



OZEN

RESERVE
BOLIFUSHI

THIMAAVESHI



Introduction

At OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI we continually strive to create memorable moments for all our guests to ensure they have a truly unforgettable holiday in paradise. In order to continue to offer memorable experiences, we must work towards preserving and creating a sustainable future for all. With this, the team at OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI undertake several projects and initiatives to work towards preserving the island and environment we live in, building towards a more sustainable future. In our 'Green Book' we explore the history of the Maldives and what makes this destination so unique and how we can preserve the natural beauty of the country, we also share our ongoing 'green' initiatives and how you, our guests, colleagues and partners, can participate to this worthy cause, and help us 'Go Green'.



Discover the Local Culture and History of the Maldives

History of the Maldives

The Maldives was originally a country ruled by kings (known as Radun) and queens (Ranin) some few centuries ago. During this time, the country held a position of strategic importance due to its location on the major marine routes of the Indian Ocean. Strongly influenced by its neighbouring countries Sri Lanka and India, both of which had cultural and economic influences, the Maldives provided the main source of currency, cowry shells.

Boli or cowry shells were the first known medium of exchange used in the Maldives prior to printed currency. Various writers and traveller have in the past recorded the country's trade in these money shells, which were used as a medium of exchange in parts of Asia and Africa. The country's trade in cowry shells continued until the late 19th century.

Several European colonial powers took over most of the trade in the Indian Ocean, this often led to influences and interferences in the Maldives local politics and economy, these powers included the Dutch, French and Portuguese. On the 16th December 1887, the Maldives became a British protectorate when the Sultan signed a contract with the British Governor of Ceylon. With this agreement the British government offered the country military protection and non-interference in local administration in exchange for an annual tribute to be paid by the Maldives. In 1957 the British established an RAF base in the strategic southernmost atoll of Addu, where hundreds of locals were employed. 19 years later the British government relocated their base.



On 26 July 1965 the Maldives announced their Independence from the British, however they continued to maintain their air base in the southernmost atoll on the island of Gan until the height of the Cold War in 1976 when they withdrew.

Touching on the history of the island itself, Bolifushi island, once housed one of the oldest resorts in the Malé atoll – the 'Bolifushi Resort' which opened in 1982 with only 30 rooms. It was a very popular Dive resort located close to several interesting dive sites.

and shipwrecks. Today, OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI is still very well known for its impressive diving and snorkelling sites as the coral reef surrounding the island is one of the healthiest and most abundant in the Malé Atoll and 100m away from this reef, one can find five ship wrecks laying 35 meters deep - making this resort a great destination for diving and snorkelling.

Language

The language of the Maldivians is Dhivehi. It is rooted in Sanskrit and according to some researchers, it is an ancient form of Sinhala, (a language which is spoken in Sri Lanka). Following the advent of Islam in 1153, the language was heavily influenced from Arabic. In more recent times, English is now very common language in the country, which started following the introduction of English as a medium of education in the early 1960s.

The Maldivian script known as thaana was invented during the 16th century soon after the country was liberated from Portuguese rule. Unlike former scripts, thaana is written from right to left. This was devised to accommodate Arabic words that are frequently used in Dhivehi. There are 24 letters in the thaana alphabet.

ހ	[h]	haa	ވ	[v,w]	vaavu	ސ	[s]	seenu
ށ	[ʃ]	shaviyani	މ	[m]	meemu	ޅ	[d]	daviyani
ނ	[n]	noonu	ފ	[f]	faafu	ކ	[z]	zaviyani
ރ	[r]	raa	ދ	[d]	dhaalu	ވ	[t]	taviyani
ބ	[b]	baa	ޑ	[t]	thaa	ގ	[y]	yaviyani
ޅ	[ʈ]	lhaviyani	ދ	[l]	laamu	ޏ	[p]	paviyani
ކ	[k]	kaafu	ލ	[g]	gaafu	ޑ	[j]	javiyani
އ	∅	alifu	ޒ	[ñ]	gnaviyani	ޓ	[ç]	chaviyani



Want to learn the local some of the language? Below we have some key phrases in Dhivehi for you to try:

English	Dhivehi
Hello	Assalaamu alaikum
How are you?	Haalu kihineh?
Yes	Aan
No	Noon
Where?	Kobaa?
Why?	Keevve?
Who?	Kaaku?
There	Ethaa
Here	Mithaa
What?	Koacheh?
What is (your) name?	Kon nameh kiyanee?
My name is	Aharengē namakee
Good	Ran'galhu
Goodbye (informal)	Dhanee
Where are you from?	Kon rasheh?
Thank you	Shukuriyaa
I am sorry	Ma-aafu kurey
How old are you?	Umurun kihaa vareh?
My age is	Aharengē umurakee

English	Dhivehi
Where are (you) going? Or What place are we going?	Kon thanakah dhanee?
What time are (we) going?	Kon irakun dhanee?
What is the price?	Agu kihaavareh?
How long will it take?	Kihaa ireh nagaanee?
What time is it?	Gadin kihaa ireh?
What island is that?	E-ee kon rasheh?



Atoll Formation

The sea covers 99% of the Maldives and inside its blue depth lies the mysteries and riddles related to the formation of the Maldives. The islands are formed around a ring shaped coral reef encircling a lagoon. This reef structure, typical of Maldives, is called an atoll.

The atolls of the Maldives are formed from coral structures, separated by lagoons. The atolls are, in fact, part of a greater structure known as the Laccadives-Chagos Ridge, which stretches over 2000 kilometres. The islands are low lying with the highest point at approximately only 8 feet above sea level. 'Faru' or ring-shaped reef structures form the atolls and these reefs provide natural defense against wind and wave action, on these delicate islands.

There are 26 natural atolls in Maldives. According to Charles Darwin's theory, when submerged volcanoes rose from the sea, coral reefs grew on the volcano edges once eruptions ceased. When the volcanoes submerged, the coral reefs encircling a water-filled basin remained. Consequently, islands were formed on the reefs as the tides and currents brought dead coral onto sandbars.

Traditional Maldivian Food and Cuisine

The Maldives is located at an important crossroad in the Indian Ocean. Traders and visitors over time have left their mark on Maldivian cuisine in addition to contributing towards the molding of the country's culture and norms.



As the Maldives comprises more sea than land, it is only natural that fish (mainly tuna) have always been the most prominent element of Maldivian food. However, with travelers from different parts of the world, new seasonings and vegetables were introduced in to the country and added to the existing (limited) repertoire of seafood and tubers (e.g. taro & sweet potato). Each new discovery was incorporated into the diet in quantities most palatable to Maldivians. Thus Maldivian cuisine now comprises Arabic, Indian, Sri Lanka and Oriental tastes blended into a unique cuisine that embodies a culinary identity of its own.

Bodu Beru

Bodu Beru is a very traditional performance art played on drums which are made from hollowed coconut wood and covered on both ends with goat hide. 'Bodu Beru' is translated into English meaning 'big drum' and is thought to have been introduced to the Maldivian culture in the 11th century by Africans.

Even today Bodu Beru is still one of the most popular forms of cultural activities in the Maldives and can be seen in almost every inhabited island in the Maldives as part of their festivities. They are used in a performance of around fifteen people including three drummers and a lead singer singing in Dhivehi, often about patriotism, romance or satire. The dance is either performed by men in dance called Thaara, or by women in dance called Bandiyaa. The audience often joins in the dancing too.





Lacquer Ware

Lacquer ware is a prime example of the talented Maldivian craftsmen's work called "liyelaajehun" in Dhivehi. Maldivian craftsmen practice "liyelaajehun" which is a particular process where they create intricate designs on carved wooden objects such as vases and jewellery boxes. The craftsman sculpts designs out of a simple wood block of wood and then coats it with lacquer of various colors, usually black, orange, green and yellow. The finished piece is then polished with dry coconut leaves until it gleams. The end result is sleek, shiny and etched with fine intricate designs – an exquisite work of art.

Code of Conduct

It is important to be mindful and respectful of the culture and religious beliefs of any destination we visit. We would therefore like to inform you that outside of resorts on the community islands, the local dress code for men and women is simple – please keep adequately covered, including shoulders and knees. This is a Muslim country so you may cause offence if you are not properly dressed.

Do's and Don'ts

Below is a list of activities and behaviours to be aware of as to be respectful and mindful of the culture and environment in the Maldives:

Do:

- **Do** purchase ethical souvenirs as this encourages growth and development for the country and they make great gifts for family and friends!
- **Do** take photographs and pictures of your stay and of the beautiful surroundings.
- **Do** participate in our culturally connected activities to learn more about this beautiful destination, and to have fun!

Don't:

- **Do not** purchase Sea jewellery. This includes moth-of-pearl, seashell, coral, turtle shell and black coral. Taking into account the endangered condition and environmental hazards, the exploitation of sea turtles and black corals has become forbidden in Maldives.
- **Do not** feed the fish, their digestive system cannot digest bread or other foods.
- **Do not** collect shells or take them from the beach. It is illegal to take coral out of the Maldives, in addition, shells are hermit crabs' homes! If you get caught taking coral or shells from the Maldives you could be faces with a hefty fine.
- **Do not** break the coral this destroys their ecosystem.
- **Do not** stand on the coral – this destroys and kills the coral.
- **Do not** touch the turtles, it could cause them to become distressed and if it is stressed it will not eat putting it in danger.
- **Do not** throw plastic or any form of rubbish in the sea.

Ethical Souvenirs

We encourage our guests to purchase some of the below items to support local communities:

Wooden Lacquer Ware

Perhaps the most distinctive of the Maldivian handicrafts, these beautifully crafted boxes, containers and ornamental objects are made from the local funa, (Alexandrian laurel) which grows abundantly throughout the country, they come in various shapes and sizes; small pillboxes, vases of various sizes to round and oval plates with lids. These elegant pieces are lacquered in strands of red, black and yellow resin and delicately carved with flowing flowery patterns.

Mats

Reed mats are woven throughout the country. They are dried in the sun and stained with natural dyes, the colour varying from fawn to black. These mats with their intricate abstract designs are woven on a handloom according to the imagination and skill of the weaver.

Coconut Crafts



Coconuts were widely used in traditional Maldivian daily life. While coir rope and coconut thatch are a key example, coconut shells have been used to create tools such as kitchen utensils. Polished coconut shells are used by modern Maldivian craftsmen to produce many different types of ornaments and souvenirs. Dhonis, jewellery, utensils and many similar products are created using coconut shells.

Wood Carving

The most ancient Maldivian wood carvings are wonder to behold – that a Maldivian craftsman, armed with a few rudimentary tools could carve, smooth and finish such a masterpiece is a testament to their dedication of the craft. More recent times have seen a concentration on smaller handmade wood carvings such as vases, jewellery boxes and ornamental dhonis.

Coir Making

The coconut husk is first buried in the beach within the reach of waves and left to soak for a month or so. It is then dug up and beaten with a wooden club, which separates the fiber. The fiber is then washed with seawater, dried in the sun and rolled up, and spun into rope by hand. Traditionally, it was commonly used in everyday life with boats, during construction of traditional hammock etc. The modern use is mainly ornamental. It is used, chiefly along with coconut thatch, to invoke a truly Maldivian atmosphere in buildings.





Working Together to Create a Sustainable Future

At OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI we place a high importance on preserving and protecting our environment as well as striving towards a more sustainable future for the Maldives. We would like to highlight some of the ongoing Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable activities we participate in and how our guests can also contribute to a more sustainable future.

We are committed to reducing the negative environmental and social impact from activities associated with the resort activities and to developing a sustainable environment.

Our objectives:

- We shall monitor and ensure efficient use of our water to avoid and minimise waste.
- We will continue to place a high importance on reduction, reuse and recycling.
- We will embark on responsible purchasing practices.
- We will continually work to improve the overall air quality and reduce pollution (both indoor and outdoor).
- We will concentrate on biodiversity conservation
- We will continue to work closely with and support local communities.
- We will continue to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of team members, guests and local community.
- We are committed to comply with Maldivian and international legislative environmental requirements, such as environmental, public and occupational health and safety, hygiene and employment legislation.
- This environmental and social policy is freely available to all interested parties on request.

Heat Recovery

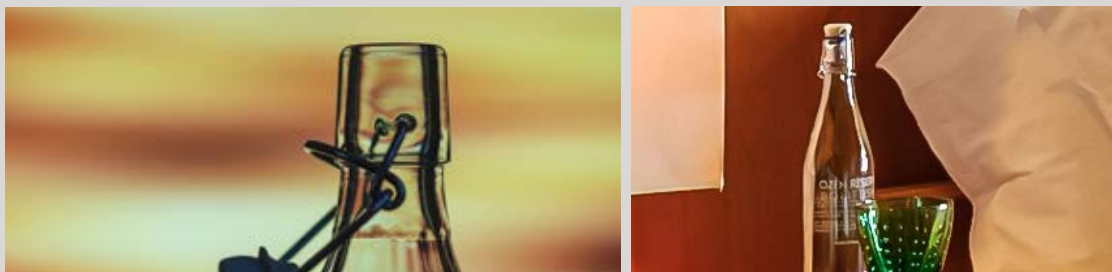
At OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI, we use a heat recovery (cogeneration) system which uses excess or 'waste' heat from the generators to heat the water supply on the island. The heat released during power generation warms up the cooling agent of the generator, gets passed on to an exchanger attached to the generator's radiator and is then transferred to the cold freshwater from the desalination plant via stainless steel plates. In this way, 30 °C water is heated to 50 °C therefore saving energy and reducing heat waste.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

Waste Disposal, litter and debris on beaches and adequate recycling facilities are major concerns in the Maldives. Unfortunately, in the Maldives, most resources and items that could be recycled or composted are at present treated as waste and transported from resorts and local islands to landfill.

At OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI we have taken several measures to help the situation through waste reduction:

- Recycling bins are placed in all the office and colleague accommodation areas.
- Colleagues are educated on the importance of recycling and how to recycle.
- Guests are provided with re-usable glass water bottles rather than the disposable plastic bottles.
- We have reduced importing plastic bottled water, thereby reducing the amount of waste (glass and carbon emissions).
- Energy-saving light bulbs with a long lifespan, purchases in bulk to avoid unnecessary packaging, the re-use of office paper, waste wood and other materials are some of the many measures, through which the amount of waste on the island is reduced.



Water Bottling Plants at OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI

Both OZEN LIFE MAADHOO and OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI use in-house water bottling plants as part of an on-going commitment to reduce the hotels' carbon-footprints. By utilising the water bottling plants instead of shipping in bottled water, each resort saves approximately 100,000 plastic bottles per year. This new water system is an important part of both resorts' continued effort to preserve the idyllic surroundings of the Maldives for future generations of guests.

The Eco Pure system will enable each hotel to treat sea water on site, passing it through complex stages of filtration to make it perfect for drinking. Salt content is separated from the water, as well as other impurities, whilst some minerals are added. The final product is then passed through a cooler for still water, and CO₂ is added for sparkling water, before being stored in recyclable glass bottles.

Environmental Awareness

It is important that we inform and educate our guests, colleagues and local communities about environmental policies and provide them with guidelines and tips to raise environmental awareness. At OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI we have several initiatives to share the awareness:

1. Our Green Book – This document is available on our Guest TVs in all our villas. A printed copy is also available in our Library and at the reception. For our colleagues we have the book available on our Intranet and have regular refresher trainings for our teams.

2. Activity Book – in our Guest activity book we have information and activities highlighting the importance of environmental awareness.

3. Island wide Treasure Hunt – we have an island wide treasure hunt for knowledge! This treasure trail takes you on a tour of the island, learning and finding out information about the flora and fauna on the island.

Sustainable Fishing

Commercial fishing in the Maldives is done by catching small bait fish with nets off the side of fishing dhonis at night. With the bait fish caught, the fishing dhoni then heads out in the open ocean searching for schools of tuna. The fisherman typically looks for gatherings of birds feeding on small fish at the



ocean surface - it is more than tuna will be feeding too. The fisherman line the back end of the dhoni to lure the tuna to the water their prey, hook them and fling them into them.

Ethical Purchasing

OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI is proud to say that we work well with our suppliers to reduce environmental impacts and improve social and ethical practices. We do not condone or support any activities that are against Maldivian government laws and acts.

- We give priority to local products, suppliers and service providers, both to reduce carbon emissions from freight and of course to support the local community.
- At our restaurants we do not serve overharvested species, nor products derived from controversial production methods such as boxed veal and shark fin.
- We do not purchase any genetically manipulated foods.
- Environmentally-friendly, biodegradable cleaning products, pesticides and packaging materials are preferred to chemical or disposable products.
- All uniforms in the resort are made on the island by our tailors.
- We also encourage our guests to buy local souvenirs instead.





Discover the Flora and Fauna at OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI

OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI, is home to many flourishing plants, trees and flowers. Here we highlight some of the flora and fauna you will discover while staying with us:

Flora

The Coconut Palm

The coconut palm, *Cocos nucifera*, is a member of the family Arecaceae (palm family). It is the only accepted species in the genus *Cocos*. The term coconut can refer to the entire coconut palm, the seed, or the fruit, which, botanically, is a drupe, not a nut. You can recognise the Coconut Palm because it has a single trunk and at the top there is a



crown of feather-like fronds. You will often also see bunches of large fruits called coconuts. The coconut consists of a thin hard skin, a thicker layer of husk, the hard (coconut) shell, the white kernel and a large cavity filled with coconut milk. Coconut palms can be up to 30 m tall.

Banyan

A Banyan (also banian) is a fig. "Banyan" often refers specifically to the India banyan or *Ficus benghalensis*, the national tree of India though the term has been generalised to include all figs that share a characteristic life cycle.

The leaves of the banyan tree are large, leathery, glossy green and elliptical in shape. The original support tree can sometimes die, so that the banyan becomes a "columnar tree" with a hollow central core. Old trees can spread out laterally using these prop roots to cover a wide area.



Heliotrope Tree

The Heliotrope Tree is a species of flowering plant. Common names include Tree Heliotrope, Velvet Soldierbush and Octopus Bush. It is a shrub or small tree typical of littoral zones reaching a height of 6 m (20 ft), with a similar spread.



Screwpine

The Screwpine family refers to around 600 tropical species of the genus *Pandanus* spread out in South East Asia and the Pacific region. It refers to the various plants and shrubs of the screw pine family. The screw pine is mainly characterised by the presence of aerial prop roots and by the long narrow leaves which are spirally arranged in clusters. You will know the Screw Pine because it has many thick and branched roots (called 'prop' roots) that hold the tree into loose sand and keeps the tree standing up straight. The fruits look like an orange colored pineapple, and consist of many small parts.



Breadfruit

The Breadfruit is a species of flowering tree in the mulberry family, growing throughout Southeast Asia and most Pacific Ocean islands. Its name is derived from the texture of the cooked fruit, which has a potato-like flavor, similar to fresh-baked bread.

This tall evergreen tree is up to 20 m tall with a trunk as large as 2 m in diameter. You will know this tree because of its wide, deeply lobed leaves (like the ear of an elephant) and the large, prickly fruits. White milky sap is found in all parts of the tree.



Hibiscus

The Hibiscus is a quite large plant, containing several hundred species that are native to warm-temperate, subtropical and tropical regions throughout the world. Member species are often noted for their showy flowers and are commonly known simply as hibiscus, or less widely known as rose mallow. The fruit is a dry five-lobed capsule, containing several seeds in each lobe, which are released when the capsule dehisces (splits open) at maturity. It is of red and white colours. It is an example of complete flowers.



Portia Tree

The Portia Tree is a small tree or arborescent shrub that is found on coasts around the world. However, the Portia Tree is probably native only to the Old World, and may have originated in India. The Portia Tree is able to grow in the wide range of soil types that may be present in coastal environments, including soils derived from quartz (sand), limestone, and basalt.



Fauna

Grey Heron (Maldivian Name : "Maakanaa")

This is a large bird that stands between 90 to 100 cm tall and can weigh up to 2 kg. It feeds in shallow water on fish, insects, small reptiles and mammals. You will often see the heron standing still or moving slowly when it's stalking its prey. The loud croaking, referred to as "fraanak" is its characteristic call. The Grey Heron builds bulky stick nests when breeding.



Common Tern (Maldivian Name: "Valla")

This migratory bird, commonly referred to as the 'Sea Swallow', visits the Maldives in winter and breeds in Europe, Asia and North America. This bird feeds by plunge diving for fish in the sea, lakes & rivers. Common Terns are known to reach the age of 23 years or more.

Yellow Bittern (Maldivian Name: "Dhon Raabondhi")

This is a small species which measures only 38 cm in length with a short neck and a long bill. They can be difficult to see due to their shrub habitat and skulking life style, they fly frequently, when the striking contrast between the black feathers and otherwise yellowish plumage makes them unmistakable. They nest in shrubs or reed beds and lay 4 to 6 eggs at a time. This bird feeds on insects and fish.



Common Mynah

This cheeky bird that follows you around for tit bits was introduced to Ellaidhoo about 10 years ago and they have grown in their numbers since. The original birds were from Sri Lanka and Pakistan. They are believed to mate for life and build their nests in holes in trees, the normal clutch is 4 to 6 eggs.

Oriental Garden Lizard (Maldivian Name: “Bon’du”)

In the breeding season, the male's head and shoulders turns bright orange to crimson and his throat black. Males also turn red-headed after a successful battle with rivals. They feed on insects and small vertebrates. These lizards are harmless and should not be feared by guests.

Whimbrel (Maldivian Name: “Bulhithunbii”)

This migratory wader visits the Maldives in the winter and breeds across the Sub Arctic, Europe, parts of Asia and Scotland. It is a coastal bird during migration & feeds by probing soft mud for crabs and similar prey.

Marine Life

As well as on land, Bolifushi is also home to an abundant and very colourful Marine life. The coral reef surrounding OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI is one of the healthiest and most abundant in the Maléatoll and 100m away from this reef, you can find five ship wrecks laying 35 meters deep - making this resort a great destination for diving and snorkelling.

Some Marine life you may discover while you are staying with us:

Sea Green Turtle and Hawksbill Sea Turtle (Maldivian Name: Velaa)

The Green Turtle is the most common turtle species in the Maldives. It is herbivorous and mainly feeds on algae and sea grass. Due to the differing diet of the Hawksbill Turtle (mainly invertebrates in the reef) and differing breeding grounds. The two species are not in direct competition but they do face the same human threats of egg-harvesting, habitat destruction and hunting. They can be seen all around the island, close to the reefs and in the lagoons. OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI offers Turtle Quest as an excursion where our in house guest explore their natural living habitat.



Spinner Dolphin (Maldivian Name: Maa Kommas)

The Spinner Dolphin is the most commonly sighted and abundant cetacean species in the Maldives. School sizes vary between very few and hundreds of individuals, generally increasing in average size the more distant the school is from the shore – probably an important anti-predation mechanism. They are particularly famous for their acrobatic displays in which they spin longitudinally along their axis as they leap through air. The reason for the spinning is not known; possible reasons may be to display dominance, to communicate their location, to hunt, to shake off parasites or remoras (fish attaching themselves to the dolphin's skin), or just for fun. Individuals have been spotted completing at least 14 spinning jumps in quick succession!



Giant Moray Eel (Maldivian Name: Ven)

They spend the day in the rocks with their head outside, and come out at night. There are several who reside at OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI reef. They are usually friendly. They breathe with open mouths, so they look like they are threatening. But actually they are not. However, if disturbed, they may attack.

Land Hermit Crab (Maldivian Name: Baravelli)

All land hermit crabs found along our beaches or amongst the island's rich vegetarian have adapted to a life outside the sea. As opposed to their close relatives in the reef, they do not breathe through gills but through wrinkled, thin, capillary-rich skin at the tip of their soft hind body. As hermit crabs grow, they must exchange their shell for a larger one. Since shells are not an unlimited resource, there is frequently strong competition among the hermit crabs for the available shells. Land hermit crabs are omnivorous scavengers and feed on all types of dead organic matter.

Parrot Fish

Parrotfish are known for their numerous teeth that form a parrot like beak which they use to get algae from the corals. Their bodies are deep with large pectoral fins which are used for movement and steering while the tail is only used to get a higher speed.

Sting Rays (Maldivian Name: Madi)

They are bentonic species, always in contact with the bottom, because they get food from little crabs and fishes which lives into the sand. They are friendly animals but they can be dangerous because of the camouflage. Sting rays have a poisoned spine in the tail. Torpedoes can discharge they have a electrical propriety if stepped on. Both are ovoviparous animals and they can give birth only several times in their life because of long gestation period.



Protect the Marine Life

At OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI, we take all precautions to protect and maintain our beautiful coral reef. We kindly request all our guests to avoid touching, breaking or standing on the coral.

OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI is keen to preserve the natural environment and we encourage our guests to join us by refraining from littering in to the lagoon.

Marine Safety Guidelines

Before you dive into the beautiful crystal ocean surrounding our island, please be aware of the safety precautions to make sure you have a safe and enjoyable swimming or diving experience.

Snorkeling Safety Information

The reef around OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI is abundant and vibrant with many species of fish and coral found on our house reef. However, please do take care and follow the Safety Information provided.

- Never go snorkeling alone. If you do not have a snorkeling buddy with you, please do inform our colleagues before you go out.
- Life jackets are available from the Dive Center for our guests who are not confident swimmers. We encourage all our guests to wear a life jacket especially if you are not a strong swimmer.
- Be sure to stay close to shore and to reserve enough energy to get back to shore safely. Swim on your back and tread water for a few minutes to regain energy if you are tired.
- Be aware of your surroundings. We recommend that our Dive Center is consulted before hand in order for you to check the conditions of the sea.
- Do not touch the marine life. Whilst most sea creatures are not harmful, some may be defensive and therefore aggressive if they feel that they are in danger. Maintain a safe distance and avoid making any sudden movements.
- Coral and other rough surfaces can severely injure a swimmer in shallow waters. Please inform our onsite Doctor if you have been cut or bruised whilst snorkeling.

Swimming Safety Information

The lagoon around OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI is inviting and safe for swimming. However we encourage all our guests to read through the Safety Information below and exercise caution when in the sea.

- Never go swimming alone. If you do not have a swimming buddy with you, please do inform our colleagues before you go out.
- Life jackets are available from the Dive Center for our guests who are not confident swimmers. We encourage all our guests to wear a life jacket especially if you are not a strong swimmer.
- Keep well within the safety markers and never swim between the ropes and jetties.
- Weather and sea conditions change regularly; please check with a member of our Dive Centre before you go swimming.
- Slowly wade in to the water—never dive headfirst.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Do not go swimming directly after a meal.
- Do not swim when under the influence of alcohol.

Basic Safety

- If you are in trouble, remain calm, call out for help and wave your arms above your head.
- Remain calm and try not to panic. Panicking will make you more tired and reduce your ability to reach the beach safely.
- Never try and swim directly towards the shore against the rip current.
- Do not fight the rip current, if you are unable to swim out of the rip current, float or calmly tread water. Try and swim parallel to the beach and towards where the waves are breaking until you are out of the current. When out of the current, swim towards shore.

- If you are unable to return to shore, draw attention to yourself by waving your arm above your head and shout for help.
- If you can stand up, wade instead of swimming.

Protected Dive Sites

There were a total of 15 important marine dive sites that were established as marine protected areas in 1996 and registered in the Ministry of Planning Human Resources and Environment and managed by the Ministry of Tourism. In 1999 additional 10 dive sites were declared as protected areas established in the Ministry of Home Affairs Housing and Environment. Anchoring, and fishing except for traditional bait-fishing and destructive activities are strictly prohibited in these sites.

Other Protected Areas apart from the designated marine protected areas, the following islands are conserved and protected from exploitation. These include:

- Hurasdhoo in North Ari Atoll
- Hithaadhoo in Gaaf Alif Atoll
- Rasfari in Kaafu Atoll

Protected Birds

In the Maldives there are a number of protected birds and wildlife, for example the White tern (*Gygis alba monte*) bird was listed as a protected species in June 1996 by the Ministry. Since 15 July 1999, 22 bird species are protected. Catching, maltreating, trading and keeping nesting grounds of these birds were banned effective 11 July 1999.

Protected Marine Species

Marine species banned from export in the Maldives include:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| • Black corals | • Lobsters and lobster meat |
| • Eels | • Whales |
| • Trochus shells | • All types of corals (except organ pipe coral) |
| • Bigeye scad under 6" | • Parrot fish |
| • Triton shells | • Turtles |
| • Skates and rays | • All types of bait fish |
| • Pearl Oysters | • Puffer fish |
| • Dolphins | |

Ongoing Green Initiatives

- Our hot water is heated from the residual heat of our generators.
- All our used paper and cardboard is incinerated with fallen leaves and branches added to make compost for our plants.
- We have LED lights in all the villas and the outlets.
- We have partnered with EcoPure (UK) to introduce glass bottles for drinking water in all guest areas. We eliminate the use of more than 100,000 plastic bottles a year.
- All our in villa liquid amenities in ceramic containers, reducing the amount of plastic.
- Non-woven, biodegradable packing used on all our amenity packing reduces the amount of plastic that arrives to the resort.
- Sustaining the local coconut industry as all our guests are presented with a welcome coconut drink upon arrival. All is purchased locally.
- All local varieties of fish are caught by the resort. Only specialty items are imported.
- Our sustainability training for all colleagues includes topics such as climate change, waste management and nature conservation.
- All our orientation programs include an hour's training on sustainability and environment protection
- Regular Island and/or reef clean-ups and other environmental events are organized.
- On the Team member's notice board, information on environmental events and issues are displayed
- Earth Hour and World Environment Day are observed each year.

Guest Initiatives - How Can YOU Help?

Here we have some suggestions on how you can help towards creating a more sustainable future.

1. Saving and preserving energy

Producing energy usually creates carbon emissions and is the biggest cause of global warming. At OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI we have several programmes to reduce our carbon footprint, you can also contribute by doing the following:

- If you are comfortable to, you can avoid using air-conditioning when you are in the villa and use natural ventilation instead. Open the window and enjoy the fresh air!
- When you are using the air-conditioning, try to keep the doors and windows closed and the temperature at a comfortable setting (we recommend 24 degrees Celsius).
- Switch off all unnecessary lights, especially when you are leaving the villa.
- Avoid leaving water taps running.

2. Water

Water consumption is quite a concern in Maldivian resorts, as a lot of energy is used to prepare freshwater for our everyday needs. The desalination process consumes a large amount of energy and contributes to the depletion of fossil fuels ultimately leading to global warming. You can help by trying to reduce your water consumption by following these useful tips:

- Avoid leaving taps running when washing and taking shower or brushing your teeth
- Reduce laundry by reusing your towels and bed sheets.
- Avoid wasting water, especially hot water.

3. Laundry

Laundry is one area where a lot of water and energy is used, additionally, a certain amount of detergents are required. One area where guests can help is by reducing the amount of laundry to save water and detergents:

- Leave the towels hanging, if you would like to use them again; place them in the floor if you would like them to be replaced.
- As for the bed linen, please leave the wooden block on the bed to indicate to our villa attendants that you would like your sheets changed. If no note is placed on the bed, change of sheets will take place every 2nd day.

4. Waste

Recycling facilities in the Maldives is still a work in process and at OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI we strive to help make the difference and have implemented an efficient recycling programme. Here are tips in how you could help to contribute:

- It would be a great help if you could take plastic containers (ie shampoo bottles, etc) back to your country where recycling facilities are no doubt more advanced.
- We would also request you to take batteries home with you as there are currently no facilities for re-cycling this, and would end up in landfill here in the Maldives.
- Please do not wrap your luggage in Clingfilm, as this is a completely unnecessary practice and produces a lot of plastic waste.

5. Natural Surroundings

The Maldives is home to beautiful and biologically diverse coral reefs, and is home to numerous animal and plant species. In order to maintain the ecological balance of our local nature and keep the organisms healthy, you can help by taking few easy steps.

- Please do not touch anything under water. Many animals are sensitive to touch and can easily be damaged. Corals, for example, have a mucous layer around them, while other animals, such as turtles, may suffer from stress.

- Do not break off any corals by standing on the reef or by flapping your flippers. Corals are living animals and require decades to build those reef formations. Please use the designated snorkel channels to get to the reef and back to the beach.
- Please refrain from feeding the fish, as well as our animals on the island (e.g. birds).
- Please do not collect any shells, broken coral pieces or other objects you may come across on the island and in the sea. They may serve as homes for hermit crabs and, consisting of calcium carbonate, are very important for generating new sand.
- Please do not buy any marine products, i.e. coral jewellery, shells or shark teeth. The concern is that most of the animals to which those skeletons originally belong to have deliberately been killed for the tourism industry and are often endangered species. You may also risk fines, as in some countries it is illegal to enter carrying these item.



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