

Maldives Suggested Packing List



Snorkelling Equipment

Your Snorkelling equipment is probably the most important part of the packing list as you will be using it every single day.

I recommend using the individual mask and snorkel sets rather than the full face masks if at all possible. The full face ones make it harder to communicate with others, but also, if you do wish to try diving you can't use these masks and will have to swap to a normal mask anyway.

If you buy a brand new mask, please try and find an opportunity to test it out before you come. Masks need to stay on your face when you breathe in without having the strap on. They all fit different face shapes, so don't just grab the first one you see, try a few and see which one fits best.

You also need to treat your mask before you use it, ideally by using a lighter and burning the inside of the lens to remove the manufacturer's film, or by using toothpaste. This will help massively to reduce the mask fogging up. If you google it, there are many videos on you tube showing you what to do.

If you are bringing fins, please don't bring little shorty ones. If you don't have space for fins, just borrow some when you arrive rather than bringing shorty ones. Borrowing equipment is free and they have plenty. These are the ones we used last time for both us and the kids.

<https://amzn.to/45BLK79>

<https://amzn.to/4cArqFj>

The guesthouse have swimming vests that you can use if you are less confident in the water, both kids and adult sizes. If you or your kids have one already that is comfortable and you are used to then bring that along.

If you bring your own snorkelling gear with you, pop your name, initials or put some form of marking on them so they are recognisable. Kids have a tendency to leave the boat at high speed to get back to the pool and they leave all their belongings for their slave parents to carry back. Items are ALWAYS left on the boat after each trip.

Neoprene Socks

We always wear thin neoprene socks with our flippers and they have been amazing. The soles have a bit of grip, but not thick enough to be uncomfortable with the fins. They are great to prevent blisters or rubbing with the fins, but also to help with really hot ground on the boat or the jetty.

<https://amzn.to/4cvERq2>

Go Pro etc

Whether you are a GoPro, Insta 360 or a DGI360, we definitely recommend bringing one of them to get some great underwater action shots.

<https://amzn.to/3RJZC9l>

<https://amzn.to/4eFOSCT>

Double check the depths the camera can go, especially if you are planning on diving. GoPro's will only go to 10m so won't work for diving, so you need a case that will allow it to go deeper.

<https://amzn.to/4ceZKWG>

An extender pole for whichever camera you go for is also really handy. Allows you to get closer footage of the animal without disturbing it as much and you don't have to go as deep.

<https://amzn.to/3RjpBxT>

Swimming Gear in General

You need to bring multiple sets of swimwear with you, at least 2, possibly 3 if you have space. The guesthouse has limited space to hang up wet stuff and it's so humid that things tend not to dry very quickly.

I would also strongly recommend that everyone brings UV protected clothing for swimming in. On the last hubs, people grossly underestimated the strength of the sun and some people ended up with severe burns. Long sleeve rashies and long leggings with UV protection are pretty much an essential packing item. The kids go from the boat to the pool and are always reluctant to get out and put cream on.

When snorkelling, going back to the boat to reapply sunscreen is a total pain and not always an option. Burnt bum cheeks are incredibly painful and are definitely a real thing when face down in the water snorkelling for hours.

You also need to remember that swimming in western swimwear on the island is only permitted at Bikini Beach. We tend to swim around the jetty so women need to wear swim shorts / leggings and cover shoulders, and men need to wear shorts / leggings and cover shoulders at this bit of beach. This also applies to kids.

For anyone that is follically challenged, consider bringing a lightweight buff that you can use to cover your head whilst in the water as a sunburnt scalp is also not much fun. For those with longer hair, a headband is a good way to keep your hair out of your mask so you can get a good seal and prevent a burnt forehead.

Vaseline is handy for a few reasons. If you have a moustache then putting vaseline over it before snorkelling helps seal the gap between your mask and your face (saves you having to shave your moustache off). Vaseline is also good for chafing. If you are going to wear a life jacket, putting some vaseline on your neck and the underside of your arms will help with the life jacket rubbing against your skin when you swim.

General Clothing

As soon as you arrive in the Maldives it will pretty much be shorts and T-shirt for the duration of the hub. You will likely just wear sandals, flip flops or have bare feet for the entire 2 weeks. The roads are sand so leave your high heels at home! Trainers are only necessary if you plan on going to the gym.

I would suggest changing into cooler summer clothes as soon as you arrive in Male, maybe put some in your hand luggage so you can change while waiting for your luggage (which can take forever to come through) - also helps if your luggage doesn't arrive for whatever reason (it did happen to one family this year and they were stuck in long trousers and no swimwear for 24 hours).

It doesn't really get cooler than 28 degrees at night, so no need for any heavy clothing. Bring

lightweight, quick dry clothes that you can throw on over the top of swimwear.

Evening meals are in our restaurant and it's nothing fancy. Men tend to just wear shorts and T-Shirts, women tend to wear lightweight floaty trousers, skirts or summer dresses. Anything to try and stay cool.

Perla does have a laundry service which is very quick and very reasonably priced.

Gadgets

Drones are allowed and would be an excellent way to get some aerial footage of the beautiful reefs and islands.

The guesthouse uses a UK 3 pin plug so be prepared with adapters if necessary.

We travel with a Wi-Fi box and it works great for us. It means that instead of everyone buying a SIM card for their individual devices, we buy one DATA ONLY sim card, slot it into our Wi-Fi box and then we all connect our devices to that. We purchased the sim at the airport and from memory it was \$50 for 150gb. We use the Netgear Nighthawk M1 which we bought from Amazon. It's not cheap, but we have used it all over the world and have not had any problems with it. It's good for when you are out and about on the island and still want Wi-Fi, but it won't work when you are on the boat, just on the island.

<https://amzn.to/4eBRsK6>

Toiletries

There are shops on the island to get any essentials you may need. I would recommend bringing lots of good quality high factor sunscreen with you as there isn't much choice on the island, and also aftersun/aloe vera cream.

Mosquito repellent is the main question people ask about and yes I would bring some with you. We didn't have issues with mosquitoes in our room at all, we never saw one in there. There were a few in the restaurant and a few more around the pool but that was about it. If you do get bitten, we found the white tiger balm was great for taking away the itch, so maybe worth popping one of those in your luggage. White tiger balm is a great relief from mozzie bites so consider bringing a small pot of that with you.

You will also be spending a bit of time on boats. Sometimes the ride to the reef may only be 5 minutes, then to get to the nurse sharks it's a couple of hours. If you are prone to seasickness then consider bringing some tablets with you.

Food and Snacks

Taking snacks on the boat trips is a good way to keep the kids happy. There are shops on the island that sell crisps, nuts, biscuits etc so it's easy to replenish as you go.

If there is anything in particular that your family likes then bring them along. The range on the island is pretty limited and I'm sure not everyone enjoys cuttlefish flavoured crisps!

If you have a granola or cereal that you enjoy then bring some along. They normally have cornflakes and a chocolate cereal at breakfast but that's it and cereal on the island is quite expensive. They have natural yoghurt so if you like granola with yoghurt then consider bringing some with you as again it's quite expensive and the choice is limited.

They also only have regular breakfast tea, so if you like your flavoured teas then bring some of those. They don't have decaf coffee either, or hot chocolate so that's always an option too.

There is a small bar fridge in your room if you were to bring or buy anything that requires fridge space. Our fridge tends to be full of Cadbury chocolate that we bring from the UK (and it survives the journey).

I would also suggest bringing some zip lock bags with you. Some kids quite like making sandwiches in the morning (nutella, or PB&J) to take as mid morning snacks on the boat. Or you can make up trail mixes to take with you, or even just for storing half finished packets of cookies or biscuits.