Fainu, Raa Atoll: a complete island guide

Fainu, Raa Atoll

Between Kinolhas and Inguraidhoo. Reports have highlighted poor irrigation and severe beach erosion.

ISLAND
Fainu

ATOLL
Raa Atoll

NEAREST AIRPORT
Ifuru (IFU)

ATOLL CAPITAL
Ungoofaaru

CURRENCY
Maldivian Rufiyaa

LANGUAGE
Dhivehi, English widely used

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

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Your complete guide to Fainu, Raa Atoll

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1. WELCOME TO FAINU

Between Kinolhas and Inguraidhoo. Reports have highlighted poor irrigation and severe beach erosion.

2. ESSENTIAL FACTS

Atoll	Raa Atoll (R)
Population	423 (2022 census)
Size	1.325 km long and 500 m wide
Distance from Malé	152 km north of Malé - over eight hours by ordinary boat
Atoll capital	Ungoofaaru
Nearest airport	Ifuru (IFU)
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

There is a domestic airport about 25 minutes away.

Reaching Raa Atoll from Malé: no public ferry; scheduled speedboat about 3.5 hrs, four mornings a week.

4. HISTORY AND HERITAGE

The 2004 tsunami left Fainu the second most devastated island in the atoll. On 31 May 2004 it won a no-smoking award from the World Health Organization.

5. ON THE ISLAND

Fainu School does not cover secondary education, so every child must leave the island for secondary school.

6. BEFORE YOU GO

Small guesthouse scene. Bikini beaches exist on the tourist islands but are not universal - check with your guesthouse before you book. No alcohol on the islands.

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.

7. WHEN TO VISIT

January to March; the north is drier than the national average

8. AROUND THE ATOLL

This island is part of Raa 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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