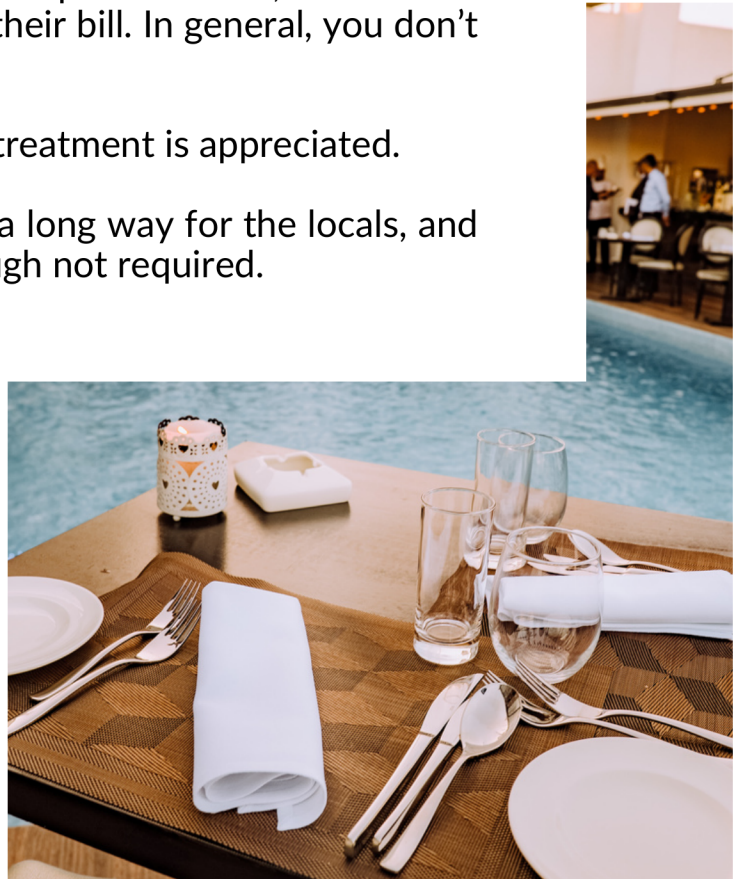
Tipping - *Should I?*

Restaurants: Tipping in restaurants is often just a matter of rounding up bills or leaving the change.

Tour Guides: These are licensed professionals, and often a service charge is included in their bill. In general, you don't need to tip.

Spas: A tip of around \$5 per treatment is appreciated.

Hotels: A dollar or two goes a long way for the locals, and is genuinely appreciated though not required.



Ready To Go To Maldives?

Are you ready to travel to the Maldives? It's really a wonderful place – rich in history and culture, rich in activities and thrills, rich in flavors, and relaxing in the way that many of us have forgotten is possible.

Well, if anything (or everything!) makes you want to grab the next flight to this tiny island nation, you know what to do. Just pull out your cell phone – and shame on you if your travel agent isn't on speed dial!

Hope to see you in the Maldives,

Ronda Wright



**LET'S PLAN YOUR
MALDIVES VACATION
TODAY!**

Ronda Wright

Book a call today to get a complimentary travel consultation.

CONTACT ME TODAY!

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