Lhaviyani Atoll: islands, resorts and how to get there

Lhaviyani Atoll

Resort-heavy, with a handful of local islands and one of the country's most famous wrecks.

CAPITAL ISLAND
Naifaru

ISLANDS IN TOTAL
63

INHABITED ISLANDS
5

RESORT ISLANDS
6

AIRPORT
Madivaru / Lhaviyani (LMV)

CURRENCY
Maldivian Rufiyaa

LANGUAGE
Dhivehi, English widely used

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

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Your complete guide to Lhaviyani Atoll

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Resort-heavy, with a handful of local islands and one of the country's most famous wrecks.

Only four islands in the atoll are inhabited, which is why it feels so resort-dominated.

Extensive seagrass supports green turtles, the stingray population is above average and the hard coral is healthy - the house reefs here are among the best in the country.

Kurendhoo holds a regionally important breeding population of around 800 white-tailed tropicbirds. The country's only tuna canning factory is at Felivaru.

1. THE ATOLL IN NUMBERS

Capital island	Naifaru
Islands in total	63
Inhabited islands	5
Resort islands	6
People	11,905
Airport	Madivaru / Lhaviyani (LMV)
Getting here from Malé	no public ferry; limited speedboat around 2.5 hrs, or fly to Hinnavaru in 30 min

Lhaviyani is best known to divers and to resort guests. The independent-traveller scene is small compared with Ari or Kaafu.

2. GETTING HERE

There is no public ferry from Malé. A limited speedboat service takes about two and a half hours; most people fly to the atoll airport in around half an hour.

3. DIVING

The Shipyard is the signature site - two wrecks sitting upright with their masts near the surface, which makes for unusually easy wreck photography.

4. WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

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

- Hinnavaru
- Kurendhoo

- Naifaru
- Olhuvelifushi

5. RESORT ISLANDS

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

Island	Resort
Kanifushi	Atmosphere Kanifushi
Ookolhufinolhu	Cocoon
Fushifaru	Fushifaru
Huravalhi	Hurawalhi
Kanuhuraa	Kanuhura
Komandoo	Komandoo
Kudadhoo	Kudadoo
Kuredhdhoo	Kuredu
Thilamaafushi	Le Meridien
Hudhuranfushi	Resort

6. WHAT IT IS KNOWN FOR

The Shipyard wreck dive, and Kuredu's long reef.

7. WORTH YOUR TIME

- The Shipyard - two wrecks standing upright in shallow water
- Naifaru and Hinnavaru, the atoll's two big inhabited islands
- Fast flight connection from Malé

8. WHEN TO GO

January to April

9. BEFORE YOU GO

Small local-island scene. Check bikini beach arrangements with your guesthouse before booking. No alcohol on the islands.

10. COMMON QUESTIONS

How do you get to Lhaviyani Atoll?

Usually by a 30-minute flight from Malé. There is no public ferry, and the speedboat service is limited.

What is the Shipyard dive?

Two shipwrecks in Lhaviyani sitting upright in relatively shallow water with masts close to the surface - one of the most photographed wreck sites in the Maldives.

Everything in this guide is bookable with local Maldivian operators.

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