



Wizz Air Abu Dhabi to Launch Scheduled Flights to Maldives
Pg: 04



'Great British Menu' Finalist to Host Food Pop-up at Amilla Maldives
Pg: 08



Pjey Mayandi and Eddie Teh Take on General Manager Roles at Soneva Fushi and Soneva Jani
Pg: 10

ALL HANDS ON DECK

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
with
Ismail Shareef
General Manager
Al Shaali Marine Maldives

PAGE: 12



Renowned Brand Bulgari to Establish a Resort Property in the Maldives
Pg: 15



Unveiling of South Asian Travel Awards (SATA) 2022 Partners
Pg: 17



AIA Strengthens Partnership with Aviation Operation Company, Centrik
Pg: 20



Allied Insurance Staff Takes Part in Making the Picnic Island, Kuda Giri Greener
Pg: 21

Secure your data & infrastructure with Ooredoo Maldives Data Center



Publisher's Note



Managing Editor
Mariyam Maisha

Management Team
Ismail Hameed
Ismail Shifraz
Mohamed Shamin

Finance & Accounts
Mariyam Niuma
Yusra Naseer

Consultant
Ahmed Ijaz

Content Executives
Mariyam Zeena

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,

International travel is finally getting its groove back. With more people travelling and more places open for business following a couple of devastating years for the industry all over the world, we're seeing things really pick up! Places that have had long border closures or tricky quarantine or testing rules are slowly lifting more and more restrictions, allowing us all to travel again with ease!

For those living in the northern hemisphere, summer is here and a newly radiant sun steps forth from the springtime. It comes as no surprise that travelers are yearning to make the most of these days of heat, which are unfortunately numbered. Then again, when everyone else has the same idea, it feels like EVERYWHERE is absolutely heaving with people.

In this issue of *The Islandchief*, we bring you an exclusive interview with Mr. Ismail Shareef, the General Manager of Al Shaali Marine Maldives to find out how he honed his craft in a way that pays homage to boat building as well as driving the company's strategic direction and tremendous growth over the span of the past 11 years.

In the culinary section of *Bon Appetite* on page 22, we have a special cheesecake recipe from Maha Naseer, Creative Culinary Director at Oaga Art Resort. This luxurious Ube (sweet potato) cheesecake is on a bed of crunchy ginger cookie crust then topped with a silky Ube paste.

Lastly, our industry experts share their views on the potential impact of monkeypox on Maldives tourism and tourist arrivals as WHO declares it as a global health emergency with several cases been identified across the regions outside of West and Central Africa.

Of course, all of these titillating segments stand by our regular pieces, which you know and love, so please, enjoy our latest issue and we look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Until next issue,
The Islandchief Team



DID YOU KNOW?
INTERESTING FACT

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



KALHU VAKARU MISKIY (or The Traveling Mosque) at Male' City

Kalhu Vakaru Miskiy is one of the most unique and beautiful historical buildings in Maldives. Throughout the past 200 years, the mosque has been dismantled and relocated from one place to another. Hence the name, The Travelling Mosque. The structure is made from hirigaa (coral stone) and kalhu vakaru (lumber from the ebony tree). Standing on a coral foundation, carved with intricate geometric designs, and engraved with Arabic calligraphy, the mosque is a pure testament to the masterful craftsmanship of our ancestors. The Traveling Mosque is easily one of the most accessible and sought after cultural landmarks in the Maldives.

Credit: Visit Maldives

DISTRIBUTION



120+ RESORTS



350+ GUESTHOUSES



60+ LIVEABOARDS



20+ AIRLINES



100+ COMPANY EXECUTIVES



5 UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

ACROSS THE SKIES

SriLankan Airlines and Kuwait Airways Launch Codeshare Partnership

SriLankan Airlines and Kuwait Airways have announced the launch of a new codeshare partnership effective June 20, 2022; which provides enhanced connections and convenience to customers of both airlines. Each airline will place the other airline's marketing code on its flights operated between Colombo and Kuwait with the alliance coming into effect.

The new codeshare partnership will strengthen and take to new heights the cordial commercial relationship that has existed between SriLankan Airlines and Kuwait Airways since 1999. SriLankan Airlines has carried passengers between Colombo and Kuwait for over four decades and currently operates a daily flight to Kuwait. Similarly, Kuwait Airways has been serving passengers on this route since 1978 and plans to operate three weekly flights to Colombo starting from October 2022.

Passengers may essentially expect to

gain all the benefits of codeshare flights including seamless connectivity and the convenience of having their entire journey managed by one airline from the point of purchasing tickets until they arrive at their final destination with the launch of this partnership.

Furthermore, passengers of both airlines will enjoy increased alternative flight options, specifically to the Middle East and Europe via Kuwait and to the Indian Subcontinent and the Far East via Colombo. Richard Nuttall, Chief Executive Officer of SriLankan Airlines stated, "We are delighted to enter a new chapter in the longstanding relationship between Kuwait Airways and SriLankan Airlines that is expected to generate value to our customers in multiple ways. The Middle Eastern market has always been important to SriLankan Airlines, and we continually endeavor to expand our network and product portfolio to serve this segment better. We look forward to working with Kuwait Airways and creating greater synergy between our combined

networks for the benefit of our passengers."

Maen Razouqi, Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Airways stated, "We welcome SriLankan Airlines as our codeshare partner. The new beginning of this partnership will support Kuwait Airways and SriLankan Airlines operations between the two cities and allow more travel options, facilities for the public. Passengers and travel agents will be able to book directly on these flights through our offices/website /APP and agents' reservation system.

Further, this Codeshare Partnership will not only enhance the relationship between the two airlines but also the strong relationship between the two friendly States, Kuwait and Sri Lanka. On this occasion, I would like to thank Mr.



Richard Nuttall and both the teams for their efforts in making this Codeshare Agreement effective.

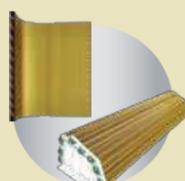
Both SriLankan Airlines and Kuwait Airways are also working on incorporating the Frequent Flyer Program for codeshare flights, so that passengers can be rewarded with the benefits of such programs. Further, both airlines anticipate exploring other avenues for future mutual co-operation and expansion of their partnership."

est. 2002
ASTRABON
Quality Assured

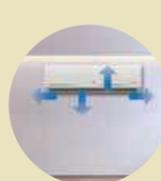
www.astrabon.net
sales@astrabon.net
+960 300 80 60 | +960 797 15 70
Orchid Magu, Male', Republic of Maldives



Superior Cooling Power with Twin Inverter Hi-speed HD Compressor



Dual GoldFin Heat Exchangers



4 Way Auto Cooling



Long Air Throw



Air Cooled PCB



Ergonomic Remote

ACROSS THE SKIES

Etihad Airways Named Airline Ratings 'Environmental Airline of the Year 2022'

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, has been named 'Environmental Airline of the Year 2022' in the annual Airline Ratings awards. The ranking recognises Etihad's industry-leading strategy to improve aviation sustainability for both the airline itself and the entire industry.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change chose the UAE as host for COP 28 which will take place in 2023. Etihad's achievement is fully aligned with Abu Dhabi and the UAE's own commitment to work with the international community to accelerate global efforts to address climate change and environmental protection and create a more sustainable economic future.

The airline recently published the Etihad Airways Sustainability Report which Airline Ratings deemed as a benchmark for the industry, demonstrating the potential advancements to be made in sustainable aviation by a wide range of initiatives.

Tony Douglas, Group Chief Executive Officer, Etihad Aviation Group, said: "Our ambition to become a leader in aviation sustainability has taken us on a journey to reduce the impact of aviation on the environment, not just for Etihad, but for the entire industry.

Etihad's sustainability initiatives began with a focus on creating operational efficiencies. The airline quickly went on to unite industry leaders



and build the most comprehensive, cross organizational aviation sustainability initiative ever undertaken. This umbrella programme, now in its third year, includes partnerships with Boeing, GE, Airbus and Rolls Royce, as well as a wide range of collaborations with pioneering new-technology organizations, academic researchers, smaller businesses and start-ups.

Etihad's flagship sustainability programmes include the Greenliner programme using the airline's fleet of Boeing 787 Dreamliners as flying test-beds, as well as the Sustainable50 A350-1000 launched earlier this year.

Mr Douglas continues: "We are grateful to our partners from the major manufacturers to academics and small start-ups who have partnered with us on this mission, in particular through the Greenliner and Sustainable50 programmes.

"This accolade is testament to our efforts over the past few years to be the greenest airline in the sky and we're proud to be awarded the Environmental Airline of the Year 2022. We are tremendously proud of this achievement but will not rest on our laurels as we have ambitious, industry-changing and climate critical action to continue to build on."



Wizz Air Abu Dhabi, the ultra-low-fare national airline of the UAE, has announced to launch a new route, from Abu Dhabi to the idyllic island paradise of the Maldives.

The airline informs that the expansion of its network will offer travelers the opportunity to explore marvelous destinations in line with the

airline's ambition to provide tourists and residents in the UAE and the region with hassle-free, affordable travel options.

From October, Wizz Air will offer flights four times a week on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from Abu Dhabi to Male, the main international airport in the Maldives. The unrivalled holiday

Wizz Air Abu Dhabi to Launch Scheduled Flights to Maldives

destination, Maldives boasts white sandy beaches, spectacular sunsets and colorful reefs brimming with wildlife.

This picturesque paradise promises ultimate escapism from everyday life. For those yearning to discover what the islands have to offer, Wizz Air's new route unlocks affordable travel options for those within the UAE and for self-connecting passengers travelling from Central and Eastern Europe via the Wizz Air network.

With the new route, Wizz Air Abu Dhabi flies to a total of 34 destinations within a five-hour flight time radius of Abu Dhabi, since the airline launched in January 2021. The arrival of a fifth aircraft later this year means flights to the Maldives will be operated on a brand-new Airbus A321neo aircraft, which offers the lowest environmental footprint.

IN A NUTSHELL

Dive into Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi: The Archipelago's Secret Water Island



Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi Resort, a luxurious paradise of natural beauty and tranquility located on the northern Shaviyani Atoll, boasts the longest infinity pool and biggest jacuzzi in the Maldives. Sirru Fen Fushi, which means 'secret water island' in the local Dhivehi language, truly lives up to its name, home to one of the country's largest resort lagoons and 120 luxury villas each with their own private pool.

Merging seamlessly with idyllic views of the Indian Ocean, the infinity pool's glittering waters provide the perfect spot to cool down whilst basking in the Maldivian sunshine. Stretching from one side of the tropical island to the other, the 200m pool is framed by swaying palms and leads guests to the Coralarium, the Maldives' first and only coral regeneration project in the form of an underwater art gallery. Meanwhile, the largest jacuzzi on the atoll is located on the island's picturesque Sun Rise side. Conveniently perched by the resort's expansive yoga deck, guests can practice their downward dog in paradise before soothing their muscles with a soak in the most beautiful of settings.

Guests of the resort are also treated to their own private sliver of aqua and those residing in the resort's overwater villas can unwind in the comfort of their private infinity style pool, with the

chance to spot magical marine life from dolphins and turtles to manta rays, and clown fish. Whilst in the beach tented style villas, guests can enjoy the intimacy of a castaway experience in a glamping tent themed villa boasting a chic, bohemian vibe, and a private pool nestled in the heart of the island's colorful flora and fauna. Set on the island's sandy shores the beach villa's private pools are accompanied by a soundtrack of lapping waves allowing guests to fully immerse themselves in the true meaning of Sirru Fen Fushi.

Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi is home to the longest infinity pool in the Maldives that leads you to the Coralarium, the Maldives' first and only coral regeneration project in the form of an underwater art installation by Jason deCaires Taylor. Located on the Shaviyani Atoll, which boasts one of the country's largest resort lagoons, Fairmont Maldives, Sirru Fen Fushi is more than just your hideaway. Our "secret water island," as dubbed by the locals. The 120 Luxury Villas are a seamless blend of chic, understated Maldivian rustic chic with champagne woods, coral-inspired rugs, and bamboo glass chandeliers. Choose from hideaway Beach Villas set in the magpies, the stunning Water Villas perched over the Indian Ocean, or castaway Tented Jungle Villas.

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

Siyam World Maldives 'Pimps' Guests Rides with Seabreachers, Mini Mokes and World's First Water Bikes



Indian Ocean iconoclast, Siyam World has unleashed a new fleet of custom Mini Mokes; adrenaline-pumping Seabreachers; and "the world's first water bike", Manta5's Hydrofoiler XE-1, providing guests with three more eye-popping ways to motor away from the Maldives mainstream.

On a mission to bring its guests the broadest offering of memorable escapades and never-done-before experiences, Siyam World made waves last year when it opened with the Indian Ocean's biggest floating water park – and now it has rivals trailing in



its wake once again after launching the Maldives' first ever Seabreacher. With the aerodynamic lines of a fighter jet and a sculpted shark-like body, the Seabreacher represents a dramatic breakthrough in recreational boating.

Operating more like an aircraft than a watercraft, these extraordinary semi submersible vessels can jump over, dive under and carve left and right through the waves – and are even capable of 360-degree barrel rolls on the water. The Seabreacher's acrylic canopy and underwater view

ports give pilot and passenger near-360-degree views, while its supercharged 260hp engine propels them across the water at speeds of up to 50mph.

For a more tranquil, yet singularly surreal take on conquering the waves, Siyam World guests can also experience the extraordinary Manta5 Hydrofoiler XE-1 – the world's first hydrofoil e-bikes. Capable of speeds up to 11 knots, these emission-free, wake-free, near-silent wave-riding phenomena harness the same technology as America's Cup yachts to create a completely new cycling experience on water.

Back on dry land, guests staying at The Beach House Collection - Siyam World's exclusive enclave of 24 show-stopping one- to six-bedroom Residences - can also now explore the island's trails in style with their very own custom Mini Moke. Recently revived and relaunched as the first heritage car marque to go fully electric, the British-made Mini Moke is the ultimate retro-chic beach whip. Each of Siyam World's Mini Mokes comes with an onboard sound system and is named after a colorful 90s music legend - think "Green Day", "Red Hot Chilli Peppers" and "Pink Floyd" - with a vibrant paint job to match.

E-Surf's Up! Catch the Latest Adrenaline-Pumping Trend at Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa

There's no more waiting for the perfect wave at Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa and its Signature Collection. Together with its Watersports partner Deep Blue, the resort has released this exhilarating experience. Now guests can hop on the hottest watersports trend by trying their hand at E-Surfing.

This new craze involves being propelled through the water on a motorized, electric surfboard, as friends, family and impressed onlookers cheer you on. Though there are no great surfing spots in North Maldives, this is an excellent alternative for guests looking to have some surfing fun while experiencing the latest in watersports innovation.

Whether you're looking to master a new skill or perfect your technique at an existing sport, there is plenty to keep thrill-seekers and sports enthusiasts entertained at this exclusive all-suite Maldives resort where space and privacy is key. Enjoy a Golf game at the state-of-the-art in-house Golf Simulator, work up a sweat in the extensive gym, take a gander at the other evergreen surfing option – windsurfing, jump around a floating aqua park, and more. As a large, spacious island with a year-round tropical Maldivian summer, it's also the perfect location for doing outdoor activities such as running to keep fit and healthy – even on vacation.



With this addition to the great number of recreational activities available at the resort, this is yet another exciting experience which adds to the Hideaway guarantee to be one of the leading recreation resorts in the Maldives with many novel offerings for guests to enjoy.

To learn more about these adrenaline-filled experiences available at the resort, contact reservations@hideawaybeachmaldives.com



IN A NUTSHELL

Discover a Fusion of Contemporary Sri Lankan and Maldivian Flavours at Heritance Aarah Ambula Restaurant

Lush green coconut trees swaying to the tropical breeze, clear water waves gently lapping on the sandy white beach, panoramic views of the tranquil surroundings to be enjoyed from the comfort of your beach villa - the first impression at Heritance Aarah proves to be a lasting one.

At Heritance Aarah, it is not only about the surrounding tropical beauty, the luxurious amenities or high quality of service. It is also about the eclectic range of cuisine that awaits guests at its restaurants, each offering a unique gastronomic journey, tantalizing all senses.

Among its restaurants, 'Ambula' stands out for its fusion offering with a truly Asian twist. Offering what the resort calls its very own 'Heritance Cuisine' - a fusion between traditional Sri Lankan and Maldivian flavors; the concept has given birth to dishes that should never be missed, and will be hard to forget.

Diners have the opportunity to embark on an eight-course culinary exploration, which includes anything from aromatic Ambul Thiyal (cold smoked tuna) to Curried Octopus wrapped in Maldivian Roshi.

The secret behind the distinctive flavors are two Culinary Olympic winners, Chef Lalith Gunsekara and Chef Amila Silva. It is their quirky concoction that promises guests with nothing but bliss on the plate. Their flair for the thematic takes precedence as each course is served with a narrative, curating stories with each bite. Enhancing the offering is the nod to sustainability. The tuna and seafood served at the restaurant are purchased from those who engage in sustainable fishing in the local waters.

Certain vegetables and herbs part of the menu comes fresh from the 'Aarah Tharukaaree Dhandhu' in-resort garden. The resort aims to reduce its purchasing of vegetation with the expansion of the in-resort garden in the next few months.

Recently, Ambula featured the appearance of a guest chef - Chef Dimuthu Kumarasinghe. Hailing from neighboring Sri Lanka, he is an iconic chocolatier and Culinary Olympic record holder. During his visit, Chef Dimuthu along with Chefs Lalith and Amila curated a special menu focusing on the authentic flavors of the two island nations. Guests were amazed by the transition from one course to

another with the desert being a truly wonderful surprise.



WORLD'S LEADING OUTBOARDS

F250HETX

F250HETX from the 4-stroke range, perfected by YAMAHA to endure the extreme conditions. Known for their durability and reliability within the world of marine engines, Yamaha 4 stroke 250 is the best commercial model in its class.



SOLE DISTRIBUTOR

 **ALIA INVESTMENTS (PVT) LTD**

 (960) 300 9797  www.aliamaldives.com

IN A NUTSHELL

'Great British Menu' Finalist to Host Food Pop-up at Amilla Maldives



British restaurant, JÖRO, is set to pop up on the shores of Amilla Maldives Resort and Residences from October 13 to 23, 2022. It will overlap with Amilla's upcoming one-day Food Festival on October 16th; part of the resort's celebrations marking 50 years of

tourism in the Maldives, which transformed the archipelago from a little-known developing country to a bucket list destination.

The owner of JÖRO, Luke French, appeared on BBC's 'Great British Menu'

in March 2022, and went on to win his region of Northeast & Yorkshire, reaching the final of the legendary cooking competition. He is inspired by local and sustainable ingredients, and during his 10-day residency as Guest Chef at Amilla, Luke will be exploring locally grown and foraged produce. They include Maldivian greens, breadfruit, coconuts and sustainable pole and line-caught fish.

Guests at Amilla will be treated to two gala dinners with a focus on farm-to-table and 'eating lifestyle' dishes. There will also be two cooking master classes where guests can learn culinary skills with Luke. Luke garnered critical acclaim for JÖRO Restaurant in Sheffield, England, by combining the highest quality ingredients with cooking techniques from around the world to create award-winning Modern British, New Nordic and Asian dishes. It was

listed in the Michelin Guide 2022.

Originally hailing from Cambridgeshire, his culinary career began at only 14, where, like many chefs, he began as a Kitchen Porter. Recognized for his talent, he was quickly promoted through the ranks and worked at some of the best restaurants in Cambridge, including the Michelin-starred Alimentum (now closed). Luke then set his sights on Asia, where he discovered the flavors and techniques which he was later able to showcase at his own restaurant. After returning to the UK, Luke moved to Sheffield and soon after met his wife and business director, Stacey Sherwood. The pair launched JÖRO in December 2016, followed by street food concept restaurant, Konjö, in 2019 along with omakase counter restaurant, NAMA. They launched their boutique hotel, House of JÖRO, in 2021.

Outrigger Maldives Plays an Important Role in Manta Ray, Whale Shark and Turtle Conservation

Outrigger Maldives Maafushivaru Resort is playing a key role in gathering and sharing information on whale sharks, manta rays and sea turtles with conservation groups in the Maldives.

The tracking and reporting process, led by the resort's marine biologist, Lynn Jula Kessler, shows that populations of whale sharks and manta rays in the South Ari Atoll around Outrigger Maldives are stable or doing well. However, there is more concern about critically endangered sea turtles, which often get ensnared in fishing nets traveling between their nesting grounds in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

On whale sharks, Outrigger Maldives is cooperating with the Maldives Whale Shark Research Programme. Kessler and accompanying resort snorkeling guests collect data on whale shark sightings, noting any injuries, some of which are caused by collisions with boats.

This September, Kessler and Outrigger will join the #GentleToGiants initiative being run by the whale shark research team. The campaign aims to secure commitments from tourism businesses



to adhere to whale shark encounter guidelines.

"Many of the whale sharks spotted in South Ari Atoll are juvenile males five to eight metres in length," says Kessler. "The waters around here are like a boys' high school for whale sharks," she says.

Kessler also sends information on manta ray sightings to the Manta Trust, an NGO founded to protect manta rays globally. By sending underwater images of mantas to the trust, conservationists can track new pregnancies, injuries and overall

population trends. Manta rays are classified as endangered. They are protected by law in the Maldives, which has the biggest recorded population of manta rays in the world.

"No matter how often I encounter manta rays, they always amaze me," says Kessler. "Besides being unbelievably graceful, they are also very curious and intelligent. They can often be observed interacting with snorkelers and divers which makes the encounters even more magical." Kessler gives presentations twice a week to Outrigger guests on manta rays, whale



sharks, turtles, marine life and coral reef preservation in the South Ari Atoll.

In July, she conducted coral planting, assisted by guests, adding frames of new coral beneath a jetty at the resort to encourage the breeding of young corals and fish species.

Marine conservation and awareness building are a key part of Outrigger Maldives resort operations, all of which align with Outrigger's ZONE (OZONE), the company's long established global marine conservation and environmental care initiative.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Alila Kothaifaru Appoints Nika Kim as Senior Sales Manager

Alila Kothaifaru Maldives has announced the appointment of Nika Kim as Senior Sales Manager at the newly opened Hyatt property in the Maldives. Nika brings nearly a decade of hospitality experience, including her previous assignment in the commercial department at Grand Park Kodhipparu and Ayada Maldives. In this new role, Nika will oversee the Russia and CIS market focusing on introducing Alila Kothaifaru Maldives as the new addition to the Maldives' luxury resorts.

Fluent in Russian, English and Korean, Nika received her master's degree in public administration from Hanyang University, Seoul, South Korea. Throughout her hospitality career, she has gained a breadth of experience in

creating new relationships and maintaining strong customer relations.

Originally from Russia, Nika has a deep love for travelling, learning about new cultures, visiting theatres, and watching musicals as well as ballet shows. Moreover, she always wanted to write her book that can be turned into a movie.

Surrounded by a stunning house reef in the scenic Raa Atoll, Alila Kothaifaru Maldives offers serenity and discovery in an awe-inspiring destination embraced by nature's wonders. Enjoy easy access to the famous Hanifaru Bay UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. This protected marine sanctuary is the largest feeding and breeding hotspot in the world for manta rays and whale



sharks, which at times congregate here in their hundreds. Alila Kothaifaru Maldives is also close to Vaadhoo Island, one of the best spots to witness the spectacular "Sea of Stars" phenomenon, an extraordinary sight to behold.

Designed for serene relaxation in

harmony with nature, each of the resort's 44 beachfront villas and 36 overwater villas comes with a private pool. Featuring contemporary interiors in a palette of soothing colors with natural textures, these spacious hideaways are carefully positioned to provide privacy and comfort in understated, sophisticated style.

Nua
Professional
Z-FOLD PAPER TOWEL
Soft as a Feather

IMPORTED & MARKETED BY
MIYAMI
TRADERS



SCAN FOR CATALOG



MOVERS & SHAKERS

Pjey Mayandi and Eddie Teh Take on General Manager Roles at Soneva Fushi and Soneva Jani



Award-winning luxury resorts brand Soneva has announced two new leadership appointments at its Maldives properties. Pjey Mayandi is appointed Guardian of the Experience (General Manager) at Soneva Fushi in the Baa Atoll, and Eddie Teh joins the team at the Noonu Atoll's Soneva Jani as Guardian of the Experience.

Originally from Singapore, Pjey first joined Soneva Fushi as Resort Manager in 2021. His career in hospitality began after 15 years as a commissioned



officer in the Singapore Armed Forces, after which he joined The Ritz-Carlton in Dubai and Doha. This was followed by management roles at Naumi Hospitality, Millennium Hotels and Resorts and the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel in his native Singapore, as well as being on the pre-launch teams for properties including M Social in Singapore and Suzhou and The Ritz-Carlton in Sanya and Hong Kong.

"It is a true honour to be working for

such a ground-breaking industry pioneer – Soneva Fushi continues to innovate and raise the bar 27 years after it welcomed its very first guests back in 1995," says Pjey Mayandi. "As Guardian of the Experience, I draw my inspiration from our remarkable Hosts, who come from so many backgrounds and have such passion and commitment for the work we do." In his spare time, Pjey is a keen marathon runner, road cyclist and golfer, and winds down by reading about inspiring leaders.

Eddie Teh makes the move to Soneva Jani from Soneva Fushi, where he was Guardian of the Experience from May 2021. A veteran hotelier, he has worked across South East Asia and Australia, with leadership roles with the Orient Express, La Residence Phou Vao in Laos and the Belmond group in Myanmar. While at Belmond, he helped establish the Belmond Free Clinic, named the Best CSR Programme for Belmond worldwide.

"I am delighted to join Soneva Jani and

am looking forward to bringing my own experience to this iconic destination and working alongside such a strong team of Hosts," says Eddie Teh. "Ever since I first encountered the Soneva brand back in 2017, I've been inspired by its unwavering commitment to responsible, sustainable travel and creating unforgettable rare experiences for our guests."

Eddie is fluent in English, Bahasa, Hokkien, basic Mandarin and French. In his spare time, he loves art and design, learning about new cultures, rugby, reading and music. "Both Pjey, Eddie and Manjit are seasoned Soneva Hosts who embody our 'Slow Life' ethos and truly represent our focus on a beyond bespoke guest experience," says Sonu Shivdasani, Co-founder and CEO of Soneva. "As our Maldives resorts continue to evolve, I have every confidence that Soneva Fushi and Soneva Jani will thrive under their guardianship and wish them a heartfelt congratulations in their new roles."

Dusit Thani Maldives Welcomes New Director of Sales and Marketing

Dusit Thani Maldives in Baa Atoll has appointed seasoned marketing professional Ms. Audra Rohini Arul as its new Director of Sales and Marketing.

Ms. Arul brings to the role more than 20 years of experience in the high-end hospitality space, working for leading brands in Asia and beyond.

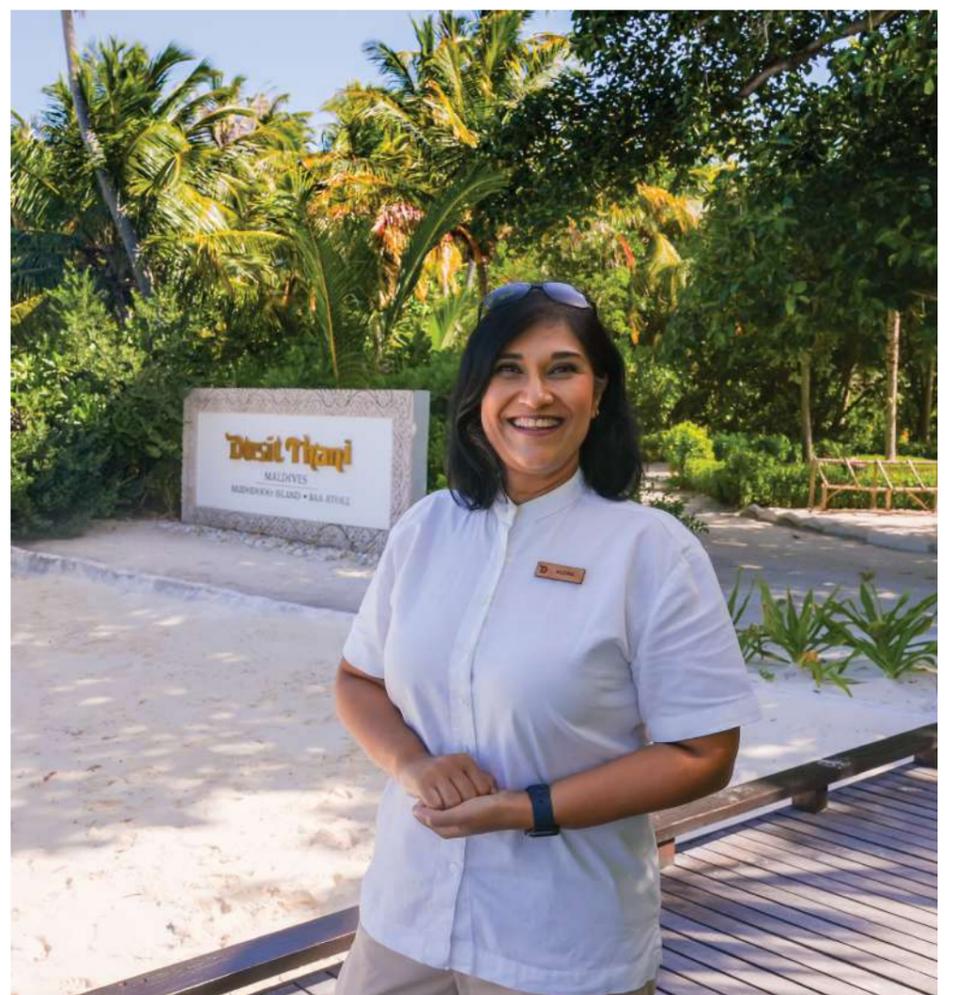
During her career, she has served as Director of Sales and Marketing for Starwood Hotels and Resorts in Bali, China, Vietnam, and Thailand, and later dusitD2 in Phuket. She also worked with Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts in an Area Director Sales and Marketing role in Vietnam and Morocco.

Until September 2020, she was Cluster Director of Sales and Destination Marketing at Crossroads, the only Integrated Resort in the Maldives. Most recently, she worked at Le Meridien in Jakarta, Indonesia, where she

revamped the marketing channels to reflect new messaging for the reopening of the property and worked closely with KOLs to promote room packages and events.

Originally from Malaysia, Ms Arul graduated with a Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) degree from the Oxford Business School in England, before going on to the Centre International de Glion, Switzerland.

Returning to the Maldives, Audra will apply her positive attitude and assertive leadership style to take charge of creating new sales and marketing strategies for Dusit Thani Maldives to drive revenue. Speaking about the appointment, the resort's General Manager, Thomas Weber, said, "We are delighted to welcome Audra to the team, and we are excited to see how she applies her considerable skills to opening new market segments to our signature hospitality and luxury experiences."



ދިވެހިސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް
ނަންބަރު 1/2015/އ.އ.އ.އ.



PROUDLY MOVING YOU FORWARD

OUR SERVICES



Marine
Construction



Airport
Development



Land
Reclamation



Road
Construction



Shore
Protection



Sewerage System
Development



Engineering
& Docking Services



Survey
& Design Sectors



Transport



Trading

1650

/mtccplc

mtcc.mv

ALL HANDS ON DECK



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

with

Ismail Shareef

General Manager
Al Shaali Marine Maldives

“ There are safety standards implemented in the Maldives marine industry. However, people to follow them are scarce. Despite having standards, everyone wants an easy way to carry out the service. This is mainly due to the absence of a monitoring mechanism here in the Maldives. ”

Mr. Ismail Shareef began his career with Al Shaali Marine in 2011 as the Service Delivery Manager. For the past eleven years, he has honed his craft in a way that pays homage to boat building as well as driving the company's strategic direction and tremendous growth.

We sat with him to learn more about his experience, the challenges he faced, and what he's currently up to.

From your perspective, how has the Maldivian marine industry evolved over the years, can you tell us some of the drastic changes experienced in the industry?

The industry has drastically changed from when it initially started in the Maldives. Compared to then, as of recently, everyone wants to operate the fastest vessel. Speed is utmost importance while the required safety standards have been ignored. With speed set as the first choice, there's bound to be setbacks or difficulties faced, not only with marine vessels but also in other industry activities. In business, speed is enhanced with set specific proportions. Engines built for commercial use are not equipped to operate at an excessive speed, as leisure vessels have that demanding speed for customers. Leisure vessels are used in short periods, having a limited lifetime. The durability is on the low with these vessels despite the high speed. In the case of safety as well, these vessels are not stable compared to commercial vessels. Cost wise, fuel consumption is high, making the overall cost also high. It is not easy to work and try to recover the cost back. Therefore, as I have mentioned, the biggest change has been the transformation of speed over the years and the various developments to marine vessels.

When we were little, there were only a few vessels equipped with engines. Back then, we used to have Riyaa Dhoni, also known as Sailing Boat. It was perceived as uncomfortable before but now we want to go back to Riyaa Dhoni. With development in the industry, modernized vessels have made our hearts faster, wanting to travel faster. Starting from engines boats, now we also have petrol fueled boats built. As of recently, there is no wall for the industry to build boats of various designs and shapes wanted. May it be for a ride across the lagoon or to a picnic island, to spend overnight and a fully live-in vessel, it is possible with the enhancement of technology across the world. No matter where in the world, development of new mechanisms or machinery does not go unnoticed by the people, we are all connected in the world through online platforms and more. When such products are introduced to the market, it is easy to decipher the materials used and the processes involved with building it. I can say this is vital with progressing in the industry through exchange of ideas and concepts.

Please share the status of Al Shaali Marine's position in the Maldivian marine industry?

Al Shaali Marine Maldives was founded in 2006. During the time of our establishment, there were countless builders in the Maldives. There was no special certification required to build boats in the Maldives. Due to not having identified these builders at the time, the Ministry of Transport also didn't have recorded information on them. There were at least 2 to 4 builders on each island, referred to as Maavadibe (builder) in Dhivehi. They mainly built small vessels such as fishing boats using Coconut Palm Tree wood (Ruh vakaru) and Cottonwood (Dhiggaa).

There was no specific vessel for transportation until very recently. Prior to the ferry service with speed boats, we had bigger engine boats also considered the cargo boats, enabling transport from atolls to Malé and vice versa. At the time, tourists were transferred to the resorts using boats made from wood (Baitheeli), as fiber boats had yet to be built in the early 2000s. Fiber boats were introduced to the Maldives starting 2004. Most of these boats were built abroad and delivered to the Maldives. As we started our business in 2006, Gulf Craft, Universal and a few were in the picture with boat yards built. With the establishment of boatyards in the Maldives and the emerging stakeholders had paved the way for a successful industry.

There's definitely an advantage for the first to establish and commence building boats despite the challenges as they get more exposure. After a while, fiber boats were being built across the Maldives, starting from smaller vessels to bigger ones. People don't know many skilled boat builders who have constructed these vessels. Anyone could build as there was no building code, and it was an easy process where no official registration in relation to identification and education was required.

Gulf craft was the first to build fiber speed boats in the Maldives. Al Shaali did not have a focused market or boats when we began our operations. Al Shaali designed and built boats for not a specific individual but in its own grounds, available for those interested. Marketing of the Al Shaali brand was not in the initial plans. That may be the reason for Al Shaali's impotency in building their name at the start. We had catered for what was on demand in the market here, customer requirements and what we could build with our capacity. Gulf Craft started with craft 36, we began with 34. By the time, we built 36, they had 38, again we built 39, then they came out with 40. In between, we also built excursion vessels, 55. We have expanded our business in the Maldives market with various models for different sectors. From 2014 onwards, we studied and identified relevant markets in our efforts to showcase our products. Since then, we have designed and introduced new vessels through boat shows from 2015, every year.

When did you initially join the Hospitality and Tourism industry and can you tell us about the journey of Al Shaali Marine; shipyard and the brand success story in the Maldives?

Right after secondary studies, I joined a corporate job at MWSC. Then I moved to MIFCO as a practicing marine engineer. They gave us practical tasks, for example, we cut pipes using hand saws and more of these works using hand-held tools. At the time, I had planned to go study in Sri Lanka. However, it got pushed back. I was unsure if I would be able to leave for studies. I decided I would apply somewhere rather than waiting for this uncertain chance. I got the job of an Assistant Account at Island Explorer. It was one of the biggest safaris to tour in the Maldives, operated by Universal. Despite having a specific position, you had to work in other areas, such as dealing with guests. Hotel staff numbers were limited onboard with a good number boat staff. Hotel staff are usually the ones in service of guests. Therefore, we were required to help them with activities onboard. I was able to complete my open water and advance diving during this time. Due to my active side onboard, the management realized that I had the potential and the ability to fulfill work requirements in such an environment. I was assigned a promotional role as well. Unfortunately, the boat was shut down as it had to undergo maintenance. This maintenance was not provided here in the Maldives, we have to move the vessel to a dock yard abroad, the Lanka dock. The staff were released from that point. I joined Velassaru or formally known as Lagoon, in-charge of the dock section. Working there, I noticed that Meeru had a job opportunity for a Transport Manager. I got the job and worked for a few years. They engaged in training and development for building staff. My father was a fisherman and a builder, he had all the tools to repair and build a boat. From an early age, I was familiar with these tools and basics of building, thanks to my father. I could identify any defects or problems in vessels and work with needed repair. I parted with the resort, not because I had a place to join in mind, but I wanted to dissociate from the resort life. I realized it was not for me. After a while in 2011, I got the chance to work with Al Shaali Marine as a Supervisor. In 2013, I was promoted to Service Delivery Manager, then to Operations Manager, ultimately to General Manager. Whether I was the Service Delivery Manager or the General Manager, overall, I managed the place. Though responsibility grew with the promotions.

Please share with us your views on the local marine safety standards surrounding the tourism industry.

There are safety standards implemented in the Maldives marine industry. However, people to follow them are scarce. Despite having standards, everyone wants an easy way to carry out the service. This is mainly due to the absence of a monitoring mechanism here in the Maldives. It can be that people and captains are not aware of these standards. This can be regulated with a monitoring team. For example, when we arrive at the airport harbor in Hulhulé, we see that resort teams guide and instruct guests on safety (wearing life jackets, etc.) before boarding in the absence of such people in the boat or they do it, ending with a "wish you a safe journey." In this case, we see very clearly that standards are upheld with monitoring. Apart from resort transport, we rarely see the set standards followed. Truthfully, the unfortunate situations happening with normal transport networks and even across other areas, people are not made aware of instructions to follow during a state of emergency. Even in a situation of engine malfunction, with no instructions given on such issues, people have no choice but to panic. The safety regulations and standards can only be followed by assembling a team to monitor the vessels.

National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM) conducted campaigns together with stakeholders and companies in the industry to spread awareness on the importance of wearing life jackets onboard. They have helped but sometimes, the means to follow it are lacking

due to the irresponsibility of vessels. The regulating bodies need to monitor the local transport services. We need to have a terminal established specially for passengers arriving and departing from vessels, so that there will be no vessel docked at the area for long. Sometimes, we see passengers having to walk over one or two vessels to reach land after arriving at the destination. These boats are docked in a small area where transportations services are being carried out, putting the passengers at risk. This can be difficult for those of older age and ones finding it difficult to walk due to medical issues. This should not be allowed. Passengers should be able to step out straight to the terminal or jetty here.

If there is no person to do the job currently, they should hire a person(s) to do the job. When commenced, this will be practiced and regulated under the set law and standards.

Tell us about your aspirations to design and build Express 55-foot catamarans?

This is one of the most reliable models built in the Maldives. It is designed based on the Maldives sea conditions in mind to overcome unforeseen issues. The stability and durability of the vessel comes hand in hand with the comfort of the vessel, all services superior in regards to normal vessels. This inboard catamaran is designed for passenger transport with the capacity to accommodate 50-60 passengers. The boat will be showcased at Maldives Marine Expo 2022. The boat is built based on the reviews from the market with an all-new interior design. The seating can be customized and adjusted for customer preference. It can have rows of individual seats or a more home-ly feeling with sofas in the fully closed-air-conditioned cabins.

Considering your growth in recent years, what do you need to match with the best-known boat building brands, who have been long established across the world?

I cannot give a precise growth rate for Al Shaali Marine, we can be considered one of the most renowned boat building companies in the marine industry, Maldives. We are always on the lookout for new changes, and we try to implement them in our productions. The company's biggest asset is our staff. We put our utmost effort to develop staff, ensuring that they love the work they do, providing them with the best working environment. We consider our customers as part of our family, no matter what level, dealing with them in a cooperative and friendly way. We try to identify required developmental means for our staff annually.

Working closely with customers, we try to overcome our challenges with coming new developments in the marine industry. There is no restriction to what we offer to customers as long as it's in line with what we build.

How are your sales in the resort market, and what are the key challenges and other potential markets you want to focus on?

There have not been major challenges with what we do unless it goes beyond our knowledge. We mostly secure clients by reaching out to them first from our side. There are challenges in communication with customers, in relation to exchanging information. We have not faced difficulties with building, as we have the capability to cater for customers needs, whether it be for passenger transport, leisure/luxury vessels (with support from Dubai) and excursion / diving purposes. These products are available under the same roof. We are a service center, we can repair and provide maintenance for any type of sea craft for the resort market and others with equipment and tools available to us. Any individual can approach us for these services. In the case that maintenance is required for a vessel in which we do not have proper equipment and parts for, if we are provided with it by the client, we can surely ensure our role in building the vessel.

We are not focusing on any specific market, we are working for the whole marine industry.



Do you have any plans to expand your facilities and existing services?

Our boatyard has recently undergone expansion. But in the future, we have plans to further expand more efficiently in regards to the existing conditions, and requirements. We had planned to develop a yard in a new area, but it has been halted due to unfavorable conditions. Expedition plans are also there. We want whatever vessels we are operating in the Maldives to be built here, not only with Al Shaali but with other builders in the industry as well. Another thing is training and development. We need capable, hardworking individuals, unhesitant to take on leadership roles.

If we have a vessel in Addu, there should be a means for its maintenance in that Atoll, rather than having to come to Malé for these services. To have such facilities available at your own convenience, closeby is a day that we look forward to.

What are the key sustainable development initiatives or CSR activities done by Al Shaali Marine in the Maldives?

We do not have listed our CSR programmes or we do not make public all our efforts in conducting such activities for the community. We have participated and aided in various causes for the government and the local community. We intend to provide support in the future as well for any circumstances that require our help.

Al Shaali Marine Maldives partnered with National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM) to initiate the 'Life Jacket, Wear it' campaign. Al Shaali looks forward to participating in more community engaging beneficial and development activities for the Maldives, as a whole, over the coming years.

What would be your key advice for the millennials who want to join the Seafarer's industry?

It is not easy to have our surrounding ocean as the work environment. Those who want to work in any field related to the marine industry should have the passion and love for the job. You shouldn't decide nonchalantly just to join, as you will have to bear a lot of responsibility in working onboard. Starting as a crew member, you can reach master level. And in engineering; from a mechanic to sprinter engineer. You can also be involved in building, design and manufacture in addition to operating vessels. As such, opportunities are countless in all these areas. Firstly, you need to have interest and determination to provide services for customers. A simple task such as helping a person on board is praiseworthy. You have to be ready to extend support to passengers in whatever difficulty -minor or major- they might have.



Relax & Rejuvenate

BEFORE YOUR FLIGHT



Leeli
LOUNGE



NEW OPENINGS

Renowned Brand Bulgari to Establish a Resort Property in the Maldives



Bulgari Hotels & Resorts has announced plans for Bulgari Resort Ranfushi, to open in 2025. The Resort will be the 13th gem in the collection.

Bulgari Resort Ranfushi will be set on Raa Atoll in the Maldives archipelago and comprise 20 hectares of pristine natural beauty.

As all Bulgari Hotels & Resorts properties, the

Italian architectural firm ACPV ARCHITECTS Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel will lead the design of the Resort, which will adhere to the strictest sustainability standards in every area.

Surrounded by crystal clear waters and lush gardens, it comprises 54 keys including an exclusive Bulgari Villa on its own island, 33 beach villas with individual swimming pools and 20 overwater villas.

The Resort will be home to four signature Bulgari culinary experiences: Il Ristorante - Niko Romito, the Chinese fine dining restaurant Bao Li Xuan, Japanese concept Hōseki and the relaxed La Spiaggia. It will also feature iconic Bulgari Hotels & Resorts destinations including The Bulgari Bar, The Bulgari Spa, Bulgari boutique and La Galleria.

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



mares | just add water

ARE YOU READY?
TURN UP THE POWER AND AWAY YOU GO.



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



SOUTH ASIAN TRAVEL AWARDS

2022

“

*Celebrating
the Best of South Asian Hospitality*



SOUTH ASIAN
TRAVEL AWARDS

✉ secretariat@satravelawards.com

🌐 www.southasiantravelawards.com

Unveiling of South Asian Travel Awards (SATA) 2022 Partners



Partners of the highly acclaimed South Asian Travel Awards (SATA) 2022 have been unveiled at a special ceremony held on July 21 at Maagiri Hotel, Malé, Maldives.

The Platinum Partner of SATA 2022 was revealed to be the leading boat manufacturer, Al Shaali Marine Maldives. The company is a joint venture between Al Shaali Marine Dubai and Coastline Investments Pvt Ltd, established in 2006. In the past couple of years Al Shaali Marine Maldives has built many fiberglass dhoni and speedboats, and have achieved targets against competitive boat builders in Maldives and continues to introduce new products to Maldives market.

Gold Partners included The Hawks Pvt Ltd and Velana International Airport (VIA). The Hawks is one of the leading importers and distributors of high-quality fuel products in the Maldives with more than 12 years of experience in the area of fuel supply. This will be the sixth consecutive year for The Hawks to have participated as a partner. As a consistent supporter of the event, VIA has also been present in the previous editions, extending its full support providing well-needed exposure.

Partners were signed by President of SATA, Mr. Ismail Hameed:

1. Platinum Partner – Al Shaali Marine Maldives
2. Gold Partner – Velana International Airport
3. Gold Partner – The Hawks Pvt Ltd
4. Destination Partner - Maldives, supported by Maldives Marketing & Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC)
5. Official Host – Adaaran Resorts
6. Digital Partner – Ooredoo Maldives
7. Insurance Partner – Allied Insurance Company of the Maldives
8. Beverage Partner – Coca Cola
9. Hospitality Partners: - Maagiri Hotel, Male', Maldives
10. Supporting Partners: - Business Center Corporation (BCC) - Print lab - Official Events
11. Media Partners:
Online Media: AVAS, Mihaaru, One Online, Dhauru and Adhadhu
Travel Media: The islandchief, Maldives Insider, Coral Glass and IMTM

Organizations and individuals from the Travel, Tourism and Hospitality industry from all over the South Asian region look forward to the South Asian

Travel Awards, where thousands of stakeholders attend the glamorous three-day retreat and learn who will receive the highest honors in the region. SATA is the only tourism and hospitality recognition brand in the region.

Over the years, it has been endorsed by over a dozen regional and international organizations for its accredited work to revive and uphold the tourism and hospitality in South Asia. Today, SATA sees top brands in the region compete for the prestigious award.

With participants from six destinations (India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives), SATA has grown immensely over the past years. In January 2022, SATA opened the nominations with over 52 categories for properties and brands to compete, in addition to Visitors Choice Awards and Special Recognition Awards. SATA 2022 Business Conversation night and Gala will be held on 29th and 30th of September at Adaaran Select HudhuranFushi.

EVENTS & AWARDS

Maldives Wins 'Best Island in Asia' Accolade at Travel + Leisure 2022 World's Best Awards

The Maldives has won the "Best Island in Asia" accolade at Travel + Leisure 2022 World's Best Awards. Maldives won the award at a ceremony held at Dante Seaport, New York City, USA, on 20th July 2022. The award was accepted on behalf of the Maldives by the Ambassador to the United States of America; Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Her Excellency Thilmeeza Hussein.

The Travel + Leisure Global Vision Awards aim to identify and honour companies, individuals, destinations, and organisations taking strides to develop more sustainable and responsible travel products, practices, and experiences.

Speaking about this tremendous win, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC / Visit Maldives), Thoyyib Mohamed said that it is always a proud moment for the whole destination to win such accolades in the international arena.

"Every award we win is an achievement for the whole nation, it is the result of the hard work, dedication and the commitment of the government, state agencies, tourism sector stakeholders, local and international partners, and tourism sector stakeholders. The work to promote the destination and to welcome many visitors to the country needs continuous and collective effort. We will always face



challenges, and as a destination, we will continue to find ways to stay ahead of our competition, ensuring all the while that we offer the best of the best to everyone who visits the Maldives."

So far this year the destination has won 4 notable awards, including Most Preferred Tourist Destination 2021 and Best Marketing Initiative of the year for the "Redefining MICE" campaign at Global MICE Congress

& Awards 2022, Best Stand Design and Decoration at OTM, Mumbai and Best Stand Feature at WTM Africa 2022. Furthermore, individual resorts and tourism properties have won several awards on different platforms throughout the year. The Maldives won over 18 awards and accolades in 2021, including the World's Leading Destination title at World Travel Awards, for the second consecutive year.

Maldives Advocates for Ocean Protection Action at the United Nations Oceans Conference



The Maldives cemented its role as a global leader in ocean protection and stewardship by sharing nationwide successes from the Noo Raajje program at the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. A delegation from the Maldives, led by Maldives Minister of Environment,

Climate Change, and Technology Aminath Shauna, attended the conference to encourage other leaders to take action for the ocean and reaffirm the nation's commitment to marine protection.

Minister Aminath Shauna emphasized

the Maldives' commitment to the ocean while addressing leaders from around the globe at the conference, "We support the global initiative to protect 30 percent of the world's oceans and are working to protect at least 20 percent of our economic zone. Yet, no matter how ambitious our actions are, we cannot do it alone. We need sustainable fisheries to be the norm, not the outlier. We need development that incorporates ocean protection and climate resilience."

The Minister also recognized that protection extends beyond just environmental conservation and acknowledged the Noo Raajje program's efforts to plan for the future of the ocean, "We hope to protect at least 20% and are developing a Marine Spatial Plan with scientific knowledge. Protection is not just about environmental protection, it is the way we shape our economic

future in a sustainable manner. It's how we create jobs and income for our people."

This reaffirms President Ibrahim Solih's commitment to protecting at least 20% of the ocean at the United Nations General Assembly in 2019. This declaration acted as the basis for the Noo Raajje program, a partnership between the Government of the Maldives and the Blue Prosperity Coalition to build a brighter future for all Maldivians through sustainable fisheries practices, Blue Economy development, marine spatial planning and ocean protection, to achieve sustainable ocean management.

Noo Raajje is a partnership between the Government of the Maldives and the Blue Prosperity Coalition to protect the ocean and its resources in order to build a bright future for communities, the economy, and the environment.

MATI Hosts 50 Years of Tourism Awards

The Maldives Association of Tourism Industry (MATI) held the "50 Years of Tourism Awards by MATI" ceremony this evening at Kurumba Maldives. This event is a highlight of the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of Tourism in Maldives planned by MATI.

The event intended to honor organizations and individuals that have exceptionally contributed to the Tourism Industry of Maldives over these past 50 years. The chief guest for this event was His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

A total of 57 awards were given which included 4 awards given to the Pioneers of Maldives tourism and 2 awards given to previous presidents in recognition of their contribution to the tourism industry of Maldives. The winners were selected by a committee of industry experts and veterans that comprehensively vetted and evaluated all nominations received.

The Chairman of MATI, Mr. Mohamed Umar Maniku initiated the awards ceremony by delivering the welcome address, followed by remarks by His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. The closing remarks were given by the Vice Chairman of MATI, Mr. Hussain Afeef. The event concluded with a networking event and dinner.

In light of this year being the Golden Jubilee of Tourism, MATI has organized different activities which includes The Chevening / Maldives Association of Tourism Industry (MATI) Scholarships partnership, release of 2 coffee table books titled - "Maldivian Resort Architecture - 50 years of island resorts" authored by Mr. Mauroof Jameel and "50 years of Tourism in Maldives - the Pioneers, People and Policies that shaped the Industry" authored by Dr. Simad Saeed and a partnership with Parley Maldives tackling plastic pollution and promoting environmental conservation.



🇲🇻 **قورمىج ٤٥. ر٤٥ر٥ر!**

🇺🇰 **Life Jacket. Wear it!**

🇫🇷 **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



Allied Insurance Company

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Ministry of Education



Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation



Ministry of Tourism



MNDF, Coast Guard



Marine Police Maldives 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

Masjid Rasheed Mosque Built by RCC Opens in Hulhumalé



The newly built Masjid Rasheed Mosque has been officially opened for the public. The opening

ceremony of Masjid Rasheed Mosque was held on July 2, 2022 in Hulhumalé at the Mosque site.

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih attended the event as the Chief Guest and officially inaugurated the establishment together with Vice President Faisal Naseem, Chairman of RCC Colonel (Rtd.) Mohamed Nazim, Minister of Islamic Affairs Dr Ahmed Zahir, Parliament members and government company officials.

Masjid Rasheed Mosque located in phase I of Hulhumalé, is built to a contemporary design, able to accommodate 1,200 people and includes a wing for women. The foundation of the Mosque was laid on June 16, 2020. Rasheed Carpentry and Construction Pvt Ltd (RCC) built the new mosque as part of its corporate social responsibility in memory of late Abdul Rasheed. "Building of a Mosque was a big wish of Late Abdul Rasheed," said Nazim. The mosque is powered by solar energy and it has the capacity to power nearby residences as well, informed Nazim.

At the ceremony, the Managing Director of RCC presented the President with a replica of the mosque. The event concluded with the President, accompanied by Vice President Faisal Naseem, and other attendees joining the Isha prayer congregation.

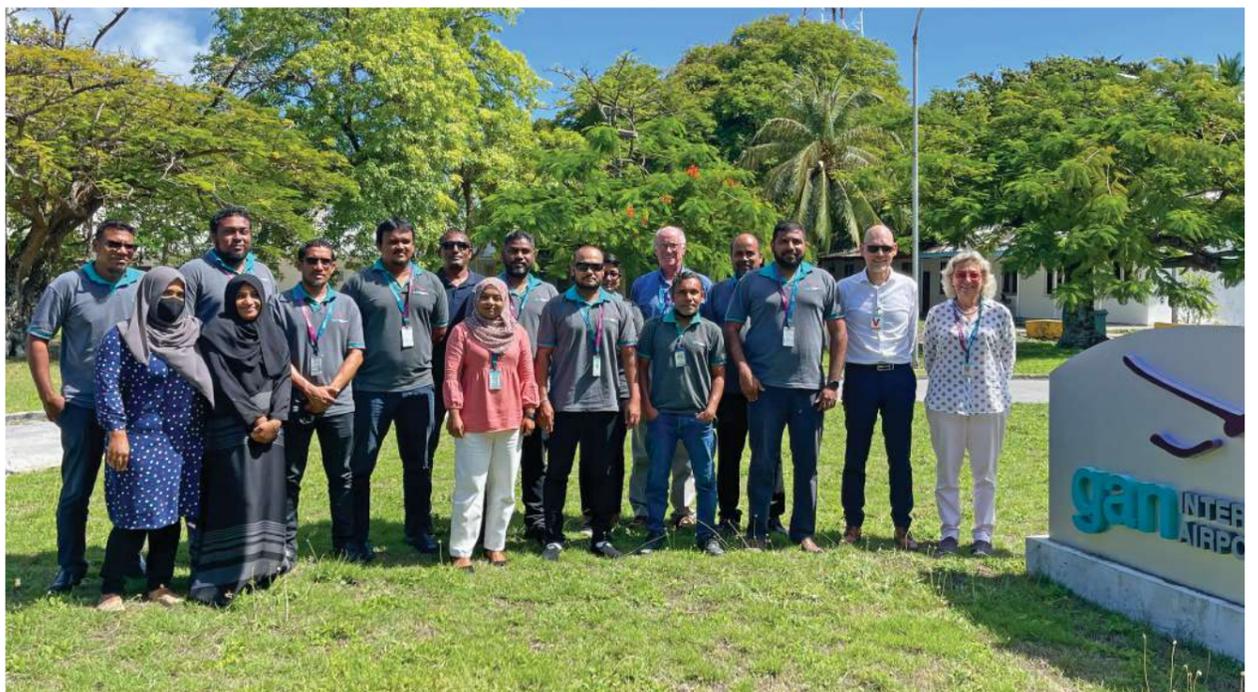
Situated on the road behind Amin Avenue, Al Masjid Rasheed is currently one of the biggest Mosques in Hulhumalé. RCC has also developed a parking zone near the Mosque for the convenience of those attending the prayer.

AIA Strengthens Partnership with Aviation Operation Company, Centrik

Addu International Airport Pvt Ltd (AIA) welcomed Andy Wilkinson, Head of Aerospace and Engineering, Centrik to GAN International Airport in July. Andy has been the point of contact between AIA and Centrik since the beginning of their partnership and visited Gan to congratulate AIA on becoming the first airport operator in the Maldives to fully implement the Centrik Operational Risk Management System.

Implemented with the assistance of Viscount Consulting over the last 2 years, Centrik has been monitoring the risk levels of AIA's total operation so that management can target those areas needing improvement. Now, with nearly 2 years of data stored, AIA can move from the traditional reactive (after the event) risk management to proactive trend monitoring and prior event mitigation.

AIA's full use of Centrik will give its management, staff, suppliers and customers confidence that the airport operates to international standards at the lowest level of risk possible to all involved. Part of TrustFlight, Centrik provides complete SMS and



operational management support to more than 80,000 global users in the aviation, UAS, military, maritime and sectors. Centrik removes costly, outdated paper-based processes and procedures, increasing efficiency, improving safety and ensuring complete compliance across some of the most highly regulated and safety critical industries in the world.

Thanking AIA for a wonderful day at GIA Andy said "it has been such a pleasure working with AIA and seeing Centrik become fully integrated in the Airport, helping them to achieve enhanced operational efficiency".

IN THE NEWS

Allied Insurance Staff Takes Part in Making the Picnic Island, Kuda Giri Greener

Allied Insurance of Maldives has carried out a Tree Planting Event at the newly developed picnic island, Kuda Giri. Over 60 employees participated in the event that was held under Allied's 'Green for Good' initiative.

The Allied company thanked the Government and Maldives Transport and Contracting Company Plc (MTCC) for allowing them to participate in making the island greener prior to its opening on Independence Day. Allied also expressed gratitude and appreciated the efforts of their employees in showing a good example for others by standing up to care for the environment through these initiatives.

Along with further such activities, Allied aims to extend support to the Maldivian community with responsible actions put together and promoted for the good of the environment and the people.

As a small nation located on the equator, Maldives faces various environmental issues and is most vulnerable in regards to the resulting impacts from



changes to the environment. Therefore, Allied always prioritizes conducting activities in the most eco-friendly way. In 2019, Allied introduced the

'Green for Good' pledges to promote and encourage use of less paper while utilizing digital platforms and more eco-items in the work environment.



Maldives Half Marathon Announced to be Held in September

Cash prizes will be given to top male and female winners of 3 races and 5 age group categories, which are school categories - under 15, 15 - 19 years, 20 - 29 years, 30 - 39 years & masters - Over 40.

"After Covid, we are happy to welcome back a mass event of this scale to Hulhumalé. We at HDC remain committed to supporting events that are focused on wellness and health. We eagerly await international athletes that will be participating in the Maldives Half Marathon," said Ahmed Athif, Deputy MD of HDC.

Move Maldives is bringing you a whole new international race with a brighter, sunnier and tropical climate than ever - Maldives Half Marathon to be held on 9-10 September 2022 in Hulhumalé, Maldives.

This race will bring together thousands of runners across the world in ten race categories. A half marathon, 15KM, 10KM and a 5K Fun Run. In addition to this there will be a children's festival around the beautifully planned city of Hulhumale. This race will bring you the first ever International 15KM run. The First Inline Skating Race and the first Wheelchair Race; making this event one of the

biggest sports tourism events in the Maldives.

Join the crowd!

10 Race Categories:

- Friday, 9th September 2022 4pm - 7pm- Half Marathon - 21.0975KM, Fifteen K & Tough Ten
- Saturday, 10th September 2022 4pm - 7pm - Inline Skating, WheelChair Race, 5K Fun Run, KidsMile 3.2KM, KidsMile 1.6KM & KidsMile 800m

Prize Money is a total of USD 10,000 for Half Marathon, Fifteen K and Tough Ten Races.

"We are so excited to launch our first major event, Maldives Half Marathon 2022. We are confident Hulhumalé, Maldives is ready to welcome thousands of runners who will be running for glory and euphoria. As we recover from the pandemic, we see a huge potential for international runners to travel to Maldives and run the race of their dreams! Come and join the crowd at Maldives Half Marathon on September 9th - 10th in Hulhumalé," said Hussain Shujau, Race Director of Maldives Half Marathon.

Registration will open on irunnersevents.com in late July.

BON APPÉTIT

Ube (Purple sweet potato) Cheesecake



This beautiful cheesecake is flavored with ube (a purple yam) cooked in water with Pandan leaves and dash of sugar. This luxurious cheesecake is on a bed of crunchy ginger cookie crust then topped with silky ube paste.

Executive Chef, Entrepreneur, Instructor, Freelance F&B Consultant and Pastry Designer, Seasonal Guest Chef, Worldchefs approved rookie Judge in Pastry. Secretary General of Chefs Guild of Maldives, with an upbeat and positive attitude, passionate about food since a very young age, updating, curating and elevating local cuisines and the love for offering quality products reflecting my most recent travels.

Maha is highly efficient and motivated with a sharp eye for attention to details. My aim is to offer a conceptualization development and exclusively designed program that meets the desires of the owners' goals, targets, values, revenue and costs.

INGREDIENTS:

Base

- 100g of butter
- 200g of Marie biscuits
- 2g fresh ginger
- 5g sugar

Cheesecake Mix

- 600g of Cream cheese
- 100g of icing sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 300ml of double cream

Ube Sauce

- 250g of milk
- 250g of double cream
- 150g of sugar
- 6 egg yolk
- 100g of homemade ube paste (skinned, cooked & strained ube, make a thick paste)
- 5g of powdered gelatine

METHOD:

Base & Cheesecake Mix

1. Begin by lining 6cm metal rings with sheets of acetate that are 6cm in height.
2. Blend all ingredients for the base together to create the base, then push the base into the bottom of each ring, approx 5mm high.
3. Place in the fridge to set.
4. In a bowl, beat together the soft cheese, icing sugar and vanilla essence.
5. In a separate bowl, whisk the double cream into soft peaks, then fold this through the soft cheese mixture.
6. Spoon this into each mold, leaving 2cm space at the top of the acetate for the ube sauce.
7. Place in the fridge to set for 2 hours.

Ube Sauce:

1. Mix the milk and cream to boil with 50g of the sugar.
2. Meanwhile, whisk the remaining sugar together with the yolks until thick and pale.
3. Once the milk mixture reaches the boil, remove from the heat and slowly whisk into the whisked yolks.
4. Transfer back to the pan and place over the heat, stirring until it reaches 70°C, then whisk in the ube paste and remove from the heat.
5. Measure out 200ml of the sauce into a bowl and reserve the rest in the fridge.
6. Whisk the powdered gelatine into the 200ml of sauce and leave to cool to room temperature.
7. Once at room temperature, pour the sauce onto each cheesecake to create a 5mm-thick topping.
8. Place in the fridge to set fully for at least 2 hours.
9. When ready to serve, carefully pour the remaining sauce into each mould until it reaches the top of the acetate.
10. Decorate with the white chocolate balls.
11. Very gently remove the metal rings, leaving the acetate in place.
12. Bring the cheesecakes to the table, then quickly peel off the acetate in front of your guests to create a 'tsunami' of sauce, which will pool around the base of the cheesecakes.



Courtesy
Maha Naseer
Creative Culinary Director at Oaga Art Resort



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

WHO has recently declared a global health emergency for Monkeypox as several cases have been identified from across the world in regions outside of West and Central Africa, where it had initially emerged from. In the face of Monkeypox outbreak in our top markets including India, how do you think this will affect the Maldives tourism industry and in tourist arrivals to the Maldives?



Abdulla Nasheed
President
National Hotels & Guesthouse Association of Maldives

From the news I have read, Monkeypox is transmitted via sexual contact. So far, no impact on tourism, this off-season is one of the best with more than 80% occupancy.



Rajeev Kohli
Joint Managing Director
Creative Travel, India

At this stage it is far too early to say. But my guess is, not much will change. After the past two years of extreme curtailment of movement, I doubt any nation is in the mood to go back to that. Monkeypox is a far less communicable disease and the cure seem to be there. I think countries may ask for travel history and do symptoms checks, but we will not go back to the extremes we have seen in the past two years. Maldives just needs to be watchful, not have a knee jerk reaction and ensure protocols are sensible. People coming from high-risk source regions of the virus can have an extra layer of certification or even testing. But not much more can be done.



Ibrahim Nizam
CEO
The Grand Holidays & The Grand Associates

Suppose the outbreak is severe and becomes a pandemic. In that case, the adverse effects on global travel and tourism industry will be too bad as it is on the verge of recovery from the recent set back. And the Maldives is no exception. Hence, we should have a primary screening of all passengers arriving from infected areas.



Abdul Latheef
President
SME & Entrepreneurs Federation of Maldives (SEFM)

Monkeypox occurred in colonies of monkeys, kept for research. African rodents and non-human primates (like monkeys) harbor the virus and infect people. And occurrence of cases with no direct travel to those infected areas is unusual. Flying to Maldives is safe as we do not have positive cases and Maldives have fish and don't have such rodents or wild animals. CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) also said in its guidance that there are no known cases of monkeypox in people seated around them on long international flights.

For prevention of Monkeypox, it is recommended not to touch or eat products that come from wild animals. It is also recommended to avoid intimate moments and body fluids with strangers and infected person. Maldives does not sell them hence that shouldn't be a reason for our arrivals to go down. Perhaps if global numbers keep increasing HPA should ask traveler to board with a Negative Monkeypox certificate to Maldives.



Ahmed Ibrahim
Executive Board Member
National Boating Association of Maldives

Maldives is not in the sex tourism industry, especially same sex... I do not foresee much impact that may change if nations panic again.

Veligaa Hardware Search for over 10,000 items and brands

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

Create Dishes

Worth Celebrating With Nestlé cream



Serving suggestion only

CREAMINESS FROM THE HEART

Nestlé cream is known as an all purpose cooking cream which is highly versatile. It is uniquely versatile which can add a milky, creamy, smooth texture to your dishes while being a product for multiple usage in the kitchen.