MALDIVES

INTRODUCTION
A sultanate since the 12th century, the Maldives archipelago became a British protectorate in 1887. Three years after independence in 1965, the islands established themselves as a republic.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Ibrahim "Ibu" Mohamed SOLIH
Head of Government
President Ibrahim Mohamed SOLIH
Government Type
presidential republic
Capital
Male
Legislature
unicameral Parliament or People's Majlis (87 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
total: 298 sq km
land: 298 sq km
water: 0 sq km
Climate
tropical; hot, humid; dry, northeast monsoon (November to March); rainy, southwest monsoon (June to August)
Natural Resources
fish

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
upper middle-income Indian Ocean island economy; major tourism, fishing, and shipping industries; high public debt; systemic corruption; crippled by COVID-19; ongoing deflation; poverty has tripled since pandemic began
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $7.05 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $13,000 (2020 est.)
Industries - tourism, fish processing, shipping, boat building, coconut processing, woven mats, rope, handicrafts, coral and sand mining
Agricultural products - papayas, vegetables, roots/tubers, nes, nuts, fruit, other meat, tomatoes, coconuts, bananas, maize
Exports $256.2 million (2016 est.)
fish products, natural gas, scrap iron, jewelry, liquid pumps (2019)
partners: Thailand 24%, US 13%, China 12%, France 11%, Germany 11%, Italy 5%, UK 5% (2019)
Imports $2.125 billion (2016 est.)
refined petroleum, fruits, furniture, broadcasting equipment, lumber (2019)
partners: UAE 24%, China 16%, Singapore 14%, India 11%, Malaysia 6%, Thailand 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
390,670 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
-0.12% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
homogeneous mixture of Sinhalese, Dravidian, Arab, Australasian, and African resulting from historical changes in regional hegemony over marine trade routes
Language
Dhivehi (official, dialect of Sinhala, script derived from Arabic), English (spoken by most government officials)
Religion
Sunnī Muslim (official)

as of October 2021