

## At a glance...

# Maldives

Secluded white sandy beaches and warm turquoise ocean. This is truly a honeymooner's paradise

### Romance factor

With enough five-star hotels to form a Milky Way and some of the best beaches in the world, the Maldives is the top honeymoon hot spot for UK couples. Straddling the equator, the tiny 1,102 islands dotted like stepping-stones across the Indian Ocean form 26 coral atolls over 510 miles, and are a Mecca for lovebirds seeking the idyll of a Robinson Crusoe-esque desert island.

### Hot hotels

If you want some serious glamour, head to **One&Only Maldives at Reethi Rah** ([oneandonlyresorts.com](http://oneandonlyresorts.com)), which boasts 12



*What's the temperature?*

beautiful beaches and 130 villas spread over 44 palm-dotted hectares. For something smaller but equally cool, **Huvafen Fushi** ([huvafenfushi.com](http://huvafenfushi.com)) is a design-led retreat which has the world's first underwater spa treatment rooms and a fibre optic-lit infinity pool. **Kurumba Resort** ([kurumba.com](http://kurumba.com)) is one of the best value-for-money hotels in the Maldives – for the ultimate in seclusion, go for the pool villa which has a private swimming pool as well as a Jacuzzi in a flower garden.

### Wining and dining

**The Ithaa** underwater restaurant at the **Hilton Maldives** ([hilton.com](http://hilton.com)), five metres below sea level (pictured, above right), is one of the hottest restaurants in the world right now. For a romantic spot we love **Banyan Tree Maldives Vabbinfaru** ([banyantree.com](http://banyantree.com)), where celeb chef **Raymond Blanc** prepared a private meal on the beach for his girlfriend.

### Best beaches

The Maldives has some of the most idyllic beaches in the world. For the ultimate getaway, **Baros Resort** ([baros.com](http://baros.com)) is set on a private island ringed by talcum powder soft white sand.

### The essentials

#### SCENT

**His:** John Varvatos by John Varvatos, £45. Tamarind, coriander and Indian ayowan make this sumpt. evocative of the Indian Ocean.

**Hers:** Michael Kors Island eau de parfum, £45 (below). Getaways of white sand and crystal blue water inspired this tropical, aquatic scent.

#### ESSENTIAL READING

*Lonely Planet Maldives* (£7.25, Lonely Planet) for information on hotels, islands and diving.

#### RAIN CHECK

Southwest monsoons can hit June to September.

#### USEFUL WEBSITE

For all you need to know, visit [maldives.com](http://maldives.com).

#### TOUR OPERATORS

Comer (01625 547000,

[comer.co.uk](http://comer.co.uk))

ITC Classics (01244

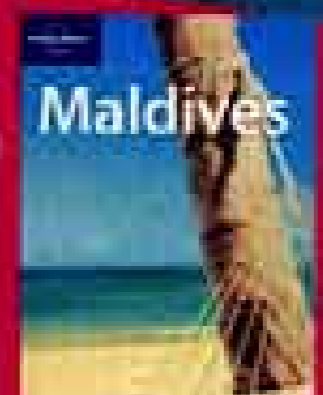
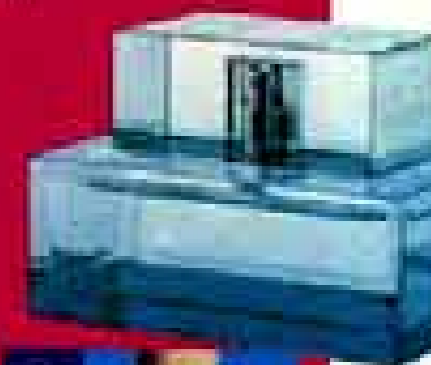
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