

OBLU SELECT
Lobigili

OBLU
XPERIENCE
Ailafushi

Our Green Initiatives



www.coloursofoblu.com

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Introduction

Being launched in March 2022, OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi will be an addition to the collection of 2 existing properties under the COLOURS of OBLU segment of Atmosphere Hotels & Resorts group.

The concept of OBLU SELECT Lobigili is offering an enchanting resort under the banner of COLOURS of OBLU. In the Maldivian language of Dhivehi, 'Lobi' means love and 'Gili' means island. Lobigili is, in essence, the island of love. Romance permeates the air here! Idyllic tropical vistas complemented by nature-inspired designs create a secluded, castaway feel. Set along a dreamy white beach and over a sparkling turquoise lagoon are 68 stylishly designed villas. This contemporary adult exclusive 5-star resort curates a palette of vibrant experiences. Let the easy-going island rhythm seep into your soul.... making way for heartfelt connections and memories.

The concept of OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi is to elevate the tropical island living through value-driven services, playful design, and smart technology. In the Maldivian language of Dhivehi, 'Aila' means family and 'Fushi' means island. Our ultimate Fushi Plan™ creates a free-spirited Maldivian holiday experience for the modern traveller – be it families, couples, or friends. This laidback 4-Star All-Inclusive Resort showcases 268 accommodation options in 4 categories. Enjoy an exciting dine-around experience at all-day dining Element X Restaurant, poolside indulgence at X360 Bar, and chilled-out dinners at Gadhiya 17 - Food Truck. Add a touch of the spectacular to your stay with an additional reservation at the Only BLU Underwater Restaurant.

The Island had been charted on the maps since the late 2018 when tourism had first started to take off in the Maldivian archipelago. It was known for its impressive island house-reef and adjacent channel which connected the internal Malé Atoll (Malé Atoll) and the Indian Ocean.

The formation and nature of the channel allowed for a huge variety of small reef fish to appear in abundance along with contrasting species of larger pelagic and predatorial marine life to appear in the location for feeding. This remarkable display continues at the depths of the house reefs, and has been a part of thousands of guest experiences at the island even before OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi had launched.

It is with this key beauty of nature and its unique aspects that add even more significance to the importance of valuing and contributing for a healthy and green environment of the Island. To retain its natural beauty, a healthy house-reef and protect all the inhabitants surrounding the island so as to let them thrive continue to flourish!



Discover the Local Culture and History

History of the Maldives

The Maldives was originally a country ruled by kings (known as Radun) and queens (Ranin) some few centuries ago. During this time, the country held a position of strategic importance due to its location on the major marine routes of the Indian Ocean. Strongly influenced by its neighboring countries Sri Lanka and India, both of which had cultural and economic influences, the Maldives provided the main source of currency, cowry shells.

Boli or cowry shells were the first known medium of exchange used in the Maldives prior to printed currency. Various writers and traveler have in the past recorded the country's trade in these money shells, which were used as a medium of exchange in parts of Asia and Africa. The country's trade in cowry shells continued until the late 19 century.



Several European colonial powers took over most of the trade in the Indian Ocean, this often led to influences and interferences in the Maldives local politics and economy, these powers included the Dutch, French and Portuguese. On the 16 December 1887, the Maldives became a British protectorate when the Sultan signed a contract with the British Governor of Ceylon. With this agreement the British government offered the country military protection and non-interference in local administration in exchange for an annual tribute to be paid by the Maldives. In 1957 the British established an RAF base in the strategic southernmost atoll of Addu, where hundreds of locals were employed. 19 years later the British government relocated their base.

On 26 July 1965, the Maldives announced their Independence from the British, however they continued to maintain their air base in the southernmost atoll on the island of Gan until the height of the Cold War in 1976 when they withdrew.

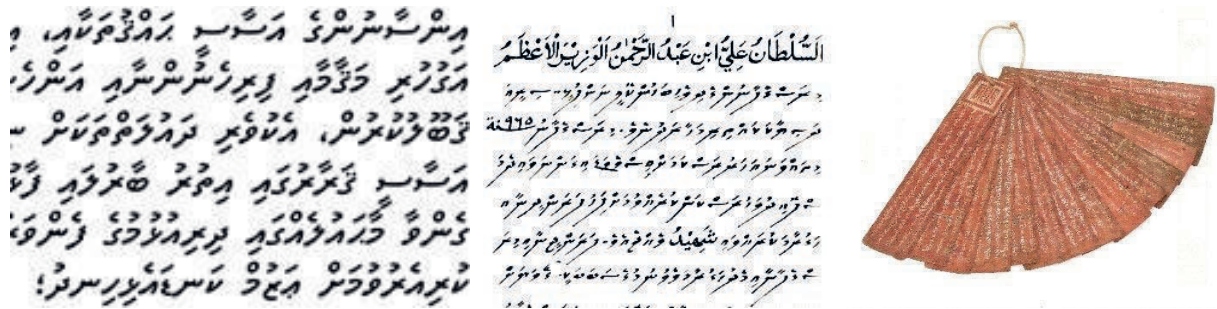


Touching on the history of the island itself, OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi Island, are reclaimed. The island being 15 minutes boat ride away from Male made it a strategically placed for encouraging tourism for guests who do not want to travel long distances over waters. There are over un-spoilt dive sites, all reachable within an hour's Dhoni ride from the island. Today, our location is still much known for its pressive diving and snorkeling sites as the coral reef surrounding the island is one of the most abundant in the Maldives.

Language

The language of the Maldivians is Dhivehi. Dhivehi is rooted in Sanskrit and according to some researchers, it is an ancient form of Sinhala, (a language which is spoken in Sri Lanka). Following the advent of Islam in 1153, the language was heavily influenced from Arabic. In more recent times, English is now very common language in the country, which started following the introduction of English as a medium of education in the early 1960s.

The Maldivian script known as thaana was invented during the 16th century soon after the country was liberated from Portuguese rule. Unlike former scripts, thaana is written from right to left. This was devised to accommodate Arabic words that are frequently used in Dhivehi. There are 24 letters in the thaana alphabet



Want to learn the local some of the language? Below we have some key phrases in Dhivehi for you to try:

English	Dhivehi
Hello (informal)	Kihineh?
How are you?	Haalu kihineh?
Yes	Aan
No	Noon
Where?	Kobaa?
Why?	Keevve?
Who?	Kaaku?
There	Ethaa
Here	Mithaa
What?	Koacheh?
What is (your) name?	Kon nameh kiyanee?
My name is	Aharengel namakee
Good	Ran'galhu
Goodbye (informal)	Dhanee
Where are you from?	Kon rasheh?
Thank you	Shukuriyaa
I am sorry	Ma-aafu kurey
How old are you?	Umurun kihaa vareh?
My age is	Aharengel umurakee
Where are (you) going? Or What place are we going?	Kon thanakah dhanee?
What time are (we) going?	Kon irakun dhanee?

What is the price?	Agu kihaavareh?
How long will it take?	Kihaa ireh nagaanee?
What time is it?	Gadin kihaa ireh?
What island is that?	E-ee kon rasheh?

Atoll Formation

The sea covers 99% of the Maldives and inside its blue depth lies the mysteries and riddles related to the formation of the Maldives. The islands are formed around a ring-shaped coral reef encircling a lagoon. This reef structure, typical of Maldives, is called an atoll.



The atolls of the Maldives are formed from coral structures, separated by lagoons. The atolls are, in fact, part of a greater structure known as the Laccadives-Chagos Ridge, which stretches over 2000 kilometers. The islands are low lying with the highest point at approximately only 8 feet above sea level. 'Faru' or ring-shaped reef structures form the atolls and these reefs provide natural defense against wind and wave action, on these delicate islands.

There are 26 natural atolls in Maldives. According to Charles Darwin's theory, when submerged volcanoes rose from the sea, coral reefs grew on the volcano edges once eruptions ceased. When the volcanoes submerged, the coral reefs encircling a water-filled basin remained. Consequently, islands were formed on the reefs as the tides and currents brought dead coral onto sandbars.

Local Cultures and Traditions

Traditional Maldivian Food and Cuisine

The Maldives is located at an important crossroad in the Indian Ocean. Traders and visitors over time have left their mark on Maldivian cuisine in addition to contributing towards the molding of the country's culture and norms.

As the Maldives comprises more sea than land, it is only natural that fish (mainly tuna) have always been the most prominent element of Maldivian food. However, with travelers from different parts of the world, new seasonings and vegetables were introduced into the country and added to the existing (limited) repertoire of seafood and tubers (e.g. taro & sweet potato). Each new discovery was incorporated into the diet in quantities most palatable to Maldivians. Thus Maldivian cuisine now comprises Arabic, Indian, Sri Lanka and Oriental tastes blended into a unique cuisine that embodies a culinary identity of its own.



Bodu Beru

Bodu Beru is a very traditional performance art played on drums which are made from hollowed coconut wood and covered on both ends with goat hide. 'Bodu Beru' is translated into English meaning 'big drum' and is thought to have been introduced to the Maldivian culture in the 11th century by Africans. Even today Bodu Beru is still one of the most popular forms of cultural activities in the Maldives and can be seen in almost every inhabited island in the Maldives as part of their festivities. They are used in a performance of around fifteen people including three drummers and a lead singer singing in Dhivehi, often about patriotism, romance or satire. The dance is either performed by men in dance called Thaara, or by women in dance called Bandiyaa. The audience often joins in the dancing too.



At OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi you will see our talented team of Bodu Beru performers sharing their talents and traditions with shows during our Maldivian Night at X360 Bar, as well as during special occasions, celebrations and daily arrivals.

Lacquer Ware

Lacquer ware is a prime example of the talented Maldivian craftsmen's work called "liyelaa jehun" in Dhivehi. Maldivian craftsmen practice "liyelaa jehun" which is a particular process where they create intricate designs on carved wooden objects such as vases and jewellery boxes. The craftsman sculpt designs out of a simple wood block of wood and then is them coat it with lacquer of various colors, usually black, orange, green and yellow. The finished piece is then polished with dry coconut leaves until it gleams. The end result is sleek, shiny and etched with fine intricate designs – an exquisite work of art. At OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi. In the evenings, the colleagues present traditional entertainment in the form of dancing and drumming to keep the guests entertained as they enjoy authentic local cuisine.



Code of Conduct

It is important to be mindful and respectful of the culture and religious beliefs of any destination we visit. We would therefore like to inform you that outside of resorts on the community islands, the local dress code for men and women is simple– please keep adequately covered, including shoulders and knees. This is a Muslim country so you may cause offence if you are not properly dressed.

Do's and Don'ts in the Maldives

Below is a list of activities and behaviors to be aware of as to be respectful and mindful of the culture and environment in the Maldives:

Do:

- Do purchase ethical souvenirs as this encourages growth and development for the country and they make great gifts for family and friends!
- Do take photographs and pictures of your stay and of the beautiful surroundings.
- Do participate in our culturally connected activities to learn more about this beautiful destination, and to have fun!

Don't:

- Do not purchase Sea jewellery. This includes moth-of-pearl, seashell, coral, turtle shell and black coral. Taking into account the endangered condition and environmental hazards, the exploitation of sea turtles and black corals has become forbidden in Maldives.
- Do not feed the fish, their digestive system cannot digest bread or other foods.
- Do not collect shells or take them from the beach. It is illegal to take coral out of the Maldives, in addition, shells are hermit crabs' homes! If you get caught taking coral or shells from the Maldives you could be faced with a hefty fine.
- Do not break the coral this destroys their ecosystem.
- Do not stand on the coral – this destroys and kills the coral.
- Do not touch the turtles, it could cause them to become distressed and if it is stressed it will not eat putting it in danger.
- Do not throw plastic or any form of rubbish in the sea.

Ethical Souvenirs

We encourage our guests to purchase some of the below items to support local communities:

Wooden Lacquer Ware

Perhaps the most distinctive of the Maldivian handicrafts, these beautifully crafted boxes, containers and ornamental objects are made from the local funa, (Alexandrian laurel) which grows abundantly throughout the country, they come in various shapes and sizes; small pillboxes, vases of various sizes to round and oval plates with lids. These elegant pieces are lacquered in strands of red, black and yellow resin and delicately carved with flowing flowery patterns.

Mats

Reed mats are woven throughout the country. They are dried in the sun and stained with natural dyes, the colour varying from fawn to black. These mats with their intricate abstract designs are woven on a handloom according to the imagination and skill of the weaver.

Coconut Crafts

Coconuts were widely used in traditional Maldivian daily life. While coir rope and coconut thatch are a key example; coconut shells have been used to create tools such as kitchen utensils. Polished coconut shells are used by modern Maldivian craftsmen to produce many different types of ornaments and souvenirs. Dhonis, jewellery, utensils and many similar products are created using coconut shells.

Wood Carving

The most ancient Maldivian wood carvings are wonder to behold – that a Maldivian craftsman, armed with a few rudimentary tools could carve, smooth and finish such a masterpiece is a testament to their dedication of the craft. More recent times have seen a concentration on smaller handmade wood carvings such as vases, jewellery boxes and ornamental dhonis.

Coir Making

The coconut husk is first buried in the beach within the reach of waves and left to soak for a month or so. It is then dug up and beaten with a wooden club, which separates the fiber.

The fiber is then washed with seawater, dried in the sun and rolled up, and spun into rope by hand. Traditionally, it was commonly used in everyday life with boats, during construction of traditional hammock etc. The modern use is mainly ornamental. It is used, chiefly along with coconut thatch, to invoke a truly Maldivian atmosphere in buildings.



Working together to create a Sustainable Future

At OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi, we place a high importance on preserving and protecting our environment as well as striving towards a more sustainable future for the Maldives.

We are committed to reducing the negative environmental and social impact from activities associated with the resort activities and to developing a sustainable environment.

Our objectives:

- We shall monitor and ensure efficient use of our water to avoid and minimize waste.
- We will continue to place a high importance on reduction, reuse and recycling.
- We will embark on responsible purchasing practices.
- We will continually work to improve the overall air quality and reduce pollution (both indoor and outdoor).
- We will concentrate on biodiversity conservation, preservation and restoration within the resort as well as nearby surrounding areas.
- We will continue to work closely with and support local communities.
- We will continue to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of team members, guests and local community.
- We are committed to comply with Maldivian and international legislative environmental requirements, such as environmental, public and occupational health and safety, hygiene and employment legislation.
- This environmental and social policy is freely available to all interested parties on request.

Water Bottling Plants at OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi

OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi, use in-house water bottling plants as part of an on-going commitment to reduce the resort's carbon-footprints. By utilising the water bottling plants instead of shipping in bottled water, resort saves approximately 100,000 plastic bottles per year. This new water system is an important part of the resort's continued effort to preserve the idyllic surroundings of the Maldives for future generations of guests.

The Eco Pure system will enable the resort to treat sea water on site, passing it through complex stages of filtration to make it perfect for drinking. Salt content is separated from the water, as well as other impurities, whilst some minerals are added. The final product is then passed through a cooler for still water, and CO2 is added for sparkling water, before being stored in recyclable glass bottles.



Environmental Awareness

It is important that we inform and educate our guests, colleagues and local communities about environmental policies and provide them with guidelines and tips to raise environmental awareness.

At OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi, we have several initiatives to share the awareness:

1. Our Green Book - This document is available on our Guest TV's in all our villas. A printed copy is also available at the reception. For our colleagues, we have the book available on our HR Matrics and have regular refresher trainings for our teams.
2. Activity Book- in our Guest activity book at the reception and Dive Centre we have information and activities highlighting the importance of environmental awareness.
3. Island wide Treasure Hunt- we have an island wide treasure hunt for knowledge! This treasure trail takes you on a tour of the island, learning and finding out information about the flora and fauna on the island.

Sustainable Fishing

Commercial fishing in the Maldives is done by catching small bait fish with nets off the side of fishing dhonis at night. With the bait fish caught, the fishing dhoni then heads out in the open ocean searching for schools of tuna. The fisherman typically looks for gatherings of birds feeding on small fish at the ocean surface - it is more than tuna will be feeding too. The fisherman line the back end of the dhoni to lure the tuna to the water their prey, hook them and fling them into them.



Ethical Purchasing

OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi is proud to say that we work well with our suppliers to reduce environmental impacts and improve social and ethical practices. We do not condone or support any activities that are against Maldivian government laws and acts.

- We give priority to local products, suppliers and service providers, both to reduce carbon emissions from freight and of course to support the local community.
- At our restaurants we do not serve overharvested species, nor products derived from controversial production methods such as boxed veal and shark fin.
- We do not purchase any genetically manipulated foods.
- Environmentally-friendly, biodegradable cleaning products, pesticides and packaging materials are preferred to chemical or disposable products.
- All uniforms in the resort are made on the island by our tailors.
- We also encourage our guests to buy local souvenirs instead.

Awareness for Local Communities

We learn about our local communities and how we can work with them and support them to create a sustainable future, below are some examples:

Local Island Visit

Our guests can discover Maldivian culture and daily life with our organised Local Island visit excursions. These adventures are a great experience to meet the Maldivians and learn and understand more about the way that they live. This is also a lovely opportunity to purchase authentic souvenirs.

Visit the local islands and enjoy lunch on a deserted island. We start in the morning and return in the evening on one of our traditional Dhoni's



Huraa



Himmafushi



Thulusdhoo

Male' Island Visit

Visit the Capital city of Maldives, explore its Heritage; the Sultan's park, The Islamic Centre, Hukurumiskiy and the fish market are just some of the attractions that are just walking distance from each other. And since you are in the city don't forget to fill up on supplies and souvenirs at the local shopping district.

Discover the Flora and Fauna at OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi

OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi, is home to many flourishing plants, trees and flowers. Here we highlight some of the flora and fauna you will discover while staying with us:

Flora

The Coconut Palm

The coconut palm, *Cocos nucifera*, is a member of the family Arecaceae (palm family). It is the only accepted species in the genus *Cocos*. The term coconut can refer to the entire coconut palm, the seed, or the fruit, which, botanically, is a drupe, not a nut.

You can recognize the Coconut Palm because it has a single trunk and at the top there is a crown of feather-like fronds. You will often also see bunches of large fruits called coconuts. The coconut consists of a thin hard skin, a thicker layer of husk, the hard (coconut) shell, the white kernel and a large cavity filled with coconut milk. Coconut palms can be up to 30 m tall.



Banyan

A Banyan (also banian) is a fig. "Banyan" often refers specifically to the India banyan or *Ficus benghalensis*, the national tree of India though the term has been generalized to include all figs that share a characteristic life cycle.

The leaves of the banyan tree are large, leathery, glossy green and elliptical in shape.

The original support tree can sometimes die, so that the banyan becomes a "columnar tree" with a hollow central core. Old trees can spread out laterally using these prop roots to cover a wide area.



Heliotrope Tree

The Heliotrope Tree is a species of flowering plant. Common names include Tree Heliotrope, Velvet Soldier bush and Octopus Bush. It is a shrub or small tree typical of littoral zones reaching a height of 6m (20 ft), with a similar spread.



Screw Pine

The Screw pine family refers to around 600 tropical species of the genus *Pandanus* spread out in South East Asia and the Pacific region. It refers to the various plants and shrubs of the screw pine family. The screw pine is mainly characterised by the presence of aerial prop roots and by the long narrow leaves which are spirally arranged in clusters.

You will know the Screw Pine because it has many thick and branched roots (called 'prop' roots) that hold the tree into loose sand and keeps the tree standing up straight. The fruits look like an orange colored pineapple, and consist of many small parts.



Hibiscus

The Hibiscus is a quite large plant, containing several hundred species that are native to warm- temperate, subtropical and tropical regions throughout the world. Member species are often noted for their showy flowers and are commonly known simply as hibiscus, or less widely known as rose mallow. The fruit is a dry five-lobed capsule, containing several seeds in each lobe, which are released when the capsule dehisces (splits open) at maturity. It is of red and white colours. It is an example of complete flowers.



White Spider Lily

The White Spider Lily is a member of the amaryllis Family has long strap-like leaves that form a fountain radiating up and then arching out and down. Individual leaves are about two and one- half inches wide by over two feet in length with a center rib forming a crease down the middle.

The ghostly blooms are at the top of a nude stalk that reaches thirty inches or more. Each bloom has its own display stand at the top of the stalk and there will usually be five to six blooms per stalk. The common name of spider lily comes from how the blooms are constructed. Each bloom has six long, narrow, white petals widely spaced and in a shallow cup outline. At the center of the petals is a cup formed from "webbing" that goes from stamen to stamen.



Scaevola Taccada

Scaevola Taccada also known as beach naupaka is a flowering plant in the family of Goodeniaceae found in the coastal locations in the tropical areas of Indo-Pacific. It is a common beach scrub throughout the Arabian Sea, the tropical Indian Ocean and the tropical Islands of the Pacific. It is an erect, spreading, evergreen shrub or small tree with somewhat succulent, soft-wooded, pithy stems. It usually grows up to 4 m tall.



Dracaena

Dracaena reflexa is a popular houseplant with origins in Madagascar and other Indian Ocean islands. Dracaena plant care is fairly simple, and they can even withstand a certain amount of neglect. A multi-stemmed shrub with whorls of strappy green and yellow variegated leaves. A very adaptable plant which can be grown in full sun outdoors, or in lower light levels indoors. Best of all, dracaena help purify the air we breathe.



Polyscias Guilfoylei

The *Polyscias guilfoylei* is a member of Araliaceae family. It is an erect, evergreen shrub or small tree growing up to 6m tall. The plant is usually little-branched, in time assuming a columnar shape with narrow, spindly clusters of vertical stems.



Pseuderanthemum

The *Pseuderanthemum* is a member of Acanthaceae family. The genus epithet 'Pseuderanthemum' comes from the Latin words 'pseudo', meaning 'false' and 'Eranthemum', a plant genus, in reference to the regular confusion with its close relatives of the genus 'Eranthemum', thus given the prefix that makes them 'false' eranthemum.

A colourful, erect, woody, moderately fast-growing shrub with an attractive crown of waxy, broad, pointed, somewhat irregular, variegated leaves in a combination of different shades of green suffused with purple and silver, and regularly produces small clusters of pink flowers.



Banana Tree

Banana trees are one of the common trees that come to mind when dreaming of the tropics. The banana plant is the largest herbaceous flowering plant. All the above-ground parts of a banana plant grow from a structure usually called a "corm". Plants are normally tall and fairly sturdy, and are often mistaken for trees, but what appears to be a trunk is actually a "false stem" or pseudostem. Bananas grow in a wide variety of soils, as long as the soil is at least 60 cm deep, has good drainage and is not compacted.

Fauna

Grey Heron (Maldivian Name: "Maakanaa")

This is a large bird that stands between 90 to 100 cm tall and can weigh up to 2 kg. It feeds in shallow water on fish, insects, small reptiles and mammals. You will often see the heron standing still or moving slowly when it's stalking its prey. The loud croaking, referred to as "fraanak" is its characteristic call. The Grey Heron builds bulky stick nests when breeding.



Common Tern (Maldivian Name: "Valla")

This migratory bird, commonly referred to as the 'Sea Swallow', visits the Maldives in winter and breeds in Europe, Asia and North America. This bird feeds by plunge diving for fish in the sea, lakes & rivers. Common Terns are known to reach the age of 23 years or more.

Yellow Bittern (Maldivian Name: "Dhon Raabondhi")

This is a small species which measures only 38 cm in length with a short neck and a long bill. They can be difficult to see due to their shrub habitat and skulking life style, they fly frequently, when the striking contrast between the black feathers and otherwise yellowish plumage makes them unmistakable. They nest in shrubs or reed beds and lay 4 to 6 eggs at a time. This bird feeds on insects and fish.



Common Mynah

This cheeky bird that follows you around for tit bits was introduced to Ellaidhoo about 10 years ago and they have grown in their numbers since. The original birds were from Sri Lanka and Pakistan. They are believed to mate for life and build their nests in holes in trees, the normal clutch is 4 to 6 eggs.



Oriental Garden Lizard (Maldivian Name: "Bon'du")

In the breeding season, the male's head and shoulders turn bright orange to crimson and his throat black. Males also turn red-headed after a successful battle with rivals. They feed on insects and small vertebrates. These lizards are harmless and should not be feared by guests.



Whimbrel (Maldivian Name: "Bulhithunbii")

This migratory wader visits the Maldives in the winter and breeds across the Sub Arctic, Europe, parts of Asia and Scotland. It is a coastal bird during migration & feeds by probing soft mud for crabs and similar prey.



Marine Life

As well as on land, the island is also home to an abundant and very colourful Marine life. The coral reef surrounding OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi is one of the healthiest and most abundant in the Malé atoll - making this resort a great destination for diving and snorkelling.

Some Marine life you may discover while you are staying with us:

Sea Green Turtle and Hawksbill Sea Turtle

The Green Turtle is the most common turtle species in the Maldives. It is herbivorous and mainly feeds on algae and sea grass. Due to the differing diet of the Hawksbill Turtle (mainly invertebrates in the reef) and differing breeding grounds. The two species are not in direct competition, but they do face the same human threats of egg-harvesting, habitat destruction and hunting. They can be seen all around the island, close to the reefs and in the lagoons.

Spinner Dolphin

The Spinner Dolphin is the most commonly sighted and abundant cetacean species in the Maldives. School sizes vary between very few and hundreds of individuals, generally increasing in average size the more distant the school is from the shore – probably an important anti-predation mechanism. They are particularly famous for their acrobatic displays in which they spin longitudinally along their axis as they leap through air. The reason for the spinning is not known; possible reasons may be to display dominance, to communicate their location, to hunt, to shake off parasites or remoras (fish attaching themselves to the dolphin's skin), or just for fun.



Giant Moray Eel (Maldivian Name: Ven)

They spend the day in the rocks with their head outside, and come out at night. There are several who reside at OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU EXPERIENCE Ailafushi reef. They are usually friendly. They breathe with open mouths, so they look like they are threatening. But actually they are not. However, if disturbed, they may attack.



Land Hermit Crab (Maldivian Name: Baravelli)

All land hermit crabs found along our beaches or amongst the island's rich vegetation have adapted to a life outside the sea. As opposed to their close relatives in the reef, they do not breathe through gills but through wrinkled, thin, capillary-rich skin at the tip of their soft hind body. As hermit crabs grow, they must exchange their shell for a larger one. Since shells are not an unlimited resource, there is frequently strong competition among the hermit crabs for the available shells. Land hermit crabs are omnivorous scavengers and feed on all types of dead organic matter.



Sting Rays (Maldivian Name: Madi)

They are benthic species, always in contact with the bottom, because they get food from little crabs and fishes which live into the sand. They are friendly animals but they can be dangerous because of the camouflage. Sting rays have a poisoned spine in the tail. Torpedoes can discharge they have an electrical propriety if stepped on.

Both are ovoviparous animals and they can give birth only several times in their life because of long gestation period.



Protect the Marine Life

At OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi, we take all precautions to protect and maintain our beautiful coral reef. We kindly request all our guests to avoid touching, breaking or standing on the coral.

OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi is keen to preserve the natural environment and we encourage our guests to join us by refraining from littering in to the lagoon.

Marine Safety Guidelines

Before you dive into the beautiful crystal ocean surrounding our island, please be aware of the safety precautions to make sure you have a safe and enjoyable swimming or diving experience.

Snorkeling Safety Information

The reef around OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi is abundant and vibrant with many species of fish and coral found on our house reef. However, please do take care and follow the Safety Information provided.

- Never go snorkelling alone. If you do not have a snorkelling buddy with you, please do inform our colleagues before you go out.
- Life jackets are available in the respective villas for our guests who are not confident swimmers. We encourage all our guests to wear a life jacket especially if you are not a strong swimmer.
- Be sure to stay close to shore and to reserve enough energy to get back to shore safely. Swim on your back and tread water for a few minutes to regain energy if you are tired.
- Be aware of your surroundings. We recommend that our Dive Center is consulted before hand in order for you to check the conditions of the sea.
- Do not touch the marine life. Whilst most sea creatures are not harmful, some may be defensive and therefore aggressive if they feel that they are in danger. Maintain a safe distance and avoid making any sudden movements.
- Coral and other rough surfaces can severely injure a swimmer in shallow waters. Please inform our onsite Doctor if you have been cut or bruised whilst snorkelling.

Swimming Safety Information

The lagoon around OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi is inviting and safe for swimming. However we encourage all our guests to read through the Safety Information below and exercise caution when in the sea.



- Never go swimming alone. If you do not have a swimming buddy with you, please do inform our colleagues before you go out.
- Life jackets are available in the respective villas for our guests who are not confident swimmers. We encourage all our guests to wear a life jacket especially if you are not a strong swimmer.
- Keep well within the safety markers and never swim between the ropes and jetties.
- Weather and sea conditions change regularly; please check with a member of our Dive Centre before you go swimming.
- Slowly wade in to the water—never dive headfirst.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Do not go swimming directly after a meal.
- Do not swim when under the influence of alcohol.

Basic Safety

If you are in trouble, remain calm, call out for help and wave your arms above your head.

- Remain calm and try not to panic. Panicking will make you more tired and reduce your ability to reach the beach safely.
- Never try and swim directly towards the shore against the rip current.
- Do not fight the rip current, if you are unable to swim out of the rip current, float or calmly tread water. Try and swim parallel to the beach and towards where the waves are breaking until you are out of the current. When out of the current, swim towards shore.
- If you are unable to return to shore, draw attention to yourself by waving your arm above your head and shout for help.
- If you can stand up, wade instead of swimming.

Protected Dive Sites

There were a total of 15 important marine dive sites that were established as marine protected areas in 1996 and registered in the Ministry of Planning Human Resources and Environment and managed by the Ministry of Tourism. In 1999 additional 10 dive sites were declared as protected areas established in the Ministry of Home Affairs Housing and Environment. Anchoring, and fishing except for traditional bait-fishing and destructive activities are strictly prohibited in these sites.

Other Protected Areas apart from the designated marine protected areas, the following islands are conserved and protected from exploitation. These include:

- Hurasdhoo in North Ari Atoll
- Hithaadhoo in Gaaf Alif Atoll
- Rasfari in Kaafu Atoll

Protected Birds

In the Maldives there are a number of protected birds and wildlife, for example the White tern (*Gygis alba monte*) bird was listed as a protected species in June 1996 by the Ministry. Since 15 July 1999, 22 bird species are protected. Catching, maltreating, trading and keeping nesting grounds of these birds were banned effective 11 July 1999.

Protective Marine Species

Marine species banned from export in the Maldives include:

- Eels
- Black Corals
- Trochus shells
- Bigeye scad under 6"
- Triton shells
- Skates and rays
- Pearl Oysters
- Dolphins
- Lobsters and lobster meat
- Whales
- All types of corals (except organ pipe coral)
- Parrot fish
- Turtles
- All types of bait fish
- Puffer fish

Our Responsibilities

Aside from our ongoing efforts with recycling and preserving energy across the resort. We also strive to support our local communities, here's how:

World Tourism Day – Sustainability

Island Clean Ups

As we continue our commitment to a cleaner environment, the OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi family joined hands to clean up our beautiful island and sometimes local neighbouring islands. Monthly, the colleagues of OBLU Lobigili organise an island wide clean up.

Reef Cleaning

Monthly we arrange a reef cleaning of our House Reef as well as going to local islands to support there. Colleagues from various departments dived headfirst to help clean a portion of the coral reef that surrounds the resort.

This is part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that our beautiful house reef is preserved and is healthy for the marine life.



Ongoing Green Initiatives

- All our used paper and cardboard is incinerated with fallen leaves and branches added to make compost for our plants.
- We have partnered with EcoPure (UK) to introduce glass bottles for drinking water in all guest areas. We eliminate the use of more than 100,000 plastic bottles a year.
- All our in villa liquid amenities in ceramic containers, reducing the amount of plastic.
- Non-woven, biodegradable packing used on all our amenity packing reduces the amount of plastic that arrives to the resort.
- Sustaining the local coconut industry as all our guests are presented with a welcome coconut drink upon arrival. All is purchased locally.
- All local varieties of fish are caught by the local fisherman's. Only specialty items are imported.
- Our sustainability training for all colleagues includes topics such as climate change, waste management and nature conservation.
- All our orientation programs include an hour's training on sustainability and environment protection
- Regular Island and/or reef clean-ups and other environmental events are organized.
- On the Team member's notice board, information on environmental events and issues are displayed.
- Earth Hour and World Environment Day are observed each year.

Future Initiatives

- Food waste will be disposed off either by using food waste disposer or a bio gas plant which will generate fertilizer for vegetation and cooking gas for the colleague's kitchen.
- Planning on installation of solar heaters for guests as well as colleagues.
- Overhauling our waste management system in order to promote segregation and recycling of our waste.

Guest Initiatives – How can YOU Help

Here we have some suggestions on how you can help towards creating a more sustainable future.

1. Saving and preserving energy

Producing energy usually creates carbon emissions and is the biggest cause of global warming. At OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi we have several programmes to reduce our carbon footprint, you can also contribute by doing the following:

- If you are comfortable to, you can avoid using air-conditioning when you are in the villa and use natural ventilation instead. Open the window and enjoy the fresh air!
- When you are using the air-conditioning, try to keep the doors and windows closed and the temperature at a comfortable setting (we recommend 24 degrees Celsius).



- Switch off all unnecessary lights, especially when you are leaving the villa.
- Avoid leaving water taps running.

2. Water

Water consumption is quite a concern in Maldivian resorts, as a lot of energy is used to prepare freshwater for our everyday needs. The desalination process consumes a large amount of energy and contributes to the depletion of fossil fuels ultimately leading to global warming. You can help by trying to reduce your water consumption by following these useful tips:

- Avoid leaving taps running when washing and taking shower or brushing your teeth
- Reduce laundry by reusing your towels and bed sheets.
- Avoid wasting water, especially hot water

3. Laundry

Laundry is one area where a lot of water and energy is used, additionally, a certain amount of detergents are required. One area where guests can help is by reducing the amount of laundry to save water and detergents:

- Leave the towels hanging, if you would like to use them again; place them in the floor if you would like them to be replaced.
- As for the bed linen, please leave the wooden block on the bed to indicate to your villa attendants that you would like your sheets changed. If no note is placed on the bed, change of sheets will take place every 2nd day.

4. Waste

Recycling facilities in the Maldives is still a work in process and at OBLU SELECT Lobigili and OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi we strive to help make the difference and have implemented an efficient recycling programme. Here are tips in how you could help to contribute:

- It would be a great help if you could take plastic containers (ie shampoo bottles, etc) back to your country where recycling facilities are no doubt more advanced.
- We would also request you to take batteries home with you as there are currently no facilities for re-cycling this, and would end up in landfill here in the Maldives.
- Please do not wrap your luggage in Clingfilm, as this is a completely unnecessary practice and produces a lot of plastic waste

5. Natural Surroundings

The Maldives is home to beautiful and biologically diverse coral reefs, and is home to numerous animal and plant species. In order to maintain the ecological balance of our local nature and keep the organisms healthy, you can help by taking few easy steps.

- Please do not touch anything under water. Many animals are sensitive to touch and can easily be damaged. Corals, for example, have a mucous layer around them, while other animals, such as turtles, may suffer from stress.
- Do not break off any corals by standing on the reef or by flapping your flippers. Corals are living animals and require decades to build those reef formations. Please use the designated snorkel channels to get to the reef and back to the beach.
- Please refrain from feeding the fish, as well as our animals on the island (e.g. birds).
- Please do not collect any shells, broken coral pieces or other objects you may come across on the island and in the sea. They may serve as homes for hermit crabs and, consisting of calcium carbonate, are very important for generating new sand.
- Please do not buy any marine products, i.e. coral jewellery, shells or shark teeth. The concern is that most of the animals to which those skeletons originally belong to have deliberately been killed for the tourism industry and are often endangered species. You may also risk fines, as in some countries it is illegal to enter carrying these item.