

The islandchief

travel news

VOL 71 | June 2022 | www.islandchief.com

Email : news@islandchief.com | Hotline : +960 7980088



Going ABOVE and BEYOND Guest Expectations

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW with **THOMAS WEBER**
General Manager, Dusit Thani Maldives

PAGE: 12



Qatar Airways Steps into the Metaverse with 'QVerse' Virtual Reality and World's First MetaHuman Cabin Crew

Pg: 03



Investing in Tomorrow: Celebrating the Graduating Hospitality Apprentices of 2022 and Welcoming the Class of 2023

Pg: 06



LUX* South Ari Atoll Awarded 'Most Sustainable Wedding Resort in South Asia'

Pg: 16



The New Indonesian Ambassador, H.E. Dewi Gustina Tobing, Promotes the Enhancement of Indonesia

Pg: 21

Secure your data & infrastructure with Ooredoo Maldives Data Center



Scan for more details

Publisher's Note



Managing Editor
Mariyam Maaisha

Management Team
Ismail Hameed
Ismail Shifraz
Mohamed Shamin

Finance & Accounts
Mariyam Niuma
Yusra Naseer

Consultant
Ahmed Ijaz

Content Executives
Mariyam Zeena
Mariyam Amna Abdulla
Esa Abdulla

Sales & Marketing Executive
Nasra Ali

Contributing Writers
Dr Sachin Bansal
Thasim Rafi
Aushini Das
Ibrahim Nizam

Design
Richard Mendonca, Flavours Inc.

Cover Photography
Zippo Photographer

Web Development
Ahmed Fazeel
Ibrahim Nisham (Paighde)

Distribution
Shahid Uddin

Website:



Clubhouse App:



Address:
Maldives Publications Pvt Ltd
Super Market Shopping Centre,
6th Floor, Chaandhane Magu,
Male', 20189
Maldives

Phone : +960 3307898
Email : sales@islandchief.com

News & Press Releases to be shared by email to :
news@islandchief.com

Follow us on ;



@theislandchief

Dear Readers,

NOW THAT TRAVELLING is less frequent for and more appreciated by many of us, careful planning is needed to wisely choose destinations that make the most of our time abroad. For lovers of tropical beach holidays, Maldives has always been on the top, more importantly its scattered islands make them the perfect post-pandemic destination for a swift dose of cosmopolitan discovery. In this issue, we look at the current affairs including the 2022 Arabian Travel Market bringing you incredible market insights. We also interviewed Thomas Weber, General Manager of Dusit Thani Maldives where he shared his principles, ideas, and future plans (page 12).

In the most drooling section, we have the Herb Crusted Stuffed Chicken by Executive Chef & Culinary Consultant Ibrahim Naeem, Skyfall Lounge & Restaurant whose been working in F&B production department & have had 23 years of excellent training and work-related experience (page 22).

We also have the industry experts debating their opinions on maritime transport across the Maldives on page 23. WITH MANY OF EUROPE'S AIRPORTS AS busy now as they were pre-pandemic, it's easy to get carried away with it all and jump on a plane to literally anywhere so long as you're away. Don't. Ponder what type of holiday you really need and plan as you did when you were a teenager, for only then will you truly appreciate the joy of travelling and make enduring memories. And travelling is all about making memories.

It's a bumper edition, with lots of exclusive content, so we hope you enjoy this month's edition of the Islandchief!

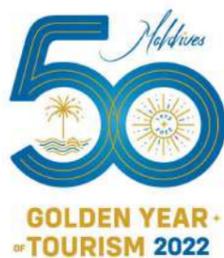
Until next time,
The Islandchief Team



KANDHU VALU MISKIYY

This mosque, located in Haa Alif atoll, Utheemu, was built about the same time as the Utheemu palace. The name was given because of the thick vegetation of Lantern trees (Kandhu) before the mosque was built and it has several ties with the iconic Mohamed Thakurufaanu. He and his soldiers made prayer and prayed for victory before going to war and he was also rumored to have prayed here as a child.

On the left of the mosque is the grave of his father (Katheeb Hussain Thakurufaanu) and on the right lies the grave of the mosque architect. According to forefathers, at first the roofing was made with coconut leaf thatching and later to clay. The most changed part of mosque today is the roof.



DISTRIBUTION



120+ RESORTS



350+ GUESTHOUSES



60+ LIVEABOARDS



20+ AIRLINES



100+ COMPANY EXECUTIVES



5 UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

ACROSS THE SKIES

Qatar Airways Steps into the Metaverse with 'QVerse' Virtual Reality and World's First MetaHuman Cabin Crew

Qatar Airways has entered the metaverse by launching QVerse, a novel virtual reality (VR) experience for visitors to the airline's website.

Users of the www.qatarairways.com/QVerse website can now virtually tour and navigate the Premium Check-in area at Hamad International Airport (HIA), the cabin interior of the airline's aircraft, including the award-winning Business Class - Qsuite, and the Economy Class cabin, by using their own Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs). The national carrier of the State of Qatar is also the first global airline to introduce a MetaHuman cabin crew offering a digital interactive customer experience.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, said: "With physical boundaries beginning to be challenged by the metaverse on an increasingly larger scale, it is exciting to embrace a technology that enables all travel enthusiasts to enjoy a unique

immersive experience of our award-winning products and services."

He added: "Our status as the first airline to introduce a MetaHuman cabin crew is testament to our unwavering desire to innovate and delight our customers. We are constantly looking forward to adopting and introducing novel technologies that enhance our passengers' complete journey."

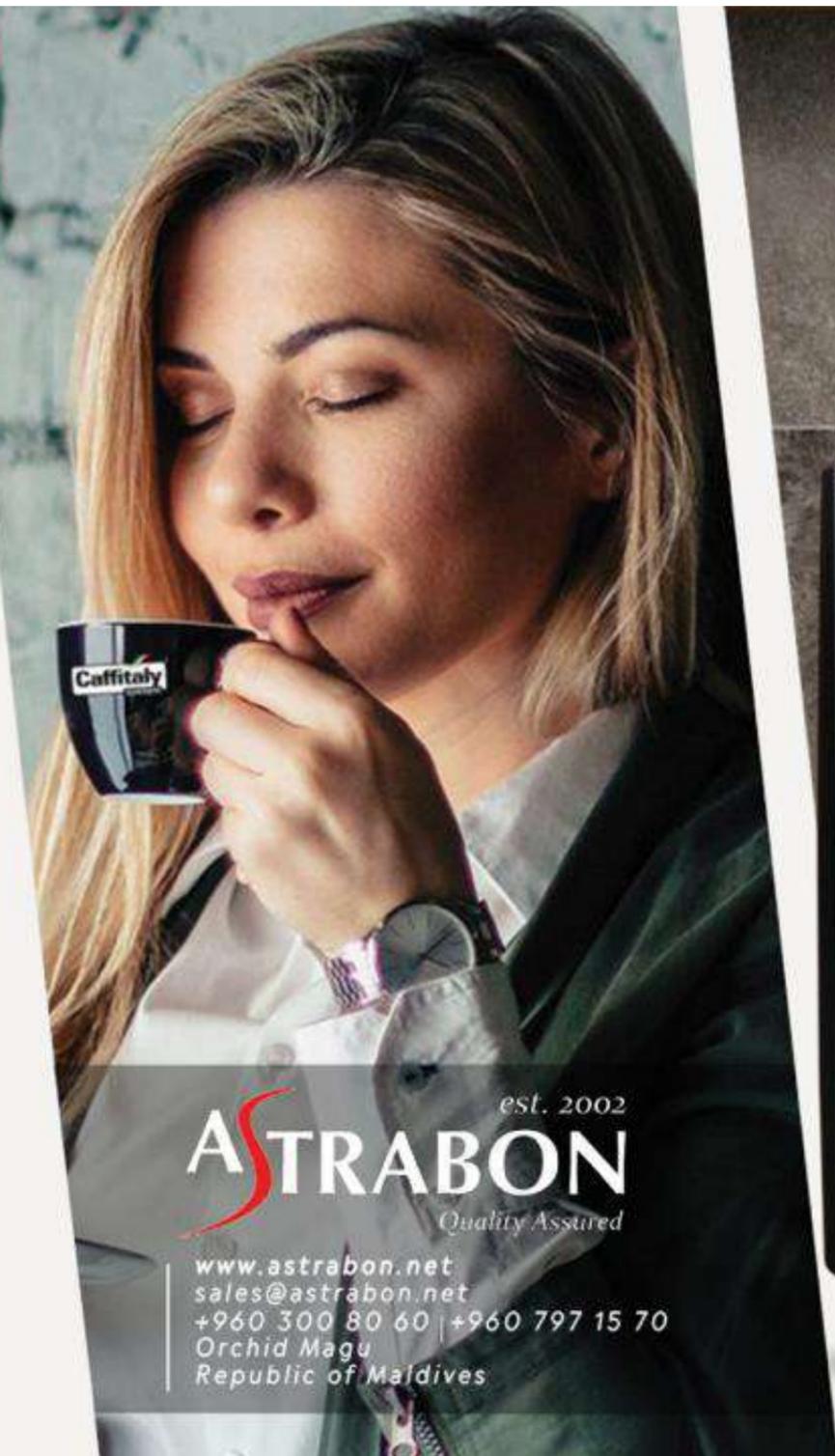
The experience was developed using Epic Games' Unreal Engine, the world's most advanced real-time 3D creation tool, and MetaHuman Creator, a cloud-based app for creating high-fidelity digital humans. Qatar Airways is the first global airline to introduce a MetaHuman cabin crew, featuring a digitally-created high-fidelity 3D human model named 'Sama' – whose name is of Arabic origin and translates to 'sky'. 'Sama' offers an interactive customer experience through engagement with the user, taking them on a virtual journey of discovery, while presenting the unique



features in both the Business and Economy Class cabins through a narrated script.

A multiple award-winning airline, Qatar Airways was announced as the 'Airline of the Year' by the international air transport rating organization, Skytrax, in addition to securing five additional awards, including World's Best Business Class, World's Best

Business Class Airline Lounge, World's Best Business Class Airline Seat, World's Best Business Class Onboard Catering and Best Airline in the Middle East. The airline continues to stand alone at the top of the industry having won the main prize for an unprecedented sixth time (2011, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021).



est. 2002
ASTRABON
Quality Assured

www.astrabon.net
sales@astrabon.net
+960 300 80 60 | +960 797 15 70
Orchid Magu
Republic of Maldives

ACROSS THE SKIES

Etihad Airways Wins 'Best Cabin Crew' and 'Best First Class' at the Business Traveler Awards 2022



Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, has been recognised as the airline with the 'Best Cabin Crew' as well as being awarded the 'Best First Class' at the Business Traveler Middle East Awards 2022.

The airline's Cabin Crew are renowned for their authentic and personal service inspired by traditional, generous Emirati hospitality. Etihad has won many awards for its outstanding Cabin Crew service in the past and it has always been a hallmark of the brand. The airline's crew are taken through an extensive training process before taking to the skies which focuses on safety, service and hospitality. Etihad is currently recruiting Cabin Crew

to join its multinational team based in the emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Etihad's First class also took home the coveted Business Traveller award. The First cabin is designed as a private universe – a sanctuary in the sky – which provides guests with a highly personalized and bespoke service tailored to the guests' individual preferences. This includes a tailor made dining experience allowing guests to create a bespoke menu in the sky. Guests traveling in First will also be given complimentary loungewear for comfort in flight as well as premium Acqua di Parma amenity kits.

Guests traveling in First class are also invited to check in at a private area at Abu Dhabi International Airport and dedicated queues around the world. They also have exclusive access to the airline's dedicated First-class lounge with dining inspired by the Middle East as well as international cuisine. Etihad's feature bar serves drinks from the Etihad cellar. A fitness room and shower facilities also allow guests to maximize their time and depart feeling refreshed.

The Business Traveler Middle East Awards were presented at a gala dinner attended by travel industry leaders on Monday evening, after the opening day of the Arabian Travel Market in Dubai. The awards are presented based on votes cast online by travelers and readers of Business Traveler Middle East magazine.

At the Arabian Travel Market this year, Etihad is showcasing the new interior cabin design of the A350-1000, the airline's newest aircraft type which joined the fleet in March. In addition, Etihad revealed its new Economy products featuring a new dining experience designed with environmental sustainability and an elevated guest experience as a priority. The dining equipment is reusable and forms a closed loop recycling system, meaning at the end of their life, the products will be collected, washed, ground and the resulting powder will be re-used to produce new products. This new product roll out will take place in the fourth quarter and will ensure the airline meets its pledge to reduce single use plastic from the operation by 80% by the end of 2022.

AirAsia Resumes Schedule Flights to The Maldives

Air Asia-Malaysia has resumed scheduled flights to the Maldives, following the reopening of the Malaysian borders on May 1, 2022.

With 150 passengers, the first flight since the resumption landed at Velana International Airport on May 3, 2022. Two flights each week are scheduled between Malaysia and Velana International Airport. The weekly flights will be operated every Tuesday and Saturday.

Air Asia suspended their operations to the Maldives in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Air Asia is the largest airline in Malaysia by fleet size and destinations. The airline operated scheduled domestic and international flights to more than 165 destinations spanning 25 countries. Air Asia has consistently been awarded Skytrax's World's Best Low-Cost Airline' 2019, for 11 years in a row.

Air Asia Super App users were able to click on the 'Flights' icon, book their favorite airlines, and enjoy up to 50% off by applying the voucher code SUPERTRAVEL on the payment page. Moreover on



May 17, airasia Super App, one of the top Online Travel Agencies (OTAs) in ASEAN, hosted its first SUPER Travel Fest with more than 700 international airlines flying to over 3,000 destinations, promoting

200,000 hotels ASEAN-wide on its various travel platforms over a week-long period from May 17-23, 2022.

IN A NUTSHELL

Shangri-La Celebrates World Family Day by Announcing Debut Collaboration with Make-a-Wish International



This World Family Day, Sunday May 15, 2022, Shangri-La announces its debut partnership with Make-A-Wish International. Celebrating the importance of family, special offerings across select hotels in the Middle East, Europe, India, the Indian Ocean, and Canada will be created to raise vital funds for the inspiring work the foundation does for children and families around the world. Shangri-La will also work closely with Make-A-Wish International to support the granting of wishes for children with critical illnesses across hotels, where the sky's the limit.

A wish has the ability to transform the lives of children and their families during some of the most difficult times, giving a sense of hope and escapism when needed most. Through partnering with Make-A-Wish International, Shangri-La invites guests to make a difference with their travels by supporting this essential cause to help children experience the power of imagination and the strength it brings. This World Family Day sees the launch of a special collaboration with Make-A-Wish International, involving three campaigns that will run across the next 12 months. Beginning with the summer launch campaign, from June 2022 select hotels will offer specially created Afternoon Teas, restaurant experiences, dedicated 'Make-A-Wish Come True' stay packages, and more to raise funds for Make-A-Wish International.

Following the summer, and paying homage to Shangri-La's Asian heritage, a toy will be created for the Mid-Autumn Lunar Festival with 100% of the proceeds given to Make-A-Wish International. The collaboration then moves on to the Festive Season, where a variety of exciting offerings will be created to celebrate the most magical time of the year. Looking ahead to January 2023, with the celebration

of Chinese New Year, the third installment of the partnership will be brought to life with mystical Wishing Trees appearing across the region to bring a sense of wonderment to start the New Year.

'Family has always been at the heart of Shangri-La and we are delighted to be partnering with Make-A-Wish International to help raise awareness and funds for the amazing work they do for children and families around the world. We hope by working together we can help make every child's Shangri-La come true.' Says Elena Mendez, Shangri-La's VP Marketing (F&B) and Corporate Communications, MEIA.

In addition to the various offerings available, Shangri-La will work together with Make-A-Wish International to help grant wishes to children, creating memories for families to cherish forever. Whether a child wishes to stay in the top suite at Shangri-La The Shard, London with the bustling city at their feet, enjoy a floating breakfast in Shangri-La Dubai's 42nd floor pool with sweeping views of Burj Khalifa; see the twinkling lights of the Eiffel Tower from the balconies of Shangri-La, Paris; or experience the best of Canada with Shangri-La Vancouver and Shangri-La Toronto, these desires can become reality. Whatever the dream may be, together Shangri-La and Make-A-Wish International hope to make every eligible child's wish come true.

'Staying at Shangri-La hotels is a dream come true for many of our Wish Children' says Luciano Manzo, Make-A-Wish International President & CEO. 'A wish brings hope and joy to the children and their families and has life-changing power. We look forward to granting many more of these wishes for the children thanks to Shangri-La's support in the MEIA region.'

HONDA

MARINE



Marine Vibe

AUTHORISED DEALER

MARINE VIBE
M. Nimsa View
Orchid Magu,
Malé, Maldives
+960 330 6666
+960 330 7777
sales@marinevibe.com

IN A NUTSHELL

Investing in Tomorrow: Celebrating the Graduating Hospitality Apprentices of 2022 and Welcoming the Class of 2023

A country's youth are its future and this year, the Four Seasons Resorts Maldives Hospitality Apprenticeship program saw 40 young Maldivians graduate towards brighter horizons. The Apprenticeship has been the longest running and most successful of its kind in the Indian Ocean since its inception in 2001, and has celebrated its latest graduates – and inaugurated its new learners – at a special ceremony at 9:30 am on May 28, 2022, at Maldives National University Auditorium, Malé.

Now in its twenty-first year, the program has supported a total of 737 youngsters to date, setting them up for an exciting hospitality career not only in the Maldives, but potentially world-wide. The Class of 2022 graduate in disciplines including: Food & Beverage Service; Food & Beverage Preparation; Housekeeping & Guest Services; Retail; Front Office & Recreation; PADI Dive Master; Safe Maritime Transport (SMT); Engineering and Watersports Attendant.

“Investing in people is the cornerstone of great hospitality,” comments Four Seasons Resorts Maldives Regional Vice President, Armando Kraenzlin, “and helping local youth achieve their

potential and create empowered futures is very much a part of that. Their enthusiasm, talent, energy, and focus amaze us year on year, but the resilience shown by our current graduates, in the face of such unprecedented challenges, is particularly commendable.”

Celebrating their achievements at the graduation ceremony was Chief Guest of Honour and First Lady of the Maldives, Her Excellency Fazna Ahmed. Inspiring young minds to dream big, she addressed both the incoming and outgoing students, as well as presented certificates to them.

In her address to the apprentices Her Excellency Fazna inspired the young audience to become enthusiastic lifelong learners to sharpen their saw and continue to reach higher. She encouraged them to make this apprenticeship programme a stepping stone where they begin the process of gaining knowledge and learning new skills throughout their lives.

Despite uncertain times for the hospitality industry, the 2022 program managed to take in 40 apprentices, with the Safe Maritime



Transport module upgraded with Niyami 1 Certification and Marine Mechanic Level 3 Certifications.

The future looks bright too, with the 2023 intake welcoming 65 hopeful students from across 30 islands, and the introduction of a new third year module, Advanced Engineering.

The Four Seasons Hospitality Apprenticeship – accredited by the Government of Maldives since 2010 – is open to all young Maldivians, aged 17-20, who meet a number of entry criteria including O-Level certifications and fluency in both written and spoken English. No previous work experience is required and apprentices are fully supported to both live and work at Four Seasons Resorts Maldives, training in

Resort operations five days a week, with theory classes one day a week. Performance appraisals and tests are taken at regular intervals.

At its heart, the apprenticeship program is about learning on the job, with classes conducted by professionals with many years of international experience in the luxury hotel, dive and marine industries. Recognising the need for encouragement and guidance along the way, each Apprentice is assigned a buddy and mentor. Learning to work hard within an ambitious team builds stamina and character, and strengthens the Apprentice's sense of professionalism, discipline, teamwork and perseverance.

Centara Invites Travelers on a Summertime Family Getaway or a Romantic Couple's Escape to the Maldives

MALDIVES SUMMER SALE

SAVE OVER 35%

- Plus chilled bottle of wine on arrival
- 20% discount on Spa
- Late check-out until 16:00 hrs.
- and more

BOOK BY 31ST JULY '22

Centara Hotels & Resorts, Thailand's leading hotel operator, is inviting guests to enjoy a quintessential island holiday in the Maldives this summer, with enticing offers at its two award-winning resorts in the tropical archipelago: Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives and Centara Ras Fushi Resort & Spa Maldives.

Under the “Maldives Summer Escape” promotion, guests will receive an amazing over 25% discount when they book with Centara in the Maldives. Travelers who are members of CentaraThe1, the group's loyalty programme, will be rewarded with an additional 15% off. Travelers who are not yet members can sign up for free in less than a minute, and immediately

start enjoying benefits and earning points.

In the Maldives, all guests enjoy 20% savings on select spa treatments, and for stays of 4 nights or longer, they will be treated to a floating breakfast when staying in a pool villa or an in-villa breakfast experience in a non-pool villa.

This enticing offer is valid for bookings made between now and July 31, 2022, for stays until December 20, 2022. With the summer holidays fast approaching, this exclusive offer provides an excellent opportunity for couples, friends, and families to relax and unwind together in paradise.

Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives.

Nestled on a pristine island in the South Ari Atoll, Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives is a fantastic option for families. Amid a landscape of pure white sand, crystal clear seas and swaying palm trees, guests can choose to stay in a 93-square meter Family Overwater Villa, which includes bunk beds and a PlayStation for kids, a Jacuzzi and a secure terrace with breathtaking ocean views and steps down to the lagoon. Alternatively, the stunning Premium Deluxe Sunset Overwater Villa with Pool can accommodate up to three guests in 114 square meters of luxurious living space, with a large terrace, plunge pool with sunset sea views. A collection of beachfront villas are also available with private pools and access to the powder-soft sand.

Parents and kids can spend unforgettable days splashing in the beachfront pool or enjoying activities such as tennis, volleyball, water sports, snorkeling and scuba diving. Adults can relax at SPA Cenvaree or workout at the fitness center, while their children have endless hours of fun at the dual-age kids' club, and all ages can dine at a variety of restaurants, bars, and lounges.

Families can also explore the beauty of the Maldives with excursions including snorkeling adventures, semi-submarine rides, as well as whale shark, turtle, or manta sighting cruises. Every Centara hotel and resort adheres to strict health and safety standards, as part of the “Centara Complete Care” programme, which was developed in partnership with Ecolab and SGS. Centara Ras Fushi Resort & Spa Maldives is

nestled on an idyllic island in the North Ari Atoll.

For couples and honeymooners, Centara Ras Fushi Resort & Spa Maldives is an adults-only island retreat in the North Malé Atoll, less than 20 minutes away by speedboat from Velana International Airport. This heavenly hideaway houses a collection of beachfront and overwater accommodation, including the Deluxe Spa Overwater Villa, which is accessed via a wooden boardwalk and features 42 square meters of living space with an outdoor spa bathtub and direct steps down to the reef – perfect for swimming or snorkeling around the lagoon. Alternatively, the Premium Deluxe Sunset Overwater Villa offers an elegant ocean-facing deck with outdoor spa bathtub and direct access to the sparkling lagoon.

With a choice of seven sensational restaurants and bars, exhilarating water sports, scuba diving, ocean excursions and soothing therapies at SPA Cenvaree, this intimate resort promises many romantic moments, both during the day and under the stars. This makes it especially suitable for honeymoons and couple's vacations.

For more information and to book the “Maldives Summer Escape” promotion, simply select your exclusive couples' retreats at Centara Ras Fushi Resort & Spa Maldives or for perfect private island destination at Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives for family holidays.

IN A NUTSHELL



Radisson Blu Resort Maldives Introduces a New All-Inclusive Offering for Guests

Discover one-of-a-kind Maldives experience at the award-winning Radisson Blu Resort Maldives with the new all-inclusive offering to bring those travel moments together in one thoughtfully curated meal plan for savvy travelers.

Nested in South Ari Atoll, its stylish five-star island resort is an idyllic secluded getaway despite being located among the closest atolls from Velana International Airport in Malé, with only a 30 minutes ride by scenic seaplane flight. Guests are invited to embark on a culinary voyage to its diverse selection of restaurants and bars. Guests from all over the world can choose the journey at their own preference. Whether they are looking for comfort foods that

make them feel at home or seeking a gourmet adventure to experience the local delicacies and foreign flavors.

The journey starts each day with a super breakfast at the all-day dining restaurant, Raha, where lunch will be served in addition to the themed dinner buffet, such as Maldivian, Indian, and Mexican. Its talented chefs at Raha are always happy to cater special 'off the menu' requests. Daytime bites and cool drinks can be found at Eats & Beats, the chilled beach club style poolside bar, or at Crusoe's, a "castaway chic" islet sanctuary for curious explorers. For an atmospheric dinner at one of the overwater restaurants, guests can experience Japanese cuisine with an Omakase set menu at the

elegant setting of Kabuki, or the Mediterranean grill at Alifaan with a show kitchen. In the evening, Mahurab bar is where the guests can enjoy the live music while sipping their favorite wine or cocktail.

Feed My Soul all-inclusive package at Radisson Blu Resort Maldives includes:

FOOD

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner in buffet style at Raha overwater Restaurant. \$40 credit per person per meal in four a la carte restaurants and bars, except for private dining or special events.

DRINKS

Unlimited non-alcoholic beverages with selections of house bottled water, tea, coffee, soft drinks, and juices.

Unlimited alcoholic beverages with selections of wines and sparkling wines curated by our sommelier, island mixologist's cocktails and mocktails creations, liquors, spirits, rum, gin, vodka, whisky, tequila, and beers.

Daily sunset happy hour and snack pass-around at Eats & Beats bar, including free ice cream for children.

Weekly guest cocktail and canapé.

IN-VILLA MINIBAR

Fully replenished once daily with non-alcoholic drinks and Radisson Blu snack selections.

"After the launch of our concierge mobile app, we are thrilled to introduce our new all-inclusive program, as a new offering at Radisson Blu Resort Maldives", says General Manager Gavin Sanders. "This is another step forward to continuously enhance the quality and the value of the stay to fulfill the strong demand from both new and repeat guests alike." adds Gavin.

Immersive experience is offered through other features such as complimentary non-motorized water sports as well as yoga and wellness activities. The all-inclusive package is now available through direct booking, tour operator and travel agent partners, and will soon be available in all other booking channels.

WORLD'S LEADING OUTBOARDS.



SOLE DISTRIBUTOR

ALIA INVESTMENTS (PVT) LTD

(960) 300 9797

www.aliamaldives.com



MOVERS & SHAKERS



Siyam World, Maldives welcomes Florian Niessing as Director of Food & Beverage and Maya Damayanti as Veyo Spa Manager to the team and to its world of possibilities.

Originally from Germany, Florian has had extensive professional expertise within the industry worldwide, holding incredible positions such as Hotel Manager at Stay city Hotel in Heidelberg, Cluster Director of Food and Beverage at Crown and Champa Resorts Maldives that includes Kuredu Maldives, and Bar and Beverage Manager at Le Meridien, Xiamen in China.

Creative and innovative with a passion for the food and beverage industry, Florian has worked around the globe, boasting career highlights such as running his own hotel/ restaurant/



bar in Phuket, Thailand, and winning numerous awards for his cocktail creations. With his love for marketing, Florian is also involved in innovating food and beverage experiences and implementing new ideas that go in line with Siyam Worlds' unique personality that will undoubtedly make an impact at the resort.

He joined Siyam World in late February to oversee, manage and develop all food and beverage related operations on site of over 14 restaurants and bars, including exclusive new beachfront Chef's Table dining venue THE CUBE, all new restaurant concepts, and underground Wine Cellar Barrique.

When asked about his vision for Siyam World, Florian quoted "I am very excited to be a part of the Siyam

Siyam World, Maldives Announces Key Leadership Appointments

World family, we have such a genuine team and a lot of amazing ideas. Our goal is to offer the most exciting and extensive choices of F&B experiences in the market including genuine heartfelt service by a proud and passionate team."

Maya, originally from Indonesia, lives and breathes a life as a healthy practitioner, values the importance of balancing body, mind, and soul and focuses on a self-love/self-healing aspect in life.

She joins Siyam World as Veyo Spa Manager and brings with her a wealth of international experience within the spa and wellness field and as a wellness practitioner.

Maya has worked extensively with global luxury hotel and resort groups for more than 15 years in Bali, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, India,

and the Middle East. She offers solid customer service skills and a wide knowledge of developing spa brand standards, including motivating and training staff. With her result-focused, innovative approach, and eye for detail, Maya will lead the Veyo Spa team, oversee all spa operations, and be responsible for developments of spa marketing initiatives, treatment offerings and promotional activities to eventually expand spa revenues.

A career highlight to point out for Maya, is her achievement of being awarded Best Spa Manager 2016 within the Bali Region by the Indonesian Tourism Government affiliated with (IndSpa) the Indonesian Spa Professional Association and, Indonesia Wellness Master Association (IWMA) and Wellness & Healthcare Entrepreneur Association (WHEA).

Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa Appoints Amir Badr as Resident Manager

Lily Hotels has announced the appointment of Amir Badr as the Resident Manager of Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa and its new elevated luxury collection, The Signature Collection by Hideaway in the Maldives.

Born to Russian-Palestinian parents and raised in Oman, Amir comes with a diverse background within the hospitality industry with a career in the industry in locations such as Malaysia, Australia, Oman, and Thailand. He joins the operations team at the resort with over 12 years of experience in hotel management.

Amir is a leader with a genuine passion for the hospitality industry and ready to challenge himself and his team by constantly delivering immaculate luxury service to guests and leading the team to success in

this endeavor. His career so far is a testament of his drive to build a team that is consistently motivated to go above and beyond to exceed guest expectations in the luxury services cape. With a solid educational base formed in renowned hospitality schools such as Les Roches and experience earned by the challenge of being a founder/managing director of a hospitality management firm based in Thailand, and by working with renowned brands such as Six Senses in the past, he brings a well-rounded leadership ability to the local owner-operator in a very challenging and epoch time of the organization and the industry as whole.

Amir said, "Our aim is to create a motivated, hard-working, loyal family who will be proud to represent Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa as well as The Signature Collection. Creating a



positive working environment influences the experience guests receive. Supporting our team, listening to their side of the story, motivating them when times are busy, working on their weaknesses, and appreciating their point of view on our decisions will create such an environment.

As a result, we are creating a solid foundation upon which we can build and ensure that we can offer our guests memorable experiences that will enhance our reputation in the future. Plus, we look forward to providing our guests with extraordinary offers and added value ranging from

different experiences on this beautiful natural island".

The General Manager Christophe Adam has this to say about his peer's appointment, "We are delighted to welcome Amir to our team, and we are confident that Amir's strong attention for detail, passion for luxury service, and appreciation for an authentic sense of place will be a great asset to lead our amazing team members in delivering memorable experiences to our valued guests".

Amir noted that there are some new and exciting features coming soon to the resort that he is working on with the GM and the team to get them released this year to their guests. These include some new sports and recreation facilities and possibly a new marine experience as well. He also stated that they will be releasing a brand-new menu for the Oasis to showcase the culinary experiences that await the Signature Guests coming to enjoy the brand-new collection's experience at the resort. In addition to that, he hopes to get a key unique feature of the resort – the Marina – up and running as soon as possible.

MOVERS & SHAKERS



Mohamed Shareef Promoted to Director of Residential Life at Villa Hotels and Resorts

Mohamed Shareef has been promoted to the Director of Residential Life at Villa Hotels and Resorts. According to Villa Hotels, the promotion is part of its ongoing work to cultivate the quality of residential life and modernize the residential environment and experience for the team members' wellbeing.

In his new appointment, Shareef will work to overhaul the residential living standards and implement programmatic opportunities that connect with a higher standard of residential living at Villa Hotels and Resorts. Shareef's new role is significant to providing Villa Hotels and Resorts team members with

residential, occupational, social, and personal related support to develop their living environments and experiences.

Shareef's first opportunity in the industry came from Kurumba Maldives in the late 90s, where he was responsible for housekeeping operations. Starting as a Housekeeping Supervisor in the first resort to be established in the Maldives, he rose through the ranks over the years with countless transfers, including Fesdu Island Resort and W Maldives, to Executive Housekeeper of Royal Island Resort and Spa in 2006. After 15-years of steadfast and commendable services, in June 2021,

Shareef moved to Paradise Island Resort and Spa, where he also served as the Executive Housekeeper.

Shareef believes that one of his core strengths lies in working closely with team members to create and sustain a positive and engaging living environment that fosters a sense of belonging and enables them to build positive relationships. His recent promotion in the Villa family also aligns with its mission to proactively source and nurture talented and dedicated Maldivians who positively impact the group and society.



FUELING THE NATION



FSM Building, 4th Floor Block A,
Boduthakurufaanu Magu, 20026, Male', Maldives
Tel: +960 333 6655 / +960 777 6541 / +960 737 0036
sales@fuelmaldives.net / www.fsm.mv

Photo: FSM Handhi barge delivery
fuel to One&Only Reethi Rah

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Michelin-starred Celebrity Chefs Christophe Chiavola & Hemant Oberoi Next in Line to Take Up Residency at Sun Siyam Iru Veli

Celebrity chefs Christophe Chiavola and Hemant Oberoi are next up to headline the prestigious residency series at Sun Siyam Iru Veli, where they will each host intimate uber-exclusive dinners, bringing the best of fine dining experiences to the shores of Maldives. From 16th to 19th May, Chef Christophe Chiavola and from 6th to the 9th of June, Chef Hemant Oberoi will be cooking up some excitement at Iruveli signature restaurant Roma.

Chef Christophe Chiavola is a Michelin-starred chef, whose coveted dishes are multi-sensory experiences that feature a wonderful interplay between visual playfulness, aroma, and taste. His cuisine has been described as graphic and colorful, yet graceful and feminine, where individual flavors shine clear and bright before harmonizing together on your palate.

'It is cuisine without artifice; a mixture of flavors, simplicity, discovery, love and elegance, all washed down with passion and care,' he declares, naming seafood his favorite for its unequaled subtlety of taste, and purity of wild catches.

In the past, he has starred as chef at Michelin-starred restaurant, Les Bories in Gordes, and has been conducting Les Terrasses de l'Image in Saint Rémy de Provence for the last 13 years. He was also a finalist of the Le Meilleur Brigade de France, going on to star as Executive Chef for the restaurants at Hameau des Baux, including the Michelin-starred restaurant, Cicada. Christophe Chiavola is currently based at Château de Massillan, where he was awarded his first Michelin star.

Hemant Oberoi first joined the Taj Hotel in Mumbai as a trainee chef, retiring 42 years later as 'Grand

Executive Chef' of Taj Hotels, a designation specifically created for him.

By the time he left, he had directed food & beverage for all their 27 luxury properties for the past 20 years,

conceptualizing and popularizing many award-winning restaurant brands of Taj, including Zodiac Grill, Sidewok, Souk, Wasabi, and Varq, and inventing dishes like Tamarind sorbet, an Avocado quinoa chaat, Peruvian sushi, Masala tea crème brûlée, and Gulab jamun tiramisu, to name a few. Chef Hemant Oberoi has hosted exclusive dining experiences for some of the world's most powerful personalities, ranging from the affluent



Ambani's, movie-industry notables such as Amitabh Bahchan, Rani Mukerjee, Rishi Kapoor, Brad Pitt, and Naomi Campbell, to prominent political figures and monarchs of note such as, President Barack Obama, PM Margaret Thatcher, Henry Kissinger, Bill Clinton, Prince Charles, Tony Blair, the Duke of Edinburgh, King Hussein of Jordan, Prince Albert of Monaco, and many others.



Noku Maldives Welcomes Nitthiya Nathan as New Executive Sous Chef

resorts, are invited to participate in interactive art pieces set up in the host restaurant, in a unique experience led by one of a series of guest artists guiding the evenings on the magical Maldivian island.

Whether guests are experienced artists or novices, the art dinners are designed to be open to all, inviting participants to explore their creativity in a fun, interactive environment around a long communal table at the resort where art is at its heart, in a warm, social setting.

The art dinners series will take place starting from May at each of the resort's restaurants where guests can explore culinary creativity while immersing in artistic exploration at the tropical haven.

Part of the Women in Arts programme, an initiative from JOALI's founder Esin Güral Argat to give back to the local community, the art dinner series is a continuation of the JOALI philosophy supporting the artistic community and pioneering gender equality. Local art can be found all over the luxurious island retreat, which pays homage to its

Maldivian roots through art and design. The works of art created through the programme are on display and sold at the JOALI Art Studio for guests to purchase, showcasing local talent and generating much-needed revenue for the remote island community.

"JOALI certainly goes beyond providing guests with picturesque views of the Maldivian landscape," said Enver Arslan. "We hope that this one-of-a-kind holiday destination will enrich guests' experience by infusing it with spectacular art installations, immersing visitors in the splendor of art and nature."

Four dining destinations will be participating in the summer series, reflecting the diversity of the resort's culinary offerings with flavors from around the world.

Bringing an Asian feel, there are two offerings. Vandhoo, a specially designed dining experience encompasses Southeast Asian, Chinese, and Mediterranean cuisines while Saoke, a

distinctly Japanese restaurant, has been designed by world-renowned restaurant architect Noriyoshi Muramatsu. With breathtaking Indian Ocean views, the floating restaurant serves select sakes, sushi, and a choice of teppanyaki or kotatsu seating for iron-griddle enthusiasts.

Bellinis will also feature in the events programme, famous for being home to the island's perfect cocktails, notably, Bellinis and homemade Limoncellos, with a carefully crafted menu by Michelin star Chef Theodor Falser. In addition to its mouth-watering aperitifs, the Mediterranean fine dining experience offers a taste of authentic Italy in the heart of the Maldives. The art dinners experience would not be complete without the magical al fresco dining under the stars at Tuh'u, where guests can relish the flavours of the Levant on the sand surrounded by the sparkling palms and the night sky. The island's more casual affair offers a different atmosphere for guests to delve into their inner artists guided by the inspiration of nature.

Guests at the artistic island escape, JOALI Maldives, can combine gastronomic experiences with art and education this summer, as a new series of immersive painting events is launched. Monthly art dinners at the artistic hub will see the Executive Chef, preparing paints using herbs and flowers from the island's own Chef Garden, for an interactive experience led by female artists from around the world.

During the specially curated dinner, guests at one of the Maldives' newest

VISIT MTCC BOATYARD



One-stop solution for all docking and engineering solutions!

📍 MTCC Boatyard, K. Thilafushi 📞 1650 ✉️ boatyard@mtcc.com.mv

📷 🐦 📘 /mtccplc 🌐 mtcc.mv

Going **ABOVE** and **BEYOND** Guest Expectations



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

with

THOMAS WEBER

General Manager, Dusit Thani Maldives

“*The most important traits in the service industry are genuine passion for serving others well, dedication to customer satisfaction and cultural awareness, willingness to take on challenges, a good portion of self-discipline, and patience to climb the career ladder. It's also important to develop skills related to emotional intelligence to manage yourself, limit stress, and enhance other non-technical aptitudes.*”

Thomas Weber, is an elegant and mature hotelier who joined Dusit Thani Maldives in September 2019, with a portfolio of international experience leading pre-opening and operational hotels for brands such as Sun International, Hilton, Mövenpick, and The Leela. Having a rich pedigree in international hotel management, Thomas Weber, has enriched the iconic Dusit Thani Maldives with his 25 years of operational excellence. The Islandchief spoke exclusively with Mr. Thomas about his principles, ideas, future plans and, of course, Dusit Thani Maldives.

You are being appointed as the General Manager of the Dusit Thani Maldives since late Quarter 3, 2019; with extensive knowledge over 25 years of experience leading pre-opening and operational hotel brands. As a GM with regional experience, how would you define your personal leadership style?

Having worked for many years in the area surrounding the Indian Ocean – South Africa, Kenya, Goa, and the Maldives – I was fortunate to meet, learn, and gain experience from people living close to the sea. I think it's essential to get to know each destination's local culture, customs, and traditions; only then can you fine-tune your understanding of what is important in that particular culture.

Since my early days as a GM, I've always focused on collaboration and relationship-oriented style leadership. I am a strong believer that happy employees deliver happy service, resulting in happy guests. To achieve this, all employees should be respected and treated equally. Every single team member has an important role to play, and we all depend on the performance of each other to be successful.

In response to the increasingly health-conscious aspirations of its guests and with a deep commitment to their ongoing wellbeing, how effective are the Dusit Thani Wellness Solutions, and how do you enhance its ancient influences, approach and practices in this modern world?

One of the core pillars of Dusit's unique brand of gracious hospitality is 'well-being.' In line with Dusit's group-wide Devarana Wellness concept, which aims to deliver holistic well-being beyond the spa, we integrate wellness throughout our entire resort operation. Throughout the guest journey at Dusit Thani Maldives, we have implemented mindful touchpoints to meet the aspirational health needs of guests – and provide the luxurious feeling that comes from de-stressing, detoxing, and getting a good night's sleep.

Part of the way we incorporate the ancient influence of the Devarana Wellness concept is through massage therapies and treatments inspired by traditional Thai healing wisdom and the spirit of Buddhist wellness principles. And the younger generation is especially receptive to different and holistic experiences while on our island.

Located at Baa Atoll Muhdhoo -The Maldives' first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve – how has your contributions to the Biosphere reserve manifested recently in the overall environmental challenges in the Maldives?

According to UNESCO, Baa Atoll Biosphere supports one of the largest groups of coral reefs in the Indian Ocean and acts as a steppingstone for transporting planktonic larvae and reef organisms from the western and eastern Indian Ocean. The atoll consists of several habitats that support its rich biodiversity. This includes coral reefs, islands, seagrass beds, and mangroves.

We highlight the existence of this special protected area in all our communications. Our CSR manager is also conducting sessions for guests and employees to raise awareness about the area and our ongoing efforts to protect it – such as growing our own selected ingredients and promoting sustainable fishing methods among local fishermen. These small steps may have a big impact on the future of the conservation of the Maldives.

Dusit Thani has achieved many prestigious National and International Awards such as; Hotel of the year 2017, Hotel of the Year 2018, Haute Grandeur Global Excellence Awards 2019. what are your biggest achievements for Dusit Thani in its quest for recognitions and winning awards?

The fact we welcome many repeat guests is one of our biggest achievements. Another is our employees. Fifty-five of them have been working for Dusit Thani Maldives since the day the resort opened in September 2012, and it is thanks to the commitment of all our excellent employees that we have won so many awards and received great

guest feedback. We believe great guest feedback is more valuable than any trophy in a cabinet. That is why we focus on constantly delivering great and memorable experiences for guests. We want to ensure they have such a wonderful time that not only do they want to return, but they want to experience other Dusit Hotels and Resorts worldwide too.

Called Thai heritage in combination with warm Maldivian friendly culture, Dusit Thani always shares the Maldivian experience to another level by sharing knowledge of the country's culture, history, environment and cuisine in special activities designed to create long-lasting memories for international visitors; how effectively have these goals reached its ultimatum?

We are constantly evolving and creating new localised experiences, and I am very proud of the Maldivian employees creating and bringing these events to life. Starting with the Maldivian fisherman's dinner experience, we have now gone further and offer a local island gourmet experience at a friend's house on a small nearby island. The owner of the house prepares authentic, typical, and traditional dishes using local ingredients. Our guests sit in her garden and can chat with the other family members. Guests can't get more intimate exposure to the friendly and generous Maldivian culture than this. Our guests are delighted with this experience and are thankful to have such a unique opportunity. Alongside the delicious food, they relish the private insights and learnings they discover while dining. We are also delighted to directly support a local family startup, which may become one of the top local restaurants in the future.

Managers work efficiently and effectively to ensure that stay of every guest is painless & untroublesome, yet issues arise; how would you handle disgruntled guests who are not satisfied with the service provided or how do you weigh your extended resolutions for the guests?

We are all humans, and no one is perfect. Making mistakes is part of lifelong learning and helps to improve one's personality and performance. Having been in the industry for decades, I can say that guests, in general, have become more demanding, with higher expectations, and lower levels of tolerance and humbleness.

The constant demand for more for less, the increase of instant information, and the occasional mindset that 'everything must be available anytime, anywhere, at the lowest cost, and just for myself' are just some of the challenges we face in the service industry.

Of course, this does not apply to all travellers. Hospitality is also here to enable people to slow down, be mindful, and appreciate even tiny details. And the Maldives is an excellent destination for travellers seeking to escape the hectic pace of everyday life and find a bit of inner peace.

Should we ever have an unhappy guest, the top priority is to respond immediately and ensure we deliver what we promised. Better yet, we should seek to go further and be generous in the solutions we provide. At the end of the stay, the guest must leave with the intention to return and stay again.

What are the latest development activities by your established activity centers and conservation programmes; especially at Hanifaru Bay?

We are working very closely with SUMAS Sustainability Management School in Switzerland on various sustainability and environmental projects. Very soon, a new graduate from this school will join our team here to continue our CSR efforts, including introducing new initiatives to reduce the resort's CO2 footprint, and working closely with the local island communities to

assist them in their efforts too. We are investing in these initiatives to truly be part of making a difference – both as a company, and as individuals.

Hanifaru Bay is of utmost importance to us since we are only eight minutes away from this amazing location. Many guests staying with us during this time of the year are here to swim with the Mantas, and are specifically to experience this soul-touching, once in a lifetime event.

In close cooperation with the Park Rangers at Hanifaru Bay, we make sure guests are aware of the do's and don'ts and behave in the water accordingly. We also avoid too many people swimming with the gentle giants at the same time. Our local guides from the Ocean Dive Center are very well trained and are proud to showcase their own country's natural treasure.

In Dusit Thani Maldives resort, it is a hotel of promising and extremely merry experience for guests for festive seasons; programmes and observances such as Baa Atoll Manta Festival and other festivals. What are your exclusive privileges for the upcoming seasons, observances and how successful will these festivals be in this year 2022?

The inter-resort combined festivals of the past are unfortunately not planned for this year. I guess everyone is very busy taking care of their own resorts following all the ups and downs in the markets recently. It needs a combined effort from the Baa Atoll GMs to bring these events back to life.

The planning for the festive season has already been started by our Director of F&B, Mohamed Azeem, and our Executive Chef, Paul King, who are putting together another mesmerising programme for the end of this year. Before that, we have many other smaller events lined up – including the next one, Eid ul Adha.

Always embedded in the planning of experiences are the four pillars of Dusit Graciousness: Service (personalised and gracious), Well-Being (delivering wellness experiences beyond the spa), Locality (uniquely linking guests with the local community), and Sustainability (social, economic, and environmental).

What do you consider to be the biggest challenge faced to our Tourism industry in the Maldives and the World at large?

The pandemic has certainly affected the travel industry in the past two years, but perhaps one of the biggest challenges that global tourism is facing comes from climate change.

Destinations, travel companies, and resort companies must be aware that travellers coming to the Maldives are more socially and environmentally conscious than ever. This will only become more prevalent in the next few years, especially among younger guests in their mid-20s to 30s.

People want resort companies that are genuinely responsible; that actually stand for something; that honestly become part of the change to improve the environment and communities they operate in; and that give back more than they take.

It is also very encouraging to see that young local people are much more educated about sustainability and protecting their islands and waters. We see this in the local school we are supporting, which has educational sessions about waste, and many pictures and posters highlighting the seriousness of this topic.

According to Sustainable Travel International, "tourism alone is responsible for 8% of the world's carbon emissions." With cheap flights readily available again, and more and more people travelling around the world again, this is only likely to increase.

They also report that "air travel emissions increased by 32% in recent years. If emissions continue to grow, sea levels could rise by up to 3.6 feet by 2100. Severe coral bleaching is happening 5x more frequently than in past decades already. Alpine resorts could lose 70% of their snow by the end of the century."

In August, The IPCC (Intergovernmental Protocol on Climate Change) released their report on climate change, and it stuck a worrying chord. The BBC reported that it meant "A code red for humanity," and The Guardian reported that "Major climate changes were inevitable and irreversible."

With this in mind, we must all act now. And in the fight against climate change, every effort counts.

What distinguishes Dusit Thani from its competitors in the industry and what in your experience is a crucial trait for any member of the hospitality industry?

I get asked this question often, especially by travel agents who need to be able to distinguish between the resorts they are selling.

Dusit Thani Maldives has been in the business for 10 years this year. Therefore, it's a well-established name here. We are different from others with our unique brand of Thai-inspired gracious hospitality – think polite, discrete, and reserved – combined with the distinctive Maldivian island culture. The island itself is unique, with very intact and undisturbed nature on the island and the house reef.

The most important traits in the service industry are genuine passion for serving others well, dedication to customer satisfaction and cultural awareness, willingness to take on challenges, a good portion of self-discipline, and patience to climb the career ladder. It's also important to develop skills related to emotional intelligence to manage yourself, limit stress, and enhance other non-technical aptitudes.





Relax & Rejuvenate

BEFORE YOUR FLIGHT



Leeli
LOUNGE



VelanaAirport



www.macl.aero

Komandoo Listed Amongst '10 Best Dive Resorts in the Maldives'

DIVE Magazine has listed Komandoo Maldives amongst the 10 Best Dive Resorts in the Maldives and with more than 120 other resorts, all offering great diving, this is a fantastic achievement and the resort champions, as well as the Prodivers team, are incredibly proud!

DIVE Magazine has listed Komandoo Maldives amongst the 10 Best Dive Resorts in the Maldives. The resort's Prodivers team expressed their gratitude towards the achievement, having been selected amongst more than 120 other resorts, offering great diving experiences.

The 10 best diving resorts were chosen based on performance in DIVE Magazine's annual DIVE Travel Awards and recommendations by their network of correspondents. Many of the guests voted in the DIVE Travel Awards and Komandoo appreciated and thanked all who took the time to vote for them. Further thanks were extended to its dedicated team for



their land-based contribution to this award, the amazing underwater experiences are well-and truly matched above water too.

The team at Prodivers provide an outstanding service and their enthusiasm shines through in all that they do, making guests' dive holidays

truly amazing and the reason so many divers return to island time and time again.

The location of Komandoo in Lhaviyani Atoll is perfect for divers wanting to see turtles, sharks and rays, as well as tiny and interesting critters – all found amongst a huge variety of reef

formations. Komandoo has some generous special offers so, check them out and come and experience one of the best dive resorts in the Maldives, once you have confirmed reservation, you can even pre-book your diving activities ahead of arrival.

JLF Soneva Fushi Hold Special Festival Day in Male', Bringing Literature, Music and Culture to the Capital City of Maldives



The event was held at Salt Cafe in Male' on May 18, 2022, with participation from the Speaker of Parliament, former President Mohamed Nasheed, world renowned authors Shobhaa De and Marcus du

Sautoy. Prominent local architect and academic, Mauroof Jameel; illustrator and author Zaahie Saeed; and comic writer and expert Ahmed Mauroof Jameel also spoke and participated at the event.

JLF Soneva Fushi Male' saw live Q&As with the guest speakers and book signings.

Shobhaa De is one of India's best-known novelists, whose most famous work focuses on fictional depictions of the colorful lives of Indian socialites and high society figures. Her session at the festival day was entitled 'Fiction, Faction and the Spaces in Between', where she discussed the many spaces she inhabits as a writer.

Marcus du Sautoy is a mathematician extraordinaire and author of the books, Thinking Better: The Art of the Shortcut and The Creativity Code: How AI is Learning to Write, Paint and Think, in which he studies the nature of creativity, algorithms and how

engineers track emotional responses to art. In his session entitled 'AI and Creativity' he discussed AI, intuition, the creative process and its connection to mathematics.

The event featured local musicians, Igyan Rafeeu, Shamoan Mohamed and Ahnaf Ibrahim. These artists were curated by Fannuge Dharin (Talent Gathering), a local organization that provides a platform for Maldivian artists to meet, share and inspire. The world-famous JLF is holding a 10-day festival at Soneva Fushi in Baa atoll from May 13-22. Soneva Fushi is hosting the one-day event in Male' as part of its outreach programme, to provide an opportunity for Maldivians in the Greater Male Area to enjoy some of the festival's world-class cultural programming.

EVENTS & AWARDS

Luxury Resort, Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi Receives British Airways Customer Award for 2021

Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi resort caters to every purpose of travel and connects people with a passion for life fully lived to the best of this idyllic destination, offering world-class hospitality, thoughtful and attentive service, and authentic Maldivian experience.

Based on unbiased guest reviews, this accolade recognizes outstanding services, facilities and customer experiences offered by the hotels around the world. Fairmont Sirru Fen Fushi have gained an overall score of 9.3/10.

British Airways Holidays is one of the UK's leading, largest, and most trusted tour operators, which uses customer feedback to identify top-rated hotels as part of its commitment to providing high-quality holidays. The validated, verified, and independent reviews are collected via Reevo - an impartial third-party solution company.

Customers are asked to score hotels

based on location, service, cleanliness, and sleep quality, as well as provide a score out of ten. British Airways Holidays gathered almost 24,000 independent reviews in 2021 and is awarding 430 Customer Excellence Awards across the globe to recognize its top-rated hotels.

Claire Bentley, Managing Director of British Airways Holidays commented, "We are delighted that Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi is one of our top-rated hotels for 2021. This award is a testament to the hotel's commitment to providing an exceptional customer experience, even during one of the toughest years in the travel industry. As the world opens again, we look forward to continuing our relationship and together delivering truly memorable holidays for our customers".

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts is where occasions are celebrated, and history is made. Landmark hotels with unrivaled presence, authentic experience and unforgettable moments have attracted



visitors to Fairmont and its destination since 1907. The Plaza in New York City, The Savoy in London, Fairmont San Francisco, Fairmont Banff Springs, and Fairmont Peace Hotel in Shanghai are but a few of these iconic luxury hotels, forever linked to the places where they reside. Famous for its service, grand public spaces, locally inspired cuisine and celebrated bars and lounges, Fairmont promises a special brand of

thought luxury that will be remembered long after any visit. With a worldwide portfolio of more than 75 hotels, Fairmont also takes great pride in its deep community roots and leadership in sustainability. Fairmont is a part of Accor, a worldwide leading augmented hospitality group offering unique experiences in 5000 hotels and residences across 110 countries.

LUX* South Ari Atoll Awarded 'Most Sustainable Wedding Resort in South Asia'



Thanks to its innovative and restorative approach to celebrations, LUX* South Ari Atoll, a luxury resort in the Maldives has been recognised by the LUXlife Global Wedding Awards.

Launched in 2016 and now returning for the sixth consecutive year, LUXlife 2022 Global Wedding Awards aims to join the finest businesses across the wedding industry, from wedding planners and stunning venues to

high-end caterers and bespoke stationers.

Regarded as South Asia's Most Sustainable Wedding Resort, LUX* South Ari Atoll brings together wanderlusts from all over the world for moments and experiences that will last a lifetime, helping people Celebrate Life. With a stunning tropical backdrop, the island is an ideal place for a wedding, vows

renewal or a honeymoon trip, and this luxurious island knows how to craft a day one will never forget. From flower petal showers to bodu beru drummers and sand bank candlelight dinners, the possibilities of personalization are lavish and endless.

LUX* South Ari Atoll not only aims to touch the hearts of its guests but also improve lives of people around the world. Say 'I Do' in Paradise — it's everything and more that guests can dream of at no additional cost to nature. Ensuring the co-existence of low-impact destination weddings and luxury, the wedding catalog features three fresh themes — Wanderlust, Boho and Tropical Paradise, while highlighting chic sustainable hallmarks as part of its fabric. While all offered wedding themes unique in their own ways, they all have one common aspect — care for the planet. The resort is very proud of promoting its Zero Waste Weddings, as part of its latest sustainability proposal. LUX* South Ari Atoll will make sure happy

couples can celebrate their special day worry-free of the impact on the beautiful Maldivian nature.

While the team does not compromise on guest's wedding expectations, they still believe in taking care of the environment and giving back to the community. Purchasing a wedding package also funds the education of an underprivileged child and a visit to the children's shelter during a stay can be organized. The couple can also choose to support the ocean and help to restore the local marine ecosystem by adopting a coral frame. The resident Marine Biologist will be happy to share regular updates on the growing baby corals.

To ensure that everything about the special day is truly that — special — LUX* gives its full attention, dedication and commitment to each couple who has booked their wedding at the resort. Rather than hosting multiple occasions in one day, the resort has a policy of only one wedding per day on the island.

NEW OPENINGS

Alila Kothaifaru Maldives Opens in the Scenic Raa Atoll

Hyatt announces the opening of Alila Kothaifaru Maldives, a private island retreat located in the picturesque Raa Atoll at the northern edge of the Maldives. The all-pool-villa resort offers a refreshing blend of serenity and discovery in a relatively untouched corner of the archipelago renowned for its abundant marine life.

“As countries continue to open up and travel confidence grows, we look forward to welcoming guests from all over the world to Alila Kothaifaru Maldives for a memorable getaway in what we hope will become the centerpiece of Raa Atoll,” said David Udell, Group President, Asia-Pacific, Hyatt. “We are delighted to add this beautiful resort in the Maldives to our growing Alila portfolio, with new Alila hotels opening in sought-after destinations such as Suzhou and Shanghai in China and Nha Trang in Vietnam in the future.”

This resort is surrounded by nature's wonders. Housed on a 27.6-acre (11.2 hectare) island, Alila Kothaifaru Maldives can be reached via a 45-minute seaplane journey from Malé. As one of the deeper atolls in the archipelago, the Raa Atoll offers abundant snorkeling and diving options to discover its rich marine life, from colorful corals to manta rays and sharks. The resort offers easy access to the famous Hanifaru Bay UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve and is close to Vaadhoo Island, one of the best spots to witness the spectacular ‘Sea of Stars’ phenomenon. Alila Kothaifaru Maldives features white-sand beaches overlooking the infinite expanse of ocean blue, a stunning house reef and lush greenery.

Alila Kothaifaru Maldives offers 80 pool villas, of which 44 are along the beach and 36 are perched overwater with direct access to the sea. Guests can unwind in these understated, sophisticated spaces that balance privacy with openness to the outdoors. Each villa comes with a private pool and sun deck where guests can bask in picture-perfect views and enjoy personalized service whether they are staying steps from the beach or above the turquoise lagoon. The Sunrise Beach Villas offer early birds captivating views to start their day alongside quick access to the resort’s main facilities such as the infinity pool, Play Alila kids’ club, Seasalt restaurant and Mirus Bar.

The resort’s elegant minimalist architecture by Singapore-based Studiogoto encompasses terraced pavilions, villas and a treetop spa that are carefully integrated into the existing landscape to immerse guests in the picturesque natural surroundings. The low-rise structures and contemporary interiors feature

open-air spaces and a calming palette of island-inspired colors and textures, creating an idyllic setting for complete relaxation and connection with nature.

Alila Kothaifaru Maldives offers a delightful variety of culinary experiences including:

- Seasalt, the resort’s beachside all-day dining restaurant with an ocean view, serves coastal Mediterranean cuisine with Middle Eastern influences. Not to be missed are the restaurant’s signature salt-baked fish dishes.
- A spectacular Maldivian sunset alongside a refreshing selection of cocktails at Mirus Bar inspired by the region’s former spice trade routes and concocted with ingredients from the resort’s own herb garden.
- Umami offers Japanese-inspired menus prepared in a teppan theater with a premium selection of organically grown vegetables, Wagyu beef and sustainably sourced fish and seafood. The adjoining Yakitori Bar is the place to be to indulge in sundowners, from Asian-inspired craft cocktails and mocktails to fine Japanese sakes and spirits, amidst delicious smoky aromas from a robata grill.
- Pibati Café provides light bites and comfort food that are convenient for grab-and-go en route to an excursion.
- Guests dreaming of an ultimate castaway experience can set sail in a traditional Maldivian dhoni on a two to three-hour journey around the Raa Atoll before returning to the resort’s private sandbank, The Shack, a secluded spot for a gourmet picnic, a sunset barbecue or a romantic candlelit dinner under the stars.

Nestled just above the treetops, Spa Alila features four double treatment suites, all with a private bathroom, shower, and a floor-to-ceiling window with verdant views. Guests can indulge in rejuvenating treatments and beauty rituals that put a contemporary spin on ancient healing techniques and draw on the benefits of natural ingredients. Guests can also enjoy a complimentary daily yoga session in a tranquil outdoor space within the spa. The resort also offers a 24-hour fitness center and a beachfront infinity pool.

A wide range of water activities and excursions organized through the expert marine guides at the resort’s Water Sports and Dive Center are also available while Play Alila, a dedicated play and learning space for young guests will keep them entertained with toys,



games, and fun, supervised indoor and outdoor activities.

From barefoot chic to elegant sophistication, couples can tie the knot or renew their vows with an enchanting celebration set in tropical splendor, whether on a pristine palm-fringed beach with the glistening ocean as a backdrop or on the private sandbank at sunset followed by a bespoke dinner under the stars.

On May 12, 2022, Alila Kothaifaru Maldives commemorated its official opening with an intimate celebration attended by the resort’s key business partners. The event was hosted by Laith Pharaon, Chief Executive Officer of Orca Holding, and graced by Dr. Abdulla Mausoom, Minister of Tourism - Republic of Maldives. On behalf of Ballentine Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of Orca Holding, Laith Pharaon thanked all key business partners, the Maldivian government, and all hotel team members for their unending support in bringing Alila Kothaifaru Maldives to life.

“We are honored to welcome guests to one of the world’s most blissful destinations and we look forward to sharing with them the awe-inspiring nature that surrounds us,” said Alexandre Glauser, general manager, Alila Kothaifaru Maldives. “Here at our all-pool-villa sanctuary, guests can unwind in peaceful seclusion with charming views while our gracious hosts deliver personalized experiences leading to unique moments and treasured memories.”

Guided by its purpose of care, Hyatt’s multi-layered Global Care & Cleanliness Commitment further enhances its operational guidance and resources around colleague and guest safety and peace of mind.

SEABOB AUTHORISED DISTRIBUTOR AND AFTER SALES SERVICE CENTER IN THE MALDIVES

mares | just add water

SEABOB

waterproof sports.org MALDIVES

MARES SHOP, SALES@WATERPROOFSPORTS.ORG / SALES@SEABOB-MALDIVES.COM, +960 7346446 / 7913450

IN THE NEWS

Ooredoo Maldives Partners with NBAM to Provide Liveboard Tourists with Quality Mobile Connectivity

Ooredoo Maldives partners with the National Boating Association of Maldives, aiming to provide liveboard tourists with quality mobile connectivity and enable tourists to stay connected during their stay in the Maldives.

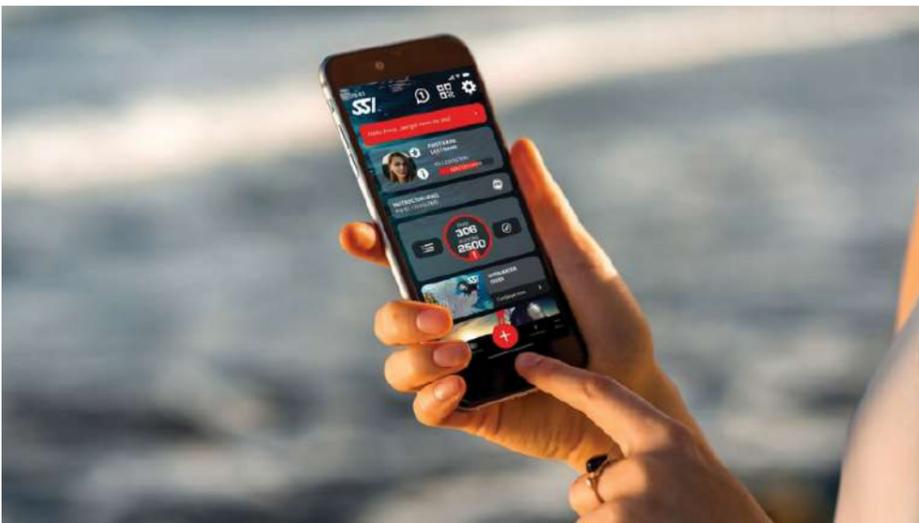
The initiative is part of Ooredoo Maldives' efforts under the "Visit Maldives Now" campaign launched to support national efforts to restore tourism in Maldives in the post-pandemic era. Ooredoo Maldives will be working closely with National Boating Association of Maldives to

enable Liveboard customers to arrange their mobile plan prior to their arrival, have easy access to activate SIMs and enjoy seamless connectivity to the world.

As the Maldives is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year of Tourism in the Maldives, the partnership with the National Boating Association of Maldives will enable the businesses to create innovative content, and services and increase more engagement with one another as well as with their customers.



Upgraded Version of SSI App is Here with New Features



SSI, the world's largest professional dive business- based training agency announces that the highly anticipated MySSI App upgrade is here. The new, state-of-the-art MySSI App is unique in

the diving industry boasting new features, a modern design, and improved user-friendliness.

With this impressive freediving app,

you can access everything you need to go diving and stay connected to diving at all times.

Whether you run an SSI Training Center, are a professional, or just love diving, the MySSI App has all you need to boost your business, support your students, and record your diving adventures.

These features are just the start of what you will discover in the essential, new MySSI diving app:

- Learn easily on the move. SSI courses are included in the MySSI app and available whenever and wherever you want to learn.

- Record every dive detail with MySSI's advanced logbook features for scuba,

freediving and extended range dives.

- Connect with dive buddies worldwide.
- Immerse yourself in diving even on land, with the latest industry and SSI blog news.
- Ready to level up? Check out SSI pathway posters to plan your next course and become the best diver you can be.
- Find all events and courses of your local SSI Training Center.

More information is available in SSI blog post. Sign up now for free access to the app (<https://www.divessi.com/en/join-ssi/register-free/myssi-app>)

National Boating Association to Take Part in Surf Expo 2022 Held in USA

The National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM) with the support of Maldives Marketing & Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC) has confirmed to represent the boating sector at Surf Expo 2022, the world's largest surf sector travel trade exhibition.

Surf Expo 2022 will be held as a physical fair from September 8 to September 10, 2022 at Orange County Convention Center, West Concourse, Orlando, USA.

NBAM has opened up and invited members and the industry to take part while the opportunity stands for a limited number of businesses on a first-come first-serve basis.

This is the first time Maldives will be represented on an exclusive surfing segment trade show abroad.



Life Jacket. Wear it!



حَوْرِي مَرِيحِي لَوَّحِي . رَاغُو رَاغُو!



Gilet de sauvetage. Porter!



救生衣。穿上它！



Chaleco salvavidas. ¡Póntelo!



Colete salva-vidas. Use!



سترة النجاة. البسه!



जीवन जाकेट। इसे पहन लो!



লাইফ জ্যাকটে। এটা পরো!

AN INITIATIVE BY



MALDIVES
MARINE
EXPO

Boating
.mv

SUPPORTED BY



Al Shaali Marine Maldives



Allied Insurance Company

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Ministry of Education



Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation



Ministry of Tourism



Local Government Authority



MNDP, Coast Guard



Marine Police Maldives Police Service



MNU, Centre for Maritime Studies



Maldives Marketing & PR Corporation



Maldives Association of Tourism Industry



Maldives Association of Travel Agents & Tour Operators



Raajje TV

IN THE NEWS

Ooredoo Maldives Launches Special Postpaid Plan with Free Data for Viber for the Elderly Community, in Line with World Telecommunications Day 2022 Theme



Ooredoo Maldives launches "Israhvehinge Plan" a special Postpaid plan dedicated to the elderly community as

part of its activities for this year's World Telecommunications & Information Society Day. The plan was launched to enable, encourage and boost adoption of digital technological usage among the elderly community, under this year's theme "Digital Technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing".

This special package was launched by the Hon Minister of Gender, Family and Social Services, Aishath Mohamed Didi. During the launch the minister said: "Ooredoo's Senior Citizen "Postpaid" package is a great initiative which will make it a lot easier for the elderly community to navigate through and become a part of the digital world."

"The Internet has rapidly become a crucial necessity of people's lives, especially during the post pandemic era. We now greatly depend on technology not just for communication but to access information, accelerate our economy and even to provide quality health care services.

It is important to ensure that all ages are included and benefitted through digital advancements. Today, we launch this special package for the elderly community to encourage their involvement in the digital world to enrich and empower their lives. Technology brings new opportunities, improving the health and overall quality of life, and we remain committed in continuing our efforts to enrich the lives of our elderly community through digital." Managing Director & CEO, Khalid Al-Hamadi.

The newly launched package for the elderly community, Israhvehinge Package provides upto 30% discount on their chosen Postpaid monthly fee and free data dedicated to Viber to customers who are 60 years old and above to help them stay connected with their loved ones. In addition, all customers subscribing to the package will also receive Club Premier Gold membership benefits including special discounts and offers from a vast array of local and international brands and businesses

Hassan Marine Introduces Aqua Marina ISUPs and Kayaks to Maldives

In 2021, Hassan Marine signed an authorized dealership with Aqua Marina and introduced their Inflatable SUPs, Kayaks and equipment to the Maldivian waters. The additional product line is aimed for resorts, guest houses, liveboards and individuals to help them expand their watersports.

Aqua Marina is devoted to creating authentic paddling experiences. Their products are made to match your needs and backed by technology that keeps you safe so you can focus on enjoying life. Aqua Marina SUPs are made with a double-walled core surrounded on the sides with two PVC layers for added durability. The EVA footpad on the top has a threaded surface to help paddlers to keep their footing while on the waters. Their kayaks are made with even stronger reinforced PVC fabric and have hard cones on the ends for anti-collision purposes.



Available from Hassan Marine shop located at Raiveribe Park, the products range from SUPs designed specially for windsurfing, fitness, kids, multi-persons and all-arounds that are portable and easy to take with you wherever you go, and affordable, lightweight recreational kayaks.



Hassan Marine entered the business in 1999 as a service center specializing in repair and maintenance of outboard engines. Today, the company is the authorized sales and service distributor for Mercury Marine as well as official distributor for Quiksilver Marine, Multiflex, NGK, Thordon, Attwood and most recently Aqua Marina.

Dhiraagu Celebrated World Telecommunication & Information Society Day 2022



To mark the World Telecommunication & Information Society Day (WTISD), Dhiraagu hosted a Panel Discussion for University/College students at Dhiraagu Head Office. This special Panel Discussion was led by CEO & Managing Director, Mr Ismail Rasheed along with some of the leadership team members. The main objective of this session was to engage with young people and share information on Dhiraagu's role in empowering digital communities across and enriching the lives of the people living in the Maldives.

Dhiraagu strongly believes they are future leaders of this nation who will be leveraging digital technology in shaping

the future. Speaking at the session, he took the students through the journey of Maldives' telecommunication and the future vision for the company. Reflecting on this year's WTISD's theme, "Digital technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing", Mr. Ismail ensured that all Dhiraagu's services are developed to cater to all age groups to enjoy and allow digital technology to enrich their lives. Together with CEO & MD, Dhiraagu's Chief Technology and Information Officer, Mr Mohamed Musad, Chief Financial Officer, Robin Wall and Director of Corporate Affair, Athifa Ali joined the panel discussion on Empowering Digital Communities. The session was moderated by Dhiraagu's Senior Manager Brand and Marketing Communications, Mirshan Hassan.

Dhiraagu continues to play a pivotal role in enriching and uplifting customers' everyday digital experience by bridging the digital divide and empowering communities.

The New Indonesian Ambassador, H.E. Dewi Gustina Tobing, Promotes the Enhancement of Indonesia



Ambassador Dewi Gustina Tobing presented the Letter of Credence to H.E. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih at the President's Office in Male on May 17, 2022 at 11.00 local time. "After presenting the Letter of Credence, Ambassador Dewi held a bilateral talk with the President of the Republic of Maldives to discuss broadly strengthening Indonesia-the Maldives relations and other mutual interest issues" Heru Prayitno, Minister Counselor of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Colombo disclosed this information to the media.

Submission of Credentials to the President of Maldives officially marks her tenure as the Indonesian Ambassador to the Maldives. "I start my tenure with a great appreciation for the strong partnership between Indonesia and the Maldives, and I stand ready to work with the Government and People of Maldives to forge a closer bond of friendly relations between the two countries."

During her visit to the Maldives from May 16-19, 2022, after presenting the Credentials, Ambassador Dewi then held a roadshow to meet some ministers. On May 17-18, 2022, Ambassador Dewi had a meeting with Minister of State for

Foreign Affairs, H.E Ahmed Khaleel; Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ahmed Latheef; Minister of Islamic Affairs, H.E. Dr Ahmed Zahir; Minister of Economic Development, H.E. uz. Fayyaz Ismail; Minister of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, H.E. Mohamed Aslam; and on May 19, 2022 to meet with the Minister of Health, H.E. Ahmed Naseem. Ambassador Dewi also hosted a business gathering with the Maldivian business community on May 18, 2022. "While conducting some activities, Ambassador Dewi was also accompanied by Jaufar Easa Adam, the Indonesian Honorary Consul in Male," said Heru.

At her meeting with respective related Ministers, Ambassador Dewi explained the bilateral, regional, and international cooperation relations between Indonesia and Maldives, including the same views and mutual understanding of the two countries at the United Nations forum, Organization of Islamic Conference, Non-Aligned, Colombo Plan, Archipelagic and Island States (AIS) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). "Indonesia as the most Muslim populated country in the world and the Maldives as the Muslim country, have a strong connection to build strong people-to-people activities between the

two countries. "Historical, cultural ties between the two nations are also an important strong base for strengthening the existing close connection," said Dewi.

In her meeting with Ministers, Ambassador Dewi further explored opportunities for cooperation in various sectors, including infrastructure, construction, trade economy, tourism, employment, halal certificate, health care, technology and other prospective industries.

On meeting with the Maldivian business community, Ambassador Dewi updated on the Indonesian economy, which previously experienced turbulence in 1997/8 and 2008 but managed to have a significant rebound in a relatively short period. This shows the resilience of its economy during a crisis or adverse situation. Its economy then continued to grow. In 2017 Indonesia became a member of the G20 when its GDP was more than US\$ 1 trillion, and this year 2022, Indonesia holds the Presidency of the G20. With the Covid pandemic, Indonesia was affected with the economy contracting by 2.3%, and with the resilience of its economy, Indonesia had a quick rebound by having a positive growth in 2021 of 5.2%.

In addition, in addressing the Maldivian businesspeople, she also explained business opportunities with Indonesia, with abundant natural resources and vital industries of Indonesia that could supply the Maldives with many ranges of products. Ambassador Dewi also highlighted current figures for trade volume between the Maldives and Indonesia, which is only about USD 40 million per year. "There are many untapped potentials in the trade and investment sector," said Dewi.

Ambassador Dewi's visit to the Maldives received an enthusiastic response from government officials and the business community. "I will continue to develop cooperative relations between Indonesia and the Maldives in various fields to benefit both countries," concluded Dewi.

Gan International Airport Becomes the First Airport in the Maldives to Join Aviation Fuel Joint Inspection Group

Gan International Airport is the first airport in Maldives to become a member of the Aviation Fuel Joint Inspection Group (JIG). GAN has been working to ensure that the fueling facility meets the operating standards of JIG 12 and has reached the crucial milestone of meeting the JIG inspection criteria. Gan International Airport is now a certified location inspected to JIG standards under the JITS inspection system. This will further assure that the quality control standards of Jet A-1 are on par with the fueling facilities operated at the world's best-known airports. GAN will continue to further enhance the operation of the fueling facility under the membership of JIG. In addition to this GAN is working towards becoming an IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO) certified airport which will assist in improving safety and security in ground

operations and reducing the burden and cost of airline oversight by audit sharing.

Gan International Airport (VRMG) managed by AIA Pvt Ltd is the southernmost international gateway to the Maldives. GAN is situated in Addu Atoll, 293 nautical miles from Velana International Airport (VRMM) near the capital Male'.

GAN has the capacity to handle ICAO Code 4E aircrafts. To further upgrade airport services, an airport development project is scheduled to start in 2022. This includes expansion of the passenger terminal building, a new ATC tower and ARFF building. When the project is completed in 2023, Gan International Airport will have the capacity to handle 1.5 million passengers annually.



BON APPÉTIT

Herb Crusted Stuffed Chicken



I have been working in F&B production department & have had 23 years of excellent training and work-related experience. I am dedicated to innovative dishes, effective budgeting and top-of-the-line customer service. It is important to be proficient in streamline work processes for performance improvement and to demonstrate success in employee relationship management. Always work independently under tight time constraints. Adapt while moving into new environments and extrapolate from the existing experience to quickly adapt to new ways fluently.

This dish is originally from Italy and its a healthy dish which is very easy to make at home.

INGRIDENTS & METHOD:

To prepare Filling:

- 1 Nos Chicken Breast Boneless 10 g
- Sliced Onion
- 10 g Julien Bell pepper
- 10 g Julien Tomato
- 1 Slice Cheese
- 30 g Julien Chicken
- 1 TSP Mustard Paste
- 1 TBS Sunflower Oil
- 1 TBS Butter
- Salt & Crush Pepper to Taste
- 5 g White Bread Crumb
- A Pinch of Chopped Parsley Salt
- A Pinch of Chili Flakes

METHOD:

For Plating

- Cut the breast in to 1/2 and Arrange Greens in the plate.
- Place the breast on top of the greens and sprinkle some green leaves all over the plates.
- Cut the chicken breast straight to the center open as butterfly, use tenderizer to flatten the breast more even.
- Season with salt, pepper and mustard paste and set aside.
- In a sauce pan melt the butter and sauté onion, bell pepper, tomato and season with salt and pepper, and then transfer it into a plate and leave it for resting.
- Once the filling is cool place the stuff in the center of the breast, topped with cheese and close the breast and use bamboo skewers to close it in all the angles.
- In a nonstick pan heat sunflower oil and sear the breast in both sides, transfer it to nonstick tray and apply mustard on top of the cooked breast, topped with crust and bake in the oven at 180°C for 10 minutes.
- In a mixing bowl add white bread crumb Followed by salt, pepper, chili flakes and chopped parsley.

Mix well

- In a sauce pan toss the mixture in moderate heat until bread crumb get slightly brow Transfer to a side plate and set aside.



Courtesy
Executive Chef & Culinary Consultant
Ibrahim Naeem,
Skyfall Lounge & Restaurant



QUALITY PRINTING.
DELIVERED FAST.

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

What impact have we had on our tourism amid the Russia-Ukraine war? The Russian national airline Aeroflot stopped operations to Maldives in early March and resumed operations from May 13. Are we seeing a significant change to our market trends?



Yoosuf Riffath
Managing Director, Capitals Travel
Chair, ASTA Maldives Chapter



Ahmed Afrah
Managing Director
Canopus Maldives

When a consistent airline stops or breaks operation, there would be a small effect. But I don't think Maldives had very much based on the number of arrivals. What I noticed was that the British, German and Middle East market increased significantly and then the Indian market also contributed well to filling the gap.

There would be a decrease of Russian and Ukrainian nationality, but the total number of visitors or arrivals didn't change much.

The arrival numbers are good to the Maldives in the summer period, Maldives will be very much full starting August 2022.

Despite a significant fall in the number of tourists coming from Russia, which is a crucial market which made up a considerable portion of 16.8% of the arrivals in 2021, the tourist arrivals to Maldives since the war have remained at a healthy level considering the situation. The 2022 total tourist arrivals at the end of April 2022 month is just 10% lower than the pre-Covid 2019 total tourist arrivals at the end of April 2019. The appeal of Maldives remains strong and our industry's continued focus on exploring new markets is making up for the decline from key markets such as Russia and also China.



Abdulla Nasheed
Managing Director / Kaani Hotels
President, National Guesthouse & Hotels Association of Maldives (NGHAM)



Mirsaad Mohamed
Managing Director
Travel Connection Maldives

Since our major tour operators are from Russia, Anex Tours, Coral Travel, Resortlife, we had a huge impact due to the war. Our occupancy went down 15% because of Aeroflot in April. But May was good because of the Indian School holidays.

However, I do not have the statistics for smaller guest houses.

The flights of Russian national airline Aeroflot to Maldives tremendously exposed Maldives tourism to the Russian and Central Asian market, increasing the flow of tourists.

However, stopping the flight and reopening later due to the Russian Ukrainian war created a big Gap to the flow seems too slow to recover. There may be a possibility that the previous market trend may not be reinstated easily. The sudden break in the high flow trend got shocked due to war changing the travel trends of the entire central market to Maldives.

The advertisement features a central image of a computer monitor displaying the Veligaa Hardware website. The website header includes the logo, a search bar with the text 'Search for over 10,000 items and brands', and navigation links for 'Categories', 'Brands', and 'Promotions'. The main content area of the website shows the text 'Perfect companions for demanding jobs' and 'Shop wide variety of accessories for most demanding jobs'. Surrounding the monitor are various icons representing tools and products: a hammer, a wrench, a shovel, a spray bottle, a magnifying glass, a speech bubble, a QR code, a shopping basket, and a 'BUY NOW' button. A large 'LIVE NOW' button is positioned at the top left, and a 'Shop Online Now!' button is at the top right. A search bar with the text 'veligaa.com' and a hand cursor is prominently displayed in the foreground.

SAVOUR THE DIFFERENCE

NEW

