

boatinginsider

by NBAM

National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM)

Phone: +960 797 0033 | Email: info@boating.mv

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REMINDER

All Liveaboard Operators,

Please note that it is **MANDATORY** to get permission from the Ministry of Tourism prior to restarting operations.

Below are the required documents:

- Declaration Form
- Operating License
- Health and Safety Plan

Boat Owners should not have any tourist arrival prior to receiving the permission from Ministry of Tourism.

Please contact us for further information on +960 7970033
Thank you, National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM).

For the safety of all visitors, the Health Protection Agency Maldives (HPA) has made it mandatory for all tourists and short-term visitors to present a Negative PCR Certificate on arrival to Maldives, with effect from September 10, 2020. The said PCR test must be conducted within a maximum of 72 hours prior to departure to the Maldives.

Photo by karl muscat on Unsplash

MTCC Donates PPE Equipment to NBAM

Maldives Transport and Contracting Company Limited (MTCC) has donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the National Boating Association of Maldives on 27th August 2020. The donation was made to support the pandemic response efforts of safari operators, said MTCC. With the help of PPE, contact between liveaboard operations employees and tourists will be reduced in addition to enabling them to conduct safe testing for COVID-19 in the Maldives.

On July 15, Maldives officially reopened borders and resumed tourism related...

P:02

VIA Receives Airport Health Accreditation Certificate from Airport Council

After implementation of consistent measures in the fight against COVID-19, Velana International Airport (VIA), the main gateway to the Maldives has received the much awaited "Airport Health Accreditation" by the Airport Council International (ACI).

Velana International Airport is the 2nd airport in the Asia Pacific Region and 12th from the world to receive the ACI Airport Health Accreditation, awarded by a special letter sent to MACL's CEO & MD Gordon Stewart by ACI World's Director General Luis Felipe de Oliveira on August 31, 2020...

P:03

IATA Reveals Health Checklist for Airlines

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has released an airline self-assessment health checklist to support the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Take-off: Guidance for Air Travel through the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis. The Take-off guidance is the global standard framework of risk-based temporary measures for governments and the air transport value chain for safe operations during the COVID-19 crisis.

"Safety is always the number one priority for air transport. And the challenges of COVID-19 have added a new dimension to our efforts. Developed with input...

P:04

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The First PCR Sampling Station in Hulhumale' for Passengers Departing from Liveaboards



The NBAM together with the Ministry of Tourism, HDC, the HPA and the Maldives Police Service have established the first PCR sampling station in Hulhumale' for passengers departing from liveaboards.

The special testing hut located near the jetty area in Hulhumale' was a proactive initiative proposed by the National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM) to the Ministry of Tourism and Housing Development Corporation Limited (HDC). The team coordinated and set up the hut in five days to

facilitate the key stakeholders in the industry, with the support of the Health protection Agency (HPA) team and the Maldives Police Service. The first guest PCR sampling test was collected at the testing booth on August 11, 2020.

According to the Ministry's statement, vessels operating or cruising across the country may coordinate with the atoll or regional hospital focal points to make arrangements for sampling. Liveaboards are required to keep a stock of UTM testing kits and make necessary arrangements for sample transportation through the respective atoll collection points or any other means of transportation.

The Ministry of Tourism advises all facilities to adhere to the guidelines set forth by all relevant authorities and reminds all facilities to ensure that tourists, who require a negative PCR test result for their outbound flight or onward destination, are not taken to the airport for departure without a negative test result on hand.

Details of the guests to be tested must be shared in advance to info@boating.mv or +960 7970033 (Ahmed Visaam, NBAM) in order to pre-book testing and make the arrangements.

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On July 15, Maldives officially reopened borders and

resumed tourism related activities with stringent measures implemented for the safety of international arrivals as well as locals. The association further advised safari operators to prevent movement of people between the islands and the safari vessels.

Most recently, NBAM together with the Ministry of Tourism, Housing Development Corporation Ltd. (HDC), Health Protection Agency (HPA) and Maldives Police Service established the first PCR sampling station in Hulhumale' for passengers departing from safari vessels.

Floating Asia Summer 2020 Edition



Floating Asia meticulously showcases liveaboards and trends exclusively from the cruising and liveaboard holiday market of Asia. The readership is a premium blend of over 40,000 travellers as well as visitors to the website www.floatingasia.com in their search for the best liveaboards, surf breaks and dive sites in the region.

Published bi-annually for anyone seeking the hot spots in Asia for scuba diving, surfing and liveaboard vacations, there is always more to come with Floating Asia as readers cruise along the coasts of Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Maldives, India and Sri Lanka. Readers can browse with confidence as they learn about the most up-to-date, ultimate liveaboard experiences this season – whether it's on a budget, for luxury, or everything in between.

As Asia's Exclusive liveaboard magazine, Floating Asia has been successfully published since 2006 by leading event management, publication and PR company in the Maldives - Highrise Pvt Ltd. 10,000 copies of the publication have been distributed in major travel fairs, boat shows and to all the key stakeholders in the Maldives and South Asia. Floating Asia is a media partner of the NBAM.

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Maldives Secures Dream Dive Destination Award at Marine Diving Fair 2020



The Maldives has won the prestigious Dream Dive Destination award at the Dive and Travel Awards, hosted by the Marine Diving Fair 2020. This is the 12th consecutive year that the Maldives has won this award.

The Marine Diving Fair is an annual scuba diving and beach resorts fair that takes place in Tokyo, Japan. It is a platform created to cater to a large number of scuba divers and marine enthusiasts. It has been noted that the dive segment of the Maldives attracts the most visitors from Japan. Thereby, the

Marine Diving Fair opens the opportunity to reach travellers in the dive segment.

The Maldives Marketing & Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC) has been doing continuous marketing activities in the Japanese market and in other global markets as well, focusing on the online and digital advertising opportunities. Some of the main activities recently conducted include the Visit Maldives Later campaign on social media platforms, Maldives: The Sun Will Shine Again - Facebook live event, and the webinar series conducted under the Rediscover Maldives campaign, which will be used to share information about the new norms of travelling to the Maldives and to showcase the experiences that await tourists. The webinar series focuses on the different markets including Japan, Southeast Asia, and other major markets to Maldives.

The Japanese market is ranked 10th among the source market to Maldives based on the February 2020 arrival statistics. By the end of February 2020, 4,052 Japanese arrivals were recorded, which is a growth of 2.4% compared to the previous year. In 2019 a total of 44,251 arrivals were recorded, which is a growth of 4.6%. With the continued positive growth in arrivals from the market, the Maldives is hopeful and ready to welcome tourists back, and to ensure that it's a safe haven for all.

VIA Receives Airport Health Accreditation Certificate from Airport Council International



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Velana International Airport is the 2nd airport in the Asia Pacific Region and 12th from the world to receive the ACI Airport Health Accreditation, awarded by a special letter sent to MACL's CEO & MD Gordon Stewart by ACI World's Director General Luis Felipe de Oliveira on August 31, 2020.

VIA achieved the certification by completing a tight assessment by ACI in alignment with the guidelines for health measures established by ICAO, CART, EASA, and ACI recovery guidance, including ACI EUROPE's Guidelines for a Healthy Passenger Experience at Airports. ACI's Airport Health Accreditation programme assists airports by assessing new health measures and procedures introduced as a result of the COVID-19, in accordance with ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force recommendations.

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For more information please contact +960 7970033, or email to info@boating.mv

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"Safety is always the number one priority for air transport. And the challenges of COVID-19 have added a new dimension to our efforts. Developed with input from industry, public health authorities and governments, ICAO's Take-off guidance is the global standard for safe operations. IATA's self-assessment checklist is a practical implementation guide to help airlines comply," said IATA's Director General and CEO, Alexandre de Juniac.

"A harmonized approach to health is key not only to the recovery of civil aviation but also to 'building back better,' which is crucially important to ensuring the future resilience of the aviation network. IATA's health checklist for airlines will be of importance in terms of providing momentum for the implementation of the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) recommendations, of which harmonization and resilience are the guiding principles," said ICAO's Council President, Salvatore Sciacchitano.

The IATA Health Safety Checklist for Airline Operators provides the standards and recommended practices (IHSARPs), associated guidance material and other supporting information necessary for an operator to self-assess. Covered sections include:

- Pre-arrival notification;
- Check in;
- Embarkation and Disembarkation;
- Aircraft Cleaning;
- Onboard Air Quality;
- In-flight Operations;
- Flight and Cabin Crew – General;
- Crew Layover;
- Airport Facilities.

The checklist is available at www.iata.org. and can be used free of charge by interested airlines.

Private Transport Service Provider 'Relax Speed' Commences Scheduled Ferry Services Between Huvadhoo Atoll and Addu City



Relax Speed, the private transport service provider based in Thoddoo, Alif Alif Atoll, has commenced scheduled ferry services connecting Addu City to seven islands in Huvadhoo Atoll and to Fuvahmulah.

According to the company, a speedboat with the capacity to accommodate 60 pax per trip will carry out the scheduled transportation service and will be operational on a weekly basis – every Monday and Thursday. The ferry boats will travel through the route Thinadhoo, Madaveli, Nadella, Rathafandhoo, Fiyoree, Faresmaathodaa and Vaadhoo in Huvadhoo Atoll.

One-way fares for the mentioned islands to Addu City and vice versa are as follows:

- Addu City to Vaadhoo-Faresmaathoda - MVR 700
- Addu City to Madaveli-Thinadhoo - MVR 800
- Addu City to Fuvahmulah - MVR 300

Owner of Relax Speed, Ali Risaan noted that the main objective of facilitating easier travel from various neighbouring islands to Addu City is to help locals receive medical assistance from the recently established tertiary hospital in Addu City. Addu Equatorial Hospital (AEH) inaugurated on January 15, 2020, is the only tertiary hospital operating outside the capital greater Malé area in the Maldives.



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Direct Cargo Ferry Service Between Maldives and India to Commence in September



The High Commission of India in the Maldives has confirmed the launch of a direct cargo ferry service, connecting the ports of Kochi/Tuticorin and Male' starting from the 3rd week of September 2020.

Describing the new service as 'sea-connectivity for prosperity', the High Commission of India revealed that the vessel carrying out this cargo service will be operated by Shipping Corp. of India.

The vessel can carry 200 TEUs & 3000 MTs of break-bulk cargo. It is

expected to take a turnaround time of 10 days.

The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi initially announced the conduct of a regular cargo ferry service between the two nations during his visit to Maldives in June 2019. With further plans to extend this service to Hdh Atoll Kulhudhufushi, it is expected to revolutionize bilateral trade linkages and support the development of the northern atolls, says the Indian High Commission.

Maldives Receives Marine Pollution Response Equipment as Aid from the Government of Japan



The Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) has received Marine Pollution Response Equipment as aid from the Government of Japan.

“This equipment, gifted to the MNDF Coast Guard, will be a vital asset in tackling various pollution threats, thereby enhancing the response capacity” said, Chief of Defense Force Major General Abdulla Shamal.

During a small handover ceremony held on August 17, Hon. Minister of Defence Mariya Ahmed Didi accepted the donation on behalf of the Ministry while the Ambassador of Japan to Maldives HE Keiko Yanai handed over the equipment on behalf of Japan. The equipment was delivered to enhance the pollution response capacity in MNDF. The oil spill response equipment is worth a staggering USD 2.8 million. Japan continues to prove its status as an outstanding international partner of Maldives during this time, said Mariya Ahmed Didi.

Surf Magazine “Dhevi Hifaafa” Releases its First Issue



The first local surf magazine “Dhevi Hifaafa” has been officially launched at a ceremony held on September 2, 2020, at the Head Office of the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Cooperation (MMPRC).

“Dhevi Hifaafa” magazine aims to document and archive the long and rich history of surfing in the Maldives. The magazine explores and provides opportunities to nurture journalism, photography, videography and other surf-related activities. It pledges and works to create a hub and dialogue for environmental awareness as well as supporting local brands by promoting their endeavours.

“Dhevi Hifaafa”, the name of the magazine, when translated in the local language Dhivehi is “addiction”. It represents the passion and desire that flows through Maldivian surfers and is only justified as such. The Magazine was founded by Nahshal Nasir and Amir Amin Didi, both surfers who have brought their different experiences together to explore and deliver news about surfing in the Maldives through various mediums. Dhevi Hifaafa is an annual publication which is available for free via their website.

This first issue is now available for download on their website www.dhevihifaafa.com. Printed publications will be available at selected outlets across Male'.

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NBAM Members Permitted to Restart Operations (as of 2nd September 2020)



Since the restart of Tourism Operations in Maldives in 15th July 2020, Ministry of Tourism has permitted 52 NBAM Member Liveaboards to restart operations as of 2nd September 2020. Below is the list of the Liveaboards:

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| - Maavahi | - Princess Dhonkamana | - Emperor Serenity | - Carpe Diem |
| - Searex | - Horizon 3 | - Emperor Explorer | - Carpe Vita |
| - Gurahali | - Horizon 2 | - Emperor Virgo | - Scubaspa Ying |
| - Koimala | - White Sand | - Emperor Voyager | - Scubaspa Yang |
| - Seafarer | - Sunkissed | - Sachika | - Ocean One |
| - Blue Shark 2 | - Atoll Jade | - Alice | - Moonimaa |
| - Gahaa | - Dhinasha | - Island Safari 1 | - Princess Haleema |
| - Gulfaam | - Soneva in Aqua | - Island Safari 2 | - Azalea Cruise |
| - Sea Coral | - Noah | - Maldiviana | - Handhufalhi |
| - Leo | - Fascination Maldives | - Marselia Star | - Handy Cruise |
| - Handhu | - Searex | - Honors Legacy | |
| - Soleil | - Ritrella | - Blue Shark 1 | |
| - Soleil 2 | - Emperor Leo | - Assidha | |
| - Adora | - Emperor Atoll | - Carpe Novo | |



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