Bodufolhudhoo, Alif Alif Atoll: a complete island guide

Bodufolhudhoo, Alif Alif Atoll

The first island in the Maldives to ban single-use plastic bags. People mostly walk; there are also bicycles, motorbikes and gaadiyaa wheelbarrows for heavy loads.

ISLAND
Bodufolhudhoo

ATOLL
Alif Alif Atoll

NEAREST AIRPORT
No airport - every arrival is by sea

ATOLL CAPITAL
Rasdhoo

CURRENCY
Maldivian Rufiyaa

LANGUAGE
Dhivehi, English widely used

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

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Your complete guide to Bodufolhudhoo, Alif Alif Atoll

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Magic Maldives

1. WELCOME TO BODUFOLHUDHOO

The first island in the Maldives to ban single-use plastic bags. People mostly walk; there are also bicycles, motorbikes and gaadiyaa wheelbarrows for heavy loads.

More than five guesthouses operating and others being built, plus a few shops for island-hopping guests from the nearby resorts. The council has set aside Sunset Beach for visiting tourists. Nika Island, Velidhoo and Gangehi resorts are close by.

Fishing until the early 1990s, now mainly tourism. Islanders work at the nearby resorts or on the island in education, administration, healthcare, utilities, shops, restaurants and guesthouses.

2. ESSENTIAL FACTS

Atoll	Alif Alif Atoll (AA)
Population	704 (2022 census, including foreign residents)
Size	300 m long and 300 m wide
Distance from Malé	82 km west of Malé
Atoll capital	Rasdhoo
Nearest airport	No airport - every arrival is by sea
Language	Dhivehi; English is widely understood where there are guesthouses
Religion	Sunni Islam. This is an inhabited island, so alcohol is not sold and modest dress is expected away from the tourist beach.
Currency	Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR); US dollars are accepted by most guesthouses
Time zone	UTC+5, no daylight saving

3. GETTING THERE

Boat only - inter-island boats, larger vessels to and from Malé, and seaplane from nearby resorts when speed matters. A government ferry service arrived in 2012 at cheaper fares. A helipad from the 1990s Hummingbird helicopter service is still there.

Reaching Alif Alif Atoll from Malé: 70-90 min by speedboat; public ferry about 3 hrs, twice a week.

4. WHAT THERE IS FOR VISITORS

More than five guesthouses operating and others being built, plus a few shops for island-hopping guests from the nearby resorts. The council has set aside Sunset Beach for visiting tourists. Nika Island,

Velidhoo and Gangehi resorts are close by.

5. HOW THE ISLAND LIVES

Fishing until the early 1990s, now mainly tourism. Islanders work at the nearby resorts or on the island in education, administration, healthcare, utilities, shops, restaurants and guesthouses.

6. ON THE ISLAND

A health centre with a medical officer, two registered nurses and nearly fifteen staff.

7. BEFORE YOU GO

Thoddoo and Ukulhas both have well-kept bikini beaches; elsewhere cover shoulders and knees. No alcohol on the islands. Thoddoo is a farming island as well as a tourist one, which is why it feels different from Maafushi.

Inhabited islands follow local rules rather than resort rules. Swimwear belongs on the designated tourist beach only, alcohol is not sold, and shops and offices pause for about fifteen minutes at each of the five daily prayers.

Bring cash in small notes. Card acceptance is patchy outside the larger islands, and not every island has an ATM.

8. WHEN TO VISIT

January to April for visibility; hammerheads at Rasdhoo year-round at dawn

9. AROUND THE ATOLL

This island is part of Alif Alif Atoll. The atoll guide covers every inhabited island and every resort island in it, how the ferries run, and what the atoll is known for.

Everything in this guide is bookable with local Maldivian operators.

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