

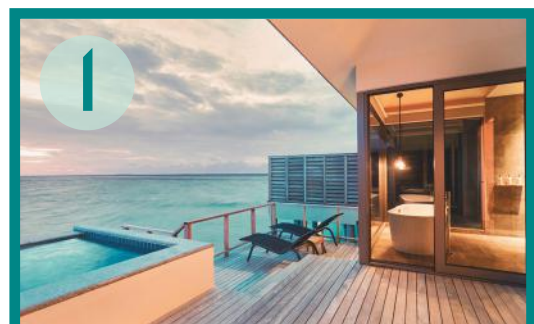
## DESTINATIONS

### WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS | MALDIVES



## MALDIVES HONEYMOONS

With a host of new hotel openings, this honeymoon hotspot remains top of the list for romance in 2022, writes **Laura French**



### LE MERIDIEN MALDIVES

Direct honeymooners after a little Riviera-inspired glamour to the latest outpost from French brand Le Méridien. Located on the island of Thilamaafushi, it features 141 villas dotted among tropical palms and set around a turquoise lagoon, with six restaurants and bars ranging from Japanese teppanyaki to barista-crafted coffee. Active types can snorkel and dive the house reef to glimpse hawksbill turtles, stingrays and shoals of colourful fish, while cultured couples can check out arts studio Waves Café or Le Méridien Hub, designed as a gathering place for creative types.

**Book it:** From £325 a night for a Beach Bungalow. [lemeridien-maldives.com](http://lemeridien-maldives.com)

### KUDA VILLINGILI RESORT MALDIVES

For couples after an experiential stay, suggest this just-opened, design-led resort in the North Malé Atoll. Gourmet dining, a beachfront spa and huge 150m pool are among the draws, but the real lure is its array of activities, which range from kayaking, wakeboarding and surfing at the famous 'Chickens Break' to lobster nights, sunset DJ sessions and plenty more. Accommodation spans beach villas to overwater, stilted retreats, with nature-inspired wooden decor in keeping with the surroundings.

**Book it:** From £657 per night on a B&B basis. [kudavillingili.com](http://kudavillingili.com)



### JUMEIRAH MALDIVES

Elsewhere in the North Malé Atoll, this all-villa resort is due to open on October 1 with 67 beach and overwater villas, each with an infinity pool and rooftop terrace. Dining options include signature Jumeirah restaurants Shimmers and Kayto – the former boasting a resident DJ – while a spa offers yoga classes and overwater treatment rooms. Activities include watersports, tennis and an evening submarine tour.

**Book it:** From £979 per night for a Water Villa with Pool (B&B). [jumeirah.com](http://jumeirah.com)

### OZEN BOLIFUSHI

Personal butlers, white-sand beaches and high-end dining greet guests at this new luxury retreat, with romantic experiences ranging from a film under the stars to an intimate dinner at private wine cellar Cuvee. Ocean Pool Suites with slides, Overwater Pavilions and an exclusive Royal Reserve complete with its own main Sanctuary and two Guest Villas are among the accommodation options, while a private beach, spa pavilion and overwater bar add to the allure – as does a private luxury superyacht guests can book a stay on.

**Book it:** From £946 per night for an Earth Villa Sunrise with Private Pool (all-inclusive). [theozencollection.com](http://theozencollection.com)



### FAIRMONT MALDIVES

Honeymooners looking to do their bit for conservation? Suggest this Maldivian stalwart. The resort itself isn't new, but guests will find plenty of recent updates – from a Turtle Ranger Programme where they can help the resident marine biologist, to new fishing, diving and watersports experiences – plus a Fairmont lounge at Malé airport where couples can end the honeymoon in style. Beyond the additions, guests will find idyllic villas backed by white-sand beaches, a spa and four restaurants.

**Book it:** From £677 per night for a Beach Sunrise Villa (half-board). [fairmont.com/maldives](http://fairmont.com/maldives)

