Noonu Atoll: islands, resorts and how to get there

Noonu Atoll

A northern atoll with a growing resort presence and an airport built for larger aircraft.

CAPITAL ISLAND
Manadhoo

ISLANDS IN TOTAL
71

INHABITED ISLANDS
13

RESORT ISLANDS
7

AIRPORT
Maafaru (NMF), which can take private jets

CURRENCY
Maldivian Rufiyaa

LANGUAGE
Dhivehi, English widely used

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

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Your complete guide to Noonu Atoll

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Magic Maldives

A northern atoll with a growing resort presence and an airport built for larger aircraft.

Noonu has the highest density of swarming fish in the Maldives, particularly fusiliers and snappers, and a large resident spinner dolphin population.

Orimas Thila is a well-known grey and white-tip reef shark site; Christmastree Rock is noted for its soft coral.

Several of the country's most expensive resorts sit here, including Soneva Jani, Cheval Blanc Randheli and Velaa Private Island.

1. THE ATOLL IN NUMBERS

Capital island	Manadhoo
Islands in total	71
Inhabited islands	13
Resort islands	7
People	12,503
Airport	Maafaru (NMF), which can take private jets
Getting here from Malé	no ferry from Malé; fly to Maafaru in about 45 min

Noonu has developed faster than its northern neighbours, largely around resort investment and the airport at Maafaru.

2. GETTING HERE

No ferry from Malé. Fly to Maafaru in about forty-five minutes.

3. DIVING

The atoll's channels hold cleaning stations that attract mantas in season, and the sites see far fewer boats than equivalent spots in Ari.

4. WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

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

- Foddhoo
- Henbandhoo
- Holhudhoo

- Kendhikolhudhoo
- Kudafaree
- Landhoo
- Lhohi
- Maafaru
- Maalhendhoo
- Magoodhoo
- Manadhoo
- Miladhoo
- Velidhoo

5. RESORT ISLANDS

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

Island	Resort
Randheli	Cheval Blanc Randheli
Kudafunafaru	Noku
Kuredhivaru	Resort
Orivaru	Robinson Club Noonu
Dhigurah	Siyam World
Medhufaru	Soneva Jani
Irufushi	Sun Siyam Iru Fushi
Fushivelavaru	Velaa Private Island

6. WHAT IT IS KNOWN FOR

Christmas Rock and other channel dives, and Maafaru airport.

7. WORTH YOUR TIME

- Maafaru airport, one of the better-equipped domestic fields
- Channel dives with manta cleaning stations in season
- Thirteen inhabited islands

8. WHEN TO GO

January to March

9. BEFORE YOU GO

Small guesthouse scene alongside the resorts. No alcohol on the islands.

10. COMMON QUESTIONS

Is there a ferry from Malé to Noonu Atoll?

No. Fly to Maafaru, about forty-five minutes, then continue by boat.

Everything in this guide is bookable with local Maldivian operators.

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