A SAFE HAVEN for travellers
Introduction

The Maldives is a picture-perfect archipelago, situated in the middle of the Indian Ocean, and home to 1,190+ dispersed coral islands which provide for natural isolation. The country is famous for its beauty and is celebrated as one of the most popular travel destinations in the world. Due to the unprecedented global pandemic, COVID-19, tourism had to come to a standstill and the country had to close its borders due to the stringent public health measures taken to curb the outbreak.

After 110 days of closing the borders, on 15th July 2020, Maldives reopened its borders to international tourists. As the world recovers from the current situation, the government made the decision to reopen the borders, fully confident in the safety measures and preparations to ensure the protection of all visitors and people working in the tourism sector itself. The health and safety of visitors have always been paramount, and the resumption of the tourism industry was only given the go-ahead following extensive protocols after important consultations with health professionals and relevant stakeholders.

All tourism products have now resumed operations and are ready to welcome back tourists once again. These products are:

- **RESORTS**
  - From clublike resorts to chic boutique resorts, from those which offer family fun to those that are exclusive to adults. Choose one that suits your style.

- **HOTELS**
  - If you are visiting the Maldives on business, staying at a hotel in Male’ is convenient. A range of hotels varying in size and standards are available.

- **LIVEABOARDS**
  - Liveaboards offer you the opportunity to see more of the Maldives. Liveaboards offer dedicated surf and dive cruises or you can choose one for a leisurely cruise to various atolls.

- **GUESTHOUSES**
  - A guesthouse stay offers a different experience. Your stay will be in a local town where you would get the chance to mingle with the people and get a taste of the country’s culture.
Tourist establishments have been regulated to ensure that they are in line with the COVID-19 tourism guidelines; a COVID-19 safe tourism guideline has been issued by the Ministry of Tourism along with a certification program to uphold proper safety and hygiene standards. The signature “one-island-one-resort” concept means that visitors to the country are based in their respective resorts. Together, these unique arrangements make it easier for visitors to maintain social distancing, whilst enjoying a truly safe and secluded holiday.

While visitors get to enjoy the beautiful country, it is vital to provide them with a clear understanding and awareness of the safety measures in place, to ensure that they get to enjoy a hassle-free vacation. They are requested to adhere to all measures stated in this document and ensure that all necessary requirements are met prior to arrival, during arrival and departure from Maldives.
Before Departure to Maldives

- A confirmed booking in a tourist establishment registered with the Ministry of Tourism is mandatory. A list of tourist establishments and their tentative reopening dates is available on the Visit Maldives website.

- The “Public Health Interventions to Prevent COVID-19 Transmission in the Tourism Sector” guideline details what tourists can expect as they plan to visit Maldives.

- Split-Stays are permitted between all tourist establishments that meet all compulsory requirements under the Split-Stay guideline approved by the local Health Protection Agency. Requests for approval of these Split-Stays should be submitted to the properties 3 days prior to the traveling date to facilitate arrangements.

- Tourists who have completed the vaccination doses are required to submit all the documents as well.

- All tourists are required to submit an online Health Declaration Form within 24 hours prior to departure through the IMUGA portal.

- All tourists are required to hold a negative PCR test for COVID-19 conducted 96 hours prior the scheduled time of departure from the first port of embarkation enroute to Maldives.

- If the tourist makes a transit during the journey, the initial PCR test will be valid if the transit does not exceed 24 hours.

- If the tourist makes a transit exceeding 24 hours, the passenger must repeat the PCR test within 96 hours prior to embarkation at the port of transit.

The document containing the PCR test result should state:

- Name of the passenger (name as in passport)
- Name and address of the testing laboratory
- Type of test stated as a PCR test
- Date and time of sampling
- Result

The PCR test result should be submitted through the IMUGA portal within 24 hours prior to departure to Maldives. In addition, the lab result should be presented in paper or electronic format during the airline check-in.
On Arrival to Maldives

- All tourists are granted a 30-day free visa upon arrival.
- Quarantine upon arrival is not required. However, if the passenger has a fever, cough or shortness of breath on board the flight or upon arrival, it should be informed to the local Health Protection Agency.
- All tourists must undergo thermal screening at the arrival terminal.
- All tourists should wear masks.
- Hands should be sanitized. Hand sanitization and hygiene facilities are available throughout the airport.
- Physical distancing should be ensured. All physical distancing guidelines are clearly marked with visible distance information and floor markings in passenger terminals.
- All tourists are encouraged to install the Contact Tracing app “TraceEkee.”
Tourists must undergo an exit screening prior to departure from the resort. This is to ensure that a symptomatic person or a person in quarantine does not exit the resort and travel.

The exit screening questionnaire should document any history of fever or respiratory symptoms such as cough or shortness of breath within the past 14 days. It should be ensured that the guest is not under quarantine or isolation. Temperature should be checked to exclude fever.

A tourist who is under quarantine or isolation should not be allowed to exit the resort except for a medical emergency.

Routine testing for COVID-19 is not required prior to departure from a resort, however during exit screening if any tourist is found to have fever or symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 within the prior 14 days, they must undergo PCR testing for COVID-19.

For tourists who require COVID-19 test results to return to their countries of origin or another destination, testing services are available in the Maldives. This can be arranged through the destination or resort representative.
During April 2021, Visit Maldives in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism launched the “I’m Vaccinated” campaign in order to share a positive message regarding the vaccination of staff working in the tourism sector as well as promoting the initiatives undertaken to ensure the Maldives remains one of the safest destinations in the world for travelers.

Under this campaign, the ultimate target is to make Maldives the first fully vaccinated tourism sector in the world. Along with the unique geographical formation of the islands which offer natural physical distancing, and the stringent health and safety measures in place, a fully vaccinated tourism sector will become an added advantage in encouraging tourists to visit the destination.

As of August 2021, over 97% of the employees in tourist resorts have received the first dose of the vaccine with over 90% being fully vaccinated.

The most up to date information about the vaccination process within the tourism industry can be accessed at https://vaccinated.visitmaldives.com/
Maldives has received the “Safe Travels Stamp” granted by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) on 15th September 2020, in recognition of the measures taken in making the Maldives a safe and pleasurable destination for visitors.

Velana International Airport is the second airport in the Asia Pacific Region to receive the much-awaited “Airport Health Accreditation” by the Airport Council International (ACI) on 31st August 2020.
Maldives Immigration, together with the Ministry of Tourism, Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation and Maldives Airports Company launched the “Maldives Border Miles” program, the very first of its kind in the world on 27th September 2020.

Maldives Border Miles is a three-tier loyalty program for tourists who will earn points based on the duration of stay, frequency of visits and other aspects.

The program will be officially implemented on 1st December 2020.
Allied Insurance Company, together with the Ministry of Tourism, launched a COVID-19 insurance policy, focusing on tourists visiting Maldives.

This insurance policy called “Allied Inbound” consists of two options covering medical charges, isolation facility charges, emergency medical transportation charges and interment charges.

This insurance policy comes in two options: Allied Inbound and Allied Inbound Plus. Tourists who are interested in this insurance should apply for the plan 24 hours prior to their arrival in the country through the Allied Insurance website. The resort establishment in which the tourist is staying can also take this plan on their behalf, provided that the beneficiary will be insured.

More details and relevant information are also available on the Allied Insurance website and the toll-free hotline 1600.

For more information, download brochure here.
Connectivity from Different Markets

Maldives Connected to the World
October 2020, November 2020

Flights in operation
Upcoming flights (Nov/Dec)