Laamu Atoll: islands, resorts and how to get there

Laamu Atoll

Four islands joined by a causeway you can cycle end to end, and one of the country's best right-hand waves.

CAPITAL ISLAND **Fonadhoo**	ISLANDS IN TOTAL **82**
INHABITED ISLANDS **11**	RESORT ISLANDS **3**
AIRPORT **Kadhdhoo (KDO)**	CURRENCY **Maldivian Rufiyaa**
LANGUAGE **Dhivehi, English widely used**	

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Your complete guide to Laamu Atoll

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Magic Maldives

Four islands joined by a causeway you can cycle end to end, and one of the country's best right-hand waves.

Four islands - Gan, Kadhdhoo, Maandhoo and Fonadhoo - are joined by causeways you can cycle end to end.

The eastern reef islands of Dhanbidhoo, Mundoo, Gan and Isdhoo hold important Buddhist archaeological sites, including monastery and stupa remains.

Kadhdhoo has the domestic airport. Scenes for Rogue One: A Star Wars Story were filmed in this atoll.

1. THE ATOLL IN NUMBERS

Capital island	Fonadhoo
Islands in total	82
Inhabited islands	11
Resort islands	3
People	19,468
Airport	Kadhdhoo (KDO)
Getting here from Malé	no public ferry; fly to Kadhdhoo in about 55 min

Laamu is different from most Maldivian atolls because four of its islands are joined by road. You can land at Kadhdhoo and cycle rather than boat between places to stay, eat and surf.

2. GETTING HERE

No public ferry runs from Malé. Fly to Kadhdhoo, roughly fifty-five minutes. The airport sits on the linked chain, so onward travel is by road rather than boat.

3. SURF

Yin Yang is the name that brings surfers here - a powerful right-hander that works on the southern swell, roughly March to October. It is a reef break and not a beginner wave.

4. HISTORY

Gan has substantial Buddhist-era mounds, a reminder that the Maldives had a long pre-Islamic history that most visitors never see.

5. WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

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

- Dhanbidhoo
- Fonadhoo
- Gaadhoo
- Gan
- Hithadhoo
- Isdhoo
- Kalaidhoo
- Kunahandhoo
- Maabaidhoo
- Maamendhoo
- Maavah
- Mundoo
- Maandhoo
- Kadhdhoo

6. RESORT ISLANDS

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

Island	Resort
Olhuveli	Six Senses Laamu

7. WHAT IT IS KNOWN FOR

Yin Yang, a powerful right-hander, and the Link Road joining Fonadhoo, Maandhoo, Kadhdhoo and Gan into one 12-kilometre ride.

8. WORTH YOUR TIME

- Yin Yang - a heavy right-hand reef break
- The Link Road - 12 km of causeway across four islands, ideal by bicycle
- Kadhdhoo airport in the middle of the linked islands
- Ancient Buddhist mounds on Gan

9. WHEN TO GO

January to April for diving; surf season runs roughly March to October

10. BEFORE YOU GO

The linked islands make Laamu unusually easy to move around without a boat. Check bikini beach arrangements with your guesthouse. No alcohol on the islands.

11. COMMON QUESTIONS

Can you cycle around Laamu Atoll?

Yes. Fonadhoo, Maandhoo, Kadhdhoo and Gan are joined by a causeway about 12 kilometres long, which is unusual in the Maldives and makes Laamu easy to explore without a boat.

When is surf season in Laamu?

Roughly March to October, on the southern swell. Yin Yang is the best-known break and is a right-hander over reef.

Everything in this guide is bookable with local Maldivian operators.

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