



## Maldivian Country Guide

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### Passport and Visa Conditions

An entry visa may be issued to Australian ordinary passport holders when they enter the Maldives as a tourist at Ibrahim Nasir (Malé) International Airport free of charge.

This visa allows for a stay of up to 30 days in the Maldives. Passports must be valid for at least six months, but it is strongly recommended to have them valid for six months beyond intended stay.

Travellers should be able to show documentation confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay, as well as tickets/entry documents for their next destination.

For further information, and to confirm that you are eligible to travel to the Maldives without a visa, please contact a Maldivian representative on the contact details provided below.

### Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

*Exercise normal safety precautions in the Maldives (except on Malé Island). Use common sense. Look out for suspicious behaviour, as you would in Australia. Exercise a high degree of caution on Malé Island due to the possibility of civil unrest. Pay close attention to your personal security at all times. Avoid protests and large public gatherings as they have the potential to turn violent. Monitor local media and follow instructions issued by local authorities. See [Safety and security](#).*

*Terrorist attacks are possible, including against Maldivian institutions and tourist locations frequented by Westerners. See [Safety and security](#). Drug related crime occurs in Malé. Gang-related violence, including knife crime, has increased in populated areas, including Malé. See [Safety and security](#).*

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in the Maldives at [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au).

## Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against Hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to the Maldives. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against Hepatitis B. Vaccination against Typhoid should be considered particularly if travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including for influenza. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures.

Australians travelling to the Maldives should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit [www.smarttraveller.gov.au/tips](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/tips).

## Maldivian Representation in Australian and Abroad

Honorary Consul of the Maldives, Melbourne

Suite 3, 94 Union Street  
WESTGARTH, VIC 3070

Tel: 0411 422 226  
Fax: (03) 9349 1119

Department of Immigration, Maldives

First Floor, Velaanage  
Ameer Ahmed Magu'  
MALE'

Web: [www.immigration.gov.mv](http://www.immigration.gov.mv)



## Maldivian Country Guide

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### Time Differences between Maldives and Australia

The Maldives are Greenwich Mean Time +5 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone in Maldives is called Maldives Time (MVT).

Maldives, 12 noon, Winter (Dec) = Perth 3pm; Darwin 4:30pm; Brisbane 5pm; Adelaide 5:30pm; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 6pm.  
 Maldives, 12 noon, Summer (Jun) = Perth 3pm; Darwin, Adelaide 4:30pm; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 5pm.

### Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for the Maldives: +960

To Dial Australia Call:  
 00 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:  
 Call the US on +1 954 838 8294

Visa Global Assistance:  
 Call the US on +1 303 967 1090

MasterCard:  
 Call the US on +1 636 722 7111

American Express Lost or Stolen Cards:  
 Call Australia on +61 2 9271 8664

Emergency Services:  
 Ambulance 102  
 Police 119  
 Fire 118

These services may not always have English speaking staff. In this case, you should have a local call on your behalf or contact the Australian High Commission in Sri Lanka.

### Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

#### Passports

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

#### Credit Cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

#### Travel Insurance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Australian Representatives to The Maldives

Australian High Commission, Sri Lanka

21 Gregory's Road  
 COLOMBO

Tel: (+94 11) 246 3200  
 Fax: (+94 11) 268 6453

Web: [www.srilanka.highcommission.gov.au](http://www.srilanka.highcommission.gov.au)

Australia does not maintain a permanent consular presence in the Maldives. The Australian High Commission in Sri Lanka is accredited to this country. Australians in the Maldives are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [www.orao.dfat.gov.au](http://www.orao.dfat.gov.au).

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.



## Maldivian Country Guide

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### Duty Free Allowances

Duty Free limits when entering the Maldives:

Alcohol: Alcohol may not be imported into the Maldives.  
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 25 cigars and 200g of tobacco.  
 Perfume: Reasonable amounts for personal use.  
 Other Goods: Up to Rf. 6,000.

Minors (under 16 years of age in the Maldives) may not claim tobacco products. Further restrictions apply to these and other goods, travellers should familiarise themselves with these restrictions before entry.

For further information on customs and duty free regulations when entering Maldives, please visit the Maldives Customs Service at [www.customs.gov.mv](http://www.customs.gov.mv).

### Maldivian Holidays 2018

01 Jan:	New Years Day	11 Sep:	Islamic New Year
01 May:	Labour Day	03 Nov:	Victory Day
16 May:	Ramadan begins	09 Nov:	National Day
15-17 Jun:	Ramadan ends	11 Nov:	Republic Day
26-27 Jul:	Independence Day	20 Nov:	Birth of Muhammad
20 Aug:	Hajju day	09 Dec:	Embracing of Islam
21-24 Aug:	Feast of Sacrifice		

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 litres.  
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.  
 Other Tax Free Goods: Up to \$900 (\$450 for minors).

For further details on Australian duty free allowances and other customs restrictions please go to [www.border.gov.au](http://www.border.gov.au).

### Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Plug: British, some European and South African.  
 Others may also be used depending on resort.  
 Voltage: Usually 220-240 volts, 110-120 in some resorts.  
 Modem Plug: USA.



British Socket



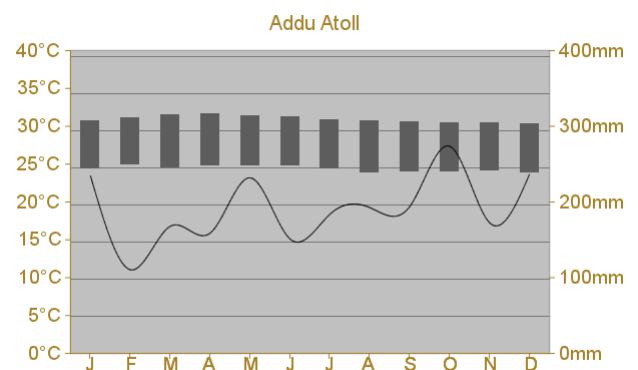
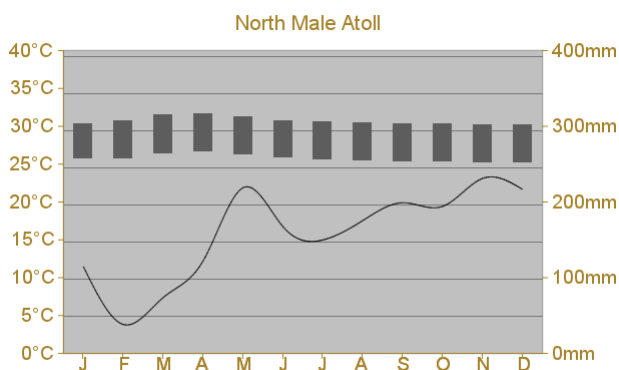
European Socket



S.A. Socket

Source: Korjo Travel Products. Please view the Korjo adapter guide at [www.korjo.com.au](http://www.korjo.com.au) for further information on this matter.

### Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Maldives



Source: Maldives Meteorological Service. For local forecasts please go to [www.meteorology.gov.mv](http://www.meteorology.gov.mv) or [www.bbc.co.uk/weather](http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather).

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## Maldivian Country Guide

### Page 4 of 5 Maldivian Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate with the Maldives

Interbank Rate  
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 11.11 Maldivian Rufiyaa  
 10 Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) = 0.90 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin  
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 10.69 Maldivian Rufiyaa  
 10 Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) will cost 0.94 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

### Currency Cheat Sheet

5 MVR = \$0.47 AUD		This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.		1,000 MVR = \$93.57 AUD	
10 MVR = \$0.94 AUD	100 MVR = \$9.36 AUD	2,000 MVR = \$187.15 AUD	3,000 MVR = \$280.72 AUD	4,000 MVR = \$374.29 AUD	5,000 MVR = \$467.86 AUD
20 MVR = \$1.87 AUD	200 MVR = \$18.71 AUD	6,000 MVR = \$561.44 AUD	7,000 MVR = \$655.01 AUD	8,000 MVR = \$748.58 AUD	9,000 MVR = \$842.16 AUD
30 MVR = \$2.81 AUD	300 MVR = \$28.07 AUD	8,000 MVR = \$748.58 AUD	9,000 MVR = \$842.16 AUD	10,000 MVR = \$935.73 AUD	
40 MVR = \$3.74 AUD	400 MVR = \$37.43 AUD				
50 MVR = \$4.68 AUD	500 MVR = \$46.79 AUD				
60 MVR = \$5.61 AUD	600 MVR = \$56.14 AUD				
70 MVR = \$6.55 AUD	700 MVR = \$65.50 AUD				
80 MVR = \$7.49 AUD	800 MVR = \$74.86 AUD				
90 MVR = \$8.42 AUD	900 MVR = \$84.22 AUD				

### Banknotes of the Maldives

The legal currency of the Maldives is the Maldivian Rufiyaa, which is abbreviated using the symbol "Rf" or "MRF". The subunit of the rufiyaa is called the laari, of which there are 100 in every rufiyaa. The following units of currency are the most common however other units are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.





# Maldivian Country Guide

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## About the Maldives

Full Name: Dhivehi Raajjeyge Jumhooriyyaa (Republic of Maldives).

Independence: 26 July 1965 (from the UK).

Size: 298 sq km (spread across 107,500 sq km of sea).

Islands: 1,190 total islands, 200 of which are inhabited, 105 of which host resorts.

Population: 394,000. Male 120,000.

Ethnicity: South Indians, Sinhalese, Arabs.

Language: Dhivehi (a dialect of Sinhala, indigenous to Sri Lanka) and English.

Religion: Official religion is Sunni Muslim.

GDP Per Capita: US\$8,700 (Australia US\$40,800).

### Significant Dates:

- 1153 AD - Maldivians convert to Islam.
- 1558-73 - Portugal establishes a base in the Maldives before being ousted in a popular revolt.
- 1600's - Dutch protectorate of the Maldives is established.
- 1887 - The Maldives becomes a self-governing British protectorate.
- 1932 - First written constitution. Sultan becomes an elected position.
- 1965 - Full independence proclaimed.
- 1968 - The Sultan is deposed after a referendum, republic formed.
- 1972 - First tourist resort is developed.
- 1978-2008 - President Maumoon Abd al-Gayoom rules the Maldives. He is accused political repression.
- 1980's - Tourist industry develops.
- 2004 - Tsunami kills scores and devastates many islands.
- 2008 - First multiparty elections held.

