



Sun Siyam Resorts' Brand-New Property 'Siyam World' to Open in December 2020

Pg: 05

Banish Winter Blues and Dive into Luxury with Anantara Dhigu & Anantara Veli Maldives Resorts

Pg: 10

Ease Back into the Sunny Side of Life with Four Seasons Resorts Maldives

Pg: 10

Allied Insurance Company of the Maldives Introduces "Allied Inbound" - COVID-19 Insurance in Collaboration with Tourism Ministry

Pg: 18

Exciting Wins for Ooredoo Maldives at Stevie IBA and APAC Awards Including Gold Stevie for the Prestigious 'Telecom Company of the Year Award'

Pg: 19

Three Ways to Improve Your Health with Six Senses Laamu

Pg: 20



A Day In The Life Of...  
**AHMED SINDHAAN "SINNU"**  
Assistant Manager - Maafushivaru Maldives

Pg: 11



10 REASONS TO VISIT MALDIVES IN 2021

Pg: 18

## Digital Resorts

Innovation drives experiences



Scan for more details

# PUBLISHER'S NOTE



**Managing Editor**  
Maaesa Zaki

**Director Marketing & PR**  
Ismail Hameed

**Director of Finance**  
Mariyam Niuma

**Managing Director**  
Ismail Shifraz

**Director of Operations**  
Mohamed Shamin

**Director of Sales & Marketing**  
Mariyam Maaisha

**Design & Layout**  
Richard Mendonca

**Accounts Executive**  
Yusra Naseer

**Content Executive**  
Mariyam Zeena

**Consultant**  
Ahmed Ijaz

**Interview Photography**  
ONE Online

**Web Development**  
Ahmed Fazeel  
Ibrahim Nisham (Paighde)

**Distribution Support**  
Shahid Uddin

**Website:**



Dear Readers,

Finally, as we edge ever closer to the end of 2020, we will soon turn our focus to New Year - an event that comes just once every 365 days, which surely makes it worth celebrating in style. And for us, it's always here, on the Sunny Side of Life...

Using the shades of November as our travel inspiration, we immerse ourselves in the glistening harlequin of our home, as crayon-coloured beneath the water as it is above. So, hands up, those of you who've drafted a revised bucket list of destinations during this pandemic? You're not alone. In the wake of grounded flights and closed borders, the thought of prolonged travel restrictions saw many of us give thought to the places we so desperately want to visit, lest we're locked down or locked out again. And that's why we've written this issue while kicking back on the sun-kissed veranda of an overwater villa, dolphins sporadically leaping into view on the horizon... Or so we wished! The Maldives is slowly getting back on the travel radar, and to help you plan the perfect holiday, we have pulled together 10 incredible reasons to visit Maldives in the coming year (p. 18).

This month, we had a fantastic chat with the Maldives' new favourite culinary duo Chef Aminath Hameed and Chef Mohamed Adil (p. 12). The two energetic chefs recently collaborated for a one-night only '4 Hands Dinner' experience - a 7-course gastronomic event of the highest calibre - at the Salt Café and Restaurant in Malé.

Additionally, we are delighted to introduce a brand-new segment this month, "A day in the life of...", with our very first feature, Ahmed Sindhaan (Sinnu), Assistant Manager at Maafushivaru Maldives (p. 9).

Also in the issue, with people around the world becoming more self-aware about the importance of health and wellness, Six Senses Laamu presents three ways to improve your health, as Visiting Practitioner Adrian Yahvah shares his methods on how to activate your "inner technology" (p. 20).

After this touch of inspiration, your November should be looking positively psychedelic. Life is a canvas - go colour it.

Until next month,  
The islandchief Team

## DISTRIBUTION



120+ RESORTS



350+ GUESTHOUSES



60+ LIVEBOARDS



20+ AIRLINES



100+ COMPANY  
EXECUTIVES



5 UNITED NATIONS  
AGENCIES

# Emirates Skywards Celebrates 20 years with Over 27 Million Members

The loyalty programme has 27 million members worldwide, of which, more than 32,000 are founding members who joined the programme in 2000 and are still active.

Emirates Skywards, the award-winning loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai, has marked 20 years of excellence, innovation and unmatched rewards. Over the past two decades – the loyalty programme has continued to grow its membership base by offering value and rich, personalised experiences to its members around the world.

In celebration of its 20th anniversary, Emirates Skywards is offering members double Tier Miles on any flight booked by December 10, 2020, for travel until March 31, 2021, while founding members can earn double Tier Miles and double Skywards Miles on any flight booked by 10 December, for travel until August 31, 2021.

Members can also earn thousands of Miles with Emirates Skywards Hotels at over 400,000 hotels, in over 900 destinations worldwide – and up to 2,500 bonus Miles per night, when using a co-branded Emirates Skywards credit card for payment.

Emirates Skywards' introduction of personalised offers integrated within the booking flow is an industry-first loyalty benefit, whereby logged-in members can avail enhanced Cash+Miles redemption rates and discounted Miles Upgrades when booking flights directly on emirates.com and the Emirates app.

Members can enjoy more personalised offerings at their



fingertips through four Skywards apps – Emirates app (Skywards section integrated within), Emirates Skywards Go (offering dining and leisure offers in 160 destinations), Emirates Skywards Cabforce (booking taxis in over 100 cities in more than 25 countries), and Skywards Everyday (allowing members to earn Miles instantly when shopping at beauty & wellness stores, dining, groceries, luxury, leisure and entertainment outlets, as well as other services across the UAE).

With continued travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, Emirates Skywards Silver, Gold and Platinum members have had their tier review dates extended to enable an additional 12 months at their current status. The loyalty programme has also extended the validity of any Skywards Miles due to expire from April 2020 until March 31, 2021. Members can also redeem Miles up to 11 months in advance for an extensive range of rewards.



# AQUAMASTER

ready-to-use, **waterproofing, liquid** membrane



Can be used outdoors because it **dries** in less than 24 hours at ambient temperature

**terraces**



**Damp environments**

Suitable for all damp areas, SPAs, wellness centres and jacuzzis



**Swimming pools**

Easy to apply in any shape or type of swimming pool without using micro-perforated reinforcing strips



## ACROSS THE SKIES

## Addu International Airport and Island Aviation Sign Agreement to Commence Seaplane Operations Between Addu and Huvadhu

During a special event held at Gan on October 3, an agreement was signed between Addu International Airport Pvt Ltd (AIA) and Island Aviation Services Ltd (IAS) to commence seaplane operations between Addu and Huvadhu.



IAS Managing Director Mohamed Rizvi signed the contract on behalf of the company, which manages the national carrier Maldivian. AIA was represented by Managing Director Gais Naseer. Minister of Tourism Hon. Dr. Abdulla Mausoom, Minister of Economic Development Hon. Uz. Fayyaz Ismail, Addu City Mayor Abdulla Sodiq, councilors and parliamentary representatives for constituencies in Addu also participated in the signing ceremony.

Commenting on the promising initiative, Tourism Minister Dr. Mausoom noted that enhanced connectivity within the cities, islands and resorts in the southern region is the way forward for feasible tourism development in the southern-most atolls of the Maldives. Meanwhile, Economic Minister Uz. Fayyaz Ismail also expressed the importance of commencing seaplane operations in Addu, noting that it is an important step towards decentralisation of the economy.

Speaking at the ceremony, IAS Managing Director Mohamed Rizvi highlighted that the arrangement to operate seaplanes would boost tourism activities in the area. AIA Managing Director Mohamed Gais further highlighted the job opportunities expected to rise from new connectivity for locals as well as the growth of economic activities in the Addu region.

## SriLankan Airlines Engineering Team Continues to Train and Mentor Aircraft Technicians and Mechanics

**SriLankan Airlines' experienced engineering team continues to train and mentor its aircraft technicians and mechanics through continuous knowledge sharing sessions to increase their knowledge and skills, for a lean tomorrow at SriLankan Engineering.**

SriLankan Airlines is among one of the leading commercial airline brands in the region and the world. Recently, the airline was awarded the title 'Marketing Carrier' for its Pan India campaign- Next Door Neighbor and Serendipity Next Door at the virtual PATA Travel Mart 2020.

For over thirty years, SriLankan Airlines Engineering has remained a consistent benchmark in providing the highest quality of maintenance services with a staff strength of 600 well-trained, highly qualified and dedicated engineering team, using state-of-the-art technology. Today, they provide comprehensive aircraft maintenance services in the region, under approval from Civil Aviation Authority



of Sri Lanka CAASL, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and several other National Aviation Authorities (NAAs).

Their great capabilities on airframe, engines, component maintenance and inventory management,

along with international offices and line facilities located in South India and Malé, enable SriLankan Airlines Engineering to provide line maintenance support at important locations in the region and comprehensive base maintenance support.

# Sun Siyam Resorts' Brand-New Property 'Siyam World' to Open in December 2020

Sun Siyam Resorts has announced that Siyam World is set to open its shores in December 2020 with a revolutionary concept. With its innovative and unique features, the property will be the very first multi-experiential resort introduced in the Maldives.



Nestled on a 54-hectare natural private island in Noonu Atoll, Siyam World is surrounded by a 1.5-kilometre house reef that is teeming with a diverse array of aquatic life.

Siyam World aims to revolutionise the all-inclusive option with its unique 24-hour WOW! Inclusive Plan at its core. Guests can take advantage of 12 individual restaurants and bars that enable them to experience an extensive range of international cuisine, from fresh sushi to exquisite Italian and authentic Indian and Maldivian dishes. The culinary concept continues with FRESH – a stylish restaurant that offers guests the opportunity to experience a contemporary menu specialising exclusively in raw and organic food.

Day or night, guests can tantalise their taste-buds with three different pool bars surrounded by lush vegetation and a late-night buffet comprising of unlimited beverages and snacks from across the globe at the main bar. The WOW! all-inclusive dine-around, is a wholly new concept to the Maldives.

The spirit of the Maldives is prevalent in all of the 12 accommodation categories. Accommodation sizes range from the generously appointed Beach Villas at 72 sqm with king-sized beds and open-air bathrooms, complete with rain showers. The Deluxe Water Villas with Pool + Slide are 94sqm in size and inject an

element of fun into the traditional over-water villas which the Maldives is famed for. The regal and exceptionally luxurious, The Palace is 1,224 sqm and is uniquely positioned for breath-taking views of the sunset and is located on the beach. The Palace is perfect for celebrating landmark occasions and for once in a lifetime holidays with loved ones. Sleeping up to 18 adults, the six bedrooms are exceptionally spacious. The Palace has a private pool, separate dining and living areas and dedicated butler service to cater to guests' every need.

The Sun Spa at Siyam World provides a luxurious tropical sanctuary, complete with 18 treatment rooms, including dedicated couples' suites and an expansive yoga pavilion. Many of the boutique spa experiences at the Sun Spa are developed using local and organic ingredients, several of which are hand-picked from the Sun Spa garden. The Sun Spa has been designed in harmony with the surroundings and guests can experience the natural beauty whilst participating in a range of activities, in addition to the extensive treatments including sound bath healing and meditation classes. A series of spa packages ranging from three to seven days offer the ultimate in wellness.

Protecting the natural biodiversity of the atoll is of utmost importance to Sun Siyam Resorts and the dedicated environmentalist ensures that the



spectacular surroundings and extraordinary ecosystem are preserved for guests to endlessly enjoy.

Guests can partake in a wealth of water sports and recreational activities such as paddle boarding or take introductory and advanced courses in diving. With 33 dive sites located around Siyam World, the most spectacular dive sites are all easily accessible. The nearest dive sites take between 15 and 20 minutes by boat with the furthest dive sites taking approximately 45 minutes to reach, depending on weather conditions. The expert dive masters at Siyam World will guide guests to a range of dive sites depending on ability and visibility.

Children aged four to twelve can enjoy the dedicated Turtle Kids Village, where the enthralling entertainment and lively daily activities bring endless possibilities. Even teens can play and stay at Siyam World, with an exciting waterpark – a one-of-a-kind offering in the Maldives.

Guests of Siyam World will have access to incredible facilities at their fingertips, from 12 restaurants and bars; an 18-treatment-room spa with an extensive range of therapies as well as a wellness centre and yoga platform; an entire village dedicated to kids' and teens with a diverse and exciting range of activities, as well as an SSI dive school.



31 - **34** - 36 - 48

[www.gulfcraftinc.com](http://www.gulfcraftinc.com) | [gci@gulfcraftinc.com](mailto:gci@gulfcraftinc.com)

PASSENGER & CUSTOM BUILD



SILVER CRAFT FISHING BOATS

by  Gulf Craft

## MOVERS &amp; SHAKERS

## Stanislaw Pajdzinski Appointed as General Manager Mövenpick Resort Kuredhivaru Maldives

With over 20 years of hospitality experience, Stanislaw Pajdzinski from Gdansk, Poland, has joined Mövenpick Resort Kuredhivaru Maldives as General Manager.



Stanislaw has spent 16 years with Accor, working in a variety of destinations across Europe and Asia such as Katowice, Warsaw, Bali and Jakarta.

A specialist in food and beverage, Stanislaw joins Mövenpick from Novotel Yogyakarta in Java, Indonesia – another branch of the Accor family – where he was General Manager for the last two and a half years. During this period, he led the hotel through a major

renovation of all public areas, and spearheaded innovative and effective sales and marketing strategies to drive revenue, exceeding projected revenues by twenty percent in 2019.

Mövenpick Resort Kuredhivaru Maldives is a pristine sanctuary and tropical oasis that is nestled in the undisturbed Noonu Atoll. The resort is located 45 minutes north of Velana International Airport. Guests can enjoy their very own private

plunge pool is provided in all 72 Overwater Pool Villas, 30 Beach Pool Suites and 3 Beach Spa Pool Residences.

Guests can savour exquisite cuisine at three restaurants and marvel at stunning vistas of the Indian Ocean. Guests also have the opportunity to unwind at Sun Spa by Esthederm, refocus their energy with yoga, and let their youngsters play at the Little Birds Club.

## Hurawalhi Maldives Welcomes Edouard Deplus as Executive Chef



Having made his culinary mark at Kudadoo Maldives Private Island, Executive Chef Edouard is now also at the helm of Hurawalhi's collection of restaurants, adding yet another high-end luxury resort to his impressive résumé.

Edouard acquired his training at the renowned Paul Bocuse Institute in France. Since graduating in 2009, Edouard has travelled extensively, working in France, Australia, Spain, and French Polynesia. Prior to moving to Kudadoo, Edouard further worked as the Executive Sous Chef at St. Regis Hotels & Resorts.

A statement by Hurawalhi Maldives read: "The secret to Edouard's incredible cuisine is the high importance he places on respecting the ingredients and producers of those starting products and here at Hurawalhi we are incredibly fortunate to be able to source the very best ingredients from around the world, with meats from Australia, seafood from here in the Maldives as well as

Europe and vegetables from France and Australia.

"Whether dining under the sea at 5.8 Undersea Restaurant, sampling the melting pot of flavours and aromas at Canneli or enjoying Hurawalhi's twist on fast food at our Junk Food Kitchen, maybe even a sizzling fusion of Asian cuisine and incredible views at Kashibo, Edouard's dishes speak for themselves, upholding our reputation for fine dining across the island."

Hurawalhi Maldives, in its enchanting private island in Lhaviyani Atoll, can fill days with an unsparing amount of wonder, excitement and romance. The 90-villa, adults-only luxury resort is as brilliant as the ocean that laps against its beaches, providing guests with a

beautiful blend of barefoot bliss and contemporary design. The stylishly conceived 60 ocean villas and 30 beach villas feature soothing décor and private terraces with panoramic views. This slice of tropical paradise can be reached during daylight hours by a scenic, 40-minute seaplane flight from Velana International Airport.

The resort is home to the glorious 5.8 Undersea Restaurant, dazzling diners with a tasting extravaganza, garnished with a spectacular location. 5.8 is as much a fine dining culinary delight as it is an extraordinary design masterpiece. Guests can satisfy their appetites and dive into the pleasure of having a view that only a few restaurants in the world get access to.

## Alia Korshykova Appointed as Sales Manager of The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands

Alia Korshykova's experience in the hospitality industry spans nearly 9 years and brings with her a wealth of experience in dealing with international clients; in particular the Russian market.



Alia started off her career with the Hotel Hermes Odessa Ukraine as a Receptionist. In the Maldives, Alia first worked with One&Only Reethi Rah Maldives as a Concierge. She further

worked at Amilla Fushi Resort & Residences in 2016 – initially as a Butler – and was promoted to Sales Executive, and then Sales Manager, where she proved to be instrumental in driving the business and maintaining customer relations with the Russian market.

Hailing in from Ukraine, Alia speaks fluent English, Ukrainian, Russian and intermediate German. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Translation and Interpreting the German language from the Ukraine Pedagogical University of V. Vinichenko.

The Ritz-Carlton Maldives is ideally

located at Fari Islands, in the North Malé Atoll of the Maldives, which is a 50-minute journey by speedboat or a 10-minute seaplane flight from Velana International Airport. The resort features iconic Maldivian beaches, turquoise lagoons and coral reefs brimming with marine life. Shaped by the Maldivian sun and shored by the Indian Ocean, guest villas at The Ritz Carlton Maldives, Fari Island are expected to range in size from one to three bedrooms, featuring the refined elegance and legendary service that define The Ritz-Carlton brand. The property is also expected to offer a choice of outstanding culinary venues, a full suite of fitness and recreational

facilities including a signature Ritz-Carlton Spa.

Fari Islands is an archipelago that features three world-class hospitality brands inclusive of The Ritz-Carlton. The guests are expected to have access to a picturesque Fari Marina – the archipelago's communal beating heart. Built around a vibrant Beach Club, Fari Marina features charming boutiques and a handpicked selection of dining options. Spaces have been designed by the renowned Kerry Hill Architects, to bring about a delicate balance of serene and social.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

### AHMED SINDHAAN "SINNU"

ASSISTANT MANAGER  
MAAFUSHIVARU MALDIVES



As an extremely results-driven and detail-oriented manager in the luxury hospitality sector, Sinnu takes pride in his ability to provide exemplary levels of service to a broad range of customers, including VIPs and high-profile individuals. Now, as Assistant Manager at Iti Maafushivaru, Maldives, Sinnu develops his team through training and communication, with a leadership style that is empowering. Prior to his current role, he was the resort's Duty Manager (Front Office and Public Relations). He has worked in some of the leading resorts in the Maldives such as Amilla Fushi, Finolhu, Six Senses Laamu, Jumeirah Dhevanafushi and One & Only Reethi Rah. He always strives to provide a seamless experience for guests.



**05:30 am** - Wake up

**06:00 am** - Attend early morning departures

**06:30 am** - Get ready for the day, clear my emails and finish reports before morning meeting

**07:00 am** - First coffee of the day

**07:30 am** - Catch up with Front Desk team and get ready for the day's operations

**08:00 am** - Breakfast rounds in the restaurant

**09:00 am** - Management meeting

**09:30 am** - Continue breakfast rounds and meeting inhouse guests

**10:00 am** - Coffee with the team

**10:30 am** - Arrival room inspection

**11:30 am to 01:00 pm** - Attending to arrivals

**01:00 pm** - Lunch

**02:00 pm** - Prepare for the next day's operations

**03:00 pm** - Attend to departures

**03:30 pm** - Daily departmental briefing

**04:00 pm** - Coffee with the team

**05:00 pm** - Afternoon rounds in the bar to meet next day's departure guests

**06:00 pm** - Freshen up and prepare for dinner rounds

**07:00 pm** - Dinner rounds in the restaurants

**08:00 pm** - Dinner

**09:00 pm** - Evening Bar rounds

**11:00 pm** - Turn in for the day

## IN A NUTSHELL

## Banish Winter Blues and Dive into Luxury with Anantara Dhigu & Anantara Veli Maldives Resorts

Located in the South Malé Atoll, just a 30-minute speedboat journey from Velana International Airport, both resorts offer the perfect spot to escape the autumn and winter blues and immerse in an island paradise where space and isolation go hand-in-hand with luxurious privacy.



Offering discerning travellers barefoot elegance in a tropical haven, Anantara Dhigu offers variety of luxury accommodation options offer stunning views and private pools, with direct beach access or overwater. Neighbouring Maldives luxury resort Anantara Veli is an adults-only resort for those seeking the ultimate romantic getaway or to celebrate special occasions with friends. Together with the exclusive sister property Naladhu Private Island, the three resorts form a bespoke collection of sanctuaries nestled around a stunning lagoon.

The resorts offer an unrivalled private island experience, with the exclusive use of the uninhabited Gulhifushi Island providing the chance to live like Robinson Crusoe for the day. Guests can enjoy the privacy and seclusion without

compromising an array of five-star trappings and rejuvenating experiences including lavish dining, a snorkelling tour with the resort's marine biologist and a spa experience – the perfect island day wraps up with sunset cocktails, before heading back to the resort as twilight falls.

Anantara Spa in Maldives has reopened with a newly refreshed menu and four new signature journeys, all of which offer a unique experience. Additional couples' treatments are available allowing guests to re-connect in paradise. The Sundari Sunset Spa Ritual awakens the senses on a floating platform with a deep relaxation massage, followed by chilled Champagne whilst watching the sun go down. Once darkness has fallen, the Moonlight Reflections spa healing ritual encompasses meditation and a healing

massage on a private beach under the moon and stars. The resorts now also have a resident Nutritionist and are offering a Guest Nutrition Consultancy, providing the opportunity for one-on-one consultations in nutrition, movement therapy and lifestyle improvement, along with assessing current health status, concerns and goals, plus a fully-customised nutrition plans and wellness programmes.

Launching now with Anantara's Maldives properties, the new Anantara App offers guests an on-resort, socially-distanced, digital solution for a range of requirements, from check-in and check-out, accessing billing information, requesting in-room services, restaurant menus and reservations and booking leisure activities and appointments at the spa, all through a live chat with the resort team.

To ensure guests feel safe and secure during their stay, Anantara's Stay With Peace of Mind programme builds on existing health and safety measures for heightened sanitisation and hygiene. Guests at Anantara Dhigu, Anantara Veli and Naladhu Private Island can feel safe in the knowledge that the resorts are operating in-line with World Health Organisation and local Maldivian health authority regulations, in addition to implementing enhanced levels of sanitation throughout the resorts.

## Ease Back into the Sunny Side of Life with Four Seasons Resorts Maldives

Welcoming guests from all countries since the Maldives reopened its international borders on July 15, 2020, Four Seasons Resorts Maldives' open spaces, outdoor restaurants and secluded locations offer a reassuring naturally distanced set-up to ease guests back into the sunny side of life this fall and festive season.

From the International Airport Meet & Greet, Four Seasons guests are whisked directly to the seaplane terminal (for Landaa Giraavaru and Private Island at Voavah) or the speedboat jetty (for Kuda Huraa) for a rapid onward transfer.

Four Seasons has retained virus-free status in the Maldives throughout 2020 with its Lead With Care procedures, and is committed to ensuring safe onwards travel for its guests too. PCR test services are available on site (at a fee or USD 150 + taxes per person) to anyone requiring them for onward travel or return to their home countries.

Guests are able to move between resort islands with special government permission, but the safest way to



enjoy the Maldives' pristine beauty for now is to settle into one of three enchanting Four Seasons enclaves:

For a Forbes Five-Star escape, complete with sensational surfing, fragrant flower gardens, lapping lagoon, private spa island and stunning new beach hideaways at Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Kuda Huraa provide a home-from-home welcome for families, friends and groups.

Health and healing come as standard at Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru – named "Most Meaningful Experience" in the Condé Nast Traveller Spa Awards 2020 – from the Yoga Therapy Centre in the pristine jungle to pioneering hands-on marine conservation



experiences.

For an escape like no other, the two hectare (five acre) Four Seasons Private Island Maldives at Voavah, Baa Atoll accommodates a single group of up to 22 guests in the world's first private island UNESCO Biosphere hideaway. With its own villas, Beach House, swimming pools, dive school, water sport centre, Ocean of Consciousness Spa, 19-metre (62-foot) yacht and dedicated team of staff, Voavah offers the ultimate in limitless island living.

For more information about easing into a safe and secluded fall or festive break, contact the Central Reservations Department team at tel: (960) 66 00 888 or email [reservations.mal@fourseasons.com](mailto:reservations.mal@fourseasons.com).

IN A NUTSHELL

# Enjoy the Thrill of Riding an Eternal Wave at Cheval Blanc Randheli on Maldives' First Surf Simulator

The Maison, boasting the latest state-of-the-art equipment to satisfy both sportsmen and beginners, has revealed to host a surf simulator – the only one in the Maldives. All guests, from first-time learners to advanced riders, kids and adults, are invited to ride a wave on the simulator.



The Ambassadors of Cheval Blanc will take the utmost care in providing assistance as well as coaching for all interested visitors. Experiences lived in the Maison are pure island bliss. The private island resort hosts a variety of water activities such as waterskiing, jet surfing, sea-bobbing, snorkeling and catamaran-ing. To venture out on your own adventure to the atoll waters, a full fleet of traditional wooden dhonis and excursion boats are available.

Additionally, a collection of specialised speed boats



and fishing vessels waits for a sunrise, midday or sunset bout of fun. Guests can celebrate their catch of the day while basking in the glow of the sun onboard these special vessels. For a more relaxing ambience, glide across the crystal-clear waters on the Maison's private luxury yacht, Azimut.

Located on the pristine Noonu Atoll, the Cheval Blanc Randheli consists of 46 beguiling villas, five sumptuous restaurants and stylish bars, set amid a backdrop of ivory beaches and crystalline waters.

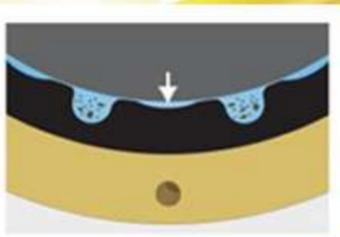
The property's Cheval Blanc Spa is located on its own private island, and offers Guerlain treatments. The family-friendly destination is also home to the Le Carrousel and Le Paddock kids' and teens' clubs, providing unfettered access to unforgettable experiences.

Whether in need of elopement or overdue family time, Cheval Blanc Randheli Private Island is an epitome of privacy, a contemporary escape where each guest finds exciting and idling ways of living.

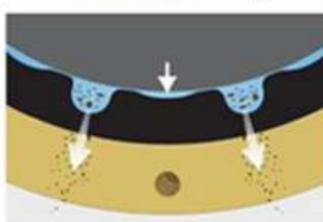
## Johnson Cutless

The water-lubricated bearing that has nothing more to prove.

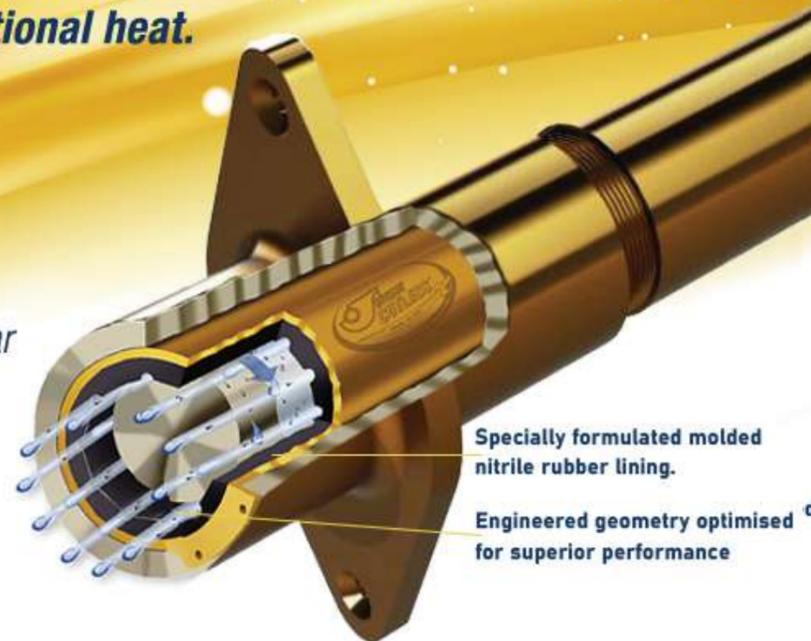
**Johnson Cutless bearings are engineered with a proprietary formulation of extremely tough chemical and oil resistant nitrile rubber polymer lining, molded and firmly bonded into a naval brass or non-metallic shell. Grooves run the entire length of the rubber lining allowing for maximum lubricating water flow and dissipation of frictional heat.**



Minimizes bearing and journal wear



Hydrodynamic Grit Rejection



Specially formulated molded nitrile rubber lining.

Engineered geometry optimised for superior performance

**AUTHORISED DISTRIBUTOR**

**PALM TREE MARINE PVT LTD**

M. Beenaafushi, Muranga Magu, 20330, K. Male', Rep of Maldives Tel: +960 3312978, 3337833 Fax: +960 3332877

www.palmtree.com.mv facebook.com/PalmTreeMarinePvtLtd/ +960 7860233



# Double Delicious with **CHEF AMINATH HAMEED** & **CHEF MOHAMED ADIL**



CHEF AMINATH HAMEED



CHEF MOHAMED ADIL

Chef Aminath Hameed and Chef Mohamed Adil are Maldives' new favorite culinary duo. The two energetic chefs recently collaborated for a one-night only '4 HANDS DINNER' experience - a gastronomic event of the highest caliber at the Salt Café and Restaurant in Malé. This time, they together crafted a fabulous 7 course dinner menu using the world's finest ingredients for this exclusive dinner event. The islandchief had the pleasure of meeting them for an exclusive interview and they surely spoiled our taste buds.



**Chef Aminath, who are your inspirations, both in and out of the kitchen?**

I am inspired by many. From the Maldives, Adil is without a doubt my biggest inspiration. I have seen him preparing so many dishes; trying out recipes and combinations of many unique flavors. I see a lot of his work on Instagram as well, which inspires me a lot. Chef Vinesh Johny from India is also one of my biggest inspirations. He is an amazing Pasty Chef and if you see his Instagram, he showcases fantastic new trends and recipes. I get a lot of inspiration from him for my glazed cakes and art decorations.

**What are your earliest memories of the kitchen you worked in, Chef Adil?**

It was quite a while ago, but I remember every single moment of it and it doesn't seem that long ago for me. I was interviewed for the Four Seasons Resorts Maldives Apprenticeship Programme and was selected as a Steward under contract. It was a lot of fun and I enjoyed every bit of it. I have fond memories of struggling to move the pots – they were huge and I was tiny. After completing my daily tasks, I would go explore other places in the staff area. I loved watching the pastry chefs and main kitchen chefs at work. They were very supportive. I used to go help them and I would get a pizza or a burger in return! Soon I began accumulating some skills and a month later, the day before the programme started, I found out that they put me on service. That night, I met the resort's General Manager, and asked him if I could move to the kitchen. He told me to go for it. That was the best move I made in my life.

**From dining at the guest villas' private terrace, to ten restaurants, there's a multitude of dining options at Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi. Which dining venue do all your bonbons and chocolate work end up, Chef Aminath?**

At Waldorf Astoria there is an outlet called Terra; a treetop dining experience. It has won many awards in this one-year span. Guests get to dine among the treetops in one of seven bamboo nests. And then you have The Ledge by Dave Pynt – the founder of Burnt Ends, a Michelin-starred restaurant in Singapore. The Ledge is a fantastic, modern Australian barbecue style restaurant. All my bonbons go to these two venues. Every night, we would prepare unique flavours of bonbons as a petit four so it is very special.

**Chef Adil, throughout your career, you have won numerous awards and medals, both at national and international levels. What has been your biggest takeaway from them?**

All the international ones definitely mean a lot to me because I represent the country, and we've got some great national awards too. But I would have to say, what meant most to me was the award I got in 2016. I must have been 25 years old. It was my third competition, and the first time that I had ticked all the categories which would qualify me. It was a complete surprise, because I actually did quite badly in one of the categories. So, I didn't expect it at all! I feel like that competition kept me going and gave me a massive motivational boost, because I felt like I could achieve many things.

**Chef Aminath, how are you adapting to the changing trends in the culinary world, especially in patisserie?**

**And what is your opinion about the pastry industry in the Maldives?**

The trends are changing fast and there are so many new and unique techniques now. Whenever I get free time, I follow masterclasses online. I also learn a lot on social media, especially following inspiring chefs and seeing their work on Instagram. I think the pastry industry in Maldives is at a level where we have so many fantastic home-bakers. Chocolate is gradually taking a backseat and people are trying more unique flavors. When I visited Addu city during this lockdown, I noticed that almost everyone wanted to order chocolate cakes. So, I decided not to bake anymore chocolate cakes during those days, and began baking pandan cakes, mango gâteau and more. And guess what, people loved it. I think we've started to let go of the usual chocolate cakes!

**Chef Adil, considering the relatively few Maldivian chefs across the tourism and hospitality industry, do you think there's enough opportunities available for locals to excel in this profession?**

I'd have to say, there is always room for improvement, but if there's a will, there's always a way. If anyone wants to excel in this career, the Maldives is the perfect place to start. If you join a resort, you'll get exposed to a diverse range of cuisines and get to learn so much. With a lot of

does, so I really wanted to collaborate with him. We've both been waiting for this opportunity, and finally, we managed to do it – our very first collaboration.

**Chef Adil:** I feel the same way. For me, my favourite quality in Aminath and in everything she does is her perfection, uniqueness and fineness. I, too, am someone who seeks the ultimate fineness. She is so much better than me in certain areas. And when it comes to things like rush time in the hot kitchen it can get quite stressful, but during the collaboration I noticed that she kept her cool which tremendously helped me as well. We had been talking about this collab for probably about a year now. We actually had a plan to do this last year in one of the resorts, but I'm so glad it took place here in Malé, in Salt Café, because this is just the perfect place. When she decided to resign, she texted me saying, "Hey, I will be in Malé. I think this is the best time to do this!", and we did.

**Chef Aminath:** Many of us tend to come up with excuses like, "Oh, these chocolates would be impossible to make in Malé to the specific high standards," but we wanted to take up the challenge and do it. We got amazing feedback in return. Plus, the owners of Salt were very helpful and supportive



options, opportunities and results, starting out in the Maldives is the best idea in my opinion. Of course, you'll have to work for it. It's just a matter of knowing what you want to excel at.

**Tell us about the chain of events that led to your collaboration on the four hands dinner night at the Salt Café in October 2020? Did you both know each other before?**

**Chef Aminath:** Yes, we have known each other for a while. The first time I saw him was at the 2018 Hotel Asia Culinary Challenge. He was working on this beef dish. Everybody was rushing, there were pots everywhere, but he was so calm and clean, getting everything done in such a cool way. I realised that there was something different about his style. I was an official so I was able to get closer, and watch him work. On the award night, he won the Best Maldivian Chef award. You know, I've seen him win numerous awards and he's really good at what he

as well. It was all very well-planned and organised.

**Chef Adil:** Exactly. It played a significant role in it being the perfect venue for the Four Hands Dinner. We had the great view, the best team and fantastic owners of the café. Another thing is that we wanted to prove to everyone that this can definitely be done in Malé. We imported the ingredients that we wanted and we didn't compromise on the quality. We had a ton of challenges, but it didn't stop us. All our attendees of the night were thrilled. We were so happy to give them this magical experience.

**What were some of the biggest challenges that you both faced while preparing and creating the Four Hands Dinner experience?**

**Chef Adil:** Well there was the Jerusalem artichokes situation. I got them into the Maldives a month ago. They were very unique. And they are, to me, the king of vegetables. Not many people in the Maldives have

had the pleasure of trying it out. As I started cooking, I said to Aminath that I really hope I don't burn it! And guess what – I burned it. It took me almost eight hours to fix!

**Chef Animath:** Yes, but it was unbelievably good. It had this fantastic smokey flavour. I have no idea what magic he did, but the final product was just amazing. It all happened for a good reason! Another small challenge we faced was selecting the perfect box for the petit fours, which I knew had to have the finest finish. Adil actually brought me a few sample boxes which were reasonably priced, and I didn't like how they had cut it. So, I said that we will get laser-cut boxes, which turned out to be perfect. It was a little bit pricey, but we did not compromise on quality.

**Chef Adil:** Oh, we had many challenges finding that perfect box! Another thing I'd like to note is that the entire kitchen team was completely new to each other. Usually, to give an exceptional service, you need to have excellent coordination, and people who have worked together before. Sure, we didn't have a team that fits into that criteria – even Aminath and I had never worked together – but we pulled off a great event. On the night of the dinner, everything was perfectly splendid. It was something new for the service team, and this was only their second time serving a multiple course dinner. So, it was quite new for them, which was also a bit of a challenge. Normally, to provide an experience like our Four Hands Dinner, everything has to be perfect. Our kitchen was not perfect, our equipment was not perfect, yet, we were overjoyed with the final product. We were just so happy with the team, and could not have asked for better people; everyone coordinated with each other effectively and completed their tasks. They pulled it off.

**Chef Animath:** We were very lucky with our team. We had four hectic days of Adil and myself running around getting our mise en place ready. We even had to find edible flowers, microgreens and more. In Malé, you can find many unexpected things, it's all about knowing where to look. On the day of the event we were able to work very calmly and hassle-free with great support.

**Chef Adil:** Yes, we even coordinated with Habitus Fresh and gave our orders two weeks ahead. It was all very well planned. I strongly believe that it doesn't matter how good you are, you will always need help.

**Chef Adil, the Four Seasons Maldives Apprenticeship Programme has been the stepping stone for your career in the hospitality industry. How would you describe it, in shaping the future stars of our hospitality industry?**

This is very true. The Four Seasons Maldives Apprenticeship programme has been an immense support in my career. I believe they are still the best and if you want to start a career in the Maldives' hospitality industry, they provide many opportunities. For example, if I choose the kitchen, not only will I learn about the kitchen; I will also learn a lot of other things like culture, history, math – whatever you need. When I say they are the best, you'll have to go and see it for yourself. You'll also find a lot of leaders in the Maldives' hospitality



industry today who have been trained by them. So, I believe it is a proven fact and they are contributing so much to the industry. Supposing you meet a student who just completed a degree programme, if you compare that to a student who just passed the apprenticeship, the one that completed the apprenticeship will be more mature in skills. They have more hands-on experience with professional guidance, and will be more motivated as well. You see, when you first go to the resort for work, they assign you a mentor and a buddy, to ensure that you get all the necessary support and guidance. Members of the resort's senior management team always approach you and have conversations to see if everything is going well. There are already some resorts that follow these cultures, and I think the ones that do not, should definitely implement it.

**Chef Aminath, your creations are full of celebration and life, especially the quirky artisanal mirror glaze cakes. How do you come up with the ideas?**

You know, when I first started making mirror glaze cakes as an intern in Conrad Maldives Rangali Island, I always used to ask the chef why it wasn't turning out perfectly – the mirror effect was too little. She would always tell me not to worry, and that with practice, I would get to that stage eventually. These mirror glazes require many things, so it was quite difficult to do it in Malé; we need a blast freezer to set the mousse quickly, and various equipment such as silicon molds and so on. So, it was not an easy task. I always saw these talented Instagram chefs doing it perfectly and I wanted to try it out. I didn't want to copy someone else's piece, so I came up with some ideas, I just started pouring and making some interesting effects. When I moved to Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi, I continued practicing and perfecting it. I took masterclasses and kept on trying. You can't imagine the number of attempts I had made before actually taking my mirror glaze cakes to Instagram. It's quite a lot of hard work, but it is so very interesting

**Where do you see yourself five to ten years down the road, Chef Adil? What upcoming works can we expect from you?**

I have many goals. I set around ten goals at the start

of every year, and divide them into categories like personal goals and long-term goals. In five to ten years, there's so much you can achieve.

I've worked with my Executive Chef for a total of seven years. He has trained many chefs, and polished me in my career. Something I learned from him is that we must help others grow and give them the opportunity. So, one of my goals is that in the next five years, I want to be able to mentor others the way he did.

When talking about my career goals, a star is something that I most definitely would like to achieve. But right now, even more than that, I want to learn more about our Maldivian cuisine. If you see my Instagram, I have tried out many, but those are only based on what I'm taught and what I have eaten. I had always wanted to learn from my grandma; unfortunately, she passed away. Now, I feel the urge to travel around the islands of Maldives to learn the cuisine and try to bring those flavours in a unique and modern way. I want to explore ways to improvise and elevate them enough to serve at a fine dining restaurant. I am not there yet. Apart from that, I aim to become an Executive Chef, open up my very own restaurant, and tons of other exciting things.

**Chef Aminath, if you had to give one piece of baking advice to the readers of The islandchief, what would it be?**

Do it with passion, or don't do it at all. When I was an intern, I started out at the fruits section and then on to pastry. We had to do fruit-cutting, pastry works, bread – bits of everything. There were three of us as interns. One day, we were all tasked with designing and creating fruit baskets. Once we were done, my Pastry Chef asks all of us, "Why is Aminath's one different?", and her answer was, "Because the other two baskets don't have that special ingredient, which is passion". If we don't have passion, we do things just because we are asked to do it. But if you have that passion, it's like magic. So, I always tell people to do it with passion, or not at all.

**Chef Adil, what advice do you have for young undergraduates who are still looking for their calling in life?**

There are many students in Maldives now who don't know what they really want, and that's a huge problem. Some may know that they want to go to a resort for work, but they don't have any goals set. Firstly, you'll need to find something that makes you happy, something you love, and work hard to achieve it. Of course, everything is challenging at the beginning, but if you have passion, if you are committed to it and have a positive attitude, you can achieve it. It's just a matter of time. I believe you have to explore all possibilities and see your career options to know what's best for you and then go for it. I wish I knew earlier that this was my career path. If I did, I would have studied science education or something like that when I was younger. I studied commerce because my family is in business, and I thought I'd end up in business management. Once I got back from Sri Lanka, I thought I would take over my father's business, but when I started working over there, I got bored and realized it was not for me. So, if you knew what you wanted to do, that would be better.

# OUR NEW SEAPLANE TERMINAL

*Home to the world's Largest Seaplane operation,  
now with a Grand New Terminal*



# 10 Reasons to Visit



## In 2021

*Ring in the 2020 New Year, you probably made big travel plans for the year ahead. Perhaps you were counting down the days until you'd fly and flop onto a sunbed, or finally get to tick spotting the glow-in-the-dark beaches of Maldives off your bucket list?*

*Yet, in late January a global pandemic came along and subsequently crushed all of our grand travel hopes for this year. So, we're looking at 2021 instead, and it's still Maldives for us here at the sunny side. From the infinite shades of blue and green, to the patches of white sands and dark corals, to the unobstructed views of the glimmering ocean, Maldives' varied charms are bound to enchant visitors to our island nation. Here's ten reasons why you should choose Maldives, in the hope one will catch your eye...*

### Hanifaru Bay



The bay is situated in Baa Atoll, a UNESCO marine protected biosphere covering an area of 303 hectares. From May to November each year, huge amounts of krill and plankton here attract all kinds of marine life. These ideal conditions make it the world's largest natural manta ray feeding destination. There are enormous populations of butterflyfish, oriental sweetlips, white tip reef sharks, hammerheads, eagle rays and the ever-weird-looking Napoleon wrasse. Curious and friendly, mantas – unlike stingrays and eagle rays – do not possess stingers. Wingspans on the magnificent adults range up to 5 meters across.

### Destination Dining



Be it to rekindle romance, celebrate a birthday, mark an anniversary or create an extraordinary experience in a tropical haven, there's something for everyone. Limited only by your imagination, dining in Maldives spans the entire spectrum - a bespoke menu in the privacy of your villa, on a secluded sandbank, champagne breakfast, lagoon lunch, bubbly cocktails at sunset, beach barbecue, candle light dinner under a canopy of stars or even floating in your pool. The Maldives promises an intimate slice of paradise, the possibilities are endless, and the memories will live with you forever.

### World's largest one- and two-bedroom overwater villas



Does being "stranded" over a lagoon for several days sound appealing? If not, one resort in the Maldives might change your mind. Soneva Fushi opened what it claims are the world's largest one- and two-bedroom overwater villas in September 2020. If you're probably wondering, "How big is big?". The one-bedroom villas clock in at 6,286 square feet and the two-bedrooms at 9,224. While there are overwater villas out there with more square footage, these are the largest one- and two-bedroom villas available. There are eight of these suites, called Water Rooms, available for booking.

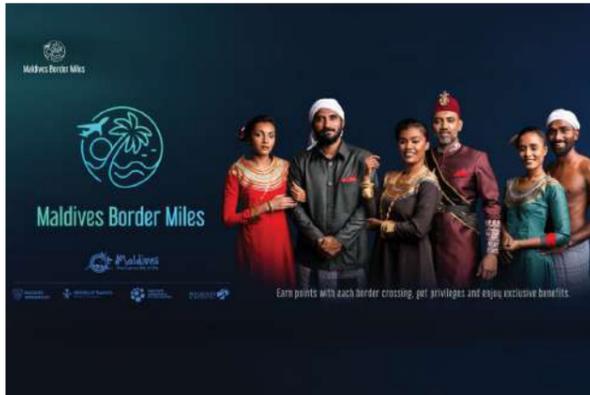
### One island, one resort



The globally disruptive Coronavirus pandemic has changed our daily lives and how we interact with one another. In light of social distancing recommendations, several million people across the globe had to stay home, it has also sparked innovation. The Maldives has found a way to help tourists bypass the boredoms of quarantine - renowned for the 'one-island-one-resort' concept, tourists from all over the world visit to enjoy the pristine natural environment, world class services, privacy and seclusion. With the COVID-19 tourism regulations in place, and naturally distanced islands allowing for more privacy, Maldives is believed to be one of the safest holiday destinations.



### World's first tier-based border-crossing loyalty programme



Miles are usually accrued on airline frequent-flyer programmes that are designed to encourage airline customers enrolled in the programme to accumulate points (also called miles). Now picture earning miles by crossing a country's borders. That's right: On World Tourism Day 2020, the Maldives Immigration in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism, Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC) and Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL) launched the world's first tier-based border-crossing loyalty programme titled "Maldives Border Miles". The programme features three tiers, each with a distinctive variety of rewards and benefits. Tourists will earn points based on the number of visits and duration of their stay, with additional points awarded for visits during special occasions.

### Take a journey of wellness on a floating yoga



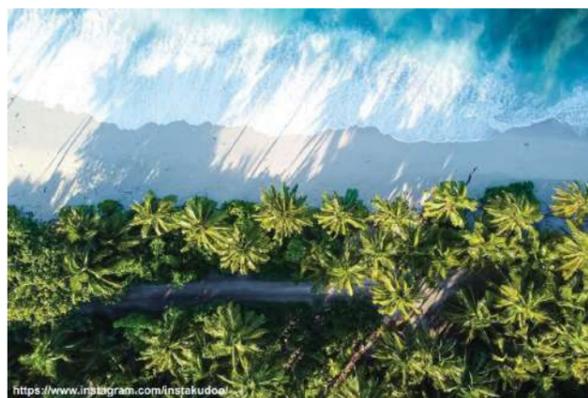
Imagine yourself taking a series of strengthening asana poses on the deck of a dhow as you gaze into the horizon. Settings don't come more inspirational than this, with the expanse views of the Indian Ocean unfolding before you, and the blue sky above. Pullman Maldives Maamuta takes a holistic and integrated approach to wellbeing built on sleep, food, sport and spa by offering fun, innovative wellness experiences that balance performance with enjoyment, leaving you wanting more as you stretch and breathe. inhale, exhale.

### Escape to the hammam



One can spend an entire day at the Joali spa by ESPA, which strives to take guests on a healing journey, starting from within. The spa's centerpiece is a monochrome hammam, a first in the country, modeled after the 16th-century Turkish baths of Roxelana and offering separate areas for ladies and gentlemen as well as a couple's suite. The menu also features results-driven treatments including facials, massages and body treatments. Joali Maldives is optimized for those seeking pure, unabashed relaxation.

### Visit Fuvahmulah



Located in its own atoll between Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll and Addu Atoll, the island of Fuvahmulah is the only one-island atoll in the Maldives. The island is gifted with countless distinctive features that make Fuvahmulah stand out from the rest of the islands in Maldives. Its apparent disconnect from most of the country means that the deep blue open comes crashing right at their reef, opening up opportunities for amazing underwater pelagic encounters, fantastic surfing and has gifted its people with some truly unique characteristics. The island is unbelievably green, and many islanders display an affinity for botanical endeavors, as behind the low-lying walls lie colorful private gardens. It is also one of the few islands that have fresh water lakes.

### Holiday below sea level



Life under the sea just got a huge boost in visibility thanks to the opening of The Aqua Villa experience Pullman Maldives Maamutaa. This luxury two-level Aqua Villa has a submerged master bedroom combined with an overwater bedroom and plenty of space for its guests to relax and live their once in a lifetime story. The Aqua Villa Experience is where everyone's childhood curiosities come to life. It's play, but not as you know it. It's moments you want to share with the world. And more importantly, with those closest to you. Imagine the serenity of diving, without a tank. Or sharing midnight secrets, in an aquarium that's uniquely yours. If you've ever wanted to live The Little Mermaid in real life, now's your chance.

### Instagrammable Opportunities



Let's face the truth; Instagram pretty much dominates social media when it comes to travel inspiration. With millions of photos and videos shared daily from selfies to drone shots and footage, plus everything in between, there's no doubt that getting that perfect shot for the 'gram has taken over how we travel (in a good way). Pristine powder white beaches, encircled by turquoise and sapphire waters, accompanied by lush palm-fringed islands make for picturesque dream Maldives vacation photos or that picture-perfect Instagram capture.

The Maldives has a plethora of Instagrammable moments just waiting to be captured and shared with your followers, so get your poses and cameras ready when you stay at one of these Instagrammable hotels and don't forget to hashtag the #SunnySideofLife.

## IN THE NEWS

## Allied Insurance Company of the Maldives Introduces “Allied Inbound” COVID-19 Insurance in Collaboration with Tourism Ministry

Travelling to Maldives?  
Your safety is our first priority.

**Allied Inbound**  
MALDIVES COVID19 INSURANCE PLAN

STARTING AT JUST  
**USD 25\***  
PER PERSON

[www.allied.mv](http://www.allied.mv)

**Allied Insurance Company**

Allied Insurance company in association with the Ministry of Tourism, has launched a Covid-19 insurance policy focusing on tourists who visit Maldives. In a collaborated press conference held today by both parties, the insurance plan was launched by the Minister of Tourism Dr. Abdulla Mausoom.

The covid-19 Insurance policy namely as Allied Inbound will cover medical charges, isolation facility charges, emergency medical transportation charges and interment charges which may follow a positive diagnosis for Covid-19 of a tourist during their stay in Maldives. This plan only includes isolation centers designated by HPA. A willing tourist should apply for this plan prior to entering the country. This plan is now available for tourists on Allied’s website. More details about this plan will also be available on <https://allied.mv/> and the tollfree hotline 1600.

Irrespective of their age, any visitor who is not a citizen or does not hold a valid resident visa of Maldives will be eligible for this plan. The plan comes in two options; Allied Inbound and Allied Inbound Plus.

		ALLIED INBOUND	ALLIED INBOUND PLUS
SECTION	BENEFITS	LIMITS	LIMITS
A	Isolation facility per day	USD 75	USD 150
B	Emergency medical transportation by sea from place of illness to the nearest medical facility in Maldives	USD 2,000	USD 3,000
C	Emergency medical expenses for treating illness	USD 75,000	USD 100,000
D	Interment	USD 20,000	USD 20,000
PREMIUM (per person)	7 days	USD 25	USD 35
	More than 7 days	USD 35	USD 45

Allied Insurance Company has stated that their main priority while designing this policy was to make it available for tourists at a most affordable rate. They have also highlighted that these rates are currently the lowest rates in the region. By the launch of this policy, Allied Insurance company hopes to cut down further boundaries faced by businesses in the tourism industry and to provide a safe operational environment for their businesses and the society further increasing job opportunities in this industry, says Managing Director Mr. Mohamed Shafaz. Mr. Shafaz also stated the importance of sharing this information with tourists who visit Maldives via travel agencies.

IN THE NEWS

# Indian High Commission in Maldives Hosts 'India - Maldives Travel Connect' Webinar with Major Travel Associations of Both Countries



High Commission of India in Maldives successfully hosted a webinar titled, 'India-Maldives Travel Connect' to facilitate interaction between the travel associations of Maldives and India. Held on October 13, 2020, at 1000hrs (Malé Time), the webinar consisted of two segments; the Opening Session and Interactive Session, each occupying one hour.

Participating Travel Associations from Maldives and India include, Maldives Marketing & Public Relation Corporation (MMPRC), Outbound Tour

Operators Association of India (OTOAI), Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI), Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), Society of Incentive Travel Excellence (SITE), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Association of Travel Agents (ATA) and Maldives Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators (MATATO)

High Commissioner of India to the Maldives, H. E. Sunjar Sudhir delivered the opening remarks, followed by Maldives' Minister of Tourism Hon. Dr. Abdulla Mausoom's address to the participants. Furthermore, representatives of the travel associations took turns in addressing the audience during the first hour.

During the Interactive Session, six travel associations shared ideas



through a presentation while a Q-and-A session took place during the last 20 minutes of the webinar.

The India-Maldives Travel Connect

Webinar was livestreamed via the official Facebook page of High Commission of India in the Maldives.

# Exciting Wins for Ooredoo Maldives at Stevie IBA and APAC Awards Including Gold Stevie for the Prestigious 'Telecom Company of the Year Award'

Ooredoo Maldives has been named as the winner of Gold Stevie for the prestigious Telecom Company of the Year Award at the 17th Annual International Business Awards. The company was also named as the Gold Stevie winner of the Award for Innovation in Apps and Award for Innovation in Customer Service at the 2020 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards.

### Wins at the Stevie International Business Awards:

- Gold Stevie - Company of the Year (Telecommunications - Medium-size)
- Silver Stevie - Most Innovative Company of the Year
- Up to 2,500 Employees
- Bronze Stevie - Mobile Site & App Award (Business)
- Bronze Stevie - Most Valuable Corporate Response



### Wins at the 2020 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards:

- Gold Stevie - Award for Innovation in Apps
- Gold Stevie - Award for Innovation in Customer Service
- Stevie Silver - Award for Excellence in Innovation in Technology Industries

Digital Maldives. The past year alone, the company launched several first-of-its-kind initiatives which brought about greater ease and convenience for the widely dispersed population of the Maldives. Ooredoo Maldives has invested in VoLTE and Voice over Wi-Fi services to enable high quality and clarity voice calls. It also expanded its SuperNet broadband services to cover 65% of the population, including Gn. Fuvahmulah, making it the first Gigabit city in the Maldives.



Ooredoo Maldives also takes exceptional pride in the Stevie Award won for the 'Most Valuable Corporate Response' for measures taken within the company, for its customers and the community during the COVID 19 pandemic. Together with Ooredoo Group, Ooredoo Maldives contributed MVR 2.5 million to the Government of Maldives to acquire ventilators, personal protective equipment, and testing supplies to combat the spread of coronavirus across the nation.

Ooredoo Maldives has been closely collaborating with government agencies to provide critical connectivity support, mass awareness on COVID-19 prevention and relief, as well as digital solutions which enable online education, health services and enterprise. The company's strong digital policies enabled them to switch to remote working overnight upon the announcement of lockdown, with the majority of its team still providing seamless services to customers from home. The company continues to focus on digitalisation and leveraging content solutions to drive further growth.



Guided by its vision of enriching people's lives, Ooredoo seeks to open-up the limitless opportunities of the digital age to local communities and businesses, while striving towards a

## IN THE NEWS

# Hoarafushi Airport to be Completed by November 2020

Maldives Transport and Contracting Company Plc (MTCC) has announced that works are underway to complete the Regional Airport located in the Island of HA. Hoarafushi by November 11, 2020.



CEO of MTCC visited the airport area and inspected the ongoing works as well as the concluded areas of



the project. He further determined the remaining works left to be completed with help from on-site workers.

According to the company, the overall work on the airport project is coming along smoothly at a fast pace and the project is expected to be finished by the announced date.

The scope of the project includes the construction of a 1200-metre runway, an 8,635-square-metre apron and taxiway, service roads in front of the terminal, 9,473-square-metre parking area, a 1,718-square-metre fire access road, a fire building, a passenger terminal, 720 metres of airport security and a beach fence area.

According to the government, development of regional airports such as the Hoarafushi Airport will make guest transfers more convenient in the northernmost atolls, and are a vital infrastructure to support the ever-expanding tourism industry.

## SERENITY

## Three Ways to Improve Your Health

with Six Senses Laamu

Six Senses Visiting Practitioner Adrian Yahvah shares three ways to improve health by activating our "inner technology": breathing, moving and intermittent fasting.



*"It is my passion to personally implement and share the most beneficial of the infinite tricks, tips, hacks to lose weight, look more beautiful, or become bigger, faster, and stronger. So aside from drinking adequate water and getting 7 to 9 hours of sleep every day, what can you do right now for a massive mental and physical health boost? Three easy, scientifically endorsed, and quick ways to impact your whole being are; daily focused breathing exercises, moving often during periods of sedentary activity, and implement intermittent fasting or a restricted feeding window." – Adrian Yahvah*

### Breathing

Breathing is a quick way to access the autonomic nervous system which commands responses that we largely thought were out of our control such as blood pressure, heart rate and respiratory rate. Explore and find the one that works best for you. Suggestions: Box Breathing or Tactical Breathing will balance your nervous system due to the symmetric nature of the breaths. Simply inhale for a count of 4 or 5, hold for 4 or 5, exhale for 4 or 5, and hold for 4 or 5 (through your nose). Find the rhythm that works for you. You

will release pent up muscle pain, and even your digestive system will benefit. I would also suggest the Wim Hof method and learn how to "get high on your own supply" as he always says. This practice involves taking deep breaths into the body with relaxed exhales 30 to 50 times. On your last breath release the air in your lungs and hold your breath as long as possible. When you absolutely must breathe, inhale a big breath and hold for 15 to 30 seconds. You will experience many incredible bodily sensations and after a few rounds you will feel energized yet relaxed.

### Moving

The adage "sitting is the new smoking" still doesn't scare people into frequently changing positions for the benefit of their bodies. But, please do it! All it takes is a two-minute break every 20 minutes to stand up, sit down, walk around and just give your muscles, bones and ligaments a break. Set an external alarm for a few weeks until your mental alarm wakes up and you will automatically do it. At the office simply slip away and do some box breathing while gently shrugging the shoulders or shaking the arms and legs for a few minutes.

### Intermittent fasting

Current science is quite clear that intermittent fasting or time restricted feeding is a successful strategy for anti-aging and boosting immunity. By simply going 12 to 16 hours per day without eating, you allow your

digestive system a chance to properly do its job of breaking down and absorbing the nutrients from your food while allowing adequate time to eliminate waste and repair. Keep in mind that exercising on an empty stomach is not only safe, but in many cases, has a beneficial effect on hormones that help burn fat stores.

There you have it; 3 practices that can bring about dramatic benefits on your whole being. Be consistent and you will see results the very first day you start. Once you start, simply don't stop and you will reach your peak. People will see your success and they will want to know what you are doing. This is about helping yourself so you can help others through these very difficult times.

*Adrian Yahvah started his journey as a healthcare provider at 18 years old by attending East West College of the Healing Arts to study massage therapy. After completing an intensive graduate sports massage programme under instructor and author Patricia Archer, Adrian was inspired to continue his studies in sports medicine. He attended the University of Montana and graduated in 2008 with a Master's degree in exercise science. In 2008, Adrian met and studied under Aaron Mattes, the founder of Active Isolated Stretching. Since then, Adrian has amassed thousands of hours using A.I.S and other techniques to assist others in achieving wellness through strength and flexibility.*



ދިވެހިސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް



# SUZUKI DF325A: A REVOLUTION IN INNOVATION

THE  
**ULTIMATE**<sup>™</sup>  
4-STROKE OUTBOARD



📍 MTCC Kashavaru

☎ 331 8080

✉ sales@mtcc.com.mv

BON APPÉTIT

# CRAB PANDAN SALAD



Corporate Executive Chef of Cocoon Maldives, Giovanni De Ambrosis is an award-winning, progressive culinary professional with over 25 years of experience in world-class resorts, hotels and restaurants. He exemplifies professionalism and has the ability to drive clients' satisfaction and retention through the creation of quality food, while fostering a friendly and pleasant dining experience. With his extensive knowledge, he has strong business administrative insight, along with recruiting, training and interpersonal skills. His natural ability to both, create an enthusiastic, productive working environment, and maintain a reputation of quality, service and dedication, has brought him to where he is today; the Ambassador of Italian Taste.

***"A fresh salad with a mix of ingredients and flavours of the Maldivian land; the land that has influenced my culinary choices for the last four years"***

Giovanni De Ambrosis –  
Corporate Executive Chef,  
Cocoon Maldives.



Courtesy of  
Corporate Executive Chef Giovanni De Ambrosis  
Cocoon Maldives

## Ingredients

- 500g whole crab
- 40g mango
- 3 pc pandan leaf
- 50g fresh mixed salad leaf
- 10g green fresh Maldivian chilli
- 2 pc lime
- 10g salt
- 5g pepper
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp spoon sweet chili sauce

## Method

- Steam the crab, open it and remove the meat.
- Cut and wash the mixed salad. Add the crab meat.
- For the dressing, cut the mango in small cubes and mix with the green Maldivian chili, lime, salt, pepper, extra virgin olive oil and sweet chili sauce.
- Place the shell in the middle of a plate, add the crab, mixed salad leaf and the dressing.

Enjoy.



## Keep your worries away

**Our industry-leading printing solutions deliver exceptionally high quality print to create lasting impressions for your business.**

Our services include printing - large-format, books, brochures/ leaflets, business cards, posters, calendards, ceramic tiles, flyers, greeting/invitation cards, letterheads, menus, name plates, photo books, cloth/fabric printing and glass etching. Additional services - laser cutting, plaque making, self-ink stamps, creative designing, die cutting, pins, shopping/gift bags, trophies and shields.

While celebrating over 20 years in the business we provide full color printing services onto any type of flat surface, including wood, plastic and metal.

# Frankly Speaking

**After being closed since March 15, 2020, due to the pandemic, the Maldives re-opened its borders on July 15, 2020, with a target of 500,000 tourists for the year. Significant growth in tourist arrivals have been notified during September and October. Do you think the Maldives can reach its target? How should the industry work to achieve this and what are the challenges, if any?**



**Shaaz Waleed**  
Managing Director  
Resort Life Travel

Yes – we can even reach over a million tourists within this period! The destination must use today's marketing tactics using social media influencers and get them to create viral clips. Also, build strong confidence in visitors regarding the safety of this destination. We, as individual companies, are conducting marketing and promotional activities through Hollywood stars.



**Abdulla Ghiyas**  
Vice President, Maldives Association of Travel Agents & Tour Operators (MATATO) Chair, PATA Maldives Chapter

We have seen the Maldives progressing on tourist arrivals against all odds since July. It has been a challenging journey but a rewarding one too. We are seeing progress as we move ahead and it has been a learning curve with a joint effort from all stakeholders. The said target will be achievable given that we constantly keep up with the changes and developments based on industry feedback.

Many competing destinations are still closed and the appetite for the Maldives is at an all-time high. Travellers will come, as long as we keep the case numbers low. Still, when a traveller looks at coming to the Maldives, they look at this number regardless of the fact that our majority spread is in Malé, which is isolated from other islands.

Safety and health need to be prioritised and we need to keep the momentum going to be able to achieve this target.



**Mohamed Firaq**  
Managing Director  
Inner Maldives Holidays

As I mentioned two months ago, I am more confident that we can reach 100,000 tourists instead. Growing the country's airlines network will definitely help us. The newly growing markets will be GCC and CIS for now.



**Mohamed Ali Janah**  
President,  
National Federation of Maldivian Employer's (NFME)

The bold and the far sighted decision taken by the Government of Maldives to open the borders earlier than many other countries, while simultaneously and very methodically working towards containing the virus within the Maldives by listening to the experts, and building the right infrastructure within a very short period of time to combat the pandemic, are exactly the reasons why we are getting these positive results in the tourism industry today. The work done by various government authorities and agencies, together with the private sector, to market Maldives in these trying times are also commendable. I am confident that we will achieve 500,000 plus tourist arrivals this year and if this current trend continues, I am also extremely confident that we will cross 1 million plus tourist arrivals in 2021 In Sha Allah.



**Asad Ali**  
Deputy Secretary General  
Maldives Association of Tourism Industry (MATI)

We think that whilst there have been positive steps, that this is a very optimistic target as the performance of our Tourism Industry depends on a number of factors, some of which are out of our control. We must ensure that as a nation we continue to be vigilant and follow the guidelines to keep our numbers low. The industry has been working incredibly hard to do all that we can to ensure that we are ready and fully prepared to welcome back our guests and we are committed to keeping the measures in place to give our staff and guests reassurance.

With current infection rates across our markets, our challenges lie in the decisions made by source market Governments, with regard to quarantine and travel restrictions, that have a direct impact on their travel to the Maldives.



Pure  
Stainless Steel



Sanitaryware & Interior  
Design Solutions  
www.blanc.mv





# Daiya Devilled



## Fiery Goodness in a Bowl