

📍 Ozen Life Maadhoo, Maldives

# Trip Notes: Maldives

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

U.S. citizens with a passport that has at least 6 months validity and two blank visa pages do not require a visa to enter the Maldives; an entry permit will be given on arrival. Travelers of other nationalities must inform your travel agent, who will advise on your requirements.

### PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

Visitors to the Maldives must complete a [Travel Declaration](#) within 96 hours prior arrival.

## VACCINATIONS

No medication or vaccinations are required for entry to the Maldives. There are no covid-related health requirements for entry to the Maldives.

## CURRENCY

The Maldivian Rufiyaa is the official currency of the Maldives. The US Dollar is the most popular foreign currency. However, other international currencies can also be exchanged at the banks and authorized money changers.

A convenient currency converter can be found at <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

## CREDIT CARDS

American Express, Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, Cash is needed for shopping at markets on Male, and for tips.

## TIME DIFFERENCE

Male is 9 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time, 12 hours ahead of Pacific Standard Time.

## SHOPPING

When visiting the Maldives, buy authentic local handicrafts like Thundu Kunaa mats, miniature dhonis (boats), and lacquerware, along with coconut shell products or seashell jewelry. Other popular items include Feyli sarongs for cultural keepsakes, local snacks and marine-themed souvenirs like fridge magnets, found in markets like Majeedhee Magu in Malé.

## POWER

The electric system is 220-240 Volts. The plug sockets are usually 3-pin UK type. For more information on plugs and voltage, please visit <http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>

## LANGUAGE

The official language is Divehi which is an ancient form of Sri Lankan Sinhalese; however, English is widely spoken at resorts and in Male.



Maldives



Maldives Anemonefish



Overwater Villas, Maldives

### CLIMATE

Weather is pleasant year round in the Maldives. There are two main seasons, the winter months of October to May tend to be dryer and the summer months of June to September are more humid.

The hottest month of the year is April with an average daily maximum of 90 F and an average low of 84 F. The coolest month of the year is November with an average daily maximum of 86 F and an average low of 80 F.

### TIPPING

Tipping in the Maldives is not compulsory. A 10-12% service charge is already added to everything, however, tipping staff members who go out of their way to please is an appreciated gesture.

### SAFETY & SECURITY

The Maldives is generally safe, especially in resorts, but visitors should be cautious in populated areas like Malé due to risks of petty crime (theft) and gang-related violence, plus potential terrorism and civil unrest (protests). Strict Islamic laws apply (modest dress, no public alcohol/pork), drug offenses carry heavy penalties, and strong ocean currents pose drowning risks. Always monitor media, follow local advice, secure belongings, and be particularly careful with swimming and cultural sensitivity.

### PHONES

To dial the Maldives from the US: 011 + 960 + number.

To dial the US from the Maldives: 1 + area code + number.

### SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

For the Maldives, pack light, breathable clothing, swimwear, strong reef-safe sunscreen, a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and insect repellent, plus modest wear (cover-ups/long skirts) for local islands; essential extras include a waterproof phone case, dry bag, basic first-aid kit, personal meds, and snorkel gear if you prefer your own. Remember flip-flops/water shoes for hot sand and a light shawl for cool evenings, prioritizing sun protection and respecting local modest dress codes.

### ETIQUETTE

Maldives etiquette emphasizes respect for Islamic culture: dress modestly (cover shoulders/knees) on local islands, avoid public PDA (even hand-holding), use your right hand for giving/eating (left is impure), show respect to elders (don't point feet), and be quiet in public; alcohol/pork are banned outside resorts, and visitors generally can't enter mosques. Be environmentally conscious by not littering and protecting coral.



📍 Maafushi Shopping



📍 Soneva Jani



📍 Maldives

## **PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2026**

- 1 January - **New Year's Day**
- 18 February - **Start of Ramadan (Tentative Date)**
- 20-22 March - **Eid-ul-Fithr (Tentative Dates)**
- 1 May - **Labor Day**
- 26 May - **Hajj (Tentative Date)**
- 27-30 May - **Eid-ul Al'haa (Tentative Dates)**
- 17 June - **Muharram**
- 26-27 July - **Independence Day**
- 15 August - **National Day**
- 26 August - **Milad un Nabi**
- 14 September - **Maldives Embraced Islam**
- 3 November - **Victory Day**
- 11 November - **Republic Day**

## **OTHER USEFUL LINKS**

[US State Department Travel Advisories](#)

[U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Taiwan](#)

[Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)

[US Passports](#)

[International Travel Guidance](#)

This information is provided by Travel Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting. Further information is available to you at <https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories/india.html>.

While Travel Answers endeavors to provide current information, regulations and requirements can change without notice and we are not responsible for travelers whose trips are interrupted due to documentary or medical non-compliance.

