Dhonfanu, Baa Atoll: a complete island guide

Dhonfanu, Baa Atoll

The closest inhabited island to Kihaadhoo, a few minutes away by dhoni.

ISLAND
Dhonfanu

ATOLL
Baa Atoll

NEAREST AIRPORT
Dharavandhoo (DRV), 20 min flight from Malé

ATOLL CAPITAL
Eydhafushi

CURRENCY
Maldivian Rufiyaa

LANGUAGE
Dhivehi, English widely used

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

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1. WELCOME TO DHONFANU

The closest inhabited island to Kihaadhoo, a few minutes away by dhoni.

2. ESSENTIAL FACTS

Atoll	Baa Atoll (B)
Population	398 (2022 census)
Size	700 m long and 500 m wide
Distance from Malé	120 km north of Malé
Atoll capital	Eydhafushi
Nearest airport	Dharavandhoo (DRV), 20 min flight from Malé
Language	Dhivehi; English is widely understood where there are guesthouses
Religion	Sunni Islam. This is an inhabited island, so alcohol is not sold and modest dress is expected away from the tourist beach.
Currency	Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR); US dollars are accepted by most guesthouses
Time zone	UTC+5, no daylight saving

3. GETTING THERE

Reaching Baa Atoll from Malé: no direct public ferry; scheduled speedboat 4 days a week, or fly to Dharavandhoo in 20 min.

4. BEFORE YOU GO

Dharavandhoo and the Goidhoo islands have bikini beaches. No alcohol on the islands. Hanifaru Bay is a protected area - you may snorkel only, with a licensed guide, in timed groups. No diving and no fins-first entries.

Inhabited islands follow local rules rather than resort rules. Swimwear belongs on the designated tourist beach only, alcohol is not sold, and shops and offices pause for about fifteen minutes at each of the five daily prayers.

Bring cash in small notes. Card acceptance is patchy outside the larger islands, and not every island has an ATM.

5. WHEN TO VISIT

Mantas at Hanifaru from May to November, peaking July to September - the opposite of the usual Maldives advice

6. AROUND THE ATOLL

This island is part of Baa Atoll. The atoll guide covers every inhabited island and every resort island in it, how the ferries run, and what the atoll is known for.

Everything in this guide is bookable with local Maldivian operators.

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