



Discover the  
**Maldives**

**Turquoise**

The Turquoise Holiday Company



**T**he one fact all our clients comment on when returning from the Maldives is the colour of sea. "It really is that blue!" they always say, in disbelief that no Photoshop or filter is required (not that we'd ever use those at Turquoise). Every hue and tint of blue is here and beautifully choreographed, from the palest Bombay Sapphire gin bottle blue to the darkest Parker Pen ink blue.

Whichever shade of blue is your favourite, this mini brochure will help you learn a little more about the wonderful Maldives. You'll discover how to get there, when's the best time to go, the top things to do while you're there and more. We've even shared some of our favourite islands and what you can expect at each one, including how to experience a little bit of local life while you're there.

The words, facts and suggestions contained within this brochure will take you on a deeper discovery of the Maldives. When you've decided you want to visit this paradise for yourself, an informal chat with us online, by phone or via video call will help you find the ideal island for you. When you do return from your own magical island, I know you'll come back saying: "I couldn't believe the colour of the sea."

**James Bell**

Co-founder and Managing Director

# About the Maldives

You probably already know the Maldives is made up of a lot of postcard-perfect islands, swathed in coconut palms and blessed with some of the world's finest beaches and coral reefs. There are, in fact, actually around 1,200 of them scattered across the Indian Ocean, grouped into 26 island chains known as atolls – a word deriving from *atholhu* in the Maldivian language Dhivehi. What you might not have known is, being spread across approximately 56,000 sq miles, the Maldives is one of the most far-reaching countries on the planet, ensuring every one of its islands is as blissfully remote as the next.

The resorts featured in this brochure are just a handful of our favourite islands, each one kissed with sunshine, lapped by gin-clear waters and offering the kind of forget-about-it-all escapism seldom found anywhere else on Earth.

## FAST FACTS

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### Capital

Malé

### Currency

Maldivian rufiyaa, although US dollars and credit cards are widely accepted

### Language

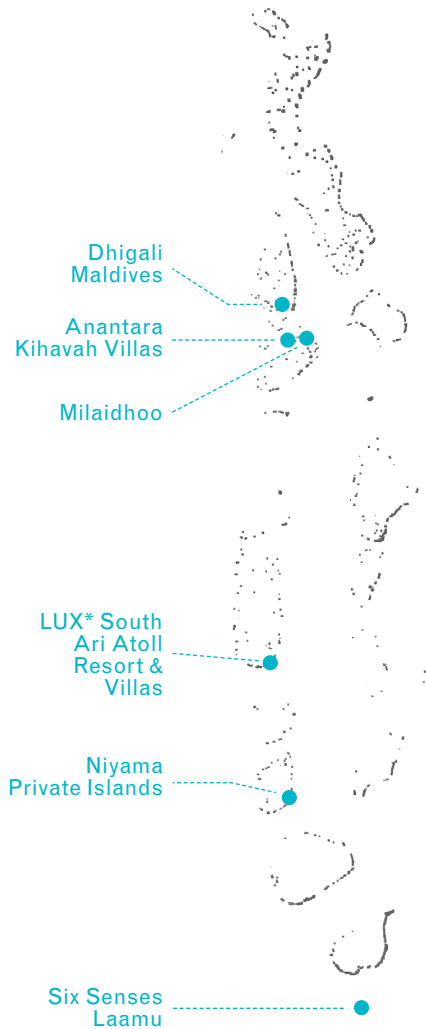
Dhivehi

### Religion

Islam

### Time zone

GMT +5



# Getting Around the Maldives

## Getting there

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There are direct flights from London to Malé in the Maldives, which take around 10 and a half hours. Alternatively, there are also plenty of indirect flights, going via places like Dubai, Colombo and Doha en route.

## Getting to your island

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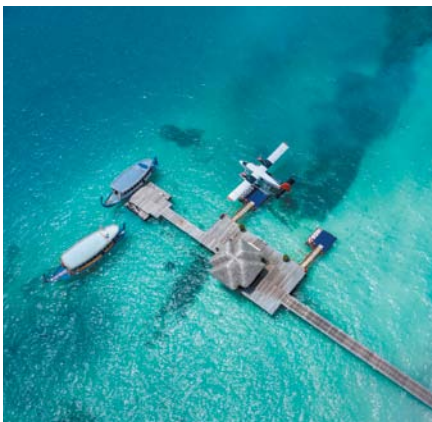
Once you're in the Maldives, there are several options for connecting onto your island. Catching a speedboat is one way if your resort lies close by but if it's further away, you might have to catch a domestic flight before a speedboat ride to your paradise island.

However, by far the most iconic transfer in the Maldives is via seaplane – flying in one of these is an incredible experience in itself. Once you arrive in Malé, you'll be transferred to the seaplane terminal and your resort's own private seaplane lounge,



which is a taster of what's to come. Each lounge is decked out in the theme of the resort you're staying at and there's a buffet of sumptuous food and drink for you to enjoy – try and get a window seat so you get a front-row view of the seaplanes taking off and landing on the water. Hotel staff will make the check-in process seamless, while some lounges even have a spa room if you fancy a pre-flight massage.

Your seaplane will likely be one of Trans Maldivian Airways' 57 aircraft – the world's largest seaplane fleet. Every one is a classic de Havilland twin otter seaplane, each capable of holding up to only 15 passengers, so you're guaranteed an intimate experience. With seaplanes flying far lower than larger aircraft, you'll get your first proper glimpse of the Maldivian islands, strung like a beautiful necklace of pearls across the Indian Ocean. The flip flop-wearing pilots only heighten your sense of excitement, before your seaplane lands right at your resort's jetty!



# Essential Information

## Visas

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British passport holders need a visa to visit the Maldives. You don't need to do anything in advance – you're issued one free of charge when you arrive at Malé airport.

## Covid-19 vaccine requirements

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With the UK Government's new traffic light system, the rules and regulations are changing on a regular basis, depending on whether the Maldives is categorised green, amber or red at the time you're planning to travel. With that in mind, it's best to chat to one of our specialists for the most up-to-date information.

Regardless of what colour it is, the Maldives will require you to take a PCR test within 96 hours of travelling and present a negative test result on arrival. A PCR test isn't the same as a Covid-19 test through the NHS – these can be booked through a number of private health clinics.

## Travel insurance

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Travel insurance is more important than ever and we can offer special rates through our partner, Campbell Irvine, who can provide policies to cover everything from the loss of your engagement ring to cancellation due to Covid-19. If you'd like to request a quote or have any other queries, then please get in touch. In the unfortunate event you do feel poorly while you're away, each island has its own live-in doctor.



*\*All Covid-19 vaccine and visa requirements are correct as of the time of publication. Requirements are changing rapidly, so speak to our expert team for the most up-to-date information.*

## Glossary of key terms

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### **Overwater bungalow**

Stilted accommodation set right over the lagoon that has become the signature stay in the Maldives.

### **End of pontoon**

The overwater bungalows found right at the end of the pontoon, often providing the most privacy and best ocean views.

### **Mr/Ms Friday**

Named after the character from *Robinson Crusoe*, these are your personal butlers which look after you at each resort.

### **No news, no shoes**

The main philosophy in the Maldives, where you'll surrender your shoes on arrival and spend your holiday in barefoot luxury – literally.





# Top Maldives Experiences

## Snorkelling and diving

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Take one look into the azure waters of the Maldives and you'll realise why the Maldives is one of the world's finest snorkelling and diving destinations. It doesn't matter which island you choose to stay on – reef sharks, crayon-coloured fish, turtles and rays all abound in its coral-covered reefs and atolls. Whether you love diving the deeper depths or prefer to be snorkelling the shallows, there are a multitude of magical marine worlds to discover. Resorts provide complimentary snorkelling gear and if you stay in an overwater bungalow, you can go swimming straight from your villa!

## Swimming with manta rays and whale sharks

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The stars of the Maldives' marine meccas are its magnificent manta rays, which you can spot year-round across different atolls – Hanifaru Bay in the Baa Atoll (May-Nov) is the most well-known hotspot, while the western atolls generally welcome manta rays from October to April. Whale sharks can also be spotted in the Maldives throughout the year, with the South Ari Atoll one of the best places to see them. Fancy a closer look? Guided tours organised through your resort afford you the chance to swim, snorkel or dive with both of these beautiful beasts.



## Local island visits

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Many of the resorts in the Maldives offer the chance to visit a neighbouring island and it's an excursion we'd highly recommend doing. On a typical day at a local island, you'll wander an authentic village with its mosques and brightly painted houses, stopping at a café for some tasty snacks like gulha and bajiya along the way. When visiting local communities, please remember to be respectful with your attire – dress conservatively and don't show too much flesh.

## Other island activities

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Even though relaxing will likely be top of your list of things to do in the Maldives, there's plenty you can do if you can bear to tear yourself away from the beach. All resorts offer an impressive range of non-motorised water sports, including stand-up paddleboarding, surfing, kayaking and windsurfing. With other activities like dolphin-spotting cruises, sandbank picnics, hands-on programmes with on-site marine biologists and wine-tasting sessions common across resorts, no day in the Maldives needs to be the same.





# Six Senses Laamu

*Barefoot isolation only Robinson Crusoe could dream of*



## Getting there

A 35-minute domestic flight from Malé, then a 15-minute speedboat ride

## The rooms

27 beach bungalows and villas  
70 water bungalows and villas

## Dining options

- Three restaurants, two bars, an ice cream and chocolate studio, wine cellar and several dining experiences

*Our tip:* Longitude specialises in seafood freshly caught from the waters below.

## The spa

Local and Ayurvedic techniques are specialisms, while the nine treatment rooms either have ocean views or are tucked within leafy foliage.

## Top three activities

- Wide-ranging water sports and dive centre, with access to the Maldives' only year-round manta ray cleaning station
- Day escape to a private island
- Surf on the Yin Yang break (May-Sep only)

## Green credentials

Sustainability is a key focus here, from marine conservation to its own organic garden. A back of house tour means guests can learn about all the resort does.

## Best for

Couples and families (The Den kids' club is suitable for 3-11 year olds)

## Fun fact

The best place to spot sea turtles is between jetties A and B.

## Experience local life

Visit nearby local island Hithadhoo, where you can stroll the village streets, visit an ancient mosque, community centre, grocery store and, if you're feeling adventurous, hike to a lake in the middle of the island.

Enjoy 7 nights in a Lagoon Water Villa on a half board basis, from £2,789pp. Includes return international flights, domestic flights and speedboat transfers, saving over £4,600 per couple.

# Milaidhoo

*Switch off at this authentic back-to-basics retreat*



## Getting there

A 35-minute seaplane flight from Malé

## The rooms

20 beach villas and residences

30 water villas and residences

## Dining options

- Three restaurants and two bars

*Our tip:* Set on a trio of dhonis, Ba'theli Lounge & Restaurant is the only restaurant in the world set on a boat in a lagoon – you're guaranteed a memorable meal here.

## The spa

The resort's Serenity Spa boasts a holistic menu which marries the healing qualities of plants with traditional African techniques for blissful overwater relaxation.

## Top three activities

- Wide-ranging water sports and dive centre
- Picnic on a deserted island
- Our Day – A personalised itinerary aboard a yacht for the day

## Green credentials

Join Milaidhoo's 'be a marine biologist' programme, where you can shadow one of its two resident experts and learn more about the underwater worlds around you.

## Best for

Couples and honeymooners

## Fun fact

Originality should be Ba'theli's middle name – it's also the only restaurant in the country which serves modern Maldivian cuisine, its gourmet menu inspired by the ingredients of the traditional spice route.

## Experience local life

Milaidhoo prides itself on its authenticity. You can visit a local island during a day on a luxury yacht, or even accompany a traditional fisherman to learn how he brings in his daily catch.

Enjoy 7 nights in a Water Pool Villa on a half board basis, from £4,999pp. Includes return international flights and seaplane transfers, saving over £4,400 per couple.

# Dhigali Maldives

*Uber cool cocoon that's trendy and minimalist*



## Getting there

A 45-minute seaplane from Malé

## The rooms

140 beach bungalows and villas  
40 water bungalows and villas

## Dining options

- Four restaurants, two bars and a café

*Our tip:* Dhigali also has a pop-up jungle pizzeria. Order your favourite pizza and find a quiet patch of sand to enjoy it on!

## The spa

Hidden within the soothing ambience of lush jungle, Dhigali's spa features 12 treatment rooms focusing on indigenous therapies and healing techniques.

## Top three activities

- Extensive water sports and on-site dive centre
- Castaway picnic
- Dolphin discovery cruise

## Green credentials

Around 80% of the vegetation on Dhigali is the island's original greenery, with the resort being built around it.

## Best for

Couples and families (the Play kids' club is suitable for 4-12 year olds)

## Fun fact

Want to eat pizza guilt-free? Dhigali has its own personal trainer for island workouts and a 1.2km-long sandy running track.

## Experience local life

Experience markets, cafés and colourful culture on a local island visit, while Dhigali also lays on traditional boduberu (big drum) music performances on the beach.

Enjoy 7 nights in a Beach Villa on an all-inclusive basis, from £7,199 per family of four. Includes return international flights and seaplane transfers, saving over £3,400 per family.

# Anantara Kihavah Villas

*A pristine idyll that pops with tropical colour*



## Getting there

A 35-minute seaplane flight from Malé

## The rooms

39 beach villas and residences

42 water villas and residences

## Dining options

- A dining hub home to four restaurants, one bar and an underwater wine cellar, plus two restaurants, one bar and dining experiences

*Our tip:* SEA.FIRE.SPICE.SKY. is the resort's diverse four-in-one dining hub, including an underwater restaurant and eating tapas at an overwater observatory.

## The spa

The Anantara Spa is an overwater sanctuary with everything you need to rest mind, body and soul, from stand-up paddleboard yoga to an Ayurvedic treatment room.

## Top three activities

- Extensive water sports and dive centre
- Stargazing at SKY, the resort's overwater observatory
- Learn a new skill in the Maldives' only Muay Thai boxing ring

## Green credentials

Anantara Kihavah's Bio Centre offers excursions led by the on-island marine biologists, as well as the chance to participate in its coral adoption programme.

## Best for

Couples and families (The Thiththi Boli Kids' Club is suitable for 4-12 year olds)

## Fun fact

To keep the pristine nature of the island intact, not one tree has been moved to accommodate the resort

## Experience local life

You can see neighbouring local island Kudarikilu from the powder-soft beach and the resort organises visits there to wander its villages and explore the island museum.

Enjoy 7 nights in a Beach Pool Villa on a half board basis, from £4,099pp. Includes return international flights and seaplane transfers, saving over £3,400 per couple.



# Niyama Private Islands

*A blissful pair of cool and contemporary escapes*



## Getting there

A 45-minute seaplane flight from Malé

## The rooms

94 beach studios, suites and pavilions  
40 water studios and pavilions

## Dining options

- Six restaurants, two bars, a deli and several dining experiences

*Our tip:* Underwater restaurant Subsix is the place for subaquatic lunches and gourmet dinners while fish, moray eels and hawksbill turtles swim by.

## The spa

Drift by Niyama has six lagoon-facing treatment rooms as well as two divine treatment sanctuaries. An additional relaxation area features a sauna and steam room, plunge pools and juice bar.

## Top three activities

- Wide-ranging water sports and dive centre
- Surfing – Niyama is the only resort in the Maldives where surf-worthy waves break directly onto the island
- International cooking classes

## Green credentials

You have the chance to responsibly plant your own coral, while Niyama also supports local schools with educational outreach projects.

## Best for

Couples and families (The Explorers Kids' Club is suitable for 1-12 years old)

## Fun fact

Niyama comprises two islands. 'Chill' is more laid-back and ideal for couples and honeymooners, while 'Play' is livelier and great for families.

## Experience local life

You can enjoy a guided tour of local island Kudahuvadhoo, capital of the Dhaalu Atoll. As well as being immersed in village life, you'll see a 12th-century mosque, too.

Enjoy 7 nights in a Beach Villa on a half board basis, from £3,099pp. Includes return international flights and seaplane transfers, saving over £1,800 per couple.

# LUX\* South Ari Atoll Resort & Villas

*Marine magic on one of the Maldives' largest islands*



## Getting there

A 25-minute seaplane from Malé

## The rooms

99 beach villas and pavilions

88 water villas

## Dining options

- Eight restaurants and five bars, including a café

*Our tip:* We find the tandoori prawns and tagines at oriental-Indian Ocean fusion restaurant Senses irresistible!

## The spa

The LUX\* Me Spa has 15 spa villas (four of which are overwater) and a comprehensive array of plunge pools, a spa boutique, hammam bath, yoga grove and more.

## Top three activities

- Comprehensive water sports and on-site dive centre
- Catamaran excursions
- Whale shark safaris (you can spot them here year round)

## Green credentials

The resort has a water plant and also launched the world's largest floating solar platform at sea.

## Best for

Couples and families (the kids' and teens' clubs combined are perfect for 3-17 year olds)

## Fun fact

A vintage red telephone box hidden on the island allows you to make international calls free of charge!

## Experience local life

Try your luck at line fishing for the day with a local fisherman, where you can donate your catch to a neighbouring island community.

Enjoy 7 nights in a Beach Pavilion on a bed and breakfast basis, from £1,829pp. Includes return international flights and seaplane transfers, saving over £650 per couple.





# Why Book With Turquoise?



## We're family owned and run

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Turquoise Holidays began life in 2002, the realised dream of a former Sydney taxi driver, jillaroo (a cowgirl in the Australian Outback) and ski bum who were desperate to put some passion and imagination back into the travel experience. That's how it has been ever since. We treat every enquiry as unique, pouring our heart and soul into every holiday you entrust in us. Being small in size and family-owned is in our fabric – you won't find a more personalised service anywhere else.

## Our knowledge is unrivalled

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We leave no speck of sand untrodden or coral reef un-snorkelled in our quest to have the best travel knowledge in the business. We've been to every beach,

stayed at every resort and sipped every cocktail, ready to share our honest, first-hand experience with you. We hand-pick places according to our brand values and we don't recommend anywhere we haven't given our Turquoise stamp of approval to.

## We offer full financial security

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Every holiday you book with Turquoise is fully covered by ATOL, which means your holiday is protected financially, no matter what happens. For all holidays in 2021, we're also offering 100% refundable deposits (T&Cs apply). Knowing your money is safe is even more important nowadays and you'll have no such worries with us. We'll take care of everything, leaving you to concentrate on enjoying the trip of a lifetime.

# When to Visit the Maldives

To plan your Maldives holiday properly, you'll need to know the best time of year to go. In truth, the Maldives is fantastic to visit year-round, with temperatures staying a steady 30°C. October to April sees minimal rainfall and clear blue skies and though May to September sees the odd tropical shower, there's still plenty of sunshine to soak up. Our month-by-month calendar below gives you a more in-depth look into the Maldives at every time of year.

## January – March

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- With the perfect combination of clear skies, warm weather, low humidity and little rainfall, this is the best weather window in the Maldives.
- The fabulous weather during this period also makes for the clearest waters, meaning it's the best time to go snorkelling and diving, too.
- Numbers of manta rays are at their highest in the western atolls – book onto a guided swimming tour for an unforgettable experience.



## April

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- The weather is still dry at the start of the month but the chance of rainfall slightly increases as you head deeper into April.
- Water visibility is still very high, providing excellent snorkelling and diving opportunities.
- It's still a great time to go swimming with manta rays in the western atolls.



## May

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- Though it's the beginning of the Maldives' 'wet' season, sunshine hours are still in abundance and rainfall is rare.
- The fact that the Maldives nudges into its rainy season means there are better value holiday offers to found travelling at this time.
- The Maldives' population of whale sharks begin to move from the archipelago's east to western atolls like the Ari and Baa atolls.





## June – September

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- This is the Maldives' wet season but that doesn't mean it'll rain on your holiday. Showers are seldom and you'll still be spoilt with sun-soaked views.
- Apart from during the school holidays, there'll be better value offers and greater resort availability during this time.
- Hanifaru Bay in the Baa Atoll is a hotspot for plankton-hungry whale sharks and manta rays at this time of year. Guided swimming and snorkelling experiences will bring you nose-to-fin with these wonderful creatures.



## October

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- October lies at the tail-end of the wet season, so the deeper into October you visit the less chance of rain there'll be.
- As it's not quite peak season for the Maldives, resort availability will be better.
- You can still see (or even better, swim with) the manta rays and whale sharks of Hanifaru Bay in the Baa Atoll before they head east next month.



## November – December

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- It's the dry season in the Maldives, so you're guaranteed warm weather, blue skies and low humidity.
- The waters are super clear and calm, ideal conditions for snorkelling and diving its coral reefs.
- If you're staying in a western atoll, this is one of the best times of year to swim with manta rays and whale sharks.

# Why We Love the Maldives...



"Even though I've been to the Maldives many times, I still get that 'wow' feeling. Remote, tiny islands with the whitest sand I've ever seen – you really get that Robinson Crusoe feeling."

*Lisa Mason, Indian Ocean & Middle East Product Manager*

"Pure guilt-free relaxation but with a surprising array of activities should the guilt get the better of you! Snorkelling with turtles and whale sharks is a lifetime highlight."

*Ruth Miller, Senior Travel Specialist*



"A sommelier is always on hand to pair the perfect wine with your meal."

*Emilie Mariaux, Travel Specialist*

"It is the ultimate place of uber luxury, total relaxation and on-tap indulgence!"

*Grace Wright, Marketing Manager*

"It's one of the few places on Earth where the photos really don't do it justice."

*Carl Howells, Team Leader*



"The stars – there's very little light pollution, which makes them so much brighter. You might even see a meteor shower!"

*Caroline Horn, Travel Specialist*

"It's home to the most amazing seafood ever! I love their breakfasts, too – they're like nothing else I have experienced in the world."

*Jenni Thal, Travel Specialist*



# Contact Us

Looking to book your Maldives holiday or just want to chat about what resort might be right for you? The incredible holiday offers included within this brochure are only available for a limited time, so get in touch with our team of experts sooner rather than later.

You can give us a ring, email us or arrange a video call via our website.

**01494 687199**

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For more travel inspiration and to share your own holiday photos and memories with us, find us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.







# Turquoise

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Accredited  
Agent

