

boatinginsider

by NBAM

National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM)

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**MALDIVES
MARINE
EXPO 2020**
VIRTUAL



20 -24 December



Online Event



MaldivesMarineExpo
 MvMarineExpo
 MvMarineExpo

Free Visitor Registration

➔ **www.marineexpo.mv**

Event Partnership MOU for Maldives Marine Expo Virtual 2020

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**BE A MEMBER
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Amit Malhotra, Director of Events Solution India signed on behalf of the company as the Virtual Event Partner, while Sham Mohamed, Director of Medium Private Limited signed on behalf of Maldives Marine Expo event organizing team.

Established in 2011, Events Solution is a full-service event management company based in Mumbai. Striving towards a flawless execution of events, its capabilities in service go beyond national and international borders, with experience in managing events across India and abroad.

Medium Pvt. Ltd. was appointed as the Official Event Manager of Maldives Marine Expo back in March 2020 by the National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM).

The event will feature various online activities, facilities and seminars, with its marketing plans reaching local and international business hubs. According to NBAM, this special virtual edition of Maldives Marine Expo is to be held due to the unprecedented challenges of global pandemic, COVID-19. The online event will present a promising opportunity for marine industry businesses and enthusiasts.

Allied Insurance Company of the Maldives Introduces “Allied Inbound” - COVID-19 Insurance in Collaboration with Tourism Ministry



Allied Insurance company in association with the Ministry of Tourism, has launched a COVID-19 insurance policy focusing on tourists who visit Maldives.

In a collaborated press conference by both parties, the insurance plan was launched by the Minister of Tourism Dr. Abdulla Mausoom.

The COVID-19 Insurance policy namely as Allied Inbound will cover medical charges, isolation facility charges, emergency medical transportation charges and interment charges which may follow a positive diagnosis for COVID-19 of a tourist during their stay in Maldives. This plan only includes isolation centers designated by HPA. A willing tourist should apply for this plan prior to entering the country. This plan is now available for tourists on Allied's website.

Irrespective of their age, any visitor who is not a citizen or does not hold a valid resident visa of Maldives will be eligible for this plan. The plan comes in two options; Allied Inbound and Allied Inbound Plus. More details about this plan will also be available on <https://allied.mv/> and the tollfree hotline 1600.

Increase in Ad Hoc Flights to Velana International Airport

According to statistics revealed by Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL), Ad Hoc flights, including private jets, to Maldives Velana International Airport (VIA) have increased since the Maldives' borders reopened.

The statistics revealed that during July, 28 Ad Hoc flights landed on the airport whereas in August, the flights saw an increase of 111% with a total of 59 flights. In September, there were 60 flights and in October, 126 flights, which is a 110% increase in flight arrivals from September to October. Latest statistics by Maldives Immigration show that a total of 27,217 tourists have arrived

during the first three months of borders reopening.

With the resumption of tourism in the country and arrival of more flights to the country, the tourist arrival rate has gradually increased which in turn promises more arrivals by the end of the year. Maldivian, the national flagship carrier is also expected to resume scheduled international flights over the coming months.

According to reports of MACL, jet movements at VIA and charter flight numbers are seeing a positive increase rate during this winter season.



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GoAir Resumes Operation of Direct Flights to Maldives



India's most trusted airline brand, GoAir has announced the resumption of direct flights to the Maldives starting November 1, 2020. The airline's first passenger flight arrived at Velana International Airport today afternoon from Delhi.

Returning back to the sunny side of life, GoAir offers affordable fares from Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai to Male' and vice versa via its four weekly flights set to operate on Sundays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays till the end of January 2020.

Passengers can also take a number of connecting flights from India to Malé through various cities across the country. Fully prepared and equipped to execute the COVID-specific health and safety procedures outlined by the DGCA for the India aviation industry, GoAir recommenced its network of international flights on June 1, 2020 to specific destinations.

Based on the arrival figures of 2019, India is ranked in the 2nd position of the highest performing markets to the Maldives. Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC) believes that India is a key focus market in the recovery of tourism in Maldives and they have set the target to achieve pre-pandemic growth levels.

Tourists arriving in the Maldives are to present a mandatory negative PCR test, along with a completed Traveler Health Declaration Form, submitted online via IMUGA (www.imuga.immigration.gov.mv) before arrival in the country. Guests can now submit a negative PCR test acquired 96 hours prior to take-off as imposed by the Ministry of Tourism. Tests exceeding this time period are invalid and must be retaken.

IMTM 2020 Embraces Sustainability – Reuse, Reconnect, Revive and Grow



In the 21st century, the world is taken by mass challenges to survive in all ways possible, economically, socially, and environmentally. In the midst of the global pandemic radically transforming society, the earth itself continues to steadily depreciate.

Being sustainable, is not defined as going 'zero-waste'. It focuses on minimalism- cutting out need- less buys. Reducing consumption in general, allowing consumers to reuse everyday items rather than purchase unnecessarily.

Thus, today's businesses are under the spotlight like never before. They are widening their focus beyond profit, to consider how they can create value in society and thrive in the future. This in turn shows their respective target audiences and the public itself the importance of being sustainable to protect the earth from further depreciating in nature.

The International Maldives Travel Market (IMTM) plans to do just that, by initiating the practice of sustainability through their marketing campaigns for the IMTM 2020 event. There is a fall in the travel industry with significant declines across demand, occupancy, ADR, and revenue in 2020. This has led firms to freeze their marketing budgets especially on material production related to events. Instead, more companies are opting for sustainable and technologically advanced approaches to appeal the attention of customers. This has been the case for IMTM as well.

The campaign initiated by IMTM aims to go eco-friendly by reusing their previous billboard posters for promotions, rather than causing wastage of materials by creating new posters every year. Not only is this cost-efficient for the business, but recycling such materials cuts down on their carbon footprint- the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere by an activity or action.

IMTM aims to convey through their message, Reuse, Revive, Reconnect and Grow, that any materials including disposable plastics, paper or fabrics can be either replaced by more sustainable options or simply recycle and reuse, especially objects that are still good in terms of quality, performance, and appearance.

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Maldives Added to UK's Travel Corridors List: Passengers Arriving from the Destination to be No Longer Quarantined



Maldives has been added to the UK's Travel Corridors list, allowing travellers returning back from the island destination to be exempt from undergoing the quarantine process.

"Following an assessment from the latest data, the Canaries, the Maldives, Denmark and Mykonos have been added to the Travel Corridors list," said Rt Hon Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport, UK.

From October 25, those returning from Maldives, the Canaries, Denmark and Mykonos will no longer need to self-isolate as announced by the Government of UK.

Chief Executive of tourism firm Kuoni, Derek Jones expressed joy with this new decision. "This is a very welcome development. We are anticipating a surge in demand for Maldives holidays," said Derek.

With the reopening of the Maldives' borders on 15th July 2020, Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC) launched an outdoor campaign in major parts of the UK to promote the destination as a safe haven for travelers, as travel resumes in the new normal.

UK being one of the leading markets in terms of arrivals to the Maldives post border reopening, MMPRC continues in its efforts in popularizing the destination within the market. In this regard, several marketing and promotional activities have been planned for the remaining months of the year including campaigns with several online and digital travel trade media and leading OTAs.

Gulf Air Resumes Direct Flights to Maldives Commencing from December 12



Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, has announced that it will resume direct flights to and from Velana International Airport in the Maldives with two weekly flights starting from December 12, 2020.

The flights will be operated by the airline's newest Airbus 321neoLR which features 150 seats in economy class and 16 flat-bed seats in Falcon Gold class. Gulf Air's first flight to the Maldives landed in Male' on October 27, 2019 and it has been the airline's key boutique destination in the Indian Ocean.

The airline currently flies to and from Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Kuwait, Jeddah, Dammam, Medina, Muscat, Cairo, Amman, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Athens, Manila, Dhaka and several destinations in India and Pakistan.

Being one of the few airlines that continued scheduled commercial operations, Gulf Air continuously works closely with the government authorities throughout the destinations on its network to resume operations as soon as airports open. Gulf Air boasts a flexible and agile network by immediately adapting to government orders and civil aviation directives around its network and has been responsive to continuous changes and updates regarding operations to and from its network destinations. Updates are constantly added on gulfair.com/covid19 including travel advice, network and new health and safety procedures.

Prior to the lockdown on March 27, Maldives observed 382,760 tourist arrivals. Since the reopening of borders, there have been over 37,000 arrivals up until now, with tourist arrivals from major markets such as the Middle East, India and UAE.

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CEO of MTCC visited the airport area and inspected the ongoing works as well as the concluded parts of the project. He further determined the remaining works left to be completed with help from on-site workers. According to the company, overall works of the airport project are coming along smoothly at a fast pace compared to during the past few months and the project is expected to be finished by the announced date.

The scope of the project includes the construction of a 1200m runway, 8,635m² of apron and taxiway, service roads in front of the terminal, 9,473m² of parking area, 1,718m² of fire access road, a fire building, a passenger terminal, 720m of airport security and a beach fence area.

Development of Regional Airports such as the Hoarafushi Airport will make guest transfer more convenient in the northernmost atolls. Moreover, these airports are a vital infrastructure to support our ever-expanding tourism industry, says the Government.



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Split Stay Allowed at All Types of Tourist Accommodation Facilities in Maldives



Health Protection Agency (HPA) of Maldives has permitted split stay between tourist establishments with prior approval.

Tourists can now split their stay between resort, hotels, liveaboards and guesthouses, with prior approval as per split-stay procedure / guideline by Ministry of Tourism.

All facilities must submit a 'no objection form' for the split-stay to the Tourism Ministry, at least 48 hours prior to the travelling date.

Previously, tourists were permitted to enter the country without observing quarantine, provided that they remain at the establishment where initial bookings were made, precluding any movement between islands or liveaboards throughout the duration of their stay.

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A special laboratory has been established in Hulhumale to conduct the PCR testing as per Mr. Ibrahim Saeed Mohamed, Managing Director of Pioneer Maldives Pvt Ltd, Parent company of RMLS Lab Services.

Mr. Ibrahim Saeed stated that there has been a specialized LAB Collection unit providing a collection service direct from the resorts, guesthouse islands and liveaboards under the comprehensive package of USD 100 per sample. Meanwhile, they also provide pick-up service from Male', Velana International Airport and from Hulhumale within the standard package offered at USD 80 per sample.

Both packages will provide the results of the testing within 24 hours.

RMLS Lab Services conducts the PCR tests using the latest state-of-the-art machines and equipment with the help from an experienced team of medical professionals.

Most importantly, a dedicated person for all PCR inquiries has been appointed and can be reached via RMLS hotline number +960 7835550.

Switzerland Marks Maldives as a Safe Destination for Travel



Switzerland has marked Maldives as safe for travel. Maldives was removed from Switzerland's high-risk countries list on October 29, 2020, which means that travelers from Maldives to Switzerland will no longer be subjected to a 10-day quarantine upon return.

Swiss luxury airline, Edelweiss Air is among the many international airlines to have resumed operations to Maldives, providing a direct link between Malé and Zurich.

The decision to ease travel restrictions between the two countries was made following the addition of Maldives to the UK's Global Safe Travel List and Qatar's Green List recently.

Additionally, Maldives has received the Safe Travels Stamp granted by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). The Airports Council International (ACI) has also awarded accreditation status to the Velana International Airport (VIA).

Maldives is currently open to tourists of all nationalities with several tourist establishments resuming operations. Tourists are required to fill an online health declaration form within 24 hours prior to departure, and a negative COVID-19 PCR test result taken maximum 96 hours prior to departure to Maldives is mandatory.

This decision will hopefully increase tourist arrivals from the country. The government along with the tourism industry and stakeholders are working tirelessly to ensure that Maldives is a safe haven for all, and to reach a favorable tourist arrival rate by the end of the year.

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NBAM Members Permitted to Restart Operations (as of 4th November 2020)



Since the restart of Tourism Operations in Maldives in 15th July 2020, Ministry of Tourism has permitted 59 NBAM Member Liveaboards to restart operations as of 4th November 2020. Below is the list of the Liveaboards:

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



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