MAGIC MALDIVES · TRAVEL GUIDE

Raa Atoll

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

CAPITAL ISLAND **Ungoofaaru**	INHABITED ISLANDS **15**
FROM MALé **no public ferry; scheduled speedboat about**	BEST MONTHS **January to March; the north is drier than the**
AIRPORT **Ifuru (IFU)**	

Known for

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

About Raa Atoll

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.

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.

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.

Highlights

- 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

Getting there and getting around

Speedboat from Malé

From Malé: no public ferry; scheduled speedboat about 3.5 hrs, four mornings a week

On a local island

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.

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.