

MALDIVIVE

Travel



2000-2000

"A map of the world that does not include Utopia is not worth even glancing at."

Oscar Wilde

The World's Best Kept Secret

The Maldives

1,192 little coral squiggles off the southern tip of India, the Maldives are one of the last remaining places where you have the chance to play at Robinson Crusoe. A trip to these islands is all about space. It's about rainbows ending in the sea, shooting stars and monumental silence.



● Transfers by Seaplane

● Transfers by boat



Maldivian Travel is the only specialist company for the Maldivian Islands, and has been sending visitors to these seductive island gems for more than 18 years now! You have to admit it, that's one hell of a head-start on everyone else! We really have got the edge. Here's why: As a long established specialist company, it means that we have miles more information to hand than anyone else. Our knowledge is second-to-NONE. It means that we have got greater access to islands than anyone else. It means that we can do the **ground arrangements** if you have already got flights. It means that we can tailor-make packages, perhaps combining two islands. It means that we can organise incentive travel groups, film crews, visiting yachts, fashion shoots, TV commercials, eco-safaris, whale & dolphin watching. Above all it means that whatever Maldivian Travel can't organise for you in the Maldives is only in your dreams.

Useful Information

Rubbish

Please respect the Maldives extremely eco-sensitive environment. Coral reefs should NOT be stood on or damaged. Rubbish SHOULD be taken home. Shells must be left where they belong, not prized as 'souvenirs'. Please note too, that the turtle is an endangered species. In sum, when you visit the Maldives leave only footprints, take only pictures.

Schedule airlines

Sri Lankan Airlines, London Heathrow - Colombo - Maldives
Emirates Air, London Heathrow - Dubai - Maldives

Transfers between Malé airport and your island resort are by local boats or seaplane. During unsettled weather, particularly May to July, sea conditions may on occasions be rough. If you are not sure of your sea legs, we suggest you choose an island close to Malé or one where air transfers are available.

Transfers

Local boats/Seaplane. However, it is worth noting that transportation problems are essential in paradise - otherwise everyone would go there! Consequently late arrivals, very early departures or in case of bad weather it may be necessary to overnight in Malé.

Climate

The Maldives is not a shore holiday. It is sea and tiny islands and things can go wrong. We cannot predict the weather. Having said that, the following is a rough guide:

March is the hottest month, with temperatures approaching 100° F and usually no rain, but high humidity. High season lasts from November to April, making the Maldives a perfect destination to cure the winter blues. The rest of the year it's still a searing 80° F and the occasional short downpour offers a welcome break.

Visa

A 30 day visa is issued free of charge (no photo required) on arrival. Full British passport is required.

Currency

Maldivian Rufiyaa of 100 laarees. Available in Malé or resorts. Travellers cheques sterling or US dollars (the dollar is preferred). All major credit cards are accepted on most islands. 10 dollars Departure Tax per person.

Coconuts

A word of warning - when sitting under a coconut tree, take care a husk or coconut does not fall on your head.

Diving

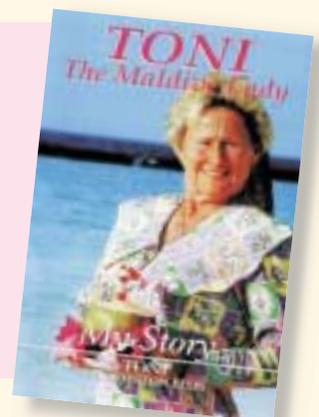
Diving in the Maldives is quite fantastic and considered by many to be the best in the world. The reefs are teeming with myriads of multifarious fish, cheeky enough to ambush you when vying for your attention. It would be impossible to be bored here. All the resorts featured have professional dive school with all the necessary equipment for hire. Diving under 30 metres is not permitted, nor is the removal of coral or spearing fish. Nudism is banned. Please dress with decorum when visiting the fishing islands and the capital Malé for shopping and sightseeing. The Maldives embrace Islam.

Insider information

For a colourful taste of the Maldives read Toni The Maldivian Lady My Story by Toni de Laroque (published by Times Editions, Singapore).

To order call 020 7352 2246

Toni



KURUMBA VILLAGE

North Malé Atoll

One of Universal Enterprises' plumb resorts. 20 minutes from the airport. 179 rooms, bungalows and suites. Wide choice of restaurants, BBQ, coffee shop. Two swimming pools, child pools + play area, gym, floodlit tennis courts. Diving, windsurfing, big game and night fishing. Harmony Centre for Natural Therapies.



Toni's Tipple: For anyone umbilically attached to power showers and room service, this great family resort is the answer. Convenient to airport and sightseeing in Malé.

LAGUNA BEACH

(Velassaru) South Malé Atoll



Stylish, pretty island 45 mins from airport. 115 a/c rooms & 17 stunning water suites. Swimming pool with swim-up bar, kids play area + pool. Choice of restaurants, coffee shop, bar, BBQ terrace. Spa, floodlit tennis courts. Diving, windsurfing, big game and night fishing.

Toni's Tipple: The tiffany-blue lagoon is ideal for diving and windsurfing, as well as serious swimmers, and beginners.

FULL MOON

(Furana) North Malé Atoll

Attractive retreat, combines local architecture with modern facilities. 25 mins from airport. 156 a/c standard rooms and water bungalows with all mod cons. Wide choice of restaurants, coffee shop. Enormous pool, gym, tennis courts, diving, windsurfing, sailing, big game and night fishing. Harmony Centre for Natural Therapies.



Toni's Tipple: Impressive sun-deck overlooking the sea. Buffets round the floodlit pool, disco dancing the night away, or just lazing with a good book. It's all there.





BAROS, North Malé Atoll

Small, laid-back island. Glorious, quiet beach by edge of one of Maldives most beautiful marine parks, the water teaming with exotica. 1 hr from airport. 75 a/c rooms and suites, all sea-facing. Open air restaurants, bar, coffee shop. PADI dive school, windsurfing, catamaran sailing, night fishing.

Toni's Tipple: Fun, unpretentious island. Scuba diving and watersports are just a swim away from the rooms. Anyone can join in the stingray feeding.



NAKATCHAFUSHI, North Malé Atoll

Tiny, pristine island. 90 mins from airport. 55 a/c thatched bungalows, with all mod cons. Choice of restaurants, coffee shop, bar with separate dance area. Perhaps most attractive of all is the lovely sun terrace built out into the sea, from which you can watch some spectacular sunsets or swim in the adjoining small, yet pretty swimming pool. PADI dive school, wide choice of water sports, night fishing and stingray feeding.



Toni's Tipple: Not surprisingly, a favourite with honeymooners. Visitors return time and time again.

TAJ CORAL REEF (Hembadhu) North Malé Atoll

A luxury resort 1 hour from the airport by speedboat. 36 beautiful water villas with private sun-deck and 30 garden villas with the beach on your doorstep.

TV/Music channels, in-house movies, mini bar and IDD Telephones. Two restaurants, one specialising in Asian foods. Fitness centre, pool, diving, windsurfing, herbal massage centre.

Toni's Tipple: The most attractive beach villas are so spacious they can accommodate a family of four.





FOUR SEASONS RESORT

-Kuda Huraa, North Malé Atoll

Small deluxe island, just 25 mins from airport. Beach bungalows, some with outdoor showers and plunge pools and most attractive water bungalows. Choice of restaurants, vast freshwater pool, with attractive sun-deck overlooking the lagoon. PADI dive school, gym, big game fishing, windsurfing, excursions.

Toni's Tipple: Casual elegance in a stunning setting with excellent cuisine.

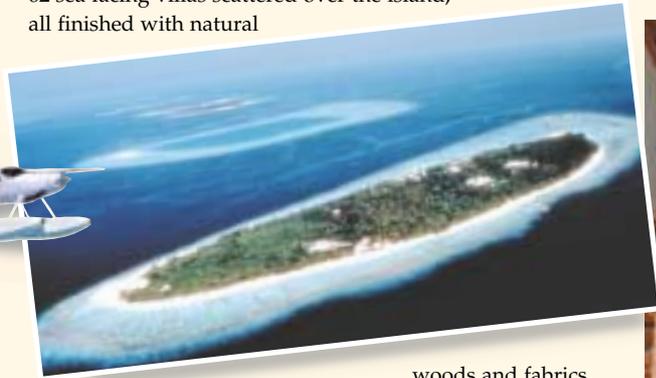


SONEVA FUSHI RESORT & SPA

(Kunfunadho), Baa Atoll



Spacious resort 35 mins by seaplane from airport. 62 sea facing villas scattered over the island, all finished with natural



woods and fabrics, with each bathroom opening onto a private garden. PADI dive school, windsurfing, sailing. Choice of restaurants.

Toni's Tipple: The whole point of Soneva Fushi is that it is natural, low-key and understated, yet with all the modern facilities you would expect from a deluxe resort.



BANYAN TREE, Maldives

(Vabbinfaru) North Malé Atoll



Understated luxury abounds in this small coral-ringed island just 20 mins from the airport. Garden and Beach Villas, some with their own private jacuzzi. Restaurant, bar, billiards, boutique, spa, diving, sailing, windsurfing, big game and night fishing.



Toni's Tipple: Your wedding vows can be renewed on a glamorous sandbank or underwater in Neptune's untouched world.



KANUHURA BEACH & SPA RESORT, Lhaviyani Atoll



Brand new luxury resort, 35 mins from airport by seaplane. 75 a/c beach villas & 18 stunning water villas. All rooms have four poster bed, mini-bar, TV & private verandah. Suites have additional sun deck with jacuzzi. Two restaurants

including Mediterranean, three bars & disco. Health club, swimming pool, tennis & squash courts, diving & variety of water sports.

Toni's Tipple: Relax with a massage at the Maldives biggest health spa or discover one of the areas best dive sites.

NIKA, Ari Atoll

Totally secluded with your OWN PRIVATE BEACH! 35 mins by seaplane from the airport. 26 very large fan-cooled bungalows with sitting room, four poster bed, freshwater



shower & separate loo. Italian style cuisine, coffee shop and floodlit tennis court. Close housereef jam-packed with assorted fish.

Toni's Tipple: This is a secret idyll hideaway. Wonderful diving, free night fishing and monumental sunsets.

VELIGANDU HURAA & DHIGUFINOLHU, South Malé Atoll

90 mins from the airport by local dhoni. Veli is a tiny, intimate resort. 21 a/c seafacing rooms, including four attractive new suites. Main restaurant and bar. Meals are often taken outside under the tall palms. It also has a small Asian restaurant which couples as a coffee shop during the day. No organized entertainment here.

Digu, the sister island is larger and linked by a wooden walkway. 97 spacious a/c rooms (some duplex), are ideal for families. Restaurant, bar, BBQ. Here the tempo steps up to the disco beat, so you can see these resorts compliment each other. They share the following facilities: PADI dive school, windsurfing, sailing, day/night fishing excursions.



Snorkelling is a short, free boat ride away to a shaded platform over an exciting reef stuffed with multifarious fish.

Toni's Tipple: Nowhere else in the Maldives can you stretch your legs with a stroll from one island to another AND both resorts' generators are tucked away on a separate island. BLISS!



All-Inclusive

EQUATOR VILLAGE - Gan, Addu Atoll

A British base from 1912 - 1974, the Equator Village was originally the old sergeants' quarters! An hour and a half flight from Male, with a breathtaking panorama of the islands. An **all-inclusive** resort with 78 a/c single storied rooms, hot/cold freshwater showers, minibar & verandah. Restaurant, coffee shop, freshwater swimming pool, billiards, tennis, windsurfing, diving and CYCLING through the



villages of six islands which are joined by causeways. A good way to keep fit while gaining an insight to the REAL Maldivian way of life.

Toni's Tipple: Glorious Gan is totally different to any other resort in the Maldives. An abundance of flora & fauna, space to stretch your legs, and the home of the beautiful white tern. Deliciously different!



FESDU, Ari Atoll



20 mins by seaplane from the airport Superb diving and close housereef. 60 a/c thatched bungalows with showers. Restaurant, coffee shop and bar.

All-inclusive covers meals, snacks, tea, coffee, soft drinks, spirits, beer, house wine (not champers!) Windsurfing, Snorkelling, Volleyball, Badminton, Table tennis, one night fishing trip.

Toni's Tipple: This is the ultimate Robinson Crusoe hideaway.



ATOLL EXPLORER

Atoll Explorer is a small, cosy ship with just 20 a/c cabins, double and twin. All are outside cabins with a picture window, limited wardrobe space, loo with shower. One restaurant, jacuzzi, bar and sundeck. No dressing up for smart dinners or entertainment. Dress code is shorts during the day and casual dress in the evenings. Her itinerary runs from Monday - Monday. Your cruise includes all daily meals and drinks on board (except champagne). Activities include diving, windsurfing, snorkelling and indoor games.



Toni's Tipple: Why not combine a weeks cruise with a stay on an island? The best of both worlds!

All-Inclusive

New All-Inclusive



WHALE AND DOLPHIN WATCHING

Join Charles and Susan Anderson on the mini cruise ship 'Pollux', as they take off for the outer atolls on a series of 12 - 14 day whale and dolphin watching trips. 'Pollux' is 45m long and steel-hulled with 10 guest cabins, although each group will be kept to a maximum of 12 guests. There is a large dining room, a/c saloon and 3 decks (including a small upper spotting deck).

Choose from a 12 day Northern Atoll itinerary (10 - 21 April 01) or the 14 day trip to the Southern Atolls (18 - 30 March 01). Limited space, book now.



KURAMATHI ISLAND, Rashdu Atoll

There are THREE resorts on this large and very beautiful island, 90 mins by boat from the airport. In the middle of the island is a well equipped leisure centre, with freshwater pool, jacuzzi, spa, sauna, floodlit tennis court, gym, beauty saloon, restaurant and ice-cream counter.



Cottage Club is situated midway along the island with its own private pier. 50 a/c water bungalows with balcony, built on stilts over the sea. 30 a/c beach bungalows all with mod cons. Choice of restaurants including Thai, bar, coffee shop, windsurfing, catamaran sailing and dive school.

Toni's Tipple: The water bungalows are deliciously pretty and private.



All-Inclusive

Blue Lagoon lies at the top end of the island. 30 a/c beach bungalows with ceiling fans & freshwater showers. 20 water bungalows on stilts with terrace and steps into the turquoise lagoon. Restaurant, coffee shop, BBQ. Night fishing, windsurfing, excursions, diving.

Toni's Tipple: Wake early from your beach room and you will see the Makaanah birds trying to catch the baby sharks!



The Village lies at the bottom end of Kuramathi with 151 a/c rooms, most of which are sea-facing. Friendly, informal atmosphere with an excellent housereef of very cheeky colourful fish. Choice of restaurants including Indian and coffee shop. Diving, windsurfing, sailing, night fishing, excursions. IDD telephone, fax, cyber cafe and medical centre with hyperbaric chamber.

Toni's Tipple: A must for water sports and diving fanatics. Also the home of the Hammerhead sharks!

All-Inclusive

THE LADY OF THE ATOLLS.....

Blue Moons, as we learn at our mother's knee, are indeed a rare occurrence and, in an increasingly shop-soiled, second-hand world, so are Blue Oceans. But the Ocean surrounding the Islands of the Maldives is of the clearest blue and as if to compliment such a happy, natural state this truly remarkable island people have a Blue Moon, one that is constant and which burns ever bright! Indeed, can there be a more fitting compliment to pay Toni de Laroque, known far and wide as THE Maldivian Lady, than to describe her as the country's Blue Moon Lady as well! For, to be both concise and precise, Toni is unique in her now legendary loyalty to this equally unique Island race, and represents an individual who only comes along once in every rare sighting of the elusive Blue Moon!

Indeed, people such as Toni, whose service to the Maldives now approaches a quarter of a century and encompasses an international, pioneering promotion of the Islands' natural beauty, being pivotal in establishing libraries in the far flung island communities and, in more recent time, donating royalties from the sales of her Biography to a Public Health project of national importance.



Toni meets the Kurumba Village volleyball team.

To list Toni's many and varied work for the people she holds so dear would be to pen a Litany and, whatismore, would be most definitely incomplete, for the Lady is indeed far from done! Again, such a unique individual is only caught sight of in the illuminating shafts of a Blue Moon and it is, thus, fitting indeed that Toni shines both for and upon such a unique island nation as the Maldives. Toni of the Maldives and a Blue Moon Lady to boot! Everyone should have one!

By John Wayland Beasant, former Press Secretary to His Excellency President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom

MALDIVIAN Travel

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