



GETTING PREPARED FOR ATOLL EXPLORER

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Please check with your agent that they have forwarded through your flight details. If you would like to double check your transfers, please feel free to email reservations@universalresorts.com to reconfirm.

CLOTHING

Casual clothing is normal in the Maldives. Lightweight cottons and linen clothes are recommended. Items for Ladies would be sundresses, kaftans, light shirts, sarongs, shirts & skirts. If you plan to visit a local Island or Male, it is advisable to have your thighs and shoulders covered if visiting the inhabited local islands. For the men, light cotton shirts, shorts, pants, board shorts and some light and comfortable smart casual for evening wear.

Whilst on Atoll Explorer, most guest wear comfortable clothes throughout the day and night. Board shorts and bikinis with shirts and sundresses are the norm. Slides slippers and even barefeet are acceptable. Ladies can dress more freely and relaxed without feeling that you are offending anyone. High heels are not required.

CLIMATE

Generally warm and humid. The sun shines all year round. The average temperature is around 29/32° Celsius. The wetter times are normally between May to June and September to November. These periods can be daily patchy light showers to good thunderstorms. The water temperature ranges from 24/30° Celsius. During this time the water is warm and the fish do not seem to mind the rain.

CURRENCY

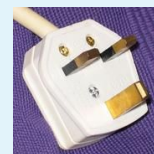
The Maldivian currency is the Rufiyaa and comes in denominations of 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 500 notes. A Rufiyaa consists of 100 Laarees. The American dollar is the most commonly used foreign currency on the Islands and Atoll Explorer' so there is no real reason to exchange or bring Maldivian Rufiyaa.

DIETARY REQUIRMENTS

On board Atoll Explorer, we are able to cater of a number of requests. Vegetarians, and Gluten Free, can be catered for. Not all dishes are suitable for all guests. We will need some advance notice about your deitary requirements so please email us on explorer@dhivehinet.net.mv.

ELECTRICITY

The electrical current is 230 volts, 50Hz. This is a European three pin sockets in use.



HEALTH

We have qualified first aiders on board at all times. A doctor is available on several Inhabited Islands that we and also in Male. A decompression chambers are available within the Maldives.

We do recommend wearing mosquito repellent and sunscreens. In terms of Vaccinations, we recommend that you research you countries government travel advice website.



LANGUAGE

Dhivehi is the language spoken in all parts of the Maldives. English is widely spoken by Maldivians.

LAUNDRY

Laundry can be completed when you have stopped overnight at Kurumba. The options are either with a wash and iron or dry cleaning. The turnaround is completed within 24 hours.

LEGALITIES IN THE MALDIVES IN BRIEF

Entry and Exit requirements

- A completed Disembarkation/Embarkation card. Blank cards are usually handed out on the inward flight, but otherwise they are available in the Immigration Hall. You will need to enter your passport number so it is a good idea to have this handy on the flight.
- A no-cost 30 day Visitor Visa. This is issued on arrival, with the date stamped in your passport. Requests for extensions to this visa (up to a total of 90 days) should be made to the Department of Immigration and Emigration. These are generally approved provided there is evidence of sufficient funds to finance the extension and you are staying on a resort island.
- If you are travelling from a Yellow Fever Infection area, a current Immunization Certificate is required.
- If you arrive without a hotel reservation, you must have at least \$100 + \$50 per day at your disposal.
- A Departure Tax is payable, but this is usually included in your airline ticket.

For the most up to date tourist visa information <http://www.immigration.gov.mv>

Importing/exporting goods

All luggage is x-rayed by Customs, after immigration. The following items may not be brought into the Maldives:

- Narcotics: The Maldives has strong anti-drug laws. Possession of drugs can result in serious repercussions. It is a good idea to carry either a Doctor's letter or a copy of a current prescription, if carrying medicines.
- Alcohol: This is readily available on the resort islands. It is not available in Male or at the airport. If you have bought Duty Free on your outward flight, as it will be confiscated at immigration and will not be returned.
- Religious Materials: If deemed contrary to Islam, including "idols for worship" will be confiscated. A bible for personal use is acceptable.
- Pork and pork products
- Pornographic material
- Explosives, weapons, firearms and ammunition

There is a very long list of items that may not be exported which can be summarised as:

- Coral
- Shells
- Fish
- Any shark items

The following are also forbidden in the Maldives:

- Fishing from beaches, an island and with rods. This is illegal. If you wish to fish, you may do so by booking one of the fishing trips organised and run by the resort islands.
- Collection of Marine items
- Nudism and topless sunbathing. Bikinis, board shorts and Speedos whilst on board or inhabited Islands is more than acceptable when you are on the beach.



LOCAL TIME

Maldives is 9 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time, 12 hours ahead of Pacific Standard and UTC/GMT + 5 hrs.

TELEPHONES

If you've got a mobile phone, then we should say that it seems that only the major islands are covered by the Dhiragu. This operator uses a GSM 900 network, which is well-suited with many international cell phone operators. However, please check your roaming costs as this can be expensive. You can purchase a pre paid sim card at the airport just outside of arrivals. Internet links can be found but the speed and connectivity can be intermittent throughout the Maldives.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

The reality is that with any holiday, we should all consider travel insurance. It's probably a good idea to think about holiday insurance for your Maldives trip.

RELIGION

Islam was introduced around 800 AD and the moderate form practiced in the Maldives has remained virtually unchanged. Government regulation does not allow any form of other religious statues, monuments or celebrations within the Maldives. During the holy month of Ramadan (August/September), Muslims are required to fast between sunrise and sunset. They are expected to use this period of abstinence for prayer and contemplation. In practice, guests onboard Atoll Explorer are unlikely to be affected by Ramadan but there may be some periods where a few extra staff have left for a quick meal break.

ROOM AMENITIES

In all cabins are soaps, shampoos, conditioner, bath towels, beach towels & a guest compendium.

SHOPPING

Atoll has a small shop in reception offers a range of gift ware, toiletries, snacks, entertainment items, local arts and crafts.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2011

At the time of writing, this is the known public holidays in the capital Male. You will only notice this if you visit Male the Capitol city where some shops will be closes.

1 st Jan (Saturday)	: New years Day
4 th Feb (Friday)	: National Day
15 th Feb (Tuesday)	: Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
7 th Mar (Monday)	: The Day Maldives Embraced Islam
26 th Jul (Tuesday)	: Independence Day
1 st Aug (Monday)	: Beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan
30 th Aug (Tuesday)	: Fit'r Eid Day
3 th Nov (Thursday)	: Victory Day
5 th Nov (Saturday)	: Hajj Day
6 th Nov (Sunday)	: Al'h'aa Eid Day
11 th Nov (Friday)	: Republic Day
26 th Nov (Saturday)	: Islamic New year Day



WHAT TO PACK LIST

- Toiletries
- Sunscreen with high SPF
- Insect repellent
- Lotion (Aloe Vera) or after sun
- Your own skin care or face wash cream
- Vital medications
- Normal home toiletries such as toothbrush and paste, razor and cream, deodorant etc
- Make Up – if you just cannot do without

Clothing & Attire

- Sunglasses
- Hat or Cap for shade from the sun
- Light cotton clothing, sarongs, sun dresses, light shorts or pants, light shirts
- Bathing suits. Board shorts, bikinis etc
- Slides, slippers & comfortable shoes. Exercise shoes for walking on the Islands.

Other items

- Digital camera or video camera
- Reading and personal entertainment
- Rucksack for day trips

Other special personal effects you may need

- Diving certificates, ticket and log book, or required doctors letters if you have a medical condition and want to dive
- Travel documents
- If you have special medications – a doctors certificate
- Credit Card (Visa, Bankcard or American Express)
- US dollars (Local Maldivian Currency is not really required)
- Passport
- Flight tickets
- Hotel booking vouchers
- Travel itineraries
- Travel insurance details

Atoll explorer quick contacts

Captain Fulhu : explorer@dhivehinet.net.mv
Reservations : reservations@universalresorts.com
Euro Divers : atollexplorer@eurodivers.com
Sales : sales@atollexplorer.com
Resort Contact : jason.kruse@kurumba.com

This is not a comprehensive list on the getting prepared fact sheet, however we hope that it is helpful to your enjoyment when staying on Atoll Explorer.