



Discover the  
**Maldives**



**Turquoise**

The Turquoise Holiday Company

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**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 is here to help you find your perfect Maldivian island. All of the islands are beautiful but it's the little differences which set them apart: distance from the airport, how to get there (seaplane or speedboat?), laden with romance or family friendly, all-inclusive or bed and breakfast, or simply which one is best value for when you want to travel. It's these subtle characteristics which we take pride in ourselves advising you on.

I hope the words, facts and incredible offers contained within will help you narrow your options, but an informal chat with us online, by phone or via video call will help you find the ideal island for you. To help you unwind amid the Maldives' blue lagoons further, we're offering a complimentary spa voucher with every booking for you to spend on a treatment while you're away. When you do return from your own paradise 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 seven 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

### Capital

Malé

### Currency

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

### Language

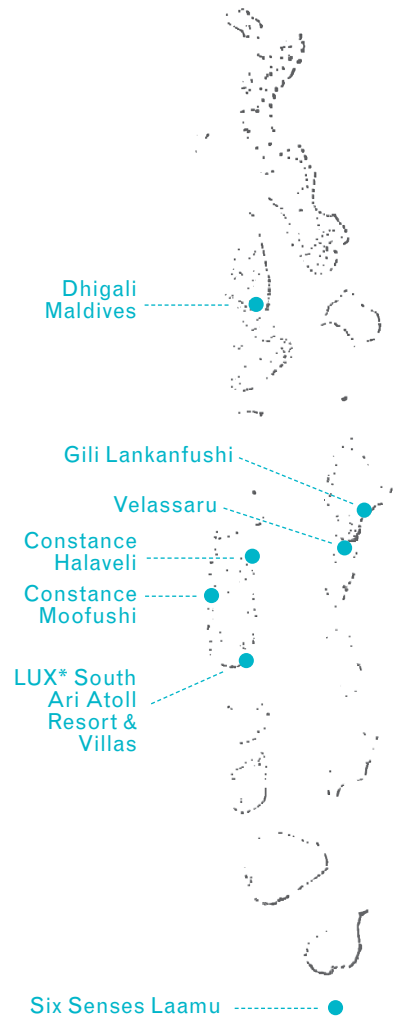
Dhivehi

### Religion

Islam

### Time zone

GMT +5



# Getting Around the Maldives

## Getting there

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

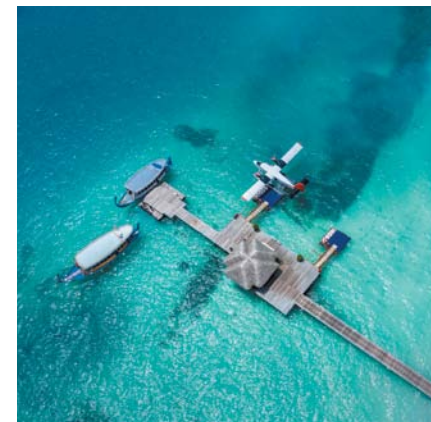
Once you're in the Maldives, there are several options for connecting onto your island. Catching a speedboat is one way if your resort lies close by but if it's further away, you might have to catch a domestic flight before a speedboat ride to your paradise island.

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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In order to visit the Maldives, you must take a PCR test within 96 hours (some resorts require a tighter timeframe) 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. On return to the UK, you'll need to provide another negative test result taken within 72 hours, which can be organised through your resort. You'll also need to fill in a Traveller Health Declaration form within 24 hours of both departure and arrival in the UK, attaching your negative PCR test certificate.

## 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!



## Sandbank picnics

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It doesn't matter if you're honeymooners, a group of friends or a family, a sandbank picnic is an unforgettable experience. It's the Maldives at its most raw – just you and your loved ones on a sparkling white patch of sand with a delicious spread of food and drink to enjoy. You can snorkel straight from the sand during the day or dine against the backdrop of a crimson sunset. Bon appétit!

## 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, 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.

## My favourite island corner

*Marteyne van Well, General Manager*

"I love our house reef. It's a magical underwater world right on our doorstep – if you're staying overwater you can snorkel among coral straight from your villa!"

Enjoy 7 nights in a Lagoon Water Villa, on a half board basis, from £2,769pp. Includes return international flights, domestic flights and speedboat transfers, saving over £3,900 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!

## My favourite island corner

*Mohamed Mamoun, Resort Hotel Manager*

"My favourite part is the fact there's so much to see, do and taste! Whether you want to relax in silence, take on adrenaline-filled activities or stay up dancing all night long, there's something for everyone."

Enjoy 7 nights in a Beach Pavilion on a bed and breakfast basis, from £1,549pp. Includes return international flights and seaplane transfers, saving over £1,300 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.

## My favourite island corner

*Glenn Daniels, General Manager*

"The Haali Bar at golden hour. There's no better place and time on the island for watching a sunset with a drink in hand and your toes in the sand."

Enjoy 7 nights in a Beach Villa on an all-inclusive basis, from £6,799 per family of four. Includes return international flights and seaplane transfers, saving over £3,000 per family.

# Velassaru

*Contemporary chic with traditional Maldivian touches*



## Getting there

A 25-minute speedboat from Malé

## The rooms

83 beach bungalows and villas  
46 water bungalows and villas

## Dining options

- Five restaurants and two bars, as well as private dining experiences

*Our tip:* Try the grilled prawns at Sand – they're mouth-watering and as big as your hand!

## The spa

Set overwater, Velassaru's spa is dreamy rejuvenation. There are 10 treatment rooms, a hydro-pool, steam room and more.

## Top three activities

- Comprehensive on-site water sports and dive centre
- Private island escape
- Sunset cruise

## Green credentials

A team of on-site marine biologists offer informative lectures and guided snorkelling tours of the nearby coral reef.

## Best for

Couples and honeymooners

## Fun fact

Velassaru has a cheery ice cream man who pedals around the island on a tricycle twice a day!

## My favourite island moment

*Bill Ignatiadis, General Manager*

"A guided snorkelling tour with one of our on-island marine biologists, before lunch with a cheeky tipple at Chill Bar, a heaven-sent sundeck dedicated to the art of mixology."

Enjoy 7 nights in a Deluxe Bungalow on a bed and breakfast basis, from £1,449pp. Includes return international flights and speedboat transfers, saving £1,000 per couple.

# Constance Moofushi

*An exotic idyll where you'll live blissfully barefoot*



## Getting there

A 30-minute seaplane from Malé

## The rooms

24 beach villas  
86 water villas

## Dining options

- Two restaurants and two bars

*Our tip:* Cool off at the tree-covered Totem bar with one of its freshly brewed iced teas or a mocktail.

## The spa

The spa's eight treatment rooms and yoga pavilion have overwater views and every massage, facial and treatment is inspired by Indian Ocean plants.

## Top three activities

- Extensive water sports and on-site dive centre – no less than 32 dive sites are a 30-minute boat ride from the resort
- Sunset cruise in a traditional dhoni
- Private sandbank experience

## Green credentials

Coral frames have been placed in its house reef to encourage coral regrowth and preserve their long-term future.

## Best for

Couples and honeymooners

## Fun fact

Constance Moofushi is one of the few resorts which offers you both a complimentary wine-tasting session and cocktail-making class.

## My favourite island corner

*Henri Arnulphy, General Manager*

"After dinner, I like to walk to the end of the arrival jetty with a drink and sit down under the stars. I can relax with my feet in the sea with fish swimming all around them."

Enjoy 7 nights in a Water Villa on an all-inclusive basis, from £2,699pp. Includes return international flights and seaplane transfers, saving over £3,400 couple.

# Constance Halaveli

*A tranquil escape laced with exotic elegance*



## Getting there

A 25-minute seaplane from Malé

## The rooms

29 beach villas  
57 water villas

## Dining options

- Four restaurants and two bars

*Our tip:* Enjoy fresh sushi, sashimi and maki for lunch with your toes in the sand at Kaika Sushi.

## The spa

Sitting on stilts over the crystal-clear lagoon, Constance Halaveli's spa has eight treatment rooms, a yoga room, hot and cold plunge pools and even an ocean salon.

## Top three activities

- Comprehensive water sports and on-site dive centre
- Sunset cruise
- Artificial grass tennis court (lessons with a professional coach are available)

## Green credentials

The resort has been Green Globe-certified six years in a row. Every room has a nature

booklet written by local biologists about the island's ecological history, flora and fauna.

## Best for

Couples and families (the Constance Kids' Club is suitable for 4-11 year olds)

## Fun fact

Its location in the North Ari Atoll means Constance Halaveli is perfectly situated for diving with whale sharks, who visit the atoll's outer reef year round.

## My favourite island corner

*Tangi Le Grand, General Manager*

"At sunset, the beach is the most magical place. Step outside your villa and feel the gentle breeze on your face, the rhythmic waves of the Indian Ocean worlds away from everyday life."

Enjoy 7 nights in a Water Villa on a bed and breakfast basis, from £2,599pp. Includes return international flights and seaplane transfers, saving over £2,400 per couple.



# Gili Lankanfushi

*The original home of the 'no news, no shoes' rule*



## Getting there

A 20-minute speedboat from Malé

## The rooms

45 water villas

## Dining options

- Two restaurants, one bar, an ice cream bar, a wine cellar and several dining experiences

*Our tip:* A vegan menu has been added at Kashiveli, showcasing the best produce grown in its large organic garden.

## The spa

Set overwater in its own bay, the Meera Spa's six treatment rooms, Ayurvedic treatment champa, sauna and steam rooms and yoga and meditation champas combine to make a blissful sanctuary.

## Top three activities

- Extensive water sports and on-site dive centre
- Dhoni cruises (at either sunrise or sunset)
- Private film screenings at the Jungle Cinema

## Green credentials

Gili Veshi, the resort's own marine biology shack, encourages guests to join in with its research, through educational talks, coral adoption and snorkelling trips.

## Best for

Couples and honeymooners

## Fun fact

The deserted One Palm Island is the ultimate setting for a unique dining experience. There, it's just you and your loved one under a starry sky.

## My favourite island corner

*Lisa Darchambaud, Head of UK Sales*

"Villa 38 at the end of Jetty 3 has access to its own private sandbank island – Three Palm Island – you can enjoy beach barbecues on. It's so close you can swim to it from the villa!"

Enjoy 7 nights in a Villa Suite on a half board basis, from £3,089pp. Includes return international flights and speedboat transfers, saving over £4,200 per couple.

# Why Book With Turquoise?



## We're family owned and run

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

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

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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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. Don't forget, we're also including a complimentary spa voucher with every booking.

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

**01494 687199**  
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**[www.turquoiseolidays.co.uk](http://www.turquoiseolidays.co.uk)**



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

