Feridhoo, Alif Alif Atoll: a complete island guide

Feridhoo, Alif Alif Atoll

On the eastern fringe of Ari Atoll.

ISLAND
Feridhoo

ATOLL
Alif Alif Atoll

NEAREST AIRPORT
No airport - every arrival is by sea

ATOLL CAPITAL
Rasdhoo

CURRENCY
Maldivian Rufiyaa

LANGUAGE
Dhivehi, English widely used

Complete travel guide - 2026 / 2027 Edition

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Your complete guide to Feridhoo, Alif Alif Atoll

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1. WELCOME TO FERIDHOO

On the eastern fringe of Ari Atoll.

2. ESSENTIAL FACTS

Atoll	Alif Alif Atoll (AA)
Population	544 (2022 census)
Size	1.125 km long and 575 m wide
Distance from Malé	88 km west of Malé
Atoll capital	Rasdhoo
Nearest airport	No airport - every arrival is by sea
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

Reaching Alif Alif Atoll from Malé: 70-90 min by speedboat; public ferry about 3 hrs, twice a week.

4. HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Centuries ago two African men, bought as slaves by Maldivian kings on Hajj journeys to Mecca, were formally freed and settled on this island. One was called Sangoru, who had worked years at the palace in Malé before an ailing king released him to gain merit in the afterlife - freeing slaves before death was common among the highest nobility. Many families on Feridhoo and neighbouring Maalhos trace their descent from these two ancestors, among them the family of Abdhul Razzaq, famous for boduberu.

5. BEFORE YOU GO

Thoddoo and Ukulhas both have well-kept bikini beaches; elsewhere cover shoulders and knees. No alcohol on the islands. Thoddoo is a farming island as well as a tourist one, which is why it feels different from Maafushi.

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.

6. WHEN TO VISIT

January to April for visibility; hammerheads at Rasdhoo year-round at dawn

7. AROUND THE ATOLL

This island is part of Alif Alif 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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