

Maldives News Update

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Sent Items

I thought you might be interested in the latest developments regarding the Maldives.

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The Maldives- A Top Tourism Destination

- Tour operator Kuoni names the Maldives as “Most Popular Destination”, “Best Honeymoon Destination” and “Best Family Destination” and ranked it third for “Best Wedding Destinations”.
- The luxury travel network Virtuoso has nominated the Maldives for its 2018 “Best of the Best” awards. The Maldives were nominated under the categories of Best Family Program (Soneva Fushi, Baa Atoll, Maldives), Best Sustainable Tourism (Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru, Landaa Giraavaru, Maldives), and Best Newcomer Nominees (The St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort, Dhaalu Atoll, Maldives).
- The Maldives has maintained the title for the Indian Ocean’s Best Spa Destination, winning in 2015, 2016, and 2017. This year two resorts in the Maldives have been nominated for “World’s Best Private Island Spa” and “World’s Best Spa Design”.
- In 2016 the Maldives won the World’s Best Spa Destination.
- Velaa Private Island is introducing a new and comprehensive medical consultation program aimed at reducing visitors’ BMI by transforming their mental and physical health and removing toxins from the body. The resort offers several exercise classes, a spa, fresh and healthy meals, and supplements. It also provides heart rate and breathing tests followed by consultations with a doctor and nutritionist.
- The Maldives hosted more than half a million foreign tourists (539,816) during the first four months of 2018, which is a 12.7% increase from the same period in 2017, with the largest number of tourists arriving from China, Italy, the UK, Germany, Russia, and India.
- The Maldives welcomed a record 1.3 million tourists last year.
- The Maldives have seen a 40% increase in Australian tourists from January-March, due to a new direct flight from Australia offered by Sri Lankan Airlines.
- The Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi opened the “coralarium”, an art installation situated in the largest developed coral lagoon in the Maldives, and features an underwater sculpture garden, and doubles as the Maldives’

- JW Marriott is opening a new resort in the Maldives, which will feature 61 beach and overwater villas, each with a private pool. The resort will also offer multiple culinary options with a variety of entertainment from karaoke to a cigar room. There will also be a spa, a salon, a yoga studio, a gym, and a kid's club onsite.
- Luxury Hotel Soneva Fushi is an eco-friendly resort in the Maldives, built to protect and preserve the ecosystem, by building around trees, introducing a solar array system so that 75% of their energy usage will come from renewables, and are working to become carbon-neutral. The resort has a recycling program that processes 90% of the hotel's solid waste, even turning some of the recycling activity into activities for entertaining guests.
- Soneva Fushi has also banned plastic water bottles, and instead offers its guests water that it desalinated onsite and put into beautifully glass blown bottles.
- The Four Seasons Resort in the Maldives will launch their new "world exclusive" luxury-brand battery-operated submarine trip, which will minimize the impact on the environment, while providing its passengers a 360-degree experience to view coral and aquatic life in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, without getting wet.
- The St. Regis Maldives Vommuli offers opulent villas, personal butlers, infinity pools, and a new "Live Exquisite" five-night experience aboard a 66-foot yacht. The yacht has its own butler, an Olympic-sized infinity pool and hot tub, a gym, a spa, a cinema, and its very own Sous Chef that tailors each meal to the guests.

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The Maldives Enhances Bi-Lateral Relations

- The US has tapped Alaina Teplitz as the new US Ambassador to the Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- Vice Admiral MS Pawar of the Indian Navy said that the Indian Navy and the Maldives continue to maintain very good relations, and that they "share bonds of friendship", that there are no maritime disputes, and that there is a "cultural affinity between the two countries."
- Maldivian President Yameen met with permanent representatives from the UN to brief them on the social and political situation in the Maldives. The president reported that the 45-day state of emergency did not affect any businesses or tourist outlets. The President also highlighted the developments in the fishery, tourism, and energy industries.
- The Maldives established formal diplomatic ties with the Central African Republic, bringing the total number of countries it has diplomatic ties with to 169.
- The Maldives hosted a fundraiser to help those bereaved in Gaza, in response to the bloodshed caused by Israeli militants against Palestinians along the Gaza border. The campaign is titled "To Gaza with Love."
- Kazakhstan and the Maldives have been exploring ways to expand cooperation, especially in relation to business opportunities, within the framework of the International Center of Green Technologies and Investment Projects and International IT-Startups.

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All the best,

The Honorable Robert Wexler