

BAROS

maldives

PRESS KIT 2011

THE ESSENCE OF THE MALDIVES

A rare privilege... Baros Maldives is a resort that offers understated elegance with a sense of authenticity, value and local culture. A lush, tropical island set in the shimmering waters of a shallow lagoon in North Male' Atoll, ringed by a reef alive with marine life. The island is reached by speed boat only 25 minutes after leaving the airport.

Guests stay in elegance in individual villas created from timber and sandstone, poised and peaceful over a translucent lagoon, or nestled discreetly among exotic blooms by the beach. They revel in romantic privacy; blissful seclusion where noise and others, exasperation and hassles, are a world away. The essence of the Maldives is defined at Baros.

The island is designed by nature for a divine vacation – vivid blue lagoons; glittering sun-soaked, golden beaches; exotic flowers blooming beside natural sandy trails shaded by 50 -year old palm trees – and created by skilled craftsmen and artists, inspired and devoted – gracious sandstone and fine wood villas; delectable dining, dedicated and warm service.

The Elements

- A small coral island, round in shape and surrounded by a sandy beach, exclusive to resort guests;
- A unique house reef alive with colours, fish, turtles, rays and corals;
- Lush vegetation, manicured gardens reflecting the typical Maldives island ambience;
- No traffic, no pool, no motorised water-sports, thus preserving the tranquillity of this blissful tropical island retreat;
- Special occasions can be celebrated while dining on a luxurious dhoni (traditional sail boat) cruising the lagoon or on a sandbank;
- Showcasing of talented local artists and musicians;
- Encountering the local culture at the Maldivian lounge (from mid 2010) or during village expeditions;
- Exquisite cuisine to suit every palate
- Maldivian culinary delights and Maldivian theme nights.

The Unique Selling Points

- Sense of Authenticity.
Maldivian owned and managed, Baros has cultured elegance and offers the essence of the Maldives.
- History of the island.
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.
- Sense of home.
Warm hospitality and creation of emotional moments.

- Creative cuisine.
The Lighthouse Restaurant has become a gastronomic revelation as well as a unique landmark.
- Innovative diving
A la Carte private and luxury diving (Diving by Design) with an experienced team and a fabulous oceanographic environment with a house reef to oneself and a Marine Centre dedicated to the sustainability of the underwater world.

HISTORY AND LANDMARKS

Baros; a Maldivian entrepreneur “success story” that started in the seventies... Baros was the third resort to open in the Maldives and falls under the umbrella of Universal Enterprises Private Ltd, a 100% Maldivian company, pioneer of tourism in the Maldives.

2011

January – Traveller’s Choice by Trip Advisor :

- Top Ten Luxury Hotels In The World (ranked # 10)
- Top Ten Luxury Hotels in Asia (ranked #2)
- Top Ten Hotels for Romance in Asia (ranked #2)

2010

July - World Travel Awards in two categories - The Leading Hotel in the Indian Ocean and The Indian Ocean’s Leading Villa

Awarded as Best Luxury Resort (Asia) – Ranked 5th in the Top 10 - Travellers Choice by Trip Advisor

2009

Baros Maldives received several awards – Traveller’s Choice by Trip Advisor :

- Best Luxury (Asia) – Ranked 7th in the Top 10
- Best for Romance (Asia) – Ranked 9th in the Top 10
- Best Luxury (Worldwide) - Ranked 53rd in the Top 100

2008

Baros Residence receives the Indian Ocean’s Leading Villa award by World Travel Awards for the second year.

2007

November – The Baros Residence receives the Indian Ocean’s Leading Villa award by World Travel Awards.

2006

June – Baros Maldives is awarded the Small Luxury Hotels of the World recognition.

2005

December - Official launching of Baros Maldives as a 5 star boutique resort. with 75 luxury villas.

May – Construction of the new Baros Maldives starts.

1996

Re-construction and major refurbishment of Baros Holiday Resort.

59 individual wooden beach cottages and 4 more water bungalows are built.

1994

A further 7 individual coral-walled beach rooms are added to the island.

1993

The first 12 water bungalows are built over the lagoon.

The island at that time becomes the second one to have water bungalows in the Maldives.

1985

The first desalination plant of the Maldives is installed on the island of Baros.

The first 10 individual coral-walled beach rooms are built some time after.

1983

12 more beach rooms are added to the property.

1973

Opening of Baros Holiday Resort with 28 rooms.

Before the island was uninhabited and was a palm tree plantation.

THE ARCHITECTURE

The Maldivian architect, Mohamed Shafeeq (aka Sappé), whose portfolio includes some of the most beautiful and luxurious resorts in the Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius and Philippines, has created with Baros Maldives a perfect combination of outside and inside life. The Maldives is all about outdoor living - The Welcome Pavilion, the restaurants and bars are all open-sided areas. The villas have large windows for natural daylight and have access to the natural surroundings. They inspire romance, intimacy and cosiness. The Lighthouse Restaurant is a landmark, a new dimensional structure that can be seen from far in the atoll.

Sappé's favourite materials are natural stones, tropical wood and coconut thatch. The architect's achievement was in association with interior designer, Anita Indra Dewi. Baros has a minimalistic inspired contemporary architecture; a resort designed with a certain taste...

THE BAROS RESIDENCE AND THE VILLAS

Surrounded by green foliage and bird-of-paradise blossoms, the Baros Residence is an intimate place to stay, to share secrets, to relax. It has a private swimming pool amidst the blooms of a tropical garden. A day bed on the sun deck, private spa massages, a linen canopied bed; tropical timbers and bas-relief; an extravagant bathroom. A butler on call to assure warm and willing service whenever required in this romantic hideaway.

The Deluxe Villas, Baros Villas, Water Villas, Baros Pool Villas and Baros Premium Pool Villas offer luxury with tranquil refinement. The spirit of Baros here slowly seduces the senses. Amongst other amenities, the Villas have king size beds, daybeds to chill out, Lavazza espresso machines and a personal wine chiller with bottles selected on arrival. Some have complete open-air bathrooms, whereas others have contemporary bathrooms with rainfall showers. Water Villas boast bathrooms with a view of the lagoon and have steps to the water. The villas at Baros Maldives offer tropical elegance amidst the lush beauty of the island.

THE LIGHTHOUSE AND UNPARALLELED CULINARY OPTIONS

The Lighthouse, contemporary and elegant fine dining restaurant, is the highlight and landmark of Baros Maldives. It is Baros' Signature. It features elaborate composed symphonies of seafood as well as modern fusion cuisine with a dominance of Asian and Mediterranean influences. The accent is on authenticity, creativity and aesthetics. The ambience is modern. Service is attentive yet discreet. The wine cellar, set in a stylish glass-panelled section of the restaurant, includes precious and selective labels from many of the world's most respected regions. The beverage selection also includes an assortment of waters. The Lighthouse Lounge, an elegant Martini and Champagne bar, is designed like a gallery and its terrace offers 360-degree views of the ocean. It offers niches of privacy and discreet service accompanied by ambient jazz music. The Lighthouse lounge is contemporary yet refined with an ambience that fills all senses.

The resort boasts two other original dining venues all set over the lagoon, a palette of private dining options as well as a cocktail bar.

Lime Restaurant

Thatched, arched and open-sided pavilions by the water for the heart and soul of good dining. Breakfast selections to enhance your wellbeing are tastefully displayed. All-day dining from an à la carte menu of enticing dishes from around the world.

Cayenne Grill

Alfresco dining in thatched gazebos offering niches of privacy above the lagoon. Especially prepared seafood, fish, meat and vegetarian dishes served with flavours of distinction and accompanied by a healthy selection of salads and irresistible desserts. A favourite retreat for a leisurely meal infused with the flavours of the tropics. On Saturday evenings, Cayenne Grill transforms itself into a venue of a traditional Maldivian dining for a memorable authentic experience. Teppanyaki table dining and wood fired over are also available and there is a contemporary style satay bar.

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. No need to dress for dinner! Dine anywhere on the island, on request. Whether it's a barbecue for two on the beach, a Thai feast on the boardwalk, a picnic on a sandbank or a candle-lit banquet in a palm grove, a dedicated team of chefs and butlers takes care of it all.

Sails Bar

The centre of conviviality - the open-sided Sails Bar is the natural place under the palms for a refreshing juice, beer or wine at any time. In the evening, mellow background music accompanies the joy of camaraderie and the enjoyment of amazing cocktails, fine spirits and liqueurs. Three times a week, this bar showcases talented local musicians who entertain with live blues and unforgettable classics.

Satay Bar

Whether lounging at The Palm Garden, or beside the sea at the Cayenne Grill enjoy the Live Cooking at The Satay Bar Counter for a light yet spicy South East Asian-influenced, casual yet fulfilling daytime dining experience.

OCEANOGRAPHIC WORLD AND INNOVATIVE DIVING

Baros has its own oval-shaped house reef, rich and alive with marine life. Being so close to the shore even non-divers can swim to it and spend hours effortlessly snorkelling. The reef has gentle slopes and is easy of access. Then close to the island in the North Male' Atoll, there are 30 superlative dive sites that never fail to delight even the most experienced diver.

Divers Baros Maldives, lead by an enthusiastic team with nearly 30 years of experience and presence in the Maldives, offers year-round Scuba Diving excursions and PADI courses. The dive centre offers enriched air Nitrox diving with a 32% Oxygen blend, the latest in diving equipment for rent including digital underwater cameras, special torches and dive computers. Safe diving is one its main objectives.

Baros proposes à la carte private and luxury diving; 'Diving by Design' is a different and unique approach whereby diving experience is customised and personalised...

Divers Baros Maldives team work in close relationship with the resort's Marine Centre. The resident Marine Biologist conducts awareness presentations for the resort's guests as well as organising accompanied snorkelling and reef tours. For those who would like to watch the reef from above, without getting wet, there is also the possibility to hop on the resort's glass bottom boat. One of the Marine Centre's objectives is to sustain the underwater environment around the island.

Divers Baros Maldives has become the first resort EcoDive Centre in the Maldives in November 2010. The Divers Baros Maldives team members including the resident Marine Biologist, are licensed EcoDive Reef Check instructors, as well as fully qualified SCUBA diving instructors. With this new status as the first EcoDive Centre in the Maldives, the Divers Baros Maldives dive centre offers the international Reef Check EcoDiver programme for all Baros Maldives guests. The Reef Check EcoDiver programme allows children and adults with an interest in the ocean to learn more about tropical coral reefs. Reef Check combines education with action to give volunteers a unique experience while taking an active role in conserving the world's reefs.

NOOMA, THE DHONI OF ROMANCE

With elegantly and locally crafted curved prow, a vast single sail, thatched palm leaves roof and sarong-clad crew of four, the new 19-metre long vessel – ‘Nooma’, meaning blue flower - is modelled on the traditional Maldivian Dhoni (sailing boat).

It is a Dhoni of romance for sunset sailing, secret reef snorkelling à deux or for romantic dinner cruises for two. With gourmet meals served on board by a personal butler, secluded sun deck for two in the bow, and a private lounge, toilet, shower, and air-conditioned double bedroom, this is the Dhoni for the ultimate intimate cruise.

Be pampered with an authentic, exclusive adventure while sailing upon Maldivian waters.

THE SPA

The Spa at Baros Maldives has recently enjoyed a refreshing change with regards to its looks, feel and atmosphere.

Entering the Spa Reception, one walks through intricately carved doors, onto stepping stones, embedded within a pond. On either side one's eyes rest on a beautifully designed garden while gentle sounds of trickling water indicate a place of wellbeing. The spacious, open-air reception sala present a friendly welcome to every guest. There is also a separate Yoga Pavilion.

Four treatment rooms are reachable by walking over a beautiful wooden decking, fringed by lush greenery. Upon entering the treatment rooms, which enjoy an exclusive feel with their private steam room, one is welcomed by a warm and elegant touch of serenity. Two treatment beds in each room promise complete bliss for couples which are encouraged to enjoy the private Spa bath and rain shower, set in a lush tropical garden.

At night time diffused lighting and several candles in glass houses guide one back towards the reception and relaxation area. Guests enjoy a hot or cold ginger tea after their treatment and while relaxing on an elegant lounge, enjoy a beautiful garden view to re-join reality.

Treatments are designed for pure relaxation while powerful botanical ingredients deliver the promised results. Guests can choose from a wide variety of massages, facials, body exfoliations and wraps and knowledgeable staff are always present to recommend treatment programmes for specific concerns.

For a Spa experience from top to toe, we offer a selection of grooming services that includes our professional Spa Manicure and Pedicure, as well as our personalised waxing services. We create complete care for beautiful and healthy looking hands and nails. We also provide a treat for tired feet with a refreshing treatment complete with file, buff and professionally applied nail polish.

After your essential Spa experience, you are invited to relax in the sanctuary of tranquillity created as a special space to blissfully renew your vitality and inner sense of wellbeing.

To foster further wellbeing daily Yoga classes are held inside Yoga Pavilion on decks above the crystal clear lagoon or, for deeper spirituality, on a sandbank in the middle of nowhere.

MALDIVIAN LOUNGE

Few visitors to the Maldives know about the rich heritage and fascinating past that binds 1,192 coral islands isolated in the Indian Ocean together as a nation.

Whether the original inhabitants were sun-worshipping aboriginals or ship-wrecked mariners and settlers from Arabia, India, Africa, Madagascar and Polynesia, from the 12th century onwards the islanders were devout Muslims.

The Portuguese occupied the islands in the 16th century until -- inspired by the bravery of the Maldivian patriot, Bodu Thakurufaan, now revered as a National Hero -- the islanders shook off the colonial yoke. Invasions from India were repelled, and even the British were kept at bay by diplomacy in the 19th century.

The Maldivian Lounge at Baros Maldives, opened in January 2011 seeks to recreate the days and ways of traditional Maldives; to give visitors a sense of Maldivian culture and identity; to convey the gentle devotion, resilience, hospitality and independence that is the essence of the Maldives.

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

For guests, a visit to The Maldivian Lounge adds a cultural dimension to the perfect vacation.

LEISURE

There is more to Maldives than Baros, and we help you discover the essence of the islands with excursions that can be arranged on request by our friendly and ever helpful Guests Activities staff.

An exploration of the Maldives.

- 'Serenity' 50' Princess Motor Yacht
- Big Game Fishing
- Dolphin Cruise
- Reef Snorkelling
- Romantic Sunset Cruise
- Glass Bottom Boat Cruise
- Male' Sightseeing and Shopping
- Sunset Fishing and Catch your own dinner
- Seaplane Photo Flight
- Local Island Explorations
- Private Excursions and cruises

Other leisure activities include non-motorised water sports, fully equipped fitness centre, pool table, table tennis and board games.

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