

# 5 MUST-DO ACTIVITIES IN THE MALDIVES



With nearly 1,200 islands spanning 35,000 square miles, the Maldives offers both bustling city centers and remote possibilities. Get the most out of your getaway with these recommendations.

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TRANSLATED AS "GARLAND OF ISLANDS" in Sanskrit, the Maldives encompasses nearly 1,200 islands in the Indian Ocean. It's a place where overwater bungalows float above peaceful turquoise lagoons and white-sand beaches prevail. And since this tropical paradise is spread over 35,000 square miles, a vacation here can feel as relaxing and remote or as active and adventure-packed as your heart desires. Ready to get away?

START PLANNING YOUR TRIP



BAA ATOLL

## 01 Scuba Dive

With its vibrant coral reefs, varied marine life, and clear waters, the archipelago is a dream for divers. The UNESCO World Heritage Site [Baa Atoll](#) affords close encounters with manta rays, who use the reef as a cleaning station. [North Malé Atoll](#) spoils divers with shipwrecks and the Banana Reef, a famous curved reef with overhangs and cliffs that attract colorful fish like Napoleons and oriental sweetlips. Those with a penchant for drift diving will thrill at [Ari Atoll](#), where strong currents prevail. More than a dozen grey reef sharks take up residence at Fish Head in North Ari Atoll. At [Fuvahmulah Atoll](#), up to seven shark varieties, including hammerheads and whale sharks, can be spotted in a single dive.

### WHEN TO VISIT

This bucket-list destination satisfies adventure-seekers and wellness travelers year-round, with temperatures averaging in the low 80s. Dry season is January through March, and rainy season is mid-May through November.



HUKURU MISKIY

## 02 Discover Maldives Culture

The official religion of the Maldives is Islam, and the country boasts six beautiful mosques. Located in the capital of Malé, [Hukuru Miskiy](#), dubbed Old Friday Mosque, is the oldest — circa 1650s — with the oldest minaret standing nearby. The mosque was granted UNESCO World Heritage status for its innovative craftsmanship, which employed coral blocks in a tongue-and-groove formation and an interior of well-preserved lacquer and wood carvings. A 17th-century cemetery lies adjacent, where royalty is buried. Stop in at the [Maldives National Museum](#) to see priceless treasures, including engraved wood pieces honoring the island's conversion to Islam.



THULUSDHOO ISLAND

## 03 Tune into Nature's Healing Powers

Soak up island life with beachy azure lagoons framed by swaying palms. Check out the buzzy [Hulhumale Beach](#) with shops and cafes; the serene, less-touristy [Fulhadhoo Island](#) with a small local village; or [Thulusdhoo Island](#), a surfing haven. The Maldives is a top-tier sunset destination with sundown reliably occurring around 6 p.m. year-round, and the showy spray of colors is a not-to-miss experience. Take a night stroll on one of the Maldives' bioluminescent beaches and marvel at its shimmering, glow-in-the-dark waters. And to banish lingering stress, indulge in a traditional Maldivian massage, which uses coconut oil and shells.



SKYFALL RESTAURANT

## 04 Savor Local Cuisine

Maldivian culinary tradition showcases the region's tantalizing flavors of Arabia, India, East Asia, and Sri Lanka. Be immersed in the colorful bustle of the local market in Malé, which offers produce and a wide variety of seafood like tuna and grouper. Tuck into fresh seafood, Thai noodles, or European favorites at [Cloud Restaurant](#), perched atop a hotel with spectacular ocean and city views. [Salt Café & Restaurant](#) tempts with healthy fresh bowls, octopus, and kebabs. Panoramic views from the rooftop at [Skyfall Lounge and Restaurant](#) create a memorable ambience for fusion and Asian fare.



PADDLEBOARDING

## 05 Play in the Water

No matter when you visit, the Maldives' ethereal turquoise water ranges in temperature from about 80 to 86 degrees, making it a world-famous destination for water sports. While snorkeling, you'll witness colorful reefs teeming with angelfish, anemonefish, snappers, and morays. Manta ray-lovers will thrill at [Hanifaru Bay](#), a busy feeding ground for the gentle creatures. Whatever your skill level, the still waters of the Maldives are ideal for paddleboarding. Experienced SUP adventurers can explore [Thaa Atoll](#) and its uninhabited islands. Water-skiing is widely enjoyed and ideal for beginners. At [Reethi](#) and [Finolhu](#) beaches, parasailing gives you a mesmerizing birds-eye view of the azure- and white-ringed islands dotting the ocean.

### YOUR FIRST-STOP TRAVEL SHOP

You've earned your leisure time and all the benefits that come with it. Take advantage of your member perks to turn this dream vacation to the Maldives into a reality. Our experienced Travel Guides can curate itineraries and help you select the perfect resort for your trip. Getting away from it all has never been easier.