

THE MALDIVES



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LOCATION

The Maldives archipelago is located on top of the Chagos-Maldives-Laccadive Ridge, a vast submarine mountain range in the Indian Ocean.

The capital, Malé is about 600 kilometres south-west of India and 750 kilometres south-west of Sri Lanka.



HISTORY



The earliest written history of the Maldives is marked by the arrival of Sinhalese people.

They landed in Sri Lanka, and some in the Maldives circa 543 to 483 BC.

One of the ships that sailed with Prince Vijaya, went adrift and arrived at an island called Mahiladvipika, which is the Maldives.

TOURISM



The Maldives remained largely unknown to tourist until the early 1970s.

Only 185 islands are home to its 300,000 inhabitants.

The first tourist resorts were opened in 1972 which transformed the Maldives economy.

CLIMATE AND CURRENCY

The best time to visit Maldives is between the months of December and April, the dry season. It is highly recommended to use high protection. The Maldives has a tropical-monsoon climate, which is affected by the large landmass of South Asia to the north.

The presence of this landmass causes differential heating of land and water.

The Most common currency in Maldives is the euro and the dollar.

GOVERNMENT



Maldives is a presidential republic, with the President as head of government and head of the state.

Direct elections for the President take place every five years, with a limit of two terms in office for any individual.