Country Profile: Maldives

The Republic of the Maldives consists of 1,190 islands (fewer than 200 are inhabited) in the Indian Ocean, southwest of Sri Lanka. The Maldives has a population of 379,174, of whom about 104,000 reside in Male, the capital city. Beautiful atolls, inhabited by over 1,100 species of fish and other sea life, attract thousands of visitors each year. Tourism facilities are well developed on the resort islands. The tsunami of December 26, 2004 damaged several hotels and facilities on some of the islands, but all damaged tourism infrastructure has been rebuilt. Read the Department of State Background Notes on the Maldives for additional information.

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COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Country Name:	Maldives
Continent:	Asia
Capital City:	Male
Boundary Countries:	
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Male: ADK Hospital, IGM Hospital
Main Cities:	Male
Country Size:	300 sq km
Population:	369,031

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Maldivian Dhivehi (dialect of Sinhala, script derived from Arabic), English spoken by most government officials
Currency:	Maldive Rufiyaa (MVR)
Predominant Religions:	Sunni Muslim
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 26 July (1965)
Economic Status:	Tourism, Maldives' largest industry, accounts for 28% of GDP and more than 60% of the Maldives' foreign exchange receipts. Over 90% of government tax revenue comes from import duties and tourism-related taxes.
Security:	National Security Service: Security Branch (ground forces), Air Element, Coast Guard
US Presence:	U.S. Virtual Mission in Maldives 210 Galle Road Colombo 03 Sri Lanka Phone: +94 (11) 249-8500
Major Airports:	Airports: 5, Airports w/paved runways: 2 Male International Airport (MLE/VRMM) Male Airport, Maldives, Maldives Airports Company Ltd, Hulhule, Male, REPBULIC OF MALDIVES Tel: +960 (0)333 8800, +960 (0)332 5511, +960 (0)332 2211 Fax: +960 (0)333 1515 Website: www.airports.com.mv Customs, hours: 24 hours Tel: +960 (0)323409 Fax: +960 (0)322633

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