Maalhos, Baa Atoll: a complete island guide

Maalhos, Baa Atoll

The island keeps an annual custom of bathing in seven different wells. At Eid the men cook and serve dinner to the island's women, and the women do the same in return.

ISLAND
Maalhos

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

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Your complete guide to Maalhos, Baa Atoll

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1. WELCOME TO MAALHOS

The island keeps an annual custom of bathing in seven different wells. At Eid the men cook and serve dinner to the island's women, and the women do the same in return.

Open for day trips from the resorts for anyone wanting to see local life, with a small port, small shops and cafes, and a white sand beach.

2. ESSENTIAL FACTS

Atoll	Baa Atoll (B)
Population	572 (2022 census)
Distance from Malé	115 km northwest 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 port takes visitors in; the island is a couple of minutes from nearby resort islands.

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

Research found Buddhism was the main religion here before Islam, and a damaged Buddha head was found in the old graveyard.

5. WHAT THERE IS FOR VISITORS

Open for day trips from the resorts for anyone wanting to see local life, with a small port, small shops and cafes, and a white sand beach.

6. ON THE ISLAND

Small port, shops and cafes.

7. 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.

8. WHEN TO VISIT

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

9. 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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