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INFLIGHT

ISSUE 02 | 2015 **MAGAZINE**



Diving with **Sharks**

**I am the
Maldives**

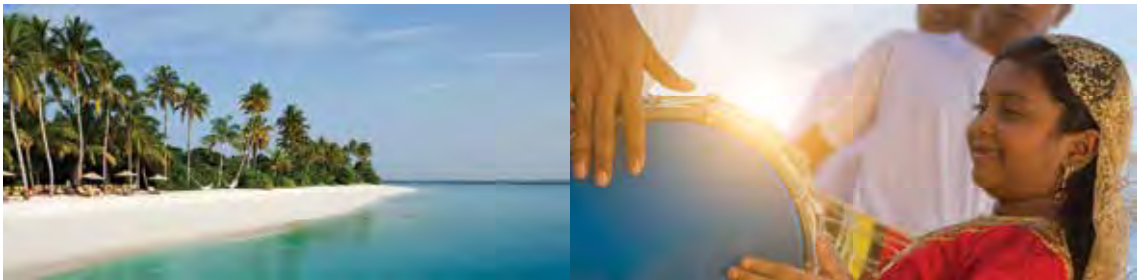
**A Young Bird's
Eye View**

**Maldives: An
Aerial Tapestry**





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editor's note



Welcome to this new edition of Inflight!

As you fly over the emerald isles and the turquoise lagoons of the Maldives, have some time away from the mesmerizing views and take a peek into the history, culture and activities that you can enjoy during your stay in the Maldives.

In this issue, we bring you pieces written by well-heeled writers, who are sharing their first-hand experiences having lived here.

For our first article, Thomas Pickard dives in with the majestic predators of the sea and explores the unique opportunity Maldives offers for divers to get up close and personal with sharks. In our second article, Barbara Tori looks at the fragile ecosystem, which the Maldives composes of and what each one of us can do to contribute in saving it for the future generations.

From the ocean, Thomas takes to the sky for a glimpse of the best examples of coral atoll formations in the world and shares his insights on the truly unique perspective all TMA passengers are lucky to experience.

Last but not the least, we sit down with 14-year old Ali as he takes to the sky with his drone to give us a bird's eye view of the beauty of Maldives.

We hope you have a memorable holiday in the Maldives and look forward to seeing you again. Enjoy your flight!

Adheel Ismail
Editor

authors



Thomas Pickard is a freelance photographer and writer who lived in the Maldives for two-years, producing over twenty articles on the country.



Barbara Tori is a copywriter and web editor at Thedconcept. When she's not crafting persuasive, take-me-there content to help market Maldives' resorts, she likes to return to her beloved Lhaviyani Atoll where she was working for three years.

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greetings from **THE CHAIRMAN**



Welcome on board!

It is our pleasure to be your chosen means of transport to your resort. As you embark on your journey in the Maldives, we hope to make your trip part of an unforgettable and unique one.

As your dream holiday finally begins amidst much anticipation, we give utmost priority in your safety, security and foremost satisfaction. We continue to strive to set new standards of excellence in all three and our recent achievements reflect this.

Without any doubt it is our people who make us one of the most unique airline in the world. Our 1,000 strong staff help in making your journey punctual, seamless and memorable as part of the world's largest seaplane operations. With over 20 different nationalities and half of our staff comprising of local Maldivians, they are driven by their continuous endeavor to consistently deliver an unbeatable customer experience.

With Maldives celebrating its 50th Independence and "Visit Maldives 2016" year, we join together in the celebrations and look forward to the future with our track record of "25 Years of Excellence".

We look forward to welcoming you back again in the near future.

*Best wishes,
Richard B. Saldanha*



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welcome ON BOARD



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The increasing bed capacity together with the newly opening resorts in the Maldives has contributed to the growing number of tourist arrivals also. Steadfast in ensuring the seamless transfer of as passengers to newer destinations, we have recently added JA Manafaru and Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa in Haa-Alifu Atoll to our destinations recently.

With our continuing investment in the ground transportation experience to provide a quick and hasslefree experience and in the terminals and the lounges to ensure that you have an “airport-waiting” experience like no other in the world.

We are also changing the livery on our aircraft, along with the cabin interiors, to provide you with an even more comfortable and refreshing journey.

A.U.M. Fawzy
Chief Executive Officer

MALDIVES

beyond the sun, sand and sea

Geography

The Maldives consists of approximately 1,190 coral islands grouped in a double chain of 27 atolls, spread over roughly 90,000 square kilometers, making the country one of the most unique destinations in the world. The islands stretch over a distance of 800 km from north to south.

Climate

The temperature of Maldives ranges between 24°C and 33°C throughout the year. Although the humidity is relatively high, the constant sea breeze helps to keep the air moving. The average sea temperature is around 26°C.

Population

The population of Maldives has increased rapidly during the last few decades. However with a population of approximately 400,000, the country still remains one of the smallest independent nations in the world.

Religion

Maldivians are devout Muslims and rigorously follow the basic tenets of Islam. The Islamic Center which accommodates more than 5,000 worshippers dominates the skyline of the capital city Male' with its shining golden dome and minaret. Several mosques are dispersed throughout the capital and each inhabited island is graced with at least one or two mosques where the people attend to their daily prayers.

History

Archeological remains excavated in different parts of the country prove that people were living here as early as third century BC. The Maldives and its people are mentioned in several mariners' logs and records of naval expeditions by the Chinese and the Arabs and later the British and other European explorers.

Culture

A proud history and rich culture evolved from the first settlers who were from various parts of the world travelling the seas in ancient times. The Maldives has been a melting pot of different culture as people from different parts of the world came here and settled down. Some of the local music and dance for instance resemble African influences, while other cultures and traditions reflect East Asian and South Asian characteristics and traits.

Language

Dhivehi, spoken throughout the Maldives, is a language belonging to the Indo-Iranian group of languages. The language is spoken only in the Maldives and Minicoy Island in the Lakshadweep Atoll (India) to the north of the Maldives. The present script, Thaana was introduced in the late 16th century and is written from right to left. English is widely spoken by Maldivians and visitors can easily make themselves understood getting around the capital Male'. In the resorts, a variety of languages are spoken by the staff including English, German, French, Italian, Japanese and Chinese.



Capital Island

Male', with a total area of 5.8 km², is the capital of the country. It is the center of administration and the hub of trade and commerce. More than 150,000 people live in Male'.

Economy

In the last quarter of the twentieth century, the economy changed from the age-old traditional system based on fisheries and agriculture to a modern economy that rode on the success of the newly established tourism industry and a modernized and mechanized fishing industry. Maldivians enjoy the

Currency

The local currency is Rufiyaa. At the time of publication, the exchange rate is pegged at MVR 15.42 to a US Dollar. If you are heading to a resort, you need not worry about local currency as all your bills at the resort can be paid by US Dollar, Euro or any other European currency. All major credit cards are also accepted at the resorts. However, if you are visiting Male' or any of the local islands, you may need to hold local currency for purchases you may wish to make.

Education

Maldives boasts one of the highest literacy rates in the world with 91% of the country's population being able to read and write. Educational standards are among the highest in the region and schools follow the British system of education.

Health

The Indhira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH) in Male' is the state run general hospital in the country providing a high standard of medical care. ADK Hospital is one of the private health care facility in the country among several other private hospitals and clinics. Most resorts have a resident doctor and a decompression chamber is within easy reach in case of a diving emergency.

Business Hours

The working week in Maldives begins on Sunday and ends on Thursday. Government offices are open from 08:00 to 14:00 hours and the private sector from 09:00 to 17:00 hours. Most offices in





the private sector open for business on Saturdays. Weekend falls on Friday and Saturday.

Communication

All resorts offer IDD telephone services. Mobile telephone services in the country are offered by Ooredoo Maldives and Dhiraagu Telecom. Both companies have roaming agreements with various operators across the globe, which will enable you to use your home number while in Maldives. All the resorts in Maldives offer Internet services. Some resorts offer broadband connections in the room while others offer Wi-Fi zones at key locations on the island.

Shopping

The northern end of Chaandhane Magu in Male' is the place to be if you are looking for souvenirs to take home. A range of batik sarongs and

wraparounds, wooden handicrafts, candles and other knick knacks are available from the shops lining the street. You will also be able to find some souvenir items if you visit the neighboring islands near your resort. Lookout for genuine Maldivian hand painted t-shirts and lacquered boxes, miniature dhonis and reed mats if you really want to take a piece of Maldives with you as a memento.

Country Dialing Code

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diving with **SHARKS**



by Thomas Pickard

The Maldives is a divers dream. Perched in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean and made up of 1,120 islands stretching out over 800-kilometres of ocean perched in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, it is a mecca for visiting divers. While divers flock to the Maldives annually to experience first-hand the sheer diversity of sea life on offer, many divers make the annual pilgrimage just to dive with some of the forty recorded species of sharks. Here are some of the commonly sighted shark species and seven dive sites you should not miss out on whilst diving in this tropical wonderland.



Grey Reef Shark – *Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*

Considered the classic shark of Maldivian reefs, grey reef sharks are typically found at channel entrances to atolls and current-swept reef locations. Measuring up to 1.60 metres in length, grey reef sharks are recognisable by

Blacktip Reef Shark - *Carcharhinus melanopterus*

At first glance, blacktip reef sharks can be confused with grey reef sharks. To distinguish the two apart, look for the tell-tale black tip dorsal and pectoral fins of the blacktip Reef shark. Blacktips also have a distinct brownish coloured skin on their upper bodies. Many non-divers will see juvenile blacktip sharks in the shallow water surrounding resorts, either slowly cruising the lagoon or zipping through the waters hunting smaller fish. Adult blacktip reef sharks average 1.50 metres in length, though they have been recorded up to 1.90 metres long.

Whitetip Reef Shark - *Triaenodon obesus*

The whitetip reef shark is probably the most commonly seen shark by divers. Easily recognised by its obvious white tipped dorsal fin, whitetip sharks are nocturnal, spending their days resting on the ocean floor or slowly cruising reefs. With an average length of 1.50 metres, whitetip sharks are not aggressive and will often be spotted in small groups.

Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks – *Sphyrna lewini*

Your first encounter with a scalloped hammerhead shark is best described as spooky. With an unmistakable hammer shaped head, with eyes perched on the ends, hammerheads are considered a potentially dangerous shark. Though not normally aggressive to humans unless provoked or surprised, diving with hammerheads requires a cool head, in part because they are often found in large schools of fifty or more. Hammerheads prefer the deep water off reef edges and can only be found at specific dive sites in the Maldives.

Tawny Nurse Shark – *Nebrus ferrugineus*

Also known as the 'sleeping shark', Tawny Nurse sharks are characterised by their large bulk, with their small mouth and obvious comb like teeth. Growing to 3.0 metres in length, they are found off the edge of coral reefs, as well as on nearby sandy bottoms.







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LANDAA GIRAAVARU

Whale Sharks – Rhincodon typus

Though not technically a shark – they are the world's largest living fish – whale sharks have been included because they are such a drawcard for visiting divers and snorkellers alike. Once widely hunted, whale sharks have been protected in the Maldives since 1995. Growing up to 10-metres in length, whale sharks are filter feeders that sieve plankton as small as 1-mm diameter through the fine mesh that makes up their grill-rakers. Though sighted all year round in the Maldives, they are usually found from December through to March as currents flush plankton-rich waters out over the coral reefs on the western side of the atolls.

Unlike other sharks, whale sharks are often floating near the surface and all a diver needs is a snorkel and mask. Of all the sharks, whale sharks are quite docile and pose no significant threat to snorkellers or divers. However, snorkellers should respect a close encounter with a whale shark and never come within 3-metres of its body or within 4-metres of its powerful tail. Never surround a whale shark – instead leave the area in front of the whale shark well clear.

TOP SHARK DIVE SITES

Addu Atoll - Shark Point (Meedhoo Berya Miyaru)

- Advanced divers
- Deep dive
- Closest resorts: Equator Village and Herathera Resort

Located on the far north-eastern tip of the remote Addu Atoll, Shark Point is the must do shark dive of the area. Divers enter the water on the outside reef, diving to a prominent sandy plateau at around 30-metres. Known as the 'shark hotel', this spot is often inhabited by ten or more whitetip reef sharks and numerous grey reef sharks. The edge of the plateau drops a further 30- metres and on clear days divers should be able to see more sharks swimming in the depths below.



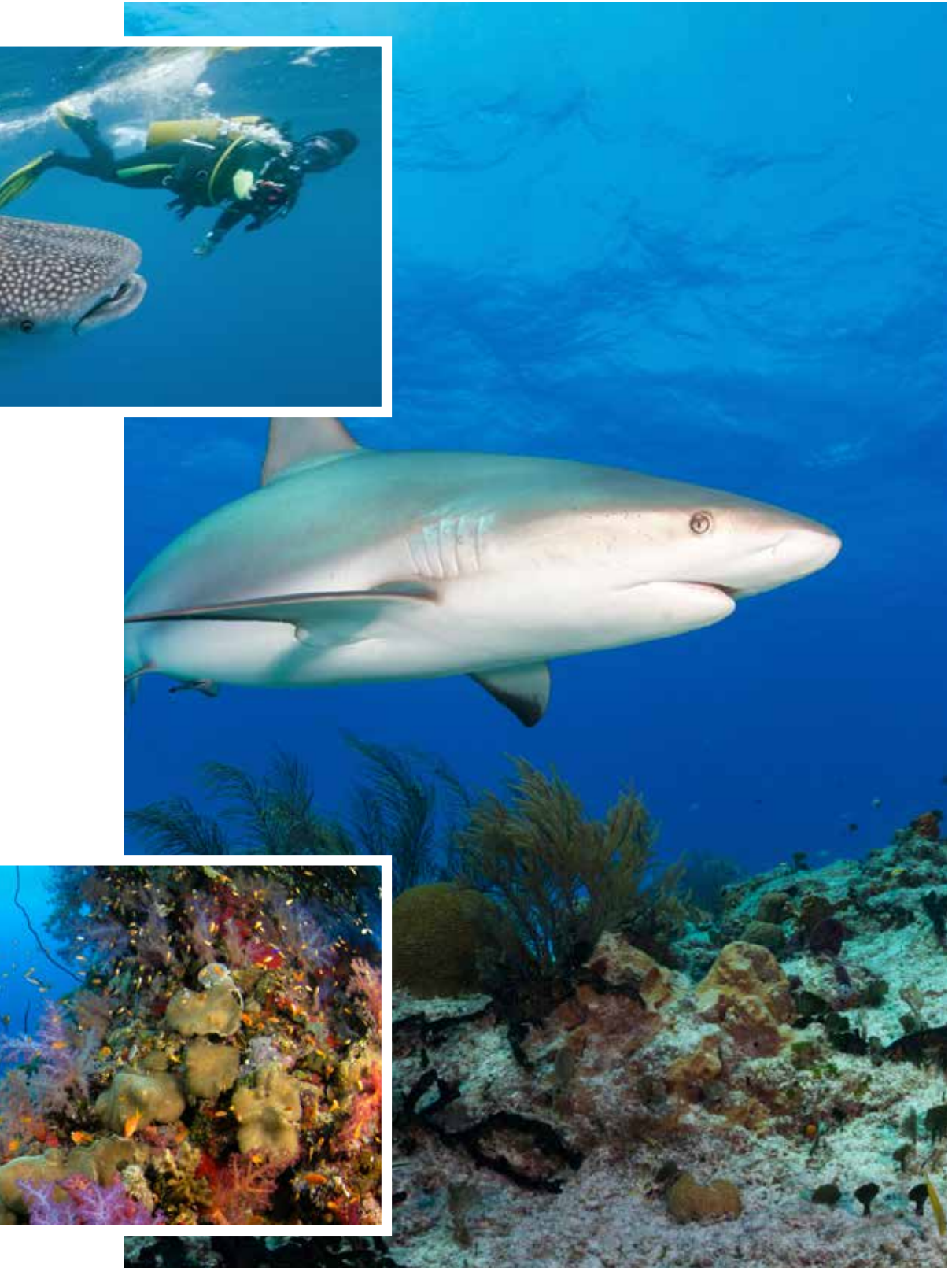
Ari Atoll – Fish Head (Mushimasingali Thila)

- Novice to advanced divers (depending on current)
- Closest resorts: Ellaidhoo Resort, Athuruga Resort, W Retreat & Spa

Fish Head is widely considered to be one of the topten dives sites in the world and the best dive site in the Maldives. Before being declared a protected marine area in 1995, Fish Head was regularly fished by commercial fishermen for sharks, which were finned and exported to Asian markets. Since then, dive masters have reported a slow recovery.

Fish Head is a classic thila dive, rising from the seafloor some 50-metres in a rippled cone shape





before stopping 10-metres below the surface. Schools of resident grey reef sharks can be seen up close on this dive at the reasonably shallow depth of 15-metres in and around the thila. For underwater photographers, this site is also regarded as one of the best in terms of shark encounters, and its clear waters are ideal for photo opportunities.

Felidhoo Atoll – Miyaru Kandu

- Intermediate to advanced divers
- Deep dive
- Closest resort: Alimatha Aquatic

Miyaru is the Dhivehi name for shark and is one of just twenty-four known dive sites in the seldomvisited Felidhoo Atoll. Also known as 'Shark Pass', divers need to dive deeply to a cave at 33-metres on the northern side of the channel. This cave is a known spot for whitetip and blacktip sharks. Keep an eye on the channel edges for schools of patrolling grey reef. Occasionally, hammerheads can be seen lurking off in the deep, clear water as well as larger pelagics such as barracudas and tuna.

North Ari Atoll – Rasdhoo-Madivaru (Hammerhead Point)

- Advanced divers
- Deep dive
- Closest resorts: Kuramathi Blue Lagoon, Village and Cottage Club

Rashoo-Madivaru or Hammerhead Point is one of the few places in the country where divers can expect encounters with the sleek and often feared scalloped hammerheads. Divers need to get up early to have any hopes of spotting the sharks, as they only tend to swim out of the depths in the early hours of the morning. As this is a deep dive in clear blue water with few nearby reference markers, divers need to watch their depth gauges to ensure they do not dive too deep – something easily missed when surrounded by a school of hammerheads.

North Ari Atoll – Rasdhoo-Madivaru (Hammerhead Point)

- Intermediate to advanced divers
- Closest resorts: Huvafen Fushi, Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru, Angsana, Coco Palm Kuda Hithi

Rasfari is a protected marine area extending out from Rasfari Island as a wide sandy area before hitting a rounded thila like reef. Visibility across the sandy shallow slope is usually good, allowing for good views of resting whitetip and blacktip sharks. Once at the outer reef, keep a watchful lookout for grey reef sharks as well as trevally and schools of passing eagle rays. Divers are advised to ensure they have enough air for the return to Rasafari Island and to watch for currents pushing divers off the reef and out to sea.

South Ari Atoll – Dhidhdhoo Beyru Faru

- Novice to intermediate divers
- Closest resorts: White Sands Resort & Spa

This dive site is on the south-western corner of the Ari Atoll and from May to November is known as a popular spot for sighting whale sharks. In recent years, this section of coastline has experienced increased safari boat traffic with as many as ten or more vessels searching the atoll edge for whale sharks. Divers are advised to have their mask and snorkels ready and to be scanning the waters surface for what will look like a large shadow. Once a whale shark is spotted, divers should enter the water as quietly as possible and approach the whale shark from the sides, swimming alongside it and not crossing its path.

South Maalhosmadulu Atoll – Dhigali Haa (Horubadhoo Thila)

- Novice to intermediate divers
- Closest resorts: Soneva Fushi and Royal Island Resort

Like Fish Head, this site was heavily fished for sharks before being declared a protected marine reserve in 1999. A small thila, it can be easily explored on one dive and of course is a favoured spot to see upwards of ten grey reef sharks. Divers should keep an eye out for schools of barracuda as well as passing eagle rays in the deeper water off the thila. The thila is also an excellent spot for corals, supporting black coral bushes, sea fans as well as an explosion of glorious coloured soft corals.



Diving Etiquette

Sharks are wild animals that can be naturally curious. As divers and ambassadors of the ocean, divers should never touch, bait or try to attract a shark closer to themselves. Though sharks are often considered dangerous, unprovoked attacks of

divers in the Maldives are seldom heard of, in part because of the plentiful supply of fish. If a shark is displaying signs of aggression, be prepared to push the shark away with a tank or underwater camera housing. The best way to view sharks is to face the shark and watch them quietly without sudden

Thomas Pickard lived for two-years in the Maldives, obtaining his PADI Open Water Diving Certification and logging 75 dives in the process.



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مرحبا بك في المنتجع الفاخر ذي الخطة البلاطينية الشاملة والفاخرة الوحيدة في جزر المالديف التي تقدم الفلل على شواطئ المياه مع بركة سباحة خاصة. استمتع بإقامة لا تنسى في واحدة من أجنحة **Sunset Water Suites**، مع خدمة بتلر 24/7، خدمة الغرف، بار صغير متميز وراق، شامل جميع الخدمات.





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I AM THE MALDIVES



by Barbara Tori

I am the Maldives. People say I am paradise on Earth. My islands are strung across the Equator like a white pearl necklace, glittering in the vastness of the Indian Ocean. You may not always see me on the world map, but you know that I have an unsparing amount of beauty to share. Just look through the window – does your heart skip a beat as I generously spoil you with these otherworldly sights?



I truly am heaven on Earth. Nature has wholeheartedly endowed me with a location right in the middle of this planet's third largest ocean. In fact, more than ninety-nine percent of my area is water! From pastel tints of azure, Tiffany and turquoise to midnight blue, all shades and hues unveil themselves before you. I've given you a standing invitation to swim in my crystal clear lagoons and soak up their balmy warmth.

Piercing the flat water surface are my 1,192 islands. I've consented to more than 100 of these to be used as tourist resorts so you can luxuriate in this remote, picture-perfect setting with all the cosy comforts that you love. I make it possible for you to indulge in world-class amenities so your holiday here can tick off all the 'perfect' boxes. You may not come here too often, but when you do, my hospitality is all-embracing. Last year, one million visitors came to sink their feet into my powdery white coral sand and to catch some of the yearround sunrays that caress my surroundings.

Lay your eyes on my underwater kingdom and you will experience the Maldives in all its glory. My coral reefs are my only metropolis, and what a bustling one! More than 2,000 species of fish and 200 species of coral have been identified in the Maldives so far, providing a stunning backdrop for your diving and snorkelling adventures. Get up close and personal with the ocean's gentle giants, the whale sharks and the manta rays, and let go of your prejudice and enter the reef sharks' realm. Even if it is only a few breaths underwater, just to catch a glimpse of our little hideaway beneath the waves, or seeing only one turtle, I promise it will enrich you for the rest of your days.

I am the Maldives. A feast for your senses, love at first sight, and your dream come true. But here is a crazy thought: Stop taking me for granted! The inconvenient truth is that we don't know what the future holds for the Maldives. All islands are roughly a metre above mean sea level. Will the warming oceans rise so much that the islands will get flooded, even swept away? Will the country be able to protect its people's homes and its infrastructure? Will coral reefs withstand climate change and be healthy enough to continue to be







the major source of food and the trump card of the Maldives' tourism, which the whole economy is based on?

In line with the nation's commitment to be carbonneutral by 2020, awareness raising campaigns and resorts' sustainable, forward-looking management, it is also down to each individual whose heart skips a beat arriving to this patch of paradise to make a difference.

To give a big shout-out to paradise pure and simple that is the Maldives, the least you can do is lessen your ecological footprint and help preserve everything you love about the sunny side of life for generations to come.





Here are 10 ways of keeping the environment on your mind while enjoying this very holiday:

- You can take your waste products back home with you or dispose of where more efficient waste management is available.
- Say 'no' to plastic bags.
- Whenever possible, choose glass bottled drinks over plastic.
- Be reasonable with the use of running water.
- Use toiletries sparingly and opt for biodegradable products.
- Turn the lights and the air con off when you're not using them.
- Join island and reef clean ups to remove any marine debris.
- Don't walk on coral. A single swipe of a fin can destroy decades of coral growth.
- Don't interfere with marine life. Your actions may stress the animal and interrupt its feeding and mating behaviour.
- Above and underwater, take nothing but pictures. After all, coral and sand are what our islands are made of.

Barefoot in the Maldives
is the greatest!

Anywhere and anytime else



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since 1895



maldives:
an aerial
TAPESTRY



by Thomas Pickard

At sea-level the Maldives looks pretty much the same – an endless expanse of ocean interrupted only by the odd island complete with tropical palms, a beach and in the case of resorts, a cluster of over-water bungalows, shimmering on the horizon like a distant mirage. Head into the sky though and the landscape takes on a whole new perspective, offering visitors an unparalleled view of one of the world's great tropical landscapes.

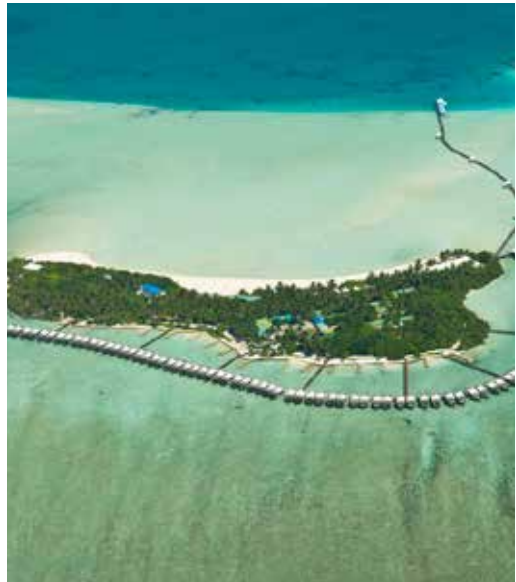


From above the fragility of the islands becomes apparent, with each island like an oasis in a watery desert. The beauty and complexity of the atoll shapes are revealed, while the coral reefs beneath the ocean's surface sparkle in the sunlight, enticing divers with countless diving opportunities. Resorts take on a more abstract quality, appearing modellike in dimensions, while over-water bungalows seem to be adrift on a vast turquoise coloured sea.

To the trained eye, the view from above provides clues to how the Maldives has morphed and changed over eons from what was once a string of volcanic islands atop a submerged submarine plateau, to the present day low lying islands, just metres above sea level.

The riddle of how coral atolls formed is generally accredited to Charles Darwin, who in 1842 - whilst on a five-year voyage on the HMS Beagle - observed coral islands in the South Pacific. Darwin hypothesised that coral reefs gradually form around the edge of volcanic and non-volcanic island until such time that a fringing barrier reef is formed. Through mechanisms of sea level change, islands began to slowly sink into the ocean below, whilst the fringing coral reef continues to grow upwards at approximately the same rate - in part attracted to the sunlight for survival. Ultimately a barrier reef is formed, thus allowing for the formation of a lagoon between the reef edge and the island proper. As the island continues to sink, the lagoon expands outwards and an atoll is formed.

What remains is what some of the million visitors see each year - a line of coral atolls stretched out like pearls on a string, dotted with tiny islands set amongst the incredible vastness of the Indian Ocean. Covering 90,000 square kilometres, landmass in the Maldives accounts for a minute 0.01 percent of the country, while average island height is a mere 1.8 meters above sea level. The Maldives is regarded as having some of the finest examples of atoll formation in the world as well as being home to the largest atoll in the world - Huvadhu Atoll in the southern part of the country.





VILAMENDHOO

ISLAND RESORT & SPA

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The Aerial Experience

The Maldives is home to the largest sea plane operation in the world – Trans Maldivian Airways (TMA). TMA flies 960,000 passengers on 120,000 flights to 60 resorts scattered throughout the country.

Seaplane resort transfers provide passengers with a great opportunity at no extra cost to view the Maldives landscape from above. The only problem for most arriving passengers is in actually staying awake after the long haul flight to the Maldives. If this is you, then do not despair as you will return to the airport via a seaplane transfer and have one more opportunity to see the Maldives from above.

An alternative to a seaplane resort transfer is to sign up for a photo flight or a scenic flight with your resort. Hiring a seaplane is a great opportunity to see for yourself one of the world's great landscapes.

Photo Tips

If you are considering going on a scenic flight, then you should arrange a day and time when there is little cloud cover and the sun is high in the sky. A high overhead sun helps accentuate the colours of the ocean, which means your photos will have more 'pop' to them. Make sure your camera batteries are fresh, your lens is clean and that you have plenty of empty memory cards at hand. If you have a camera with video capability, remember to take some video footage as this often has more impact with your viewing audience back home, than straight still images.

The best places to sit in a sea plane is usually the front two rows of seats, as the windows tend to remain splash free during take-off and landing.





VELIGANDU

ISLAND RESORT & SPA

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Veligandu
Island Resort & Spa
MALDIVES

a young bird's EYE VIEW



It is common for professional photographers and videographers to master the art of flying a drone for work related jobs or for leisure. At the young age of 14, Ali has mastered the navigation and photography skills of a camera drone. INFLIGHT sits down with him for a glimpse of his "Bird's Eye View".

Having taken his first photos with his Dad's camera, 14-year old Ali Afthaan Amir, tells us his first interest in photography came when he saw beautiful scenery pictures on his dad's Facebook news feed.

Being invited for his first professional shoot recently at one of the five-star resorts in the Maldives, Ali says he isn't interested in doing it as a profession but only as a hobby. He said his happiness of drone photography merely comes from "capturing the beautiful moment."

Ali remembers his first interest in drones upon seeing a toy drone at a toy shop in Singapore five-years ago. He said afterwards he continued researching drone videos on YouTube for endless hours. This interest finally sprout when he got to use his step-dad's drone - it was from him Ali learned the basics of navigating a drone.

"It took me a month to learn," recalls Ali, "I remember taking footage of small kids playing, which was very interesting when I saw it on the video taken from high above."

Ali said after using the drone for almost six months, he got a new amateur drone back in March 2014. This drone ended up being his real learning tool, as he used it to learn controlling and flying of a drone against the wind. He recalls it unfortunately crashing just after three months.

The crash proved to be a stumbling block, but it was soon put aside when he got his first professional drone - DJI Phantom 2 Drone, in the later part of 2014. He said it took just around three weeks to learn using the new drone and regained his confidence in flying it over the water following the previous crash.

It was his first photoshoot experience in Ari Atoll for 2015 New Year that changed everything. He said those photos he uploaded on Instagram and Facebook page gained likes and comments from his family and family friend at firsts. Before he knew it, he had over a 1,000 likes on his Facebook page with Maldives Tourism Promotion Board also



sharing a video of his on the official "Visit Maldives" page on Facebook.

"I never thought I would reach 1,000 likes on my Facebook page," Ali noted.

Ali noted that it was his ability to forget the fear of crashing and "just doing it" that helped him learn the techniques of mastering a drone; which for him

is more important than having the most expensive drone gadget out there.

Having taken such an interest in photography and drone, Ali said his dream is to become a pilot one day.

For more of Ali's aerial photography, visit www.facebook.com/AliAerials



TOURIST POLICE

Contact Info:

Tourist Police

Hotline: 119

Mobile No: +9609790070

E-mail: tourist@police.gov.mv

Fax: +9603329352



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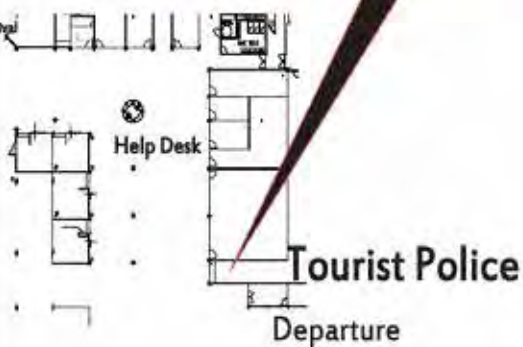
туристическая полиция

旅遊警察單位

وحدة الشرطة السياحية



International Terminal



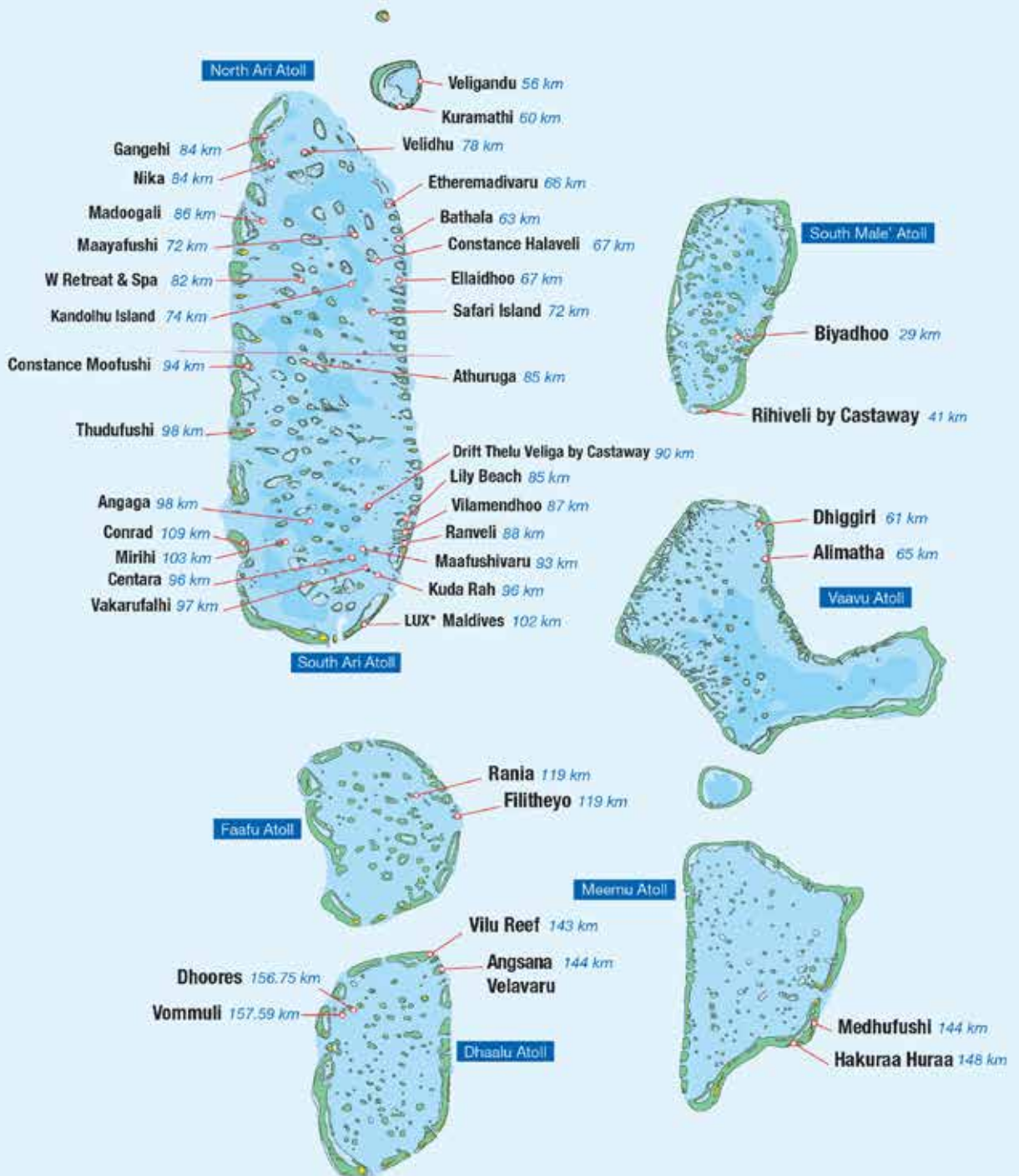


TMA Destinations



A





LEGEND

- REEF
- ISLAND
- RESORT

SERVICES



Excursions

A day trip or a half-day excursion can take you to an uninhabited island, where you can snorkel, have a picnic and enjoy the Maldives' pristine natural beauty.

Private Charters

Chartering a Twin Otter is about freedom and the

chance to explore and experience the Maldives in a way most people rarely do; a charter gives you the freedom, the privacy and space to relax as you desire.

VIP Flights

For luxury seaplane travel look no further than Zour custom designed VIP Twin Otter aircraft

featuring a 10-seat configuration with a variety of amenities and cabin services. The VIP Twin Otters feature fifty percent more legroom and seat width, courtesy of the 10-seat configuration instead of the normal 18, comfortable leather seats, large foldout tables and noise cancelling JVC headsets, which can also be connected to your iPod. Cabin services on the VIP flight include refreshing towels, bottled water and soft drinks. Watch the incredible atoll formations slip by below or use the large cushions and the spacious seating to stretch out and catch up on some rest.

Passenger Evacuation

We always wish our guests the safest, most enjoyable holiday ever! However, should there be doubts as to whether you can get expert medical and emergency help in time in case of emergency, do reassure yourself that TMA does provide excellent passenger evacuation service, should it be needed.



TMA FACT FILE

45	No. of aircraft
120,000+	Flights per year
960,000 +	Passengers per year
1,000+	Employees

Resort Transfers

From the airport direct to your resort, on a flight that you will treasure as one of the best parts of your holiday in the Maldives. With us you will be whisked away to your chosen destination as soon as you arrive in the Maldives. We take you from the airport right to the doorstep of your resort. Flight times vary between 10 minutes and 50 minutes depending on the distance.

Photo Flights

From the air it is magical and breathtakingly beautiful. Wherever you look you will find a perfect frame for a shot that you can be proud of. Photo flights can be customized to suit your specific wishes.





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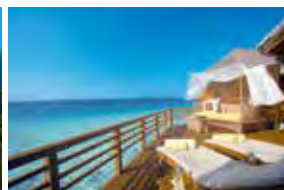
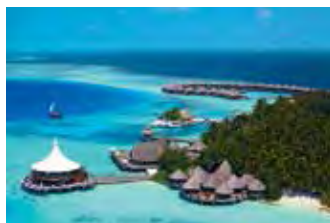




Baros



Malediven de Luxe



Einmal auf die Malediven und sich wie Robinson Crusoe fühlen. Das geht nirgends schöner als in dem Luxus Resort Baros Maldives. Es gehört zum Besten, was die Malediven zu bieten haben. Gerade einmal 25 Minuten mit dem Speedboat von Malé entfernt, liegt die 300 x 350 Meter kleine Insel inmitten des Indischen Ozeans, bewachsen von Kokospalmen, umrundet von einem weißen Pudersandstrand und einem Hausriff, das zu den schönsten der Malediven gehört. Gästen stehen 45 luxuriös ausgestattete Villen zu Lande sowie 30 Wasser-Villen zur Verfügung, von denen fünfzehn mit eigenem Privatpool ausgestattet sind. Exzellenter Service, ein exklusiver Spa, drei Gourmet Restaurants und ein ausgezeichnetes Tauchzentrum lassen Malediventräume wahr werden.

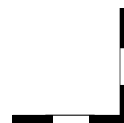
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Photo by Bruno Aveillan, Moritz Krebs, Sandro Bruecklmeier



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www.SonevaPrivateResidences.com



THE SEAPLANE



The DHC-6 Twin Otter is a Canadian 19-passenger STOL (Short Takeoff and Landing) utility aircraft developed by de Havilland Canada and currently produced by Viking Air.

De Havilland has a history of more than 80 years; the first de Havilland Canada flew in 1925, piloted by none other than Geoffrey de Havilland. The aircraft was called the 'Moth' and was quickly followed by many variations – all of them highly successful.

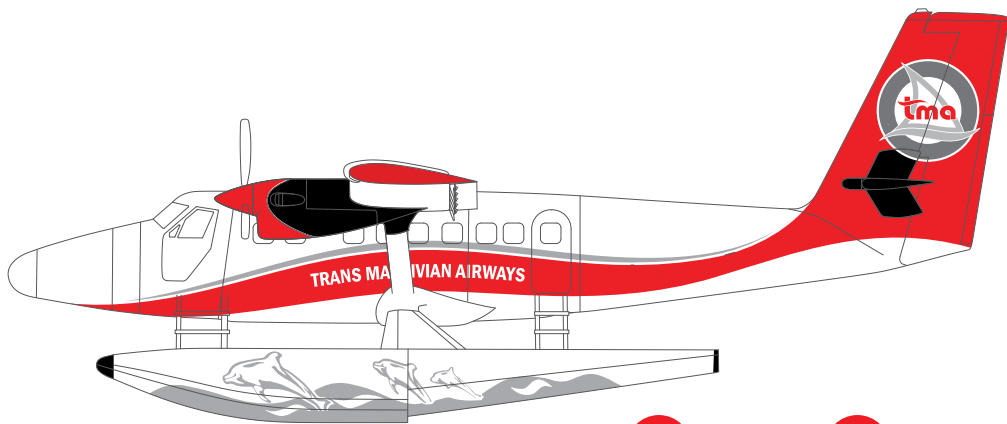
Development of the Twin Otter began in 1964, with the first flight on May 20, 1965 as a twin-engined replacement for the single-engined Otter had been planned by de Havilland Canada. Twin engines not only provided improved safety but also allowed for an increase in payload while retaining the renowned short takeoff and landing (STOL) qualities. Design features included double slotted trailing edge flaps

and ailerons that work in unison with the flaps to boost STOL performance. The availability of the 550 shp (410 kW) Pratt and Whitney Canada PT6A-20 propeller turbine engine in the early 1960s made the concept of a twin more feasible.

The Twin Otter proved to be an immediate success, and became immensely popular for short-haul commuter transportation. The Twin Otter is one of the most versatile aircraft ever produced and could come with floats, skis or tricycle landing gear depending on the needs of its users.

It is our belief that our success and the consolidation of our reputation as a safe and reliable seaplane operator in a country such as the Maldives is primarily due to the fact that the Twin Otter is the most ideal small aircraft to the aviation environment in which we operate.

THE FLEET



Number of
Seaplanes



Passenger
Capacity

VIP Configuration
Aircraft

2

10

DHC-6 Twin Otter
400 Series

3

15

DHC-6 Twin Otter
100/200/300 Series

40

15

Total number of Seaplanes
World's Largest Seaplane Operator

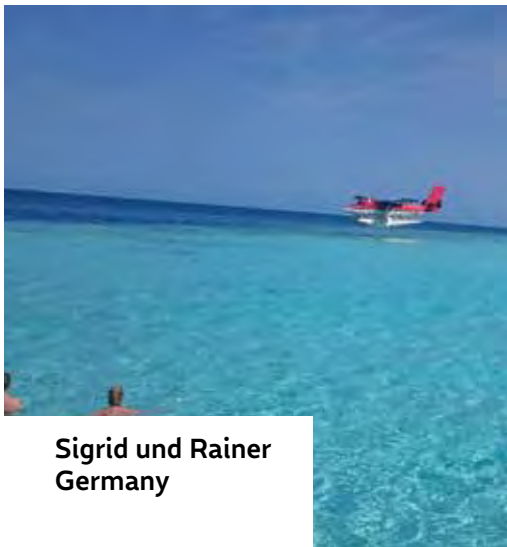
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YOUR PICS WITH TMA

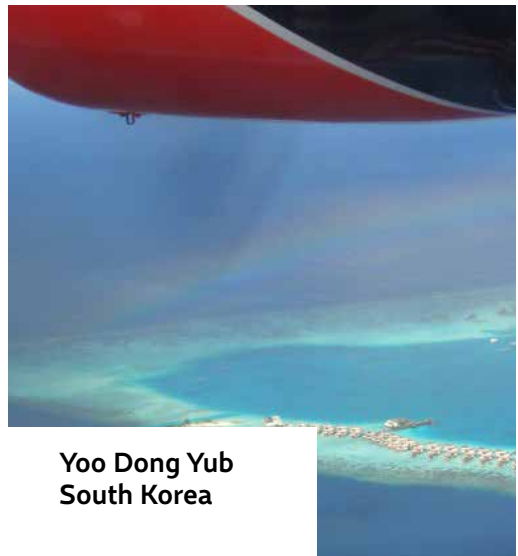
selection of pictures sent in by our readers



Scott Bowen
Australia



Sigrid und Rainer
Germany



Yoo Dong Yub
South Korea

Please send in your pictures to

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