



RAFFLES

MALDIVES
MERADHOO

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PRESS KIT



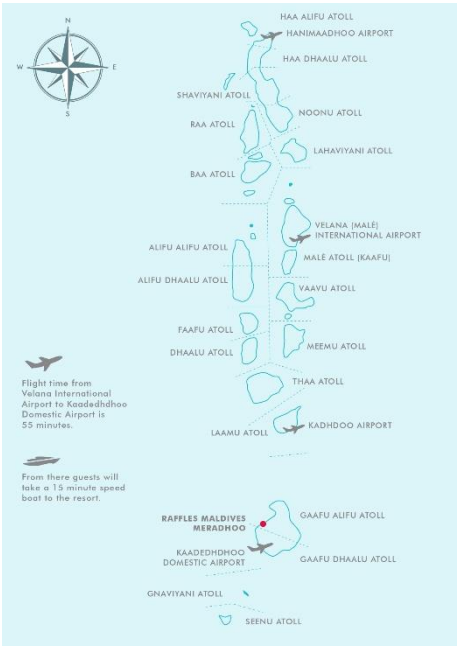
An idyllic beach retreat, a wonderful overwater world

It seems the adage that good things come to those who wait is true. Following an exhaustive search for a suitably spectacular site, Raffles' first resort in the Maldives can finally be revealed – and it contains not just one remarkable private island, but two.

Set on the southern tip of the Maldives in the remote and pristine Gaafu Alifu Atoll, Raffles Maldives Meradhoo's **Beach Island Experience** soft-opened in May. A palm tree-peppered private island comprising just 21 villas and residences, a sublime spa, beachside restaurants and world-class dive centre with on-site marine biologist, it is a haven for beach lovers.

Just a moment away by boat, Raffles Maldives Meradhoo's Overwater Island Experience completes the resort. With its 16 vast overwater villas and residences, sophisticated Nikkei restaurant Yuzu and sunset-facing Yapa pool bar, it will provide unparalleled luxury to those who dream of a life spent on the water. Together these two private islands offer two distinct experiences, bound together by Raffles' legendary service.

Address: Address: Gaafu Alifu Atoll
Meradhoo Island, 17100, Maldives
Phone: +960 682-8800



Butlers

Wherever guests spend the night, they will reside in some of the largest villas in the Maldives and everyone can expect impeccable, intuitive service from their very own **Raffles Butler**, while a **Children's Butler** caters to the distinct needs of our youngest guests.





Villas & Residences

Soothingly finished in sea blues and with a supremely comfortable four-poster bed, each villa features a vast marble bathtub, private pool and outdoor shower. On the sand, beach villas are encased by lush foliage; facing the sunrise or sunset, overwater villas stand directly above dazzling turquoise water.

On both islands, generously proportioned two-bedroom residences provide luxurious retreats for families and friends, while the resort's staggering **Raffles Royal Residence** provides the perfect setting for a very special celebration. This immense three-bedroom hideaway is the ultimate in Indian Ocean luxury and features a jaw-dropping infinity pool, endless space and even a retractable roof on its upper level so its privileged occupants can better admire clear night skies that sparkle with an infinity of stars.



- Beach Villas, one bedroom, 13 units, 220 square metres
- Deluxe Beach Villas, one bedroom, 5 units, 260 square metres
- Beach Residences, two bedroom, 3 units, 260 square metres
- Raffles Royal Residence, three bedroom, 1 unit, 1250 square metres
- Overwater Villas, one bedroom, 7 units, 230 square metres
- Sunset Overwater Villa, one bedroom, 7 units, 300 square metres
- Overwater Residence, two bedroom, 1 unit, 300 square metres
- Sunset Overwater Residence, two bedroom, 1 unit, 300 square metres

A photograph of a villa entrance at the Raffles Maldives Meradhoo. The structure features a traditional thatched roof made of dried palm fronds. Below the roof, there are two sets of double doors painted in a deep blue color. The walls are a light, neutral tone. A small, warm-toned light fixture is mounted on the wall between the two door sets. The ground in front of the doors is paved with light-colored tiles, and a striped rug is laid out on the path leading to the entrance. The overall aesthetic is a blend of traditional Maldivian architecture with modern design elements.

Design

A retractable roof, fish-scale tiles and beds to wow basketball players: Raffles Maldives Meradhoo has been designed to delight

Raffles knows that anyone who books a resort stay should return to the real world fully rested and rejuvenated, and that is one of many attractive certainties awaiting guests at the newly opened Raffles Maldives Meradhoo. Among the largest in the country and each with a private pool, its 38 beach and overwater villas have as a centrepiece elegant four-poster beds that measure an immense three metres across and two metres down. Placed on teak platforms and dressed in crisp, 600-thread-count linens, these cloud-white sanctuaries are temples of tranquillity, capacious enough to accommodate any visiting NBA players and cossetting enough to wow pretty much anyone else you might care to consider.

For aesthetes, there's plenty more in store. Based in Singapore, where the original Raffles hotel recently reopened following a meticulous renovation, Raffles Maldives Meradhoo's interior designers have successfully produced an outstanding product, consistent in quality and craftsmanship of every other Raffles property, while showcasing thoughtful touches and tasteful flourishes that make a beach resort truly world-class.

Paying tribute to the Maldives' staggering seascape, casual-chic-style villas draw on subtle maritime themes and are finished in a blend of soothing whites and blues; decorative elements include simple displays of shells and manmade, sustainable replicas of coral. Created especially for the resort, furniture includes ottoman-style coffee tables; bathrooms feature huge sunken tubs; walk-in wardrobes are large enough to accommodate even the most ambitious holiday wardrobes. Public areas are just as appealing – and intriguing. Raffles' Maldives Meradhoo's Head Interior Designer says: "the challenge was to emphasis the grandeur and gravitas of the Raffles brand, in a way that's appropriate for a remote atoll in the Maldives. We wanted to stay true to what would give the resort a sense of being a Raffles, rather than just another Maldivian resort, and to do that in the best way possible." That's why the arrival pavilion's composition and soft blue-and-white colour palette evoke Singapore's colonial-era black and white houses, while the monsoon blinds seen throughout reference another Singapore staple. Finished with grey-blue terrazzo, the island's open-air, beachfront Long Bar also pays tribute to its Raffles Singapore namesake even if the view is entirely different. Guests who order the signature Maldives Sling will overlook the main infinity pool, overwater spa and a seemingly endless expanse of the Indian Ocean.





Similarly impressive views await at casual all-day restaurant Thari, where sea grass, bamboo and teak are among the materials used and guests dine by palm trees or in shaded, cabana-style niches. Flickering flames illuminate grill restaurant The Firepit, where tables and seating are carved from the sand for an elemental take on beachside dining. Set over the water and beside outdoor pool bar Yapa, fine-dining restaurant Yuzu serves Nikkei cuisine – a fusion of Peruvian and Japanese culinary techniques – and takes its inspiration from both the sea and South America. Sunbursts of yellow, glossy green and coral-hued fabrics provide shots of vibrant colour; playful additions include fish-scale-shaped tiles and decorative plates painted with anchors and goggles; descending from high ceilings, the giant, globe-shaped lights resemble oversized buoys.

That these disparate spaces blend together so harmoniously can also be attributed to feng shui expert Simone Osswald. Known as the world’s first feng shui wellness designer, she advised on methodologies to enhance the resort’s energy flow and sense of well-being. From auspiciously placed plants to perfectly positioned furniture, innumerable discreet touches have been incorporated to ensure everything runs as smoothly and blissfully as can be.

That said, there is one stretch of the island that will remain accessible to just a small proportion of Raffles Maldives Meradhoo guests: the Raffles Royal Residence. Momentous at 1,250sq metres, this three-bedroom hideaway is the resort’s most refined retreat. Sitting on a private beach and connectable to a villa on either side to make a sprawling six-bedroom compound, it offers a succession of elegant indoor and palm-fringed outdoor spaces and is beautifully finished with bespoke furniture made of teak, rattan and rope, and specially commissioned artworks created by Maldivian artists.



During the day, guests can admire the residence’s majesty from the sunken seating area embedded in the cusp of its infinity pool or perhaps the twin tubs placed side by side in the master bathroom. At night, their best bet is to ascend to the abode’s upper level, where the roof can be retracted to provide an unimpeded view of startlingly clear night skies. It makes for a special and unique spot in which to contemplate the Maldives’ remarkable natural beauty.

Restaurants



Relaxed feet-in-the-sand dining is encouraged here, too. **The Firepit** is an outdoor barbecue restaurant where hearty specialties (perhaps spicy lobster with green papaya or tender beef tenderloin) are barbecued over the open flame of a flickering charcoal fire. The best tables, and chairs, are carved from the sand and set directly on the shore for uninterrupted views of the limitless night sky. Commencing with healthy smoothies and freshly baked pastries, breakfast is a highlight at all-day international restaurant **Thari**. In homage to its namesake at Raffles Singapore, the Long Bar's signature Maldives Sling is a mix of gin, grapefruit, coconut, cinnamon and clove that mirrors the pink-peach colour of a typical Maldives sunset.

The overwater island makes the most of its seascape setting at pool bar **Yapa**, where world-class mixologists create intriguing cocktails inspired by the spirits and spirit of South America and Japan. With a pisco sour and tacos to hand, this is the spot from which to watch the sun sink golden into the shimmering Indian Ocean. At adjacent fine-dining restaurant **Yuzu**, Peruvian chef Anibal Torres serves masterful Nikkei cuisine a refreshing blend of Japanese and Peruvian influences using sustainable, line-caught fish sourced from local fishermen. **Bespoke dining experiences** take place when and where guests want them, be that a sunrise breakfast on a private sandbank that is thrillingly reached by jet ski, or an exclusive champagne and sashimi cruise joined, hopefully, by pods of playful dolphins.

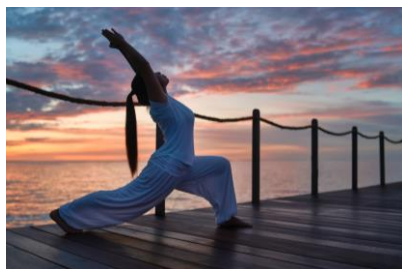


Raffles SPA

The profound purity of our private island inspires the restorative embrace of our wellness philosophy based around a balance between personal rituals, movement, harmonious design and the pleasure of nutrition.

Escape. Indulge. Transform.

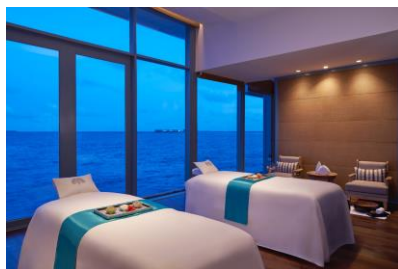
On the beach island, the overwater **Raffles Spa** combines Eastern practices with age-old local influences and offers highly personalised facials by Biologique Recherche; rejuvenating body treatments from Aromatherapy Associates; and manicure and pedicure concepts devised by Margaret Dabbs London. An expansive gym caters to all fitness levels; yoga sessions are held on an ocean-facing deck; a jogging route winds its way along gardens abloom with hibiscus and bougainvillea; visiting practitioners will lead tutorials in tai chi, mindfulness and more.



The ultimate yoga retreat

Whether practising yoga at sunrise on the spa deck overlooking the water or at sunset on the soft white sand, you will find it easy to unite breathing, meditation and movement to enhance your overall sense of mindfulness, health and wellbeing. As a beginner or an experienced practitioner, you will increase flexibility, decrease stress levels, and energise and restore your mind.

If a private session is your preference, our instructor can come to your villa to guide you through Ashtanga Yoga, Hatha Yoga, Pranayama or meditation. Or for romantic candlelit couple's yoga. They are also qualified to offer prenatal and children's yoga.



An overwater wellness sanctuary

Its development inspired by the lotus flower a symbol of revitalisation and raw natural strength our overwater Raffles Spa pays thoughtful tribute to the therapeutic power of nature.

Administered by skilled and intuitive therapists, each treatment is personalised to take you on a sensory journey. Products are luxurious yet sustainable. Techniques are infused with traditional Maldivian practices. The spa itself is a serene space, designed within the principles of Feng Shui to encourage your energy to flow freely.

Whether you take a Raffles Spa Journey to experience inner and outer transformation or choose a treatment to enhance your natural beauty, you will feel the benefit that only emotional wellbeing can bring. And if you would prefer to experience our spa treatments in the comfort of your villa, our therapists will come to you.



Maintaining life's balance

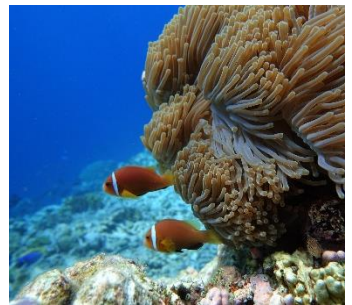
You will find a high-quality, well-equipped fitness centre in our spa. Our expert trainers are there to help you reach your peak performance and achieve your desired fitness results by creating a customised programme, aimed at balancing physical activity with relaxation.

We also offer pilates classes focussed on strengthening the core postural muscles. As well as strength and conditioning classes designed to challenge specific parts of the body. In addition, our garden jogging track, outdoor pool and clean, calm lagoon offer environments in which to keep up your regular fitness routine in the fresh, open air.

Explore our House Reefs

Marine expertise

Wherever guests choose to stay, all the facilities of the resort and the very best of the Maldives will be at their full disposal. A unique offering, a **Marine Butler** is available to every guest and will happily lead snorkelling tours of the resort's two remarkable and endlessly fascinating house reefs. Gaafu Alifu atoll is one of the world's largest and deepest atolls and the astoundingly clear, blissfully warm waters immediately surrounding Raffles teem with a kaleidoscope of colourful fish. Keep an eye out too for Apollo, one of the 20 resident hawksbill and green turtles that regularly swim by to say hello.



Doctor Giulia Pellizzato is our passionate resident Marine Biologist with over ten years' experience of research studies and diving to call on. Her specialism lies in marine life, marine ecology and endangered species. She has contributed to coral reef conservation and research projects in the Maldives since 2016, including sea turtle and manta ray identification. She gives educational presentations and connects guests directly with the marine environment through daily snorkelling trips. When staying with us, you are invited to participate in her coral growth and seawater monitoring projects. It is your invitation to discover and understand one of mother nature's most beautiful masterpieces.

10 Great ways to spend a day at Raffles Maldives Meradhoo



When it comes to restorative holidays, a relaxed routine of late breakfast, beach and book can work wonders but there's no shortage of creative ways to while away the days at Raffles Maldives Meradhoo. Read on for some of our favourite suggestions...

1. Toast your arrival

From Kaadedhdhoo Airport, our resort speedboat will carry you over tranquil turquoise waters to Raffles Maldives Meradhoo and your arrival deserves a toast. Enjoy a glass of perfectly chilled Pol Roger champagne, fresh coconut water from our island or something else entirely as our team welcomes you with traditional Maldivian music and song. You've made it to paradise.



2. Go for breakfast on a sandbank, by jet ski

A private breakfast for two and a morning like no other awaits on our sandbank, where your waiter will serve a decadent breakfast as the rising sun warms the gently lapping waters. We'll take you there by boat, or for a truly thrilling start to this special day you could always zip there by jet ski...



3. Rest and rejuvenate in our overwater spa

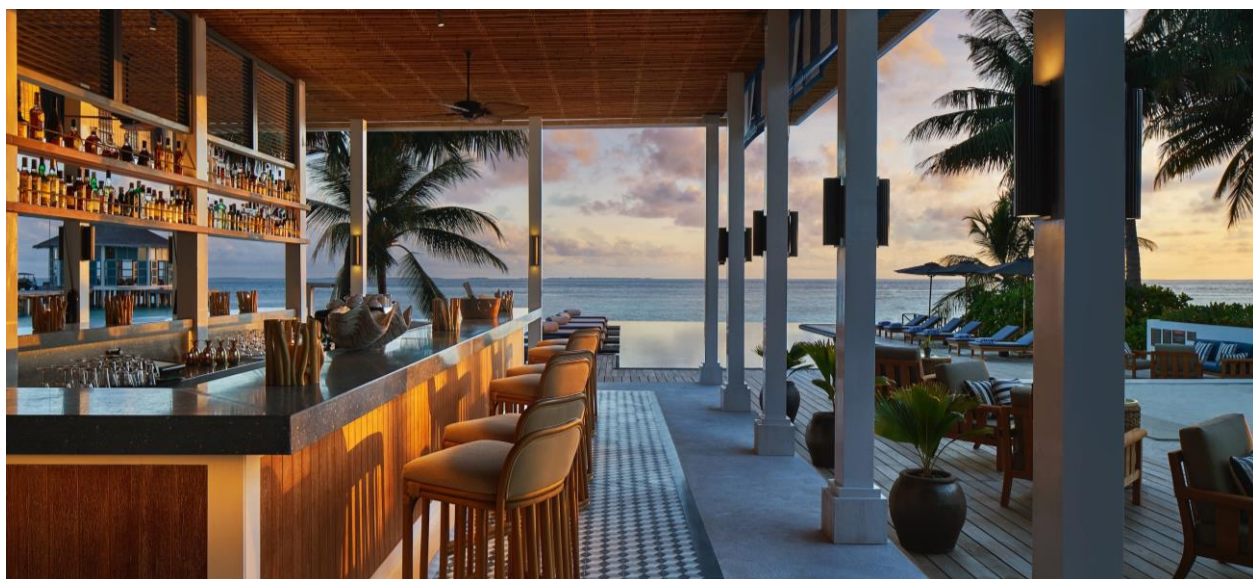
Surrounded by the sea, our soothing spa combines Eastern practices with age-old local influences to offer exceptionally sophisticated treatments embellished with distinctive Maldivian touches. Here highly personalised facials are by Biologique Recherche; intuitive body treatments use essential oils by Aromatherapy Associates; and manicure and pedicure concepts are devised by Margaret Dabbs London.



4. Be moved, physically and emotionally

At Raffles Maldives Meradhoo you can be as lazy as you like, or as active. Our glass-fronted, state-of-the-art gym provides unimpeded views of the Indian Ocean while our island jogging route crosses fragrant gardens abloom with hibiscus, orchids, bougainvillea and lilies. Sunrise yoga is a year-round possibility too, while visiting master practitioners will lead tutorials in tai chi, mindfulness and more.





5. Make waves with our marine biologist or your Marine Butler

Raffles Maldives Meradhoo's two vibrant house reefs are endlessly fascinating, and home to all manner of creatures from fluorescent parrotfish to handsome blacktip sharks. Our marine biologist is on hand to explain the intricacies of this precious ecosystem, but for underwater encounters that are a touch more personal, don a flipper and snorkel for guided explorations with your own Marine Butler. They'll take the photos so all you have to do is make memories.

6. Savour local and far-flung flavours

From hearty steaks and tender lamb cooked over an open flame at The Firepit to inventive salads and Asian specialities at Thari, our delicious dining options cater to all tastes. And for an evocative reminder of your stay, our team can teach you how to replicate their masterful flavours at home. Join our chefs at Yuzu to learn all about Nikkei cuisine (an invigorating fusion of Japanese and Peruvian culinary techniques); or visit The Long Bar to try your hand at a Maldives Sling, our signature cocktail combining gin, cinnamon, clove, grapefruit and pineapple. If you want to wow your significant other, you could always take to the sea to catch the fish that we'll prepare for your supper. Just say the word and our experienced Maldivian crew will accompany you on a fishing expedition to waters flush with tuna, maki maki and giant trevally; back on the island, our chefs will be ready to turn your catch of the day into a culinary wonder.

7. Say hello to Apollo and friends

Apollo is just one of the 15 graceful hawksbill turtles resident in our house reefs, but you don't need to go much further to see far more. The expert team at our impressively equipped dive centre can teach newbies how to dive confidently or organise ambitious excursions to wow even the most well-travelled underwater devotee. Green-turtle sightings are a near certainty on our Turtle Quest excursions while nearby waters are home to ethereal mobula rays. Divers will be awed not just by the beauty of the dive sites found throughout Gaafu Alifu Atoll, but the fuss-free access we provide to them. In this little-visited region of the Maldives, expect masses of fish rather than people.



8. Take a sunset cruise

A languid sunset cruise provides an easy, and romantic, way to take in the remarkable beauty of the Indian Ocean. With champagne glass in hand, couples can look out for dolphins as the sinking sun draws swashes of dusty pink, blazing orange and deep red across the sky and water.

9. Dine by tiki torch at our sunken table

A private dinner under the stars is always a pleasure, and ours is extra special. A sophisticated take on the castles and moats kids craft with bucket and spade, here your table and chair are carved from the sand and your meal – perhaps spiny lobster with papaya or perfectly flame-grilled beef tenderloin – is served under the sheen of warming tiki torch and moonlight.



10. Retreat to your residence

Though there's so much to do at Raffles, there's no shame in simply relishing all that's on offer in your villa – our abodes are among the largest in the country after all, and your own Raffles Butler is always at your service. Whether you stay overwater or on the beach, your tastefully styled island hideaway comes with a private pool, expansive outdoor space and an immense bathtub with more than enough room for two.





About Raffles

Raffles Hotels & Resorts boasts an illustrious history and some of the most prestigious hotel addresses worldwide. In 1887, Raffles Singapore set the standard for luxury hospitality, introducing the world to private butlers, the Singapore Sling and its enduring, legendary service. Today, Raffles continues this tradition in leading cities and lavish resort locales, enchanting travellers with meaningful experiences and service that is both gracious and intuitive. Connoisseurs of life choose Raffles, not merely for its aura of culture, beauty and gentility, but for the extraordinary way they feel when in residence with Raffles. Each Raffles, be it Paris, Istanbul, Warsaw, Jakarta or the Seychelles, serves as a venerated oasis where travellers arrive as guests, leave as friends and return as family. Raffles is part of Accor, a world-leading.



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