Raa Atoll: islands, resorts and how to get there

Raa Atoll

A large northern atoll with a scheduled speedboat from Malé and almost no independent-traveller crowd.

CAPITAL ISLAND **Ungoofaaru**	ISLANDS IN TOTAL **88**
INHABITED ISLANDS **15**	RESORT ISLANDS **7**
AIRPORT **Ifuru (IFU)**	CURRENCY **Maldivian Rufiyaa**
LANGUAGE **Dhivehi, English widely used**	

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

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Your complete guide to Raa Atoll

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Magic Maldives

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Raa has more populated islands than any other atoll in the Maldives.

The centre of the lagoon holds the densest concentration of small reefs and shoals in the country, which is what makes the diving here unusual.

Alifushi is traditionally famous for its boatbuilding carpenters and still has shipyards. Dhuvaafaru was built to rehouse the people of Kandholhudhoo after the 2004 tsunami.

1. THE ATOLL IN NUMBERS

Capital island	Ungoofaaru
Islands in total	88
Inhabited islands	15
Resort islands	7
People	24,862
Airport	Ifuru (IFU)
Getting here from Malé	no public ferry; scheduled speedboat about 3.5 hrs, four mornings a week

Raa is one of the larger northern atolls and one of the least visited by independent travellers, despite having a genuine scheduled boat link to Malé.

2. GETTING HERE

No public ferry runs from Malé - the network is regional and Raa is outside Malé's zone. A scheduled speedboat leaves Malé early on four mornings a week and takes around three and a half hours to Alifushi. Alternatively fly to Ifuru.

3. WHAT IT IS LIKE

Quiet, working islands with small guesthouse operations rather than a tourism strip. Alifushi has a long boatbuilding tradition. If you want reefs without other boats on them, this is the trade-off you make for the longer journey.

4. WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

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

- Alifushi
- Angolhitheemu
- Dhuvaafaru
- Fainu
- Hulhudhuffaaru
- Inguraidhoo
- Innamaadhoo
- Kinolhas
- Maakurathu
- Maduvvaree
- Maamigili
- Meedhoo
- Rasgetheemu
- Rasmaadhoo
- Ungoofaaru
- Vaadhoo

5. RESORT ISLANDS

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

Island	Resort
Meedhupparu	Adaaran Meedhupparu
Maamigili	Cora Cora
Dhigali	Dhigali
Fasmendhoo	Emerald
Faarufushi	Faarufushi
Furaveri	Furaveri
Aarah	Heritance Aarah
Muravandhoo	Joali
Bodufushi	Joali Being
Kudafushi	Kudafushi
Filaidhoo	Reethi Faru
Huruvalhi	The Standard
Uthurumaafaru	You & Me

6. WHAT IT IS KNOWN FOR

Long uncrowded reefs and the country's clearest gap between what is reachable and what is actually visited.

7. WORTH YOUR TIME

- A scheduled Malé speedboat four mornings a week, about 3.5 hours
- Ifuru airport for a faster arrival
- Reefs that see a fraction of the traffic of Kaafu or Ari
- Alifushi, the traditional boatbuilding island

8. WHEN TO GO

January to March; the north is drier than the national average

9. BEFORE YOU GO

Small guesthouse scene. Bikini beaches exist on the tourist islands but are not universal - check with your guesthouse before you book. No alcohol on the islands.

10. COMMON QUESTIONS

Is there a ferry from Malé to Raa Atoll?

Not a public ferry. There is a scheduled speedboat four mornings a week, about three and a half hours. The public ferry network runs within regions, and Raa is not in Malé's region.

Is Raa Atoll worth visiting?

If you want reefs and islands with very few other visitors and you do not mind a longer journey, yes. If you want choice of guesthouses and excursions, Kaafu or Ari will suit you better.

Everything in this guide is bookable with local Maldivian operators.

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