PRIVATE ISLANDS INC.



PRIVATE ISLAND RENTAL · SOUTH ARI ATOLL · MALDIVES

CENTARA GRAND ISLAND

112 VILLAS · HOUSE REEF & A SUNKEN WRECK · PRIVACY 62 RESORT STAY · 72 THE CLUB

THE ISLAND · SOUTH ARI ATOLL · MALDIVES

Machchafushi — Fish Island

The island's Dhivehi name means Fish Island, and the name is the fact: Machchafushi sits inside the South Ari Marine Protected Area, ringed by a house reef more than five times its own land area.

A cargo ship sunk in 1999 rests in the shallows as a dive site. The resort — long known as Centara Grand Island, renamed in 2025 — first welcomed guests in 1992 and has been Centara's since 2009.

112

VILLAS
SEVEN TYPES, BEACH & OVERWATER

5×

THE HOUSE REEF
FIVE TIMES THE ISLAND'S LAND

1992

FIRST GUESTS
WITH CENTARA SINCE 2009







STAY

Seven Ways to Stay

Beach villas in the gardens, water villas along the boardwalks, and the Club villas on the island's western side — every villa with its own terrace or deck, and the lagoon or the beach at its door.

THE VILLAS

Duplex Beach Villa	42 villas · 87 sqm · two floors
Family Overwater Villa with Kids Bedroom	10 villas · 93 sqm
Reethi Muraka Overwater Villa	14 villas · 106 sqm
Sunrise Overwater Villa	9 villas · 86 sqm
Sunset Overwater Villa	9 villas · 86 sqm
Club Sunset Overwater Pool Villa	20 villas · 114 sqm
Club Two Bedroom Beach Pool Villa	8 villas · 159 sqm

The Club villas carry private plunge or full pools and The Club's own lounge, pool and beach; the family villas add bunk beds and safety gates at the lagoon steps.









LIFE ON THE ISLAND

Life on the Island

THE TABLE

Reef serves the buffets and a Teppanyaki grill; Mare Azzurro cooks Italian over the lagoon; Suan Bua is Thai, in the garden. The Coral Bar runs over two floors, Aqua is the sunset seat, and meal plans climb to the Grand All-Inclusive.

THE WATER

The house reef begins at the shoreline and the PADI centre starts from it — out to the Kudhimaa wreck, and by boat to the whale sharks and mantas of the protected area. Kayaks, pedalos and paddleboards are part of the stay.

THE ISLAND

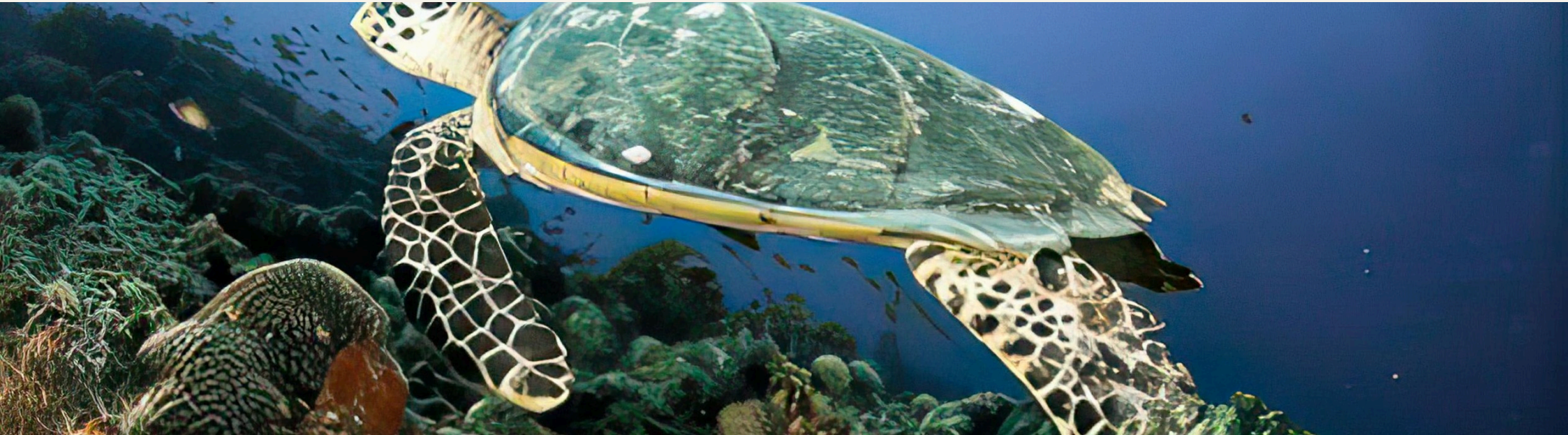
A beachfront infinity pool, SPA Cenvaree over the water beside a 200-year-old banyan tree, Camp Safari and the E-Zone for younger guests, a weekly cinema under the stars — and The Club, a resort within the resort.

THE REGION · SOUTH ARI ATOLL · MALDIVES

A Protected Atoll

South Ari is one of the Maldives' great diving atolls, and its southern waters are a marine protected area — the SAMPA — drawn around the whale sharks that feed here in every month of the year, with one of the highest resighting rates in the world.

Around the island the dive map fills in: the house reef and its wreck, the coral canyon of Broken Rock, the anemone gardens under the seaplane platform — and Malé, the capital, some sixty miles to the north-east.



GETTING THERE

By Seaplane from Malé

25 MIN

BY SEAPLANE

Trans Maldivian Airways flies from Velana International Airport to the island in about 25 minutes, over the lagoons and reefs of two atolls — the resort's team meets arrivals at the seaplane check-in in Terminal 1.

SHARED

DAYLIGHT FLIGHTS

Seaplanes fly in daylight only, between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., as a shared service that may stop at neighbouring islands on the way. Luggage is 20 kilograms checked and 5 in hand per guest.

LAST

FEW MINUTES

Some flights land at a platform near the island, with a short dhoni or speedboat hop to the resort jetty. Transfers are arranged by the resort and are not included in the villa rate.

Departure times are shared through the Centara app the evening before you fly.





THE ISLAND WAY

Reef, Reserve & Restoration

THE REEF

More than a thousand fish species and two hundred corals live on the house reef, and its most famous resident is a wreck: the 52-metre Kudhimaa, sunk in 1999 and now a coral habitat patrolled by reef sharks.

THE RESERVE

The island sits inside the South Ari Marine Protected Area. Centara's coral restoration programmes work the house reef, and its annual 'Plastics Only, Please' initiative keeps plastic waste out of the ocean.

THE ISLAND

Machchafushi means Fish Island. Guests first came in 1992; Centara has run the resort since 2009. At the spa stands a banyan tree the resort counts at more than two hundred years old, hung with guests' wishes.

THE SHORT VERSION

A working resort inside a marine protected area — its reef restored, its wreck become a reef.



MACHCHAFUSHI ISLAND

South Ari Atoll · Maldives — straight-line distances

DISTANCES – STRAIGHT LINE

Velana Intl Airport (Malé)	61 mi
Maamigili (VAM Airport)	9 mi
Rangali Island	11 mi

CLIMATE

Dry season (NE monsoon)	Dec – Apr
Wet season (SW monsoon)	May – Nov
Whale sharks (SAMPA)	Year-round

ACCESS

Velana International Airport (Malé) — the resort's team meets arrivals at the seaplane check-in counters, Terminal 1 (team also at Terminal 2, Counter A14)

About 25 minutes by shared seaplane with Trans Maldivian Airways, daylight hours only (06:00–18:00); the flight may stop at neighbouring islands, and transfers are not included in the villa rate

Luggage is 20 kg checked plus 5 kg hand per guest; some flights land at a platform near the island, with a short dhoni or speedboat hop to the resort jetty

Straight-line distances, approximate.
Island coordinates: the mapped position of Machchafushi (OpenStreetMap named feature, way 19882174), 3.5937 N, 72.8833 E — the parent reconciles against the CMS pin at the live phase.
Place coordinates: OpenStreetMap/Nominatim, Nov 2026. Seasons: the Maldives' published monsoon seasons.

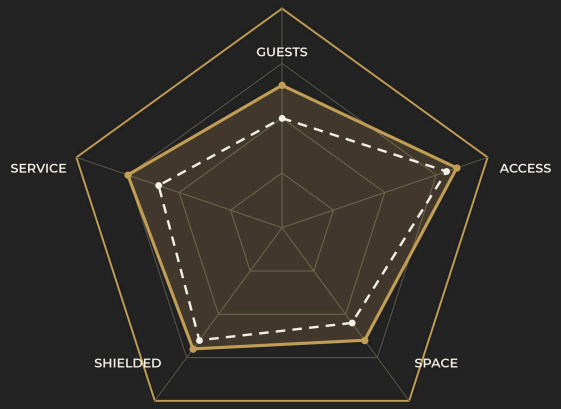
THE PRIVATE BRIEFING

PRIVATE BUT CONNECTED

72 THE CLUB

62 SECLUDED, SHARED ISLAND
RESORT STAY

CENTARA GRAND ISLAND · PRIVACY INDEX / 100



Gold fill — The Club: 28 villas, own lounge, pool and beach.
Dashed white — Resort Stay: villas let individually.

CENTARA GRAND ISLAND
13 CLUB · 10 RESORT

WHO ELSE IS THERE

112 villas share one small island — several hundred guests at full house, and no one else. The Club's 28 villas keep a lounge, a pool and a beach of their own.

WHO CAN GET IN

17 CLUB · 16 RESORT

There is no public route in: a shared seaplane from Malé to a platform off the reef, then a short boat hop to the island's one jetty. Club guests check in inside their own lounge.

SPACE TO DISAPPEAR

13 CLUB · 11 RESORT

About 260 metres of island for 112 villas — nowhere is far from the next villa. The Club villas are the island's largest, with private pools and room to spread out.

OUT OF SIGHT, SOUND & TRAFFIC

14 CLUB · 13 RESORT

A quiet atoll and open lagoon on every side, inside a marine protected area; seaplanes land off the reef and boats work daily. The Club row faces the open ocean.

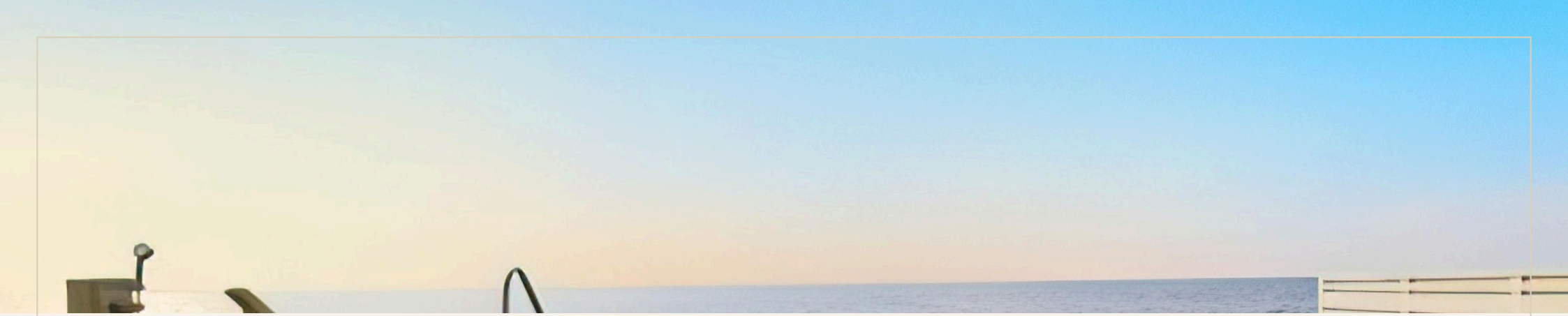
INVISIBLE SERVICE

15 CLUB · 12 RESORT

Full resort service — warm, staffed and visible. The Club adds a dedicated tier: à la carte breakfast, afternoon tea and apéritifs, served in the lounge through the day.

Current pricing is always on the listing

View the live listing — privateislandsonline.com



PRIVATE ISLANDS INC.

THE WORLD'S AUTHORITY ON PRIVATE ISLAND SALES & RENTALS

CENTARA GRAND ISLAND

MACHCHAFUSHI · SOUTH ARI ATOLL · MALDIVES · PRIVATE ISLAND RENTAL

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View the live listing