

WELCOME TO MALDIVES!

The Maldives conjures up images of tropical islands, swimming in water clear as glass, sunning yourself on white powdery beaches, sleeping in villas perched above tranquil waters, romantic walks on secluded beaches and unlimited explorations of the colourful underwater gardens teeming with marine life.

Maldives is this and so much more. Maldives is truly Paradise on Earth!

COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR MALDIVES

What you need to know

As the situation remains very fluid, the relevant Government and/or Health Authorities may change protocols, at any given time, or in particular to any given passenger or case.

Flying to Maldives

Effective March 04, 2022, passengers entering the Maldives are NO LONGER required to present a negative PCR test upon arrival if the individual(s) have completed the prescribed dose(s) of a Covid-19 vaccine that is approved by the Maldives Food & Drug Authority or by the World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Use Listing (EUL) and at least 14 (fourteen) days have passed since. (Booster dose(s) are not required to be eligible for this exemption). Proof of vaccination, featuring a QR code, must be readily available.

Children (one years and above) who are not eligible for vaccination and individual(s) who have not completed the prescribed dose(s) of a Covid-19 vaccine, will still be required to present a negative PCR upon arrival in the Maldives. The date the PCR test is conducted must be no older than 96 hours prior to the scheduled time of the departure flight to the Maldives.

Kindly find the below link of the WHO approved EUL vaccines:

<https://extranet.who.int/pqweb/vaccines/vaccinescovid-19-vaccine-eul-issued>

You can also find approved vaccines by the Maldives Food & Drug Authority from the below link:

<https://covid19.health.gov.mv/en/vaccine/?c=0>

PLEASE NOTE: Some hotels are still requiring a negative PCR for arrival at their property if coming from an international flight or from another resort. Please check with our team if you are unsure whether a resort still requires a negative PCR test to be presented on arrival.

In order to board your flight, the Maldives online Health Declaration Form must be submitted within 24 hours of departure through the IMUGA portal -

<https://imuga.immigration.gov.mv/ethd>. This same procedure needs to be followed to depart the Maldives. Do not do this outside of 24 hours as the information will expire.

Flying back to South Africa

Travellers, irrespective of their vaccination status, do not need to present a negative PCR test before flying to South Africa.

Should your onward destination require a negative PCR test, your Maldivian resort will facilitate your PCR test, at the relevant charge, payable directly. Please ensure that you advise the hotel on check-in that you require assistance with PCR testing. Your negative PCR test **MUST** be uploaded onto the IMUGA portal - <https://imuga.immigration.gov.mv/ethd> within 24 hours of your departure from the Maldives.

Certain resorts have a mandatory PCR test at extra charge, conducted on day 3 or 4 of your stay, which is also payable directly. Children under 5 years of age are exempt.

All costs associated to quarantining in the Maldives (in the event of a positive Covid test result) shall be for the passengers' account. In line with the Health Protection Agency in the Maldives' instruction, most resorts have an allocation of isolation rooms for the purposes of quarantine.

We recommend pre-printing and completing all the forms and questionnaire listed on our website.

Please note that it remains the relevant country's health authority's prerogative to change quarantine and/or COVID protocols, at any given time.

Getting to your resort

Male's Velana International Airport is located on its own island. From Velana, you will travel to your resort either by speedboat, seaplane or by domestic flight followed by a speedboat. All transfers will be scheduled by the resort at the time of booking and transfer details will be advised on documentation.

By Speedboat

Upon exiting the customs hall, make your way to the arrivals area where you can locate your resort counter. Here a resort representative will meet you and direct you to the speedboat jetty and show you where to wait for the speedboat to your resort. Speedboats are not restricted to hours of operation.

By Seaplane

Upon exiting the customs hall, make your way to the arrivals area where you can locate your resort counter. Here a resort representative will meet you and will direct you to the seaplane terminal where you can check-in for your seaplane transfer. Seaplanes only operate during daylight hours. Last departures from Velana are usually around 4pm. If international flights do not connect with a seaplane transfer, guests must overnight at one of the airport hotels on the island. Baggage allowance for the seaplane is 20kg and hand luggage is 3kg. Excess baggage will be charged at approximately \$5-\$6 per kg.

By Domestic Flight with Speedboat

Upon exiting the customs hall, make your way to the arrivals area where you can locate your resort's counter. Here a resort representative will meet you and arrange your transfer to the domestic terminal, where you will check-in for your domestic flight.

MALDIVES TRAVEL TIPS

Language

The language of the Maldivians is Dhivehi and English is widely spoken.

Culture

Islam is the official religion and all citizens must be Muslims. The culture, traditions and customs of the country are shaped by a multitude of Asian and Indian influences making for a fabulous cultural mix. Guests are not allowed to bring alcohol into the Maldives. Coral and shells are not allowed to be taken out of the Maldives.

Climate

The Maldives enjoys a year-round climate, with temperatures rarely falling below 27°C.

Visas & Passports

South Africans receive a 30-day visa free of charge. This is issued on arrival. Passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your date of travel and must have at least 3 blank pages.

Currency

As you cannot obtain the Maldivian Rufiyaa outside of the Maldives, US dollars is the currency of choice.

Health

Drink only bottled water and take the necessary precautions against the sun. This is a tropical destination so don't forget the insect repellent!

Electricity

Maldives uses plug points with three rectangular pins in a triangular pattern. An international adaptor will be required.

Time difference

3 hours ahead of South Africa.

**24 Aug 2022*