

Maldives - Kaafu Atoll South
8 days – 7 nights
Male, Guraidhoo, Maafushi, Gulhi
Relaxation, Sports, Fun

This program may be operated for individuals or for small groups
This is a suggested itinerary

Among the many atolls that make up the Maldives archipelago, Kaafu Atoll is the most important. Located near the only international airport in the archipelago, on the island of Hulhule, it is the most touristic atoll in the Maldives, with around forty resorts totaling more than 4,000 rooms. The Male South Atoll is separated from Male North by the deep Vadoo Channel. Oval in shape, it is about 22 miles from north to south. The large administrative city of Kaafu South Atoll is Maafushi.

Day 1: Male

Upon arrival at Male International Airport you will be greeted by our representative and transferred to your guesthouse on Hulhumale, just 15 minutes away. Settle in after your flight before taking your first steps on the sands of this tropical paradise. The beach is a 3-minute walk away, with several local cafes and local restaurants, plus a water sports center. For guests arriving before 5.00 pm there is an option to join your guide on the beach for coffee, a very popular daily activity for Maldivians and a chance to gain your first insight into the local side of this island paradise. [D]

Day 2: Male, Guraidhoo

Following breakfast served at the guesthouse you will transfer by public ferry to Male, a 20-minute journey, where a guide will accompany you on a tour of the capital city, providing opportunity to visit places of interest including The Friday Mosque and the National Museum and Sultan Park. After lunch transfer by local ferry to your guesthouse on island of Guraidhoo, 2 hours from Male. Sit up top on the ferry to view the beauty of the many Maldives islands that pass you by while keeping your eyes open for dolphins! Upon arrival you will have time to settle in before either relaxing in the garden at the guesthouse or on the local beach to watch the sun go down. This evening, have dinner with a local family; just don't expect silver platter service as traditionally meals are eaten without the aid of knife and fork! [B/D]

Day 3: Guraidhoo

Following breakfast, you'll be accompanied by your guide for your first underwater encounter and explore Guraidhoo's house reef! Your guide will provide a safety briefing on responsible snorkeling and act as your 'spotter' pointing out marine life that may not have caught your eye. Less confident or inexperienced snorkelers will be assisted to ensure the equipment is comfortable and you feel safe in the water. As the afternoon cools down, you'll accompany your guide and explore Guraidhoo getting familiarized with the local way of life, including a visit to the Mosque and the boatyard to learn how the common wooden boat known locally as a 'dhoni' is built. You can also stop and chat with children playing in the street and watch the ladies of the community begin their evening meal preparations. We'll also stop at a local cafe to sample traditional 'hedhikaa' - Maldivian savory and sweet short eats and finger food served with black tea. [B]

Day 4: Guraidhoo

Following a local style breakfast, we travel by speedboat to two of the best nearby reefs. The coral reefs of the Maldives are inhabited by diverse marine life and are teeming with colorful fish and corals. Keep your eyes open for turtles, sharks and rays! You never know what may be in the blue! On return to Guraidhoo the afternoon is free for you to participate in optional watersports, diving or surfing. Then, in the evening, enjoy a relaxed beach BBQ under the stars with optional traditional dancing at the beat of the 'bodu beru' where a group of men sit around the 'bodu beru' (big drum) and sing to a rhythmical beat until they reach a crescendo. [B/D]

Day 5: Guraidhoo, Maafushi

After breakfast, transfer by local ferry to the nearby island of Maafushi, just 20 minutes away. After checking into the guesthouse, you may, once again, enjoy the underwater beauty of the Maldives. Our boat trip will stop at a deserted sandbank for lunch with time to swim or lie back and relax before heading back to Maafushi across the Indian Ocean in search of dolphins. This evening following dinner, join your guide for a stroll through the island and learn how Maafushi led the development of local tourism. Complete your day in the traditional way with coffee at a local café. [B/L/D]

Day 6: Maafushi

Friday is a public holiday in the Maldives and therefore you to take the day off... so to speak! You can relax on the bikini beach, choose to visit another resort for the day or, if you feel energetic, participate in the various optional watersport activities available. Optional diving trips can be organized for certified divers (Don't forget to bring with you diving log). [B]

Options:

- Full-day scuba-diving boat trip from Maafushi*
- Half-day scuba-diving boat trip from Maafushi*
- Manta Ray boat trip from Maafushi*

Day 7: Maafushi, Gulhi

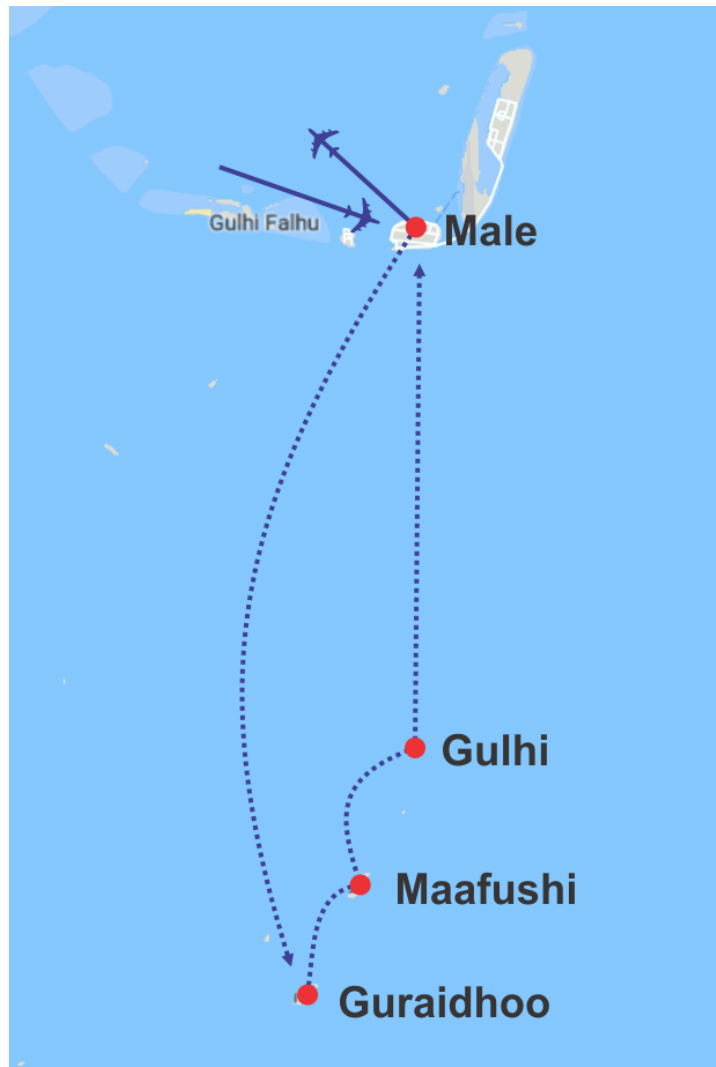
Following an early breakfast, take a short 20-minute public ferry journey to the quiet local island of Gulhi. Once checked in to your guesthouse, your guide will accompany you on a tour of the island. Visit the boat yard to stand in awe at the size of the boats under renovation, chat with the ladies sweeping the streets and finally refresh yourself with a cool Kurumba drink (coconut) watching the comings and goings at the harbor. Ready for relaxation you may choose to head to the bikini beach or, for the more energetic, join your guide for a final snorkeling opportunity in the house reef of Gulhi. Optional watersports and diving trips can be organized for certified divers (Don't forget to bring with you diving log). This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner in the peaceful courtyard of your guesthouse. [B/D]

Day 8 Gulhi, Male, USA

After breakfast, leave around 7.30 to catch the ferry to Male where you'll arrive by 2:30 pm. So, please schedule your return flight accordingly. If your flight is later in the evening, there are day package options at Hulhule Airport hotel to use the swimming pool, restaurant, bar etc. or an optional half day visit to Vilimale island which is 15 minutes from Male. [B]

- #### Options:
- Day-use room & airport transfers in Hulhumale*
 - Half-day visit to Vilimale island*

[B] = Breakfast | [D] = Dinner | [B/D] = Breakfast and Dinner



Your Tour includes

- All airport and pier transfers
- Ferry boat transfers between islands
- 7 nights' accommodation:
 - Hulhumale 1 night
 - Guraidhoo 3 nights
 - Maafushi 2 nights
 - Gulhi 1 night
- Meals:
 - Breakfast daily
 - 1 lunch
 - 4 dinners
 - 1 dinner with a local family
- Tour of Male
- Explore Guraidhoo house reef
- Walking tour of Guraidhoo

- Beach BBQ dinner
- Walking tour of Maafushi
- Tour of Gulhi Island
- Watersports throughout
- Free 30-day tourist visa on arrival
- Local guides

Tour does not include:

- International flights (available on request)
- Travel insurance
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks, tips and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Extra optional activities
- Any other items not mentioned above

Hotels in your Tour:

Location	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
Hulhumale	Hotel Ocean Grand at Hulhumale	4.5
Guraidhoo	Ithaa Beach Maldives	4.5
Maafushi	Crystal Sands	4,5
Gulhi	Sandy Heaven Maldives	5

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

These programs can be customized for individuals and groups. Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

• Airfare

We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares

• Program

You may add or remove;

- Trip days
- Cities and sites
- Meals

• Other options

- The program was designed with private services, however, we may substitute shared sightseeing where available
- If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.

• Quotation

Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

Tour Code: MV03MLE20TE

Other Options

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.

Group Quotations

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.
- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.
- We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.