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

Haa Dhaal Atoll

Home to Kulhudhuffushi, the largest town in the north and one of the biggest in the country.

CAPITAL ISLAND
Kulhudhuffushi

INHABITED ISLANDS
16

AIRPORT
Kulhudhuffushi (HDK) and Hanimaadhoo (HAQ) nearby

LANGUAGE
Dhivehi, English widely used

ISLANDS IN TOTAL
40

RESORT ISLANDS
2

CURRENCY
Maldivian Rufiyaa

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

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Your complete guide to Haa Dhaal Atoll

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Home to Kulhudhuffushi, the largest town in the north and one of the biggest in the country.

Covers the southern section of Thiladhunmathi plus the Makunudhoo atoll and its large reef.

Two airports serve the atoll: an international airport at Hanimaadhoo and a domestic airport at Kulhudhuffushi.

The capital moved from Nolhivaranfaru to Kulhudhuffushi in 1992, and Kulhudhuffushi is now the largest town in the north.

1. THE ATOLL IN NUMBERS

Capital island	Kulhudhuffushi
Islands in total	40
Inhabited islands	16
Resort islands	2
People	22,845
Airport	Kulhudhuffushi (HDK) and Hanimaadhoo (HAQ) nearby
Getting here from Malé	no ferry from Malé; fly to Kulhudhuffushi or Hanimaadhoo

Haa Dhaal is the north's administrative and commercial centre, built around Kulhudhuffushi.

2. GETTING HERE

No ferry from Malé. Fly to Kulhudhuffushi, or to Hanimaadhoo and continue by boat.

3. WHAT IT IS LIKE

This is a working part of the Maldives rather than a holiday one. Kulhudhuffushi has hospitals, schools and shops rather than a tourism strip, and that is precisely its interest for some travellers.

4. WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

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

- Finey
- Hanimaadhoo
- Hirimaradhoo
- Kulhudhuffushi
- Kumundhoo

- Kunburudhoo
- Kurinbi
- Makunudhoo
- Naivaadhoo
- Nellaidhoo
- Neykurendhoo
- Nolhivaram
- Nolhivaranfaru
- Vaikaradhoo

5. RESORT ISLANDS

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

Island	Resort
Hondaafushi	Hondaafushi

6. WHAT IT IS KNOWN FOR

Kulhudhuffushi's rope-making tradition and its role as the northern regional hub.

7. WORTH YOUR TIME

- Kulhudhuffushi - the north's main town and regional hub
- Traditional coir rope-making
- Sixteen inhabited islands

8. WHEN TO GO

January to March

9. BEFORE YOU GO

More town than beach in places. Small guesthouse scene. No alcohol on the islands.

10. COMMON QUESTIONS

What is the largest island in northern Maldives?

Kulhudhuffushi in Haa Dhaal is the largest town in the north and one of the most populous islands in the country.

Everything in this guide is bookable with local Maldivian operators.

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