



EMERALD
MALDIVES RESORT & SPA

EMERALD MALDIVES
RESORT AND SPA

GREEN BOOK



THE LEADING HOTELS
OF THE WORLD®



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Message from the General Manager

Dear Valued Guests,

At Emerald Maldives Resort and Spa, sustainability is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to safeguarding the pristine environment of the Maldives while providing a luxurious and memorable experience for our guests.

Our sustainability practices encompass a wide range of initiatives, from reducing energy consumption and minimizing waste to protecting marine life and supporting local communities. We take pride in using eco-friendly materials, locally sourced ingredients, and sustainable solutions in our daily operations. Our goal is to ensure that every step we take contributes positively to the environment and the people who depend on it.

We believe that by promoting responsible tourism and sustainable practices, we can make a lasting impact. We encourage you, our valued guests, to join us in these efforts to help preserve this beautiful destination for future generations.

Together, we can make a difference. Thank you for being part of our sustainability journey and for choosing Emerald Maldives Resort and Spa as your destination of choice.

Best warm regards,



Rohit Chhettri



History of Islands of Maldives

The Maldives, a stunning chain of islands in the Indian Ocean, has a history that stretches back over 2,500 years. The earliest settlers likely arrived around 500 BC from South Asia, and the islands became an important hub for trade across the Indian Ocean. In its early years, the Maldives was a Buddhist kingdom, as evidenced by ancient ruins of stupas and temples found on the islands.

In 1153 AD, the Maldives converted to Islam when a North African Islamic scholar, Abul Barakat, influenced the local king to embrace the religion. The Maldives has been a Muslim country ever since, with Islamic law and customs shaping much of its culture and society. The sultanate system ruled the Maldives for centuries, with occasional external pressures from regional powers.

One of the most significant occupations in Maldivian history was by the Portuguese, who held the islands from 1558 to 1573. The Portuguese were eventually expelled by the national hero, Muhammad Thakurufaanu, whose revolt restored local rule.

In 1887, the Maldives became a British protectorate, though the sultanate retained internal control. The Maldives gained full independence from Britain in 1965 and became a republic in 1968. Ibrahim Nasir, the first president, initiated modernization efforts, and tourism began to take off during his presidency. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who followed Nasir, led the Maldives for 30 years, expanding tourism and infrastructure but facing challenges related to political freedom.

Tourism and Environmental Challenges

Tourism exploded in the late 20th century, transforming the Maldives into a world-renowned luxury destination. However, the country's low-lying geography makes it highly vulnerable to climate change and rising sea levels, which present a significant threat to its future. The Maldives has been vocal about climate action on the global stage, advocating for stronger efforts to combat these issues.

Modern Political Developments

In 2008, the Maldives transitioned to a multi-party democracy, electing Mohamed Nasheed as its first democratically elected president. Nasheed's government was marked by environmental advocacy but faced internal political struggles, leading to his ousting in 2012. Since then, the country has experienced continued political shifts, though it remains a popular and growing tourism destination.



Atoll Formations

The Maldives, a tropical paradise in the Indian Ocean. The country is made up of a chain of 26 Atolls, with around 1,200 coral islands (give or take, the islands are always changing!) The formation of the Maldives is a story that dates back millions of years.

The Maldives sits on a submarine ridge that runs from the southern tip of India to the Chagos-Laccadive Ridge. The islands were formed through a combination of volcanic activity and coral growth.

First Stage of Formation

The geological history of the Maldives is divided into three main stages. The first stage was the volcanic stage, which occurred around 60 million years ago. During this period, volcanic eruptions created a series of small islands, which later became the foundation for the coral reefs.

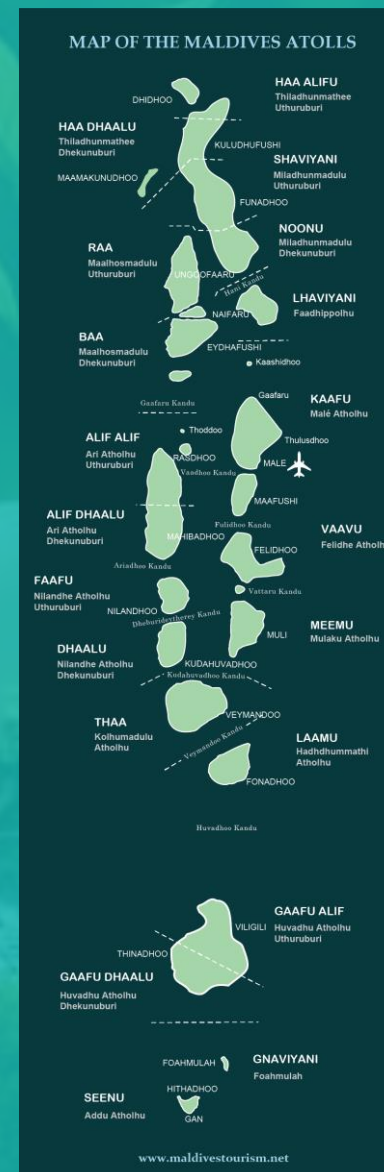
Second Stage of Formation

The second stage was the reef growth stage, which began around 30 million years ago. During this period coral reefs began to form around the volcanic islands, creating a unique ecosystem. The Maldives has some of the most diverse coral reefs in the world, home to hundreds of species of fish and corals.

Third Stage of Formation

The final stage was the coral island stage, which began around 10 million years ago. During this period, the volcanic islands sank, and the coral reefs continued to grow, eventually forming the Maldives we know today. The islands are now surrounded by shallow lagoons, which are home to a variety of marine life.

Today, the Maldives is a popular tourist destination, known for its pristine beaches, clear waters, and luxurious resorts. The marine life is like nowhere else, attracting divers and underwater enthusiasts from all over!



About our Language

Dhivehi is the official language of the Maldives. It is spoken by the Maldives' native population, which numbers roughly 340,000 people. Around 10,000 people in the Indian Lakshadweep Islands also speak Dhivehi.

With the influence of other languages such as Arabic, Hindi, Tamil, and English, the Maldivian language has evolved over time. As a result, Dhivehi contains many loanwords from these languages.

Dhivehi is taught in all Maldives schools and is used in all official papers and proceedings. Dhivehi is extensively employed in mainstream media outlets such as television, radio, and online newspapers.

While English is widely spoken in the Maldives, Dhivehi is still the primary language used at work, particularly in the construction industry. Many foreign workers from India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh learn Dhivehi due to the language barrier when communicating with colleagues and employers.

The Maldivian mother tongue language, Dhivehi, is an integral aspect of Maldivian culture and identity. It reflects the Maldives' unique history and traditions, and it remains a significant medium of communication for its people.



Dhivehi

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alifu	kaafu	lhaviyani	baa	raa	noonu	shaviyani	haa
	k	lh	b	r	n	sh	h
Ø	[k]	[l]	[b]	[r]	[n]	[ʃ]	[h]
ޖ	ގ	ލ	ތ	ދ	ފ	މ	ވ
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gnaviyani	gaafu	laamu	thaa	dhaalu	faafu	meemu	vaavu
gn	g	l	th	dh	f	m	v
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chaviyani	javiyani	paviyani	yaa	taviyani	zaviyani	daviyani	seenu
ch	j	p	y	t	z	d	s
[tʃ]	[dʒ]	[p]	[j]	[t]	[z]	[d]	[s]
އެބޭފުޅި	އެބޭފުޅި	އެބޭފުޅި	އެބޭފުޅި	އެބޭފުޅި	އެބޭފުޅި	އެބޭފުޅި	އެބޭފުޅި
eybeyfili	ebefili	oobofili	ubufili	eebeefili	ibifili	aabbaafili	abafili
ey	e	oo	u	ee	i	aa	a
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[η]	[ʔ]	[o:]	[o]				

Local Culture and Traditions

The Maldives is a melting pot of cultural influences from South Asia, Africa, and Arabia, with its traditions deeply rooted in the sea. Music and dance are integral, with *Bodu Beru*, a traditional drumming performance, being a highlight of celebrations. Handicrafts like lacquered wooden items, woven mats, and *Dhoni* boat models reflect the Maldivians' craftsmanship and connection to their maritime heritage.

Fishing plays a central role in daily life, while local cuisine, featuring seafood and coconut-based dishes like *Mas Huni* and *Garudhiya*, showcases the islanders' reliance on the ocean. Islam shapes much of the cultural fabric, with religious festivals like *Eid* being celebrated across the islands.

The Maldivian language, Dhivehi, is spoken widely, and traditional attire is worn during special occasions. The coconut tree, a national symbol, is essential to local life, providing food, drink, and building materials. Rich in folklore and history, the Maldives also boasts iconic structures like the *Hukuru Miskiy* mosque, offering glimpses into the nation's past.



The Big Drums in Maldives Boduberu

Boduberu, is the big drums of the Maldives, a part of its culture and is the heart of traditional Maldivian music. The iconic big drum is made of wood from the coconut tree trunk, and the head is made from manta ray skin in the olden days. Today, the boduberu head is made from goatskin.

Boduberu, starts with a slow beat and with a soft tempo and incremental until it becomes very fast-paced drumming. This traditional music is generally performed by a group of 15 people with one lead singer, three drummers and dancers.

The dancers will start to dance based on the drumming tempo. The dancers will begin moving their body, raising their hand and making twist and different turn and be slightly be crouching and bending; in the traditional dancing style of the Maldives.

The songs "lava" that are sung during the drumming performances consists of old fisherman tales, mythical love stories, and sagas from toddy collectors to each other.

Traditionally, boduberu used to be played on occasions such as Eid celebration, when fishermen make a successful catch and sometimes after hard day work.

Boduberu is said to has its roots to Africa. Legends say that drums was brought up by the African slaves in the 18th century who were freed and became entertainers and musicians in the local community. The tradition continued for a long period of time and transformed to boduberu, as we know of today. Modern day boduberu is performed in weddings, corporate events and expos.



It is important to be respectful of the culture and religious beliefs of any destination we visit. Maldives is a Muslim country so you may cause offence if you are not properly dressed. Below is a list of activities and behaviors to be aware of as to be respectful and mindful of the culture and environment in the Maldives:

DO:

- Do purchase ethical souvenirs as this encourages growth and development for the country and they make great gifts for family and friends.
- Ethical souvenirs: Wooden Lacquer items, Coconut Crafts, Wood Carved artifacts, Wooden jewelry box, Mats.
- Do participate in our culturally connected activities to learn more about this beautiful destination.

DON'T:

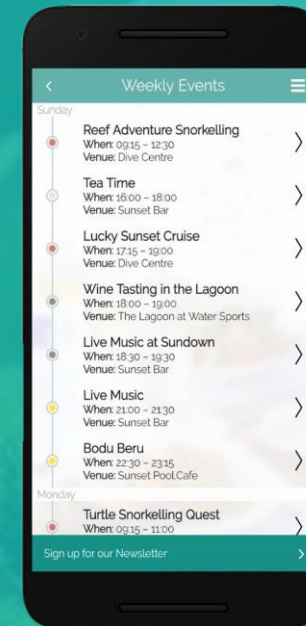
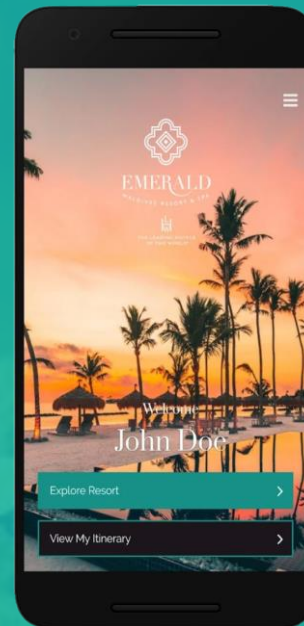
- Do not purchase Sea jewelry. This includes moth-of-pearl, seashell, coral, turtle shell and black coral. Considering the endangered condition and environmental hazards, the exploitation of sea turtles and black corals has become forbidden in Maldives.
- Do not collect shells or take them from the beach. It is illegal to take coral out of the Maldives, in addition, shells are hermit crabs' homes! If you get caught taking coral or shells from the Maldives, you could face a hefty fine.
- Do not throw plastic or any form of garbage in the sea.

Environmental Mindfulness

At Emerald Maldives Resort and Spa, we prioritize educating our guests, team members, and local communities about environmental policies, offering practical guidelines to increase awareness. We've introduced several initiatives to support this cause:

Our "Green Book," a paperless guide, is available on the Emerald Maldives Mobile App, ensuring easy access for all guests during their stay. For our team members, the document is available on our Public Database, and we conduct regular refresher training sessions to reinforce environmental practices.

In every villa, guests can watch a brief video on IPTV (channel 2) that highlights essential tips on protecting the environment and respectful behavior while exploring the island's marine life.



Learning Traditions and Cultures in Maldives



To enhance the guest experience, we place **turndown cards** in guest villas, offering interesting facts about Maldivian history and traditions. These cards provide a simple yet meaningful way for guests to learn more about the culture during their stay.

Environmental Commitment



At Emerald Maldives Resort and Spa, we prioritize on preserving and protecting our environment as well as striving towards a more sustainable future for the Maldives.

- ❖ We shall monitor and ensure efficient use of our water to avoid and minimize waste.
- ❖ We will continue to place a high importance on reduction, reuse and recycling.
- ❖ We will continually work to improve the overall air quality and reduce pollution (both indoor and outdoor).
- ❖ We will concentrate on biodiversity conservation, preservation and restoration within the resort as well as nearby surrounding areas.
- ❖ We will continue to work closely with and support local communities.
- ❖ We will continue to improve the health, safety and well-being of team members, guests and local community.
- ❖ We are committed to comply with Maldivian and international legislative environmental requirements, such as environmental, public and occupational health and safety, hygiene and employment legislation.
- ❖ This environmental and social policy is freely available to all interested parties on request.

Waste Reduction

Reduce - Reuse - Recycle



Waste Disposal and debris on beaches are major concerns in the Maldives. Unfortunately, in the Maldives, most resources and items that could be recycled or composted are at present treated as waste and transported from resorts and local islands to landfill.

At Emerald Maldives we have taken several measures to help the situation through waste reduction:

Recycling bins are placed in all the office and colleague accommodation areas.

Colleagues are educated on the importance of recycling and how to recycle.

We have reduced importing plastic bottled water, thereby reducing the amount of waste (glass and carbon emissions).

Energy-saving light bulbs with a long lifespan, purchases in bulk to avoid unnecessary packaging, the re-use of office paper, waste wood and other materials are some of the many measures, through which the amount of waste on the island is reduced.



Sustainability Drives



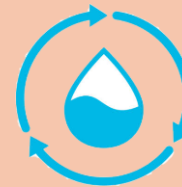
99% LED LIGHTS

We use energy-efficiency lights all around the resort; 99% of light bulbs are LED and the remaining bulbs are CFL, which eventually will be replaced too.



WATER BOTTLING PLANT

By producing our own water, we can eliminate the use of more than 200,000 plastic bottles per year.



TREATED WATER WASTE

Treated wastewater is used for irrigation purposes that allow us to save a considerable amount of portable water



LOCAL FISH

All local varieties of fish are caught by the local fisherman. Only specialty items are imported.

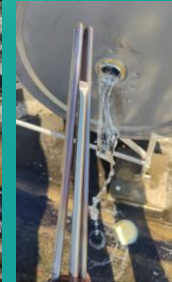
Sustainability Drives Guests Area

Here are some suggestions on how you can contribute to building a more sustainable future.



Energy Saving Sensors

If there is no movement, the AC and lights will be completely switched off after 7 minutes. The AC will continue to run until all doors are closed.



Solar Powered Water Heaters

Guest villas use hot water generated from solar panels. This initiative is expected to save our total energy consumption by 20%



Bed Linens and Towels

Encouraging our guests to change linens and towels every alternative days.

Help Us Conserve Energy, Water, and Reduce Chemical Usage



Energy Saving

Avoid keeping doors and windows open when using air conditioning in the villa.

Keep air conditioning temperature set at 24c.

Switch off all unnecessary lights

Water Saving

Avoid leaving taps running when shaving and brushing your teeth.

Avoid wasting water, Especially hot water.

Reduction in Chemical Usage

We encourage our guests to participate in Towel and Linen Reuse Program.

Emerald Maldives Resort and Spa are proud to collaborate with our suppliers to reduce environmental impact and promote social and ethical practices, strictly adhering to Maldivian laws. We prioritize local products, suppliers, and service providers to minimize carbon emissions from transport and support the local community. Whenever possible, we choose environmentally friendly, biodegradable cleaning products, pesticides, and packaging materials over chemical or disposable alternatives. Additionally, we encourage our guests to purchase local souvenirs to further support the community.



Jewelries

From Oeveeli



Bags

From Ratha

Ethical Souvenirs

Wood Crafts
From Manthiri





Local Arts and Crafts

Every Monday at **Aqua Restaurant**, alongside our **Traditions of Maldives** themed dinner, we showcase and sell beautiful **local arts and crafts** made by talented artisans from the Maldives. This gives our guests the opportunity to take home a piece of Maldivian culture while directly supporting local artists and their craftsmanship.

From handcrafted souvenirs to traditional Maldivian artwork, these unique items reflect the rich heritage and artistry of the Maldives. By purchasing these crafts, guests not only enjoy authentic, handmade treasures but also contribute to the preservation of local traditions and sustainable livelihoods within the community.

Local Community Awareness

Empowering communities with knowledge about sustainable living not only improves their quality of life but also helps them actively contribute to the nation's environmental and social goals. This collaboration between local residents, businesses, and the tourism industry is essential for long-term sustainability in the Maldives.

We explore and understand our local communities to discover ways we can collaborate and support them in building a sustainable future. Below are a few examples.

Exploring Local Islands

These adventures are a great experience to see the Maldivian lifestyle, learn and understand more about the way that they live. This is also a lovely opportunity to purchase authentic souvenirs.



Male: The Capital Island Visit

Visit the capital city of Maldives, explore its Heritage; the Sultan's Park, The Islamic Centre, Hukurumickiy and the Fish Market are popular tourist attractions. These tourist spots are just walking distance from each other and since you are in the city don't forget to fill up on supplies and souvenirs at the local shopping district.





Coconut Palm

The coconut palm, *Cocos nucifera*, is a member of the family (palm family). It is the only accepted species in the genus *Cocos*. The term coconut can refer to the entire coconut palm, the seed, or the fruit, which, botanically, is a drupe, not a nut. You can recognize the Coconut Palm because it has a single trunk and at the top there is a crown of feather-like fronds. You will often also see bunches of large fruits called coconuts. The coconut consists of a thin hard skin, a thicker layer of husk, the hard (coconut) shell, the white kernel and a large cavity filled with coconut milk. Coconut palms can be up to 30 m tall.

Screw Pine

The Screw pine family refers to around 600 tropical species of the genus *Pandanus* spread out in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region. It refers to the various plants and shrubs of the screw pine family. The screw pine is mainly characterized by the presence of aerial prop roots and by the long narrow leaves which are spirally arranged in clusters. The fruits look like an orange colored pineapple, and consist of many small parts.



Discover the Flora



Hibiscus

The Hibiscus is a quite large plant, containing several hundred species that are native to warm-temperate, subtropical and tropical regions throughout the world. Member species are often noted for their showy flowers and are commonly known simply as hibiscus, or less widely known as rose mallow. It is of red and white colors. It is an example of complete flowers.

Water Spider Lily

The White Spider Lily is a member of the amaryllis family has long strap-like leaves that form a fountain radiating up and then arching out and down. Individual leaves are about two and one-half inches wide by over two feet in length with a center rib forming a crease down the middle. The ghostly blooms are at the top of a nude stalk that reaches thirty inches or more..





Scaevola Taccada

Scaevola Taccada also known as beach naupaka is a flowering plant in the family of Goodeniaceae found in the coastal locations in the tropical areas of Indo-Pacific. It is a common beach shrub throughout the Arabian Sea, the tropical Indian Ocean and the tropical Islands of the Pacific. It is an erect, spreading, evergreen shrub or small tree with somewhat succulent, soft-wooded, pithy stems. It usually grows up to 4 m tall.

Dracaena reflexa is a popular houseplant with origins in Madagascar and other Indian Ocean islands. Dracaena plant care is fairly simple, and they can even withstand a certain amount of neglect. A multi-stemmed shrub with whorls of strappy green and yellow variegated leaves. A very adaptable plant which can be grown in full sun outdoors, or in lower light levels indoors. Best of all, dracaena help purify the air we breathe.

Dracaena



Polyscias Guilfoylei

Scaevola Taccada also known as beach naupaka is a flowering plant in the family of Goodeniaceae found in the coastal locations in the tropical areas of Indo-Pacific. It is a common beach shrub throughout the Arabian Sea, the tropical Indian Ocean and the tropical Islands of the Pacific. It is an erect, spreading, evergreen shrub or small tree with somewhat succulent, soft-wooded, pithy stems. It usually grows up to 4 m tall.

Discover the Fauna



Grey Heron (Maldivian Name : “Maakanaa”)

This is a large bird that stands between 90 to 100 cm tall and can weigh up to 2 kg. It feeds in shallow water on fish, insects, small reptiles and mammals. You will often see the heron standing still or moving slowly when it's stalking its prey. The loud croaking, referred to as “fraanak is its characteristic call. The Grey Heron builds bulky stick nests when breeding.

Common Tern (Maldivian Name: “Valla”)

This migratory bird, commonly referred to as the 'Sea Swallow', visits the Maldives in winter and breeds in Europe, Asia and North America. This bird feeds by plunge diving for fish in the sea, lakes & rivers. Common Terns are known to reach the age of 23 years or more.



Whimbrel (Maldivian Name: “Bulhithunbii”)

This migratory wader visits the Maldives in the winter and breeds across the Sub Arctic, Europe, parts of Asia and Scotland. It is a coastal bird during migration & feeds by probing soft mud for crabs and similar Prey.





Oriental Garden Lizards (Maldivian Name: "Bon'du")

The oriental garden lizard (*Calotes versicolor*), also called the eastern garden lizard, Indian garden lizard, common garden lizard, bloodsucker or changeable lizard, is an agamid lizard found widely distributed in Indo-Malaya. It has also been introduced in many other parts of the world. Changeable lizards eat mainly insects such as crickets, grasshoppers, and ants; as well as small vertebrates, including rodents and other lizards including common house geckos and day geckos.

Yellow Bittern (Maldivian Name: "Dhon Raabondhi")

This is a small species which measures only 38 cm in length with a short neck and a long bill. They can be difficult to see due to their shrub habitat and skulking lifestyle, they fly frequently, when the striking contrast between the black feathers and otherwise yellowish plumage makes them unmistakable. They nest in shrubs or reed beds and lay to 6 eggs at a time. This bird feeds on insects and fish.



Discover the Marine Life



Sea Green Turtle and Hawksbill Sea Turtle

The Green Turtle is the most common turtle species in the Maldives. It is herbivorous and mainly feeds on algae and sea grass. Due to the differing diet of the Hawksbill Turtle (mainly invertebrates in the reef) and differing breeding grounds. The two species are not in direct competition, but they do face the same human threats of egg-harvesting, habitat destruction and hunting. They can be seen all around the island, close to the reefs and in the lagoons.

Giant Moray Eel (Maldivian Name: Ven)

They spend the day in the rocks with their head outside, and come out at night. They are usually friendly. They breathe with open mouths, so they look like they are threatening. But actually they are not. However, if disturbed, they may attack.



Spinner Dolphin



The Spinner Dolphin is the most sighted and abundant cetacean species in the Maldives. School sizes vary between very few and hundreds of individuals, generally increasing in average size the more distant the school is from the shore – probably an important anti-predation mechanism. They are particularly famous for their acrobatic displays in which they spin longitudinally along their axis as they leap through air. The reason for the spinning is not known; possible reasons may be to display dominance, to communicate their location, to hunt, to shake off parasites or remoras (fish attaching themselves to the dolphin's skin), or just for fun they may attack.

Land Hermit Crab (Maldivian Name: Baravelli)

All land hermit crabs are found along our beaches or amongst the island's rich vegetation. They have adapted to a life outside the sea. As opposed to their close relatives in the reef, they do not breathe through gills but through wrinkled, thin, capillary-rich skin at the tip of their soft hind body. As hermit crabs grow, they must exchange their shell for a larger one. Since shells are not an unlimited resource, there is frequently strong competition among the hermit crabs for the available shells. Land hermit crabs are omnivorous scavengers and feed on all types of dead organic matter.





Sting Rays (Maldivian Name: Madi)

They are benthonic species, always in contact with the bottom, because they get food from little crabs and fishes which live in the sand. They are friendly animals, but they can be dangerous because of their camouflage. Stingrays have a poisoned spine in the tail. Torpedoes have electrical propriety if stepped on. Both are oviparous animals, and they can give birth only several times in their life because of the long gestation period.

Protect the Marine Life

At Emerald Maldives Resort and Spa, we take all precautions to protect and maintain our beautiful coral reef. We kindly request all our guests to avoid touching, breaking or standing on the coral. Do not attempt for fishing from your villa or anywhere else in the Resort.

We are eager to preserve the natural environment, and we encourage our guests to join us by refraining from littering into the lagoon.

DO NOT

- STEP ON CORAL
- STIR THE SEDIMENT WITH FINS
- TOUCH OR CHASE MARINE LIFE
- GLOVE
- FEED FISH
- LITTER
- COLLECT DEAD CORAL LIVE MARINE LIFE
- WEAR A LIFE JACKET WHEN SNORKELING



THERE ARE NO LIFEGUARDS ON DUTY

Please Follow below guidelines for your safety

- ❖ ALWAYS snorkel with a buddy
- ❖ DO NOT stand / walk on the reef
- ❖ DO NOT touch the corals and the fishes
- ❖ DO NOT collect shells
- ❖ BE CAUTIOUS of boats, catamarans, windsurfers, canoes, seaplanes
- ❖ BE CAUTIOUS by not hanging to ropes around buoys as may cause rashes due to planktons
- ❖ If you are not a good swimmer, WEAR A LIFE JACKET
- ❖ BEGINNERS – BE CAUTIOUS - Practice inside the lagoon before going out
- ❖ BEGINNERS: take a guided snorkeling tour organized by Water Sports, or seek assistance at the Water Sports
- ❖ BEWARE OF STRONG CURRENTS - ask for advice from the Water Sports
- ❖ IN AN EMERGENCY - wave your hands above the water and ask for “HELP”
- ❖ NO FISH WILL ATTACK YOU - as long as you respect them
- ❖ VISIT our Dive and Marine Center TGI upon arrival to ensure your safety and enjoyment
- ❖ Please clear all your DOUBTS by contacting TGI team before going in the water

Swimming Guidelines



Other Swimming Guidelines:

- Swim on designated areas and check the flag color for swimming condition.
- Provide close and constant attention to children; Never leave a young child unattended near water. Avoid distractions when your child is in or around water.
- If you are not a confident swimmer, we highly recommend wearing a life jacket while enjoying water activities.
- Be aware of ocean waves and rip currents.
- Night swimming is prohibited. We do not encourage guest to swim after 18:30hrs for safety reasons.



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We hope you enjoyed reading!
We invite you to join us in supporting our
environmental and energy initiatives!



THE LEADING HOTELS
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