

## VITAL STATISTICS: COMO Maalifushi, Maldives

Address:	COMO Maalifushi Thaa Ato	II, Republic of Maldives
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**Tel:** +960 678 0008

**Fax:** +960 678 0009

Email: maalifushi@comohotels.com

Website: comohotels.com/maalifushi

Opening Date: January 2014

Owning Company: COMO Hotels and Resorts

Hotel Manager: Sobah Mohamed

**Executive Chef:** Nantanit Juljorhor

Interior Designer: Koichiro Ikebuchi

**Location:** Thaa Atoll, Republic of the Maldives

Getting There: The principal international airport is Malé. COMO Maalifushi is

reached by a 60-minute seaplane journey.

The following airlines fly to Malé International Airport: Emirates Airlines (emirates.com) from Dubai, Oman Air (omanair.com) from Muscat, Ethihad Airways (eithihadairways.com) from Abu Dhabi, Sri Lankan Airlines (srilankan.aero) from Colombo and Tokyo, Qatar Airways (qatarairways.com) from Doha, Meridiana (meridiana.it) from Rome, Air Berlin (airberlin.com) from Dusseldorf and Munich, Transaero (transaero.ru) from Moscow, Indian Airlines (indianairlines.com) from Bangalore, British Airways (britishairways.com) from London, Singapore Airlines (singaporeair.com) and Scoot (flyscoot.com) from Singapore, Malaysian Airlines (malaysianairlines.com) from Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok Airways (bangkokair.com) from Bangkok, China Eastern Airlines (ceair.com) from Shanghai, China, and Cathay (cathaypacific.com) from Hong Kong.



Accommodation: 65 land and over-water rooms, suites and villas including:

# **Over-Water:**

**Water Suites (17):** These over-water suites are located above water and occupy their own jetty with spectacular views of the Maldivian sunrise. They feature a large bedroom with a living area and wide doors that open to a terrace with a plunge pool and direct access to the turquoise lagoon. The bathroom features a sunken bath and outdoor shower.

Size: 107sq m / 1,152sq ft

**Water Villas (13):** Each of these spacious villas has a private pool, sundeck and full-length windows overlooking the Indian Ocean. The bedroom has a separate dressing area and the bathroom features a sunken bath and outdoor shower. The large and airy sitting area can double up as a sleeping area for kids.

Size: 120sq m / 1,292sq ft

**Maalifushi Water Villa (1):** This is one of COMO Maalifushi's most spectacular over-water villas: an oversized, two-bedroom, light-filled bungalow, which sits on its own secluded jetty, featuring a private pool and sundeck.

Size: 213 sq m / 2,293sq ft

**COMO Villas (2):** COMO Maalifushi's ultimate luxury experience, the overwater COMO Villas sit above the lagoon. Each has its own private pool and butler, with two large bedrooms suitable for two couples sharing, as well as families.

Size: 408sq m / 4392sq ft

#### Island:

**Garden Rooms (6):** Located in the centre of the island, Garden Rooms, shaded by the resort's tropical greenery, are just a short foot-in-the-sand walk to all the resort's amenities including the COMO Shambhala Retreat and restaurants. They have an open-plan feel, and come with an outdoor deck and furniture for al fresco dining.

Size: 72sq m / 775sq ft

**Beach Suites (13):** Nestled in the shade of COMO Maalifushi's lush gardens, Beach Suites have direct access to the beach and are extremely spacious and private, making them ideal for couples or families with small children. The Suites have floor-to-ceiling French doors that open up on to their own private terrace with a pool, and the bedroom has a living area and an outdoor bathroom. Size: 101sq m / 1087sq ft



**Beach Villas (7):** These one bedroom villas have their own access to the beach as well as their own private pool. Elegant, simple interiors are lit up with large windows to make the most of the island setting with French doors giving guests access from the bedroom to the terrace and pool. Size: 116sq m / 1248sq ft

**Two Bedroom Beach Suite (1):** Sheltered in the shade, this stylish accommodation space offers the same facilities as our Beach Suites but with two bedrooms. The second bedroom offers twin beds and a smaller shower room, making it ideal for families.

Size: 131sq m / 1408sq ft

**Two Bedroom Beach Villas (2):** These two-bedroom villas (one king and one smaller twin room) have their own access to the beach as well as their own private pool. Elegant, simple interiors are lit up with large windows to make the most of the island setting with French doors giving guests access from the bedroom to the terrace where they can relax within their own private plunge pool. Size: 145sq m / 1560sq ft

**Two Bedroom Beach House (1):** Our two-bedroom duplex beach house leads on to its own private lawn. Surrounding a large private pool is a secluded sundeck complete with sun loungers and furniture, allowing you to eat, drink and watch the sun rise and set from the comfort of your own space.

Size: 178sq m / 1916sq ft

**Maalifushi Beach Villa (1):** Made up of two sleek, comfortable bedrooms (two doubles), the accommodation offers sunrise views out over an endless ocean. It features a private lawn and swimming pool with space for al fresco dining and a full butler service.

Size: 296sq m / 3186sq ft

**COMO Residence (1):** Our two-storey four-bedroom COMO Residence offers all the comfort that one would expect from a luxury COMO resort, combining endless sea views with a contemporary living area, spacious media room and full kitchen. The sundeck is completed with loungers and furniture—suitable for private dining, with butler service included.

Size: 356sq m / 3832sq ft



Room Facilities: King or twin beds with Egyptian cotton bed linen

Private sun deck (in villas and suites)

Bath and/or shower stall

Air conditioning Private Bar

Complimentary tea and coffee making facilities Complimentary bottled water and fresh fruit daily

Satellite TV (46-inch LCD TVs)

Direct dial telephone

COMO Shambhala bathroom amenities

Hairdryer

Yoga Mat (available on request)

Private Safe

Complimentary Wi-Fi internet

Complimentary beach bag and flip-flops

Multimedia hub

**Guest Services:** 24-hour manager on duty

Complimentary Wi-Fi in reception, bar and

poolside area Airport transfers Butler Service Babysitting COMO The Shop

Laundry service (no dry cleaning)

Twice-daily maid service

In-room dining Foreign exchange Multilingual hotel staff

All-day dining

Travel and tour assistance

Library

Play by COMO children's programme

Games room



**Restaurants and Bars:** 

'Madi' (meaning manta ray in the local language) serves Mediterranean, Indonesian and Thai-accented dishes all day. 'Madi' also holds themed nights, including a seafood barbeque and a 'thali' evening focusing on south Indian specialties.

'Tai' (Japanese for red snapper) is COMO Maalifushi's Japanese restaurant showcasing fresh, local seafood. There is also a sushi bar.

'Thila' (named after Maldivian submerged reef formations covered with abundant marine life) offers an easygoing and family-friendly environment, serving salads, freshly baked seafood, pizzas and Turkish 'pide'. There is also music, billiards and an open-air pool bar.

Other Dining Options:

Private dining in-room or at a special location — including nearby uninhabited islands Healthful COMO Shambhala Cuisine Room service available 24 hours a day

**Guest Wellbeing:** 

COMO Shambhala Retreat at COMO Maalifushi is a wellness retreat advocating holistic wellness, combining modern science and ancient healing.

Treatments:

COMO Shambhala is a philosophy for healthy living that has been successfully refined at its award-winning Retreats all over the world. Treatments and therapies at COMO Maalifushi include signature COMO Shambhala massages and bodywork treatments, emotionally re-balancing holistic techniques and facials for restorative skincare.



Retreat Facilities: Eight overwater ocean-facing treatment rooms

Steam rooms (separate male and female)

Sauna and Jacuzzi

Pool Gym

Open-air yoga pavilion

Outdoor Activities: Watersports

Diving Snorkelling Fishing Surfing

Sunset cruises Picnic Island

Other Facilities: Dive centre

Resort boutique

'Play by COMO' for children aged four to 12

Games room

Direct Reservations: T. +960 678 0001

E. res.maalifushi@comohotels.com W. comohotels.com/maalifushi

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## **RESORT SYNOPSIS: COMO Maalifushi, Maldives**

In January 2014, COMO Hotels and Resorts — the name behind COMO Cocoa Island in the Maldives and COMO Parrot Cay in the Turks and Caicos — opened its second private island resort in the Maldives.

COMO Maalifushi is the first and only resort to open on the unspoilt Thaa Atoll, in the archipelago's southern reaches well regarded for its diving and surf breaks. The resort is reached by a 60-minute seaplane journey from the islands' capital, Malé.

The Thaa Atoll, a beautiful ring-shaped reef, is one of the largest in the world, comprising more than 60 islands over 500 square miles, many of which are uninhabited.

The resort is the first in the Maldives from the Japanese interior designer Koichiro Ikebuchi. Accommodation includes 33 overwater villas and suites, and 32 beach villas, suites and garden rooms, all built of yellow balau with Kajan thatched roofs, referencing indigenous architecture while remaining elegantly pared back to reflect the island's calming setting. Overwater suites and villas are built off wooden walkways that stand above the shallow lagoon, each with its own private terrace and pool, while garden villas and suites are set within the folds of the island's lush tropical vegetation—yet still only twenty steps from the beach's high tide mark. The views are consistently spectacular with empty Indian Ocean horizons.

COMO Maalifushi offers all the understated luxuries of a COMO private island resort, with a COMO Shambhala Retreat for holistic wellness, world-class yoga facilities and exceptional cuisine along with safe, authoritative access to the Maldives' vibrant marine life for diving, snorkelling and fishing. Around Thaa Atoll, this includes sightings of whale sharks and hammerhead sharks. Some of the Maldives best-regarded surf breaks are also close by, with expert tuition on hand during the season.

The COMO principle of integrating fine cuisine into each guest experience is something that sets it apart from other resorts in the Maldives. COMO Maalifushi's approach to cuisine is contemporary and relaxed with menus inspired by the ocean setting. 'Tai' is the headline restaurant, featuring Japanese seafood with a sunken sushi bar for terrace dining. 'Madi' offers a classic COMO all-day dining experience showcasing tropical ingredients in Maldivian, Mediterranean, Indonesian and Thai-accented dishes. The many uninhabited islands on COMO Maalifushi's doorstep can be used for those seeking a private dining experience, served by a private butler. A healthful COMO Shambhala Cuisine menu is also available. 'Thila Bar' is a relaxed pool bar and lounge for billiards, easygoing salads, pizzas and wood-baked seafood.

COMO's signature service is here too, with staff whose warmth, discretion and passion for detail stands out from the competition. Guests staying in COMO Maalifushi's most exclusive villas (Maalifushi Beach Villas, COMO Residence, Maalifushi Water Villas and COMO Villas only) will also experience the services of COMO's private butlers.



COMO Shambhala Retreat at COMO Maalifushi is a place to relax, recuperate and feel well, guided by expert therapists. Eight overwater treatment rooms offer a range of signature facials, massages and body therapies. The Retreat also has an open-air yoga pavilion offering complimentary daily classes each day, a large pool, relaxation area and spa boutique selling COMO Shambhala's popular bodycare products and Active Living Collection. Private yoga tuition and guided pranayama meditation is available. There is also a gym with cardio equipment and weights.

Families are well looked after at COMO Maalifushi. Children can explore and make new friends in the secure environment of this relatively large island. The lagoon is safe to swim. COMO Maalifushi's choice of landed suites and villas, many with private lawns, are ideal for families with younger children. Childminding and babysitting services are provided. Menus for infants and children include healthy, delicious choices. A number of family-friendly excursions are available, from beachside picnics on a picnic island to dolphin spotting on a sunset cruise.

At COMO Maalifushi, our dedicated Play by COMO Space is designed to inspire purposeful and creative play for children aged four to 12, with carefully-selected toys, books, games and art materials. Parents can take some well-deserved time out, relaxing in the knowledge that their child is having fun in a safe, comfortable environment with our childcare professionals.



## **DESTINATION OVERVIEW: COMO Maalifushi, Maldives**

The Maldives are a 754km-long string of 1192 dots located south of India and west of Sri Lanka. Most of the islands are less than two kilometres square with land no higher than two metres above sea level. Around 202 are inhabited, including 90 given over to tourism. The majority are located north of the capital Malé. The fact that COMO Maalifushi is in Thaa Atoll makes it stand apart, with exceptionally pristine waters.

Thaa Atoll also has a uniquely interesting history. The first settlers arrived here in the late eighteenth century as freed African slaves. They developed a dance, the Bodu Maali Neshun (Dance of the Giant Being), which incorporated their own folktales and rhythms. This dance is still performed during religious festivals and holidays with elaborate costumes conjuring mystical creatures.

COMO Maalifushi — the first and only resort on the unspoilt Thaa Atoll — looks little changed from this time. The pristine, expansive surroundings are over 100 miles from the busy city of Malé, allowing guests to relax while fully capturing the spirit of the Indian Ocean.

The unchanged look of the environs is also due to commanding government policies. New buildings, for instance, cannot exceed the highest palm trees. In addition, Maldivian tourism does not cater to mid- to low-market developments that favour volume over environmental considerations.

The dry season runs from December to March. Mid-April and late November are best for diving, with calm seas and exceptionally clear water. The rainy season runs from May to November. These are only tropical storms, with sunshine reliably breaking through the clouds. Divers should note that January to March is the best time to see whale sharks and hammerheads.

The Maldivians are 100 per cent Muslim. The people, who largely work in tourism or fishing, share many features with the Indian Subcontinent's population — most obviously, a smiling, well-meaning national character. To find out more about Maldivian land and culture, guests of COMO Maalifushi can take advantage of local community visits with the resort's highly informed Maldivian staff. Guests can also take to the water on a Maldivian fishing boat, or dhoni, which is among the most spectacular ways to take in the Indian Ocean sunsets.



### **BEYOND THE RESORT: Activities at COMO Maalifushi, Maldives**

The Maldives in general, and COMO Maalifushi in particular, offer very good water-based activities from diving to surfing. The waters surrounding the islands are clear, calm and exceptionally beautiful. This is also why the Maldives are appealing to families, with children able to snorkel safely, while for divers, there are numerous chronicled dive sites, as well as large tracts of unexplored channels and reefs which makes the atoll popular with liveaboard dive boats — which aside from COMO Maalifushi, is currently the only other way to access this region in comfort. The resort therefore provides a full range of diving experiences for different levels, from learn to dive PADI courses to night dives on nearby reefs.

'Cameron', our 68-foot Hatteras 'sport fisher' yacht, allows guests to explore the Maldivian seas in comfort. Based at COMO Maalifushi, the fully-crewed boat can be used for game fishing trips, opening up the archipelago's best waters for tuna, wahoo, marlin and sailfish, and diving itineraries to 'off the grid' spots.

For those who wish to explore further, COMO Maalifushi can arrange guided aqua-safaris with the resort's resident marine biologist. This includes a Whale Shark Night Snorkelling experience where you can choose to join these gentle giants in the water or simply watch them from the deck. This experience is unique to COMO Maalifushi, and is available from the end of November through to April.

There are also some very good surf breaks in and around Thaa Atoll. COMO Maalifushi has one particularly good break located on the atoll's southwest side, which can be experienced on guided surf trips. The surfing season runs from April to October.

Sailing is also popular, with both sheltered and open water sailing to experience. There is very rarely over 25 knots of wind, making the Maldives a year-round sailing destination, with seas calmest during the high season. At COMO Maalifushi, catamaran sailing is available.

Fishing is part of the Indian Ocean culture and for many forms a vital livelihood. Thaa Atoll in particular has some very productive waters. Large reef fish such as grouper, wahoo, giant and bluefin trevally, red snapper and dogtooth tuna are prize game catches. Resort guests who want to go fishing have access to the expertise, equipment and boat captains at COMO Maalifushi. Others who just want to take in the views of open ocean can opt for a sunset cruise instead aboard a local 'dhoni' fishing boat.

COMO Maalifushi offers light tackle and fly fishing options to the north and south of Maalifushi, with most sites located within a 30-minute radius of the hotel. Explore 150 kilometres of virgin flats on our 68ft yacht, Cameron, which is available for private charter year-round, or set off on our Sunset Bottom Fishing experience for traditional handline fishing.



From January to April we offer fly fishing, when bonefish, red snapper, tuna, grouper, triggerfish, emperor fish and six varieties of trevally (including giant trevally) are available to catch.

COMO Maalifushi offers trips to Lavadhoo, a deserted island only five to 10 minutes away. Here, guests can experience life as a luxury castaway from the moment they slip their feet into the sand. Underwater, guests can explore exceptional snorkelling points, while on land trekking routes cut through lush vegetation. Others can simply relax on the beach while every need is catered to. At lunchtime, our chefs serve a delicious island BBQ, from fresh fish to succulent meat.

In Thaa Atoll, which is largely unpopulated, local island culture centres upon the only village, Veymandhu, with a population of less than 1,000. Those wishing to venture further afield can explore Malé, the islands' capital. Malé is only 1.6kms wide and has a population of 90,000. It is recommended to any guests combining a stay at COMO Maalifushi with a stay at COMO Cocoa Island, which is COMO's sister hotel in the Maldives and located just a 40-minute speedboat transfer from the capital. Major sites include the gold domed Islamic Centre, the Presidential Palace, the Friday Mosque, the National Museum and the fish and fruit market.



**KEY BIOGRAPHIES: COMO Maalifushi. Maldives** 

**Mohamed Sobah, Hotel Manager:** Starting as a Front Office Assistant in 2002, Mohamed Sobah has grown with COMO Hotels and Resorts for many years. He has 20 years of hospitality experience, including a Master Certificate in Hospitality Management from eCornell University, and is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration from Maldives Business School. Following responsibilities as Front Office Manager in 2013 and Director of Rooms in 2017, he is now Hotel Manager of COMO Maalifushi.

Nantanit Juljorhor, Executive Chef: Since joining COMO Hotels and Resorts in 2003, Nantanit Juljorhor has worked extensively across the company, with stints at COMO Metropolitan Bangkok, COMO Parrot Cay, COMO Cocoa Island and COMO Point Yamu, Phuket. After two years as the Executive Sous Chef at COMO Point Yamu, she has returned to the Maldives as Executive Chef for COMO Maalifushi.

**Koichiro Ikebuchi, Interior Designer:** Japanese interior architect Koichiro Ikebuchi is defined by his sensitive approach to nature and respect for cultural authenticity. All that he creates is entirely appropriate to its physical context. This is achieved with an uncomplicated, succinct approach to design, which gives a strong flavour in the fewest strokes possible. It is for these reasons that his extensive restaurant work, including Aoki in Singapore, has set new benchmarks in interior design. COMO Maalifushi is his second resort for COMO, having also designed the adventure resort COMO Uma Ubud in central Bali.



#### ABOUT THE COMO GROUP AND COMO HOTELS AND RESORTS

Headquartered in Singapore, The COMO Group represents Christina Ong's unique vision of contemporary living. The COMO Group encompasses the hospitality collection known as COMO Hotels and Resorts, the international luxury fashion retailer Club 21, the award-winning wellness concept COMO Shambhala and the philanthropic COMO Foundation.

COMO Hotels and Resorts offers personalised luxury travel experiences through individualised service, commitment to holistic wellness and award-winning cuisine. Each hotel is developed in response to the destination it inhabits, including COMO The Halkin in London, COMO The Treasury in Perth, Australia, COMO Castello Del Nero, Tuscany and three COMO Metropolitan hotels in London, Bangkok and Miami Beach. COMO's resort portfolio encompasses COMO Parrot Cay in the Turks and Caicos, COMO Cocoa Island and COMO Maalifushi in the Maldives, COMO Point Yamu in Phuket, Thailand, and four COMO Uma experience resorts in Bali and Bhutan, including the newest resort, opened in 2018, COMO Uma Canggu.

COMO also manages COMO Shambhala Estate in Bali, in partnership with COMO's sister brand in wellness. This flagship wellness retreat offers an integrative and immersive restorative experience that enables real and lasting improvements to one's health. COMO Shambhala products, services, cuisine, treatments and spa facilities are available within every COMO hotel and resort.

Younger guests are also encouraged to enjoy COMO's renowned service, design, cuisine and approach to wellness, through Play by COMO. This approach is our way of delivering personalised family experiences. Play by COMO is available at COMO Maalifushi, COMO Parrot Cay, COMO Point Yamu and COMO Uma Canggu, with dedicated Play spaces available.

**City Hotels:** COMO Hotels and Resorts' urban properties include COMO The Halkin in London's Belgravia, the COMO Metropolitan hotels in London, Bangkok and Miami Beach, and a city hotel in Perth, Australia, called COMO The Treasury. All five hotels feature awardwinning chefs, a contemporary aesthetic and exceptional service.



**Resorts:** COMO's private resorts offer a range of water-based excursions, including fly fishing, paddleboarding, kayaking, snorkelling and some of the world's best diving and surfing. To this we add island adventures and cultural trips, such as bike rides and temple visits, COMO Point Yamu on the island of Phuket in Thailand combines contemporary style with dramatic views overlooking the Andaman Sea and the limestone stacks of Phang Nga Bay. The understated style and laid-back nature of COMO Parrot Cay in the Turks and Caicos, COMO Cocoa Island and COMO Maalifushi in the Maldives are underlaid by the exacting service that has become a COMO hallmark. World-class cuisine and holistic wellness treatments at our COMO Shambhala Retreats complete COMO's approach to a perfect beach holiday. The COMO Uma properties in Bhutan and Bali introduce the rich cultural heritage and local traditions that are unique to these dramatic destinations. Specialist guiding, treks and tours, physical activities and tailor-made programmes ensure memorable insights into some of the world's most pristine locations. The COMO Uma properties include COMO Uma Ubud in Bali's cultural heartland, COMO Uma Canggu on the island's south coast — complete with a new COMO Beach Club — and in Bhutan, tucked into two distinct Himalayan valleys, COMO Uma Paro and COMO Uma Punakha. All the Uma lodges incorporate local design and cuisine while providing an unmistakably COMO experience. Our newest hotel, COMO Castello Del Nero, is a serene retreat occupying a twelfth-century castle in Italy's world-famous Chianti wine region, offering a range of authentic Italian experiences.

**Wellness Destination:** COMO Shambhala Estate in Bali is a sanctuary for holistic wellness. Expert staff are goal-oriented, relevant and realistic in their consultative approach. Each guest's individual needs and ambitions determine the programme of nutrition, exercise, therapies and activities, while facilities and tropical villa-style accommodation are impeccably appointed. All of this is set in a clearing, rich with flora and fauna, above Bali's beautiful Ayung River.



### **ABOUT COMO SHAMBHALA**

COMO Shambhala is an award-winning wellness concept developed as a sister brand to COMO Hotels and Resorts. The company is headquartered in Singapore under The COMO Group. Running as a thread through COMO properties worldwide, COMO Shambhala promotes a healthy way of living, learning and eating well. The pursuit of balance is central to the approach, the word Shambhala translating as 'peace' in Sanskrit.

The COMO Shambhala resort experience combines Asian-based therapies, nutrition, exercise and yoga with a results-driven agenda managed by experts in holistic health. Weight loss, anti-ageing and stress management can all be addressed while staying in a spectacular part of the world. Facilities are state-of-the-art and usually include yoga rooms, Pilates equipment, hydrotherapy and Ayurveda. The flagship retreat is COMO Shambhala Estate in Bali, an award-winning wellness resort in Bali.

The COMO Shambhala Urban Escape experience is attached to COMO's Metropolitan properties in Bangkok, Miami, Perth, Australia and London, as well as a standalone wellness centre including resident experts in Singapore.

COMO Shambhala Cuisine has been developed by COMO Hotels and Resorts' Vice President Culinary, Daniel Moran, for those seeking better health through nutritional, low-calorie eating. Largely organic and often locally sourced, the cuisine replaces refined foods with naturally occurring sugars, and bad fats with nutritious nuts and oils.

COMO Shambhala also produces a range of skin and bodycare products, COMO Shambhala At Home, made from all-natural ingredients. COMO Shambhala Active Living is the company's resort and activewear line, launched in 2007.



# **MEDIA CONTACT**

# **Chris Orlikowski**

Group Director PR and Communications COMO Hotels and Resorts 17 Old Park Lane London W1K 1QT

T. +44 20 7447 1049

E. chris.orlikowski@comohotels.com

W. comohotels.com