Gaafu Dhaal Atoll: islands, resorts and how to get there

Gaafu Dhaal Atoll

The southern half of Huvadhu, and the northern end of the Highway Link ferry that runs down to Addu.

CAPITAL ISLAND
Thinadhoo

ISLANDS IN TOTAL
153

INHABITED ISLANDS
10

RESORT ISLANDS
3

AIRPORT
Kaadedhdhoo (KDM)

CURRENCY
Maldivian Rufiyaa

LANGUAGE
Dhivehi, English widely used

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

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Your complete guide to Gaafu Dhaal Atoll

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The southern half of Huvadhu, and the northern end of the Highway Link ferry that runs down to Addu.

The southern half of Huvadhu, about 340 km south of Malé, with Kaadedhdhoo domestic airport since 1993.

There are important Buddhist remains, mainly large ruined stupas, on Fiyoari, Gan and Vaadhoo.

Thinadhoo was central to the United Suvadive Republic; it was burnt down in 1962 and left uninhabited for four years.

1. THE ATOLL IN NUMBERS

Capital island	Thinadhoo
Islands in total	153
Inhabited islands	10
Resort islands	3
People	11,587
Airport	Kaadedhdhoo (KDM)
Getting here from Malé	no public ferry; fly to Kaadedhdhoo in about 70 min

Gaafu Dhaal is the southern half of Huvadhu and, unusually for the far south, has a genuine scheduled sea link - though not to Malé.

2. GETTING HERE

There is no ferry from Malé. Fly to Kaadedhdhoo, around seventy minutes.

3. THE HIGHWAY LINK

From Vaadhoo a ferry runs south to Fuvahmulah and on to Addu, roughly ninety minutes a leg. If you want to travel the deep south by sea rather than air, this is the route that makes it possible.

4. WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

9 inhabited islands in Gaafu Dhaal Atoll. These are the islands with guesthouses, shops, ferries and a community - not resorts.

- Fares-Maathodaa
- Fiyoari
- Gaddhoo
- Hoandeddhoo

- Madaveli
- Nadellaa
- Rathafandhoo
- Vaadhoo
- Thinadhoo

5. RESORT ISLANDS

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

Island	Resort
Maguhdhuvaa	Ayada
Havodda	Havodda
Konottaa	Outrigger

6. WHAT IT IS KNOWN FOR

Its place on the Highway Link sea route - Vaadhoo to Fuvahmulah to Addu - the one real ferry corridor in the deep south.

7. WORTH YOUR TIME

- The Highway Link ferry - Vaadhoo to Fuvahmulah to Addu, about 90 minutes a leg
- Kaadedhdhoo airport
- 153 islands, very few of them visited

8. WHEN TO GO

February to April is the driest stretch in the far south

9. BEFORE YOU GO

Guesthouses are scattered across a very large atoll. No alcohol on the islands.

10. COMMON QUESTIONS

Is there a ferry between Gaafu Dhaal, Fuvahmulah and Addu?

Yes - the Highway Link runs Vaadhoo to Fuvahmulah to Addu, about ninety minutes per leg. It is the only real sea corridor in the far south. There is still no ferry to Malé.

Everything in this guide is bookable with local Maldivian operators.

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