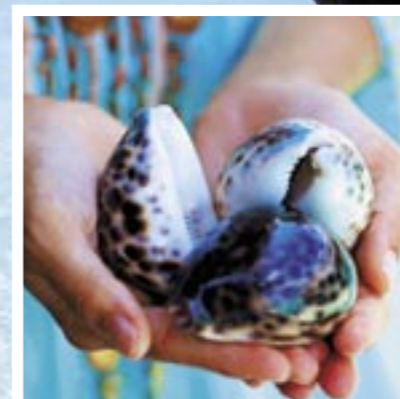
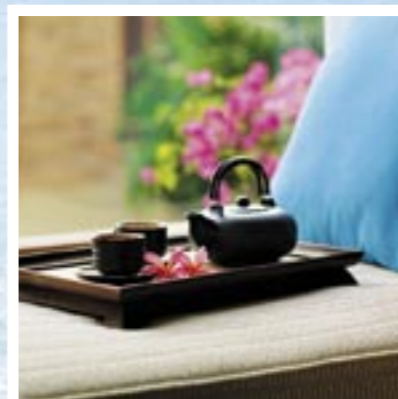


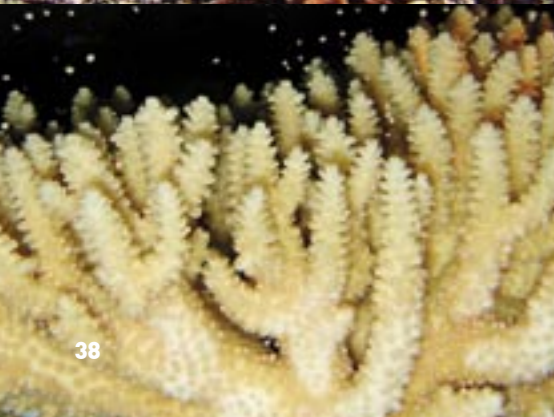
Paradise on Earth

Pristine beaches, azure seas and amazing wildlife make the Maldives one of nature's most desirable destinations



A typically stunning day in the Maldives can be complemented by a luxurious massage and unrivalled luxury.
馬爾代夫天氣清爽怡人，若然加上舒適的按摩服務和尊貴的休憩設施，便是至高無上的享受。

Beautiful atolls (right), spectacular reefs and wildlife surround the island nation.
馬爾代夫周邊海域有美麗的環狀珊瑚島(右)、珊瑚礁和各種海洋生物。



For people who love water, there is no place on earth like the Maldives.

First impressions are breathtaking. From the air, a thousand “Robinson Crusoe” islands glisten like sun-bathed pearls in the dazzling turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean.

The days – and nights – are forever warm on this pristine archipelago, located on the equator southwest of Sri Lanka. You wake to the hypnotic sound of ocean waves. Stroll hand-in-hand for hours along powdery white sand beaches.

Brilliant underwater coral gardens are waiting to be explored. The sea beckons, and when you step into the warm water, it’s like being in a private aquarium. Huge schools of fish in every colour of the rainbow, giant manta rays and curious turtles may all come to greet you. Those who venture further out to snorkel, dive or cruise on a luxury boat will also find out why the Maldives is among the top locations in the world for whale and dolphin watching.

All these natural attractions are the perfect combination for an idyllic tropical holiday.

This paradise was first found by travellers on the Silk Route some 3,000 years ago. They were so enchanted that they settled there. Today’s visitors still remark on the inherently hospitable nature of the locals, noting it is easy to feel comfortable and relaxed with a Maldivian.

Some come simply to enjoy the serenity. Others prefer an action-packed holiday, swimming, scuba diving or deep sea fishing. With their crystal clear waters, amazing corals and mind-boggling array of fish, the atolls of the Maldives are renowned as some of the best dive sites in the world.

The islands’ culture is a product of its people who hail from different parts of the world. Distinct influences from Africa, Arabia and Southeast Asia are evident in the music, dance and cuisine, creating a tantalising melting pot of diversity.

The latest jewel in the Maldives crown is the new Shangri-La’s Villingili Resort and Spa. The recent welcoming of its first guests marked the opening of the first international luxury resort on the southernmost tip of Addu Atoll.

The resort was launched after months of preparation and tailored training to provide guests with the discreet, personalised service for which Shangri-La is renowned.

Its architecture is a perfect fit for this tropical paradise. Spacious, stand-alone villas range from private ocean retreats to luxury tree house villas perched three metres above the ground – a design first for the Maldives. An elevated infinity pool stretches endlessly towards panoramic views of the Indian Ocean. Kilometres of powdery white sand beaches wrap around the shoreline. Nature trails meander through lush hectares of coconut palm.





Above and left: Exquisite villas at the Shangri-La's Villingili Resort and Spa.
上圖及左圖：馬爾代夫香格里拉Villingili Resort and Spa充滿熱帶風情的海灘別墅。

Great care has been taken with the resort's environmental footprint. To preserve the vegetation, the resort has been constructed around large indigenous trees, including some towering old banyan trees. Underwater work and detailed marine surveys have been carried out to ensure preservation of coral. Guests can participate in the resort's conservation practices, or join the resident marine biologist in his educational classes.

But holidays are for indulgence, too. CHI, The Spa – Shangri-La's signature spa brand – is located in its own spa village at the resort's highest point. Here, guests can unwind completely with treatments based on Chinese, Himalayan and other Asian healing rituals. Or try the local Kandu Boli experience, involving indigenous treatments inspired by the tiger cowrie shell and other natural treasures found in the Maldives.

Resort staff can arrange a boat ride to neighbouring islands, a dive on a famous shipwreck or with giant manta rays with wingspans of more than four metres. Other recreational activities include an eco-centre and a dive water sports centre, featuring surfing, scuba diving, snorkeling and a variety of motorised and non-motorised activities.

The resort's health club offers a well-equipped gym and two tennis courts. An entertainment centre, retail shops and a dedicated Adventure Zone for children further adds to the holiday enjoyment. And fine dining is assured, with Khazaanaage Restaurant, the resort's flagship dining outlet, offering three dining rooms serving three different regional cuisines from the Indian Ocean, South China Sea and Arabian Gulf.

The Maldives is surely a must-do on any discerning traveller's list. With the Shangri-La resort waiting to pamper you with its legendary hospitality, there is no better reason to go.

人間天堂

馬爾代夫是熱愛水上運動者的天堂。到達島國之前，在飛機上往下望，可見過千個像《魯賓遜漂流記》中記載的小島，在寶藍色的印度洋上儼如耀眼的珍珠，閃閃發亮，令人一見難忘。

這個有如人間仙境的島國，位於赤道及斯里蘭卡的西南面，一年四季氣候和暖。旅客一覺醒來便聽到醉人的海浪聲，眼前是延綿無盡、鋪著幼白細沙的海灘，若能與愛侶漫步其中，浪漫至極。

多姿多采的海洋像在向大家招手，暖和的海水猶如私人水族館，水底下有吸引潛水愛好者的珊瑚礁，加上七彩的魚群、巨型魔鬼魚及探頭探腦的海龜，令人目不暇給。其他水上活動包括浮潛及深海潛水，甚至租用豪華遊艇出海觀鯨及海豚。這些天然美景令這個熱帶小國成為度假天堂。

約3,000年前，絲綢之路的旅者首先發現這群熱帶島嶼，美不勝收的景色吸引他們定居於此。時至今日，到訪的旅客無不稱讚這裡的和暖天氣及熱情好客的原居民，令他們得以充分享受馬爾代夫式的優閒。

馬爾代夫除了良辰美景之外，熱愛戶外活動的旅客亦可享受游泳、潛水甚至深海打魚等樂趣。馬爾代夫擁有清澈的海水、美麗的珊瑚及種類繁多的魚群，絕對是全球其中一個最佳潛水好去處。

這裡的居民來自非洲、阿拉伯及東南亞等地，各地文化融匯於馬爾代夫的音樂、舞蹈及飲食文化中，成了其多元文化的根源。

在馬爾代夫這個旅遊熱點，最新一顆亮麗明珠便是香格里拉旗下的Villingili Resort and Spa。酒店位處Addu Atoll 環礁群島最南端，是全球其中一處最不受污染的地方。作為首家位於環礁群島南端的國際級豪華酒店，開業前的準備工作一絲不苟，在第一批旅客入住前多個月便開始籌備，務求為住客提供最貼心的服務。

酒店的建築風格與四周的亞熱帶環境融為一體，別墅設計既寬敞又獨立，包括海灘別墅及馬爾代夫獨有、離地三米的豪華「樹屋」別墅。酒店亦設有無邊際泳池，極目張望可見廣闊的印度洋。酒店前幼白細沙海灘延綿數公里，背倚數公頃椰子林自然小徑，寧靜舒適。

酒店相當重視與附近環境的融合，為了保護周邊的綠林，酒店環繞著大樹而建，其中包括很多參天的菩提樹。為保護珊瑚，酒店還進行了海底探查和研究工作。賓客更可以參加酒店的保育工作，或參與長駐酒店的海洋生物學家的導課。

假期當然要盡情舒展身心。香格里拉獨有的頂級水療品牌「氣」水療中心也在這裡登場，水療中心位於酒店的最高處，提供來自中國傳統醫學、喜馬拉雅和亞洲古老健康哲學等特色療法，以及應用了馬爾代夫的海螺殼和其他天然物品的獨特本地療法。

此外，酒店職員更會為客人安排短途船隻前往附近的島嶼遊覽，或到著名的沉船地點潛水，與超過四米闊的魔鬼魚同游。其他消閒設施包括富教育意味的環保中心，以及提供潛水、浮潛及深海潛水、多種水上運動的活動中心。

酒店還設有設備齊全的健身室、兩個網球場、娛樂中心、零售商店，以及專為兒童而設的歷險樂園。至於餐飲方面，酒店內有多間餐廳和酒吧，旗艦餐廳Khazaanaage更提供阿拉伯灣、印度洋和南中國海三種特色菜餚。

要嚴選旅遊熱點，馬爾代夫必然榜上有名，加上香格里拉酒店名聞遐邇的頂級服務，愛好旅遊人士絕對不能錯過。