

THE WRIGHT GETAWAY

MALDIVES

TRAVEL GUIDE



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Welcome to Maldives

I hope you 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, or perhaps the lowest-lying (with a "high point" of a mere 5.1 meters).

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. And 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, to partake in their 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 unsurpassable Maldivian trip!

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QUICK INFO

CAPITAL:

Malé

POPULATION:

379,270

CURRENCY:

Maldivian rufiyaa ([click here](#) for current conversion rates)

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, and everything – from activities to the resorts – is going to be more booked.

It'll be harder to choose new activities at the last minute, or change plans.

However, there's a big advantage of the Maldives – that many resorts are located on their own islands. So, even during the high season, crowds are not a big problem!



SHOULDER SEASON – APRIL TO MAY AND OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER

The Maldives don't really 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. The "shoulder season" is unpredictable. The weather can be great or your whole vacation it might be raining cats and dogs!

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 five places to go or 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 a meter above the ocean's clam surface.

There are countless options, ranging in glamour and size, but almost all 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 you choose, a stay in one of these is a must for a 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 classics: wakeboarding, jet-skis and motorboats. And then there are some you've probably never heard of – "fun tubing", for example – but you should really try. All the resorts offer an array of water sports

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!

There's also the world's first underwater restaurant – where you can watch manta rays glide past between courses. Or a bungalow situated well beneath the ocean's surface. The Maldives 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 Buddhists, and you can still see their stupas in places like Isdhoo. Then it became a sultanate – and remains Muslim to this day.

There's a whole 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.

During World War II, it was a British colony, and you can find the British War Memorial on the island of Gan.

5. LUXURIATE WITH 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. Or try a plant-based Maldivian delight at "Shades of Green", in the same resort.

Feeling like Indian? Chinese? Many cuisines are options – bringing the world to this set of small islands – but all with that special, local touch.



explore maldives





Is there anything else to do in the Maldives?

There are 1,192 islands, brimming with opportunities:

After Malé, **Hithadhoo** is the second-largest island in the Maldives. With ancient, mysterious ruins (an old fort at Koathey) 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 unmatched ocean life, easily accessible, you'll come home with pictures that your friends won't believe are real!

Fancy getting pampered? On **Alimatha Island**, you can receive an ayurvedic massage from the experts, or just lounge out 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. And purchase souvenirs from locals, not just at the airport.

DON'T

- Don't sunbathe topless. This is a Muslim society, and 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 probably get one at your hotel. But NO drinking in public.
- Don't smoke, eat, or drink in public during Ramadan. This is disrespectful, and in some cases, illegal. When is Ramadan?
- Don't forget to have a great time. And then graciously thank the staff when you leave!



Maldivian Foods to Experience:

A trip to the Maldives isn't complete without a taste (or several) 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 coconut – in some form – 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 food.

Fish: For the ancient Maldivians, the creatures of the sea were the only source of protein, and featured in just about every dish. And 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 all traditional Maldivian food, starch comes in several forms on these islands. Carbohydrates found in the Maldives range from rice – which is often ground and presented as flour – to more unusual things, like breadfruit. There are plenty of tubers (like sweet potato and cassava), which are boiled. And then there's "screwpine", which you have to try at last 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: An adventure in itself. These marvels of engineering can land – or even take off – straight from the water. It's the quickest – and, sometimes, the only – way to get to the country's uninhabited.

Speedboat: Transfers are typically available to closer islands, and they're fairly fast and reliable. An adequate option if you don't like flying.

Dhoni: 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 of the charm of your relaxing vacation, traveling in one of these will be a real experience!





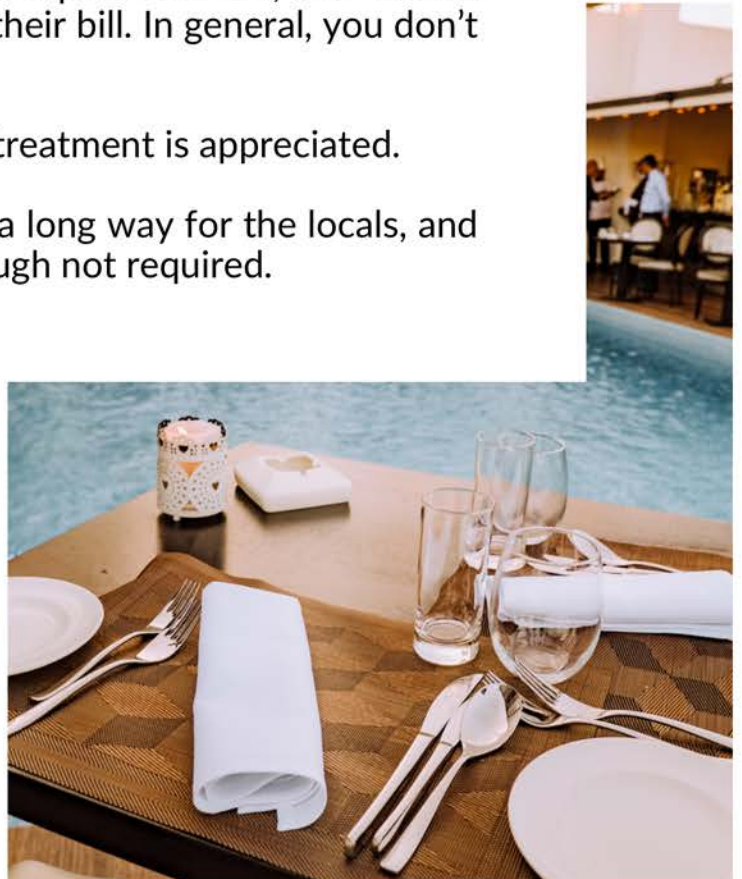
Tipping - *Should I?*

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?

Do you want to go to the Maldives? You'd be mad if you didn't! 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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