



General Information Note

Official Celebrations

World Tourism Day 2013

Organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture,
Maldives

in collaboration with the

World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

27 September 2013

Kurumba Island Resort, Republic of Maldives

Maldives was selected as the venue for the World Tourism Day Celebrations 2013 by the 18th UNWTO General Assembly and the theme for the year was declared as “Tourism and Water – Protecting our Common Future”. As part of celebrations a Think Tank Seminar is organized by Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture (MOTAC) in collaboration with United Nations World Tourism Organizations (UNWTO) on the 27th September 2013 at Kurumba Maldives.

The Maldives is celebrating its 40 years of sustainable tourism development. We share with you information of this important event in this year’s tourism calendar of activities and invite you to join the celebrations. It gives us a great pleasure to welcome you to this world re-known tourism destination.

1. HOST COUNTRY

The Maldives is an archipelago of 1,192 splendid isolated coral islands grouped into 26 coral atolls in the middle of the Indian Ocean. There are 200 inhabited local islands and 105 tourist resorts. The capital of Maldives is Male’ City, which is home to one third of the country’s total population.

Tourism is the main industry contributing close to 30 per cent of the GDP. While 90 per cent of Government Tax Revenue originates from Import duties and other tourism related taxes, this sector is also the main foreign exchange generator. The second largest sector contributing to the economy is the fisheries industry trade and construction sector follows close behind.

The Maldives is globally recognized for its unique tourism development model “One Island, One Resort”. Under this model, each resort is developed on a virgin island. It is well known for its spectacular natural beauty; palm fringed coral islands surrounded by soft, white sandy beaches, crystal-clear lagoon and miles and miles of ocean in shades of blue and turquoise. The Maldives is also a divers’ paradise, the rich marine resources with more than 700 species of marine life and 70 different species of coral reefs around the mesmerizing atolls attracts diving enthusiasts from across the world.



Image: Under water Scene of the Maldives,



Image: Ariel view of Maldives
by Ahmed Shareed Nafees ,

2. VENUE

The official celebrations of the World Tourism Day 2013 and Think Tank Seminar will be held at Kurumba Maldives, which was the first resort opened in the Maldives. It is co-organized by the UNWTO and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture (MOTAC) of the Republic of Maldives, with the support of the Maldives Marketing Relations Corporation (MMPRC) and the Maldives Tourism Industry. Kurumba Maldives is 10-15 minutes from Ibrahim Nasir International Airport.

Kurumba Maldives
Republic of Maldives
Telephone : (960) 664 2324
Fax: (960) 664 3885
Email: kurumba@kurumba.com
Website: www.kurumba.com



Image: Ariel view of Kurumba Maldives,



Image: Conference hall of Kurumba Maldives,

3. REGISTRATION

Participants are requested to complete the attached registration form and to return to the UNWTO Secretariat by **20th September 2013**. Once on site, the badge and information folder will be distributed to the participants at the registration desk in Kurumba Maldives on Friday, September 27th from 07:30 to 08:45:00 hrs.

4. ACCOMMODATION

The resorts nearby the venue of the conference listed below offer the participants special discounted rates, in limited numbers and on a first-come, first served basis. Payment by credit card and bank transfer is accepted, though credit card is highly recommended. Rooms will be blocked for delegates from 25th September 2013 to 29th September 2013, after which date availability cannot be guaranteed. Participants are encouraged to book accommodation as early as possible. All Rates are in USD and subject to 18.8% government tax and service charge and USD\$ 8 per person/ night.

1. Kurumba Maldives

	Room Type	Rates (\$)	Meal Plan
Kurumba Maldives Telephone : (960) 664 2324 Fax: (960) 664 3885 Email: kurumba@kurumba.com sales@kurumba.com Website: www.kurumba.com	Superior Room	200	BB
	Deluxe Room	220	BB
	Deluxe Bungalow	260	BB
	Beachfront Deluxe Bungalow	330	BB
	Garden Pool Villa	350	BB
	Private Villa	405	BB
	Deluxe Pool Villa	480	BB

Room rates are based on Single, for Double occupancy an additional USD 20.00 will be charged per room night

2. Bandos Island Resort

	Room Type	Rates (USD)		
		Single	Double	Meal Plan
Bandos Island Resort Telephone : (960) 664 0088 Fax: (960) 664 3877 Email: sales@bandos.com.mv Website: www.bandos.com	Standard	161	219	BB
		193	283	HB
		218	333	FB
		265	427	AI
	Deluxe	230	289	BB
		262	353	HB
		287	403	FB
		334	497	AI
	Garden Villa	258	317	BB
		290	381	HB
		315	431	FB
		362	525	AI
	Jacuzzi Beach Villa	341	400	BB
		373	464	HB
		398	514	FB
		445	608	AI

3. Sheraton Full Moon Resort & Spa

	Room Type	Rates (USD)	Meal Plan
Sheraton Full Moon Resort & Spa Telephone: (960) 664 2010 Fax: (960) 664 1979 Email: sheraton.maldives@sheraton.com Website: http://www.sheratonmaldives.com	Beach Front Deluxe	348	BB
	Island Cottage	466	BB
	Beach Front Cottage	528	BB
	Water Bungalow	584	BB
	Water Villa	730	BB
	Ocean Villa	843	BB
	Water Suite	1,124	BB

5. TRANSPORTATION

Transfer from airport to resorts would be arranged by the respective resorts for participants holding confirmed bookings. Travel arrangements between venue and Capital Malé will be arranged by the organizers and the schedule will be available to all the delegates.

6. SOCIAL EVENTS

Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture of the Republic of Maldives, HE. Mr. Ahmed Adeen Abdul Gafoor will host a welcome reception on 26th September 2013 at 18:00hrs (by invitation only). On 27th September 2013 at 20:00, the Farewell Dinner will be hosted at Kuda Bandos, by the Government of the Maldives.

7. FOOD

A vast selection of International cuisines is available in all the resorts and hotels. However, if you have any diet restriction, please inform us in advance.

8. TRAVELLING TO THE MALDIVES

a. Airline connections

For information on all major airlines travelling to the Maldives, please visit:

<http://www.visitmaldives.com/en/getting-here/airlines-to-ibrahim-nasir-male-international-airport>

b. Immigration and Visa

All visitors are issued a 30-day visa on arrival. A valid travel document is necessary.

c. Customs

It is prohibited to bring in firearms, drugs, pornography or idols of worship into the Maldives. Alcohol and pork products are restricted to import except under a special license. Alcoholic beverages and pork products are served in all the tourist resorts. For other import restrictions to Maldives, please visit the website of Maldives Customs: <http://www.customs.gov.mv/en/?p=1111>

d. Health Requirements

Visitors to the Maldives, if arriving from yellow fever and cholera infected countries, require an international certificate of inoculation against yellow fever and cholera to enter the country.

9. USEFUL INFORMATION

Time:	GMT+5hrs
Capital:	Male' City
Total islands:	1,190
Inhabited islands:	200
Resort islands:	105
Population:	298,968, Census 2006
Major industries:	Tourism, Fishing, Building and Construction
Currency:	Rufiyaa (USD 1 = MVR 15.42)
Electricity:	220 - 240 AC (standard flat pin plug)
Government Working hours:	8:00 am to 3:00 pm Sunday to Thursday
Bank hours:	9:00am to 03:00 pm Sunday to Thursday

a. Currency & Exchange Rate

The Maldivian currency is the Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR). One Rufiyaa is 100 Laari and is available in 500, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5 Rufiyaa notes. One US Dollar is equivalent to Rufiyaa 15.42. Visit Bank of Maldives Website: <http://www.bankofmaldives.com.mv> for currency exchange rate details.

b. Credit Card

Major credit cards such as AMEX, Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted at resorts, hotels, restaurants and stores. Automated Teller Machines (ATM) are available at Ibrahim Nasir International Airport and in the capital, Malé but not in tourist resorts.

c. Climate

Although it is warm throughout the year, there are slight variations in the temperature during certain periods determined by the two monsoons. The Northwest monsoon from November to April is mostly dry with very little wind, while the Southwest monsoon from May to October brings some rain and wind. Being on the equator, the monsoons are mild and the temperature varies very little and the humidity rate is high. For more information about weather in the Maldives, please visit www.meteorology.gov.mv

10. TECHNICAL TOUR

A technical tour is arranged for the delegates to experience the unique tourism products in the Maldives, which includes a sea plane ride to one of the luxury resorts in South Ari Atoll.



Image: Ithaa, Underwater restaurant at Conrad Maldives at



Image: Aerial View, Rangali Island



Image: Sea plane landed nearby an island

11. CONTACT INFORMATION

UNWTO Secretariat	Host Country
<p>Mr. Shuo WANG (Jason) Assistant Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific Tel: (34) 91 5678193 Fax: (34) 91 5713733 Email: swang@unwto.org</p> <p>Ms. Hui ZHANG Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific Tel: (34) 91 5678262 Fax: (34) 91 5713733 Email: asia3@unwto.org</p>	<p>Mr. Moosa Zameer Hassan Deputy Director General Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture, Maldives Tel: (960) 777 2155 Fax: (960) 332 2517 Email: zameer@tourism.gov.mv</p> <p>Ms. Fathimath Samaah Senior Planning Officer Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture, Maldives Tel: (960) 999 9226 Fax: (960) 332 2512 Email: fathmath.sama@tourism.gov.mv</p>