



Sunreal Experience | Conrad Rangali-Maldives

For a once-in-a-lifetime surreal experience, stay at the Conrad Maldives Rangali Island resort. The word 'indulgence' and 'spectacular' take on new meaning as you board a sea-plane – soar over the compelling Indian ocean – to check-in to this hideaway. Azure waters and white sandy beaches is what you'd call paradise if you love water – and there is nowhere else in the world you'd rather be than on the Rangali and Rangali-finolhu islands in the South Ari Atoll.

The Conrad Maldives Rangali Island offers three resort options across two islands. No matter which of the resorts you choose to stay, you can avail yourself of all the varied facilities, dine at the 12 restaurants and bars. The Rangali Island has 50 water villas to choose from and tune into the sound of the lapping ocean waves. The sunset water villas are set in their own lagoon. The living rooms have glass floors, a circular revolving bed and a delightful private infinity pool. These villas are high on privacy and are accessible only by the private walkway or by speedboat. "Barefoot luxury meets unpretentious style" – you couldn't agree more as the resort captures the essence of the Maldivian Islands.

What do you fancy having for lunch/dinner? You may be a tad surprised by the options available here: the Japanese teppanyaki Koko Grill, organic cuisine in Mandhoo, the Chinese restaurant Ufaa by Jerome Leung, Vilu Restaurant with a la carte options, Ithaa offering contemporary cuisine, the Atoll Market with buffet style kitchens whipping up a global fare. That's a long list. Then there are the Vilu and Rangali bars, and the wine cellar too. Restaurant hopping is recommended if your stay is short. At the famed restaurant Ithaa, built 16 ft underwater, chances are you'll forget to focus on the delicious caviar, truffle and lobster fare before you. The reef fish and turtles darting past the acrylic walled ceiling are a

welcome distraction as is the 180-degree vista of the ocean. Billed as the world's "first all-glass undersea restaurant," Ithaa exceeds all expectations of visual delight.

At the heart of the resort is its wellness treatment that focuses on rebalance and rejuvenation. Regular exercise benefits the body: seek out the yoga instructor for a private class or join a scheduled session. For those on the purge, look no further than naturopathy. The resort's resident Naturopath, Christelle Stockdale, works with guests to analyse their health goals: weight loss, addressing a specific health concern, detoxification or simply de-stressing.

Deeply inspiring are two spas. The Spa Retreat on Rangali-finolhu Island and The Over-Water Spa on Rangali Island that offer guests a plethora of pampering therapies. We recommend you opt for The Spa Retreat, an overwater spa haven. Designed as a "resort-within-a-resort" it floats 100 metres away from the tip of the main island.

Your whim for a luxurious bath is realized on the beach villas: the outdoor bathing pavilion with a deep sunken bath is filled upon request. Add a dollop of decadence to the ambience with candles, decorative flowers, champagne and essential oils – time to spoil yourself. The real relaxation, though, happens at The Over-Water Spa on Rangali Island in its thatch-roofed treatment rooms set on stilts over the ocean. Three of these rooms have glass floors, offering an undisturbed view of the colourful coral walls below. Nip off after the pampering for a soak in the open-air Jacuzzi on the 'serenity deck.' You'll be hooked on to this dizzyingly beautiful view for life.

TO DO

You're obviously here because you love water and you like the seclusion. Stepping into the ocean might be like swimming around in an aquarium. Chances are, here, you will be in the company of manta rays, shoals of fish and many a turtle. Want to swim with the big fish? Snorkelling with whale sharks, diving to explore the coral reef or going on a dolphin-watching expedition might be other options to try out. Count fishes or watch the passing sea life from a glass-bottomed boat; the choice is yours. The resort offers various watersports, including a new Jet Pack. Look up the weekly calendar of events and excursions; you're likely to find something you'll enjoy. Individual trips can also be booked for those who want some quiet moments.

GETTING THERE:

International flights operative to the Maldives. The seaplane transfers to the Rangali and Rangalifinolhu islands takes 30 minutes.

BOOK IT:

Luxury travel operators Kuoni and Virgin Holidays, among others, offer tailor-made holiday packages. To book directly, connect with Conrad at www.conradhotels.com



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