Rasdhoo, Alif Alif Atoll: a complete island guide

Rasdhoo, Alif Alif Atoll

The capital of the Alif Alif administrative atoll, and the only inhabited island of the small natural Rasdhoo Atoll, which sits a few miles off the northeast corner of Ari Atoll.

ISLAND
Rasdhoo

ATOLL
Alif Alif Atoll

NEAREST AIRPORT
No airport - every arrival is by sea

ATOLL CAPITAL
Rasdhoo

CURRENCY
Maldivian Rufiyaa

LANGUAGE
Dhivehi, English widely used

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

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Your complete guide to Rasdhoo, Alif Alif Atoll

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1. WELCOME TO RASDHOO

The capital of the Alif Alif administrative atoll, and the only inhabited island of the small natural Rasdhoo Atoll, which sits a few miles off the northeast corner of Ari Atoll.

Sixteen guesthouses as of September 2016.

2. ESSENTIAL FACTS

Atoll	Alif Alif Atoll (AA)
Population	1,282 (2022 census)
Size	575 m long and 400 m wide
Distance from Malé	58 km west of Malé
Atoll capital	Rasdhoo
Nearest airport	No airport - every arrival is by sea
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 ferry runs three times a week, and speedboats daily, between Malé and Rasdhoo.

Reaching Alif Alif Atoll from Malé: 70-90 min by speedboat; public ferry about 3 hrs, twice a week.

4. WHAT THERE IS FOR VISITORS

Sixteen guesthouses as of September 2016.

5. BEFORE YOU GO

Thoddoo and Ukulhas both have well-kept bikini beaches; elsewhere cover shoulders and knees. No alcohol on the islands. Thoddoo is a farming island as well as a tourist one, which is why it feels different from Maafushi.

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.

6. WHEN TO VISIT

January to April for visibility; hammerheads at Rasdhoo year-round at dawn

7. AROUND THE ATOLL

This island is part of Alif Alif 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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