

The islandchief

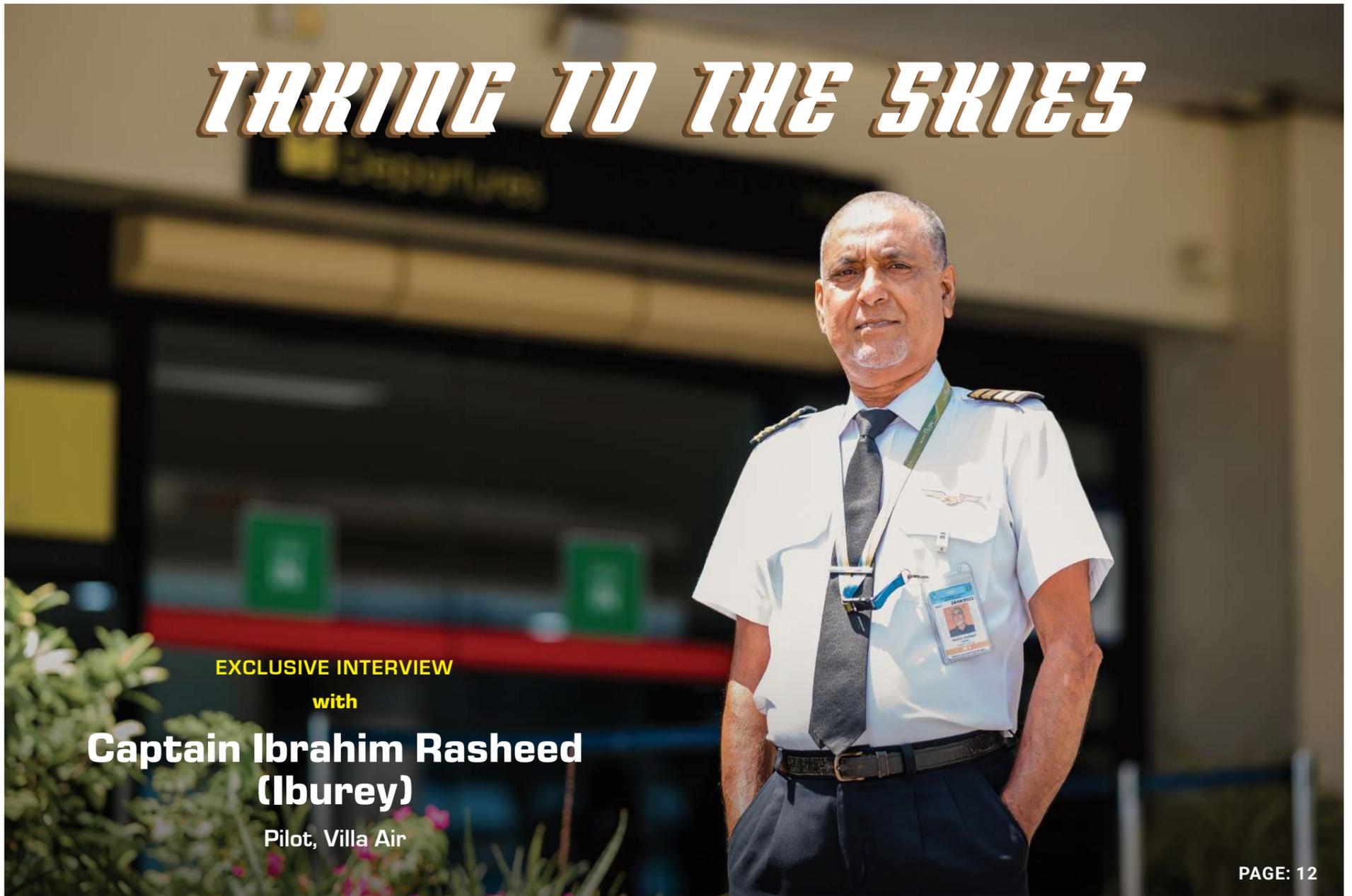
travel news

VOL 72 | July 2022 | www.islandchief.com

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



TAKING TO THE SKIES



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

with

**Captain Ibrahim Rasheed
(Iburey)**

Pilot, Villa Air

PAGE: 12



Sun Siyam Resorts Takes to the Skies:
Unveils First Private Seaplane

Pg: 04



LUX* South Ari Atoll Welcomes the World's
First Solar-powered Vessel

Pg: 07



Fushifaru Maldives Achieves Prestigious
Green Globe Certification

Pg: 18



Al Jeri Holding Group Holds Foundation
Laying Ceremony of Ajjal Bilingual School

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
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

Dear Readers,

With the Eid al-Adha holidays here and schools breaking up, you've got a couple more reasons to take a trip. If you haven't yet stuck a pin in the map, simply run through our pages for some inspiration, as we have been feeding action-packed ideas to fuel your vacation adventures for the past five years.

Before you get swept away with the season's travel frenzy, we suggest you curl up with our long reads. This month, we sat with Captain Ibrahim, more commonly known as Captain Iburey - not an unfamiliar name across the aviation industry in the Maldives. He shares his journey into the exciting career from holding license no. 001, the first person to become a pilot in the Maldives and having served the aviation field in multiple capacities.

In our scrumptious section, "Bon Appétit", Culinary Consultant, Chef Mariyam Shiuna shares her very own special recipe for Jasmine Cassava Coconut Cream Cake, inspired from the Arabic dessert, Basbousa, with an added Maldivian twist. She considers culinary arts more than a profession. It is her life, lifestyle and source of happiness.

And lastly, our industry experts share their opinions on the shift of tourists arrivals to Maldives during the peak season coinciding with the World Cup 2022, as an impressive number of 2 million tickets have been estimated to be sold for the matches.

We wish all our readers happy holidays and our Muslim readers, a blissful Eid al-Adha. This month, another adventure awaits you!

Until next time,
The Islandchief Team



Website:



Clubhouse App:



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



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MALDIVES

Established on the National Day of the Maldives, the first National Museum of the country was opened on November 11, 1952 by the Prime Minister at the time, Mohamed Amin Didi.

With its goal of preserving the country's history and instilling patriotism among the people of the Maldives, the museum houses a vast collection of historical artifacts, ranging from stone objects to fragments of royal antiquities from the Buddhist era to the rule of Islamic monarchs. The building is located in the Sultan Park in Malé, which is situated at the site of the Maldivian Royal Palace compound dating back to the 17th century.

Photo credits: The Maldives Expert

DISTRIBUTION



120+ RESORTS



350+ GUESTHOUSES



60+ LIVEABOARDS



20+ AIRLINES



100+ COMPANY EXECUTIVES



5 UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

Emirates Takes Triple Gold for the Third Year in a Row for Safety

Emirates, renowned for its world-leading air transport services, has been recognised for its outstanding ground transport services with awards in multiple categories, at the recent RoSPA awards, held for the first time in Dubai.

The only airline to have achieved commendations three years in a row, the Emirates team took gold awards in three main categories: Fleet Safety Award, Health and Safety Award, and Leisure Safety Award. The team also added the coveted Health and Safety - Team of the Year (Middle East) to its tally, for the second time in three years, demonstrating tangible outcomes in its operational safety performance, health and safety governance systems, and extensive COVID-19 precautions to safeguard its people and customers.

In the UAE, Emirates operates a fleet of

over a thousand vehicles to transport its first and business class passengers, cabin crew and flight deck as well as other employees to and from the workplace, averaging 2.5 million road trips in a normal year. It also puts in place standards and protocols for service providers to transport premium customers to and from the airport in comfort and safety as part of its signature Emirates Chauffeur Drive service.

One of the many benefits for Emirates cabin crew is a dedicated state-of-the-art shuttle service to and from their first-rate accommodation to the airport. Emirates' pilots are chauffeur-driven between their home and the airport for their flight duties. Ground staff for both Emirates and dnata are also ferried to and from work.

RoSPA (the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents), is a UK organisation that focusses on promoting and facilitating



occupational health and safety, and road, home, leisure and education safety around the world.

The annual RoSPA Awards are reviewed by a panel of independent assessors, with stringent submissions requiring demonstrable evidence of an entrant's health and safety management systems, including aspects such as risk assessments, safety audits, and safety education initiatives.

For 2022, the awards saw more than 2,000 entries from companies globally.

Travellers around the world have also recognised Emirates for Best Wi-Fi and Best Food & Beverage in the Middle East, with the airline bagging these awards at the prestigious 2022 APEX Regional Passenger Choice Awards® ceremony held in Dublin, Ireland.

est. 2002
ASTRABON
Quality Assured
www.astrabon.net
sales@astrabon.net
+960 300 80 60 | +960 797 15 70
Orchid Magu
Republic of Maldives

Caffitaly
system
THE ITALIAN TASTE

YOUR COFFEE
YOUR WAY



ACROSS THE SKIES



Sun Siyam Resorts has officially unveiled their first Sun Siyam-branded, private seaplane.

Their new luxury aircraft boasts a bespoke exterior which combines visual elements ubiquitous to Maldivian culture, such as patterns found on the traditionally-worn Libaas, stylized descriptions of the 'Fattaru bai' (gold medallions traditionally worn with the libaas), as well as the meticulously hand-carved patterns found in Liyelaa jehun - lacquered, handwrought containers or bowls originally crafted to be presented to the sultan, other royalty, or guests of honor.

Affectionately dubbed Kamana, meaning lady in

Maldivian language, the design and idea was created and brought to life by local talents that work in the company. With Sun Siyam being a 100% Maldivian company, the team wanted to bring this concept to life, showcasing the traditional and beautiful Maldivian art to a visually compelling platform, such as a branded seaplane. Kamana will transfer passengers travelling from Velana International Airport to Sun Siyam Iru Fushi, as well as providing transfer services to their most recently opened property, Siyam World, where never-before-seen experiences abound.

Between Kamana, and their world-class lounge, Sun Siyam Resorts has elevated their already seamless

Sun Siyam Resorts Takes to the Skies: Unveils First Private Seaplane

guest transfer experience to even greater heights, providing a level of exclusive services that only industry-leading giants can offer.

Sun Siyam group is a privately-owned company, established in 1990 primarily in tourism and hospitality with a selection of exclusive resorts within its portfolio including four-star deluxe and five-star properties in the Maldives and one boutique resort in Sri Lanka. Sun Siyam is the visionary creation of Ahmed Siyam Mohamed, the renowned Maldivian entrepreneur and is one of the most forward-thinking and dynamic companies in the Maldives.

Sun Siyam Resorts is committed to building a collection of hotels and resorts infused with his uniquely passionate and colourful spirit. Sun Siyam Vilu Reef marked the beginning of the Sun Siyam Resorts' story, which went on to include Sun Siyam Olhuveli, Sun Siyam Iru Fushi, Sun Siyam Pasikudah and Sun Siyam Iru Veli. Siyam World, the newest addition and a stand-alone brand in its collection is now open and will be a game-changing resort in Maldives, filled with extraordinary experiences.

Bangkok Airways Announces Resume of its Operations to Maldives in July

Bangkok Airways used to operate four flights a week from Bangkok to the Maldives until they were suspended in March 2020 due to COVID-19.

From July 22, Thai regional airline will begin flying between Suvarnabhumi Airport in Thailand and Velana International Airport in Maldives once again. The Bangkok-Male services will operate four flights weekly (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays).

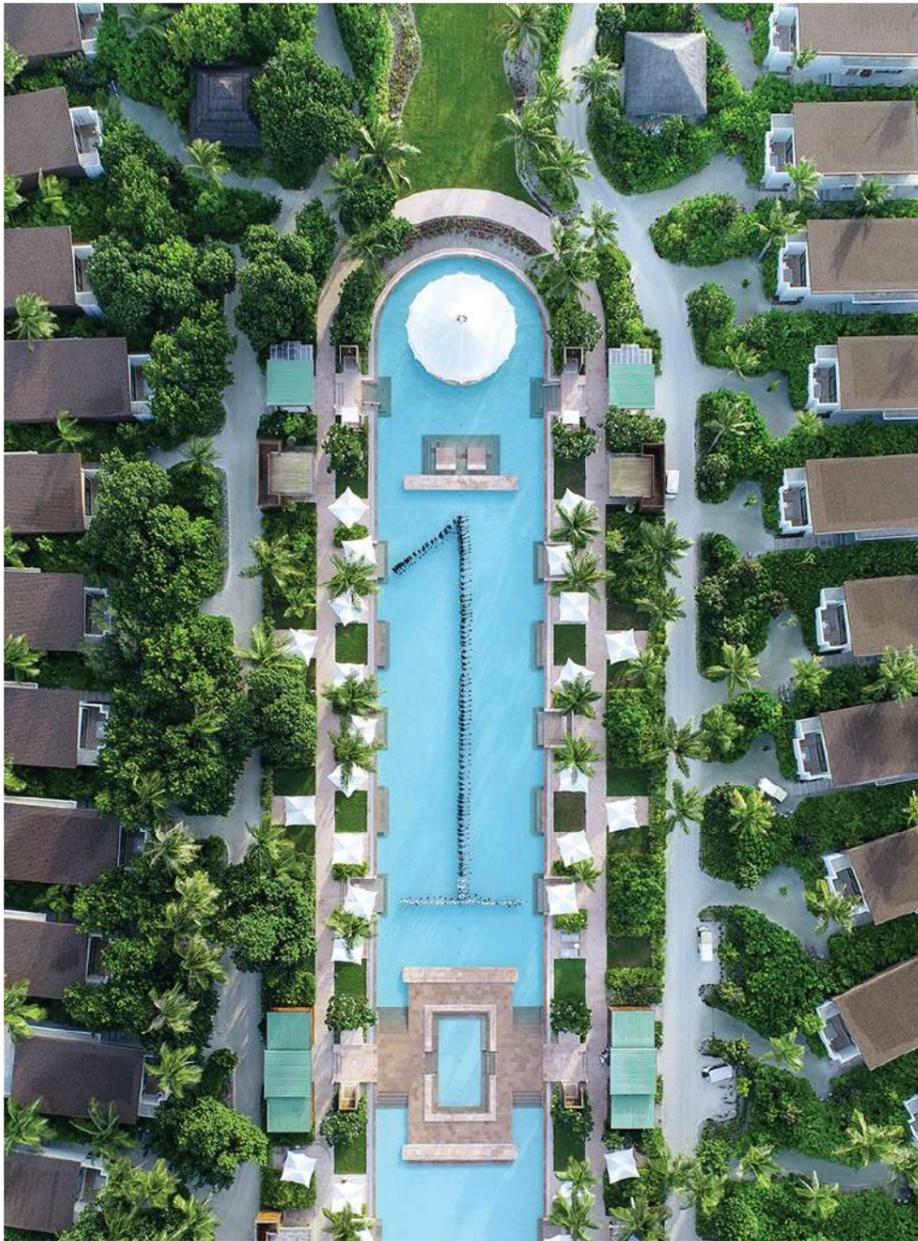
With the resumption of Bangkok Airways flights, the Male-Bangkok route will be served by two airlines, with the second being Thai AirAsia. Thai AirAsia, which began on December 22 last year operates twice a week service between Don Mueang International Airport and Velana International Airport, with flights operating on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

While Thailand has now reopened after the COVID-19 pandemic, those who have completed COVID-19 vaccination are not required to be quarantined upon arrival.



IN A NUTSHELL

Kuda Villingili Resort Celebrates First Anniversary



The luxury property, which opened doors on June 6, 2021 offering an idyllic haven that perfectly balances togetherness and inclusivity with privacy and independence, celebrated its First Anniversary.

The special day was marked with a lunch served by the management for the ambassadors along with an event held at The Hawkery for the guests and ambassadors.

General Manager Morgan Martinello said: "It is a moment of pride looking at our past achievements. The resort opened amid the pandemic, yet we have been able to come this far with the support of everyone involved. I am sincerely grateful to our guests, ambassadors, the owners, and stakeholders who continue to be part of this family."

The latest resort to open in the Maldives, Kuda Villingili Resort Maldives, in North Malé Atoll, is just a 30-minute speedboat ride from Velana International Airport (VIA), Kuda Villingili believes in one philosophy – happy

ambassadors make for happy guests. The privately owned and managed resort believes in the intrinsic value of developing ambassadors' potential.

The resort has worked closely with the local community over the past year and supports them as part of its sustainability initiatives. The resort intends to develop this synergy further and work towards a more sustainable future together. Kuda Villingili's sustainability efforts extend toward green initiatives, as demonstrated by the actions taken to achieve Green Globe certification.

Guests have the option of choosing from stunning fifty-nine beach villas and thirty-nine water villas that are all inspired by the sprawling nature of the Maldives. Perched over the azure sea, the water villas feature king-sized beds, spacious bathtubs, airy living areas, and shaded dining decks overlooking the horizon. For the ultimate Maldivian retreat, stay at the lavish Water Villa with Pool featuring minimalist design and unforgettable views.

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

Accor Maldives Collection Invites Guests to Turn Missed Celebrations into Memorable Ones



As friends, family and loved ones come together again, the five-star resorts across the Accor Maldives Collection invite guests to celebrate missed milestones and past occasions with once-in-a-life-time experiences.

From big birthdays to heartfelt anniversaries, vow renewals, engagements and new family members, the teams at each of the resorts can make dreams come true with each celebration. Whether it's exchanging vows in paradise or marking a big birthday milestone with a private pool party or reuniting with friends over adrenalin fuelled activities, the Accor Maldives Collection offers casual catch-ups, extravagant festivities and special private moments so that those missed celebrations become the most cherished.

Mövenpick Resort Kuredhivaru Maldives – for a dreamy engagement to remember.

An engagement or a renewal of vows should be one of the more memorable and cherished experiences in life. The team at Mövenpick Resort Kuredhivaru Maldives do the utmost in creating a truly personalised event inspired by a couples' own heart-warming story. From an idyllic beach set up to a ceremony under the iconic azure waters of the Indian Ocean, the resort has a paradise-like setting to ignite or rekindle the romance for its guests.

To help loved ones celebrate their romance, Mövenpick Resort Kuredhivaru Maldives offers the Beach Side Affair package which includes a hosted wedding ceremony, dedicated coordinator and Master of Ceremony,

welcome drinks for the couple, wedding cake and marriage certificate, as well as a romantic turn down service and floral bath along with an in-villa breakfast the following day.

The romance transcends throughout the resort – from the expansive villas with private pools, to the adventurous aquatic experiences, golden sunsets and coastal dining as well as access to the island's private luxury yacht.

Raffles Maldives Meradhoo Resort – for an unforgettable anniversary for two.

Anniversaries are an important part of life when couples come together to celebrate their relationship and love. For those wanting to extend their anniversary beyond a single day, Raffles Maldives Meradhoo Resort transports couples far away from the distractions of everyday life to relax, reconnect and align together in their own privacy. The luxury five-star resort offers a selection of handpicked extraordinary experiences to heighten the senses so that an anniversary becomes one that is never forgotten.

From gourmet delights including a floating breakfast in the private villa pool and a candle lit wine pairing in the resort's cellar, to adventurous days spent snorkelling throughout the island's two house reefs, Robinson Crusoe island hopping, magical tiger shark encounters, and a private sunset cruise on the resort's luxury yacht; each moment of the day can be elevated to an extraordinary experience.

Not forgetting the resort's Spa oasis which offers a wide range of treatments for couples and the



legendary butlers who will do everything to ensure needs are met.

The Romance Package is available for USD1200++ for two guests and includes breakfast and dinner, one daily Sundowner cocktail per person at Long Bar, one floating Breakfast, one Romantic Private Dinner in Villa and One Raffles Signature Massage, 90 minutes per person.

Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi – for a nurturing first family holiday.

While some people think of the Maldives as a honeymoon destination or only for couples, Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi is an island paradise designed for all ages to enjoy. Ideal for a first getaway as a new family, every detail of a little one's first holiday has been carefully thought through with convenience and relaxation in mind.

The spacious villas with separate living areas create an opportunity for parents to have some alone time to sit under the stars whilst the extensive wellness offering provides the ultimate in parent pampering, and the many restaurants on the island mean that parents need only to think about what to order from the gourmet-laden menus.

The natural habitat of the island is a tonic for worn out parents offering them the opportunity to recharge whether that is walking barefoot in the golden sand or swimming in one of the Maldives' largest lagoons. Parents can watch in delight as their little ones' imaginations thrive whilst they make friends in the kids club (suitable from infancy to age 12 and over) and discover the magical sights and

sounds from life on an exotic private island.

For families, the newly introduced package "More Escapes" offers an exotic escape for four nights where the focus is to reset, reconnect, and rejuvenate with the resort's bespoke wellness programmes created by the Willow Stream Spa. The package includes daily buffet breakfast and dinner, two return seaplane transfers from Velana International Airport to Fairmont Maldives, and 20% Discount on any spa treatments.

Pullman Maldives Maamutaa – for a supercharged reunion with friends.

There is no better place to reunite with friends and loved ones from around the world than the idyllic setting of the Maldives. For those looking to book a special getaway to enjoy long missed quality time with friends, the all-inclusive Pullman Maldives Maamutaa offers a paradise playground where guests can play, reset and reconnect.

The resort has created a range of 'retreats' to suit reunions of all kinds including wellbeing journeys, to tailor made adventures.

Referred to as the most generous all-inclusive resort in the Maldives, friends can make the most of the exclusive benefits to enjoy together. From boot-camp workouts on the beach and daily yoga sessions to talks led by a marine biologist, nature walks, and guided snorkelling; there's an abundance of activities for groups of friends who share a themed evenings where long awaited catch ups can continue into the starry night skies.

IN A NUTSHELL

LUX* South Ari Atoll Welcomes the World's First Solar-powered Vessel

Award-winning luxury eco-friendly resort LUX* South Ari Atoll, known for its passion for sustainable travel and development, is proud to be the main partner and welcome the Blue Odyssey sailing project spotlighting Porrima - the world's first vessel powered solely on renewables by solar, wind and hydrogen energy. It will venture for the first time to the Maldives.

Sailing under the Swiss flag, Porrima has just set sail from Dubai to the Maldives as part of its circumnavigation of the globe and will end its ambassadorship voyage at the opening of Osaka World Expo in 2025, where the innovative experience will be presented in the Blue Pavilion.

The 36-meter-long vessel has 515 square meters of solar panels on board capable of propelling the boat. Its excess energy also converts sea water to hydrogen. Within the Blue Odyssey project, Porrima has already crossed every major ocean twice, with the main purpose of inspiring entrepreneurs and companies to take on planet-friendly initiatives and the best of technology to create an impact.

LUX* Hotels & Resorts under The Lux Collective hospitality group has always been in tandem with scientific breakthroughs, especially future-oriented sustainable projects. On the second week of July 2022, LUX* South Ari Atoll will host the legendary boat and its crew on its beautiful island of Dhidhoofinolhu. Besides inviting the resort's guests and visitors to explore the vessel and attend the conference held on the island, the tour will include dialogues with the government officials in Malé. The resort's objective of initiating such projects aims to help the Maldives become one of the pioneers of the hydrogen economy.

"We are delighted to be the key partner of Porrima's Blue Voyage, where this partnership reinforces our Group's strategic focus on sustainability development and sharing pioneering breakthrough concepts of zero emissions facilities that operate within natural boundaries. In addition to utilising solar energy at our resort, the support of this project is our way of caring for the ocean and the planet, especially in the Maldives where we are located," says LUX* South Ari Atoll General Manager Mr. Patrice Aira.



"This is a revolution; this is a milestone for the world," says Professor Gunter Pauli, Founder of The Blue Economy and owner of Porrima. "We want to share how Porrima generates more than enough power, and uses this surplus energy to clean the ocean from nanoplastic. We want to set new global standards rather than building museum pieces."

While visiting Maldivian atolls, Porrima will showcase its power solutions: two skysails that offer electric power during the day and night. The combination of solar power and 'intelligent' kites, along with production of drinking water and hydrogen energy will be the main discussion topics during the visit.

Demonstrating how organisations can realise



the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this project has also received 2022 WISE.ART NFT Awards for the first-ever sustainable NFT project using solar panels that powered Porrima.



WORLD'S LEADING OUTBOARDS



SOLE DISTRIBUTOR

 **ALIA INVESTMENTS (PVT) LTD**

 (960) 300 9797

 www.aliamaldives.com



alīa bai' al taqāsīt
SHARIAH COMPLIANT FINANCING

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Mohamed Shaheen Leads the Way in Sustainable Engineering at Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi



At Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi they are continually working to ensure long-term sustainability and honor its global team's pledge to constantly seek to progress the ways in which they impact our environment, and this is where their engineering department plays a huge role.

Engineering has always been one of the most vital yet overlooked elements of the hospitality industry. Behind the scenes and out of sight, teams of highly trained professionals work tirelessly to ensure every element of the hotel or resort runs smoothly, efficiently, and in an environmentally

friendly manner, to ultimately elevate and enhance the guest experience.

Mohamed Shaaheen, Director of Engineering at Fairmont Maldives, leads Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi's team of engineers and oversees the sustainable practices throughout the resort. With nearly 20 years of experience in the luxury hospitality industry, throughout his career, Mohamed has honed his technical skills and assertiveness, and his innovative mindset plays an integral role in the resort's sustainability initiatives.

The resort has invested in numerous initiatives to promote a sustainable future, which include a bottling plant to desalinate seawater so that it can be repurposed and used for washing or drinking water. LED lights are fitted throughout the resort to reduce energy consumption, and all guest rooms

feature a heat-recovery boiler system. In addition to this, generators are automatically synchronized, which reduces consumption and ultimately minimizes carbon emissions.

At Fairmont Maldives, we are constantly evaluating new solutions to allow us to further reduce our carbon footprint, and I'm excited to see what the future holds" – says, Mr. Mohamed Shaaheen.

With a long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible tourism, Fairmont Hotels and Resorts is a member of the Global Climate Savers program, dedicated to preserving the places in which they live, work, and play.

Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi will continue to actively support a sustainable future and a low-carbon economy, understanding that ultimately, we are all in this together.

Hilton Maldives Amingiri Resort & Spa Appoints Gaurav Thakur as General Manager

Hilton has appointed Gaurav Thakur as the general manager of Hilton Maldives Amingiri Resort & Spa. Located on a private island in the North Malé Atoll, the 109 - all pool villa resort opened on July 1, 2022, marking the entry of Hilton's flagship brand into the Maldives.

"Hilton Maldives Amingiri Resort & Spa is an outstanding resort, anchored on Hilton's signature hospitality, promising guests innovative dining, wellness and leisure concepts that will help them create new experiences as they travel and reconnect with their loved ones," said Jamie Mead, Senior Director of Operations, Hilton, South East Asia.

"With his innate understanding of the industry, strong background in operations and sound leadership skills, I have no doubt that Gaurav will ably guide his team to ensure an

impactful launch and continued success for the resort."

An accomplished hospitality veteran with a 17-year long career in Hilton across the Waldorf Astoria, Hilton and Conrad brands, Thakur's diverse experience includes roles in countries such as the United Kingdom, India, and the Maldives, where he oversaw operations across different departments.

Through his career, Thakur also played key leadership roles in the opening teams for Conrad Pune, Conrad Bengaluru, and Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi, where he served as resort manager before moving to Hilton Maldives Amingiri Resort & Spa.

"I look forward to bringing Hilton's signature hospitality to life with inspiring and one-of-a-kind



experiences at Hilton Maldives Amingiri Resort & Spa," said Thakur.

"Our team is committed to delivering exceptional stays as we prepare to welcome global travellers to our iconic destination."

Conveniently accessible via a 20-minute premium speedboat transfer from Velana International

Airport, the stunning island property showcases 109 beach and overwater villas – each featuring its own private pool, six exceptional restaurants and bars, holistic spa and wellness facilities and best-in-class amenities for families, including one of the largest kids' clubs in the Maldives and a rooftop lounge exclusive to teenage guests.

Gaurav Makhijani Appointed as Director of Sales & Marketing at Kuda Villingili Resort Maldives



Kuda Villingili Resort Maldives has appointed Gaurav Makhijani as the Director of Sales and Marketing. The announcement comes at an exciting time for the resort as they just completed one year of operations. Gaurav's appointment is an important

step toward strengthening the resort's presence in India and the Middle East and fostering its position at the forefront of creating the most beautifully composed experiences.

Gaurav brings a wealth of experience

in the hospitality arena, having worked with international brands for over a decade, including The Claridges, Taj, IHG, Jumeirah Group, and Atmosphere Hotels and Resorts.

Most recently, Gaurav worked as the Associate Director of Sales for Atmosphere group, where he was in charge of sourcing business from India.

As a Director of Sales and Marketing, Gaurav will develop and implement strategic sales and marketing plans to achieve short and long-term objectives for Kuda Villingili.

He is a highly effective sales leader and gifted professional in building successful campaigns to increase market share. He is a focused, performance-oriented manager with proven skills in the industry.

Gaurav's passion for luxury hospitality will ensure a successful leap to elevate

Kuda Villingili's brand and service proposition.

The latest resort to open in the Maldives, Kuda Villingili Resort Maldives, in North Malé Atoll, is just a 30-minute speedboat ride from Velana International Airport (VIA). Kuda Villingili believes in one philosophy – happy ambassadors make for happy guests. The privately owned and managed resort believes in the intrinsic value of developing ambassadors' potential.

Having celebrated its first anniversary, the resort has worked closely with the local community over the past year and supports them as part of its sustainability initiatives. The resort intends to develop this synergy further and work towards a more sustainable future together. Kuda Villingili's sustainability efforts extend toward green initiatives, as demonstrated by the actions taken to achieve Green Globe certification.

Nua
Professional
Z-FOLD PAPER TOWEL
Soft as a Feather

IMPORTED & MARKETED BY
MIYAMI
TRADERS



SCAN FOR CATALOG



MOVERS & SHAKERS

Sun Siyam Olhuveli, Maldives Promotes Hassan Adil to General Manager



Sun Siyam Olhuveli, Maldives has announced the promotion of Hassan Adil from Resort Manager to General Manager, marking his 20-year anniversary within Sun Siyam Resorts. Hassan brings with him a wealth of industry experience; he started his career in hospitality as a receptionist in 2002, before working as an airport representative in 2004, and as a reservations officer at Sun Siyam Travels in 2006. By 2014, his exceptional work ethic had already earned him the position of Operations Manager at Sun Siyam Iru Fushi, after which he was promoted to Resort Manager at Sun Siyam Olhuveli.

Hassan, who boasts years of hands-on experience under his belt, and comes from a family rooted in the tourism industry, holds a prestigious Bachelor's degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management from Taylors University, completed in collaboration with the University of Toulouse.

In his new position as the General Manager for Sun Siyam Olhuveli, he will lead the management team, and oversee the daily operations for one of the biggest properties in the Maldives, working on the frontline to implement exciting new strategies to fully realize his ambitious vision for the beautiful resort of Sun Siyam Olhuveli.

Hassan said, "Taking on my new role as General Manager is a huge achievement for me personally which will allow me to further apply our vision and purpose for Sun Siyam Olhuveli of becoming the best 4-star deluxe holiday destination as

well as best entertainment hub in the country. Olhuveli also has great potential to become the leading MICE destination within the Maldives due to its amazing conference facilities as well as its simply accessible location. With these clear goals in mind, and a hardworking and dedicated team on our side, we have absolutely no doubt that Sun Siyam Olhuveli will reach its full potential in no time!"

Traditional Maldives meets modern design at Sun Siyam Olhuveli, where accommodation ranges from Maldivian-inspired suites to sleek contemporary villas, designed to cater to every whim. Olhuveli is an affordable, four-star deluxe resort property that was established in 2002, and spans over three paradise islands with soft white sandy beaches and stretches of sandbanks, a secret shipwreck diving spot, four large swimming pools to choose from, and an astounding lagoon that will entice everyone into adventure, whether it's parasailing, kitesurfing, or diving. Their outstanding cuisine holds the ocean at its heart, with creative menus served across their selection of 11 restaurants and bars, all prepared by world-class chefs. With three spa complexes that blend traditional Asian rituals with modern Western practices, holidays at Olhuveli are guaranteed to ease everyone into a state of immaculate bliss.

Sun Siyam Olhuveli is located in South Malé Atoll, a mere 45-minute speedboat ride from Velana International airport, and the most conveniently located resort of the Sun Siyam Group.

Anastasiya Babenko Appointed as Marketing & PR Manager at LUX* South Ari Atoll



Anastasiya Babenko has been appointed as a key marketing player at one of the largest resorts in the Maldives, LUX* South Ari Atoll.

Originally from Ukraine, Anastasiya brings a decade of hospitality experience garnered through various brands and destinations. Her journey with the industry started from her home country to Turkey, UAE, and now – Maldives. Tapping into different departments and roles, she also supported three hotel pre-openings, including her latest island experience. Some notable brands in her portfolio are Rixos Hotels, Sheraton Hotels &

Resorts, The Luxury Collection, and the recent JOALI BEING.

"Having worked in both resorts and city hotels, in the desert and in the middle of an ocean, I am always excited to take on new challenges and discover more about the everchanging world of hospitality," – comments Anastasiya on her new move.

With background in fashion design, Anastasiya is passionate for crafts and writing, and believes that creativity is the key to success in everything. Her other area of interest is sustainable approach to travel, which she actively supports through her initiatives at LUX* South Ari Atoll.

VISIT MTCC BOATYARD



One-stop solution for all docking and engineering solutions!

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

📷 🐦 📘 /mtccplc 🌐 mtcc.mv

TAKING TO THE SKIES



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

with

**Captain Ibrahim Rasheed
(Iburey)**

Pilot, Villa Air

Captain Ibrahim, more commonly known as Captain Iburey, is not an unfamiliar name to the Maldives' aviation industry. Holding license no. 001, he is the first person to become a pilot in the Maldives and has since driven a long and fruitful career of 39 years serving the aviation field in multiple capacities.

It was an honor for the islandchief team to understand the challenges, passion and the dedicated work he have done for the aviation industry to advocate, educate and train the millennials.

“People send their children to become pilots as what they earn is considered high. But that's not it. A pilot is a person who carefully operates the aircraft in air and bring it down safely to the ground with no inconvenience to the passengers. That person must be a responsible individual and someone with passion and love for flying.”

You became a pilot at a time it was almost unheard of. What attracted you towards this path and how did you achieve this near-impossible feat?

When I was young, I used to visit pilot Naeem's house with my parents. There was a picture of him beside an aircraft that piqued my curiosity. Pilot Naeem was the first Maldivian to become a pilot, and seeing that picture, I knew that was what I wanted to do! I did not come from a well-off family, but I always knew, with faith, determination, dedication and hard work, I could achieve the impossible.

When I was in middle-school, Air Maldives commenced its operations with two aircrafts. Foreign pilots in smart white uniforms flew the planes, and seeing them nudged me towards this direction, knowing the dream of becoming a pilot in Maldives was now a step closer. As I continued my education, I worked a number of jobs in hopes of earning myself to fund my pilot training. My step father was even arrested as worked instead of going to school, but these hardships only propelled me to work even harder to achieve my dreams.

I also wrote a letter to President Ibrahim Nasir, relaying my ambition to become a pilot. He generously invited me to his office and said, “keep studying”. I continued to write to him every year with my results, and upon completing my higher secondary education, the President's Office offered me and 15 others to apply for scholarships. With God's grace, I was awarded a scholarship to study Aeronautical Engineering with Pilot Training.

Our destination was Pakistan at a time where the country was at the height of civil unrest. Two years down the line, schools and universities were shut down and then President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom decided to evacuate all Maldivian students fearing for their safety. The Ministry of Education was able to secure scholarships for all other students, but as pilot training wasn't a popular scholarship program, I was given a job at the Ministry of Finance.

Call it divine intervention, one day I ran into one of my school teachers - Late Hon. Fathuhullah Jameel (ex foreign minister), who inquired about my situation, and he pledged to help me complete my studies. Two weeks later I was transferred to a position at the foreign ministry where I was told that I could do all I want to secure pilot training for myself. I began writing letters to different donor countries highlighting the importance of pilot training for the development of the country. Most countries replied that their budgets did not include pilot training, however, Australia said that they were in the process of re-budgeting for the next five years and in its reviews they would include pilot training.

Late Hon. Fathuhullah Jameel (ex foreign minister), advised me to go Sri Lanka as Secretary of the Embassy, and work with the Australian Embassy and to expedite the process. When the scholarship was finally awarded to Maldives, I was selected among the top two candidates. It was myself and Captain

Hussain Sham that left to Thailand in 1981 under the third country scholarship program offered by the Australian Government.

Sham and I completed our training together, but fortunately for me, my documents were submitted first. I got my licence as no.001 and Sham no.002, together making us the first licensed pilots in the Maldives.

With decades of service to the industry, what would you say is your proudest accomplishment and the biggest challenge in achieving it?

The proudest moment and the biggest challenge was to “dream big and make it a reality”. The many hurdles I crossed to become a pilot and finally get license no. 001 is the most notable achievement - one that set my career in stone.

In the 80s, the aviation industry was dominated by expatriates. It was just two Maldivian pilots and a few cabin crew, and my biggest motivation was to narrow this gap in favour of locals. With the extensive experience and assistance of Hon. Ambaree Abdul Sattar (former State Minister of Defense), I was able to work closely to get more international funding and aid to train local pilots. In the late 80s and early 90s three batches of pilots were trained under international and Maldivian funding, creating a larger community of local pilots, which in turn marked another milestone in my career.

Throughout the years, I have advocated for more opportunities for Maldivian aviation experts, to train and educate them. Today, I'm proud to say I have played a pivotal role in educating and training our locals as professionals in the aviation industry.

Very few people know that you can fly aircrafts with an instructor as early as you wish. You can fly solo flights by the age of 16 and earn a license by 17. We need to create more awareness on these opportunities, to find the right candidates that would one day have the discipline and ethics to take on the massive responsibility of flying passengers.

With new developments and increased opportunities in the industry, it is heartening to see more locals making their marks. Today the scales have tilted towards local experts, with some airlines like Villa Air that boast fully local crews. I firmly believe that with more local pilots and engineers, our economy too would reap its benefits.

Your career also marks 22 years of military service. How did your trainings as a military officer shape your experiences?

When I first started my job as a pilot for Air Maldives in 1983, the Ministry of Defence also operated several aircrafts. When the government decided to centralize these operations, all pilots and engineers were transferred to the defence ministry. During my military career, I underwent a lot of military trainings, a third of it abroad. I am very proud that starting my career as a Lance Corporal, I was a Lieutenant Colonel when I resigned - working as the Acting Commissioner of Police. These military experiences have shaped me to become who I am today, both personally and professionally.

The Maldives continues to face a lot of challenges in training pilots locally. What is your view on the government's role and its contributions?

The government has a major role to play in the development of the aviation industry. Unfortunately, we still lack the expertise at a policy level, who has the right knowledge and training to regulate the sustainability of such ventures.

Continuous training and development for pilots is compulsory, but we still lack the opportunity to do so in Maldives. There might be an x number of factors resulting in this, thus the right kind of government intervention and management is necessary.

The demand is there, yes! But it also requires high investment, and sustainable management for the investment to yield returns. We are seeing more private investments being made towards establishing flying schools, but it needs the right management to sustain it long enough to make it a profitable, more importantly be a beneficial resource for the Maldivian aviation industry. The role of the government in facilitating and regulating to ensure stability for investors and students alike is crucial.

The airline industry's cleaning standards saw a considerable 'face-lift' following the Covid-19 pandemic, and it is expected that more airlines will integrate and utilize more stringent clean protocols, how would you forecast investments across the industry, that ensure high levels of cleanliness?

There is no question about cleanliness – it is already implemented well. We know the air inside the aircraft can get contaminated easily, so protocols to ensure safe airflow within aircrafts was the major change during the pandemic. These new protocols are now followed and will be a standard practice going forward.

I am very thankful for the Maldivian Government; they enforced strict protocols during the pandemic and our Health Protection Agency did an amazing job. When we see other countries failing to regain trust, we see Maldives had done better, and we must congratulate the government for that.

I am happy that as airlines movements resumed, airlines continued to enforce their health protocols. We are now seeing the industry bounce back. So, Fantastic job! I must congratulate all airlines and their dedicated staff.

Despite Villa Air being a small airline, we too are operating continuous flights now. Our frequencies and routes have increased as well.



Based on your experience and as well as industry trends, how do you foresee the current year for the aviation industry?

With the pandemic easing and more travel restrictions lifted, I foresee an influx of passengers and limitations to move them. When the tourist season begins later this year, if the China opens for travel, there will be even more passenger movements and with the current limitations on aircrafts within Maldives, we may not be able to cater for the demand.

Looking at the airlines operating domestically, Island Aviation who is the biggest operator has limitations within their fleet to carry the influx of passengers. Manta Air is operating with no spares, and although Villa Air has several spare aircrafts, they are grounded. To help Island Aviation cater to this high demand, we will need to revalidate these grounded aircrafts and if Villa Air can make them available, that would be fantastic!



What were your biggest contributions towards the current aviation standards practiced in Maldives?

Are you happy with your contributions to the industry?

I have been fortunate enough to not only work for Air Maldives/Island Aviation, but also at the Ministry of Defence, NSS/MNDF, police, and the Civil Aviation Authority as well. I have been working with the Civil Aviation Authority at various capacities for 38 years, with my last posting as Head of Operations. My biggest contribution is formulating the current rules and regulations on operations to ensure a safer environment for aviation operations in the Maldives.

I am also an instructor and examiner and hopefully will

be till my last day. Being the only recognized ICAO inspector in Maldives, I hope to continue my services even when I retire from flying.

I have also helped the government in times of need when regional expertise is needed. Under bilateral understanding, when a other countries have required assistance from Maldives, I have also lent my expertise, in this capacity, including inspections for the Sri Lankan authority.

I am very happy with my contributions over the last four decades of service in all these fields. I owe my whole career to the government of Maldives, and that is the reason why I have dedicated my life towards public service. I am now a year away from formal retirement, but I hope to continue my services in any way I can.

What would be your advice to those aspiring to become pilots in Maldives?

Yes, aspiring pilots...Dream big and make it a reality! Don't do it, if u don't want to be responsible. People send their children to become pilots because it is a high paying job. Reality is, pilots get high pays, because a pilot is responsible for the safety of the passengers, carrying them in the air, and bringing them back safely back to ground. That person must be somebody who is very responsible and love flying. We are in the air, so high above, with forces acting on the aircraft that requires constant attention. Unfortunately, when you are that high, you don't see anything but endless skies, and for long range pilots this may be upto 8, 10 or 11 hours. These are hours with the same scenery, so unless you love what you do, you get bored very fast – becoming a danger to yourself and the rest. So, love flying. If you love flying, and if you think you are a responsible person, you should fly. Otherwise, don't become a pilot. There are better jobs. Be a lawyer or something.



In your long career as pilot and training pilots, have you had any incidents and how severe?

There have been very serious incidents, just like any other pilot would have faced during a long career. As pilots we train our brains to forget these incidents so that it does not impact our daily lives and be driven by fear. So, we do not discuss and delve on these incidents as every day, we are responsible to the lives of hundreds of passengers. The best we can do is embrace our failures and learn from it responsibly.

To give you some perspective of the kinds dangers we face, during the tragic capsizing of Enama boat, I had to carry an emergency response team of doctors, nurses and rescue divers from Male' to Kaadehdhoo. It was the dead of night, and the airport had no functioning runway lights so I had to land the aircraft in complete darkness. That's the kind of dangers we face from time to time. Other than that, there has been the occasional engine failure, or malfunctioning doors, or even complete aircraft failures. We are given the proper training to handle such situations, and Alhamdhulliah, I have been able to navigate my way out of such situations safely.



Relax & Rejuvenate

BEFORE YOUR FLIGHT



Leeli
LOUNGE



NEW OPENINGS

Upcoming Oaga Art Resort Offers True Maldivian Hospitality with Specially Curated Immersive Experiences



Blissful creative hospitality - a true homegrown experience; good vibes coming soon to an island near you.

Feelings of bliss, freedom and fresh. Vivid culture, smell, and tropical gustatory pleasures. Hear and feel the breeze. An eclectic experience for all, Oaga Art Resort aims to provide an authentic cultural hospitality experience by immersing guests in small doses of true Maldivian art, culture, food, and heritage.

Situated in North Malé atoll, 35 minutes by speedboat from Velana International Airport (VIA); Oaga Art Resort is a singular island.

A small island with 60 cosy and intimate villas with beach and over water options, 4 dining venues and a spa inspired by Maldivian traditional healing, Oaga Art Resort's artistic and creative spaces offer an immersive experience curated by local and visiting artists, and craftsmen from the Maldives.

Oaga Art Resort prides itself on collaborating with local and visiting artists to create whimsical spaces and imaginative micro-experiences and are open for artists of all talents.

Scheduled to open its doors for guests in Q4 of 2022, Oaga Art Resort is currently in pursuit for creative local talents to join their team.

More information on available opportunities on www.oagaresorts.com.

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

Boating
.mv

OFFICIAL EVENT OF



EVENT ORGANIZER

MEDIUM

f t in /MediumMv



GOLDEN YEAR OF TOURISM 2022



7TH EDITION

MALDIVES MARINE EXPO 2022

11TH, 12TH, 13TH AUGUST 2022

CENTRAL PARK, HULHUMALÉ

4PM - 10PM

SAVE THE DATE 11th - 13th AUG 2022

MARINE EQUIPEMENTS & BOAT DISPLAY

MARINE FOODS

INFORMATIVE PANEL DISCUSSIONS

NEW PRODUCTS

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

LUCKYDRAWS & DISCOUNT OFFERS

SEE YOU THERE

> www.marineexpo.mv

ENDORSED BY

HOST PARTNER



MAIN SPONSOR



މާލdives ޖޯޖްޖެޔިރީ ޖެޔިރީ ޖެޔިރީ ޖެޔިރީ

CO-SPONSORS



CATEGORY SPONSORS



OFFICIAL FUEL PARTNER



OFFICIAL BOAT BUILDER



OFFICIAL PRODUCT



OFFICIAL LUBRICANT PARTNER



OFFICIAL DOCKYARD



OFFICIAL MARINE ENGINE



OFFICIAL WATERSPORTS PARTNER



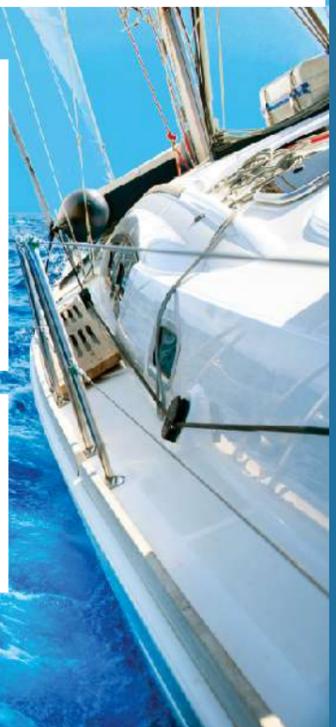
OFFICIAL INSURANCE PARTNER



OFFICIAL LOGISTICS PARTNER



OFFICIAL MARINE PAINT



Exciting Wins for Ooredoo Maldives at the 2022 Asia Pacific Awards: Gold, Silver & Bronze Stevies for its Innovative Digital Services

Ooredoo Maldives, the leading telecommunication company in the Maldives received a multitude of prestigious wins at the 2022 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards including:

- **Gold Stevie** – Innovative Achievement for its efforts during and post-pandemic era.
- **Silver Stevie** - Excellence in Innovation in Consumer Product & Service Industries for m-Faisaa & Moolee services of Ooredoo Maldives.
- **Bronze Stevie** – Excellence in Innovation in Technology Industries for m-Faisaa services of Ooredoo Maldives.

team who has been tirelessly working with enthusiasm and passion to transform our services to digital means and improve our overall customer experience. I am confident that our team will continue to improve, innovate and provide new opportunities, advanced digital services to our customers and the people of the Maldives.” - stated Managing Director & CEO of Ooredoo Maldives, Khalid Al-Hamadi.

Despite the challenges faced due to the pandemic, Ooredoo Maldives invested in strengthening its network and telecom infrastructure across the nation to cater the evolving needs of its customers. In addition to establishing a Tier 3 ready Data Centre, work has also commenced on deploying a submarine cable connecting The Maldives, Singapore and Europe to further strengthen its network infrastructure. Ooredoo Maldives revamped its Mobile and Fixed broadband services enabling quality services even more affordable.

Introduction of innovative products such as Aachaa Prepaid & Postpaid portfolio, expansion of fixed

“It is a great honor to receive international recognition for our initiatives that enabled opportunities for our customers and our communities through digital services and innovative solutions.

Despite the challenges faced due to the pandemic, with much dedication and hard work our team were able to drive innovation and digital adoption by introducing first of its kind services, enriching the lives of the people of the Maldives.

I would like to congratulate the entire



broadband footprint across the nation and enabling access to services through digital platforms greatly increased customer satisfaction and business growth.

In line with its commitment to establish a Digital Maldives, Ooredoo strives to open-up the limitless opportunities of the digital age to local communities and businesses.

While Moolee plays an integral role in facilitating small business owners and online retailers reach a bigger customer base, m-Faisaa provides the convenience of making online

payments for utility companies, popular online platforms, cafés, shops and more all in one platform. It is this commitment towards enriching the digital lives of its customers that has won the company the international recognition it is currently receiving on many respected platforms.

Ooredoo’s commitment to the people of Maldives will remain a priority and will continue to act as an enabler towards a transformational era of innovative technologies, driven by network enhancement.

Maldives Boating Awards 2022 Opens for Nominations



The nation’s largest boating industry award “Maldives Boating Awards” has opened nomination for the year 2022. The awards show which was launched in 2016 recognizes the best of the boating industry in the leisure, trading, and building sector.

The prestigious annual event honours businesses and individuals in a wide array of categories. Boating Awards opened the nominations with over 29 categories for individuals and brands to compete.

The awards planned for 2020 and 2021 were not held due to the global pandemic and travel restrictions. NBAM hopes 2022 to be more favourable to the hospitality industry and wishes the travel industry to come back stronger this year.

No of Categories: 29
Nomination Opens: 10th June 2022

Deadline to Nominate: 15th July 2022
Gala: November 2022

The organizer National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM) ensures that this year’s edition will come back bigger than in previous years.

National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM) has represented the boating sector of the tourism industry of Maldives since its formation in 2007 (formerly known as Liveaboard Association of Maldives). Its goal is to bring all the stakeholders in the industry together so NBAM can jointly promote and grow the industry in a sustainable manner, conduct safety and training programs relevant to the industry, lobby with government and corporations on behalf of the industry, and focus on other development aspects related to the industry.

EVENTS & AWARDS

Fushifaru Maldives Achieves Prestigious Green Globe Certification



Fushi Faru Maldives, an exquisite island getaway in Lhaviyani Atoll, has been awarded the prestigious Green Globe Certification for its notable sustainability efforts.

Green Globe is the premier sustainability certification and performance improvement program developed specifically for the travel and tourism industry. It provides organizations with a framework to conduct a comprehensive assessment of their sustainability performance,

through which they can monitor improvements and obtain the certification.

At Fushifaru Maldives, sustainability projects are led by the general manager, Ahmed Siaar, who has been incorporating sustainable tourism principles and practices into his operation since Fushifaru's opening on October 24, 2017. Fushifaru is determined to be actively involved in conserving biodiversity and the surrounding ecosystem. Fushifaru also

invites guests of all ages to partake in its many pioneering, eco-friendly projects:

Coral Propagation Project

In Collaboration with Best Dives, Fushifaru has initiated and developed a coral propagation project to assist the rejuvenation of the coral reefs around the island, which is vital to sustaining biodiversity.

The team is committed to planting coral fragments in several frames and one distinctly manta-shaped frame in the lagoon. The team continues to plant, monitor, and clean frames to ensure the success of the project. Both certified divers and snorkelers can visit the site by joining a dive excursion or the coral restoration snorkeling tour.

No Plastic, Fantastic!

Fushifaru Maldives is proud to be an eco-friendly island, with zero single-use plastic. Every guest now has the opportunity to contribute to Fushifaru's green community by purchasing a reusable bag for \$125 USD, they can use this to take their plastic back home. Fushifaru is committed to making a positive impact, that's why 50% of proceeds of the bags will go towards educating the local

community on sustainable living.

Plant Your Own Tree Program

At Fushifaru, they make it easy and fun for guests to help mother nature by planting trees on the island through their "Plant Your Own Tree Program". In addition, at Fushifaru food waste is composted through their composting machine and product is used as manure for the trees within the property.

Partnership with Kind Traveler

Fushifaru Maldives is a proud Partner of kind traveler. By being a King Hotel, guest will be able to unlock exclusive rates with a minimum donation of \$10 to a local charity, aiding both the resort and guests to create a positive community and environmental impact. Fushifaru will be donating 100% of the guests' contributions to The Olive Ridley project. The Olive Ridley project (OPR) is on a mission to protect sea turtles and their habitats through rescue and rehabilitation, scientific research and education and outreach. The \$ 10 that is donated by the guests will help provide antibiotics and fluids for one small turtle patient for one month. Fushifaru looks forward to empowering travelers to travel kindly and make a meaningful positive impact on the community.

Astrabon's Flagship Event, Astrabon Expo 2022, Kicks Off to a Great Start with its Official Inauguration by His Excellency, President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

Astrabon's flagship event, Astrabon Expo 2022, kicked off to a great start with its official inauguration by His Excellency, President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. Astrabon Expo was launched on the June 07, 2022 at 1100hrs in Manhattan Business Hotel, Malé.

Astrabon Expo is an annual trade event that exclusively showcases the wide variety of products available in Astrabon's impressive collection of international brands. The Expo is conducted with the vision of marketing the variety of HORECA brands and products available in the Maldives. It provides a 360-degree view of resort supplies and F&B products, including high-class finery in kitchenware, laundry equipment and household appliances.

It is the ultimate platform for thousands of hospitality professionals

to reach key buyers. This Expo invites resorts, hotels, restaurants, cafes, home bakers and many more industry members to explore the high-class fine quality products. The event not only allows them direct access to the suppliers but also allows them to explore business and investment opportunities with the suppliers through Astrabon.

This year's 3-day Astrabon Expo was held on the 7th, 8th and 9th of June 2022 at Manhattan Business Hotel, Falhumathee Magu, Male', Maldives.

Astrabon Expo is a unique networking platform for not only B2B but also B2C members. Speaking of the Expo, Mr. Yoosuf Riffath CEO of Astrabon, commented: "Majority of the HORECA industry currently imports their products from abroad. However, Astrabon has an excellent portfolio



and reputation as an official distributor of international brands in the Maldives. This Expo hopes to create more awareness of these brand and product availabilities in the island nation."

His insight reveals the benefits the industry can reap from this Expo. Astrabon hopes this event helps the industry as a whole by showing them the opportunities available for them in the Maldives itself, rather than venturing outside. As such, Astrabon



Expo is a one-of-a-kind initiative in the Maldives. With 10-15 suppliers showcasing their products at our first Expo, and many more international brands available from Astrabon, this is a must-visit event for all customers and clients.

Astrabon Expo 2022 will pave the way in reshaping and redefining the region's rapidly growing resort supplier industry. Astrabon is delighted to invite all its customers and partners to attend and join them in the future events.

Evaluation of SATA 2022 Nominees Starts in the Maldives

Judges Evaluation of SATA 2022 starts in the Maldives.

The South Asian Travel Awards selected a panel of multinational jury members for the evaluation of the nominated properties. The members of the panel will be travelling to multiple cities in the region and evaluating properties and services. Judging for SATA 2022 commenced in the Maldives on June 15, 2022 at Maagiri Hotel for the Maldives properties.

SATA Jury members for this year are:

Dr Mahamood Shougee

Dr. Mahamood Shougee is the former Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation of the Maldives. He played a pivotal role in guiding the establishment of the South Asian Travel Awards (SATA). Dr. Shougee holds a Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts in Economics, and a Master of Education from the University of Manitoba, and a PhD from the University of Toronto. He continues to work as a Consultant for Hotel and Resort chains, and as a Visiting Lecturer and Research Associate at Villa College (Maldives) and the Open University of Malaysia.

Dr Sachin Bansal

Dr Sachin has exhibited strategic leadership with a visionary approach in Indian tourism sector by creating multiple flagships in the area of culture & heritage. He has utilized the design thinking approach for harnessing new markets, thereby setting and redefining future standards through intellectual properties. With two decades of work experience and as a destination branding specialist, he has enabled co-creation with host communities to deliver exceptional experiences and created impact through skill development initiatives.

Ms Sangeeta Rana

Ms. Sangeeta Rana is the Executive Director of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Bhutan. She has several years of experience in the hospitality and tourism industry. She is also the board member of various tourism and private sector development boards, such as TDB, CTA, BSTS, HRDB and many more. She is extremely enthusiastic and passionate about developing the tourism industry and



working closely with all the tourism stakeholders around the world. She represents the exotic country, Bhutan, which believes in “Gross National Happiness”.

Ms Rinku Madan

Rinku Madan, completed her studies in Global Journalism at the Harvard University, with the objective to pursue her writing skills in the area of Global Luxury. She had earlier studied at the French Culinary Institute to certify in the arena of Food Writing. Having worked with luminaries like Alan Richman and Andrew Fischer, she is amongst the very few certified food writers in India with global experience in the subject. Her experience of writing feature articles in food, restaurants, cuisines, luxury properties enhanced her skills and pursue “Luxury” as a focus area, not only as a writer but also a Food Stylist and Consultant in the field of Food and Beverage.

Ms Mariyam Noordeen

Mariyam Noordeen is a founder and the president of Chefs Guild of Maldives, a member of World Association of Chefs Society. Holding a Bachelor of Philosophy in Hospitality Management and a Master of Arts in Hospitality Management from University of Birmingham, Mariyam has extensive experience of over 25 years in the field of Tourism and Hospitality, curriculum Development and Training. As the former Dean of Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies at the

Maldives National University, Mariam has trained and mentored over 4000 students who now contribute to the Hospitality industry as professionals in key roles.

Ms. Amal Goonetilleke

Over 4 decades of experience in the field of Tourism and hospitality, specialized in Sales and Marketing for hotels and resorts. Presently a Marketing Consultant to hospitality companies with local and international affiliations. She is well versed with multiple disciplines of Sales and Marketing across global markets and segments such as Corporate, MICE, Leisure, Revenue Management etc. and creating sales and marketing solutions for star class hotels to top end luxury boutique resorts. In recognition of her contribution to the industry she was the recipient of the “Zonta Woman of Achievement Award for Tourism” in 2009 and in 2015 was the recipient of “Women in Management - Tourism Gold Award”.

SATA has been endorsed by over 15 International and government agencies for its work to elevate tourism and hospitality in the region.

- Association of Professionals in Tourism (APT),
- Association of Tourism Trade Organizations, India (ATTOI),
- Association of Travel Agents (ATA),
- Colombo Chamber of Commerce (CCC),
- Confederation of Accredited Tour Operators (CATO),

- Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL),
- Hotel and Restaurant Association of Bhutan (HRAB),
- Kerala Hotel General Manager Club (KHGMC),
- National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM),
- Maldives Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators (MATATO),
- Maldives Marketing & PR Corporation (MMPRC),
- Nepal Tourism Board (NTB),
- Sri Lanka Association of Inbound Tour Operators (SLAITO),
- The Hotels Association of Sri Lanka (THASL),
- Bangladesh International Hotel Association (BIHA),
- The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO)

More than 500 nominations from the Maldives, India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh have been received for the 39 categories included in this year’s edition of SATA. Online voting is ongoing, and will complement the judging by a panel of experts.

The South Asian Travel Awards (SATA) has been recognizing the best of South Asia’s hospitality and travel industry since 2016. The prestigious annual event honors stellar organizations and individuals in a wide array of categories. Over 500 nominations have been enrolled to SATA 2019 which is swiftly gaining popularity in the tourism sector of South Asia.

IN THE NEWS

JOALI Maldives Donates \$30,000 and Two Eight-seater Buggies to Support the Local Community of Raa Dhuvaafaru



Located on the island of Muravandhoo in the unspoilt Raa Atoll, JOALI Maldives donates \$30,000 and two eight-seater buggies worth \$14,900 to the Raa Dhuvaafaru Council. JOALI Maldives believes that this latest donation will help support the neighbouring communities. Dhuvaafaru is the most populous island in Raa Atoll with over 5,000 inhabitants, including over 2,500 women, some of whom are currently employed at JOALI Maldives.

"At JOALI Maldives, we are all deeply committed to active involvement in supporting the communities

in Raa Atoll. We continue to work together with the local communities, supporting in different areas of need and focusing particularly on remote islands here in Raa Atoll." Enver Arslan – General Manager at JOALI Maldives.

JOALI Maldives is proud of the meaningful community and environmental changes that the resort has been able to create since its inception in 2018. The immersive-art resort holistically ingrains social and environmental responsibility through its deep-rooted 'Joy of Caring' CSR strategy which

focuses on four key CSR aspects including:

- 'Joy of Preserving' - promoting environmental initiatives on the island
- 'Joy of Supporting', which fosters community engagement within Raa atoll
- 'Joy of Empowering', supporting gender equality and women empowerment
- 'Joy of Conserving', which focuses on driving operational sustainability

JOALI Maldives has always been dedicated to supporting the local communities in Raa Atoll, with the resort being particularly passionate in advocating female empowerment. In December 2021, JOALI was delighted to donate funds to support three Women's Development Committees in the Raa Atoll; Raa Innamaadhoo WDC, Raa Maakurathu WDC and Raa Rasmaadhoo WDC. The funds will help to support community development and female empowerment projects in these islands and will reach over 3,000 residents.

In January 2022, JOALI Maldives also made a donation to three Non-Governmental Organisations working in the Maldives including Women In Tech Maldives with funds raised as part of a collaborative art project. The organisation is using the funds to inspire, empower and celebrate women in science and technology, including an initiative to teach coding skills to school students.

Gulf Craft Maldives Strengthens Leadership Team to Meet Growing Market Demand

Gulf Craft Maldives has announced a restructure to its senior management team, further amplifying its operations to meet the growing demand for its vessels in the island nation. Following the change of former General Manager, Terry Stamatakos, the company is solidifying its presence in the Maldives and preparing for additional growth of the production facilities.

Gulf Craft Maldives, which celebrated its 20th anniversary last year, has been working closely with the Government and the people of the Maldives since its establishment, contributing to the development of the nation's tourism industry and playing a vital role in developing the country's transportation sector which today caters to almost 85% of the transportation demands including support to the public transport, coast guard, emergency & ambulance services, resorts, and leisure sectors.

Gulf Craft's Chairman, Mohammed Hussein Alshaali, said: "We wish to thank the Government of the Maldives and its people, for their support over the years. Gulf Craft continues to be dedicated to the Maldives market and looks forward to the expansion of our manufacturing facilities in the coming year".

To meet with market growth, its clients' needs and requirements, Gulf Craft is currently building a new state-of-the-art facility dedicated to the manufacturing of vessels for use in the Indian Ocean. The new factory will be well-equipped with the latest technologies and tools to help Gulf Craft double its production capacity within the next 16 months. The new manufacturing facility will be a part of the boat and yacht manufacturers Gulf Lagoon project in which Gulf Craft will be further serving the local community in the Maldives through the creation of new job opportunities and in further boosting the tourism in the island nation.

2022 marks a significant milestone in the Gulf Craft story as the company celebrates its 40th anniversary of their UAE shipyard this year. In these four decades, Gulf Craft has witnessed exponential growth to become one of the world's most innovative boat and yacht manufacturers.



Gulf Craft is the world's fully integrated boat and yacht manufacturer with a proven track-record in designing and delivering high-quality, super-performing vessels that define the contemporary marine lifestyle. A brand of choice in lifestyle boats/yachts, Gulf Craft delivers high-quality personalized vessels for pleasure and for commercial pursuits for clientele across the world.

Al Jeri Holding Group Holds Foundation Laying Ceremony of Ajial Bilingual School



Al Jeri Holding Group has laid the foundation of the Ajial Bilingual School officially starting its construction. The ceremony was hosted by the CEO Talal Khalifa Al Jeri and Dr. Essa Al-Saadi, the Educational Adviser of Al Jeri Holding Group along with Chairman/Managing Director of RCC, Col. Rtd. Mohamed Nazim.

The Chief guest of the ceremony was the Vice President of the Maldives, Faisal Naseem, and high officials from the Ministry of education, President's Office and other distinguished invitees attended the ceremony.

The Vice President Faisal Naseem, Minister of Education, Dr. Aishath Ali, and Senior Adviser to the President Dr. Mustafa Luthufee and other dignitaries were welcomed to the ceremony by the Chairman/Managing Director of RCC, Col. Rtd. Mohamed Nazim, the CEO Talal Khalifa Al Jeri and Dr. Essa Al-Saadi, the Educational Adviser of Al Jeri Holding Group.

The Foundation was laid together by the Chief Guest of the ceremony, Vice President Faisal Naseem, CEO of Al Jeri Holding Group, Talal Khalifa Al Jeri and the Minister of Education Dr. Aishath Ali. The Ajial Bilingual School is developed and managed by Kuwait-based Aljeri Holding Group. Featuring

modern facilities, the new school would be operated as an international bilingual school for students from the lower kindergarten to the twelfth grade, offering education in both English and Arabic. The Contractor of this project, Rasheed Carpentry and Construction Pvt Ltd (RCC) aspired to take the company to new heights and emerging as one of the most respected contracting companies, would be completing the project of bringing life to The Ajial Bilingual School in two stages, with primary and foundation key levels established in the first phase.

CEO of Al Jeri Holding Group, Talal Khalifa Al Jeri extended the welcome remarks by thanking every official in the Republic of Maldives that helped achieve this dream, starting with Vice President Faisal Naseem, Minister of Education, Dr. Aishath Ali and all supporting staff of the Ministry. He also thanked HDC team who worked very hard to achieve this dream. And lastly to RCC who would bring this school to life.

"This Dream started in 2019, when we met Dr Abdulla Rasheed at Qatar. He invited us to look at how we can be part of the education process of the Maldives." said CEO of Al Jeri Holding Group, Talal Khalifa Al Jeri.

CEO of Al Jeri Holding Group, Talal Khalifa Al Jeri also

stated that Ajial Bilingual School is one of the best bilingual schools in Kuwait and that Ajial Bilingual School aims to create lifelong learners who possess the skills, confidence, and knowledge to become the next intellectual leaders of the Maldives.

"With the languages, English and Dhivehi, we have the option of Arabic language learning. The Ajial Bilingual School staff will work together with parents and students to raise the next generation of Maldives leaders." said CEO of Al Jeri Holding Group, Talal Khalifa Al Jeri.

Vice President Faisal Naseem at his speech to celebrate the foundation Laying event, affirmed the administration's commitment to strengthening further the education sector, including developing infrastructure to cater to its growing needs. He made the remarks while speaking at a ceremony held in Hulhumalé to commence the development of the Ajial Bilingual School.

Introducing the development of the new school as an essential addition to the administration's quest to deliver quality and holistic education, the Vice President noted that, in Hulhumalé alone, five new school buildings are currently in different stages of development. Two of them are preschools.

BON APPÉTIT

Jasmine Cassava Coconut Cream Cake



"I was inspired from the famous Arabic dessert basbousa. After the preparations of this dessert. I try to bring several changes with the recipe to give a Maldivian blend. In order to do this, I have used young coconut flash (Gabulhi) and a starch which was previously used as a main staple for Maldivians, Cassava and rich coconut cream. To enrich the aroma, Jasmine Water and pandan leaf was used."

Culinary and different types of food have always been my passion. Ever since I can remember I preferred to accompany in the kitchen, smelling different spices, learning about products and flavours.

My first exposure to hospitality was in guest relations where I experienced the busy and exciting world of tourism and had a chance to observe the culinary side of it with which I fell in love. Ever since, I have been formalizing my skills and knowledge in culinary industry, various international cuisines, technical pastry courses and graduated with BSc in Culinary Arts from The Maldives National University. With passion, knowledge and professional exposure in restaurant management, menu development, bakery management, basically culinary consultancy, I served in various roles from Head of F&B to the Official Residence of the President of Maldives to being an Executive Chef at various locations.

I am proud to have won various international and local culinary competitions and have been a (WACS Certified) Rookie Judge, to even more. Culinary arts are much more than a profession to me, they are my life and my lifestyle and feeding others makes me the happiest person in the world.

INGREDIENTS:

Cake Batter

- 2 cups shredded young coconut
- 2 cups shredded casava
- 1 cup sunflower oil
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1 cup jasmine water

INGREDIENTS:

Cream

- 2 cups whipping cream
- 2 cups coconut cream
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 4 tsp corn flour
- 1/3 cup jasmine water

INGREDIENTS:

Syrup

- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups water
- 2 whole pandan leaves

METHOD:

Cake Batter

- Mix all cake batter ingredients in a large mixing bowl.
- Butter your baking tray. Divide the butter in half and pour one half into the prepared baking tray.
- Bake for 20 mins at 180C.
- While the cake is in the oven: Prepare the syrup by boiling all syrup ingredients in a pot until it is fragrant and flavorsome.

Prepare the cream

- Stir all ingredients in a pot on low heat until combined and thick in consistency.
- After the first half of cake is baked; generously soak with syrup (keep 2 tbs of syrup for later) and spread the cream on top.
- Let it cool and then pour the other half of the cake batter on top of the cream and bake for 20 mins at 180C.



Courtesy
Culinary Consultant
Mariyam Shiuna



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, calendars, 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

With the World Cup 2022 happening in Qatar this year, an impressive number of 2 million tickets are to be sold for matches. How will this affect tourist arrivals to the Maldives during the peak season?



Mohamed Firaq
Managing Director
Inner Maldives Holidays

Definitely not a bigger issue as most European countries such as UK, Germany, France do have limited slots capacity for extra flights. In this case, the number of visitors may increase 20 to 30 percent to DOHA from Europe.



Ahmed Zubair Adam
Managing Director
Blue Horizon

There could be a bit of a dent in demand but the World Cup package with Qatar Airways for a combined Qatar and Maldives package might be attractive for tourists.



Shaaz Waleed
Vice President, Matato
Managing Director, Resort Life Travel

With Middle Eastern airlines dominating connectivity to Maldives from Europe and Far East, the World Cup period will have an effect. A ticket to Maldives is already on a triple higher price falling into that period. We must find options to do ad-hoc arrangements for Europe direct to Maldives flights to have a better and reasonable fare for visitors.



Yoosuf Riffath
President, Association of Travel Agents (ATA)

We are expecting fans to visit Maldives prior to the matches in Qatar, and therefore have made strategies accordingly. Additionally, Qatar does not have enough space to accommodate the influx of fans hence it is imperative that we are prepared to host them. I again, urge the airport to be completed and open for us to reach our target of 2m arrivals.



Fawzan Faried
Country Manager
SriLankan Airlines, Maldives

It is expected to have 1800 aircraft movement in and out of Doha for the World Cup.

As the national carrier, Qatar is going to play a key role supported by regional carriers such as Etihad, Oman Air, Saudia Airlines and Kuwait Airlines. Most traffic expected for the World Cup are from European countries. Demand for World Cup seats from Europe is eventually going to block the potential tourists seats out of Europe to Middle East transit point. Hence the period between 10th Nov to 31st Dec is very crucial for Maldivian tourism.

Marketing teams got to be above the ball to attract some of the football fans to extend their travel to Maldives through a strategic marketing approach. Numbers may not be that great yet, the opportunity prevails in my view as a fall back plan. The other option is to roll our offers to Korea, Japan and India markets as advance sale offers to secure optimum levels ahead of time. Korea and Japan are recent growing markets in the Maldives!



Ahmed Siaar
General Manager
Fushifaru Maldives

I believe there will only be a positive impact. Those visiting Qatar may do a holiday in the Maldives before heading home.

On the other note, 80% or more holiday makers in Maldives are no longer football crazy fans. Remember we have 8 billion people in the world, so 2 million visiting Qatar will make no difference.

Veligaa Hardware Search for over 10,000 items and brands

Categories Brands Promotions

LIVE NOW

Perfect companions for demanding jobs

Shop wide variety of accessories for most demanding jobs

Shop Online Now!

ADD TO CART

SEARCH

veligaa.com

BUY NOW

SAVOUR THE DIFFERENCE

NEW

