



Snorkelling

Did you know 99.5% of the official Maldives territory is water?

If you only stay above the surface, you're only seeing 0.5% of the Maldives! The Maldives is one of the world's best snorkelling destinations, and Amilla is set right in the heart of our Baa Atoll UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, a protected area, famed for its marine life.

We have a reef surrounding our island which is bursting with life.

Are you ready to take the plunge?

1. Gear Up

Have you picked up your snorkel gear yet from the H.U.B. Dive Centre?

You'll need fins, a snorkel, and a mask. If you're not a strong swimmer, we recommend you use the life jacket provided in your villa. The team will help you find the perfect fit for all your equipment. Please consider the health of the coral reef when choosing your sun protection.

Many sunscreens contain ingredients that can also block the sun from the coral itself.

Look for sun protection that states reef friendly or wear a protective rash/sun shirt.

PRO TIP: If your mask keeps fogging up, try rubbing some toothpaste or baby shampoo inside it with your fingers, then rinse.

2. Clue Up

- Please read our advice before snorkelling to ensure your experience is as safe and as enjoyable as possible.
- Always snorkel with a partner if you can, and pop on a lifejacket if you're not a strong swimmer. While the water looks beautiful, sometimes the hidden currents can be strong.
- The current can be strong and changeable close to the reef villas and around the island, not only in areas indicated on the map. Be alert. Consult the Islanders regarding daily sea and weather conditions.
- Other islands on the horizon are much further away than they appear to be, with extremely strong currents and very deep water in-between them, so don't ever attempt to swim to another island.
- We advise always wearing fins, mask and snorkel whenever swimming in the sea.
- Give titan triggerfish a wide berth, particularly during nesting season (April–May). They are very territorial. If you find yourself close to one, swim away as quickly as you can in a horizontal direction (their territory is in a cone–shape, upwards from the ocean/reef floor). If necessary, kick with your fins as a barrier against them.
- Tread carefully and ideally use footwear (water shoes) in the sandy lagoons. Loose coral can scratch and burn your skin.
- Do not ever touch or stand on the coral. Please also take care not to kick it with your fins. Coral is a living organism, and you can kill it just by touching it. Coral helps protect our island from storms and erosion.
- Needlefish are as sharp as their name. Keep some distance when they dart around feeding, especially as dusk approaches.
- Don't swim in the channel where boats regularly arrive and depart the marina.
- Never try to touch or catch the sea creatures or crabs –they are protected by law here.
- Shells are most beautiful in their natural environment, and some are home to crabs. Its' illegal to take them home with you. You may also be depriving a crab of a home. Or you could even get a pinch from a crab! Be particularly wary of coneshaped white and red/brown shells (cone snail shells), as cone snail stings are very dangerous.
- Respect the juvenile black tip reef sharks seen hunting in the shallows. They're very cute and Instagrammable but they could bite (particularly if frightened or pestered). And as a keystone species which plays a vital part in the ecosystem, we don't want to scare them away either.