

# The islandchief

travel news

Edition : 109 | August 2025 | [www.islandchief.com](http://www.islandchief.com)

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# Shark Stories



Emirates Recognised as 2025's  
Most Recommended Global Brand  
by YouGov

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Dhawa Ihuru Celebrates 26 Years of the  
Iconic Rannamaari Shipwreck with a  
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with

## Ahmed Inah

Owner & Instructor,  
Pelagic Divers Fuvahmulah

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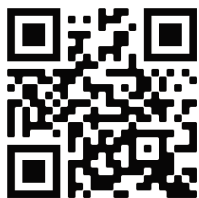
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Dear Readers,

As we welcome August 2025, the Maldives stands at a defining moment—where bold infrastructural vision meets transformative education, and where our enduring commitment to sustainable tourism takes center stage with renewed clarity and purpose. This month also brings with it International Scuba Day on August 6, a celebration that resonates deeply with our identity as a nation bound by the sea. From vibrant coral reefs to awe-inspiring pelagic encounters, the Maldives continues to be a sanctuary for divers and ocean lovers worldwide—a tribute to both nature's bounty and our responsibility to protect it.

The grand inauguration of the new passenger terminal at Velana International Airport—celebrated on the historic occasion of our nation's 60th Independence Day—is more than a milestone. It is a resounding symbol of our collective progress. Spearheaded by Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL), this world-class gateway not only reimagines the Maldivian travel experience, but also signals our readiness to meet the demands of a diversified and evolving tourism landscape. Designed with both innovation and cultural identity at its core, the terminal positions the Maldives as a global benchmark in hospitality infrastructure.

Equally inspiring is the continued work of the Universal Foundation, which once again reaffirms its vital role in shaping the future of our youth. This month, we proudly celebrate the graduation of the 6th cohort of the Discover Hospitality Programme and the pioneering 1st batch of the Culinary Arts Programme—two initiatives that have become beacons of opportunity and empowerment. These successes, achieved in partnership with Villa College and Universal Resorts, reflect a deeper national commitment to building a skilled, confident, and future-ready Maldivian workforce.

In our cover story, we spotlight an extraordinary figure from the southern shores of Fuvahmulah—Ahmed Inah, a passionate marine advocate whose journey from childhood fascination to global recognition has transformed the island into a premier destination for tiger shark encounters. With over 17 years of diving experience and as the visionary behind Pelagic Divers Fuvahmulah, Inah's work has not only changed the narrative around sharks but has also earned international acclaim with the recent filming of All the Sharks by Netflix. In this exclusive interview, he shares his insights, challenges, and vision for sustainable marine tourism in the Maldives.

This month's Bon Appétit feature brings a taste of culinary finesse through Chef Ahmed Samaan Abdulla (Chef Sam), who presents his signature dish: Chicken Roulade with Mashed Potato, Smoked Bell Pepper Sauce, and Sautéed Asparagus. With an educational foundation spanning Maldives National University and Taylor's University in Malaysia, and experience in acclaimed kitchens across the globe—including a Michelin-starred restaurant in France—Chef Sam now leads the culinary team at Kabowl, curating fresh, bold, and creative dishes that celebrate global flavours.

In our Frankly Speaking segment, we open the floor to industry stakeholders to examine the implications of the Maldives' newly introduced investor visa. Will it pave the way toward a more balanced economy—or invite risks through overreliance on high-net-worth investment and real estate? The responses are as thoughtful as they are timely.

This edition of The Islandchief is a celebration of progress—both structural and human. Within these pages lies the story of a nation rising with intention, inclusivity, and innovation at its heart.

We invite you to journey through this issue with pride, reflection, and a hopeful eye on the future.

Until next time,  
The Islandchief Team

**DID YOU  
KNOW**



## SHARK DIVERSITY IN MALDIVES

The Maldives is home to a rich variety of sharks, from common reef species like blacktip, whitetip, and grey reef sharks found in lagoons, coral reefs, and channels, to larger pelagics such as whale sharks in South Ari and Baa Atolls and scalloped hammerheads around Rasdhoo. Bottom-dwellers like nurse and zebra (leopard) sharks rest on sandy flats and in caves, while rarer species such as tiger sharks are most often seen in Fuvahmulah and occasionally North Malé Atoll. This diversity makes the Maldives one of the best destinations in the world for year-round shark encounters.



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# New Velana Airport Terminal Sets Stage for Tourism Growth and Diversification



The Maldives celebrated a historic milestone with the grand opening of the new passenger terminal at Velana International Airport (VIA) on July 26, 2025, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the nation’s independence. Developed by Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL), this state-of-the-art terminal represents a transformative leap forward in the country’s aviation and tourism

infrastructure. The opening ceremony, graced by H.E. President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu as Chief Guest, was attended by approximately 6,000 invitees. The celebrations featured the official inauguration of the terminal, a captivating drone and light show, and a grand fireworks display. To allow widespread public participation, eight

dedicated viewing platforms with live broadcasts, cultural performances, and food stalls were set up across Malé, Hulhumalé, Villimalé, and Addu Feydhoo.

Spanning 72,000 square meters and built to accommodate 7.5 million passengers annually, the terminal introduces world-class facilities designed to streamline travel and enhance the passenger experience. Highlights include 12 passenger boarding bridges, 47 traditional and 24 seaplane check-in counters, advanced baggage handling with real-time tracking, e-gate immigration systems, and seamless connectivity through 41 elevators, 14 escalators, and 4 travellers. The design incorporates locally inspired aesthetics, reflecting the natural beauty of the Maldives.

Visit Maldives Corporation applauds this landmark development, recognizing its critical role in strengthening the Maldives’ global

tourism appeal. CEO & MD of Visit Maldives Corporation, Mr. Ibrahim Shiuree, noted:“The opening of the new passenger terminal at Velana International Airport marks a pivotal moment for Maldivian tourism. This state-of-the-art facility significantly enhances the traveller experience and directly supports our strategic goals of diversifying tourism offerings and reaching new markets. It will undoubtedly elevate the Maldives’ position as a premier global destination.”

With its enhanced capacity and seamless services, the terminal is set to facilitate growth in emerging tourism segments such as multi-generational travel, MICE, adventure, and wellness experiences. Visit Maldives Corporation remains dedicated to collaborating with MACL and other industry stakeholders to strengthen partnerships and advance the Maldives’ position as a world-class destination.

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## ACROSS THE SKIES

# Emirates Recognised as 2025's Most Recommended Global Brand by YouGov

Emirates, the world's largest international airline, has topped the rankings as YouGov's Most Recommended Global Brand for 2025, a testament to the airline's longstanding 'Fly Better' promise. Emirates is the only airline to be featured on the global top 10 list.

The YouGov Most Recommended Brands rankings measure the percentage of a brand's customers who would recommend it to a friend or colleague. This year, Emirates achieved an outstanding score of 88.4%, with a significant lead on the next closest brand. Fuelled by insights from YouGov BrandIndex, Recommend scores are based on over a million customer surveys in 28 markets, tracking brand performance daily between June 1, 2024 and May 31, 2025. Positive Recommend scores for each top 10 global brand are aggregated and weighted by the size of the brand's current customer base per market.

Sir Tim Clark, President Emirates Airline, said, "This recognition underscores the deep connection and loyalty we've built with passengers all



over the world, who trust us not only to get them to their destination, but to do so with care, reliability, and excellence. We will continue to evolve our already exceptional experience and set new benchmarks in travel to ensure Emirates is always a brand that our customers are proud to recommend."

Emirates has always kept customers at

the heart of its operations, providing memorable journeys at every touchpoint, every time. Continually investing in the finest products and exceptional signature services, the airline provides a world-class travel experience in-air and on-ground.

In the first half of 2025, Emirates expanded its global network with route

launches to three new destinations, with Hangzhou to follow; inaugurated nine reimagined travel retail stores in Asia, Africa and Europe; introduced its newest aircraft type, the A350, to 10 destinations; and achieved its designation as the world's first Autism Certified Airline™, making significant headway on its journey to make travel accessible to all.

## Maldivian Launches Seasonal Flights to Shenzhen, Expanding Connectivity Between the Maldives and China



Maldivian, the national airline of the Maldives, is proud to announce the launch of its seasonal service connecting Shenzhen, China, and Malé via Bangkok. The inaugural flight, which arrived in the Maldives on 9 July 2025 with over 95% load factor was

warmly welcomed and marks a significant milestone in the airline's continued international expansion.

This new route reflects Maldivian's commitment to deepening its presence in the Chinese market and responding

to growing travel demand between the two countries. Operated by Maldivian's Airbus 320 aircraft, the route promises passengers a comfortable and enjoyable flight experience, with personalised service and onboard refreshments. The aircraft's efficiency and reliability make it ideally suited for the seasonal service, ensuring a comfortable journey for travellers.

Chief Commercial Officer of Maldivian, Ismail Amrah Umar stated, 'The launch of our new route represents a key milestone in expanding our footprint in China. It underscores our enduring commitment to the Chinese market and enhances connectivity for travellers from Shenzhen and surrounding regions. We are delighted to meet the rising demand for leisure travel and to welcome more visitors to our islands.'

The addition of Shenzhen complements

Maldivian's existing network in China, which includes non-stop weekly services to Beijing (PEK), Shanghai (PVG), and Chengdu (TFU) using the airline's Airbus 330-200 wide-body aircraft. These routes have become vital links for Chinese travellers seeking world-class resorts, pristine beaches, and a one-of-a-kind holiday experience in the Maldives.

The seasonal Shenzhen service is expected to strengthen tourism ties, increase visitor arrivals from southern China, and support national efforts to diversify and grow inbound markets.

As the Maldives continues to attract visitors from around the globe, Maldivian remains committed to expanding its international reach, delivering authentic Maldivian hospitality, and serving as a proud flag carrier of Maldives.





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## IN A NUTSHELL

## Marine Photo Exhibition at OBLU NATURE Helengeli By Sentido for Women's Dive Month



OBLU NATURE Helengeli by SENTIDO, in partnership with TGI Maldives and one of the world's longest-established diving websites, Divernet, has unveiled a captivating marine photo exhibition to mark Women's Dive Month in association with PADI.

The showcase features rare underwater images captured by renowned underwater photographer and writer Richard Aspinall during his recent visit to the resort.

Based in the Scottish Borders, Richard

Aspinall has spent many years working in wildlife conservation and heritage management. He holds academic training in ecology and conservation biology. From mesmerising moray eels and majestic whitetip reef sharks to the vibrant swirls of blue-line snappers and clown triggerfish, Richard's photographs offer a vivid window into the thriving coral ecosystems that surround Helengeli. The exhibition was inaugurated by seven international women journalists alongside TGI Maldives Operations Manager Greta

Marcelli, alongside General Manager Alain Trefois and the OBLU NATURE Helengeli by SENTIDO Operations Team.

"There's something magical about Helengeli. The reef feels alive with untold stories. Marine life is incredible, and the energy of this place is unlike anywhere else. This exhibition, crafted with care by our team, beautifully captures that spirit, combining ocean wonder with a sense of empowerment. We extend our heartfelt thanks to

Richard Aspinall and Divernet for their stunning imagery and collaboration in bringing this exhibition to life", shared Alain Trefois, General Manager at OBLU NATURE Helengeli by SENTIDO.

Last year, the resort made waves as the first-ever recipient of the PADI® Outstanding Contribution to Female Diving award. In July 2024, the team welcomed ten female journalists from around the world to discover scuba diving and explore the wonders of the Maldivian waters as part of the PADI Women's Dive Day 2024 celebrations.

Building on the momentum, OBLU NATURE Helengeli in partnership with TGI Maldives and ELE|NA Ayur spa, has launched International PADI Women's Dive Month 2025. In collaboration with TGI Maldives and ELE|NA Ayur spa, the resort offers thoughtfully designed experiences for women in July that combine scuba diving and wellness, fostering a sense of confidence, connection, and calm beneath and above the surface.

## Angsana Velavaru Commemorates Maldives Independence Day with Community- Driven Island Cleanup and Celebration

In honour of Maldives' 60th Independence Day, Angsana Velavaru celebrated the occasion on Saturday, July 26 with a day filled with national pride, community partnership, and a strong commitment to environmental conservation.

The celebration began with a flag-raising ceremony held on the resort grounds, attended by associates and leadership from various departments. With the Maldivian flag billowing proudly in the breeze, the ceremony served as a heartfelt tribute to the nation's journey toward sovereignty and progress. It was a moment to reflect on the country's achievement, unity, and resilience-values deeply rooted in both the nation and Angsana Velavaru's own guiding principles.

Following the ceremony, the Angsana Velavaru team travelled to Magoodhoo Island for a community island clean-up, reaffirming the resort's commitment to sustainability and meaningful engagement with its neighboring communities. A total of 55 individuals participated in the cleanup initiative,



including 18 resort associates- among them boat captains and crew members- and 37 local participants, such as the island's school principal, teachers, school staff, students and residents.

Working side by side, the group successfully collected and removed 173 kilograms of mixed waste, contributing to the preservation of the island's natural beauty while fostering environmental awareness and social responsibility among both old and young.

"This Independence Day, we wanted to go

beyond celebration and take action that reflects our values," said Ahmed Zahir, General Manager of Angsana Velavaru. "By working hand in hand with the people of Magoodhoo, we not only honoured our nation but also strengthened our shared commitment to protecting the Maldives' fragile ecosystems."

To cap off the day, resort associates came together at Midhili Restaurant for a special staff gathering, where they shared a joyful moment of camaraderie, traditional food, and celebration. The event served as a well-deserved pause

to reflect on the day's efforts and to enjoy the warm spirit of togetherness that defines both the holiday and the Angsana Velavaru family.

This event is part of Angsana Velavaru's ongoing mission to lead with purpose – blending responsible tourism, community collaboration, and cultural respect. As the resort continues to grow its presence in the Maldives, it remains dedicated to nurturing lasting bonds with local communities and championing environmental stewardship at every level.





IN A NUTSHELL

# The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands Introduces Blue Boost and Blue Rate Rituals to Its ‘Deep Blue Prescription’ in 2025



The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands, embraced by the tranquil Indian Ocean, enhances its popular Blue Prescription wellness journey launched in 2024, offering guests a deeper connection to nature’s healing power. The updated program encourages stress reduction, improved focus, and creative clarity by tapping into the calming effects of the ocean—what scientists call the “blue mind” state. As part of the new Blue Rate, guests experience expert-led sessions, therapeutic rituals, and



immersive nature encounters celebrating water’s scientifically proven benefits for mental and emotional wellbeing.

The experience begins with a naturalist-led welcome, followed by villa-side guided meditation and floating breakfasts. Guests enjoy floating sound baths, barefoot Sarga Bodywork massages by the water, and guided snorkelling adventures to meet eagle rays and hawksbill turtles.

The spa highlight, B Balanced by Bamford, takes place in the lagoon-top spa, combining breathwork, bamboo tapping, and gua sha in a 90-minute treatment aimed at restoring physical and emotional harmony. Ocean yacht excursions provide dolphin encounters, while the resort’s sunset ritual—The Defining Moment—features Boduberu drumming and the Sangu shell to honour nature’s rhythms.

The Deep Blue Boost introduces

visiting experts through the Masters of Crafts and Visiting Heroes series. From 19–22 September, guests can engage in snorkelling and conservation with National Geographic Explorer and Kenyan shark scientist Gibbs Kuguru, alongside workshops led by Bamford’s CJ Jones-Leake and breathwork coach Anthony Mullally focusing on stress, recovery, and mindful movement.

Even indirect exposure to water—listening to waves or visualising the sea—can activate neural pathways associated with calm. As a daily reminder, guests receive ocean-inspired artwork by local artist Shimha Shakeeb and a blue bangle made from ghost nets, part of the resort’s marine conservation efforts.

For a shorter wellness escape, the Blue Rate Blue Rituals offers a simplified daily package, including Ocean Pool Villa accommodation, a welcome session, floating breakfast, and in-villa meditation.

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## MOVERS &amp; SHAKERS

# Rewriting the Luxury Playbook: Edyta Peszko Joins SIX & SIX PRIVATE ISLANDS as Commercial Director

As the Maldives prepares for another wave of luxury resort openings, SIX & SIX PRIVATE ISLANDS is choosing a different path — building not just resorts, but a bold new reality of what luxury means. Ahead of the December 2025 launch of its first property, RAH GILI MALDIVES, the brand has appointed Edyta Peszko as Commercial Director, reinforcing its vision to redefine luxury through emotional relevance, design-led storytelling, and individuality.

In a market that now competes on meaning rather than beauty alone, SIX & SIX introduces a philosophy of six private islands, each with its own identity and guest experience. Edyta's appointment signals a move beyond traditional sales roles — she brings over 20 years of luxury travel and commercial leadership experience across Asia, Europe, and the Indian Ocean, and will shape everything from

partnerships and pricing to brand narrative.

"This isn't about louder marketing," says Edyta. "It's about deep guest understanding and crafting meaningful, emotionally aligned experiences." Her strategy challenges the status quo: designing products around authentic emotional connections, not just sellable features.

RAH GILI will offer a vibrant, lifestyle-forward experience, followed in 2026 by DHON MAAGA MALDIVES, a tranquil, wellness-centric escape. Each reflects the brand's commitment to creating distinct, island-specific offerings for a generation fluent in experience over expectation.

Edyta also emphasizes building long-term trade relationships based on trust, transparency, and differentiation. "We're not seeking fleeting visibility, but



meaningful alignment with partners who share our values."

Marc Gussing, Director of Operations, adds, "Edyta brings the discipline and vision to make our philosophy commercially sustainable, without

compromising its uniqueness."

With RAH GILI opening in December 2025, SIX & SIX is not just launching a resort — it's redefining how luxury is experienced, felt, and remembered.

## Emirates Appoints Jaber Mohamed as the Country Manager for Maldives



Emirates has announced the appointment of Jaber Mohamed as the airline's Country Manager for Sri Lanka and Maldives, effective August 1, 2025.

In his new post, Jaber will be responsible for supporting Emirates' commercial objectives, overseeing the airline's operations across the two island nations as well as maintaining

crucial relations with various stakeholders.

Jaber is currently the Emirates Country Manager Bangladesh. His new appointment is among several strategic commercial team appointments designed to bolster the airline's presence in key markets across West Asia, the Indian Ocean and Africa.

These appointments aim to further build the airline's commercial and operational footprint in these regions while creating meaningful development opportunities for emerging UAE national talent to grow their expertise.

Among other UAE National commercial leaders that will take on new roles for Emirates from 1 August are Talal Al Gergawi, currently Country Manager Zimbabwe, who will become Country Manager Bangladesh; Salem Almana, currently Regional Manager Pakistan, who will become Country Manager Ghana; and Omar Bushlaibi, currently Country Manager Zambia, who will assume interim responsibility for Zimbabwe, alongside his ongoing duties in Zambia.

The latest rotations are part of Emirates' commercial outstation managers programme, designed to offer UAE Nationals unique opportunities to diversify their leadership skills and deepen their

knowledge of local markets within the airline's network. The programme also helps Emirati managers further expand their networks by engaging with local industry and government stakeholders, fostering new partnerships and strengthening existing relationships.

Emirates has been serving the Maldives for 38 years, and the airline currently serves the island-nation with 28 weekly flights with Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, including the retrofitted Boeing 777 aircraft that feature Premium Economy cabins.

Through its scheduled services, Emirates plays a vital role in supporting the country's tourism industry and trade. The airline continues to be the top carrier in the Maldives, connecting tourists to the island-nation from key markets including the UAE, UK, US, Russia, and Germany. In 2022, Emirates was awarded the 'President's Tourism Gold Award' for "Outstanding Contributions to the Development of Tourism in the Maldives".



# Sun Siyam Iru Fushi Welcomes Industry Talent Annie Lama as Sales & Marketing Manager



Sun Siyam Iru Fushi announces the appointment of Annie Lama as Sales

and Marketing Manager, bringing extensive experience in luxury

hospitality, strategic sales, and international marketing to the award-winning Maldivian resort.

An alumna of Manipal University, India, Annie commenced her career with Marriott International Inc. in Pune, where she distinguished herself through exceptional guest service and dedication to excellence. Over the years, she has established a strong reputation for driving business growth, fostering meaningful trade partnerships, and executing effective strategies in dynamic and evolving markets.

Before joining Iru Fushi, Annie served as the Assistant Sales & Marketing Manager at LUX\* South Ari Atoll, where she enhanced the resort's brand visibility and sales. She managed groups, weddings, and incentive travel, oversaw event planning, and built strong relationships with key travel agents and destination management

companies.

"Annie's appointment marks a strong step forward as we continue to expand our brand presence across key global markets," says Pasan Wijewardana, Cluster Director of Sales and Marketing at Sun Siyam Iru Fushi and Pasikudah. "Annie is detail-oriented and focused on enhancing guest experiences— exactly what we need as Iru Fushi transitions into the luxury segment. Her experience, client-first mindset, and passion for Maldivian hospitality make her an invaluable asset to our growing team."

In her new role, Annie will lead leisure and group sales strategies, manage trade relationships, and support creative marketing initiatives that showcase Sun Siyam Iru Fushi's diverse offerings— from its award-winning spa and marine life experiences to its curated dining, wellness programs, and family-friendly adventures.



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# Shark Stories

with

## Ahmed Inah

Owner & Instructor,  
Pelagic Divers Fuvahmulah

**Let's start at the beginning. How did your fascination with sharks develop, especially given that they're often perceived as dangerous by the general public?**

I grew up in Fuvahmulah, and sharks were simply a natural part of my everyday life. Seeing them underwater was something I always found exciting rather than scary. As a child, I never saw sharks as these terrifying predators that so many movies portray them to be. Instead, I saw them as majestic creatures that belong here as much as we do. However, it was only when I became an adult that I truly understood just how misunderstood sharks are in the wider world. Learning about their crucial role in the marine ecosystem and the immense threats they face from human activities made me even more fascinated by them. Discovering that many shark species could go extinct within the next 50 years shocked me deeply. That became a turning point—it ignited a mission within me to help people understand these beautiful animals better and to challenge the negative perceptions surrounding them. I realised that if more people understood sharks the way I do, they would also fight to protect them.

**Fuvahmulah is now recognized globally as a top destination for tiger shark encounters. Many credit you with playing a significant role in promoting this reputation. How do you see your contribution in shaping Fuvahmulah's image as a premier shark diving location?**

*From growing up in the turquoise waters of Fuvahmulah surrounded by sharks, to leading one of the most recognized tiger shark diving operations in the world, Ahmed Inah's journey has been driven by a lifelong passion and unwavering mission to protect these misunderstood apex predators. As an instructor with over 17 years of diving experience and the force behind Pelagic Divers Fuvahmulah's rise to global fame, Inah has dedicated his career to transforming public perceptions of sharks, showcasing their importance in the marine ecosystem, and putting his island on the international diving map. His efforts have recently culminated in bringing Netflix's All the Sharks premiere episode to Fuvahmulah, further cementing its reputation as the world's top destination for tiger shark encounters. In this exclusive interview, Inah shares his insights on sharks, the challenges of hosting a global production in a remote island, and his vision for the future of sustainable tourism in Fuvahmulah.*

To be honest, I feel that my team and I have achieved something truly remarkable over the past five years. Through strategic use of social media and continuous content creation, we managed to put Fuvahmulah on the global diving map. When we started, very few people even knew about the island, let alone its tiger sharks. Today, divers from around the world come here specifically to dive with them. Most tourists say they learned about Fuvahmulah through the videos, photos, and stories we shared. It's a testament to our dedication and passion. One of the biggest milestones was when we helped bring a major Netflix show here. The premiere episode of All the Sharks was filmed entirely in Fuvahmulah, showcasing the beauty and thrill of diving with tiger sharks. Now, we confidently say that Fuvahmulah is the world's number one destination for tiger shark diving—and it makes me extremely proud to have contributed to that

transformation.

**Featuring Fuvahmulah's Shark Point in Netflix's "All the Sharks" is a milestone. How did this opportunity come about, and what was your involvement in making it happen?**

This opportunity was the result of years of relationship building within the diving and media industries. Over time, I developed strong friendships with people who work in international productions. From the very first conversation about All the Sharks, it was my goal to bring the premiere episode to Fuvahmulah. I knew it would have a huge impact not only on our island but on the Maldives as a whole. I worked closely with the producers from the earliest conceptual stages, ensuring that Fuvahmulah was included and that the uniqueness of our diving experiences was properly showcased. Being



involved throughout the process—from planning to execution—allowed me to ensure the story remained authentic to what Fuvahmulah truly offers.

**With over 17 years in the diving industry, what does this kind of global recognition mean to you both personally and professionally?**

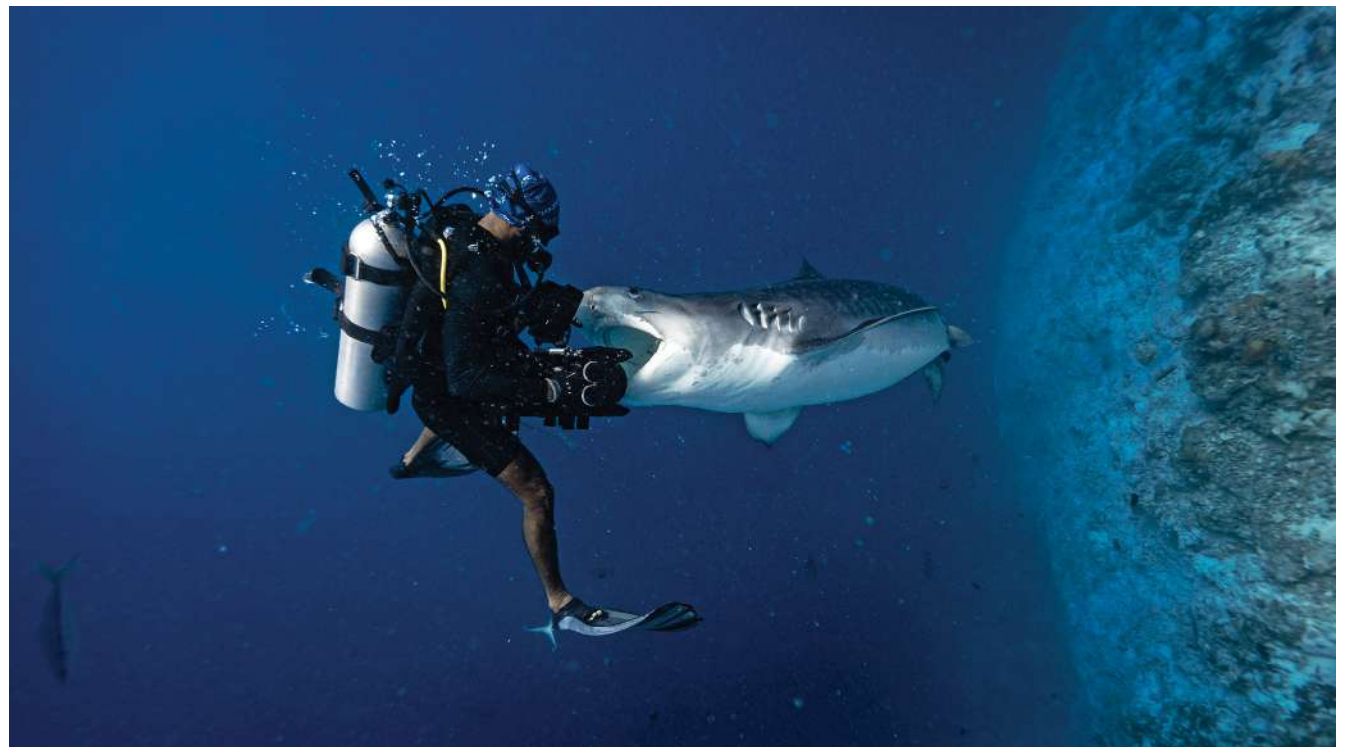
On a personal level, it is incredibly fulfilling to see our hard work being recognized on such a global platform. Professionally, it reinforces my belief that with commitment, vision, and teamwork, we do not need to wait for external help or rely solely on government initiatives to achieve big things. This project has proven that we can successfully bring and execute major international productions ourselves. Knowing that our efforts have put Fuvahmulah and the Maldives in front of millions of viewers worldwide is deeply rewarding. It's not just about personal pride—it's about the wider benefits to the community, the local economy, and future generations who will inherit these oceans. That thought makes me truly happy.

**Filming with a major platform like Netflix must have brought unique challenges. What were some of the biggest hurdles you faced during production at Shark Point?**

From a diving operations perspective, we faced no real challenges because our team is one of the most experienced shark diving teams globally, and everyone is proudly Maldivian. The real hurdles came in terms of logistics. Managing the transportation of four tons of equipment to such a remote island was a massive task. On top of that, coordinating over seventy crew members felt like running a reality show behind the scenes! Ensuring that every piece of equipment, every essential item, was available exactly when needed required meticulous planning. There were times when we realized a crucial item was missing, and we had to immediately send someone to Malé to buy it and return on the same day. Keeping everything running smoothly in such circumstances was probably the toughest part of the production.

**Looking ahead, how do you think this kind of international exposure will influence marine tourism and the local economy in Fuvahmulah?**

The potential impact is enormous. The challenge now is how we, as a community and as an industry, leverage this exposure. It is crucial that we use this opportunity to grow marine tourism in a way that is sustainable and beneficial for everyone. If managed



properly, it can create jobs, drive economic growth, and bring development to the island while ensuring the environment remains protected. But if we fail to manage it well, it could result in overcrowding, environmental degradation, and even harm to the sharks themselves. It's a fine balance, and we must make decisions with a long-term vision.

**Tiger sharks often suffer from a negative image. In your opinion, how has the documentary helped change perceptions about these misunderstood creatures?**

I believe the documentary has at least sparked meaningful conversations about sharks. It showcased their grace, their personalities, and their role in the ecosystem rather than portraying them as mindless killers. Now, more people are fascinated by tiger sharks, which is a great starting point. My hope is that this fascination will lead to deeper understanding and respect. Tiger sharks are apex predators and play a vital role in maintaining the balance of marine life. Without them, the entire ecosystem risks collapsing. If this documentary helps even a small number of viewers see sharks in a new light and advocate for their protection, then it has achieved something incredibly valuable.

**With the likely increase in diver interest, how is Fuvahmulah preparing to balance tourism growth with environmental preservation? Is there a sustainable management plan in place to prevent overcrowding and ensure quality dive experiences?**

Yes, after four years of dedicated work and consultations with all stakeholders, a comprehensive sustainable tourism management plan has been developed for Fuvahmulah. It was a collaborative effort to create guidelines that ensure tourism growth does not compromise the environment or quality of experience. However, at the moment, the plan is sitting on the desk of the City Council's head of tourism, waiting for implementation. It has been months since its finalization, and I'm not sure why it's taking so long. It is essential that we implement it without further delay to prevent potential problems that could arise from unregulated growth.

**Could you share a memorable behind-the-scenes moment or story from when the Netflix team was filming at Shark Point?**

There was this funny moment during filming when I was in the water with the production teams. The rules were strict—we were not allowed to show them where the sharks were; they had to find and film them naturally. At

one point, two beautiful thresher sharks swam right below one of the female contestants. In their internal filming challenge system, threshers were worth 40 points each. However, the girls were so focused on photographing a whitetip shark, which was worth only a few points, that they didn't even notice the threshers right beneath them! Moments like that reminded me of how humbling and unpredictable nature can be, even for the best teams.

**How has the local community responded to seeing their home island featured on such a prominent global platform?**

The response has been overwhelmingly positive. I have received hundreds of calls and messages from people expressing their gratitude and pride. For many, seeing Fuvahmulah showcased to the world in such a powerful and beautiful way is deeply meaningful. It strengthens our community identity and gives everyone a sense of ownership and responsibility towards protecting what makes our island special.

**Following this exposure, are there any upcoming initiatives to further promote Fuvahmulah's unique diving experiences on the international stage? Given the absence of resorts and limited non-diving tourism infrastructure, how do you envision responsible tourism growth for the island?**

Yes, I'm currently working on a project that, if successful, will bring the Maldives its biggest exposure yet. Unfortunately, I can't reveal details right now, but what I can say is that this time, I will also be in front of the camera. Regarding responsible tourism growth, it is vital that we implement proper regulations and a strict code of conduct to protect both the environment and the local community. One issue we're facing is the increasing dominance of foreign-owned businesses in Fuvahmulah's tourism sector. These businesses are often driven purely by profit, without a long-term commitment to the wellbeing of the island or its people. I believe we need to limit this trend and encourage more local ownership and involvement. Only then can we ensure that tourism development benefits the community in a sustainable way while preserving our culture and environment.

**Lastly, what would you like to say to divers around the world who are now inspired to visit Fuvahmulah after watching All the Sharks?**

To all the divers and ocean lovers out there, I would say—come visit us and meet our sharks. Each one has a name and a unique personality, and I guarantee you will fall in love with them just like we have. They will teach you that the ocean is not just a place to explore, but a home full of life, stories, and silent wisdom waiting to be understood.



## NEW OPENING

# A New Ultra Luxury Private Island in the Maldives is Revealed



Designed to reimagine luxury travel in the Maldives, .Here—a new ultra-bespoke private island experience—will begin welcoming guests in December 2025. Set across two natural islands, Somewhere and Nowhere, .Here offers intuitive service, transformative experiences, and total seclusion for today's discerning traveller.

Located in a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

known for world-class snorkeling and diving, the two islands will feature nine residences and a dedicated bar and restaurant serving inventive global fusion cuisine.

Guests at .Here will also have access to the amenities of nearby Finolhu Baa Atoll, allowing a balance of peaceful privacy and vibrant exploration.

Designed by KulörGroup, the architecture celebrates the islands' narrow natural footprint and offers both sunrise and sunset views from each residence—blending lush jungle with the Maldives' signature turquoise waters. This concept of duality defines the brand's unique appeal.

## Somewhere

The island's expansive residences stretch from land to sea, combining beach and overwater villa styles. Each features 47-metre sky infinity pools with waterfalls. Five villas have three en-suite bedrooms (sleeping up to 8), plus a kitchen, bar, indoor-outdoor living, and over 1,200 sqm of space. Two larger four-bedroom villas (up to 11 guests) offer 1,400 sqm and access to a water sports centre, Roohu butler service, 24-hour dining, and luxury amenities.

## Nowhere

Designed as an exclusive-use island, Nowhere features two residences: a 1,000 sqm overwater villa with three bedrooms and a 15-metre pool, and a 2,400 sqm Presidential Villa with five bedrooms, a 28-metre pool, and private beach—accommodating up to 24 adults. Nowhere is also home to Fehi Spa and the resort's fitness centre.

## Fehi Wellness

Located on Nowhere, Fehi (meaning "green" in Dhivehi) offers treatments in a couples' suite and yoga chamber. Guests on Somewhere can enjoy spa services in their own villa. Blending traditional therapies with modern techniques, Fehi treatments include salt stone and jade massage and aquatic reflexology.

## Roohu

Each residence is served by a personal Roohu (meaning "soul" in Dhivehi)—a discreet and intuitive butler offering fully customised, one-of-a-kind experiences.

## Epicurean Journeys

Safar, the island's restaurant and bar, offers all-day bespoke dining. Guests may enjoy gourmet meals in their villas, overwater dining, beach picnics, or BBQs—all curated by on-site chefs.

## Design

Led by Muza Lab's Inge Moore and Nathan Hutchins, the interiors draw from local culture and nature, using carved timber, stone, and marble to evoke Dhonis and Feyli sarongs. .Here is accessible via a scenic 30-minute seaplane journey from Velana International Airport in Malé.

# Bringing Innovation and Luxury to the Maldives

Experience Dining / Sea World Like Never Before with Colombo Dockyard built Underwater Structures



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NEW OPENING

# Dusit Launches dusitD2 Feydhoo Maldives: Lively New All-Inclusive Resort Near Malé

Dusit Hotels and Resorts, a division of Dusit International, will launch dusitD2 Feydhoo Maldives—its first all-inclusive lifestyle resort and second property in the country—on 27 July 2025. Just seven minutes by speedboat from Velana International Airport, the new resort blends bold design with curated experiences for modern travellers seeking freedom, connection, and discovery.

Surrounded by a vibrant lagoon and coral reefs, the resort offers exceptional diving and marine adventures. Its 127 villas, ranging from beachfront to overwater sanctuaries, come with indoor-outdoor living spaces, private decks, and plunge pools in most categories.

dusitD2 Feydhoo introduces a fresh take on all-inclusive with five à la carte dining venues, unlimited premium beverages, daily entertainment, and



resort credits for personalised indulgence. Guests can enjoy spa treatments, rooftop cocktails, beach yoga, live DJs, floating breakfasts, beach cinema, and more.

With a conference facility for up to 240 guests, it also caters to corporate retreats and incentive travel. “Our new resort brings vibrant energy to the Maldives while staying true to



Dusit’s Thai-inspired hospitality,” said Gilles Cretallaz, COO of Dusit International.

To mark the soft opening, the resort is offering a launch package including complimentary transfers, villa upgrades, floating breakfast, 24-hour check-in/out, and member discounts via Dusit Gold.

Led by General Manager Yogeswaran Veerasamy, the resort’s grand opening is scheduled for Q4 2025.



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EVENTS & AWARDS

# Dhawa Ihuru Celebrates 26 Years of the Iconic Rannamaari Shipwreck with a Vibrant Dive Fest



On July 24, Dhawa Ihuru hosted the **Rannamaari Dive Fest 2025**, commemorating **26 years** since the famed Rannamaari Shipwreck became part of the island’s iconic house reef. The vibrant, full-day event brought together ocean lovers, families, and cultural explorers for a celebration of marine life, conservation, and Maldivian heritage.

Just 25 minutes by speedboat from Velana International Airport, Dhawa Ihuru—recently recognised by the Travel + Leisure Asia Luxury Awards 2025 for having one of the Best House Reefs in the Maldives—offered guests an immersive underwater experience led by PADI-certified dive instructors. Participants explored the legendary

wreck, now a thriving artificial reef home to coral, batfish, nurse sharks, and more.

- A Day of Discovery and Connection**  
Beyond the dives, the fest featured a rich lineup of activities:
- Marine conservation talks
  - Save the Reef educational snorkelling
  - Wellness, cultural, and culinary workshops
  - Kids’ activities
  - A lively sunset cocktail party

General Manager Elias Pertoft remarked: “Rannamaari Dive Fest is a celebration of transformation and conservation. We’ve shared this wreck’s story with divers for over two decades, and this year was no different—uniting new and returning guests in our ongoing reef journey.”

- Championing Reef Restoration**  
A pioneer in sustainability, Dhawa Ihuru showcased its long-standing coral restoration efforts, including:
- The Barnacle (1996), The Necklace (1998), and The Lotus (2001) electric reef projects
  - Expansion into micro-fragmentation, mid-water nurseries, and coral rope nurseries.

Snorkelling tours led by marine biologists from the Banyan Tree Marine Lab gave guests insight into these initiatives and close encounters with reef life like turtles, rays, and reef sharks.

**Festival-Only Dive Offers**  
From 24–31 July, exclusive Dive Fest offers included:

- Up to 30% off select dive and water sports experiences
- Discover Scuba Diving sessions for beginners
- 5 and 10 dive packages for certified divers, featuring guided wreck dives

With flexible year-round packages like Dive More, Pay Less, Dhawa Ihuru continues to welcome ocean explorers of all levels to connect with its rich marine ecosystem.

Rannamaari Dive Fest 2025 highlighted the beauty and importance of reef conservation, offering a memorable blend of education, adventure, and celebration. As the legacy of Rannamaari continues, Dhawa Ihuru remains committed to inspiring meaningful guest experiences—beneath the surface and beyond.

# Bandos Maldives Wins Indian Ocean's Best Dive Resort in World Travel Awards 2025

Bandos Maldives announces that it has once again been crowned Indian Ocean’s Best Dive Resort at the World Travel Awards 2025. This consecutive win highlights the resort’s continued excellence in delivering world-class diving experiences and its enduring legacy as a leading dive destination in the Maldives.

At the heart of this achievement is Dive Bandos, one of the Maldives’ most established and respected diving centers. With a legacy spanning decades, Dive Bandos offers expertly guided underwater adventures led by a seasoned team of dive professionals. Their commitment to safety, education, and marine preservation ensures each dive is not only

breathhtaking, but deeply meaningful. Bandos Maldives provides easy access to over 40 renowned dive sites, offering guests unrivaled opportunities to explore the Indian Ocean’s vibrant coral reefs, dramatic drop-offs, and rich marine biodiversity. Whether a beginner or an expert diver, guests are guided by multilingual instructors who prioritize both safety and unforgettable encounters beneath the waves.

Ismail Rasheed, General Manager of Bandos Maldives, shared: “This award means a great deal to us—not just as a recognition, but as a reminder of why we do what we do. Our mission has always been to deliver meaningful, safe, and unforgettable dive experiences. I’m



incredibly proud of our dive team and the entire Bandos family for their unwavering commitment to excellence.

We are grateful to our guests and industry partners for their continued trust and support.”



EVENTS & AWARDS

# 9th Edition of SATA to Be Held in Colombo this September 2025



The South Asian Travel Awards (SATA), the region’s most esteemed platform recognizing excellence in travel, tourism, and hospitality, proudly announces its 2025 edition to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The grand event will take place on 19th and 20th September 2025 at the iconic Cinnamon Grand Colombo, serving as the Official Host Venue.

With participation from leading stakeholders across India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh, SATA 2025 is going to be a landmark gathering that further strengthens regional collaboration and honors the industry’s top performers.

The success of SATA 2025 is made possible through the invaluable support of its distinguished partners. Honda Marine joins as the Platinum Partner, while The Hawks Pvt Ltd, Velana International Airport (VIA), and Allied Insurance Company of the Maldives serve as Gold Partners. Bizspoke and Renaatus joins as a Silver Partners. The event’s Official Host Venue is the prestigious Cinnamon Grand Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Regional hospitality is elevated by a network of Hospitality Partners including Mandarin Colombo (Sri Lanka), Sheraton Grand Bangalore at Brigade Gateway and Andaz Delhi (India), Hulhule Island Hotel (Maldives), Holiday Inn Express

Kathmandu Naxal (Nepal), Zhiwaling Heritage in Paro (Bhutan), and Holiday Inn Dhaka City Centre (Bangladesh).

SATA 2025 is proudly endorsed by key tourism bodies and associations across South Asia, including Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA), Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB), Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), Visit Maldives Corporation, and major national travel associations such as TAAI – Travel Agents Association of India, IATO (Indian Association of Tour Operators), MATATO (Maldives Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators), CATO (Confederation of Accredited Tour Operators), ATA (Association of Travel Agents, Maldives), THASL (The Hotels Association of Sri Lanka), SLAITO (Sri Lanka Association of Inbound Tour Operators), HAN (Hotel Association Nepal), BIHA (Bangladesh International Hotel Association), HRAB (Hotel and Restaurant Association of Bhutan), NBAM (National Boating Association of Maldives) and ATTOI (Association of Tourism Trade Organizations, India).

Further amplifying the reach of the event, SATA 2025 is supported by an extensive Media network across the region.

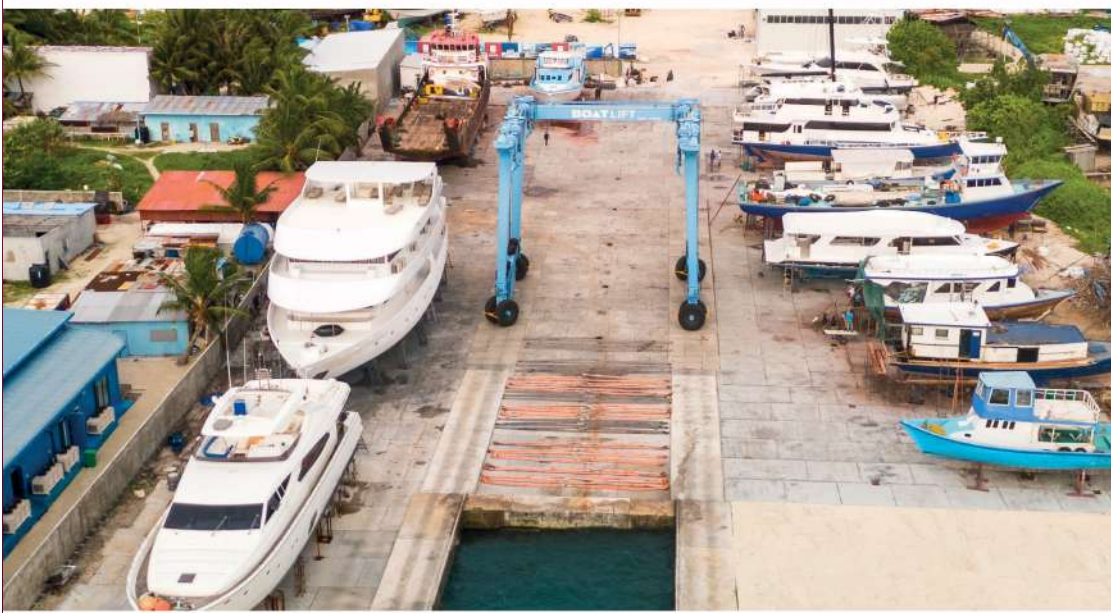
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IN THE NEWS

# Seventeen Maldivian Resorts Join Forces to Protect Seagrass Meadows



In a landmark move for marine conservation, seventeen leading resorts across the Maldives have pledged to protect the nation's vital seagrass meadows under the Seagrass Industry Leaders Circle, an initiative by Maldives Resilient Reefs (MRR) and the Blue Marine Foundation. The signing ceremony, held on Dhiffushi Island, honoured resorts for their commitment to ending seagrass removal and advancing ocean stewardship.

**Participating resorts include:** Anantara Dhigu, Anantara Veli, Naladhoo Private Island, Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru, Dhawa Ihuru, Angsana Velavaru, Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu, Coco Bodu Hithi, Gili Lankanfushi, Kurumba, LUX\* South Ari Atoll, Niyama Private Islands, Siyam World, Six Senses Laamu, Six Senses Kanuhura, Taj Exotica, and Taj Coral Reef.

The event featured a panel discussion titled “Maldives, a Rare Global Seagrass Bright Spot”, with contributions from leading voices in marine conservation:

- **Muhusina Abdul Rahman** – National focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity
  - **Aminath Shaha Hashim** – Executive Director, Maldives Resilient Reefs
  - **Maddie Millington-Drake** – Senior Climate Project Manager, Blue Marine Foundation
  - **Lawrence Menz** – Director of Sustainability, Six Senses Laamu
- Joining virtually were international researchers:
- **Dr. Matthew Floyd** – Northumbria University, UK



- **Jessica Arnall** – University of Edinburgh, South Asian Nitrogen Hub
- **Dr. Jordan Gacutan** – University of New South Wales, Australia

The speakers discussed national biodiversity policies, blue carbon, tourism's role in conservation, and the economic value of seagrass ecosystems.

Since 2019, MRR and the Blue Marine Foundation have led efforts to safeguard seagrass across the Maldives, with over 830,000 m<sup>2</sup> now under protection. Their work is endorsed by the Ministry of Tourism and implemented as national monitoring standards by the Maldives Marine Research Institute.

Seagrass meadows are crucial to climate resilience, carbon capture, and marine life—from endangered turtles to reef sharks. Though often removed to preserve lagoon aesthetics, advocates argue that seagrass enhances marine biodiversity and offers guests unforgettable, nature-rich experiences.

With ecosystem services valued at over USD 19,000 per hectare annually, the Seagrass Industry Leaders Circle is redefining Maldives tourism—shifting focus from aesthetics to authenticity, sustainability, and long-term ecological value.

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# ooredoo' Maldives: Two Decades of Connecting the Nation and Powering Digital Transformation

Ooredoo Maldives celebrates its remarkable journey of innovation, growth, and transformation. From its humble beginnings with 2G services to becoming the nation's leading digital service provider, now covering 80% of the Maldives with 5G world-class connectivity.

Since its launch, Ooredoo Maldives has been at the forefront of introducing cutting-edge technology to the country. Beginning with 2G mobile services, the company quickly advanced to 3G, enabling customers to access the internet on their mobile devices for the first time. In the years that followed, Ooredoo brought 4G and later 4G+ to the Maldives, empowering communities with faster, more reliable mobile broadband. Today, Ooredoo's robust 5G network covers 80% of the nation, including remote islands, connecting people, businesses, and institutions across the archipelago.

Beyond mobile services, Ooredoo has invested heavily in the nation's digital infrastructure. The company operates a state-of-the-art Data Center and a Disaster Recovery Center, providing secure, scalable, and reliable hosting and cloud services to businesses and government institutions. Ooredoo's ISO-certified Contact Center ensures world-class customer care, providing round-the-clock support with the highest international standards of quality and service.

International connectivity was further strengthened through Ooredoo's investment in the PEACE Cable, delivering high-speed, low-latency connections to the rest of the world and unlocking opportunities for AI, cloud computing, and next-generation digital services.

From day one, Ooredoo brought in world-class expertise and global best practices to accelerate the growth of telecommunications in the Maldives. Over the years, the



company has transformed into a truly Maldivian enterprise, with over 95% of its workforce now comprising local talent. Through continuous investment in training, leadership development programs, and global exposure, Ooredoo has empowered Maldivians to lead the nation's digital evolution with several team members graduating from prestigious institutions such as Harvard.

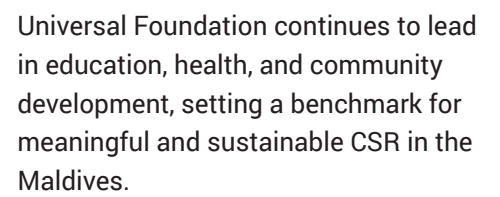
Over the years, Ooredoo Maldives has gone beyond telecommunications, playing a central role in the country's digital transformation journey. From empowering entrepreneurs with mobile money solutions to introducing AI-powered services, Ooredoo continues to innovate, ensuring the Maldives remains at the cutting edge of the digital era.

As Ooredoo looks to the future, the company remains committed to expanding its coverage, enhancing its digital services, and continuing to invest in the people, infrastructure, and innovations that will shape the Maldives' digital future.





Speakers including Dr. Ali Najeeb of





BON APPÉTIT

# Chicken Roulade with Mashed Potato, Smoked Bell Pepper Sauce with Sauteed Asparagus.



Ahmed Samaan Abdulla began his culinary journey at the Maldives National University (FHTS) in 2013 while pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Resort Management. It was during this time that he discovered his true passion for cooking and recipe creation. To further his expertise, Ahmed obtained a Bachelor's degree in Culinary Arts and Food Service Management (Hons) from Taylor's University, Malaysia.

His hands-on experience includes internships at esteemed establishments such as Bandos Island Resort in the Maldives, Four Points by Sheraton in Malaysia, and a 1 Michelin Star restaurant, La Barbacane (Hotel de la Cité, MGallery Collection) in Carcassonne, France. Following his studies, Samaan worked as a commis chef in both Pastry and Hot Kitchen at Vakkaru Maldives and Lux North Malé. Later he was the Executive Chef at esteemed restaurant in the Male' city called The Coffee Shrub.

Currently, he serves as the Executive Chef at Kabowl, a newly opened restaurant where he has the opportunity to showcase his expertise in crafting vibrant, customizable rice bowls. His dishes are built around fresh ingredients, bold flavors, and unique tastes, allowing guests to enjoy a personalized culinary experience.

## CHICKEN ROULADE

### INGRIDENTS :

- 1 Nos Chicken Breast
- 1½ Tsp Cajun Seasoning
- ½ Tsp Salt
- ½ Tsp Black Pepper
- ½ Cup Spinach
- 3 Tsp Lime juice
- 10 Gm Pistachio
- ½ Nos Red Bell Pepper
- 3 Tsp Sunflower Oil
- 2 Slice Cheese
- 1 Tsp Butter

### METHOD:

1. Set a pot with water for boiling.
2. Cut the breast in half and then place in between cling film. Now with a rolling pin or flat pan or with meat tenderizer flat the chicken breast.
3. Cut the bell pepper into julienne and slice the cheese in half. And chop the pistachio.
4. Season the flat chicken breast with salt, black pepper, lime juice and Cajun seasoning.
5. Now place the spinach on the chicken breast, followed by the julienne bell pepper, sliced cheese and pistachio.
6. Slowly Roll the chicken breast forming a round in shape roulade, then use cling film to cover it and again roll it. Then tighten up one side and put a knot. Do the same to the other side and finish by making it tight.
7. Now put the roulade into the boiling water and cook for 5 minutes. After that remove and keep to cool down for 5 minutes.
8. In the pan put the oil until hot, then put the roulade in the pan and pan fry giving color and at the same time add the butter for the flavor.
9. Give nice golden brown color to all the side and finish off cooking within 3 minutes.
10. With a sharp knife cut the roulade into desired thickness, after 4 minutes resting from the pan.

## RED BELL PEPPER SAUCE

### INGRIDENTS :

- 1 Nos Red Bell Pepper
- 1 Nos Garlic Cloves
- 1 Tsp Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 50 G Onion
- ¼ Tsp Smoked Paprika
- 1 Tsp Tomato Paste
- 1 Tsp Chicken Stock Powder
- ½ Tsp Balsamic Vinegar
- 100 G Cooking Cream
- ½ Tsp Salt
- ½ Tsp Black Pepper
- 20 G Cashew Nut (Roasted)

### METHOD:

1. Place a red pepper directly over an open flame on a gas burner set to medium-high. Cook, using tongs to rotate the pepper a quarter or a turn every 2 minutes or as necessary, until charred all over. Transfer charred pepper to a large bowl and cover for 20 minutes. Then roughly chop after de-seeding.
2. Heat the oil in a pan by sautéing the garlic and onion, followed by adding the smoked paprika, tomato paste and cook for 5 minutes. Add chopped bell peppers and cook for 2 minutes.
3. Blend in all the cooked ingredients in a food processor along with Balsamic Vinegar and Cashew Nut Leaves until Smooth.
4. Put back the mixture in the pan and cook for another 10 minutes by adding chicken stock (1tsbp chicken stock mixed with 100 ml water), Cooking and salt.

## MASHED POTATO

### INGRIDENTS :

- 50 gm Cooking Cream
- 100 gm Potato
- 100 gm Garlic
- 30 gm Butter
- 5 gm Salt
- 5 gm Black Pepper

### METHOD:

1. Cook the potato in the boiling water in a medium sauce pot for 25 minutes and once soft then drain the water.
2. Mash with the masher and then in a pot again add butter and garlic and sauté the garlic until brown and then add in the mashed potato.
3. Cook for few minutes and add in cream and cook further more and end by adding the butter and seasoning with salt and black pepper.

## SAUTEED ASPARAGUS

### INGRIDENTS :

- 4 Nos Asparagus
- 5 gm Garlic
- 15 gm Butter
- 2 gm Salt
- 3 gm Black Pepper

### METHOD:

1. Boil water and blanch the asparagus for 3 to 4 minutes, remove to a ice bath.
2. In a pan sauteed the garlic with butter and add in the asparagus and cook for 3 to 4 minutes and finish by seasoning with salt and Black Pepper.



Courtesy of  
Ahmed Samaan Abdulla  
Executive Chef  
Kabowl



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# Frankly Speaking

Do you think the newly introduced investor visa by the Maldives government will help make the Maldives’ economy more balanced, or could it create new risks by depending too much on wealthy investors and real estate?



**Ibrahim Nizam**  
Tourism|Sustainability Consultant  
Destination Marketing



**Ahmed Zubair Adam**  
Managing Director, Blue Horizon



**Ismail Hameed**  
Board Member  
NBAM

*The Investor Visa Program will undoubtedly diversify the Maldives' economy, develop a strong infrastructure, and bring long-term beneficial capital.*

*However, we should be cautious in planning industrial diversification and adopt a sound strategy.*

*While focusing on investments across a wider range of sectors, we must also safeguard the existing tourism product, which we have nurtured and developed into a globally recognised role model that inspires everyone.*

*Proper planning coupled with a strong structural framework is vital for effective implementation of the investment guidelines and investor benefits.*

*EU & ME countries offer Residency & even their Passport for those who invest certain amounts or provide outstanding services and given Maldives ambition to double and diversify the economy, we can offer similar programs.*

*Real Estate is booming in the UAE which offers foreigners to own land and apartments with Golden Visa from USD 200 '000 and I see no reason why Maldives should not also offer them.*

*Without proper safeguards, reliance on investor visas may benefit external stakeholders more than local communities, potentially exacerbating inequality and sidelining broader, sustainable development.*

*Similar programs elsewhere, like in the UK and Canada have either been shut down or paused due to financial crime risks and limited tangible economic returns. There are valid fears around money laundering, fraud, and systemic corruption.*

*The investor visa program has strong potential to help balance and diversify the economy, only if implemented with transparent, robust due diligence and equitable frameworks. However, without strong oversight and inclusive policy design, it also risks steering the country toward overdependence on wealthy investors and real estate, while exposing it to governance vulnerabilities.*

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