

BAROS
maldives

PRESS KIT 2016

THE ESSENCE OF THE MALDIVES

Baros Maldives is a small coral island in the Indian Ocean ringed by a sun-kissed beach and a vibrant house-reef, within easy reach by speedboat of the Maldives International Airport, 24/7. For guests from overseas, it is far away... but near enough.

Baros Maldives has a rich heritage, reflecting the essence of the Maldives. Only the third resort to open in the Maldives (in December 1973), it is still setting the benchmark for a romantic, luxury holiday with genuine, heartfelt Maldivian hospitality. It has a reliable reputation: consistently winning prestigious awards from guests and travel professionals for quality accommodation and outstanding service excellence.

Baros Maldives warmly welcomes guests and everyone is treated as someone special, known to the staff by name, not Villa number. Attention to detail is important and whatever guests require, Baros Maldives will make it possible, whether it's a special meal, a bespoke excursion, a diving by design experience, a private spa or yoga session, or a romantic sailing cruise by traditional Maldivian vessel.

The ambience at Baros Maldives provides the perfect escape and getaway with its sense of tranquillity, peace and elegance in a tropical setting that ensures guests slow down, relax and leave the world behind. This is enhanced with lush vegetation of venerable coconut palms and exotic plants and flowers and the easy-to-explore house reef nurtured by carefully managed eco-conservation.

Baros Maldives has an enviable intimacy yet excels in spacious accommodation designed with thought and style using natural materials and creating a suggestion of timelessness; the perfect setting for romance. It exudes serenity: there are no disturbances from young children, motorised water sports or noisy vehicles.

THE ELEMENTS

- A small coral island, round in shape and surrounded by a sandy beach
- A beautiful house reef, surrounding the island and only 15 to 30 meter from the shore, alive with colours, fish, turtles, rays and corals
- Lush tropical vegetation, manicured gardens reflecting the typical Maldives island ambience
- No traffic, no motorised water-sports, thus preserving the tranquillity of this blissful tropical island retreat; to maintain the special peaceful atmosphere of the island, children are welcome only above the age of eight
- Special occasions can be celebrated while cruising on a luxurious dhoni (traditional sail boat), renewing wedding vows in tropical surroundings, dining on the island or on a private sandbank in the middle of the Indian Ocean
- Attention to the personal desires of all guests, creating tailor-made and unique personalised experiences
- Discovering the local culture at the Maldivian lounge or during excursions to local islands and to the capital city, Male'
- Three restaurants offering exquisite cuisine to suit every palate
- Maldivian culinary delights during the weekly Maldivian theme night

THE UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE

Baros Maldives offers cultured elegance in pure, uncomplicated luxury.

- AUTHENTICITY

A rich heritage – one of the first resorts in the Maldives, setting the benchmark for luxury with genuine, heartfelt Maldivian hospitality.

- WARMTH

People are at the heart of the brand. A sense of belonging – for guests and staff.

- LOCATION

Far away but near enough.

Tranquillity and relaxation a short speedboat cruise from touchdown.

Brand Hallmarks:

- THE LIGHTHOUSE RESTAURANT

An actual beacon distinguishing the island, drawing in the sophisticated traveller to idyllic gourmet excellence.

- SUPERIOR DIVING

Personalised, a la carte diving.

30 dive sites within 50 minutes of Baros, some of them ranked among the top ten in the Maldives, as well as the Maldives Victory shipwreck. Since 2010: first EcoDive Centre in the Maldives.

- UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

To remember a lifetime: traditional Nooma Sunset Cruise and Romantic Nooma Sunset Dinner Cruises, Sandbank Experiences, The Piano Deck, Private Dining and Sunset or Sunrise Yoga sessions.

- ROMANCE & HONEYMOON

Baros Maldives is designed for couples in love, whether on honeymoon or renewing romance together.

HISTORY

Baros Maldives: a Maldivian entrepreneur success story that started in 1973. 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.

1973

Opening of Baros Holiday Resort with 28 rooms. Before the island was an uninhabited palm tree plantation.

1983

12 more beach rooms added to the property.

1985

The first water desalination plant in the Maldives installed on Baros.
The first 10 individual coral-walled beach rooms are built.

1993

The first 12 water bungalows are built over the lagoon and the resort becomes the second one in the Maldives to have water bungalows.

1994

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

1996

Re-construction and major refurbishment including 59 individual wooden beach cottages and 4 more water bungalows.

2005

May: Construction of the new Baros Maldives begins.

December: Official launching of Baros Maldives as a 5-star boutique resort with 45 luxury beach villas and 30 luxury over water villas.

2006

Baros Maldives is recognised and branded as one of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World.

2009

Five Baros Villas upgraded to Pool Villas, each with an individual secluded private plunge pool.

2010

Divers Baros Maldives become the first resort EcoDive Centre in the Maldives

Five more Baros Villas upgraded to exclusive Pool Villas making a new category of ten elegant Villas with private pools.

The Spa at Baros Maldives refreshed with natural styled décor creating a soothing atmosphere.

2011

Opening of the Maldivian Lounge

Two Pool Villas upgraded to Premium Pool Villas with a separate Jacuzzi Pool as well as a private plunge pool.

2012

The Baros Gym enlarged and equipped with the latest gym equipment.

2013

All together Ten Water Villas equipped with an individual private plunge pool, further enhancing the Baros Maldives product.

2014

The over-water infinity pool is opened and Baros Maldives is now providing all together 15 Water Villas and 15 Water Pool Villas to guests.

RECENT AWARDS

2016

April, World Travel Awards, Indian Ocean

Baros Maldives receives the awards for Indian "Ocean's Most Romantic Resort 2016", "The Maldives' Leading Boutique Resort 2016" and the Baros Residence becomes "The Maldives' Leading Luxury Hotel Villa 2016"

January - Traveller's Choice by TripAdvisor
Top 25 Hotels Asia (Ranked #9)
Top 25 Luxury Hotels Asia (Ranked #16)
Top 25 Hotels for Romance Asia (Ranked #2)
Top 25 Hotels for Romance in the World: (Ranked #8)
Top 25 Best Service Hotels Asia (Ranked #21)
Top 10 Hotels Maldives (Ranked #4)
Top 10 Romance Hotels Maldives (Ranked #2)

2015

December - World Travel Awards 2015

Baros Maldives receives the awards for "World's Most Romantic Resort 2015"

June – World Travel Awards 2015, Indian Ocean

Baros Maldives receives the awards for "Indian Ocean's Most Romantic Resort 2015"

January - Traveller's Choice by TripAdvisor
Top 25 Hotels Asia (ranked #9)
Top 25 Luxury Hotels Asia (ranked #16)
Top 25 Hotels for Romance Asia (ranked #3)
Top 10 Hotels Maldives (ranked #4)
Top 10 Romance Hotels Maldives (ranked #2)
Top 10 Best Service Hotels Maldives (ranked #6)

2014

November – World Travel Awards 2014, Indian Ocean

Baros Maldives receives the awards for "Indian Ocean's Most Romantic Resort 2014" and "Maldives' Leading Boutique Resort 2014".

January – Traveller's Choice by TripAdvisor
Top 25 Hotels in the World (ranked #20)
Top 25 Hotels in Asia (ranked #6)
Top 25 Hotels in the Maldives (ranked #2)
Top 25 Romance Hotels in the World (ranked #7)
Top 25 Romance Hotels in Asia (ranked #2)
Top 25 Romance Hotels in the Maldives (ranked #1)
Top 25 Luxury Hotels in Asia (ranked #11)
Top 25 Luxury Hotels in the Maldives (ranked #3)

2013

December – World Travel Awards 2013, Grand Final Doha, Qatar

Baros Maldives receives the "World's Most Romantic Resort" Award, and the "World's Leading Island Villas" Award.

May – World Travel Awards, Indian Ocean

Baros Maldives receives the "Maldives' Leading Water Villa Resort" Award, the "Indian Ocean's Leading Resort" Award as well as the "Indian Ocean's Most Romantic Resort" Award.

February – Traveller's Choice by Tripadvisor
Top 25 Hotels for Romance in the World: (ranked #5)
Top 10 Hotels for Romance in Asia: (ranked #1)

January – Traveller's Choice by Tripadvisor
Top 25 Hotels in the World: (ranked #8)
Top 25 Luxury Hotels in the World (ranked #18)
Top 25 Hotels in the Maldives (ranked #1)
Top 25 Hotels for Service in the Maldives (ranked #3)
Top 25 Luxury Hotels in the Maldives (ranked #1)
Top 25 Hotels in Asia (ranked #3)
Top 25 Hotels for Service in Asia (ranked #21)
Top 25 Luxury Hotels in Asia (ranked #5)

2012

December – World Travel Awards

Baros Maldives acclaimed the “World’s Most Romantic Resort” at the grand final of the World Travel Awards ceremony.

October – World Travel Awards, Indian Ocean

Baros Maldives receives the “Indian Ocean’s Leading Villa” Award for the fifth time, the “Maldives’ Leading Water Villas” Award as well as for the first time the “Indian Ocean’s Leading Luxury Resort” Award.

January – Traveller’s Choice by TripAdvisor

Top Ten Hotels in Asia (ranked # 9)

2011

December – World Travel Awards

Baros Maldives receives the “World’s Leading Water Villa” Award

September – World Travel Awards, Indian Ocean

The Baros Residence receives the “Indian Ocean’s Leading Villa” Award for the fourth time

January – Traveller’s Choice by TripAdvisor

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)

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 afar.

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 Maldives has an inspired contemporary architecture; a resort designed with distinctive taste and style.

THE BAROS RESIDENCE & 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, In-Villa breakfasts, private spa massages, a linen canopied bed; tropical timbers and bas-relief; an extravagant bathroom. All this and a butler on call to assure warm and willing service whenever required in this unique 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. Among other amenities, the Villas have king size beds, daybeds to chill out, espresso machines and a personal wine chiller with sommelier-selected bottles. 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. All villas benefit from the personal attention of a dedicated Villa Host 24/7.

The Villas at Baros Maldives offer tropical elegance amidst the lush beauty of the island.

EXCEPTIONAL CULINARY OPTIONS

Baros Maldives offers culinary options to satisfy the most fastidious gourmet or to delight the confirmed traditionalist. Classic cuisine, often with an innovative, tropical twist, is the speciality of The Lighthouse, while grilled seafood, fine meats and Asian tapas are available at The Cayenne. All day dining is presented at Lime. Guests are not confined to restaurant dining as meals can be served at any time of day or evening from the In-Villa Dining Menu, or by special request from a variety of menus anywhere on the island, or even on an isolated sandbank.

THE LIGHTHOUSE

The Lighthouse, contemporary and elegant fine dining restaurant, is the highlight and landmark of Baros Maldives. It represents the signature of refinement of Baros. 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 Lighthouse Lounge, an elegant 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 relaxing jazz music. The Lighthouse Lounge is contemporary yet refined with an ambience that satisfies the senses.

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. Teppanyaki table dining and wood fired over are also available.

LIME RESTAURANT

Located right by the lagoon, the contemporary styled Lime Restaurant offers Asian influenced cuisine served to guests relaxing at tables on a spacious deck above the waves. Lime is open for a superb buffet breakfast with action stations and sparkling wine, and for salads, snacks, tea, lunch, dinner and family favourites throughout the day from an à la carte menu of enticing dishes from around the world.

Further, light and healthy snacks are served at the Lime Restaurant pool side for an enjoyable afternoon at this unique overwater-infinity pool with an impressive look over the blue lagoon, the perfect sight to experience the famous Maldivian sun set.

IN-VILLA & ISLAND DINING

On demand 24-hours a day - breakfast, snacks, meals and drinks are served with discretion in the privacy of guests' Villa. Guests can also dine anywhere on the island, on request. Whether it's a barbecue for two on the beach or a candle-lit banquet in a palm grove, a dedicated team of chefs and butlers takes care of it all.

SANDBANK DINING

A unique dining experience exclusively for two begins with a sea crossing by boat for a picnic, lunch, a beach barbecue or gourmet dinner under the stars on the Baros Private Sandbank. Set menus are available or the resort's culinary team will prepare and serve special dishes according to guests' desires.

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, the romantically-lit open-sided bar has a wide choice of amazing cocktails, fine spirits and liqueurs. Twice a week, this bar showcases talented local bands.

INNOVATIVE DIVING & MARINE CONSERVATION

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. Also 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, led by an enthusiastic team with many 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 Maldives proposes à la carte private and luxury diving: "Diving by Design" is a different and unique approach whereby each individual's 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 the possibility of using 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 was the first resort EcoDive Centre in the Maldives. With this new status 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 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 waiter, 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.

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

BAROS MALDIVES ESCAPES & EXPERIENCES

There is more to Maldives than Baros, and guests can discover the essence of the islands with regular daily excursions as well bespoke Baros Maldives experiences arranged according to personal requirements by the friendly and knowledgeable Guest Experiences staff. Whether it's a cruise for two by luxury traditional sailing boat, Nooma, a jaunt around the islands by the private motor yacht, Serenity, or big game fishing, everything can be arranged for an enjoyable experience.

- *Serenity*, 53ft Princess Motor Yacht – private excursions and escapes
- *Nooma*, champagne cruises and picnics.
- Big Game Fishing
- Glass Bottom Boat Cruise
- Guided Reef Snorkelling
- Local Island Explorations
- Maldivian Hand Line Trolling
- Male' Sightseeing and Shopping
- Romantic Sunset Cruise
- Snorkelling tours with our Marine Biologist
- Sunset Dolphin Watching with Champagne and canapés
- Fishing by Twilight and "Catch your own dinner"

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

THE SPA AT BAROS MALDIVES

The Spa at Baros Maldives is dedicated to creating a personal relaxing and rejuvenating spa experience in a serene ambience inspiring sublime well-being.

From the moment guests enter the Spa and follow the stepping stones across the calmly flowing water feature, they are guided gently through a healing spa experience that leaves them feeling refreshed, whether from the flight from overseas to Baros Maldives or from a day of adventure in the islands.

The Spa therapists can devise a series of treatments especially to suit an individual guest to give maximum benefit and fulfilment during a holiday at Baros Maldives. There is a full selection of wonderfully relaxing massages; stretch massages, ayurvedic massages, foot massages, cleansing scrubs; nourishing wraps; rejuvenating facials; manicures and pedicures.

There are four large luxurious treatment rooms for couples each with private steam room and relaxation area with bath tub hidden within the lush foliage of the spa garden, with changing areas and open-to-the sky showers allowing guests to feel the velvet tropical air on their skin as they refresh themselves.

For the mind and spirit, private yoga and meditation sessions can be arranged in the air-conditioned spa pavilion, on the Villa deck, the Lighthouse deck or at sunrise and sunset on a sandbank.

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 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 a fascinating collection of genuine ancient maps of the islands, The Maldivian Lounge at Baros reflects the very soul of the Maldives.

THE PIANO DECK

For those who dream of being alone with their partner in a uniquely romantic setting, Baros Maldives has introduced two fantastic experiences. The choice is dinner or a massage as the sun sets, the stars twinkle and the moon glows, on a deck isolated in the middle of a sparkling lagoon The Piano is a small wooden deck, poised above the translucent waters of the lagoon. This deck is shaped like a grand piano and is available for couples who want to be alone. The only sound is the natural music of splashing waves and the whisper of the caressing breeze.

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