



BAROS

MALDIVES

Press Kit 2018

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 from the Maldives International Airport, day and night. For guests from overseas, it is far away from the pressures of modern life... but close enough for a restorative vacation.

Baros Maldives has a rich heritage, reflecting the essence of the Maldives. 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 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 dhoni, a traditional Maldivian vessel.

The ambience at Baros Maldives provides the perfect escape from routine with its sense of tranquillity, peace and elegance in a tropical setting. This ensures that guests slow down, relax and leave the world behind. The island resort is enhanced with lush vegetation of venerable coconut palms and exotic plants and flowers, and an easy-to-explore house reef nurtured by carefully managed eco-conservation. It is small enough to walk around in 10 minutes, being only 300m x 350m in size.

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

The Unique Elements

Understated Luxury: A bijou coral island, round in shape and surrounded by a sandy beach, Baros Maldives offers cultured elegance in a pure, uncomplicated way.

Timeless Elegance: With a restful and romantic setting, facilities and service run in harmony and grace as classic Maldives embraces uncompromised luxury.

Natural and Lush: Divine tropical vegetation, like a miniature botanical garden, carefully cultivated to reflect the natural character of this lush Maldives island.

Boutique and Sophisticated: Independently run and managed, Baros Maldives is dedicated to creating a satisfying experience for every individual guest in a refined and reassuring manner.

Tranquil and Serene: No traffic, no motorised water-sports and no unnecessary noise preserves the tranquillity of this blissful tropical island retreat. To maintain the undisturbed atmosphere of the resort, children staying at Baros must be at least eight years old.

Intimate and Romantic: Special occasions can be celebrated with a cruise and dinner on a traditional sailing dhoni, on the resort's private yacht, or on an isolated sand bank in the lagoon. A specially arranged ceremony of the renewal of wedding vows in tropical surroundings creates a memory that lasts forever.

Genuine and Personal: Attention to the wishes of all guests, supported by the creation of tailor-made and personalised experiences, is the hallmark of our authentic Maldivian hospitality

Discreet yet Attentive Service: With over 300 staff members, including a score of different nationalities although the majority are Maldivian, the ratio of staff to guests ensures dedicated attention to everyone.

Legendary Hospitality: Being Maldivian run and owned, the true essence of the Maldives is reflected in everything from the service to the architecture, and in pure Maldivian culinary delights.

What Makes Baros Maldives Special?

The Beautiful House Reef: Surrounding the island and only a short swim from the shore, the vibrant house reef is bright with colours, fish, turtles, rays and living coral. It is claimed to be one of the healthiest and best reefs of the Maldives.

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

Dedicated Villa Host: A Villa Host dedicated to ensuring the personal satisfaction of every guest is on hand whenever required.

Location: Far away but near enough. Tranquillity and relaxation is just a 25-minute speedboat cruise from touchdown at Velana, the Maldives International Airport near the capital island city of Male'.

Gourmet Dining: Three restaurants offer exquisite cuisine to suit every palate; these include our fine dining hallmark, Lighthouse Restaurant, as well as theme evenings, exclusive dining on a remote sandbank, on an unusual Piano Deck in the lagoon or on the beach.

Diving By Design: Personalised, à la carte diving. There are 30 dive sites and one ancient shipwreck within 50 minutes of Baros, some of them ranked among the top ten in the Maldives. Also available is the revolutionary fluo night diving. Since 2010: first EcoDive Centre in the Maldives.

Memorable Experiences: To remember a lifetime: traditional Nooma dhoni Sunset Cruise or Romantic Dinner Cruises; exclusive sunbathing or dining on our Sandbank; The Piano Deck for Private Dining; and Sunset or Sunrise Yoga sessions.

Romantic Interludes: Baros Maldives is designed for couples, whether on honeymoon or simply embracing romance; a memorable renewal of vows ceremony can be arranged on the beach.

The Legend

Baros Maldives: a Maldivian entrepreneurial success story that started in 1973. Baros was the third resort to open in the Maldives as part of Universal Enterprises Private Ltd, a 100% Maldivian company that is the leading pioneer of tourism in the Maldives.

1973

Opening of Baros Holiday Resort with 28 rooms on an uninhabited island that was previously a coconut palm plantation.

1983

Another 12 beach rooms added to the property.

1985

The first water desalination plant in the Maldives installed on Baros.

The first 10 individual coral-walled detached beach rooms built.

1993

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

1994

Seven individual coral-walled beach rooms added to the resort.

1996

Re-construction and major refurbishment including 59 individual wooden beach cottages and four 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 becomes 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 with a permanent exhibition of ancient maps of the Maldives.

Two Pool Villas upgraded to Premium Pool Villas each 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

An individual private plunge pool is added to each of ten Water Villas, further enhancing the Baros Maldives product.

2014

An over-water infinity pool is opened for all guests on the deck of Lime Restaurant. Baros Maldives now features 15 Water Villas and 15 Water Pool Villas.

2016

Upgrade of eight Deluxe Villas with improvement of interiors.

2017

The popular Cayenne Grill has re-opened with an enticing new menu for intimate beachside dining in a natural setting. Tables are set in open-sided pavilions as well as under an enlarged thatched roof on an expanded wooden deck now extending over the tranquil waters of the Baros lagoon.

Recent Awards

2018

January - Traveller's Choice by TripAdvisor

- Top 25 Hotels of the World (Ranked 15th)
- Top 25 Luxury Hotels in the World (Ranked 1st)
- Top 25 Hotels for Romance in the World (Ranked 13th)
- Top 25 Hotels for Service in the World (Ranked 25th)
- Top 25 Hotels in Asia (Ranked 8th)
- Top 25 Hotels for Luxury in Asia (Ranked 1st)
- Top 25 Hotels for Romance in Asia (Ranked 2nd)
- Top 25 Hotels for Service in Asia (Ranked 7th)
- Top 10 Hotels Maldives (Ranked 2nd)
- Top 10 Hotels for Luxury in Maldives (Ranked 1st)
- Top 10 Hotels for Romance in Maldives (Ranked 1st)
- Top 10 Hotels for Service in Maldives (Ranked 1st)

2017

December, World Travel Awards

Baros Maldives receives the award for "The World's Most Romantic Resort 2017."

October, Small Luxury Hotels of the World (SLH) Awards 2017

"Resort of the Year 2017" Award

Runner up in four other categories: Best Gourmet Experience, Most Sensational Spa, Most A-List Suite Experience and the Mystery Inspectors' Excellence Award.

September, Asian Lifestyle Tourism Awards Outstanding

Island Resort Destination in South East Asia Outstanding

Honeymoon Destination in Maldives

July, World Travel Awards

Baros Maldives is the "Indian Ocean's Most Romantic Resort for 2017"

March – Winner of the "TOP 10 Maldives Dreamy Resorts" reader's choice awards

January - Traveller's Choice by TripAdvisor

- Top 10 Hotels for Romance Maldives (Ranked #1)
- Top 10 Luxury Hotels Maldives (Ranked #2)
- Top 10 Best Service Hotels Maldives (Ranked #2)
- Top 10 Hotels Maldives (Ranked #8)
- Top 25 Luxury Hotels Asia (Ranked #4)

Top 25 Hotels for Romance Asia (Ranked #6)
Top 25 Best Service Hotels Asia (Ranked #11)
Top 25 Luxury Hotels World (Ranked #14)
Top 25 Hotels for Romance in the World (Ranked #22)

2016

December, World Travel Awards

Baros Maldives receives the award for “The World’s Most Romantic Resort 2016.

April, World Travel Awards, Indian Ocean

Baros Maldives receives awards as “The Indian Ocean’s Most Romantic Resort 2016,”and “The Maldives’ Leading Boutique Resort 2016.” The Baros Residence acclaimed “The Maldives’ Leading Luxury Hotel Villa 2016.”

January - Traveller’s Choice by TripAdvisor

Top 10 Romance Hotels Maldives (Ranked #2)
Top 10 Hotels Maldives (Ranked #4)
Top 25 Hotels for Romance Asia (Ranked #2)
Top 25 Hotels for Romance in the World: (Ranked #8)
Top 25 Hotels Asia (Ranked #9)
Top 25 Luxury Hotels Asia (Ranked #16)
Top 25 Best Service Hotels Asia (Ranked #21)

2015

December - World Travel Awards 2015

Baros Maldives receives the award as “World’s Most Romantic Resort 2015.”

June – World Travel Awards 2015, Indian Ocean

Baros Maldives receives the award as “Indian Ocean’s Most Romantic Resort 2015.”

January - Traveler’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 awards for “Indian Ocean’s Most Romantic Resort 2014” and “Maldives’ Leading Boutique Resort 2014.”

January – Traveler’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)

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 comfort. The Lighthouse Restaurant is an innovative 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 inspired, timeless and elegant architecture; a resort designed with distinction and style.

The Baros Residence and The Villas

Nestled within the tropical and elegant setting of Baros Maldives, a sanctuary of the highest luxury awaits. The Baros Residence, the most exclusive and luxurious Villa at this bijou boutique resort, is the perfect setting for guests to relax and rejuvenate in ultimate privacy and luxury.

Surrounded by green foliage and bird-of-paradise blossoms, here hides an intimate place to share quiet moments. Guests can soak up the tropical sun in this exclusive retreat and swim in the 7 x 3 metre personal pool set amidst the beauty of this tropical garden. From the serene poolside deck, a walkway lined by exotic greenery guides the way to the soft-sand beach. With its 268 square metres of refined style, private swimming pool and personal butler on call 24 hours a day, the Baros Residence provides the quintessential harmonious and secluded 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. Each Villa has a king-size bed, a daybed to chill out, an espresso machine and a individual wine chiller with sommelier-selected bottles, as well as a well-stocked mini bar, an entertainment centre and complimentary WiFi. Some Villas have partially open-air bathrooms, while others feature contemporary bathrooms with rainfall showers. Water Villas have exquisite bathrooms with a view of the lagoon and steps from the deck direct into the lagoon. All Villas benefit from the personal attention of a dedicated Villa Host on call 24 hours a day.

All the Villas at Baros Maldives are designed with a sophisticated timeless elegance, complementing 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 Grill. 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 the resort. This over-water restaurant features elaborately composed symphonies of seafood as well as modern fusion cuisine with a touch of Asian and Mediterranean influences. The accent is on authenticity, creativity and aesthetics while the ambience is traditional with service that is attentive yet discreet.

The wine cellar, set in a stylish, temperature-controlled, glass-panelled recess that is part of the restaurant, displays precious and selected labels from the world's most respected wine regions. The Lighthouse Lounge, an elegant cocktail bar, is above the restaurant with galleries revealing 360-degree views of the ocean. It offers niches of privacy and discreet service accompanied by relaxing jazz music in a contemporary yet refined ambience.

Cayenne Grill

Alfresco dining in thatched gazebos perched 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 to enjoy a leisurely meal infused with the flavours of the tropics. Also available are Teppanyaki Counter Dining and wood-fired oven dishes including exotic pizzas.

Lime Restaurant

The open air Lime Restaurant offers internationally influenced cuisine served at tables on spacious decks above the lagoon. Lime is open for a superb buffet breakfast with action stations and with courses served to the table accompanied by sparkling wine. Salads, snacks, tea, lunch, dinner, and family favourites throughout the day, feature on an à la carte menu of enticing dishes from around the world.

Light and healthy snacks are served beside the spectacular over-water infinity pool on the Lime deck with its fabulous view over the blue lagoon, perfect for gazing at the amazing 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 every 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, our 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 contemporary and classic cocktails, fine spirits and liqueurs. Twice a week, this bar showcases soothing music by 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 to access. In addition close to Baros, there are 30 superlative dive sites in North Male' Atoll that never fail to delight even the most experienced diver.

Divers Baros Maldives, led by an enthusiastic team with many years of expertise and presence in the Maldives, conducts year-round Scuba Diving excursions and PADI courses. The dive centre offers complimentary, enriched air Nitrox diving with a 32% oxygen blend as well as the latest in diving equipment for rental, including digital underwater cameras, special torches and dive computers. Safe diving is the prime objective.

Baros Maldives offers both à la carte private and luxury diving: "Diving by Design" is an all-embracing approach whereby each participant's diving venture is individually customised and personalised to their desires and knowledge.

Divers Baros Maldives team work in close relationship with the resort's Marine Centre. The resident Marine Biologist conducts awareness presentations as well as organising accompanied snorkelling and reef tours for resort guests. To watch the reef from above, without getting wet, the resort's glass bottom boat is recommended. One of the Marine Centre's objectives is to conserve the underwater environment around the island in a sustainable manner.

Divers Baros Maldives was the first resort EcoDive Centre in the Maldives. With this enhanced status the Divers Baros Maldives Dive Centre offers the international Reef Check EcoDiver programme for all resort guests. This programme allows guests with an interest in the ocean to learn more about tropical coral reefs. Reef Check combines education with action to give participants a rewarding adventure while taking an active role in conserving the world's reefs.

Fluo diving is one of the latest technologies in diving offered for small groups by Divers Baros Maldives. This enables divers equipped with special blue lights and a barrier mask to see the fluorescence of corals and marine life by night.

Nooma, The Dhoni Of Romance

With its locally crafted, elegant curved prow, a vast single sail, roof thatched with palm leaves and sarong-clad crew of four, the 62ft 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 steward, 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 throughout this authentic, exclusive adventure while sailing the Maldivian waters.

Baros Maldives Escapes & Experiences

Guests of Baros Maldives can discover the essence of the islands with regular daily excursions as well as by bespoke Baros Maldives Adventures arranged according to personal requirements by our 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 Class Motor Yacht – private excursions and escapes.
- Nooma, Champagne cruises and picnics.
- Big Game Fishing.
- Guided Reef Snorkelling.
- Local Island Explorations.
- Maldivian Hand Line Trolling.
- Male' Sightseeing and Shopping.
- Romantic Sunset Cruising.
- Snorkelling tours with the Marine Biologist.
- Sunset Dolphin Cruise with Champagne and canapés.
- Fishing by Twilight and "Catch your own Dinner" adventure.

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

Serenity Spa At Baros Maldives

The Serenity 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 healing spa therapy that leaves them feeling refreshed, whether recovering from jet lag or from a day of adventure in the islands.

The Serenity Spa therapists can devise a series of treatments especially to suit an individual guest to give maximum benefit and fulfilment during the 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.

For couples there are four large luxurious treatment rooms hidden within the lush foliage of the spa garden, each with changing cubicle, private steam room and relaxation area with bath tub 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 bind 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 all 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 before tourism began in the 1970s; and a fascinating collection of genuine antique maps of the islands, The Maldivian Lounge at Baros reflects the very soul of the Maldives.

The Piano Deck

The unusual sight of a wooden deck looking like a Grand Piano poised above the Baros lagoon suggests a romantic interlude for two. The staff of Baros Maldives would be delighted to create a special occasion on the Deck, whether it's a gourmet dinner or a massage by Spa therapists as the sun sets, the stars twinkle and the moon glows. The only sound is the natural music of splashing waves and the whisper of the caressing breeze.

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