Faafu Atoll: islands, resorts and how to get there

Faafu Atoll

One of the smallest and least visited atolls, with an important archaeological site.

CAPITAL ISLAND
Nilandhoo

ISLANDS IN TOTAL
23

INHABITED ISLANDS
5

RESORT ISLANDS
2

AIRPORT
None in the atoll; nearest is Dhaalu (DDD)

CURRENCY
Maldivian Rufiyaa

LANGUAGE
Dhivehi, English widely used

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

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Your complete guide to Faafu Atoll

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One of the smallest and least visited atolls, with an important archaeological site.

One of the smallest atolls: 23 islands, five of them inhabited.

Nilandhoo is the capital and the largest and most populated island.

Faafu is separated from Dhaalu by only about six kilometres of open water.

1. THE ATOLL IN NUMBERS

Capital island	Nilandhoo
Islands in total	23
Inhabited islands	5
Resort islands	2
People	4,869
Airport	None in the atoll; nearest is Dhaalu (DDD)
Getting here from Malé	no public ferry and no scheduled speedboat - private charter only, 2.5-3.5 hrs open ocean

Faafu is small, quiet and hard to reach. Come for the archaeology and the emptiness, not for facilities.

2. GETTING HERE

There is neither a public ferry from Malé nor a scheduled speedboat. Realistically that means a private charter of two and a half to three and a half hours across open ocean, or a flight to neighbouring Dhaalu and a boat from there. Plan this before you fly to the Maldives, not after.

3. WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

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

- Bileddhoo
- Dharanboodhoo
- Feeali
- Magoodhoo
- Nilandhoo

4. RESORT ISLANDS

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

name first.

Island	Resort
Filitheyo	Filitheyo

5. WHAT IT IS KNOWN FOR

The Nilandhoo Foamathi ruins - a pre-Islamic temple site, among the oldest archaeological remains in the Maldives.

6. WORTH YOUR TIME

- Nilandhoo Foamathi - pre-Islamic ruins, among the oldest in the country
- Reefs that see essentially no tourist traffic
- No airport in the atoll, so arrival needs planning

7. WHEN TO GO

January to April

8. BEFORE YOU GO

Almost no tourism infrastructure. Arrange everything in advance. No alcohol on the islands.

9. COMMON QUESTIONS

How do you get to Faafu Atoll?

There is no public ferry and no scheduled speedboat from Malé. You need a private charter, which is a long open-ocean crossing, or a flight to Dhaalu followed by a boat.

Everything in this guide is bookable with local Maldivian operators.

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