

# Maldives

**Continent:** Asia

**Languages Spoken:** Dhivehi, English

**Population:** 521,000

**Currency:** Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR)

**Area:** 298

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Malé Friday Mosque', 'writeup': 'An iconic 17th-century mosque known for its intricate coral stone carvings and Islamic architecture.'}
- {'name': 'Hulhumalé Island', 'writeup': 'A reclaimed island developed to alleviate housing shortages in Malé, featuring modern infrastructure and beaches.'}
- {'name': 'Banana Reef', 'writeup': 'One of the oldest known dive sites in the Maldives, famous for vibrant coral reefs and diverse marine life.'}
- {'name': 'Manta Point', 'writeup': 'A popular diving spot where divers can observe manta rays in their natural habitat.'}
- {'name': 'Utheemu Ganduvaru', 'writeup': 'Historical residence of Sultan Mohamed Thakurufaanu, a national hero who liberated the Maldives from Portuguese rule.'}

## Head of State / Government:

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Eid-ul-Fitr', 'writeup': 'A major Islamic festival marking the end of Ramadan, celebrated with prayers, feasts, and community gatherings.'}
- {'name': 'Independence Day', 'writeup': "Celebrated on July 26th, commemorating Maldives' independence from British protection in 1965."}
- {'name': 'Maldivian New Year', 'writeup': "Known as 'Raajje Reethi,' it marks the beginning of the new year according to the Islamic calendar with traditional music and dance."}
- {'name': 'Fish Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual event promoting the fishing industry, featuring seafood tastings and cultural performances.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Maldivian cuisine is rich in seafood, coconut, and starches like rice and breadfruit. Popular dishes include Mas Huni (tuna with coconut), Garudhiya (fish broth), and various curries flavored with local spices.

## Brief History:

The Maldives has a history dating back over 2,500 years, influenced by South Asian, Arab, and African cultures. It became a sultanate in the 12th century and was a British protectorate from 1887 until gaining full independence in 1965. It is now a republic with a growing tourism industry.

## Important People:

- Ibrahim Nasir - Former President who led Maldives to independence.

- Mohamed Amin Didi - First President of the Maldives.
- Ibrahim Mohamed Solih - Current President.
- Sultan Mohamed Thakurufaanu - National hero who expelled Portuguese colonizers.

#### **Current Conflicts:**

The Maldives faces challenges related to climate change, particularly rising sea levels threatening its low-lying islands. There are no active armed conflicts.

#### **Youtube Links:**

- Discover Maldives: Paradise on Earth
- Maldives Travel Guide 2023
- The Culture and Traditions of Maldives
- Maldives: Climate Change and Rising Sea Levels
- Top 10 Things to Do in Maldives