

**34th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and  
the UNWTO Commission for South Asia,  
UNWTO Ministerial Roundtable on  
Tourism Resilience through Innovation and Digitalization in Asia and the Pacific  
& UNWTO Global Summit on Community-based Tourism**

The Republic of Maldives, 14-16 June 2022

*Crossroads Maldives, Paradise Islands Resort & Spa*

**GENERAL INFORMATION NOTE**

*(as of 12 May 2022)*



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Annex I. Official Hotels for UNWTO Events, Maldives, 14-16 June 2022

For more information;

<https://www.unwto.org/event/34-commission-for-east-asia-and-the-pacific-south-asia>  
<https://gsct2022maldives.com>

## 1. DATE & VENUES

The UNWTO events in the Maldives will take place from 14-16 June 2022 in two different island resorts, as reflected in the information below.



**Day 1: 14 June 2022 (Morning)**

**Meeting:** 34th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia

**Venue:** CROSSROADS Maldives

The 34th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia will be held at the main conference hall of CROSSROADS Maldives, the Republic of Maldives, on the morning of 14 June 2022.

T:



**Address:**

CROSSROADS Maldives  
South Malé Atoll  
P.O Box: 2097  
Republic of Maldives  
+960 6651200

Email (Hardrock):

[rsvn@hrhmaldives.com](mailto:rsvn@hrhmaldives.com)

Email (Saii Lagoon):

[rsvn@hrhmaldives.com](mailto:rsvn@hrhmaldives.com)

<https://www.crossroadmaldives.com>

Distance from Airport: 8 Km (15 minutes speed boat ride)

**Note:**

- The CROSSROADS Maldives has three islands connected, the Saii Lagoon, Hardrock Hotel and the Marina. Accommodation is available from [Saii Lagoon](#) and [Hardrock Hotel](#).
- The delegates are recommended to book the hotel directly through the hotel via email. More information on hotel reservation including contact information for both properties and the special rate is provided in **Annex 1**.
- This resort is also the recommended accommodation for delegates attending all events on 14 June and 15 June.



CROSSROADS Maldives, which is located in the North Male' Atoll (Kaafu or K. Atoll), is 8 kilometres away from the main international airport, Velana International Airport. It can be reached via speedboat in approximately 15 minutes.

CROSSROADS Maldives is the stunning Emboodhoo Lagoon, encompassing the neighboring group of islands, spanning nearly seven kilometres. For more information on this resort, click [here](#)

**Day 1: 14 June 2022 (Afternoon)**

**Meeting:** UNWTO Ministerial Roundtable on Tourism Resilience Through Innovation and Digitalization in Asia and the Pacific

**Venue:** CROSSROADS Maldives

The UNWTO Ministerial Roundtable on Tourism Resilience through Innovation and Digitalization in Asia and the Pacific will be held at the CROSSROADS Maldives, on the afternoon of 14 June 2022, the same resort as the venue for the 34th CAP-CSA Joint Meeting.

**Day 2: 15 June 2022**

**Meeting:** UNWTO Global Summit on Community-based Tourism

**Venue:** CROSSROADS Maldives

The first day of the UNWTO Global Summit on Community-based Tourism, including the Opening Session, will be held at CROSSROADS Maldives in the Republic of Maldives on 15 June 2022. It is the same venue as the 34th CAP-CSA Joint Meeting and Ministerial Roundtable meeting on 14 June.

**Day 3: 16 June 2022**

**Event:** The 2nd day of the UNWTO Global Summit on 16 June will have three thematic sessions which will be held simultaneously in three different locations as below.

***Thematic Session 1: Gastronomy Tourism***

**Venue:** CROSSROADS Maldives

The Gastronomy Tourism session will be held at the Conference Hall of CROSSROADS Maldives on 16 June 2022. It is the same venue as the first day (15 June) of the UNWTO Global Summit on Community-based Tourism.

**Day 3: 16 June 2022**

***Thematic Session 2: Agro-tourism***

**Venue:** Paradise Island Resort & Spa

The Agro-tourism session will be held at Paradise Island Resort & Spa on 16 June 2022.



**Address:**

Paradise Island Resort & Spa

K. Lankanfinolhu,

Zip Code: 08340

Republic of Maldives

Tel: +960 664 0011

Email:

[reservations.paradise@villahotels.com.mv](mailto:reservations.paradise@villahotels.com.mv)

<https://paradiseislandmaldives.net/>

Distance from Airport: 9.6 Km (20 minutes speedboat ride)

Distance from CROSSROADS Maldives: 17.6 Km (approx. 35 minutes speedboat ride)

***Note:***

- *This resort is also the recommended accommodation for delegates attending only the thematic sessions, Agro-Tourism and Community-based Tourism session of UNWTO Global Summit on Community-based Tourism.*
- *The delegates are recommended to book the hotel directly through the hotel via email. More information on hotel reservation and special rates from the hotel is provided in **Annex 1**.*



Paradise Island Resort and Spa, which is located in the north Male' Atoll (Kaafu or K. Atoll), is 6 kilometers away from the main international airport, Velana International Airport. It can be reached via speedboat in approximately 20 minutes.



Paradise Island Resort and Spa is a 5-star resort in the Maldives run by local management. For more details on this resort, click [here](#)

**Day 3:** 16 June 2022

***Thematic Session 3: Community-based Tourism***

***Venue: Paradise Island Resort & Spa***

The Thematic Session 3 on Community-based Tourism on 16 June 2022 will be held at the Paradise Island Resort & Spa, the same resort as the venue for the Agro-Tourism Session.

## **2. REGISTRATION AND BADGES**

To participate in these events, prior registration is required. Registration is available through this [link](#). As the capacity for different thematic sessions of the UNWTO Global Summit on Community-based Tourism is limited, we recommend registering as soon as possible. The deadline for the registration is **25 May 2022**.

The badge and information folder will be distributed to the participants on arrival or at the registration desk at the respective meeting venues. The updated information about the registration desks will be available in due course.

## **3. ENTRY FORMALITIES**

### **Visa Requirements**

Tourists visiting the Maldives do not require a pre-approval for a visa. All tourists to the Maldives are granted a free 30-day tourist visa on arrival, provided they have the following documents.

- A passport or a travel document with at least 1 month's validity from the date of expected departure in the Maldives.
- A confirmed hotel booking at a registered tourist facility

For further details on tourist visas, [click here](#)

### **COVID-19 Measures**

All passengers are required to submit the Traveler Declaration Form within 24 hours to the scheduled flight time, during arrival and departure to and from the Maldives. This health declaration form must be filled in and submitted electronically via the online [portal](#) of Maldives Immigration.

Travel-related quarantine is NOT required by any traveller to the Maldives. PCR result is NOT mandatory for any passenger upon arrival and departure. It applies to unvaccinated travelers as well. However, they must check their onward destination's border requirements for PCR and Vaccination requirements. For those participants who require a PCR test for their onward journey, it can be arranged through their respective accommodation facility in the Maldives.

Wearing a face mask is NOT mandatory, however, it is recommended to wear one if you exhibit any symptoms of Covid-19, or if you are in a gathering in confined indoor spaces and whilst using public transportation.

If you develop any COVID-19 symptoms during your stay in the Maldives, you must immediately inform the help desk at your accommodation facility.

### **General Health Requirements**

Travellers are not required to have any vaccinations to enter the Maldives. However, those arriving from yellow fever endemic countries would require to produce a Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate on arrival at the airport. To check the listed Yellow Fever Endemic countries, [click here](#)

### **Customs Regulations**

According to Maldivian Law No: 4/1975 (Import prohibition Act), the importation of liquor and alcoholic products without prior approval is prohibited. Hence, it is NOT advised to purchase liquor and alcoholic products on the flight or in duty-free shops while en route to the Maldives, as these items will be confiscated upon arrival at the airport.

List of items which are completely banned for import.

- Narcotics and psychotropic substances.



- Pornographic material (including sex toys) such as books, magazines, films, videos, DVDs and software.
- Religious materials offensive to Islam.
- Live pigs.
- Idols (for worship).

List of restricted items which require a specific permit in order to import them.

- Liquor and alcoholic products
- Pork and its by-products
- Chemical and Chemical Products
- Pets
- Firearms/Explosives/Weapons and Ammunition
- Live Plants and Animals
- Medicine
- Tobacco and Tobacco Products
- Communication Equipment

For more details on banned products and restricted items to the Maldives, [click here](#)

#### 4. HOW TO GET TO MALDIVES

Being one of the first destinations that opened its borders to tourists after the COVID-19 travel restrictions, the Maldives is well connected to the world, receiving flights directly from Europe, Asia, Africa, Middle East and having good connections with the Americas.

##### International Flights Operating to the Maldives

 AIR ASIA THAILAND	 EMIRATES	 QATAR AIRWAYS
 AIR ASTANA	 ETIHAD AIRWAYS	 SAUDI ARABIAN AIRLINES
 AIR FRANCE	 FLY DUBAI	 SINGAPORE AIRLINES
 AIR INDIA	 GOAIR	 SRILANKAN AIRLINES
 AIR VISTARA	 GULF AIR	 TURKISH AIRLINES
 AIR SEYCHELLES	 IBERIA	 US-BANGLA AIRLINES
 AUSTRIAN AIRLINES	 INDIGO	 MALDIVIAN
 BRITISH AIRWAYS	 LOT POLISH AIRLINES	
 CONDOR	 LUFTHANSA	
 EDELWEISS	 NEOS	

## 5. ACCOMMODATION

With a wide range of tourist facilities available for tourists, from the one-island-one-resort style hotels to live-aboard safari boats to guesthouses and hotels located on the local islands. While the resorts are considered luxury accommodation in the Maldives, with each resort being a private island and only used for the purpose of tourism, guesthouses are located on inhabited islands, providing accommodation mostly to low and mid-market tourists. It is important to note that liquor and pork are not allowed on local islands, hence will not be served in guesthouses. However, they can be available in the resorts.

The recommended accommodation for participants attending all 3 days' events is CROSSROADS Maldives. And for those delegates attending the UNWTO Global Summit only, it is the Paradise Island Resort & Spa. A "Logistics Pack" containing a full list of accommodation options and transfer arrangements for these UNWTO Events in the Maldives will be shared in due course and updated on the [website](#). Please refer to **Annex 1** for official hotels and special rates.

## 6. TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS AND AIRPORT MEETING SERVICES

Airport pick-up/drop from Velana International Airport (VIA) and the hotel will be arranged by their respective hotels.

The Ministry of Tourism will arrange transfers between the event venues and the accommodation properties listed in **Annex 1**. Details will be updated on the [website](#) in due course.

For any assistance at the airport, delegates can approach the "Ministry of Tourism Help Desk" at Velana International Airport (VIA), in front of the international arrival terminal as you come out of the terminal.

No airport tax will be charged by anyone arriving in the Maldives directly but will be included in their ticket fare when they purchase it.

## 7. SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

The Overall Preliminary Programme for the 3-day event can be found on the website at this [link](#).

### **Lunch (by invitation only)**

On Tuesday, 14 June, UNWTO will host a lunch reception at CROSSROADS Maldives for participants (UNWTO Member States, Associate Members and Affiliate Member delegates) attending the 34th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO

Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia and the UNWTO Ministerial Roundtable on Tourism Resilience Through Innovation and Digitalization in Asia and the Pacific. The Lunch will be held at the Malaafaiy Restaurant Wing A and C, of the resort.

### **Welcome Dinner (by invitation only)**

On Tuesday, 14 June at 19:00 hrs, there will be a welcome dinner for the participants of these 3-day events (UNWTO Member States, Associate Members and Affiliate Member delegates) at CROSSROADS Maldives hosted by the Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Maldives, Dr. Abdulla Mausoom.

### **Lunch hosted by Ministry of Tourism**

On Wednesday, 15 June and Thursday 16 June, the Maldives, Ministry of Tourism will host lunches for the participants of these 3-day events. The lunch on 15 June will be held at CROSSROADS Maldives and the lunch on 16 June will be held at respective venues of the thematic sessions. Exact location of each lunch will be shared in due course.

### **Farewell Dinner**

On Thursday, 16 June at 19:00 hrs, the Farewell Dinner will be hosted by the Government of the Maldives at CROSSROADS Maldives.

### **Technical Tours**

Customized tours from 14-16 June will be organized for the participants of the 3-day events. Registration for the tours can be done on site at the respective hotels. Details of these tours will be updated in due course.

### **Male' City Tour**

A guided tour of Male' City, the capital of the Maldives, was designed especially for the companions of the participants of the 34<sup>th</sup> CAP-CSA Joint Meeting and the Ministerial Roundtable. More details of this tour will be shared in due course.

## **8. PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

### **Exchange Rate**

The "Maldivian Rufiyaa" (MVR) is the Maldivian Currency. Banknotes are available in denominations of MVR 1000/-, MVR 500/-, MVR 100/-, MVR 50/-, MVR 20/-, MVR 10/-, and 5/-. Coins are available in denominations of MVR 2/-, 1/-, 50 Laari (MVR0.50) and 25 Laari (MVR 0.25).

United State Dollars (USD) are widely used and accepted in Malé City and throughout the Maldives. However, banknotes must be relatively new with no marking or tears. The exchange rate of United States Dollars is 1 USD = MVR 15.42.

**Credit Cards**

Major credit cards such as AMEX, Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted at resorts, hotels, restaurants and stores. In addition, Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) are available at Velana International Airport (VIA) and in the capital, Male' City and most of the local islands, but not in tourist resorts.

**Time Zone**

Maldives is 5 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +5)

**Clothing**

Participants are advised to bring tropical wear. However, formal attire (Business Suit) is required at official meetings.

Tourists are expected to respect local culture and dress modestly when visiting or staying on local islands. Swimsuits/bikinis are not allowed on the beaches of local islands.

(Note: nudity in any public area or beaches in the Maldives is against the Maldivian Law.)

**Official Language**

The official language of the Maldives is Dhivehi. However, English is widely spoken and understood. The official language of the UNWTO meetings and events will be English.

**Electricity**

Electricity in the Maldives runs at 220 - 240 AC (standard flat 3-pin plugs).

**Business Hours**

Government offices and banks are open from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm from Sunday to Thursday. Banks and Government offices are closed on weekends and Public Holidays. Shops, restaurants and cafes on local islands are generally open from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm. All shops will close for 15 minutes during each prayer time. (Note: Friday and Saturday are the Weekends in the Maldives).

**Weather**

The Maldives experiences a tropical monsoon climate with year-round warm weather. Temperatures average between 28 °C and 30 °C throughout the year, with the warmest temperatures occurring between March and April. The Northwest monsoon from November to April is mostly dry with very little wind, while the Southwest monsoon from May to October brings some rain and wind. The monsoons in the Maldives are mild. The temperature varies very little, and the humidity rate is high. For more information about the weather in the Maldives, please click [here](#).

### **Safety and Security**

The Government of the Maldives will ensure the safety and security of all participants and delegates with a special focus on safety measures on health guidelines on Covid-19. All necessary precautions will be taken to ensure that the Conferences and Meetings proceed efficiently.

### **Alcohol Consumption**

The state religion of the Maldives is Islam. Therefore, the sale and consumption of alcohol are prohibited. The ban applies not only to the local population but also to tourists. Alcoholic drinks are only available on resort islands.

## **9. ABOUT THE MALDIVES**

The Maldives is an island nation in the Indian Ocean to the southwest of India and Sri Lanka that spans across the equator. The Maldives comprises 1192 islands grouped into a double chain of 26 atolls that stretch along a length of 871 kilometers. Each island is surrounded by white sandy beaches, crystal-clear lagoons, and fenced by coral reefs which are home to a diverse range of colorful marine species. The islands lie just 1.5 meters above sea level. While the country covers an area of approximately 90,000 square kilometers, only 298 square kilometers of that is dry land.

The Maldives has a population of approximately 540 thousand people scattered across the length of the country. More than 30% of the population live in the capital city Male'. Although home to just over half a million people, the Maldives has its own unique culture and traditions.

The Maldivian economy is heavily dependent on the economic benefits of tourism. The tourism industry is the largest contributor to the economy, with over 40% Direct Contribution to GDP, more than 70% Indirect Contribution and 90% Foreign Exchange Earnings.

The Maldives is among the first countries that fully opened its border to tourists after the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been exemplary in its resilience and ability to recover from the pandemic. In 2021, visitor arrivals reached more than 80 percent of pre-COVID levels, far outpacing other similar tourist destinations. With its exemplary approach towards COVID management and destination promotion, the Maldives was crowned, World's Leading Destination Award by the World Travel Awards in 2020 and 2021.

## 10. MEETING COORDINATORS

UNWTO Secretariat	Host Country
<p><b>Ms. Eunji TAE</b>  Department Officer,  Regional Department for Asia and the Pacific  Email: <a href="mailto:rdap@unwto.org">rdap@unwto.org</a>; <a href="mailto:etae@unwto.org">etae@unwto.org</a></p> <p><b>Mr. Yang LI</b>  Department Officer,  Regional Department for Asia and the Pacific  Email: <a href="mailto:rdap@unwto.org">rdap@unwto.org</a>; <a href="mailto:yli@unwto.org">yli@unwto.org</a></p>	<p><b>Mr. Ali Shinan</b>  Deputy Director General  Ministry of Tourism, Maldives  Tel: (+960) 3022266  Email: <a href="mailto:ali.shinan@tourism.gov.mv">ali.shinan@tourism.gov.mv</a></p> <p><b>Ms. Aishath Nabeela Zareer</b>  Director  Ministry of Tourism, Maldives  Tel: (+960) 3022260  Email: <a href="mailto:aishath.nabeela@tourism.gov.mv">aishath.nabeela@tourism.gov.mv</a></p> <p><b>Ms. Fathmath Shifa</b>  Assistant Director  Ministry of Tourism, Maldives  Tel: (+960) 3022252  Email: <a href="mailto:fathmath.shifa@tourism.gov.mv">fathmath.shifa@tourism.gov.mv</a></p>