
PERFECT *privacy*

FOR VISITORS TO THE AWARD-WINNING ISLAND HIDEAWAY,
A RESORT ON AN UNINHABITED ISLAND IN THE MALDIVES,
LUXURY MEANS LIVING IN BALANCE WITH NATURE

Getting to the Island Hideaway, the luxury boutique spa resort on the uninhabited island of Dhonakulhi in the Maldives, involves a journey by plane and a boat from the capital, Malé. From there, guests board a flight to Hanimaadhoo before taking a speedboat to Dhonakulhi itself. The resort's name is apt, for this private island is hidden from the rest of the world.

Opened in August 2005, the Island Hideaway's guest villas nestle between the beach and the trees. The resort team believe that rest and relaxation go hand in hand with comfort and luxury – and that the best therapy for anyone seeking a break from a busy life is a pristine natural setting. 'It's a jewel,' says Metin Sportmen, an executive at the resort, 'but we won't cut it to make it shiny. We'll just polish its natural form.' The villas may be among the largest of any resort in the Maldives, with no less than 25 metres between each one. And they are among the most private, yet the resort uses only 5 per cent of the island, leaving 95 per cent of its lush vegetation to grow undisturbed. Voted the best spa resort hotel in the Indian Ocean in 2010, there is no compromise at the Island Hideaway between being kind to the environment and kind to guests.

CLOSE TO NATURE: Visitors can choose from six kinds of accommodation on Dhonakulhi – from the family villa, with its own private beach, to the extensive hideaway palace. This is situated on a

natural sandbank and affords views of both sunrise and sunset and is surrounded by infinity pools. Whichever visitors choose, the philosophy remains the same: to be close to nature and cosseted by it. This is also true of the villas' interiors; the furniture and fittings are all finished in natural materials – be it the handcrafted bath in the Raamba Retreat or the teak floors and sunbeds in the Funa Pavilion.



The secret of the Island Hideaway is to enjoy the best of what nature provides, and adapt it for comfort. Take the island's marina: with room for more than 20 yachts, this is the first and only marina in the Maldives, and takes advantage of

the island's unique reef formation and natural harbour. Or the resort's menus, rich with fresh, local ingredients – a celebration of Maldivian cuisine created by world-class chefs who are available 24 hours a day. Meanwhile the island's spa, dedicated to the relaxation of the body and the stimulation of the senses, is lavishly furnished in coconut, teak, pink slate and onyx, with panoramic views of the coastline.

PERSONAL SERVICE: Not only are the resort's surroundings and facilities unique, but so is the service. A butler is assigned to each party to personally cater for guests' comfort – from meeting new arrivals off the plane to looking after the kids. The butlers can also show what the island has to offer, such as its private coral reef, which for centuries has been visited by manta rays, dolphins and sea turtles. With more than 20 pristine dive sites, Dhonakulhi is a scuba paradise.

Unsurprisingly, the island enjoys the loyalty of its exclusive clients, some of whom have already visited as many as ten times. 'The resort becomes a part of their lives,' says Metin. 'We hope they will think of this island as their own.' At the heart of the Island Hideaway philosophy are tranquillity, quality and harmony – ensuring Dhonakulhi's natural beauty is enjoyed and protected by the Hideaway's staff and guests.

www.island-hideaway.com

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