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## GEEO ITINERARY

MALDIVES 7/5/2021 - Summer

### **Day 1: Malé Arrive at any time. Arrival transfer included.**

Arrive at any time. You will be met by an airport representative who will transfer you to the hotel. Settle in and relax before the welcome meeting later in the day. There are no planned activities until a welcome meeting around 6:00 p.m. for an orientation/overview to go over the details of your trip. Check the notice board in the hotel lobby to confirm the time and place of the meeting. Head out for an optional welcome dinner with the group.

### **Day 2: Malé/Dhiffushi (B) Explore with some free time before boarding a ferry to Dhiffushi, a typical Maldivian island known for fishing.**

Enjoy a free morning in Male, wandering the colorful streets or browsing the local markets. Head to Dhiffushi aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat. Take advantage of the free time this afternoon and opt to explore the island or relax on the beach. Approximate travel time: 3 hrs by ferry

### **Day 3: Dhiffushi (B, D) Spend the day snorkeling, relaxing on the beach, and trying out water sports. Catch your own fish for a barbecue dinner under the stars.**

This morning head out for 2 hours of snorkeling and visit a reef which offers a strong possibility of turtle sightings. The reef is shallow but dense with corals that provide turtles with an abundant food source. The Maldives offer some of the most amazing snorkeling and marine life viewing opportunities in the world. The shallow islands and amazing coral reefs make it a key feeding ground for many species of tropical fish. 70 different species of colorful coral reefs make up the flora of this underwater city, with more than 700 species of fish and other marine life taking the role of the fauna. Snorkeling is one of the simplest ways to experience this impressive world under the water.

### **Day 4: Dhiffushi/Thulusdhoo (B) Take a ferry to Thulusdhoo followed by a walking tour of the island.**

Catch an early ferry to Thulusdhoo island, known for surfing and its laidback vibe. Explore the island, sunbathe on the "bikini beach" or relax in a hammock by the water. There are a lot of dolphins in the waters around the island - keep your eyes peeled as they can often be spotted from the surf or beach. Late afternoon as the day cools, take a walking tour of the island Finish with the chance to sample a traditional Maldives evening tea known as 'hedikaa' or 'short eats'- small savory and sweet bites accompanied with black tea. Approximate travel time: 1 hr Please note that today's ferry departs Dhiffushi at 6.30 am and arrives in Thulusdhoo at 7.30 am (weather dependent) and this is the only ferry of the day. A packed breakfast to take on board will be provided. Please note, there are no facilities on board to buy anything extra.

### **Day 5: Thulusdhoo (B) Enjoy the day to explore or relax as you like. Opt to take a surfing lesson or rent a stand-up paddleboard. Later enjoy a sunset kayak paddle across the lagoon to a nearby sandbank.**

Thulusdhoo is a popular surfing Island, head to Cokes Break to watch the pros or rent a board if you have experience. Beginners can also catch a wave on the inside lagoon with a surf lesson. Other popular surf spots include; chickens, ninjas and sultans breaks. Late afternoon, head out for a sunset kayaking tour. Kayak through the beautiful lagoon to a nearby sandbank, from where you can enjoy the sunset over the ocean.

### **Day 6: Thulusdhoo/Huraa (B, D) Travel to the island of Huraa. Immerse yourself**

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**in local life and enjoy a traditional meal with a local family.**

Get to the next spot on your route, the island of Huraa, aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat. Visit the local island of Huraa to immerse yourself in local life and discover the mangrove swamps and seawater lake. Learn more about this fragile eco-system and the conservation efforts being made here. Discover how and why tuna is dried and smoked and learn how the local delicacy of rihakaru is made. This evening visit the home of a local family and enjoy the tastes of a traditional local meal. Approximate travel time: 45 min by ferry

**Day 7: Huraa/Malé (B) Travel to Malé, one of the world's most densely populated cities, and see highlights including the President's Palace, the fish market, and the Friday Mosque.**

Take a ferry from Huraa to Malé, then go on a tour of Malé, the most densely populated capital city in the world. The visit includes the fish market and local market, Presidents Palace, Sultan Park, and Friday Mosque. Approximate travel time: 1 hr by ferry

**Day 8: Malé (B) Depart at any time.**

Our tour ends today. You are free to depart at any time, though your accommodation is only until noon. You may want to spend an extra day or two in the Maldives. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO trips in the same year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs). If you don't see a program that interests you that pairs with this trip, but still would like to extend your time abroad, let us know. We will work with you to find a non-teacher trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Even better, if you are an educator we can still offer you a discounted price on the trip you choose!