Thulhaadhoo, Baa Atoll: a complete island guide

Thulhaadhoo, Baa Atoll

The second most populated island in Baa Atoll.

ISLAND **Thulhaadhoo**	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 Thulhaadhoo, Baa Atoll

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1. WELCOME TO THULHAADHOO

The second most populated island in Baa Atoll.

Lacquerwork is the reason to come - this is one of the last places the craft is still turned by hand.

Famous for lacquer work. The island once supplied lacquered pieces to the noble families of the country; most of it now goes to visitors as souvenirs.

2. ESSENTIAL FACTS

Atoll	Baa Atoll (B)
Population	1,471 (2022 census)
Size	40 hectares, 380 m long and 230 m wide
Distance from Malé	120 km north 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

Reaching Baa Atoll from Malé: no direct public ferry; scheduled speedboat 4 days a week, or fly to Dharavandhoo in 20 min.

4. WHAT THERE IS FOR VISITORS

Lacquerwork is the reason to come - this is one of the last places the craft is still turned by hand.

5. HOW THE ISLAND LIVES

Famous for lacquer work. The island once supplied lacquered pieces to the noble families of the country; most of it now goes to visitors as souvenirs.

6. ON THE ISLAND

One school and two preschools, and a health centre.

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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