Gulhi, Kaafu Atoll: a complete island guide

Gulhi, Kaafu Atoll

In South Malé Atoll, close to Maafushi.

ISLAND
Gulhi

ATOLL
Kaafu Atoll

NEAREST AIRPORT
Velana International (MLE) - the atoll contains the country's main...

ATOLL CAPITAL
Malé

CURRENCY
Maldivian Rufiyaa

LANGUAGE
Dhivehi, English widely used

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

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1. WELCOME TO GULHI

In South Malé Atoll, close to Maafushi.

2. ESSENTIAL FACTS

Atoll	Kaafu Atoll (K)
Population	976 (2022, including foreign residents)
Size	400 m long and 225 m wide
Distance from Malé	21 km south of Malé
Atoll capital	Malé
Nearest airport	Velana International (MLE) - the atoll contains the country's main airport
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

The MTCC public ferry connects the island daily except Friday.

Reaching Kaafu Atoll from Malé: 30-90 min by speedboat; public ferry from about 1.5 hrs.

4. BEFORE YOU GO

These are inhabited Muslim islands. Cover shoulders and knees away from the designated bikini beach, which every tourist island here has. Alcohol is not sold on local islands; some guesthouses run an evening trip to a floating bar. During Ramadan cafés close in daylight hours.

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.

5. WHEN TO VISIT

January to April for the calmest crossings

6. AROUND THE ATOLL

This island is part of Kaafu 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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