

# New and divine

As the world opens up again, the Maldives will be high on many VIP travel lists, and with three new resort launches, there is plenty to see in the quite sublime region

The Maldives consists of more than 1,192 stunning islands in the Indian Ocean, formed of two rows of 26 atolls running from north to south.

Both chains of atolls (the largest with an area of only 8 km<sup>2</sup>) are located approximately 700km from Sri Lanka and 400km south-west of India; making this a quite incredible destination to holiday in.

Due to its unique features and exceptional beauty, the Maldives has become one of the most exclusive tourism havens, with visitors from all over the world, which now generates more than 25 per cent of the country's GDP.

## GRAN MELIA HURAVEE RESORT

Melia's first move into The Maldives may have been delayed, but it's coming in 2021 with a bang. Located in the picturesque Thaa Atoll, about a 40 minute speedboat ride from Velana International Airport, the

Gran Melia Huravee boasts of 96 private villas including two presidential suites and one private island villa, spa and gym and a wide selection of dining options for the guests, and the luxury services characteristic of the Gran Meliá brand.

Set amongst virgin coral reef, the landscaping was designed and carried out with minimal impact to natural surroundings.

Maria Zarraluqui, Director of Expansion for Meliá Hotels International, commented, "Opening a Gran Meliá hotel in the Maldives has been a dream for us for a long time, but we were always waiting for the right project to come along. This hotel meets all our expectations. We are confident that our unique Gran Meliá brand will enhance the magic of these privileged islands, giving a new meaning to the concept of luxury." [meliahotelsinternational.com](http://meliahotelsinternational.com)



## RITZ CARLTON MALDIVES RESORT

Set within an integrated halo azure lagoon, brightened by crisp white beaches, the Fari Islands Ritz-Carlton Maldives takes a minimalist approach to luxury. Modern design highlights sea views and pristine beaches; simple ingredients are transformed by skilled chefs and mixologists; and

nature is explored with respect and wonder. The resort's three islands and overwater quay serve as a base for discovering all the

**Left: The spectacular Ritz-Carlton Maldives Above Left: Grand Melia's tranquil resort Top: A completely unique place to get married Above: The Chedi**

North Malé atoll has to offer. The choice of three islands is the beginning of abundance at the Ritz Carlton Maldives resort, with seven restaurants and bars to choose from; each showcasing global cuisine and breathtaking views. There are beachfront or overwater villas, with private infinity pools and butler services, an overwater

spa offering treatments inspired by directional energy, and access to Fari Marina with more luxury shopping, dining and entertainment on hand.

The hotel is now accepting reservations for a revised opening date of May 2021.

[ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/maldives-fari-islands](http://ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/maldives-fari-islands)

## CHEDI KUDAVILLINGILI RESORT

The Chedi on Maldives is located on the one-kilometre-long coral island of Kudavillingili, a quick 30-minute speedboat ride from Malé's Velana International Airport. Slated for a 2021 opening, this mixed-use resort development features four different accommodation types – beach villas (with plunge pool option), water villas and double-storey villas – and all units are offered as residences ➤

for sale. Along with exciting food and beverage concepts, comprehensive amenities and a professional service team, The Chedi Kudavillingili's craftsmanship and design inspiration will deliver the ultimate place to reconnect with nature, a paradise you can truly call home. In addition to the 36 overwater villas, and 63 island-based villas, The Chedi Kudavillingili will launch a 150-metre-long central pool, a spa with eight overwater treatment rooms, a beach club and bar, an all-day dining restaurant and Hawkers Stalls featuring four live cooking stations. Recreational opportunities on the island run the gamut from courts for several different sports to surfing and a plethora of on-the-water and underwater pursuits.

[ghmhotels.com/en/development](http://ghmhotels.com/en/development)

**RADISSON BLU MALDIVES RESORT**

A hidden gem in the Indian Ocean, the Radisson Blu Resort Maldives allows you to escape from the world and relax in style. From world-class snorkeling and diving with whale sharks, to simply relaxing with a glass of champagne in the private pool, blissful days on the beach turn into memorable nights thanks to an array of fine-dining restaurants, which serve both local and global cuisine. With a poolside bar and a beach bar, there is no need to move far for those who want to soak up the view.

Nestled on Huruelhi Island and one other pristine islet in the Alifu Dhaalu Atoll, guests can take a scenic 30-minute seaplane direct to the resort or a 20-minute domestic flight from Malé to

**Top: The Melia island walkway**  
**Above right: The interior of a Radisson Blu villa, complete with infinity pool**  
**Right: The main resort at Radisson Blu**

Maamigili Airport followed by a 15-minute speedboat ride.

All 128 beachfront and overwater villas enjoy the luxury of private pools, ocean views, state-of-the-art amenities with one, two or three bedrooms. For the ultimate getaway, the Presidential Suite promises two levels of indoor and alfresco living space overlooking the Indian Ocean. Guests can explore the amazing marine world from the diving and water sports centre, soothe their senses at the overwater spa and yoga pavilion, or work out at the fitness centre and sports court. A diverse selection of restaurants and bars includes Raha, the casual all-day dining destination, Alifaan, the Mediterranean and seafood grill, Eats & Beats, the chilled out poolside bar, and Crusoe's, the adults-only oasis. Kabuki showcases innovative Nikkei cuisine, Mahurab is an exquisite overwater Wine Bar, and The Lab is an exclusive restaurant for intimate twice-weekly wine-and-cocktail pairing dinners. Alternatively, guests can dine in the privacy of their villa with 24-hour service.

[radissonhotels.com](http://radissonhotels.com) ■

