# Huraa, Kaafu Atoll: a complete island guide

Huraa, Kaafu Atoll

A mangrove swamp north of the island is a protected nature reserve sheltering protected birds; an IUCN study identified ten tree varieties in it. The island is known for producing national-level footballers and volleyball players.

ISLAND
**Huraa**

ATOLL
**Kaafu Atoll**

NEAREST AIRPORT
**Velana International (MLE) - the atoll contains the country's main...**

ATOLL CAPITAL
**Malé**

CURRENCY
**Maldivian Rufiyaa**

LANGUAGE
**Dhivehi, English widely used**

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

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Your complete guide to Huraa, Kaafu Atoll

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## 1. WELCOME TO HURAA

A mangrove swamp north of the island is a protected nature reserve sheltering protected birds; an IUCN study identified ten tree varieties in it. The island is known for producing national-level footballers and volleyball players.

Several local guesthouses.

Mainly fishing and tourism. Since guesthouses opened on the island, tourism has become the larger of the two.

## 2. ESSENTIAL FACTS

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|---|---|
| **Atoll** | Kaafu Atoll (K) |
| **Population** | 1,654 (2022, including foreign residents) |
| **Size** | 850 m long and 300 m wide |
| **Distance from Malé** | 20 km northeast of Malé |
| **Atoll capital** | Malé |
| **Nearest airport** | Velana International (MLE) - the atoll contains the country's main airport |
| **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

Reaching Kaafu Atoll from Malé: 30-90 min by speedboat; public ferry from about 1.5 hrs.

## 4. HISTORY AND HERITAGE

The last royal dynasty to rule the Maldives began here, founded in 1757 by Sultan al-Ghazi Hasan Izz ud-din. The line traces back to Dhonmarudhuru Fadiththakurufaanu of Huraa, said to be the son of a Frenchman and a Maldivian woman from the island, and grandfather of the dynasty's first king.

## 5. WHAT THERE IS FOR VISITORS

Several local guesthouses.

## 6. HOW THE ISLAND LIVES

Mainly fishing and tourism. Since guesthouses opened on the island, tourism has become the larger of the two.

## 7. BEFORE YOU GO

These are inhabited Muslim islands. Cover shoulders and knees away from the designated bikini beach, which every tourist island here has. Alcohol is not sold on local islands; some guesthouses run an evening trip to a floating bar. During Ramadan cafés close in daylight hours.

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.

## 8. WHEN TO VISIT

January to April for the calmest crossings

## 9. AROUND THE ATOLL

This island is part of Kaafu 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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