Dhaalu Atoll: islands, resorts and how to get there

Dhaalu Atoll

Known for jewellery-making and a large mound at Kudahuvadhoo that predates Islam in the Maldives.

CAPITAL ISLAND **Kudahuvadhoo**	ISLANDS IN TOTAL **56**
INHABITED ISLANDS **8**	RESORT ISLANDS **5**
AIRPORT **Dhaalu / Kudahuvadhoo (DDD)**	CURRENCY **Maldivian Rufiyaa**
LANGUAGE **Dhivehi, English widely used**	

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

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Your complete guide to Dhaalu Atoll

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Magic Maldives

Known for jewellery-making and a large mound at Kudahuvadhoo that predates Islam in the Maldives.

Opened to tourism only in 1998 and now a well-regarded diving area.

Hulhudheli and Rinbudhoo are traditionally renowned for their jewellers.

The old mosque at Kudahuvadhoo has some of the finest coral masonry in the country, and the island has a large mound that predates Islam.

1. THE ATOLL IN NUMBERS

Capital island	Kudahuvadhoo
Islands in total	56
Inhabited islands	8
Resort islands	5
People	5,305
Airport	Dhaalu / Kudahuvadhoo (DDD)
Getting here from Malé	no public ferry; fly to Kudahuvadhoo in about 40 min

Dhaalu is a working atoll with a small but real guesthouse presence and two genuine points of interest beyond the reef.

2. GETTING HERE

No public ferry from Malé. Fly to Kudahuvadhoo in about forty minutes, then take a boat to your island.

3. WHAT TO SEE

Ribudhoo has made gold jewellery for generations. Kudahuvadhoo has a large mound with stonework fine enough that archaeologists have singled it out among Maldivian sites.

4. WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

6 inhabited islands in Dhaalu Atoll. These are the islands with guesthouses, shops, ferries and a community - not resorts.

- Bandidhoo
- Hulhudheli
- Kudahuvadhoo
- Maaenboodhoo
- Meedhoo

- Rinbudhoo

5. RESORT ISLANDS

Each resort in the Maldives has its own island. These are the resort islands in Dhaalu Atoll, with the island name first.

Island	Resort
Maagau	Baglioni
Kandima	Kandima
Embudhufushi	Niyama
Olhuveli	Niyama
Vommuli	St Regis
Aluvifushi	Sun Siyam Iru Veli
Velavaru	Velavaru
Meedhuffushi	Vilu Reef

6. WHAT IT IS KNOWN FOR

Ribudhoo's goldsmithing tradition and the Kudahuvadhoo hawitta, a pre-Islamic mound with unusually fine stonework.

7. WORTH YOUR TIME

- Ribudhoo - generations of Maldivian goldsmiths
- The Kudahuvadhoo hawitta and its dressed stonework
- Kudahuvadhoo airport for a direct arrival

8. WHEN TO GO

January to April

9. BEFORE YOU GO

Small guesthouse scene concentrated on a few islands. No alcohol on the islands.

10. COMMON QUESTIONS

Is there a ferry from Malé to Dhaalu Atoll?

No direct public ferry. The network is regional and Dhaalu is outside Malé's region. Fly to Kudahuvadhoo, then take a boat.

Everything in this guide is bookable with local Maldivian operators.

MAGIC MALDIVES

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