MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

MALDIVES TOURISM UPDATES

30th December 2021

2021
Vol - 51

1. Tourist Arrivals

From 1st January 2021 to 29th December 2021, a total of 1,312,706 tourists arrived in the Maldives. The top five markets during this period were India, Russia , Germany, United Kingdom and U.S.A.

Total Arrivals 2019
1,702,887
as at end December 2019

Total Arrivals 2020
555,494
as at end December 2020

Total Arrivals 2021
1,312,706
As of 29th December 2021

	Arrivals			Growth (%)		Daily Average	Duration of Stay
	2019	2020	2021	2021/2019	2021/2020	2021	(Days)
January	151,552	173,347	92,103	-39.2	-46.9	2,971	9.2
February	168,583	149,785	96,882	-42.5	-35.3	3,460	8.8
March	162,843	59,630	109,585	-32.7	+83.8	3,535	8.7
April	163,114	13	91,200	-44.1	N/A	3,040	9.3
May	103,022	41	64,613	-37.3	N/A	2,084	9.1
June	113,475	1	56,166	-50.5	N/A	1,872	9.0
July	132,144	1,752	101,818	-22.9	N/A	3,284	9.1
August	139,338	7,636	143,599	+3.1	+1,780.6	4,632	9.6
September	117,619	9,605	114,896	-2.3	+1,096.2	3,830	8.1
October	141,928	21,515	142,066	+0.1	+560.3	4,583	8.3
November	137,921	35,757	144,725	+4.9	+304.7	4,824	8.0
December (1st - 29th)	161,801	90,683	155,053	-4.2	+71.0	5,347	8.4
Total (as of 29th December)	1,693,340	549,765	1,312,706	-22.5	+138.8	3,616	8.7

Top 10 Markets 2021

As of 29th December 2021

Market	Arrivals	Share (%)	Rank
India	290,920	22.2	01
Russia	220,213	16.8	02
Germany	94,784	7.2	03
United Kingdom	62,188	4.7	04
U.S.A	55,565	4.2	05
Saudi Arabia	39,953	3.0	06
Spain	37,186	2.8	07
Ukraine	34,635	2.6	08
France	29,877	2.3	09
Italy	26,366	2.0	10

Top 10 Markets 2020

end December 2020

Market	Arrivals	Share (%)	Rank
India	62,960	11.3	01
Russia	61,387	11.1	02
United Kingdom	52,720	9.5	03
Italy	46,690	8.4	04
Germany	36,435	6.6	05
China	34,245	6.2	06
France	28,031	5.0	07
U.S.A	19,759	3.6	08
Switzerland	12,517	2.3	09
Ukraine	10,343	1.9	10

Top 10 Markets 2019

end December 2019

Market	Arrivals	Share (%)	Rank
China	284,029	16.7	01
India	166,030	9.7	02
Italy	136,343	8.0	03
Germany	131,561	7.7	04
United Kingdom	126,199	7.4	05
Russia	83,369	4.9	06
France	59,738	3.5	07
U.S.A	54,474	3.2	08
Japan	44,251	2.6	09
Australia	39,928	2.3	10

Maldives Tourism Recovers

As recovery continues for the Maldives from the COVID-19 situation, tourist arrivals to the Maldives bounce back. The one-million arrival target was reached in October 2021. By 29th December, total arrivals to the Maldives stood at 1.31 million with an increase of over 138% compared with that of 2020 and a drop of 22.5% compared with that of 2019. Though the numbers remain below pre-Covid level, the monthly trends, since August are recording positive growths over 2019 except for the month of September.

On 26th December, Maldives registered a new record for total number of tourist arrivals on a single day since the reopening of the borders with 7,098 arrivals and arrivals target of 1.3 million was reached on 27th December.

While major markets such as Russia and India made full recovery with strong positive growth rates, new markets emerged from the European Region and the Middle East. The U.K market is recovering fast and by 22nd December 2021, has become the 4th largest market to the Maldives.

Recovering Markets / Regions

From 1st January to 29th December 2021	Arrivals			Growth (%)	
	2019	2020	2021	2021/2019	2021/2020
Kazakhstan	4,902	6,229	23,672	382.9	280.0
Russia	28,199	60,164	220,213	167.9	266.0
Ukraine	13,103	10,189	34,635	164.3	239.9
Brazil	9,816	5,419	20,427	108.1	277.0
India	165,305	61,887	290,920	76.0	370.1
Saudi Arabia	25,785	7,578	39,953	54.9	427.2
Czech Republic	13,399	7,192	18,653	39.2	159.4
Poland	20,868	7,005	23,212	11.2	231.4
Spain	35,844	6,651	37,186	3.7	459.1
U.S.A	54,149	19,641	55,565	2.6	182.9
Central/Eastern Europe	177,785	117,934	386,812	117.6	228.0
South Asia	191,846	69,067	315,400	64.4	356.7
Middle East	59,767	26,224	91,208	52.6	247.8
Africa	18,550	6,342	27,372	47.6	331.6
East Mediterranean Europe	21,209	5,274	23,612	11.3	347.7
Americas	84,295	31,822	88,581	5.1	178.4

2. Tourist Accommodation

Accommodation Facilities by Type

As of 29th December 2021

Facility Type	Total Capacity		Operational Capacity	
	Nos.	Beds	Nos.	Beds
Resorts	167	39,604	161	38,226
Hotels & Guesthouses	816	14,564	621	12,056
Safari Vessels	157	2,935	143	2,858
Total	1,140	57,103	927	53,140

Guesthouses in Operation by Atolls and Islands

As of 29th December 2021

Atoll / Island	Nos.	Beds
Haa Alifu	11	130
1. Hoarafushi	2	24
2. Kelaa	4	54
3. Vashafaru	5	52
Haa Dhaalu	8	102
1. Hanimaadhoo	5	70
2. Nolhivaranfaru	2	26
3. Vaikaradhoo	1	6
Shaviyani	3	24
1. Bilehfahi	1	8
2. Kanditheemu	1	8
3. Komandoo	1	8
Noonu	6	64
1. Fodhdhoo	1	24
2. Holhudhoo	1	6
3. Velidhoo	4	34
Raa	2	22
1. Rasgetheemu	1	12
2. Maakurathu	1	10
Baa	39	682
1. Dharavandhoo	9	140
2. Dhonfanu	1	8
3. Eydhafushi	1	8
4. Fehendhoo	2	36
5. Finolhas	1	62
6. Fulhadhoo	5	110
7. Goidhoo	4	66
8. Hithaadhoo	1	20
9. Kamadhoo	8	114
10. Kudarikilu	1	22
11. Maalhos	5	82
12. Thulhaadhoo	1	14

Atoll / Island	Nos.	Beds
Lhaviyani	4	44
1. Hinnavaru	1	12
2. Kurendhoo	1	6
3. Olhuveli Fushi	1	10
4. Naifaru	1	16
Kaafu	238	5,612
1. Greater Male' Region	70	2,230
2. Dhiffushi	24	444
3. Gaafaru	6	62
4. Gulhi	10	172
5. Guraidhoo	22	294
6. Himmafushi	12	122
7. Huraa	15	216
8. Kaashidhoo	4	48
9. Maafushi	46	1,578
10. Thulusdhoo	29	446
Alifu Alifu	120	1,548
1. Bodufulhadhoo	5	56
2. Feridhoo	8	86
3. Himandhoo	3	24
4. Maalhos	2	16
5. Mathiveri	8	86
6. Rasdhoo	26	356
7. Thoddoo	44	578
8. Ukulhas	24	346
Alifu Dhaalu	67	922
1. Dhangethi	13	174
2. Dhidhdhoo	1	12
3. Dhigurah	13	278
4. Fenfushi	1	12
5. Hangnaameedhoo	14	162
6. Maamigili	5	56
7. Mahibadhoo	8	112
8. Mandhoo	1	10
9. Omadhoo	11	106
Vaavu	46	554
1. Felidhoo	5	46
2. Fulidhoo	17	196
3. Keyodhoo	14	126
4. Rakeedhoo	1	26
5. Thinadhoo	9	160
Meemu	3	30
1. Madduvari	1	8
2. Mulah	1	12
3. Muli	1	10

Atoll / Island	Nos.	Beds
Faafu	7	84
1. Magoodhoo	2	20
2. Nilandhoo	5	64
Dhaalu	4	62
1. Bandidhoo	1	14
2. Kudahuvadhoo	1	36
3. Maaenboodhoo	1	6
3. Rinbudhoo	1	6
Thaa	4	56
1. Gaadhiffushi	1	12
2. Kinbidhoo	1	8
3. Thimarafushi	2	36
Laamu	3	138
1. Gan	3	138
Gaafu Alifu	6	48
1. Kolamaafushi	1	8
2. Maamendhoo	2	16
3. Nilandhoo	1	6
4. Villingili	1	12
Gaafu Dhaalu	6	92
1. Faresmaathodaa	1	14
2. Hoadehdhdhoo	3	44
3. Thinadhoo	1	24
4. Vaadhoo	1	10
Gnaviyani	17	206
1. Fuvahmulah	17	206
Seenu	13	222
1. Feydhoo	2	30
2. Hithadhoo	5	118
3. Hulhudhoo	1	12
4. Maradhoo	1	14
5. Maradhoo Feydhoo	2	20
6. Meedhoo	2	28
Total	611	10,696

3. Airlines & Connectivity

Maldives is Connected to the World

1 BRITISH AIRWAYS
2 edelweiss EDELWEISS
3 Lufthansa LUFTHANSA
4 azurair AZUR AIR RUSSIA
5 TURKISH AIRLINES TURKISH AIRLINES
6 QATAR AIRWAYS QATAR AIRWAYS
7 flydubai FLY DUBAI
8 Emirates EMIRATES
9 ETIHAD AIRWAYS ETIHAD AIRWAYS
10 GOAIR
11 IndiGo INDIGO
12 AIR INDIA
13 SriLankan SRILANKAN AIRLINES
14 AEROFLOT AEROFLOT
15 SINGAPORE AIRLINES SINGAPORE AIRLINES
16 Austrian AUSTRIAN AIRLINES
17 air astana AIR ASTANA
18 GULF AIR GULF AIR
19 UZBEKISTAN airways UZBEKISTAN AIRWAYS
20 AIRFRANCE AIR FRANCE
21 vistara AIR VISTARA
22 LOT POLISH AIRLINES LOT POLISH AIRLINES
23 Condor CONDOR
24 SAUDIA SAUDI ARABIAN AIRLINES
25 neos NEOS
26 air seychelles AIR SEYSCHELLES
27 MIAT MONGOLIAN AIRLINES
28 GULLIVAIR GULLIVAIR
29 U.S BANGLA AIRLINES

International Scheduled Flights

(1st January - 29th December 2021)

Operator	No.of Passengers	No. of Movements
Emirates	254,619	2,868
Qatar Airways	213,165	2,408
Indigo	174,828	2,528
Aeroflot	137,663	928
Go Air	100,740	1,706
Flydubai	68,308	1,264
Turkish Airlines	64,039	1,052
Etihad Airways	50,990	740
Maldivian	33,931	916
Srilankan Airlines	28,148	1,484
Lufthansa	27,616	266
Azur Air Russia	24,082	104
Condor	22,415	214
British Airways	20,588	260
Saudi Arabian Airlines	19,304	488
Spicejet	16,805	448
Air India	16,098	292
Edelweiss	15,651	178
Austrian Airlines	15,389	138
Singapore Airlines	14,327	496
Gulf Air	13,736	808
Neos	6,179	44
Air Seychelles	5,795	122
Blue Panorama	5,253	38
Air France	5,014	64
Air India Express	2,388	28
Silk Air	1,264	62
Others	250	504
Total	1,358,585	20,490

International Chartered Flights

(1st January - 29th December 2021)

Operator	No.of Passengers	No. of Movements
Air Astana	17,791	240
Air Vistara	8,987	202
Azur Air Ukraine	7,562	52
Iberia	6,819	68
Lot Polish Airlines	4,987	42
Gullivair	4,971	44
Ukraine International	3,647	30
Scat Airlines	3,534	32
Uzbekistan Airways	2,239	42
US Bangla Airlines	1,744	36
Mongolian Airlines	268	6
Blue Air	187	02
Nord Wind	71	02
Others	46	142
Total	62,853	940

4. COVID-19 Cases & Vaccination Update

COVID-19 Case Updates

As of 29th December 2021

Tourist COVID cases
as a % of total Tourist Arrivals
(15th Jul 2020 - 29th December 2021)

0.19% 2020 (15 July- 31 Dec)
0.17% 2021 (1 Jan- 30 Nov)
0.09% 2021 (1-29 Dec)

Vaccination Updates

As of 28th November 2021

Maldives Total Vaccinated	
First Dose	396,745
Second Dose	367,346

Resort Employees % Vaccinated	
First Dose	99%
Fully Vaccinated	95%

5. News Highlights

Homestay Tourism to be Introduced from 1st January 2022

The Ministry of Tourism held a press conference on the 28th December on the Homestay Tourism which is set to be introduced in January 2022. This project is set to be launched in M. Dhiggaru, an island famous for their Rihaakuru.

From Ministry of Tourism, Deputy Minister of Tourism, Mr. Assad Riza, Head of Tourism Diversification and Localization Department, Mr. Ali Razzan, Senior Policy Directors Mr. Ibrahim Farhad and Mr. Mohamed Khussan joined the conference to give the public more information on the homestay project.

Head of Tourism Diversification and Localization Department, Mr. Ali Razzan said that according to Dhiggaru Council, the island will have 50 rooms when starting in January and hopes to reach 200 by the end of their term. Deputy Minister of Tourism, Mr. Assad Riza said Dhiggaru stood out the most to officials during their visit to 60 local islands. He highlighted the exemplary hospitality from the people of Dhiggaru and the opportunities that this project will bring them. Tourism Ministry is ready to offer its full support to all local councils and tourism stakeholders to introduce homestay in their islands.

Homestay Regulation Published on Gazzette

On 30th December 2021, the Homestay regulation was published on Gazzette by Ministry of Tourism. With this regulation, private homes in local islands will be allowed to accommodate tourists in their homes.

Maldives Welcomes 1.3 millionth Tourist of 2021

On 27th December, Maldives welcomed its 1.3 millionth tourist for the year 2021 after surpassing the original target of 1 million tourists. The milestone was celebrated by welcoming the 1.3 millionth tourist, Mr. Constantin Stelian Emil from Romania accompanied by his spouse and two children. He was welcomed at Velana International airport by Minister of Tourism, Dr. Abdulla Mausoom, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation, Thoyyib Mohamed, and officials from Immigration and MACL.

Benelux Maldives Friendship Society Presented, Maldives Tourism 50, Stamp Plaques of Benelux Countries to Minister of Tourism

Maldives Tourism 50 stamp plaques of Benelux countries was presented to the Minister of Tourism on December 27th. The plaques were presented by Benelux Maldives Friendship Society President and Flenders Honorary Counsel, Gerard Huiting. These stamps are an initiative by Benelux Maldives Society in affiliation with Embassy of Maldives in Belgium and Ministry of Tourism.

Nordwind Airlines Commences Direct flights to Maldives

Nordwind Airlines commences direct flights to Maldives
One of the biggest airlines in Russia, Nordwind Airlines, commences direct flights to Maldives. The first flight arrived to Velana International Airport on 26th December and were warmly welcomed by Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL). The airline's charter flights will operate between Russia's St. Petersburg and VIA, with weekly flights scheduled every Sunday.

Lease Agreement Singed for the Tourist Hotel Development in N. Manadhoo

On 29th December, the Ministry of Tourism signed a lease agreement with Stone Hotels Pvt Ltd for development of a tourist hotel at a land plot in N. Manadhoo. Minister Dr. Abdulla Mausoom and MP from the constituency Honourable. Ahmed Haroon attended the signing ceremony. The hotel is expected to be in operation by mid-2024.

GOLDEN YEAR OF TOURISM 2022

01 day to Golden Jubileee of Tourism 2022

#MaldivesTourism50 #ދާ ހިސާބުގެ ދަށުން

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