



LEGENDARY RAFFLES SERVICE COMES TO THE MALDIVES

Raffles Maldives Meradhoo set to bring new level of luxury to one of the world's largest and most remote island atolls

May 2019 – Raffles has announced the opening of the 21-villa Beach Island Experience in the rare Maldivian oasis of Gaafu Alifu Atoll. This is Accor's fourth property in the Maldives and is the first under the Raffles brand.

The main island is home to **Beach Villas and Beach Residences** which opens on 9 May 2019, featuring private pools, generous living spaces and lavish marble bathroom with a sunken bathtub and outdoor shower. The **Raffles Royal Residence** and a secluded collection of **Overwater Villas and Residences**, which lies adjacent to one of the vibrant house reefs, which can be reached by a traditional Maldivian Dhoni boat, is set to launch during the last quarter of 2019.

A hidden gem with unparalleled views of the Indian Ocean, the resort is the perfect over-water escape offering two distinct experiences for those seeking a private get-away or simply to enjoy the natural pristine water surroundings.

In each of the terraces, guests can marvel at the marine life below through the glass flooring panels. There is an extraordinary display of natural beauty with white, powdery sand that frames sparkling clear waters. Two magnificent reefs provide a thriving habitat for the marine life including baby sharks, turtles and a myriad of tropical fish. For those that want to learn more about the underwater realm, the hotel's resident marine biologist and team of marine butlers are on hand to personalise guest experiences that bring unique and beautiful insights of the underwater world. At night, the moon and stars reflect on the mirror-like ocean, creating an extraordinary spectacle.

"Boasting 1200 islands, Maldives is home to the best beaches in the world and now, with the opening of Raffles Maldives Meradhoo, is also home to the best of luxury hospitality. We look forward to offering guests the most natural beauty set within an incredible resort that offers the finest luxury hotel experience and unrivalled service in the destination," says Patrick Basset, Accor's Chief Operating Officer for Upper Southeast and Northeast Asia and the Maldives.

Guests can relish a range of rich gastronomic delights served at the **Thari** all-day diner, **Yuzu**, Peruvian and Japanese fusion restaurant and **The Firepit**, where various flame-grilled chef specialty dishes are served under the stars. Private destination dining options abound, from caviar breakfasts on a sandbank, most thrillingly reached by jet ski, to sunset cruises where the champagne flows freely. A selection of tapas and freshly-prepared sashimi, original cocktail concoctions, inspired by the national drinks of South America and Japan, can be experienced at the overwater **Yapa Sunset Bar** or simply explore a list of the world's most prestigious Champagnes and wines at the popular **Long Bar**.

Set over the water, the award-winning Raffles Spa offers a private escape opening doors to discovery with authentic treatment expressions. Experience the Raffles Spa sensory journey with luxury facials by **Biologique Recherche**, a transformative body treatment using the purest extracts and essential oils by Aromatherapy Associates or indulge in first class manicure and pedicure concept from **Magaret Dabbs London**.

Recharge with an invigorating work-out at the over water fitness centre, a soothing seaside yoga session or choose from a selection of water sport activities to balance the physical and mental well-being.

Olivier Larcher, General Manager of Raffles Maldives Meradhoo said, “For couples looking for an unforgettable romantic hideaway, our exceptionally spacious villas and the discreet expertise of the Raffles butler service redefines the resort experience. From intimate dining with our private chef service to snorkeling and diving in the world’s most breath-taking coral reefs, we create a place where guests can enjoy the best of both worlds in a destination known for its stunning surroundings.”

Raffles Maldives Meradhoo is located at the southern end of the Maldives archipelago, near the equator on the Gaafu Alifu Atoll. The resort is accessible by domestic flight, 55 minutes from Male International Airport followed by 15-minute speedboat ride from Kaadedhdhoo Airport.

For more information, please visit www.rafflesmaldives.com/meradhoo. For reservations, email reservations.maldives@raffles.com or call +960 6828800.

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About Raffles

Raffles Hotels & Resorts boasts an illustrious history and some of the most prestigious hotel addresses worldwide. In 1887, Raffles Singapore set the standard for luxury hospitality, introducing the world to private butlers, the Singapore Sling and its enduring, legendary service. Today, Raffles continues this tradition in leading cities and lavish resort locales, enchanting travellers with meaningful experiences and service that is both gracious and intuitive. Connoisseurs of life choose Raffles, not merely for its aura of culture, beauty and gentility, but for the extraordinary way they feel when in residence with Raffles. Each Raffles, be it Paris, Istanbul, Warsaw, Jakarta or the Seychelles, serves as a venerated oasis where travellers arrive as guests, leave as friends and return as family. Raffles is part of Accor, a world-leading augmented hospitality group offering unique and meaningful experiences in 4,800 hotels, resorts, and residences across 100 countries.

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For further information:

Accor:

Joyce Ong
Director of Communications
Upper Southeast & Northeast Asia and the Maldives
joyce.ong@accor.com

Hotel:

Janice Tan
Director of Sales & Marketing
Raffles Maldives Meradhoo
janice.tan@raffles.com

