Gnaviyani Atoll: islands, resorts and how to get there

Gnaviyani Atoll

One island that is its own atoll - with freshwater lakes, a beach of pebbles rather than sand, and resident tiger sharks.

CAPITAL ISLAND
Fuvahmulah

INHABITED ISLANDS
1

CURRENCY
Maldivian Rufiyaa

ISLANDS IN TOTAL
1

AIRPORT
Fuvahmulah (FVM)

LANGUAGE
Dhivehi, English widely used

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Your complete guide to Gnaviyani Atoll

1. The atoll in numbers
2. Getting here
3. Tiger sharks
4. What else is here
5. Where people live
6. What it is known for
7. Worth your time
8. When to go
9. Before you go
10. Common questions

Magic Maldives

One island that is its own atoll - with freshwater lakes, a beach of pebbles rather than sand, and resident tiger sharks.

One island that is its own atoll, sitting alone on the Equatorial Channel between Huvadhu and Addu.

It was once an open atoll whose lagoon silted up; two freshwater lakes, wetlands and marshy taro fields remain inside the island.

The island is divided into wards, which do the job that separate islands do in every other atoll.

1. THE ATOLL IN NUMBERS

Capital island	Fuvahmulah
Islands in total	1
Inhabited islands	1
People	9,166
Airport	Fuvahmulah (FVM)
Getting here from Malé	no ferry from Malé; fly to Fuvahmulah in about 85 min, or fly to Addu and take the Highway Link ferry

Fuvahmulah is a single island that forms an entire atoll, which makes it geographically unlike anywhere else in the Maldives. It has freshwater lakes, farmland, a pebble beach, and one of the world's most reliable tiger shark dives.

2. GETTING HERE

No ferry from Malé. Either fly direct to Fuvahmulah in about eighty-five minutes, or fly to Addu and take the Highway Link ferry, roughly ninety minutes.

3. TIGER SHARKS

They are resident, not seasonal, and dived year-round at a site off the harbour. This is a serious dive with strong currents and large animals - go with an operator who runs it regularly.

4. WHAT ELSE IS HERE

Two freshwater lakes, Dhadimagi Kilhi and Bandaara Kilhi, and Thoondu beach at the northern tip, which is made of smooth white pebbles rather than sand and shifts shape with the monsoon.

5. WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

1 inhabited island in Gnaviyani Atoll. These are the islands with guesthouses, shops, ferries and a community - not resorts.

- Fuvahmulah

6. WHAT IT IS KNOWN FOR

Year-round tiger shark diving, two freshwater lakes, and Thoondu beach, made of smooth pebbles instead of sand.

7. WORTH YOUR TIME

- Resident tiger sharks, dived year-round
- Two freshwater lakes - almost unheard of in the Maldives
- Thoondu, a pebble beach rather than a sand one
- Its own dialect and a strong local identity

8. WHEN TO GO

Tiger sharks year-round; February to April is driest

9. BEFORE YOU GO

A single large island with a real town. No alcohol. Fuvahmulah has a distinct dialect and identity - it is culturally its own place, not a generic Maldivian island.

10. COMMON QUESTIONS

Where can you dive with tiger sharks in the Maldives?

Fuvahmulah. The sharks are resident rather than seasonal, so the dive runs year-round. It is an advanced dive with strong current.

Is Fuvahmulah an island or an atoll?

Both - it is a single island that forms its own atoll, which is why it has freshwater lakes and farmland that other Maldivian islands do not.

Everything in this guide is bookable with local Maldivian operators.

MAGIC MALDIVES

Magic Maldives

http://localhost/magicmaldives/public/guide/gnaviyani-atoll-guide

(c) 2026 Magic Maldives - 14 Sep 2026

Magic Maldives