



## **Information for Travelers visiting The Republic of Maldives**

### **Geography**

The Republic of Maldives is situated in the Indian Ocean, south-west of Sri Lanka, crossing the Equator. A string of pearls scattered over the deep blue Indian Ocean.

### **Climate**

The country 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, the hottest month on average is April and the coolest, is December. January to April are 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**

Male' is the capital city. Administratively, Male' city consists of a central island (Male'), an airport island (Hulhule'), and two other islands (Hulhumalé and Villimalé/Villingili), governed by the Male' City Council.

Hulhumalé is a reclaimed island established to meet the increasing needs of housing, industrial and commercial developments of the Male' region. As a new development, this island has comparatively better infrastructure such as modern buildings, wide roads, beaches, a hospital, a number of guest houses and restaurants.

Ibrahim Nasir International Airport (Male' International Airport) is located on Hulhule' island, which is about 5 minutes' travel by speed boat from Male' city.

### **Visa and Custom Clearance**

No prior visa is required to enter the Maldives. An entry visa of 30 days will be granted free of charge upon arrival at the 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 their stay. All visitors who enter the Maldives should fill an Immigration (Entry/Departure/Health) form, 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.

WHO mission travelers should ensure that they have in their possession an invitation letter, travel authorization or copy of contract from the WHO Maldives Country Office (WCO) to be presented to the immigration counter if requested by the Immigration officer. WHO staff may carry with them their official identity card. For any assistance in this regard, please contact WCO on +960 332 2410, +960 332 7519 or via e-mail: [sewhomav@who.int](mailto:sewhomav@who.int).

### **Prohibited and Restricted items**

It is very important that visitors arriving in the Maldives 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 the Maldives – if you bring it will be

confiscated and returned to you at the time of departure)\*

- Pork and its by-products

(\*) **Liquor products are available at resorts as well as at the Male' airport hotel for visitors**

## **Currency**

**Maldivian Currency:** The Maldivian currency is the Rufiyaa (MVR) and the Laari. One Rufiyaa is equivalent to 100 Laari. Rufiyaa banknotes 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  $\pm 20\%$  band, i.e., between 10.28 Rufiyaa and 15.42 Rufiyaa. In practice it is **MVR 15.42 to 1 US Dollar (USD).**

**Foreign currency, credit cards:** US Dollar is the most commonly used foreign currency. USD currency and travellers cheques can be cashed at most banks in Male'. Most hotels, resorts and main restaurants accept payments in USD, local currency or by 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 flat 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 can be bought from airport and teleshops in Male' & Hulhumalé. Recharge vouchers in the denominations of MVR 50, 100 and 500 can be bought from shops in Male' & Hulhumalé. The major service providers are Dhiraagu & Ooredoo.

**Security:** For any assistance in this regard, please contact WHO Maldives Country Office on +960 3322410, +960 3327519 or via e-mail: [sewhomav@who.int](mailto:sewhomav@who.int).

More information can be obtained from website of Visit Maldives: <http://www.visitmaldives.com/>

## **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). The frequency of the service is 10 minutes during normal operating hours and 30 minutes from midnight to 06:00 am.

Airport/Male' **Speed Boat** (express service): MVR 30/person or US\$ 2.00/person during normal operating hours and MVR 30/person or US \$ 3.00/person from midnight to 06.00 am. There are no additional charges for luggage. The frequency of this service is 15 minutes during normal operating hours and in 30 minutes from midnight to 06:00 am.

There will be no extra charge for luggage.

## **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 applies. 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 6<sup>th</sup> floor of Ministry of Health building.

The complete mailing address:

World Health Organization, Roashanee Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sosun Magu, Male', The Republic of Maldives

### **Official Working Hours**

Sunday – Monday	08:00hrs - 16:00 hrs
Tuesday - Thursday	08:00 hrs - 15:30 hrs

## Hotels near WHO Country Office

- WHO guests/visitors are expected to inform the WCO by emailing to [sewhomav@who.int](mailto:sewhomav@who.int), about their travel itinerary and place of stay (for established security procedures).
- The table below provides information on hotels where WHO's visitors stay. The first two listed hotels, Mookai & Kam, are within walking distance of WCO.
- Guests are encouraged to make their own bookings (including airport pick-up) directly or through travel portals like Booking.com. Some hotels may offer more competitive rates than the UN rates if booked through travel portals.
- Prior to departure for Male', guests may confirm pick-up/drop-off arrangements with the hotel.
- WCO does not provide airport pick-up. In exceptional circumstances, this may be arranged if requested at least two weeks before arrival. If a WHO staff is unable to meet guests at the airport, the hotel where they stay will be requested to provide airport pick-up.

HOTEL NAME	ROOM TYPE	RATE (USD)*	PICK-UP / DROP	CONTACT DETAILS
Mookai Hotel	Standard (Single)	115	Airport pick up & drop provided by hotel for additional USD 14 per person per way	Tel: +(960) 3338811 Fax: +(960) 3338822 <a href="mailto:mookai@dhivehinet.net.mv">mookai@dhivehinet.net.mv</a> <a href="http://mookai.com.mv">mookai.com.mv</a>
	Standard (Double)	136		
Kam Hotel	Standard (Single)	106	Airport pick up & drop provided by hotel for additional USD 10 per person per way	Tel: +(960) 3320611-3 Fax: +(960) 3320614 <a href="mailto:reservation@kam.com.mv">reservation@kam.com.mv</a>
	Standard (Double)	129		
Hotel Somerset	Superior (Single)	155	Airport pick up & drop provided by hotel free of charge	Tel: +(960) 3009090 Fax: +(960) 3333 066 <a href="mailto:reservations@thesomerset.com.mv">reservations@thesomerset.com.mv</a> <a href="http://www.thesomerset.com.mv">http://www.thesomerset.com.mv</a>
	Superior (Double)	173		
Laze Hotel	Standard (Single)	99	Airport pick up & drop provided by hotel free of charge	Tel: +(960) 332 2133 Fax: +(960) 332 2144 <a href="mailto:sales@laze.com.mv">sales@laze.com.mv</a>
	Standard (Double)	129		
Marble Hotel	Super Deluxe (Single)	121	Airport pick up & drop provided by hotel free of charge	Tel: +(960)3302678 Fax: +(960)3326237 <a href="mailto:reservations@marble.mv">reservations@marble.mv</a> <a href="http://www.marble.mv">www.marble.mv</a>
	Deluxe (Single)	98		
	Superior (Single)	79		
Hotel Jen	Deluxe (Single)	308	Airport pick up & drop provided by hotel free of charge	Tel: +(960)3300888 Fax: +(960)3300790 <a href="mailto:hjmd@hoteljen.com">hjmd@hoteljen.com</a> <a href="http://www.shangri-la.com">www.shangri-la.com</a>
	Deluxe (Double)	330		

*\*Plus 10%, Service Tax, 12% GST and 6% Green Tax. However, guests are advised to reconfirm with the hotel rates and inclusions and check-in and check-out timings as they differ from hotel to hotel.*

*Some hotels provide free Breakfast, Wi-Fi facility and airport transfer. This can be confirmed with the Hotel.*

*The cancellation policy and penalties levied for "no show" differ from hotel to hotel.*

*WCO, Male' shall not be responsible for any liability on account of penalties levied by hotels in case of "no-show" or last-minute cancellation or damages.*