

## Affordable Luxury: The Maldives

Posted: 01/05/2014 18:23

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Scattering the idyllic crystal clear waters of the Indian Ocean, with pristine white beaches, romantic sunsets, swanky water villas and holistic spa havens - it's no wonder the Maldives are among the top honeymoon destinations in the world. A recent survey conducted by honeymoon specialists Kuoni bagged the Cruisoe-chic islands the number one spot.

Almost 200 luxury resorts now scatter the magical archipelago of 1190 tropical islands and coral cays, most recently Velaa Private Island, thought to be one of the most exclusive - and expensive - destinations in the world. Even if you step down a star or two this perfect luxe escapism doesn't come cheap. Almost all food and beverages (bar bananas, coconuts and fish) are imported - resulting in sometimes steep bar and restaurant prices. When you check out of your little piece of paradise beware - the bill might transport you back to reality long before the seaplane.

These super-luxe resorts don't do bog standard 'all inclusive' - they're far too chic. But they do do 'special packages'. Special packages that could in fact halve the cost of your stay...

### Kurumba

#### Affordable Luxury: Dine Around All Inclusive

If seaplanes and isolation don't float your boat, then Kurumba could be your perfect piece of Maldivian paradise - a short 10 minute speedboat transfer from the airport - the resort aims to get you from plane to room within 2 hours. It's close proximity to the busy capital Malé diminishes the isolation & quietude that many of the islands have. Whilst maintaining a laid back tropical feel along the beaches and inner island - there's a lively buzz around the bars, restaurants and hub - and it's the only island in the region to host guest DJ party nights!



### The Room

Deluxe Ocean Front Villa 174. Set a hop and a skip from the sunset beach bar (perfect for early evening cocktails!) The contemporary studio villa with outside seating and a double daybed - leads directly on to the snowy white beach. Facilities include indoor and outdoor showers, a twin tub, Molton Brown products, mini bar and flat screen TV with iPod dock. A complimentary Kurumba beach bag and flip flops are yours to take home!



### **The Spa**

The *Vela Spa* is set amongst serene tropical gardens in the middle of the island. Eight treatment and relaxation rooms are surrounded by hypnotic water falls and candlelit walkways. Managed by passionate local ex-therapist Xubba, the spa has recently introduced holistic treatments based on 'Dhivehi Beys' (traditional Maldivian medicines that incorporate ancient herbal remedies to treat a wide range of ailments).



### **The Treatment**

Vela Signature Massage is a holistic massage using one of the old Maldivian herbal secret recipes. Warm pumices containing the herbs are used in combination with coconut and rapeseed oils to work away any tension. The herbs are thought to penetrate through the muscles to disperse knots and tension. I'm always curious when it comes to secret remedies - I want to know the ingredients! Especially as this particular secret blend did actually seem to ease my permanent scapula knot...

### **Activities**

Individual & group yoga and meditation, tennis and a wide variety of waterspouts. Arts & crafts at The Majaa Kids Club.

### **To Eat**

An impressive & eclectic restaurant village including *Vihamana* for buffet breakfast and themed dinners, The *Hamakaze* for delicious grilled lobster and sushi and *Kurumba Mahal* for top notch Indian curries! There's also Chinese, Italian and Moroccan options.



### **What's Included**

Speedboat transfers. Breakfast, lunch and dinner at participating restaurants and a wide range of alcoholic, cocktails and soft beverages throughout the day. One complimentary excursion and laundry service, 50% discount on in-villa dining and mini-bar.

### **Don't Miss**

The Backstage Tour - which takes you around the staff village and heart of the island. You'll discover how the island runs, included water filtering and recycling and how the coconut oil is made for use in the spa and the kitchens!

[www.kurumba.com](http://www.kurumba.com)