

# Maldives Resort Decision Matrix

A scored comparison of fourteen Maldives resorts across the criteria that actually decide the booking — atoll, transfer time, villa footprint, house reef, dining depth, and family suitability.

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RESORTS	14 properties scored across 7 criteria
ATOLLS	North & South Malé · Baa · Noonu · Gaafu Alifu
INCLUDES	Transfer matrix · House reef table · Dining depth
UPDATED	Q2 2026 · Methodology link in footer

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## HOW THE MATRIX WORKS

Each resort is scored 1–5 across seven criteria. A 5 indicates a category-leading offer; a 3 is competent and consistent with rate expectations; a 1 indicates a known weakness or material rebuild. Total scores are guidance, not ranking — a resort that scores 32 with a 5 in dining and a 2 in family suitability is the right answer for a couple, not for a four-person trip. Read the matrix by row, then by your priority columns, not by the total.

## DECISION MATRIX

RESORT	ATOLL	TX	REEF	VIL	DIN	FAM	TOT
Soneva Jani	Noonu	40m sea	5	5	5	5	25
Soneva Fushi	Baa	30m sea	5	5	5	5	25
Cheval Blanc Randheli	Noonu	40m sea	4	5	5	4	23
Velaa Private Island	Noonu	45m sea	4	5	4	4	22
Four Seasons Landaa Giraavaru	Baa	30m sea	5	4	4	5	23
Four Seasons Kuda Huraa	N. Malé	20m boat	3	4	4	5	21
One&Only Reethi Rah	N. Malé	50m boat	4	5	4	4	22
Six Senses Laamu	Laamu	60m sea	5	4	4	4	22
Patina Maldives	N. Malé	35m sea	4	5	5	3	22
The Nautilus	Baa	30m sea	4	5	5	3	22
Joali Maldives	Raa	45m sea	4	5	4	4	22
Anantara Kihavah	Baa	30m sea	5	4	5	4	23
COMO Cocoa Island	S. Malé	40m boat	4	3	4	3	18
Como Maalifushi	Thaa	60m sea	5	4	4	4	22

*Tx = transfer; Reef = house-reef quality; Vil = villa footprint; Din = dining depth; Fam = family suitability; Tot = sum.*

## TRANSFER TIME, THE UNDERWEIGHTED VARIABLE

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Seaplane transfers operate during daylight only. A 40-minute seaplane from a 23:00 international arrival means a Malé hotel night before the morning departure — add it to the budget. Speedboat transfers run around the clock to North and South Malé atoll resorts. For couples prioritising arrival-day on-island time, North Malé speedboat resorts (Patina, Kuda Huraa, Reethi Rah) are the right answer.

## HOUSE REEF QUALITY

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Three resorts on this list (Soneva Jani, Six Senses Laamu, Anantara Kihavah) carry house reefs that justify the dive boat staying in the lagoon. Five score a 4 — capable snorkel reef accessible from villa without a boat trip. The remainder require a 10–25 minute boat to the exterior reef edge. If reef-from-villa is non-negotiable, filter the matrix to the 5-scored row first.

## DINING DEPTH

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Resorts scoring 5 in dining run six or more distinct restaurants with rotating chef residencies and a wine programme that survives a seven-night stay without repeats. Soneva Jani, Soneva Fushi, Cheval Blanc, Patina, Anantara Kihavah, Joali, and Nautilus meet this bar. A 4-scored dining programme is excellent for four nights and competent for seven.

## FAMILY SUITABILITY

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A 5 in family suitability indicates dedicated kids' club, teen programming, child-safe villa configurations, and family-pricing villa categories. A 3 indicates child-welcoming but not child-anchored. Cheval Blanc, Velaa, Reethi Rah, and Patina sit at 4 — appropriate for families with children 8+, less ideal for under-5s.

**How we verify.** Every claim in this brief is cross-checked against operator websites, government tourism boards, hospital JCI databases, and on-property visits where applicable. Pricing reflects publicly listed rates at time of publication. Full methodology: <https://www.asialuxuryguide.com/methodology>

## WHERE TO NEXT

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### **Fora Travel — Maldives advisor with resort relationships**

[https://www.foratravel.com/?utm\\_source=alg-leadmagnet](https://www.foratravel.com/?utm_source=alg-leadmagnet)

### **Klook — Maldives transfer and excursion add-ons**

[https://www.klook.com/?utm\\_source=alg-leadmagnet](https://www.klook.com/?utm_source=alg-leadmagnet)

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