Information for Travelers  
WHO Country Office  
Male’, Republic of Maldives

Geography

Maldives is situated in the Indian Ocean, Southwest of Sri Lanka, crossing the equator. A string of pearls scattered over the deep blue Indian Ocean.

Climate

The Maldives has a tropical climate with warm temperatures (28°-30° C) year round and a great deal of sunshine. The warm tropical climate results in relatively minor variations in daily temperature throughout the year, being the hottest month on average in April and the coolest, in December. February is the driest with January to April being relatively dry. The southwest monsoon or “hulhangu” from May to September is the wet season. Rough seas and strong winds are common during this period. The northeast monsoon “iruvai” falls between December to April. This is a period of clear skies, lower humidity and very little rain.

General Information

Ibrahim Nasir International airport (Male’ International Airport) is located on a separate island, Hulhule’, which is about 5 minutes by speed boat from the capital, Male’.

Visa and Custom Clearance

No prior visa is required to enter the Maldives. A tourist visa of 30 days will be granted free of charge on arrival at Ibrahim Nasir International Airport to all visitors with a valid international travel document (at least 6 months validity from date of entry) and enough funds to support the stay. All visitors who enter the Maldives should fill an Immigration (Entry/Departure/Health) Card, which is usually provided by the Airline (otherwise available at the airport arrival hall) and be in possession of a Return Air Ticket. An entry permit does not allow a visitor to take up employment.

For WHO travelers on mission: please ensure you have obtained your invitation letter, travel authorization or copy of your contract from the WHO Maldives Country Office to be presented to the immigration counter in case of the need. For any assistance in this regard, please contact WHO Maldives Country Office on +9603322410, +9603327519 or via e-mail: sewhomav@who.int

Prohibited and Restricted items

It is very important that visitors arriving in the Maldives to observe and note the following items which are Strictly Prohibited by Law to import into the Country:

Strictly Prohibited Items
• Religious materials offensive to Islam
• Idols (for worship)
• Pornographic material in any form
• Narcotics and psychotropic substances (severe penalties are imposed for drug related cases)

Restricted Items
• Alcohol and Spirits (it is advised not to purchase liquor on the flight to Maldives – if you bring it will be confiscated and given back to you on your departure)*
• Pork and its by-products

(*) Liquor products are available at the Hotel Resorts as well at the Hulhule’ Airport Hotel for visitors but not in Male’.

Currency

Maldavian Currency: The Maldivian currency is the Rufiyaa and the Laari. One Rufiyaa is equivalent to 100 Laari. Rufiyaa bank notes are in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 500. The midpoint of exchange rate is 12.85 Rufiyaa and the rate is permitted to fluctuate within the ± 20% band, i.e between 10.28 Rufiyaa and 15.42 Rufiyaa. In practice it is MVR 15.42 to 1 USD.
**Foreign currency, credit cards**: The US Dollar is the most commonly used foreign currency. US Dollar and travelers cheques can be cashed at most banks in Male’. Payments in most hotels, resorts and main restaurants can be made in USD, local currency or using credit cards.

**Key Facts about Male’**

- **Time Zone**: GMT(+) 5.00 Hrs
- **Electricity**: 230/240 V, 50Hz (power outlets are in (2) or (3) pin plugs
- **Postal Services**: Post shop is open from 08:15 am to 09:00 pm, Sunday to Thursday and from 09:15 am to 9:00 pm on Saturday and from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Friday
- **SIM cards**: Pre-paid SIM cards are available from airport and the teleshops in Male’. Recharge vouchers are available in almost all the shops in the city and come in MVR 50, 100 and 500.

**Security**: For any assistance in this regard, please contact WHO Maldives Country Office on +9603322410, +9603327519 or via e-mail: sewhomav@who.int. For emergencies please contact Ms. Zhanara Bakauova on +9607598602 or Mr Usman Ashraf on +9607662954.

**Transport – Airport/Male’/Airport**

Airport/Male’ Dhoni (passenger boat): MVR 10/person or US$ 1.00/person during normal operating hours (06:00 am to midnight) and MVR 20/person or US $ 2.00/person after midnight. To take a boat back to airport please go to jetty 09 (right in front of post building). There are no additional charges for luggage. There will be a boat leaving in every 10 minutes during the normal operating hours (0600 am to midnight) and 30 minutes from midnight to 06:00 am.

Airport/Male’ Speed Boat (express service): MVR 20/person or US$ 2.00/person during normal operating hours (06:00 am to midnight) and MVR 30/person or US $ 3.00/person after midnight. There are no additional charges for luggage. There will be a boat leaving in every 15 minutes during normal operating hours and in every 30 minutes from midnight to 06:00 am.

**Taxi Hire**

Male’ is a small island and usually all destinations are within a walking distance. However, should you need a taxi, the hotel can order it for you or you may call a taxi center on: 3325656, 3323132, 3321414, 3322122, or 3321313.

Maximum capacity of a taxi is 04 passengers. Fees are charged per trip and the standard rate is Rufiyaa 25 per trip. If you are carrying any luggage, an additional charge of Rufiyaa 05-10 is chargeable. After midnight the taxi charge will be MVR 40, (luggage not included) and with luggage an additional MVR 05-10 is chargeable.

As a matter of routine, WHO Country Office (WCO) does NOT arrange transportation within Male.

**Information on WHO Maldives Country Office**

WHO Country Office (WCO) for Maldives is located on the 06th floor of Ministry of Health building.

The complete address:

- World Health Organization 06th Floor
- Ministry of Health
- Roashanee Building
- Sosun Magu
- Male’, Republic of Maldives

**Official Working Hours**

- Sunday – Thursday: 07:30 hrs – 15:00 hrs (Except Monday and Thursday)
- Monday and Thursday: 07:30 hrs – 15:30 hrs
Recommended Hotels by WHO Country Office - Maldives

All WHO consultants/visitors are expected to inform, well in advance, WCO focal point at waheedaf@who.int, copied to sewhomay@who.int about their hotel preference, so that the accommodation and airport pick up can be arranged. For your reference, below is the table with the recommended hotels in Male.

If the consultant/visitor wishes to stay in a hotel other than the ones mentioned below, please do let the WCO know, so that we can make reservation as required.

If the consultant/visitor is making their own accommodation arrangements, please inform the WCO of the accommodation details (for established security procedures).

All first time visitors and all those who placed a prior request to WCO will be met at the airport and accompanied to the hotel by one of WCO staff.

For all other visitors, WCO will arrange the respective hotel to provide an airport pick up, unless specifically requested by the traveler not to do so.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOTEL</th>
<th>ROOM RATES</th>
<th>MEET &amp; GREAT</th>
<th>CONTACT DETAILS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nasandhura Palace Hotel</td>
<td>Room type</td>
<td>Rate / night (USD)</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Great</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe Room (single)</td>
<td></td>
<td>USD 168.00</td>
<td>Airport pickup and drop can be arranged on request for additional USD 12.00 / person</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traders Hotel</td>
<td>Room type</td>
<td>Rate / night (USD)</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Great</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Room (single)</td>
<td></td>
<td>USD 297.00</td>
<td>Airport pickup and drop provided by hotel free of charge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coral Hotel and Spa</td>
<td>Room type</td>
<td>Rate / night (USD)</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Great</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Deluxe (Single)</td>
<td></td>
<td>USD 127.00</td>
<td>Airport pickup and drop can be arranged on request for additional USD 15.00 / person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe Room (Single)</td>
<td></td>
<td>USD 93.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Superior (Single)</td>
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<td>USD 59.00</td>
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Cancellation policies

Nasandhura Palace Hotel
Cancellations have to be notified in writing before the notification period. Cancellations made later than the notification period would be charged 50% of the total accommodation rate. NO SHOWS would be charged for one full night of the accommodation rate.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No. Rooms</th>
<th>Notification Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 – 2 rooms</td>
<td>24 hours prior to the expected arrival time</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 – 5 rooms</td>
<td>3 days prior to the expected arrival time</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 – 9 rooms</td>
<td>7 days prior to the expected arrival time</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 – 15 rooms</td>
<td>10 days prior to the expected arrival time</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Traders Hotel
Cancellation policies for the hotel depends on the room category and the duration of stay.

Coral Hotel and Spa
Cancellation policies for the hotel depends on the room category and the duration of stay.