



RAFFLES

MALDIVES
MERADHOO

PRESS KIT

An idyllic beach retreat, a wonderful overwater

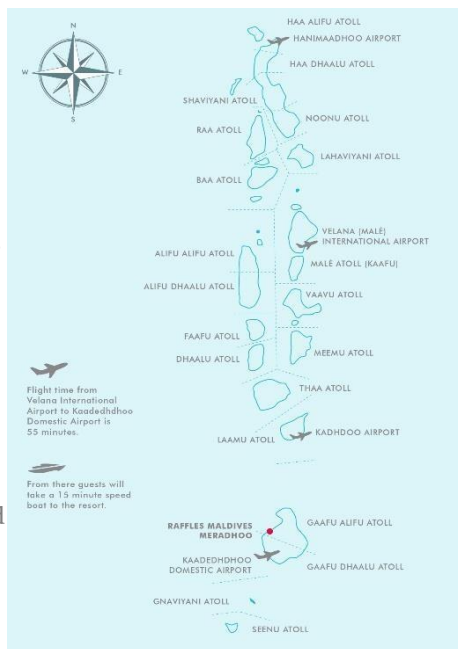


The adage that good things come to those who wait is true. Following an exhaustive search for a suitably spectacular site, Raffles' first resort in the Maldives was revealed in 2019 – and it consists of not just one remarkable private island but two.

Raffles Maldives Meradhoo, set on the southern tip of the Maldives in the remote and pristine Gaafu Alifu Atoll, almost misses the equator, and combines all the charm of its older Singapore sibling with creamy sand, raspberry sunsets and a coconut version of the famous sling famously invented at Raffles Singapore. The wonderful, almost delicious seclusion begins with the journey through the mesmerizing aquamarine waters of the Indian Ocean, where the most extensive Pantone color chart fails to capture the variety of shades of blue cataloguing will forever be etched in the memory of every newcomer.

A palm tree-peppered private island comprising just 22 villas and residences, a sublime spa, beachside restaurants and world-class dive center 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 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.



Butlers

When staying with us, you will reside in some of the largest villas in the Maldives, attended by the thoughtful & discreet service of the Raffles butlers, famous all around the world for their warm and graceful service that elevates your stay experience. At Raffles Maldives Meradhoo, in addition to being available to guests 24/7, they are trained by our resident marine biologists to take personalized snorkeling guides into the spectacular beauty of underwater life and are known as Marine Butlers.



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 Villa, one bedroom, 10 units, 220 square meters
- Sunset Beach Villa, one bedroom, 3 units, 220 square meters
- Beach Residence, two bedroom, 4 units, 260 square meters
- Sunset Beach Residence, two bedroom, 4 unit, 260 square meters
- Overwater Villa, one bedroom, 7 units, 230 square meters
- Sunset Overwater Villa, one bedroom, 7 units, 230 square meters
- Overwater Residence, two bedroom, 1 unit, 300 square meters
- Sunset Overwater Residence, two bedroom, 1 unit, 300 square meters
- Raffles Royal Residence, three bedroom, 1 unit, 1250 square meters



Design

Fish-scaletiles and beds to wow basketball players: Raffles Maldives Meradhoo has been designed to delight

Raffles understands 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 Raffles Maldives Meradhoo. Among the largest in the country and each with a private pool, its 38 beach and overwater villas have as a centerpiece elegant four-poster beds that measure an immense three meters across and two meters down. Placed on teak platforms and dressed in crisp 600-thread-count linens, these cloud-white sanctuaries are temples of tranquility, 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 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 world-class.

Paying tribute to Maldives' staggering seascape, these casual-chic-style villas draw on subtle maritime themes and finished in a blend of soothing whites and blues; decorative elements include simple displays of shells and sustainable replicas of coral. The furniture exclusively created for the resort 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 Head Interior Designer says: "the challenge was to emphasize the grandeur and gravitas of the brand Raffles in a way 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 color 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 the 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 the 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 the outdoor pool bar Yapa, the 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 color; 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.

These disparate spaces blend harmoniously, that can be attributed to Feng shui expert Simone Osswald. Known as the world’s first Feng shui wellness designer, she has 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 smoothly and blissfully.

That said, one stretch of the island will have limited access for Raffles Maldives Meradhoo guests: the Raffles Royal Residence. Momentous at 1,250 sq 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 artist.



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.

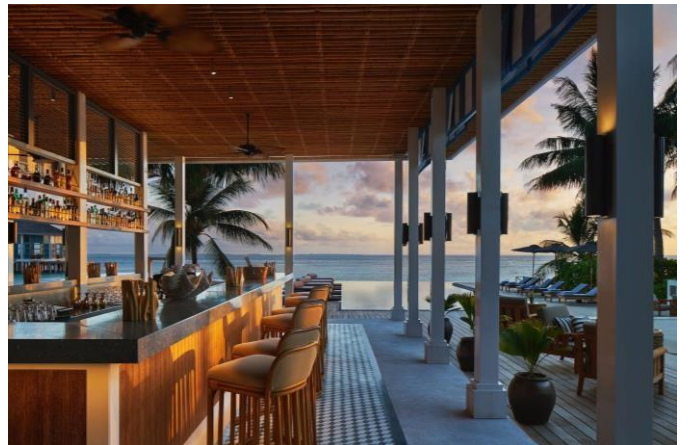
At night, their best bet is to ascend to the abode’s upper level, where the retractable roof gives unimpeded view of startlingly clear night skies. It makes for a unique spot to contemplate the Maldives’ remarkable natural beauty.

Restaurants



Relaxed feet-in-the-sand dining is encouraged here, too. **The Firepit** is an outdoor barbecue restaurant where hearty specialities (perhaps spicy lobster with green papaya or tender beef tenderloin) are prepared on 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 to watch the sun sink golden into the shimmering Indian Ocean. At adjacent fine-dining restaurant **Yuzu**, Peruvian chefs 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 Valmont; rejuvenating body treatments from Sodashi; and manicure and pedicure concepts devised by Margaret Dabbs London. An expansive gym caters to all fitness levels; private and group yoga sessions are organised on the ocean-facing deck; a jogging route winds its way along gardens a bloom with hibiscus and bougainvillea; visiting practitioners will lead tutorials in tai chi, mindfulness and more.



The Ultimate Yoga Retreat

Whether practicing 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 well-being.

If 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. Our instructors are also qualified to offer prenatal and children's yoga.

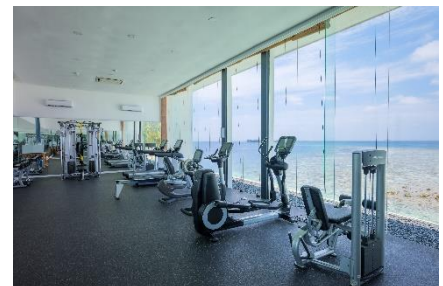


An Overwater Wellness Sanctuary

The development inspired by the lotus flower, a symbol of revitalization 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 personalized to take you on a sensory experience. Products are luxurious but sustainable, and techniques infuses with modern with traditional Maldivian practices.

And if you would prefer to experience the spa treatments in the comfort of your villa, our therapists will come to you.



Maintaining Life's Balance

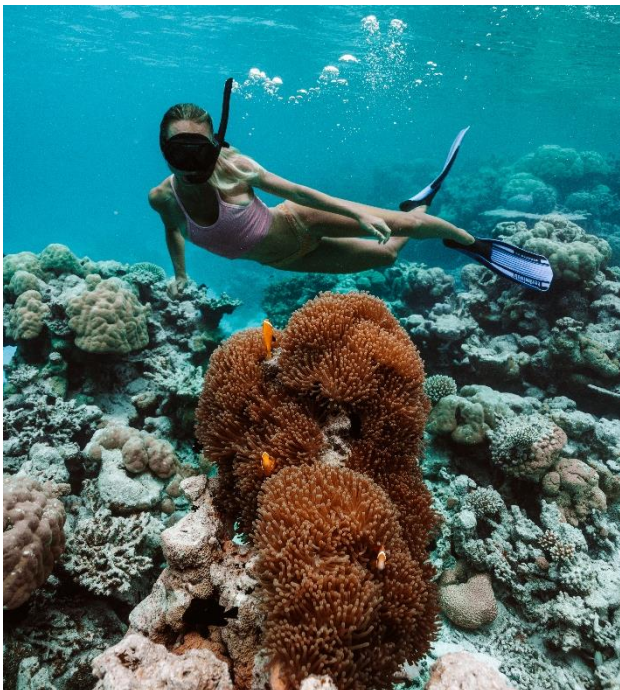
You will find a high-quality, well-equipped fitness center in our spa. Our expert trainers will help you reach your peak performance and achieve your desired fitness results by creating a customized programme, aimed at balancing physical activity with relaxation.

We also offer Pilates focused on strengthening the core postural muscles, along with strength and conditioning classes designed to challenge specific body parts. In addition, our garden jogging track, outdoor pool and clean, calm lagoon offer an environment 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 disposal. A very unique offering, a **Marine Butler** is available to every guest and will happily lead snorkeling 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 its astoundingly clear and blissfully warm water surrounds the island with a kaleidoscope of colorful fish. Keep an eye out for Apollo, one of the 25 resident hawksbill and green turtles that regularly swim by to say hello.



Amandine Vuylsteke is our passionate resident Marine Biologist with several years of experience in 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 snorkeling trips. When staying with us, you can participate in her coral growth and marine life monitoring projects. Discover and understand one of Mother Nature's most beautiful masterpieces.



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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