

For one to enjoy, a lone hammock at Six Senses Laamu.

Solo Maldives sojourn

Forget honeymooners and couples. The Maldives is a perfect playground for solo, independent travellers, writes Angela Goh

TRAVEL FILE

SCOOT flies to Maldives four times weekly (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday) from Singapore with daily connecting flights to Kuala Lumpur. Scoot-Thru is a complimentary service offering seamless flight connection and check-through luggage (for Scoot, Singapore Airlines and SilkAir) at Singapore Changi Airport. Details at www.flyscoot.com.

“YOU should go with someone,” exhorts a friend on hearing that I am headed for the Maldives alone, echoing the many who regard the idyllic archipelago as a holiday destination meant only for couples.

The stunning, sublime seascape is as enticing for lovebirds and honeymooners as for solo tourists. Those looking for some “me time” to recharge, reboot and reconnect with themselves on an idyllic beach resort need not look elsewhere.

SOLO, SO GOOD

Nowhere ticks all the boxes for solo travel (perhaps Bhutan, but there is no beach there) than in the Maldives for the following factors:

- **Ease of access:** Well connected by major airlines, including low-cost carriers. You will be met by resort representatives who will handle all transfers from Male airport to the resort.
- **Safety and security:** You will be in safe hands as the Maldives is geared for high end tourism. For activities, the equipment and safety measures are top notch.
- **Variety of accommodation:** From mid-range to luxury resorts with various room types, the Maldives also offers the highest number of overwater villas.
- **Hospitality brands:** Internationally renowned hotels have a presence in the archipelago.
- **Quality service:** Well trained, non-intrusive. The island nation has long been a premier holiday destination with a high standard of service.
- **Activities:** You name it they’ve got it.
- **No single supplement:** The biggest bug bear for solo travellers. Book direct and pay per room not per head.

The variety of resorts caters for a wide spectrum of proclivities, cravings and impulses. From large, activity-filled properties to small, rustic resorts, and wellness-driven retreats, the following three are but a small sample of options for travellers of different interests.

BLISS IN SECLUSION

Nestled on a tiny island in a dream-like dazzling blue shallow lagoon, Naladhu Maldives is shrouded by trees and bushes, exuding the feeling of being in the middle of nowhere. Along with a butler, guests are attended to by a small coterie of friendly staff, delivering impeccable, yet relaxed and informal service.

The resort island is endowed with a photo-perfect location, lying among a cluster of three islands and a couple of islets. Across a clear turquoise lagoon are two sister resorts, the adults-only Anantara Veli and family-friendly Anantara Dhigu, whose facilities Naladhu guests are free to access.

However, Naladhu, the most luxurious and exclusive of the three, remains off-limits to other guests by a weathered wooden door on a walkway, which remains locked (save for Naladhu guests who have the access key). Privacy and solitude are guaranteed.

The villas or “houses” as they are referred to here are each a sprawling 300 square metres and tucked amid well-manicured plants and accessed through sandy paths. The Ocean Pool Houses, within easy reach of the beach, are replete with a kaleidoscope of sights and sounds, akin to staying in an overwater villa.

The large bedroom-cum-living room, bathed in natural light, looks out to an impressive ocean vista. A cosy dressing area decked in old world charm, together with a discreetly appointed walk-in wardrobe, leads to an open-sided bath and spa area, featuring outdoor and indoor shower, steam room and sunken bathtub.



Long, languorous moments are enjoyed in the sunken infinity edge terrazzo bathtub which abuts a pool fronting the sea.

What more, spa treatments are done in the guest's villa on the outdoor deck, fronting a roaring, roiling sea for added

FAST FACTS

NALADHU MALDIVES
Velighandu Huraa island,
South Male Atoll, Maldives

EMAIL stay@naladhu.com
WEBSITE <http://naladhu.anantara.com/>

HIGHS Small resort with utmost privacy. Homestyle residences instead of rooms. Each house has a House Master or butler who is on-call 24 hours. Private beach cabana. Three-in-one options of neighbouring resorts for dining, beaches and activities.

LOWS Is not exclusive to adults only.



ambience.

Without having to set foot outside the resort, meals from any of the eight dining options on the other two islands can be served at Naladhu's scenic beachside restaurant, The Living Room. This resort is utopia for the recluse.