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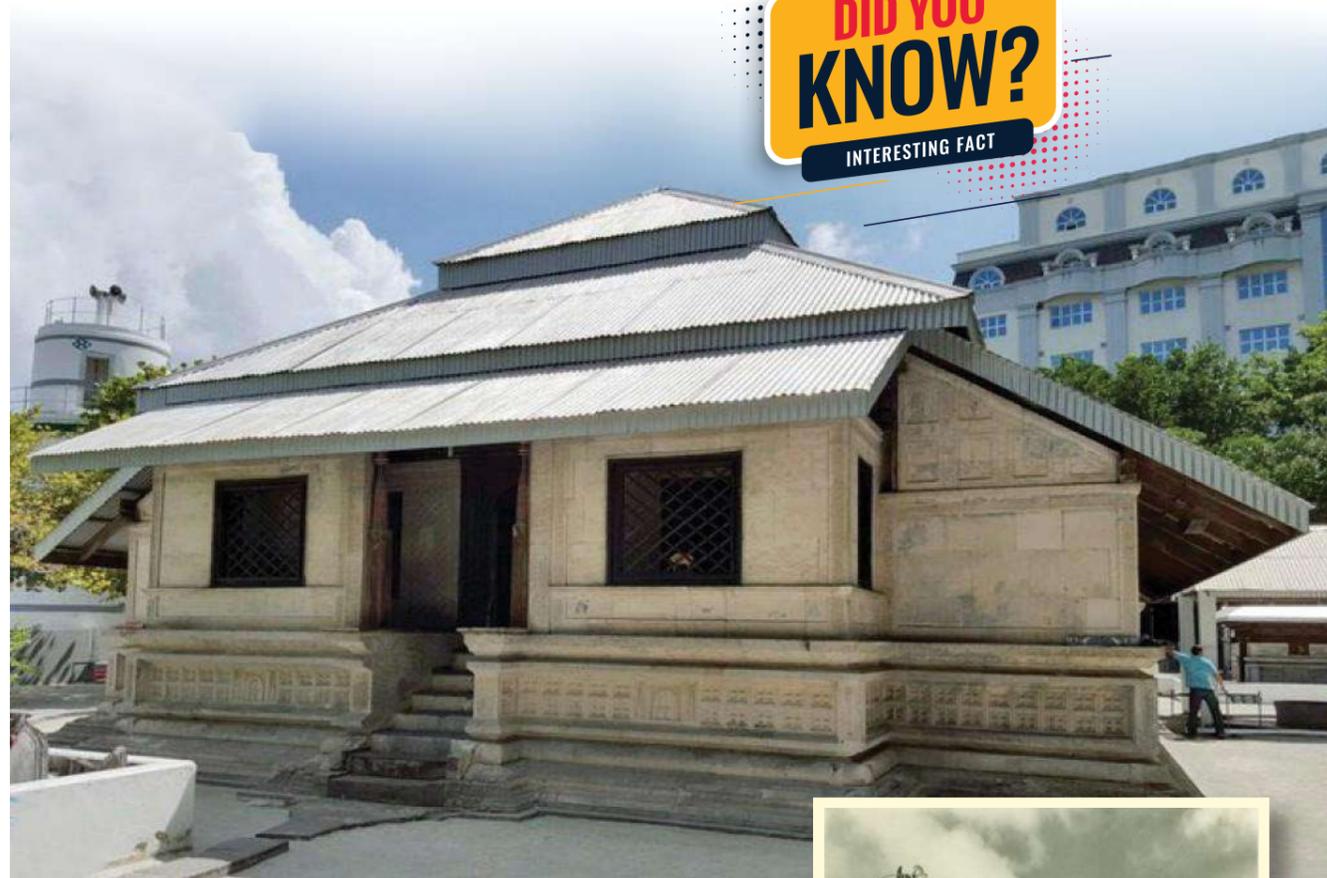
As for many involved in the reopening of the tourism and hospitality industry, it's been a hectic time behind the scenes, especially with the Maldives tourism industry representing over 70 per cent of the business across the Maldives, and with the government relying on tourism taxes and lease rentals of tourism islands to sustain the economy. Through these articles you will understand the depth of our government's commitment to bringing economic and social development to its people.

There's also a hot new platform trending and social media mavens are becoming a part of this club, and so do us. Yes! We are thrilled to inform you that we are now on Clubhouse. In short, Clubhouse lets you create and join "rooms," where you can then chat with others in a big conference call. There are no pictures, videos, or really even text — just audio. You can join and leave the call at any time, turning any room into a public meeting hall. To put it simply, it's an exclusive app for interactive, real-time podcasts on any topic under the sun — travel included. And many travel advisors are getting in on the action and using the app to help network and grow their businesses. We can't find a reason why we should not be on Clubhouse. So, we invite you to join our rooms and conversations at our own space and community on this amazing platform at <https://www.clubhouse.com/club/the-islandchief> to socialize in our upcoming interactive and exciting discussions in real time.

In this issue we have managed to scoop an exclusive interview with Maha Naseer, the Secretary General of the Chefs Guild of Maldives, where she shares about her culinary journey, achievements, challenges, and advice to young aspiring chefs, on p12. Under movers and shakers, we have exciting and inspiring news about the newly appointed posts in the hospitality industry, which highlights their journey of how they became prominent in the field. Our opinion column, where we regularly feature views from the industry experts, will bring you interesting insights on lifting the suspension of tourists from South Asian destinations with extra measures, turn to p23.

There's plenty to sink your teeth into this issue. As our team have worked tirelessly to bring this issue on digital and print.

Until next month,
The islandchief Team



The Malé Friday Mosque or the Malé Hukuru Miskiy also known as the Old Friday Mosque is one of the oldest and most ornate mosques in the city of Malé, Kaafu Atoll, Maldives. Coral boulders of the genus *Porites*, found throughout the archipelago, are the basic materials used for construction of this and other mosques in the country because of its suitability. Although the coral is soft and easily cut to size when wet, it makes sturdy building blocks when dry.

The mosque was added to the tentative UNESCO World Heritage cultural list in 2008 as unique examples of sea-culture architecture.



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Luke Air Operated by Blue Panorama Airlines Resumes Chartered Flights from Poland to Maldives

Luke Air resumed its chartered flights between Maldives and Poland. Stated by the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC), the first flight operated by Luke Air arrived in the Maldives on June 17, 2021 with 297 tourists, which will continue its operations with one flight every week, until April 2022.

Under its former brand Blue Panorama, the very first flights operated between Maldives and Poland was in the year 2019.

Panorama Airlines from Italy rebranded as Luke Air is chartered by the Polish Tour Operator ITAKA, and managed by the local agent, Sun Ocean Maldives. The airline is using Airbus A330 for the flights operated to the Maldives.

To further assist the efforts initiated by Sun Ocean and ITAKA, Maldives introduced a joint campaign to boost arrivals from the market by promoting Maldives as a safe destination in Poland. The campaign involves digital marketing activities and



outdoor ambient campaigns to promote the renowned products and uniquely Maldives experiences offered in the destination, with emphasis on the safety provided via the naturally

socially distanced geography of the Maldivian islands. The Polish Market is an emerging top market to Maldives with an arrival number of over 8,000 visitors.



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Authorized ticketing agent, CypreaAir and Holidays is introducing Air India Express to the Maldives, with a special flight to be operated on June 25 from Male' to Tiruchirappalli.

Air India Express is a low-cost airline; a wholly owned subsidiary of Air India, India's national carrier. The airline currently operates to 33 destinations in the Middle East and Southeast Asia regions, exceeding 651 services per week.

According to the latest updates, the regular flight schedule from Maldives to India will be announced once the Maldives border restrictions are lifted.

As an IATA-accredited travel management company in the Maldives, CypreaAir & Holidays extend its services to Tour Operators and Travel Agencies, Airlines, Cruise Operators and Event Organizers from around the world. CypreaAir is the Passenger Service Agent (PSA) for Qatar Airways, Sri Lankan Airlines, Singaporean Airlines, Air India and Maldives' national carrier, Maldivian.

Avid College Takes Over the Management and Operation of Addu Flying School

Management and operation of Addu Asian Academy of Aeronautics (AAA) has been handed over to Avid College and renamed as 'Avid School of Aviation'.

The agreement was signed between the two companies via a Zoom meeting held on June 24, 2021. Chairman Abdullah Musthaq Rashaad signed on behalf of Avid College. Commenting on the new establishment, Musthaq pointed out that this is the first time for a local company to manage a flying school.

He further said the decision to acquire all assets of AAA was reached with the students in mind to provide for the needs of enrolled students and work together to come up with solutions for their encountered problems.

Musthaq shared that the new establishment will also be responsible to train the cabin crew, aircraft engineers and those in other aviation - related roles in addition to pilots. Avid informs that its current focus is to assist the enrolled students to complete their courses at the earliest. They are also in discussions with International Air Transport



Association (IATA) to conduct new training programmes for professionals in aviation.

Avid College will officially commence flying operations of Avid flying School in September 2021 under the license issued to AAA. However, works are

under process to acquire its own license, said Musthaq.

Avid College also revealed that a new plane will be delivered for flying school operations. 25% of its payment will be completed in advance.

Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa Launches Sheraton Hotels & Resorts' First Family Programme, "Side-by-Side"



Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa announces participation in the launch of Sheraton's first family programme, Side-by-Side. The multi-generational programme offers immersive activities to bring families together to create shared experiences that foster moments of togetherness.

Side-by-Side is designed to provide unique and memorable ways to bring families together during their leisure travel, both on property and in the community. Side-by-Side offers a wonderful range of activities that enable guests to indulge together in relaxing experiences, to explore the community by experiencing nature, and culture in new and engaging ways, and to celebrate big or small moments with loved ones. Whether it is kids' playtime, grandparents and parents learning new experiences with the kids or spouse celebrating

special occasions, the family programme provides the entire family activities to make memories together.

"We are excited to pioneer Sheraton's first family programme. With the increase in demand for leisure and multigenerational family travel, families are looking for immersive experiences that can be shared with family members at all ages. Side-By-Side offers unique and engaging activities for family to come together to connect with the local and explore the destination and create lasting memories. We look forward to welcoming families to Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa, and to being part of some of the most wonderful family holiday memories for years to come," said General Manager of Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa Emilio Fortini.

Intended for all members in the family, Side-by-Side not only offers a variety of immersive activities for guests to rejuvenate and restore, it also enables them to create time to connect and make long-lasting memories with the family.

Join a coral fragment planting activity and help restore reef habitats

Learn about the resort's Adopt a Coral program with a fun and interactive coral-fragment plantation activity. After planting coral fragments to a frame, an experienced marine biologist will place them in the water and monitor its growth. The frame will be tagged with a unique serial no. and displayed on the dedicated website. Guests can follow its progress by receiving bi-annual updates.

Family picnic at Furanafushi Island

Guests can escape to their favourite spot on Furanafushi Island with a picnic basket in hand, in their room or on one of the lagoon islets. The culinary team led by Executive Chef Riccardo Pinna has designed a sumptuous collection of treats for the whole family.

Family spa day

One can set journey on an invigorating spa extravaganza where even toddlers are welcome! The little guests get to make their very own facial masks at the eatable DIY-station filled with yummy treats.

Family Cooking Class

Try a hand at cooking up a storm with this interactive family-friendly cooking class. Choose from Thai, Maldivian or Indian cuisines under the guidance of an experienced culinary team.

Guests can now enjoy a special Sheraton Side-by-Side Family Package.

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IN A NUTSHELL

W Maldives “Let It Glow” Design

W Maldives Retreat interiors features a remarkable design called “Let It Glow”. The shine in the dark concept complements well with W’s innovative architectural design and contemporary living aesthetics. W Maldives is a marvellous combination of top luxury and local traditions blended with taste and elegance. The resort offers 78 spacious private retreats available in 5 categories that are perfectly integrated in the environment.

Each of these retreats features high-quality BOSE audio visual equipment, complete privacy, a plunge pool, contemporary design furniture signed by top designers and delightful amenities. The excellent location of the stunning resort house reef allows all villas with quick and direct access to astonishing snorkelling spots. W has gone for top designers to work on a superb design borrowed from the colourful marine life of the Indian Ocean. The ultra-stylish and sophisticated retreats are inspired by twinkling stars and fluorescent planktons with “Let It Glow” in mind.

Among the chic design elements spread around the resort, the iconic stingray rocking chair from Designer Pederson can be seen in the beautifully named water villas, Spectacular Ocean Oasis. In the



beach villas called the Wonderful Beach Oasis, a unique glowing rope lamp and a beautifully hand knotted ceiling hammock can be found, conceived by the well-known Paris-based designer Christian Haas.



Apart from this, alluring signature pillows which represent the patterns of corals and jelly, a glowing starfish pillow on the bed and the ravishing medusa bedside lights designed by Roxy Towry-Russel, creates an exquisite environment in the Fabulous Ocean Oasis. Some of the villas also feature signature rugs inspired from the sea, a jellyfish see-through coffee table and an Italian designer cocktail trolley bar which speaks divine for any guest entering those villas.

The bathrooms in the Wonderful Beach Oasis also comprises of “Let It Glow” design elements such as phosphorescent and genius lighting system with items like urchin shell air plants, glowing stones and swarm lamps that glow in the night.

Vakkaru Maldives Brings its First-Ever “Baa Atoll Big Five” Safari



As a feature of 10th Anniversary celebrations; guests were welcomed on Baa Atoll Big Five Safari, an extraordinary opportunity to explore the underwater marvels encompassing the extravagance resort.

The safari features five of the dearest creatures that can be seen in Baa Atoll, ones that sea lovers from over the world consistently request to see while visiting Vakkaru. They are Manta Rays, routinely seen at Hanifaru Bay close to Vakkaru from May to November every year;

Whale Sharks, the world’s largest fish found in Baa Atoll from May to November; Turtles, including hawksbills and green turtles that are found in Baa Atoll all year; Dolphins, regularly spotted on Vakkaru’s dolphin watching cruises; Sharks, including nurse, whitetip reef and blacktip reef sharks is seen frequently at the dive sites in Baa Atoll.

Customized trips are offered by the dive-centre team which includes a selection of special experiences that

maximizes the visitors’ chances of seeing the big five creatures of Baa Atoll by themselves. Private cruises to Hanifaru Bay can come to an end with celebratory champagne and canapes after a successful manta ray or whale shark sighting. Visits to isolated sandbanks can be organized for private picnics or sundowner special teas after dolphin watching cruises. Visits to turtle reefs can be merged with conservation work that protects the threatened species of the Indian Ocean. Apart from this, Vakkaru’s F&B team can also arrange Big Five Feasts for all guests who witness all five creatures on just one trip.

Vakkaru’s Dive Centre team can organize visits to every one of these momentous settings while any individual who visits the retreat over the rest of 2021 will be able to enjoy substantially more. Throughout the rest of the year, the continuous 50 Shades of Blue programmes will celebrate Baa Atoll’s 10th Anniversary as the Maldives’ first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve by facilitating an array of special events. A distinct focal point will come in mid-August, when a week-long 50 Shades of Blue celebration will see the resort have residencies by ocean specialists; musical performances and an extravagant pool party; a series of special dining experiences; creative kids’ activities; thrilling ocean endeavours; and a range of rejuvenating wellness offerings.

The resort’s expert marine biologist has also created a guide to Baa Atoll’s Top Five Dive Sites. They are Maavaru Thila, the walls of Maavaru Caves, Mutafushi Thila, Miyaru Thila and Barracuda Thila.

Environment Day Celebrated Across Maldives Resorts

World Environment Day, celebrated on June 5 every year brings nature lovers across the globe to encourage awareness and action against urgent issues to protect our environment. As such, the island resorts of the Maldives celebrate its eco-initiatives during the month of June.

SUN SIYAM VILU REEF



Sun Siyam Vilu Reef celebrated World Environment Day and Ocean Day with meaningful activities. Guests and staff gathered together to plant trees sourced from a nearby farming island, in four areas of the resort's island home to mark the globally observed Environment Day.

Meanwhile, celebrations for World Ocean Day kicked off with staff informing guests about the importance of restoring marine ecosystems, especially for countries like Maldives, which bear coral reefs as their natural protection.

Guests were excited for coral planting and began with a dip in the water to collect dead corals - which were then, strung on to a tall frame. Once the structures were ready to be submerged, guests dived to plant them at the resort's house reef.

At Sun Siyam Vilu Reef, environmental efforts are not just for celebrations but part of an everyday effort to conserve their island home and facilitate a better world. This is evident as you snorkel spotting some of the best coral reefs in Maldives and also a thriving coral garden resulting from coral planting efforts throughout the past five years. Located in South Nilandhe Atoll, Sun Siyam Vilu Reef is just one of the five-star resorts of the multi-award-winning hospitality group Sun Siyam Resorts.

REETHI FARU MALDIVES



Aiming to fulfil its promise to save and protect the environment and ecosystem which we heavily depend on for everyday resources, Reethi Faru Maldives celebrated World Environment Day with two restoration projects; coral planting and tree planting led by its residential Marine Biologist.

Open for guests and team members; these activities highlighted the importance of such actions and what their impact is going to be in the long term. From creating a fuller, lush and greener island to taking a step further to coral growth and conservation without compromising on

their natural habitat, the actions from World Environment Day are just one more step taken to tackle the climate crisis we face.

Reethi Faru Resort, a bio-luxury island on the pristine and secluded island of Filaidhoo, Raa Atoll, is renowned for its sustainable efforts taken during their core foundation. One of the first few resorts to have a biogas digester, the resort has reduced its emission footprint by converting all food waste into biogas used within the staff kitchen.

The resort also actively encourages energy conservation which is one of the cornerstones of their efforts. With over 4,000 photovoltaic panels installed on the roofs of its staff accommodation, the solar plant helped save 246,000 liters of diesel in 2019, resulting in carbon emission savings of 660t of CO₂.

KURAMATHI MALDIVES



During the month of June, Kuramathi Maldives has also expanded its sustainable efforts, launching reusable water bottles to combat single-use plastic. This eco-friendly alternative aims to further curb the number of plastic bottles that are discarded in the ocean every year and in turn, encourages guests to contribute to the resort's sustainability goals.

Part of this initiative is also the installation of eight water refilling stations around the island provided complimentary for guests to conveniently replenish their reusable bottles and enjoy their holiday with less waste. The resort houses its desalination and bottling plant producing potable water served to guests and team members.

Kuramathi goes to great lengths advocating for low impact holidays by implementing green practices such as marine protection programs, proper waste management, optimizing energy and water use, local community collaboration, and engaging guests with nature awareness activities.

CROWN & CHAMPA RESORTS



Crown & Champa Resorts, the leading resort collection in the Maldives, marked World Environment Day with a range of awareness-raising activities and events to positively impact the environment and surrounding communities.

Marine Life Protection

The Maldives' first fully solar-powered Kudadoo Maldives Private Island and the naturally chic, adults-only Hurawalhi Island Resort continue to work closely with the Mantra Trust, the UK based, independent non-profit organization whose mission is to advance the conservation of manta rays and their habitats. Guests are always invited to take a private trip with the resident marine biologist and learn all about the conservation project, the manta ray ecology, and how to responsibly interact with these majestic creatures of the ocean.

Gardening and Planting

Kagi Maldives Spa Island: The wellbeing-focused resort will carry out a tree planting event to be participated by both guests and team members. Planting more native trees around the island is an effective way to prevent erosion and help offset emissions of CO₂ by storing carbon and other greenhouse gases that otherwise would be released.

Veligandu Island Resort & Spa: The secluded island of Veligandu is organizing a coral planting initiative in partnership with the Ocean Group Maldives. The activity will start with harvesting broken pieces of corals from the island house reef, which will then be restored by carefully attaching them onto 'coral frames'. These frames allow the coral fragments to grow, providing new homes for the abundant marine life in Veligandu's lagoon.

Innahura Maldives Resort: The laid-back paradise of Innahura Maldives Resort will have a beach clean-up activity, in addition to planting more crops in the property's sustainable garden, which already produces a variety of spices, herbs, fruit, and vegetables.

Beach and Island Clean-up

The adults-only (18+) Komandoo Island Resort & Spa and the top-rated Kuredu Island Resort & Spa will invite team members and guests for a beach and island clean-up drive. Guests are also encouraged to visit ProDivers Maldives Dive Centre to learn more about the Olive Ridley Project, whose dedication is to protect sea turtles in the Indian Ocean through research, education, and rehabilitation.

Environmental Awareness

Meeru Island Resort & Spa: The family-friendly paradise of Meeru is organising an environmental awareness session in collaboration with Euro-Divers Maldives to educate guests about green issues, the benefits of being sustainably conscious, and the importance of protecting the world's natural resources.

Vilamendhoo Island Resort & Spa: Alongside the island clean-up event, the adventurer's paradise of Vilamendhoo Island Resort & Spa will show educational video materials in the reception area and on guest room TVs to provide guests with valuable information on dos and don'ts on the island and in the sea. Additionally, guests will have the opportunity to experience ecologically considerate marine life encounters by joining one of the resort's eco-conscious excursions.

The World Environment Day initiatives are part of Crown & Champa Resort's sustainability programme, which underlines the group's commitment towards inspiring change for a greener and more sustainable tomorrow, guided by its core values: Respect, Empathy, Sincerity, Openness, Reliability, Trust, and Sensitivity.

IN A NUTSHELL

All About Wellness at These Resorts in the Maldives

To mark the 10th anniversary of Global Wellness Day (GWD) which is a day solely dedicated to honor choices that cultivate healthy living lifestyle, Maldives resorts carried out various wellness related activities and events to celebrate the day on June 12, 2021.



Lily Beach Resort & Spa

Understanding the importance of a balanced, positive, and proactive lifestyle, **Lily Beach Resort & Spa** aims to spread awareness and encourage others to highlight the Global Wellness Day (GWD) on their calendars every year. Lily Beach hosted a social media countdown the week before Global Wellness Day. Each day came accompanied with a new post that highlighted a unique wellness aspect of the resort: mindfulness, healthy eating, relaxation, adventure, and activities.

Lily Beach partnered up with Tamara Spa by Mandara to offer a special wellness program for its guests— a day of activities to promote a healthier life for better physical and mental wellbeing. The event started with sunrise yoga, led by expert yoga instructor Maja. Afterward, healthy drinks and snacks were shared, which included homemade granola, coconut slices, fruit skewers, and freshly squeezed juices. During this time, a photo frame and pink handheld “I Say Yes!” signs were available for pictures. Later in the afternoon, Tamara Spa hosted head, neck, shoulder, and foot massage classes, followed by a Bazaar to showcase new promotions and merchandise. During this time, ginger tea and pink lemonade were enjoyed by all. The GWD programme came to a close at sunset with a session of yin yoga on the beach.



Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa

Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa also offered a special wellness program for its guests on Global Wellness Day – a whole day of activities to promote healthier living. Morning yoga on the beach kicked off the event, and Zumba later in the day helped to keep the activity levels high. A degree of friendly rivalry was also present at a water sports competition and a beach volleyball match between staff and guests. Sprinkled throughout this wellness day were healthy cuisine options like detox smoothies, coconut water, and a cooking class. The luxurious Hideaway Spa held an afternoon special “Coconut Beauty Treatment” with aloe/cucumber shots and Hibiscus tea to sweeten the deal. A DJ night at Meeru Bar got everyone up on their feet one last time to dance and close out the night.

W Maldives, located in North Ari Atoll, lined up a series of activities for its guests for them to experience the #DETOXRETOXREPEAT lifestyle,



W Maldives

whether they chose to go all in detox or full on retox, or balance them both. A run with the W Team, fitness session and Aqua aerobics were scheduled to get the heart racing while sunset yoga and spa treatments relaxed the body and calmed the mind.



Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa

Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa, located in North Male Atoll, offered guests indulgent treatments to discover a healthier and more balancing way of life this Global Wellness Day, including a coffee sea salt scrub, marine algae aloe wraps and an aroma massage at Shine Spa for Sheraton TM.

Dusit Thani Maldives, a luxury Thai-inspired resort on Mudhdhoo Island in Baa Atoll, is continuing its holistic approach to well-being with complimentary guest activities in celebration of international wellness days.



Dusit Thani Maldives

After celebrating Global Wellness Day on 12 June with a weekend dedicated to mind, body and soul, the resort geared up to mark International Yoga Day, on June 21, with a complimentary evening yoga session at Angafaru, a powder-soft sandbank.

As the sun sets over the Indian Ocean, the resort’s resident yoga expert will guide participants through a series of stretches and postures to promote strength, flexibility and balance. After a relaxing savasana, yogis will refresh with coconut water and light snacks with a stunning view of the ocean.

Over 100 Baby Sea Turtles Hatch at Kagi Maldives Spa Island



The wellbeing-focused Kagi Maldives Spa Island has celebrated the first turtle hatching of the season with 123 newly-born sea turtles.

Guests and team members gathered on the beach as the resort’s ‘Green’ team took the lead to carefully guide 123 Hawksbill hatchlings to their first journey to the ocean on June 15, 2021, one day before the WWF’s World Sea Turtle Day.

Speaking about nature’s wonderful event, Kagi Maldives Spa Island’s Director of Operations, Mohammed Nazeer, said: “We are fully committed to the protection and conservation of sea turtles in the Maldives, and we are privileged that mother turtles which instinctively travel thousands of miles choose our island resort as their nesting ground to lay their eggs on our beach. The hatching and release of these graceful creatures is truly a unique

moment, and we are happy to share it with our guests and associates. There are currently three more nests on the island, and we hope to see the arrival of the hatchlings by the end of July.”

The resort has three more documented sea turtle nests due to hatch in June, July, and August 2021. Hawksbill turtles can lay up to 200 eggs in each clutch, with an average of 60 days incubation period. The June 15 hatchlings were from the nesting event in April.

Located at the tip of North Malé, in the heart of Malé Atoll, Kagi Maldives Spa Island is a luxury boutique resort offering a mindful wellness retreat in an inspiring island setting. Ideal for solo and couple travelers, the 50 all-pool villa resort is a true sanctuary for the senses that provides the perfect setting to slow down and immerse into self-discovery and self-care.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Qatar National Tourism Council Appoints Deveekaa Nijhawan to Lead the International PR and Communications



Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTC) has appointed Deveekaa Nijhawan to lead the International PR and Communications team, to assist in marketing the destination in key markets as part of the country's strategy to become a world-leading tourism destination. Deveekaa's remit covers key markets including India, United Kingdom, Germany, Australia and United Arab Emirates with a focus on engaging and penetrating travel trade and consumer media.

Deveekaa is a senior PR professional with over 10 years' experience in PR & Communications in the hospitality sector. Deveekaa said: "I am very excited to join QNTC and embrace this new challenge. I am looking forward to developing and implementing a holistic integrated PR and Communications strategy to position Qatar as a popular tourist destination, while promoting the country's rich cultural heritage and diverse offerings."

As part of the national strategy, Qatar National Vision 2030, QNTC is on a journey to welcome six million visitors a year by 2030, by improving and expanding the country's tourism proposition with visitor experience at its core. Deveekaa will support the international marketing strategy, while Qatar continues to grow and improve tourism assets, enhance the end-to-end customer experience and invest in service excellence across every touchpoint. Deveekaa will execute QNTC's tailored global communications campaigns, with a focus in key markets.

Chief Operating Officer of Qatar National Tourism Council, Berthold Trenkel, said: "We are thrilled to welcome Deveekaa to the team. She will play a pivotal role in delivering our ambitious tourism development strategy. Her extensive PR and Communications experience and knowledge of global markets will help us engage with travelers as we prepare to welcome tourists back to Qatar."

QNTC's commitment to developing bespoke relationships in key markets is reinforced by the new appointments of representation agencies, such as BRANDit, Black Diamond and Lobster. They are integrated strategic tourism sales and marketing agencies in India, United Kingdom and Germany, which will define and execute Qatar's in-market trade engagement, product development and joint marketing campaign strategy.



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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Gili Lankanfushi Announces Appointment of General Manager, Nicolas Khairallah



Gili Lankanfushi, Maldives announces that Mr. Nicholas Khairallah has been appointed as the hotel's new General Manager with effect from June 1, 2021. Khairallah has been working as Resort

Manager of Gili Lankanfushi since October 2017 and brings 15 years of experience in luxury hospitality spanning 5 countries and 3 different continents to his new role.

After completing a post-graduate diploma in Hotel Management at the Swiss Hotel Management School in 2007, Mr. Khairallah joined the team at Sheraton Center, Montreal, Canada as Guest Service Manager where he was recognized as Employee of the Year in 2008. He has also worked as Director of Front Office for W Hotel in San Francisco from 2011 and was appointed Cluster Director of Operational Innovation by Sheraton & Four Points by Sheraton in 2016, overseeing 3 hotels in Dubai, UAE. For the past 4 years, Mr. Khairallah has served Gili Lankanfushi in his position as

Resort Manager, leading day to day operations of the resort and taking full operational control as an interim General Manager for the past 4 months and so is perfectly positioned to take up his new title and role with gusto.

On his new appointment, Mr. Khairallah says "I am honoured to be appointed to take the helm of one of the top luxury resorts in the Maldives. It is truly a privilege to work alongside an amazing team of dedicated hosts who constantly rise above expectations to create timeless memories for our guests. As my Gili Story continues, I look forward to advocating the plan we have in place, to expand our brand's reach, build stronger connections with the local community, maintain fruitful relationships with our partners and deliver genuine experiences

for our guests."

Taking his 15-year career in the hospitality industry and extensive knowledge and experience of luxury brands together with his position as an already established and well-respected member of the Gili Lankanfushi team, General Manager Khairallah is a tremendous asset to the resort team.

As the pioneer of ethical, sustainable, barefoot luxury in the Maldives, Gili Lankanfushi will continue to provide guests with truly memorable experiences and uphold their commitment to fusing rustic design with unparalleled service with awe-inspiring natural surroundings, while striving to further enhance service quality and brand value into the future.

New General Manager Appointed at Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru and Angsana Ihuru



Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru and Angsana Ihuru have welcomed its new General Manager, Kanruethai Roongruang, who will be responsible for driving the resort's day-to-day operations.

Kan joined Banyan Tree Group in 1997 as Manager of Canal Village, Laguna Phuket. She has held leadership roles in various Banyan Tree Spa & Gallery locations such as Bangkok, India, Phuket, UAE, and Malaysia and subsequently promoted to VP for Spas & Gallery Operations.

In 2017, she moved to hotel operations as

Hotel Manager for Angsana Villas Phuket Resort, Laguna Holiday Club Phuket Resort, and Angsana Laguna Phuket after the resort integration. There, Kan successfully managed the hotel team to achieve smooth operations as well as guests' and associates' satisfaction.

Kan brings with her over 20 years of experience in the group she led and participated in various events and activities. She is also a high potential LEAFer in Banyan Tree's LEAF, a program that develops senior managers with the aptitude to lead the group.

Kan will lead the Banyan Tree's Post-Covid Wellbeing Drive for Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru, the brand's new journey that caters to the wellbeing curious. The Wellbeing Sanctuary concept enables leisure travelers to design and combine a leisure vacation with wellbeing elements in a flexible and open way. Through a structured and straightforward, codified approach of 8 pillars, guests may personalize their stay and create a personal practice to sustain even after returning home. Lastly, the journey is designed to inspire a greater connection between self, others, and nature, with Banyan Tree's enduring commitment to sustainability woven through the experience.

OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI Appoints Ahmed Aneel Adam as Director of Reserve



in Maldives, the Bolifushi Island tucks away a graceful sanctuary in every RESERVE. An emphasis on design, seclusion, and personalized service makes it a comprehensively joyful bouquet of hospitality.

As the Director of RESERVE, Aneel will maintain and elevate the RESERVETM Experience. He will be responsible for managing overall operations relating to Food and Beverage and Guest Experience for the ultra-luxe RESERVE category and will report directly to Louisa Lalli, General Manager of OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI.

"I look forward to anticipating guests' desires even before they realize them and curating inspiring experiences to make every moment an everlasting memory" says Aneel.

Ahmed Aneel Adam started his hospitality career over 13 years ago as a trainee in a leading resort brand in the Maldives and steadily grew up the ladder in varied roles and departments. His hands on-knowledge and natural leadership skills enabled him to grace positions such as Chief Butler/Manager on Duty and Butler Supervisor. Prior to joining THE OZEN COLLECTION, he served as the Front office Manager at The Nautilus Maldives.

Regarding this appointment, Louisa Lalli says, "RESERVE is a unique experience offering guests a feeling of staying in their own private sanctuary. Translating this into guest experience involves a dedicated operations setup – almost like a mini resort in itself. With Aneel's strong skill set, attention to detail, demonstrated history of industry

knowledge, and passion for creating inspiring experiences for guests, I am confident the RESERVETM Experience will become the epitome of Refined Elegance."

The RESERVETM Experience includes benefits such as complimentary Dine-in Service, a Dedicated 'Rolls Royce' Buggy, and a Personal Hiyani (Butler) available 24/7 to ensure true exclusivity and relaxation.

OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI has 16 iconic RESERVE – with the choice of staying on the pristine beach or out in the lagoon. In a league of their own, these mesmerizing sanctuaries come in four categories: Sunset Earth Pool RESERVE, Private Ocean RESERVE with Slide, Royal RESERVE, and the newest addition, THE OZEN RESERVE.

OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI has welcomed Ahmed Aneel Adam to the newly created position - Director of RESERVE.

One of the most naturally blessed spots

Recovering Markets

According to the Maldives' Ministry of Tourism's statistics on the Maldives Tourism Updates June 17, 2021 report:

Tourist arrivals to the Maldives, though slowed down during the month of June 2021 with the additional restrictive measures implemented to curb the COVID-19 situation in the country, is increasing gradually. Data as of June 16 shows that market rebounding continues with strong positive growth rates in 2021 compared with the same period of 2019 and 2020.

Major markets to the Maldives such as Russia and India, which are among the top 10 markets over the years, are seen as star performers, making a strong comeback and recording growth rates of triple and double digits respectively in 2021, compared with the period in review for 2019. With the increased connectivity, some markets from Central/Eastern Europe emerge and make it to the top ten list, while some markets from South Asia, Africa, Americas and the Middle East also made full recovery and performed above pre-COVID levels.

Markets

From 1st January to 16th June 2021

	Arrivals			Growth (%)	
	2019	2020	2021	2019/2021	2020/2021
Kazakhstan	2,352	2,771	16,751	612.2	504.5
Ukraine	6,485	4,555	23,883	268.3	424.3
Russia	40,930	28,949	116,310	184.2	301.8
Pakistan	2,084	1,214	5,404	159.3	345.1
Romania	5,038	4,017	11,587	130.0	188.4
Lithuania	1,255	686	2,806	123.6	309.0
Bulgaria	3,722	2,298	6,211	66.9	170.3
Czech Republic	7,304	4,375	10,180	39.4	132.7
Brazil	4,785	2,572	6,211	29.8	141.5
United Arab Emirates	4,254	1,132	5,476	28.7	383.7
India	75,313	34,864	89,543	18.9	156.8
Poland	7,388	5,537	8,764	18.6	58.3
Hungary	5,519	4,736	6,267	13.6	32.3
Slovakia	4,033	2,889	4,443	10.2	53.8
South Africa	3,842	1,424	4,177	8.7	193.3

Central/Eastern Europe	88,103	63,677	217,369	146.7	241.4
South Asia	86,136	39,357	98,022	13.8	149.1
Africa	7,386	3,312	7,895	6.9	138.4

Source: Maldives Tourism Updates 17th June 2021 / Ministry of Tourism



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Dessert Patrol

with

Maha

Secretary General of the
Chefs Guild of Maldives

In this issue, we bring you an exclusive interview with Chef Maha Naseer, the Secretary General of the Chefs Guild of Maldives and one of the most acclaimed chefs in the Maldives to find out her trajectory to culinary stardom.

Please tell us how you discovered your passion for food and how your culinary journey began.

With earliest baking inspirations stemming from patisserie and culinary pages on the magazines, I developed an instantaneous passion for baking, at the age of eight. With the pure and beautiful curiosity of a child, I began experimenting recipes from those magazines. The yearning was heightened from the immediate support and compliments received for my aptitude and natural talent as a baker. With the sole purpose of delivering my unbridled potential and creations to as many as possible, the dream commenced.

You have worked with Chef Mickaël Farina; one of the most talented and energetic chefs in the region. How has his philosophies and talents influenced your culinary philosophy?

When I first heard about Chef Mickaël Farina back in Maldives at Amilla Fushi, it felt like my heart sank. Unfortunately, I didn't have the opportunity to meet or work with him. It would be one of my wildest dreams to have met him, Insha Allah One Day. It was

inspiring how he was taking Maldives gastronomy to a whole new level and heard a lot about his cook books inspiring Maldivian flavors. I have also heard so much about him when I travelled to Amilla Fushi as a guest chef during the high season 2020-2021.

Then again, when I first began my journey with Amilla Fushi during the 2014 pre-opening to conduct an exclusive Maldivian inspired desserts and to train the pastry staffs there, I met Chef Luke Mangan. The most memorial thing I ever had was the breakfast I had at "Lonu" by Luke Mangan specially the omelet with fish jus. Until this date I remember all the flavors in it as if I just had it this morning.

Throughout your career, you have won numerous awards and medals both at national and international levels, what has been your biggest takeaway from them?

Every time I took part in a competition, it meant a lot to me but the most memorable one would be the first competition I participated in which is Hotel Asia Exhibition & Culinary Challenge 2006. The award I



won at that competition made a huge impact on my culinary career and motivated me to thrive further. After competing in various culinary competitions, today I am a certified rookie judge at the prestigious World Association of Chefs Society (WACS).

At present, I am the Secretary General of the Chefs Guild of Maldives. The Chefs Guild of Maldives (CGM)

is the first non-profit-making association for chefs working in the Maldives ever established. The association is dedicated solely to the advancement of the culinary art in the Maldives. The CGM was registered on 02nd October 2014, within less than a year, the CGM received its charter into World Association of Chefs Societies (WACS). World Association of Chefs Society endorses the CGM as the authorized Maldivian national culinary association. The CGM, thereby, has an international culinary focus and multi-national support for the staging of its various competitions, seminars and events. Any chef working in the Maldives can join the association and become a member. I am very honored and humbled where I am today.



How do you adapt yourself to the evolving trends in the culinary field, especially in pastry arts?

I would say "Professional Connection" after attending culinary schools and training programs I try to keep in touch with my mentors, tutors and colleagues, even after graduation. During the programs it is very important for me to bound with people to stay up to date on the most recent developments in the industry. Networking is invaluable.

When talking about personal tastes, what has been your own favorite dish you have ever created, and why?

When I first visited Italy on 1997, I had the opportunity to taste their famous dessert "Tiramisu". Ever since, I have been trying different recipes, methods and innovations to develop to perfection and master the flavors of Italian Tiramisu. And after nearly 10 years of trying, I can proudly say I have mastered the flavors and now it's my signature dish, the heavenly tiramisu cake, is eagerly ordered almost daily by my regular and loyal customers.

What inspires you to wake up every morning to do what you love?

Helping and teaching others makes me complete. It pushes me to get up and do what I love to do. My 4 kids, they have been very patient with my work and very understanding. And a very supportive spouse, without him and my family I don't think I would be where I am today.

What are the biggest challenges you faced in your career?

I haven't really faced any huge obstacles except the flaws in the culinary system in the Maldives. This is a very male dominated industry and I would love to see more women, and especially Maldivians at executive level in the industry.

When discussing Maldives and its cuisine, what do you feel is the common link between its different regions as it relates to food and cooking?

The cuisine of the Maldives is a rich collection of traditional flavors with strong influences from its neighboring countries, such as India and Sri Lanka. In the past, Maldivians depended on essential ingredients such as fish, coconuts, breadfruit, millet and roots vegetables. Over time, with the influence of foreigners from early trade and travel, Maldivian cuisine developed a distinctive blend with its own unique flavors, symbolizing a unique culinary identity.

Maldivian cuisine is very versatile, consists of varieties of tastes and flavors, ranging from crunchy snacks and street foods, accompanied by wood-fired chapati to complex and deliciously spicy coconut cream curries. These are prepared using ancient cooking traditions that have been passed down through the generations. It varies from atoll to atoll and island to island. And there are some exclusive cuisine and flours in some regions.

Where do you see yourself in the next five to seven years? What upcoming events can we expect from you?

To pass on the good knowledge to enthusiasts and professionals. My mission is to educate the youth and all interested through establishing my own culinary school, Insha Allah.



What advice would you give to aspiring chefs who wish to follow your steps?

Work as hard as you can and keep your eyes open. Once you decide where you want to go, never look back. Do that and you'll find your niche.



EVENTS & AWARDS

The Hawks Pvt Ltd Awarded 'Rising Bunker – Organization' at ShipTek 2021



Hussain Aman, General Manager / Director of Sales, The Hawks Pvt Ltd receives the the Rising Bunker – Organization Award at the ShipTek conference.

The Hawks Pvt Ltd has been awarded with the 'Rising Bunker – Organization' Award at the ShipTek conference 2021. ShipTek is a prestigious event for the

marine, offshore, oil, and gas sectors, aimed at key decision-makers and high-level policy takers within these sectors. The Hawks Pvt Ltd is one of

the leading companies for the import and distribution of high-quality fuel in the Maldives. With more than 14 years of experience in the area of fuel supply, and exceptional attention to the needs of their clients, they have developed an extensive product portfolio. Their excellent customer service, timely delivery and certified products provide the ultimate satisfaction to their esteemed clients across the Maldives.

"We are extremely proud to have been recognized in an international maritime platform like ShipTek. This award is dedicated to our hardworking team who have worked tirelessly to achieve the goals for the company despite these challenging times" - stated - Hussain Aman, General Manager / Director of Sales, The Hawks Pvt Ltd.

Organized by Biz Events Management, the ShipTek International Conference and Awards held its 11th edition at Dusit Thani Hotel, Dubai on 7th June 2021 and 8th June 2021. This event is one of the leading events in the maritime industry as ShipTek has been remarkably successful in their previous editions. The conference is mainly focused on key market trends, giving decision-makers and high-level policy takers within the said sectors, a unique perspective about future trade patterns and the existing opportunities.

ShipTek 2021 is sponsored by Castrol as the Platinum Sponsor, Adnoc as the Gold Sponsor, The Hawks Pvt Ltd and Fair Deal as the Silver Sponsors, Cadmatic as the Award Sponsor and Bahri as Badge & Lanyard Sponsor.

InterContinental Maldives Maamunagau Resort Wins "Best Hotel Architecture, Maldives" at the Asia Pacific Property Awards 2021 – 2022

InterContinental Maldives Maamunagau Resort; a stunning new resort designed and developed by Eco-id Architects Pte Ltd (Singapore), has been recognized as the 5-star winner for "Best Hotel Architecture Maldives" at the recently concluded Asia Pacific Property Awards 2021. This award is the second achievement for the resort celebrating the architectural design as InterContinental Maldives secured the Bronze Award for "Best Hotel & Tourism Development 2020" at the MIPIM Asia Awards in December 2020.

InterContinental Maldives Maamunagau Resort was opened in 2019, located in the pristine Raa Atoll. They cater to visiting families, groups, couples or solo travellers with one-bedroom villas and two or three-bedroom residences all with spacious indoor and al fresco dining spaces opening up to a sweeping private terrace with private pool and direct access to the beach, lagoon or ocean. The Lagoon Pool Villas offer a unique accommodation concept which are all spread across both the ocean and beach.

The Three Bedroom Royal Beachfront

Residence; a beachfront sanctuary encompassed by lush tropical greenery is ideal for multi-generational families or a group of friends travelling together. With direct beach access, ample indoor and outdoor living space, the Three Bedroom Royal Beachfront Residence is the epitome of tropical island living. Modern nako louvres are used throughout the resort to seamlessly blend in with the tropical architecture with the use of logs as simple columns and mangrove sticks used for screens echo the project's simplicity and eco-friendly approach to the exterior aesthetics. Drawing inspiration from "Musafir" – an Arabic word portraying the concept of wanderlust and the colorful lifestyle of a nomad, the interior design of the resort incorporates discreet, calming touches to complement contemporary Maldivian design evident across many of the resort's architectural features and unique pieces of art. Thoughtfully placed in guest rooms and restaurants, vibrant colors are woven into the finishing such as the Maldivian lacquer boxes, the bright colours and the bright tapestries adorning the walls.

The Asia Pacific Property Awards



celebrates the highest levels of achievements by companies operating in all sectors of the property and real estate industry and is widely recognized as a renowned mark of excellence. In its 28th year, the Asia Pacific Property Awards are judged by an independent panel of over 80 industry experts. Judging focuses on design, quality, service, innovation, originality and commitment to sustainability.

The InterContinental Maldives Maamunagau Resort is an exclusive destination getaway offering a unique opportunity for those looking to

unwind and reconnect in an enviable island setting where exclusive privileges go hand in hand with the personal touch of our signature service at InterContinental Hotels & Resorts' first and only all-Club InterContinental resort. Located 35 minutes by seaplane from the Velana International Airport, the InterContinental Maldives Maamunagau Resort is an award-winning island escape offering beach, lagoon and overwater accommodation, curated dining and wellness experiences, an extensive kid club along with a myriad of recreational adventures for families and couples alike.

Hard Rock International Begins Year-Long 50th Anniversary Celebration by Announcing Partnership with Lionel Messi



(soccer) team in the early 1970s. The team T-shirt featured the simple Hard Rock logo. The extra shirts were returned to the cafe and then given away to loyal customers. Eventually the restaurant had to set up a separate concession stand to handle T-shirt sales. To this day, Hard Rock's Classic T-shirt remains an integral part of

world's most recognizable and beloved brands, with a Cafe, Hotel or Casino located in 68 countries," said Jim Allen, Chairman of Hard Rock International. "As we reached our 50th anniversary milestone, we knew that we needed to partner with an icon to help us celebrate in a new and unexpected way, and there was no better choice than the legendary Lionel Messi."

with an electric guitar designed especially for him. A replica of this guitar, signed by the player, will be displayed at a Hard Rock property to be announced soon, making it part of the most valuable collection of musical objects in the world.

Live Greatness

The partnership is part of "Live Greatness", the new campaign that Hard Rock has launched on its 50th anniversary, which marks a before and after in the brand, honouring its past and while shining a beacon of light towards the future. As part of the campaign, Messi makes his debut as an ambassador starring in a commercial that unites his skills with the soccer ball as it takes its place among the cherished memorabilia of the brand.

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Hard Rock

June 14, 2021 marks the 50th Anniversary of Hard Rock Cafe opening its doors in London. To kick off this milestone, participating Hard Rock Cafes offered Country Burgers for \$0.71 during the first hour of business that day.

Since opening the doors of the first Hard Rock Cafe in London in 1971, Hard Rock International has established itself as one of the most globally recognized companies in the world. The brand is kicking off its anniversary celebrations by unveiling a new partnership with footballer Lionel Messi, who will serve as brand ambassador for the next five years, as the first athlete to partner with Hard Rock.

The partnership harkens back to Hard Rock's roots, as the brand's world-famous t-shirts came to fruition when the original London Cafe sponsored a local football

the brand's identity.

As part of the new partnership, Hard Rock has also unveiled a new collection of merchandise inspired by its new ambassador. In addition to the special 50th anniversary logo, the garments show some of the player's most characteristic symbols, such as the lion, the number 10 and his own logo. This collection joins the brand's iconic merchandising line, available in all its stores and online shop.

"Over the past five decades, the Hard Rock brand has grown to become one of the

"I am honoured to partner with such a renowned brand as Hard Rock, and even more so at this historic moment - its 50th anniversary!" said Lionel Messi. "Sports and music are an integral part of my life, a perfect combination between my profession and my leisure time. Uniting both is a great success, and I am very happy that they have counted on me for this special outcome. It is an honour to be the first athlete to partner with a brand who has a history of teaming with music legends."

Allen and Messi have sealed this agreement with an original gift exchange. Messi has given him a signed replica of his golden ball, a gesture that Allen has reciprocated

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NEW OPENINGS

Hilton Signs on Fourth Maldives Resort



Hilton, a world-renowned hospitality company has announced plans to bring its fourth property to the Maldives through a management agreement with the hospitality focused subsidiary of Amin Construction, Amingiri Holdings.

Hilton Maldives Amingiri is scheduled to open by the end of this year which will mark the entry of Hilton's flagship Hilton Hotels & Resorts brand into the Maldives, joining the already existing brands in the Maldives under the company's portfolio – Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi, Conrad Maldives Rangali Island and SAii Lagoon Maldives, Curio Collection by Hilton.

With its ideal location on Amingiri Island in Male' Atoll, Hilton Maldives Amingiri is directly accessible from Velana International Airport via a 15 – minute speedboat ride.

"The Maldives remains one of the world's most highly sought-after destinations and the signing of

Hilton Maldives Amingiri reflects the excellent growth potential we see in the market." Guy Phillips the Senior Vice President, Development, Asia Australasia, Hilton, said.

"We are delighted to be embarking on this partnership with Amingiri Holdings to launch our Hilton Hotels & Resorts brand in the country. We are confident their experience in developing world-class resorts in the Maldives, combined with Hilton's strong commercial engine, will place us at the top of mind for leisure travelers when it is safe to travel again."

The resort offers well-spaced beach and water villas including an exclusive six-bedroom villa perfect for group travelers looking to create new travel memories. The 109 all-villas comes with a private pool, and guests can choose a range of facilities across the resort, such as six restaurants and bars, a teens-only play zone, pool, spa, fitness centre and salon.



Alexandra Jaritz, Senior Vice President, Brand Management, Asia Pacific, Hilton, said: "As the most recognised name in hospitality, Hilton Hotels & Resorts has one of the largest footprints across the globe. Even more importantly, the brand is known the world over for the positive impact it brings to each new destination we enter through the employment opportunities we create and renowned levels of hospitality we bring to the location."

"We are thrilled to be seeing our flagship brand represented in the Maldives and look forward to providing the perfect setting for families and friends to reconnect and make new travel memories when the resort debuts in the coming months."

The Hilton Maldives Amingiri will also feature Hilton CleanStay, an industry-leading programme to deliver a new standard of cleanliness and disinfection across all of Hilton's hotels globally, providing tranquility from check-in to check-out.



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IN THE NEWS

Four Seasons Maldives Apprenticeship Inauguration Ceremony Reinforces Investment in the Future of Maldivian Hospitality



On June 3, 2021, Four Seasons Resorts Maldives welcomed a new intake of 44 Apprentices to the class of 2022 (12 at Kuda Huraa and 32 at Landaa Giraavaru) during a virtual inauguration ceremony, held simultaneously at both Four Seasons Kuda Huraa and Four Seasons Landaa Giraavaru.

The joint live Zoom broadcast was watched by employees of both Resorts and graced by guest of honour, His Excellency the Ambassador to Belgium and Head of Mission to the European Union,

Mr. Hassan Sobir, who appeared via a live zoom call from Brussels, Belgium. A supporter of the program since its inception, H.E. Mr. Hassan Sobir was also a guest of honour at the program's first graduation ceremony 21 years ago.

Unable to accommodate new apprentices in 2020, the government-accredited Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Program – is continuing with a slightly smaller intake than usual this year. Nevertheless, its fundamental goals remain as steadfast as they have for two decades: to develop technical skills; to impart professional and general knowledge, and to coach mindsets, attitudes, values and behaviours.

In his address to the new apprentices, Four Seasons Resorts Maldives Regional Vice President, Armando Kraenzlin, spoke about the need to be nimble and agile in these ever-changing times. Reflecting this approach, this year's program will introduce two new combined disciplines to second year apprentices – Safe Maritime Transport & Boat Mechanic, and Front Office & Recreation Attendant – to equip future graduates with multi skills that better enable them to adapt to the industry's changing demands.

Aimed at 17 to 20-year-olds, the Four Seasons Maldives Apprenticeship Program is dedicated to providing enthusiastic Maldivian youngsters with the expertise required to excel as professionals in the hospitality industry. To date, the total number of graduates stands at 651 since the program's

inception in 2001, making it one of the most successful and long-running apprenticeships of its kind in the Indian Ocean.

Whilst living, studying and working onsite at Four Seasons two Resort islands of Kuda Huraa and Landaa Giraavaru, apprentices gain hands-on experience in their chosen discipline: Food & Beverage Preparation or Service, Safe Maritime Transport, Housekeeping & Guest Services, PADI Dive Master, Water Sports Attendant, Marine Biology plus 2021's two new disciplines for second year apprentices: Front Office & Recreation Attendant and Safe Maritime Transport & Boat Mechanic.

The program is open to male and female Maldivians who meet a number of entry criteria including O-level certifications and fluency in both written and spoken English. No previous work experience is required and apprentices are recruited from throughout the country for the fully funded course, recognised in 2010 as the Maldives' first TVET-certified Apprenticeship scheme.



Marine Initiative, Noo Raajje Offers Free Training Programme for Maldivians



The Blue Prosperity Training Program is offered by Noo Raajje, an initiative introduced to protect the ocean and its resources in order to build a bright future for communities, the economy, and the environment.

This Training Program has been developed by the Blue Prosperity Coalition, Waitt Institute, and the Government of the Maldives, including the President's Office and the Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture, and staff from the Maldives Marine Research Institute.

The program promotes the advancement of Maldivian ocean science and stewardship through education and capacity building to support the development of a

comprehensive plan for ocean health in the Maldives. The programme will be delivered by the University of California San Diego Extension.

Consisting of five individual modules, the online training program is exclusive and FREE for participating Maldivians. Each module will last a length of three weeks and upon completion of each module, participants will receive a Certificate of Achievement. Once all modules are completed, a Certificate of Completion will be awarded by the University of California San Diego Extension. UC San Diego Extension is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

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Radisson Blu Resort Maldives Announces Completion of First Internship Program



Radisson Blu Resort Maldives announces Arushidh Aboobakuru as the first intern to complete the resort's 6-month internship program.

A highly motivated talent, Arushidh Aboobakuru or commonly known as Allu, began his internship on December 11, 2020 and completed it on June 11, 2021. He received his certification after he delivered a presentation of his internship experience and perspective in the Front Office Department in the presence of the resort management and associates.

Originating from Noonu Atoll, Allu graduated from

Maldives National University in International Hospitality Management. He then worked at the Corporate Service Department in the Ministry of Education. Despite this promising career in the government institution, Allu decided to pursue his passion in the hospitality industry. His hotelier journey began by joining the internship program in the resort.

As a part of the program, Allu has been posted to all sections of the Front Office, including reception, guest service, bellman, phone operator, and boat crew. With his eagerness to learn and positive

attitude, he received continuous support and acknowledgement from his supervisor and colleagues. Upon the completion of this internship, Allu joins the resort as a full-time employee as a Guest Service Agent.

Radisson Blu Resort Maldives provides internship programs for selected students, recent graduates, and young local talent as a learning opportunity aimed for those who wish to apply their knowledge and skills gained in school to real-life situations and even for those who decide to switch their career path to the hospitality industry, giving the opportunity of working alongside professional peers. As a 5-Star International brand in the Maldives, the resort continues Responsible Business initiatives in all areas. Radisson Blu Resort Maldives believes in conducting business ethically and aims to be a thriving, sustainable and responsible business for people, the community and our planet.



Bangladesh in Discussion to Export Resort Wear to the Maldives

High Commissioner of the Republic of Maldives to Bangladesh, Shiruzimath Sameer has met with Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Faruque Hassan at the latter's office on 21 June.

With BGMEA Vice President Miran Ali present at the meeting, they discussed the prospect of exporting resort wear and leisure apparel to Maldives which is a popular destination for global tourists where the demand for such clothing is very high.

They also discussed possible areas of cooperation between Maldives and Bangladesh for enhancing bilateral trade.

Maldives has currently welcomed 491,701 tourist arrivals as of June 20, 2021. Russia leads as the top market to Maldives closely followed by India. The Ministry of Tourism expects Maldives to reach its set goal of receiving 1.5 million tourists by the end of 2021.



IN THE NEWS

Soneva Jani Seeks Maldivian to be Next 'Barefoot Bookseller'



Soneva Jani is looking for its next Barefoot Bookseller, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Maldivian candidates. The famous 'Barefoot Bookseller' position has received huge international media attention as one of the world's most desirable jobs. This time, the job opportunity is available for Maldivians.

Soneva Jani says the successful candidate will have a good knowledge of classic and contemporary international literature, as well as the Maldives' rich story-telling heritage. Based at the resort, the job entails sharing a love for reading among the guests.

According to the resort, "No day is ever quite the same: the role includes managing our Barefoot Bookshop and curating our library, creating content



for our Barefoot Bookseller Blog and Instagram page, and providing unforgettable reading experiences to our guests, from hosting writing workshops or personal reading consultations."

Soneva Jani says it is looking for a "team player with the ability to engage guests of all ages, with excellent spoken and written English and a strong understanding of the latest literary trends." Previous experience in bookselling or publishing, and of writing engaging blog posts or newsletters is desirable.

Those interested should email careers-maldives@soneva.com to find out more.

Kaani Hotels Completes Full Vaccination of Hotel Staff

Kaani Hotels & Tours reveals that 100% of its employees has been fully-vaccinated, becoming one of the first tourist establishments to have accomplished this feat.

According to Abdulla Nasheed, CEO of Kaani Hotels & Tours, all 142 of its team members has received the first and second dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Kaani Hotels ensures guest well-being, and offers to spend their long-awaited holidays in the tropical destination.

Keeping up with the latest health and safety guidelines of Health Protection Agency of Maldives (HPA) and authorities, Kaani Hotels further commits to secure the safety of travelers and hotel employees.

Kaani Hotels provide affordable holiday packages for budget travelers and let them experience all the luxuries of this tropical paradise.



BON APPÉTIT

Chickenlicious

(Chicken wings, Aji Verde, Cucumber, Grapefruit)



Mohamed Adil, Chef De Cuisine at the pristine Dhigali Maldives, was born and raised in the Maldives. He is a hands-on, passion-driven chef with over 10 years of culinary experience in the creation of healthy, delicious culinary masterpieces in world-class hotels. Prior to Dhigali Maldives, Chef Adil worked at Faarufushi, Vakkaru Maldives and Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru.

“Chicken has played a major role in our diet and I have seen this since childhood. In Maldives chicken was known to be a delicacy where mostly it is consumed only on Fridays or public holidays. I used to get very excited when it was Friday and would fight for the chicken drumstick. Back in 2009 I was introduced to the chicken wings and ever since I just love them. So far, I have created many versions of chicken wings and the number keeps counting.”

Fried Chicken Ingredients:

- 4pcs Chicken wings
- 10gm Minced garlic
- 1gm Ginger powder
- 10gm Minced Onion
- 1 teaspoon Roasted cumin powder
- ½ teaspoon Roasted coriander powder
- ½ teaspoon Paprika
- ½ teaspoon Chopped Coriander
- ½ lime juice
- To taste salt
- To taste pepper
- ½ teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 20gm Corn flour

Method:

- Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl except flour and chicken. Pat chicken dry with paper towels. Add the wings to the marinade, cover with cling film and refrigerate them for at least 4 hrs.
- Dust with corn flour and deep fry at 170°c till nicely cooked and golden.

Aji Verde Ingredients:

- 10gm Fresh coriander
- 5gm Fresh parsley
- 1gm Paprika
- 15gm Toasted bread crumb
- 2gm Chili flakes
- 10gm Garlic
- 2gm Oregano
- 20ml Corn oil
- 30ml Lime juice
- 20gm Jalapeno
- 5gm Anchovies
- To taste salt
- To taste pepper

Method:

Put everything into a blender and blend until smooth.

Cucumber and Yogurt Salad Ingredients:

- 30gm cucumber
- 2gm mint
- 20gm Greek yoghurt
- To taste salt
- To taste cracked pepper

Method:

Cut cucumbers into small dices (6mm). add chopped mint, salt, freshly cracked pepper and yoghurt.

Other Ingredients:

- Grapefruit
- Red veined sorrel
- Physalis (confit in lemon zest and olive oil for 10 mins)

Final touch:

- Choose a desired plate and using a squeeze bottle put uneven dots of Aji verde.
- In between the dots, find space to place the chicken wings.
- Put 3 spoons of cucumber salad. And randomly place the grapefruits, sorrel and physalis



Courtesy of
Chef De Cuisine, Mohamed Adil
Dhigali Maldives



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Frankly Speaking

Maldives has seen a major drop of arrival numbers due to temporary suspension of tourists from South Asian destinations. What's your opinion on lifting the suspension with extra measures?



Mohamed Ali Janah
President
National Federation of Maldivian Employers (NFME)
Chairman, Hotels & Resort Construction Pvt Ltd (HRC)

As I have always advocated, a cautious approach and a balanced policy are two important factors to manage a vulnerable economy like ours, especially when we are so dependent on limited resources. The tourism industry and the construction industry are hit very heavily due to the closure of borders to South Asia. We totally accept that it was a necessity with the various types of variants that hit our country.

I propose a two-pronged approach. For South Asian expats we must get them through a paid, controlled and managed quarantine. Some countries in the Middle East start the management of these expats from the time they land at the airport till they are taken to the quarantine hotels.

After seven days they do a PCR test and give them the green codes for PCR negative propel and they have an application with a QR green code so that they can join the workforce or even move around the city/country. Unless their QR code is green, free movement is not allowed. Opening up the borders for tourists is a very risky process. But depending on the pandemic situation in the country of origin, we can first open borders to tourist resorts and safari boats and yachts where they can be managed, away from the local population.

There would be no connectivity to the inhabited islands and these tourists. Maldives should categorize country wise alert levels for the countries of origin and when a country is green, they could allow them to visit with a 96-hour PCR negative test. This would be for those wishing to stay at guest houses and other inhabited islands. Bottom line is that just as we manage locally, international travelers should be brought through a managed process. There can be no free borders as we have experienced the consequences of it ourselves.



Mirsad Mohamed
Managing Director
Travel Connection Maldives

South Asian market shares are very important for Maldives tourism these days. It will be good to open with proper guidelines. Like: Each client to do a PCR test on arrival and for them to stay in quarantine till they get the results.

At this moment, I do not recommend opening Male' cities and local islands.



Shaaz Waleed
Managing Director
Resort Life Travel / Resort Holiday

Until the countries themselves get to control or manage their cases, it will be a terrible idea to lift the suspension even with extra measures as of now. It can cause Maldives to be the reason to spread the variant all over the world. As soon as the situation gets better, we will be more than happy to welcome them here.



Ibrahim Ali Jaleel
Vice President
SME & Entrepreneurs Federation of Maldives (SEF-M)

We cannot live with the lock down process. I am all for open with strict guidelines. Government cannot provide packages throughout. Most of the Resorts are in worse condition than SMEs, as per them. Loans to employers will create a debt trap. We need a way to stand and move forward so we can lessen the expenditure.

Need strict guidelines and move forward. Current status is due to allowing India variant without preventive guidelines. We shall learn from those and move forward by carefully opening with preventive measures.



Mohamed Ali
Vice President
Association of Travel Agents (ATA)

I personally do not feel the increase was due to tourist arrivals from South Asia, to start with.

It is my opinion that we should open borders soon to tourist arrivals into resorts, but not to the guesthouses located in densely populated islands.

The key to surviving the Covid pandemic is not hiding from it, but facing it with proper preventive measures. Wear a mask to stay safe.



Mohamed Nasheed
President
Maldives Association of Yacht Agents (MAYA)

With extra measures it should be lifted.

Even then the Ministry of Tourism could have worked for this without a complete ban, yet I believe there would be challenges too. A total ban has a very negative impact compared to tight measures and strict guidelines.

All are happy to follow a guideline even if it is ridiculously tight. People are trapped and so eagerly awaiting to move.

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