

## Maafushi-Enchanting Jewel of Maldives

By

**Mr. Manoj Krishnan**

[krisofeden@gmail.com](mailto:krisofeden@gmail.com)

### Abstract

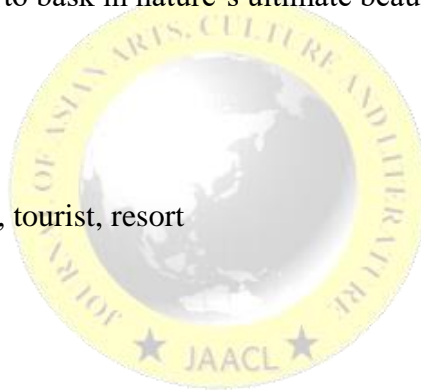
Maafushi is one of the most visited islands of Maldives. Its white sandy beaches and picturesque beauty have made it one of the favorite destinations for tourists from all over the world. Surrounded by the pristine Indian Ocean, its calm and serene ambiance is the perfect retreat for those who want to bask in nature's ultimate beauty.

### Keywords

Maldives, Maafushi, Atoll, tourist, resort

### Introduction

Before 2010, Maafushi was inhabited by two thousand locals. They were involved in primarily fishing and government jobs. In 2010, the Government of Maldives amended laws allowing tourist establishments in local islands. Soon many guest houses, water sports centres, restaurants, and other guest facilities were opened. This boosted tourism. It led to further improvement of educational and medical facilities on the island. This island is barely 25 km from the Maldives International Airport. The speedboat transfer from the Maldives International Airport to Maafushi takes about 30-35 minutes. Maafushi has many beautiful beaches alongside the sea-facing world-class hotels where tourists can rest and enjoy the sea view.





**Image 1: White Sandy Beach of Maafushi**

### **Maafushi Calling**

The blue azure waters, alluring coral reefs, and luxurious resorts make Maafushi truly a tropical paradise. There are many popular hotels like Kaani Beach, Triton Beach, Velana Beach, Kaani Grand, Kaani Village, and others which are always flooded with tourists.



**Image 2: A Hotel in Maafushi**

The island has many beaches adorned with beautiful selfie points. Many beautiful restaurants, souvenir shops, and water sports kiosks are there to welcome and provide umpteen solutions for fun and entertainment.

As this island is mostly visited by foreigners, at many places and shops US dollars are acceptable currencies. There are more than 55 guest houses in Maafushi which is of length 1.275 km and a width 0.260 km. The number of guest houses on this tiny island depicts how popular this destination is.



**Image 3: Sea View**

### **Resort Day Visit**

Many island resorts near Maafushi allow day visits for guests. Boat Transfer, meals, drinks, and water sports are generally included in their package.

### **Water Sports**

Maafushi is famous for its water sports which include snorkeling, parasailing, Fun Tube, Kayaking, and Jet skiing. The service providers are quite professional and make sure that the tourists have a great experience.

## **Football Stadium**

Maafushi also houses a football turf stadium. Football is a very popular sport in the Maldives and this stadium construction was done as per plan to develop turf stadiums in 100 islands.

## **Maafushi Prison**

Maafushi Prison is the largest prison in the Maldives. It is managed by the Maldives Correctional Service.

Maldives Correctional Service was formed by the Former President of Maldives H. E. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayyoom on 31 December 2013.

As per Maldives Correctional Service, there are around 1200 inmates in Maafushi Prison, Male Prison, and Asseyri Prison. Many of these are political prisoners.

## **Conclusion**

Maafushi is known for its sandy white beaches, blue ocean, and alluring coral reefs.

Despite being inhabited by a couple of thousand people and its tiny size, this island works on an inclusive and sustainable model. The island has services like garbage collection, transport, construction work, laundry service, handicraft shops, etc.

Maafushi also faces the challenge of sea erosion that can impact its burgeoning tourism industry and it seeks attention from various organizations for timely intervention.

## **Reference**

- Various Sources on the Internet
- Photos from author's Personal collection

### **About the Author**

Manoj Krishnan is the founder of the Asian Literary Society (a community of thousands of readers, writers, and artists from all over the world). He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Asian Arts, Culture, and Literature (JAACL).

Manoj Krishnan is a prolific writer and artist. He has compiled and edited many national and international anthologies.

