

# BAROS

maldives



For Travel Planners  
eGuide by  
**Royston Ellis**



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BAROS MALDIVES

An eGuide

For Travel Planners

by

ROYSTON ELLIS

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## Introduction

Welcome to this eGuide about Baros Maldives especially prepared for travel planners.

If you or your clients have never been to the Maldives and are wondering which resort would best fulfil their holiday dreams, this eGuide is designed to help you.

Since each resort in the Maldives is isolated on its own island, and there is nowhere for your clients to go if they don't like it, you need to be sure you are recommending the right resort to the right guests.

Baros Maldives is not designed for everyone. However, most of its guests have been there before. They know what they like and it's Baros Maldives.

Obviously, value for money is important in choosing a resort, but so is the overall ambience. Baros Maldives is top on both points.

Important, too, when recommending a resort in the Maldives, is its location. Your guests could be in their villas within 45 minutes of landing, while people staying at far flung resorts are still trying to find their transfer flights.

Baros Maldives excels because it is:

- A resort with a calm lagoon and a house reef close by offering wonderful snorkelling and diving.
- A resort with several restaurants and no buffet queues, ensuring every dining experience is enjoyable.
- A resort with sensibly designed luxury accommodation and lots of unexpected extras adding value and complete satisfaction.
- A resort that blends unobtrusively with nature, with thatched villas of timber and sandstone, sandy paths instead of concrete pavements, no vehicles, lush tropical gardens and a deep tranquillity that heightens the pleasure of being there.
- A resort that reflects the gentle charm, culture and hospitality that is the essence of the Maldives, making a holiday memorable.

In this eGuide I hope to convey the exceptional ethos that is Baros Maldives, so that you feel confident in recommending a holiday there for your special clients.

*Royston Ellis.*

(Author of the *Insight*, *Berlitz* and *Bradt Travel Guides* to The Maldives.)

## Where is the Maldives?

This archipelago of 1,190 coral islands lies to the southwest of India's southern tip, some 670km (416 miles) southwest of Sri Lanka. To the far west are the shores of Somalia, Africa; to the east Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia. To the south, the nearest country is the Seychelles and further southwest is Mauritius and Madagascar.

## Where is Baros Maldives?

Baros Maldives is situated in the lower central part of North Male' Atoll, which is the main atoll of the 26 natural atolls that make up the Maldives. It is in the same atoll as the capital, Male', and only 25 minutes by speed boat from the airport. (But don't worry, no jets scream overhead; Baros Maldives is not under their flight path.)

The island is at latitude 4° 17' north of the Equator, approximately 330km (205 miles) away, and at longitude 73° 26' east.

## How to get to the Maldives?

- By nonstop British Airways and SriLankan Airlines scheduled flights from London as well as by direct flights via Colombo with SriLankan from European and Asian cities.
- By changing aircraft during a short stopover in Dubai or other Middle East airports, or in Singapore, from North and South America, Africa and Australia, as well as from Europe.
- By daily flights from Colombo and regular flights from India, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur

## When is the best time to go?

For constant sun, the period from December to March, coinciding with the northern winter, is best. Being so close to the Equator, Baros averages about nine hours of sunshine a day in January, February and March. However, even in June, the month with the least amount of sunshine, there is an average of 6.5 hours of sunshine a day.

There are no hurricanes or cyclones. The average amount of rainfall in a year is 194cm (76in), with the wettest months being May (28cm) and November (27cm).

## What to take?

Very little.

It's beachwear and sandals (or no footwear at all) during the day. In the evenings, light and casual clothing is the usual theme.

Women should bring their favourite cosmetics and perfumes, and men their customary toiletries. Guests should bring sun lotion and sufficient amounts of any daily medication they require.

For laptop users every villa has free WiFi connection. There is also a free Internet Centre.

Every villa has a DVD and music player with hundreds of movies and music CDs available free of charge. There are board games available on request in each villa too.

There is also an extensive library of books in many languages.

Guests might like to bring a small amount of low denomination currency notes in US dollars (legal currency in the Maldives), or in UK pounds or Euros to use for tips. Obviously, they will need credit cards or traveller's cheques (again US dollars are the best as the exchange rate is fixed).

One item guests do NOT need to bring (and shouldn't as it will be held in bond at customs until they leave) is duty free (or any) alcohol. Baros Maldives has several bars and a connoisseur's wine cellar as well as a mini bar and a separate wine cabinet in every villa.

### Is a holiday at Baros Maldives going to be expensive?

No, certainly not, if you think in terms of value for money. Nowhere else in the world could you have a holiday at what it costs to stay at Baros Maldives and find so many unexpected extras included.

Mineral water in the villas is complimentary, as are many other little goodies (like chilled champagne on arrival and evening canapés.) The only extra on food and beverage bills is the service charge, and that's just 10% - less than in most major restaurants worldwide. And there is no government tax or VAT added to the bills.

### How to get to Baros Maldives from the airport?

An airport representative holding the Baros Maldives name board greets passengers as they emerge from the airport. The representative escorts guests to the jetty only five minutes walk away, for the transfer by speedboat to the resort. The boat butler and crew take care of the luggage.

With a cold towel to freshen up and a complimentary fruit juice or mineral water, the transfer to Baros Maldives takes only 25 minutes.

### So what actually happens on arrival at Baros Maldives?

Your guests are met at the short jetty on arrival and escorted to the Reception Pavilion where cold towels are offered together with a choice of juice or sparkling wine as a welcome drink while they relax.

A Guest Services Assistant escorts guests along sandy trails through pretty tropical foliage to their beachside villa or along the boardwalk jetty to their overwater villa. Guest registration is done in the villa.

Many first time visitors to the Maldives haven't considered that staying on a resort island is not the same as staying in a city hotel. The layout is horizontal and guests have to walk, everything is on the same level and there are no lifts from one floor to another. There are no buggies (or any vehicles) in Baros but since the island is small, getting around is easy.

The restaurants, bars, boutique, and reception pavilion are all located off the main palm garden, which is like a village square as the focus for all activities. The Fitness Centre and Spa are within a few paces while the Diving Centre is just as close, at the end of its own short jetty.

## What is there to do at Baros Maldives?

At Baros Maldives, your guests can lap up the sheer indulgence of doing nothing. Or they can be as busy as they wish, doing the things they've never had time for.

They could:

- Learn to snorkel or to dive; there are water sports galore; a fabulously equipped gym, and a table tennis pavilion.
- Frequent The Spa for an eclectic range of treatments and beauty therapies.
- Meditate during conducted yoga sessions on an isolated sandbank.
- Go line fishing at sunrise and at sunset, or spend a morning or evening deep sea fishing with rod and tackle.
- Cruise to neighbouring islands, even have one to themselves for a day, or go sightseeing and shopping in Male', the islands' quaint and bustling capital. Or visit a village island for a glimpse of local culture.
- Explore the resort's gorgeous gardens, lush vegetation and learn about the herbs and tropical plants growing in the nursery.
- Learn about cooking from the resort's Executive Chef and try wine tasting with the Food & Beverage Manager.
- Dine in a different restaurant or sample a different cuisine every night of the week.
- Read books from the library, watch classic movies from the resort's collection, select their favourite music from the CD shelves, follow the news on Internet and in the daily newsheets.
- Play board games or just relax in huge sunloungers, bean bags and day beds in the villa or in the Palm Garden.
- Write a book instead of reading one.
- Plan retirement with a visit to Baros Maldives twice a year.
- Make new friends.
- Simply laze in the sun all day and relax in the bars and restaurants at night.

## What makes Baros Maldives so different?

- **Authenticity.** Maldivian owned and operated, Baros has cultured elegance and offers the essence of the Maldives.
- **History.** The third resort to open in the Maldives (there are over 100 now), Baros has matured over four decades as a resort that sets the standards for others, contributing to the development of sustainable tourism in the islands and helping the industry and the country to prosper.
- **Ambience.** Warm hospitality and genuine friendliness make guests feel at home.
- **Exclusivity.** Baros is a small coral island, 348m x 303m, half-moon shaped and surrounded by a sandy beach, exclusive to resort guests.
- **House reef.** One of the best; close to the shore and alive with colours, fish, turtles, rays and corals;
- **Vegetation.** Well-tended gardens and lush vegetation featuring tropical nature at its best.
- **Tranquillity.** No traffic, no public swimming pool, no motorised water-sports, no children under eight; tropical island bliss preserved.
- **Cuisine.** Exquisite cuisine to suit every palate.
- **Culture.** Showcasing of talented local artists and musicians; learning about the local culture at the Maldivian Lounge or during village expeditions;
- **Respect.** Every guest at Baros Maldives is someone special, whether a first time visitor or a repeater, all are treated with the respect discerning individuals deserve.

## Which villa?

For guests who like the sea and want to be able to go in and out of the lagoon as they please, then a Water Villa is the perfect choice. However, if they like to be beside the beach, only a short walk through tropical gardens to all activities, then a Deluxe, Baros or Pool Villa should be the choice. Each beach villa has two sun loungers under an individual thatched sunshade on the beach reserved for its guests.

All the villas, whether by the beach or over water, are elegantly designed with sandstone and timber and have fine furnishings, large windows to let in natural light, and are timeless in ambience. As well as having a private veranda with huge bean bags, a day bed and a dining table for two, each villa has a spacious, teak-floored bedroom featuring a king size bed with soft Egyptian cotton and a pillow menu, as well as a vanity desk, easy chairs and a large sofa.

They also feature:

- Luxury bathroom amenities
- Espresso machine with complimentary premium coffee capsules
- Electric kettle with complimentary exotic tea sachets
- In Villa bar stocked to guests' requirements
- Wine Chiller with notable wines and champagnes
- Flat screen television
- Surround Sound System with DVD/CD player
- Personal iPod loaded with a huge selection of tunes
- Library of coffee table books
- Complimentary wireless and high-speed Internet access
- IDD telephone
- In Villa Safe
- Generous wardrobe space
- Deluxe bathrobes, slippers and hairdryer
- Individually controlled air conditioning and ceiling fan

### **The Baros Residence**

Surrounded by green foliage and bird-of-paradise blossoms, the Baros Residence (268 sq m) is an intimate place to stay. It has a private swimming pool (7x3m) in a walled tropical garden. There is a day bed on the sun deck, private spa massages, a king size bed with scalloped linen canopy, and a luxury indoor shower and bathtub plus outdoor rainfall shower. A butler is exclusively on call 24-hours a day.

### **The Baros Pool Villas**

There are 10 of these, each with an area of 134sq m and with an infinity edged private plunge pool (4x2.4m) by the beach. On call as required is a dedicated resort host.

Each one is discreetly secluded by tropical vegetation, with a wooden deck for lounging just a pace from the lagoon. The ingeniously designed interior has a king size bed embraced by curtains, louvered blinds on either side to let in sunlight, and exotic bathroom with a contemporary tub, and an outside shower in a secret garden.

### **The Water Villas**

There are 30 water villas (92 sq m) grouped around a horseshoe shaped boardwalk over the lagoon off the northwest tip of the island. Each Water Villa is intimately exclusive with a private wooden deck for sunbathing and wooden steps for dipping into the lagoon. The beach is a few minutes walk away.

### **The Baros Villas**

There are 10 Baros Villas (103 sq m) and each one is discreetly secluded by tropical vegetation, with a wooden deck for lounging just a pace from the lagoon. The ingeniously designed interior has a king size bed embraced by curtains, louvered blinds on either side to let in sunlight, and exotic bathroom with a contemporary tub, and an outside shower in a secret garden.

### **The Deluxe Villas**

There are 24 of these special villas set in flower glades by the beach and, like all the villas at Baros, have been created in a flawless style that exudes sophistication. The bathroom with a beautiful stand alone bathtub and separate glass shower cubicle extends into a sandstone-walled flower garden which has its own waterfall shower.

## **What's the food like?**

The finest local, Asian, international and fusion cuisine is served at eight specialist restaurants and counters, and is also available around the clock in guests' villas. Even if your guests are staying for two weeks, they need never order the same dish twice.

### **The Lighthouse Restaurant**

Renowned as one of the best restaurants in the Maldives, its stylish elegance, smooth service and epicurean excellence epitomises the tasteful timelessness that is Baros. As well as an inspired range of a la carte choices there are several degustation menus with each course matched with superb wine by the glass.

### **The Lime Restaurant**

This is the restaurant that all guests enjoy, since it is where the resort's famous, multi-choice, champagne breakfast is served. (However, breakfast is also available on demand in the villas.) It is composed of three bright, thatched, arched and open-sided pavilions by the sea, refreshed by the breeze and with a comfortable, casual atmosphere. .

The menus for a la carte lunch or dinner include salads, soups, numerous tapas, fish with an Asian hint, delicious curries, burgers, sandwiches, grilled Panini and pizzas and substantial main dishes of seafood, fish, steak or chicken, followed by delectable desserts.

### **The Cayenne Grill**

Nestled among the tropical gardens and overlooking the crystal clear waters of the lagoon, The Cayenne Grill is the place for alfresco dining in thatched gazebos, niches of privacy beside the sea. Guests are invited to choose cuts of prime meat or freshly caught fish and have it prepared to their choice, while they help themselves to the extensive selection of salads, antipasti, mezze and amuse bouches.

### **The Teppanyaki Table**

Every night the Teppanyaki Table opens for guests who gather around a counter while the chef skilfully demonstrates his ability to conjure up Japanese dishes of exquisite flavour.

### **The Satay Bar**

As well as grilled, sizzling satays of meat, seafood or chicken on skewers complemented with spicy peanut sauce, wok dishes and grilled bites are also served at this lunchtime snack counter.

### **The Lighthouse Lounge**

Above The Lighthouse Restaurant, The Lighthouse Lounge is an elegant Martini and Champagne Bar for cocktails. It also serves as an intimate setting for after-dinner cognacs, digestifs and fine cigars.

### **The Wine Cellar**

The wine list at Baros has been created with fine dining in mind. The glass walled, temperature controlled walk-in wine cellar in The Lighthouse Restaurant showcases an extensive global selection of old and new world wines. Special gourmet dinners are held in the Wine Cellar with carefully matched wines.

### **The Sails Bar**

The beautiful beachside garden of coconut palms in front of the open-sided Sails Bar provides natural shade during the day and an intimately lit glade at night. It has hammocks and giant couches for lazing the hours away gazing at the ocean, reading an engrossing book, or simply relaxing and enjoying a snack or a refreshing drink at any time of day or night. It has an old fashioned bar counter where guests can sip juice, beer, spirits, cocktails or wine all day from 10.00hrs until the last guest leaves the next morning, while mellow music plays in the background.

### **Villa Dining and Island Dining**

On demand 24-hours a day - breakfast, snacks, meals and drinks are served with discretion in the confidential privacy of guests' villas or anywhere they wish on the island.

## **How's the diving?**

To dive at Baros Maldives is to experience diving as it should be – as luxurious and relaxing as a stay at the resort. While some resorts focus on regimented diving, Divers Baros Maldives specialises in diving a la carte. Guests choose what they want to do and have the help of experts, not just master divers but qualified marine biologists as well.

### **The House Reef**

The Baros House Reef encircles the island and is renowned as one of the best house reefs in the Maldives. Just a few metres swim from the beach, the 300m long house reef gently slopes down to 20m, where large coral outcrops occur with an astonishing variety of marine life.

## The Diving Centre

The Divers Baros Maldives PADI 5-star Gold Palm Resort Diving Centre is located on a short jetty close to the island's central pavilions. It is operated by the owners, ensuring personal attention and qualified skilled professional service developed over three decades.

The Centre is well equipped with the latest in diving equipment and supported by a Bauer Compressor + Nitrox and 12ltr tanks. Lamps, computers, wetsuits and digital cameras are also available for rent.

The Centre's diving boat is a modern 15m luxury diving vessel equipped with the latest navigation system, oxygen, radio, toilet and first aid kit.

There is also a Marine Biology Centre organising Coral Planting Workshops and certified Eco-Diving programmes

Multilingual qualified diving instructors conduct all level of PADI and specialist courses, including fish identification, night diving, peak performance buoyancy, underwater photography and Nitrox, Rescue Dive and Dive Master Certification courses, as well as the beginners and standard diving packages. Snorkelling safaris are organised on request.

## Water Sports

The Diving Centre is also the place to go to take part in over water activities.

- Canoeing
- Catamaran Sailing
- Windsurfing
- Waterski/Wakeboard
- Sea Scooter

## What else is there to do?

Explore! Some of the activities that can be arranged through the resort's Guest Activity Coordinator:

- Afternoon Island Hopping
- Male' Sightseeing & Shopping
- Glass Bottom Boat Cruise
- Sunrise Fishing
- Sunset Fishing
- Big Game Fishing
- Dolphin Cruise

- Sandbank Adventure
- Cruising on Nooma (our luxury traditional sailing dhoni)
- Serenity (private motor yacht) Cruising
- Sunset Champagne Cruise
- Moonlight Gourmet Dinner Cruise

### Is there a Spa?

One of the best. Exquisite décor exuding a warm and precious serenity creates tranquillity in The Spa. A view of the spa's water garden graced with lush tropical foliage adds to the relaxing seclusion.

Two treatment beds in each room promise complete bliss for couples. After treatment couples can enjoy the private outdoor Spa bath and rain shower. Treatments are designed for pure relaxation while powerful botanical ingredients deliver promised wellbeing.

### And Yoga?

To foster wellbeing, daily Yoga classes are held on decks above the crystal clear lagoon or, for deeper spirituality, on a sandbank in the middle of nowhere. A pavilion, with or without air-conditioning, dedicated to yoga is also available.

### The Gardens of Baros Maldives

Baros is a tropical, botanical Garden of Eden. Plants suited to the climate from neighbouring countries thrive alongside indigenous plants. A team of expert gardeners tends to the garden every day, watering plants (with recycled water) in the morning and at night. There are no dangerous animals or reptiles on the island.

## The Maldivian Lounge

With the best collection in the world of ancient maps of the Maldives, displays of locally made artefacts and hand-crafted traditional furniture, and photographs of the islands as they were until tourism began in the 1970s, The Maldivian Lounge at Baros reflects the heritage of the Maldives.

## What happens on departure?

Guests must check out of their rooms by 12 noon, but if they don't want to leave the island until the evening, there is a transit lounge to use free of charge. This contains a bathroom with shower, comfortable reclining chairs for snoozing and a complimentary Internet station.

## The Baros Maldives Elite Club

When your guests have stayed at Baros Maldives once, don't be surprised that they want to return. When they do they will be entitled to become members of Baros Maldives Elite, a very special club that's restricted to repeat visitors to Baros Maldives. With many complimentary gifts, this is the resort's way of showing appreciation for their regular guests whose presence gives Baros Maldives its character, making it THE resort to which guests return time and time again.

## Reservations

To make all arrangements for your guests to stay at Baros Maldives,  
reservations@baros.com

or

[reservations@universalsresorts.com](mailto:reservations@universalsresorts.com)

If you have any enquiries about their proposed holiday at Baros, then send an email to:  
info@baros.com

To see some beautiful photographs, go to [www.universalimagesonline.com/baros](http://www.universalimagesonline.com/baros)

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*"We strolled together toward the warm beacon of light ahead.  
For us, this was the best of the Maldives."*

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