Kihaadhoo, Baa Atoll: a complete island guide

Kihaadhoo, Baa Atoll

In the north-central part of Baa Atoll.

ISLAND **Kihaadhoo**	ATOLL **Baa Atoll**
NEAREST AIRPORT **Dharavandhoo (DRV), 20 min flight from Malé**	ATOLL CAPITAL **Eydhafushi**
CURRENCY **Maldivian Rufiyaa**	LANGUAGE **Dhivehi, English widely used**

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Your complete guide to Kihaadhoo, Baa Atoll

1. Welcome to Kihaadhoo
2. Essential facts
3. Getting there
4. History and heritage
5. What there is for visitors
6. How the island lives
7. On the island
8. Before you go
9. When to visit
10. Around the atoll

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1. WELCOME TO KIHAADHOO

In the north-central part of Baa Atoll.

The first guesthouse opened in 2022. Fishing, snorkelling and local food are the draws, and the house reef is a popular snorkelling spot for guests from the nearby resorts. There is a tourist beach.

Tourism, fishing and some farming. The island has a strong name in the country for weaving with coconut leaves.

2. ESSENTIAL FACTS

Atoll	Baa Atoll (B)
Population	481 (2022 census)
Size	0.265 km², 840 m long and 490 m wide
Distance from Malé	123 km north of Malé
Atoll capital	Eydhafushi
Nearest airport	Dharavandhoo (DRV), 20 min flight from Malé
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

A small harbour handles goods and people from the nearby islands. Dhonfanu, the closest inhabited island, is only a few minutes away by dhoni.

Reaching Baa Atoll from Malé: no direct public ferry; scheduled speedboat 4 days a week, or fly to Dharavandhoo in 20 min.

4. HISTORY AND HERITAGE

People first lived on the eastern side and moved to the present site about eighty years ago, mainly because the groundwater had become contaminated. A later migration took islanders to Baa Hithaadhoo, from which they returned.

5. WHAT THERE IS FOR VISITORS

The first guesthouse opened in 2022. Fishing, snorkelling and local food are the draws, and the house reef is a popular snorkelling spot for guests from the nearby resorts. There is a tourist beach.

6. HOW THE ISLAND LIVES

Tourism, fishing and some farming. The island has a strong name in the country for weaving with coconut leaves.

7. ON THE ISLAND

Kihaadhoo school takes all the island children and some from neighbouring islands. Small harbour.

8. BEFORE YOU GO

Dharavandhoo and the Goidhoo islands have bikini beaches. No alcohol on the islands. Hanifaru Bay is a protected area - you may snorkel only, with a licensed guide, in timed groups. No diving and no fins-first entries.

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.

9. WHEN TO VISIT

Mantas at Hanifaru from May to November, peaking July to September - the opposite of the usual Maldives advice

10. AROUND THE ATOLL

This island is part of Baa 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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