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VELAA PRIVATE ISLAND

FIFTY SHADES OF BLUE

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If the Maldives were a movie it would be called "Fifty Shades of Blue," because as soon as you step out of the plane you feel the sunny breeze on your face sweep over your senses. We were greeted at the terminal by friendly resort staff who escorted us to a relaxing lounge. We were offered refreshments while we waited for the seaplane to take us to the island, which flew us on a 45 minute ride to reach the resort. If you're looking for a new, exclusive, and luxurious

place then look no further. We have found the perfect place for you.

Velaa Private Island is located in the Indian Ocean, north from Malé, within a constellation of islands that form the Noonu Atoll. Velaa means Turtle Island in the local language – named after generations of sea turtles that flock there to nest and hatch, and from a bird's eye view, the island's exclusive over-water villas are also constructed to resemble the head

of a turtle, with the island forming the body.

We were welcomed by the general manager and had a cool drink before our butler took us to our villa. The one bedroom sea view villa was gorgeous and the view was breathtaking. The first thing we did was to order room service and lay by the pool. The resort has 45 private villas, houses, and exclusive residences with 18 of the 45 built over water making it perfect for friends, families, and romantic escapes. There's also >>

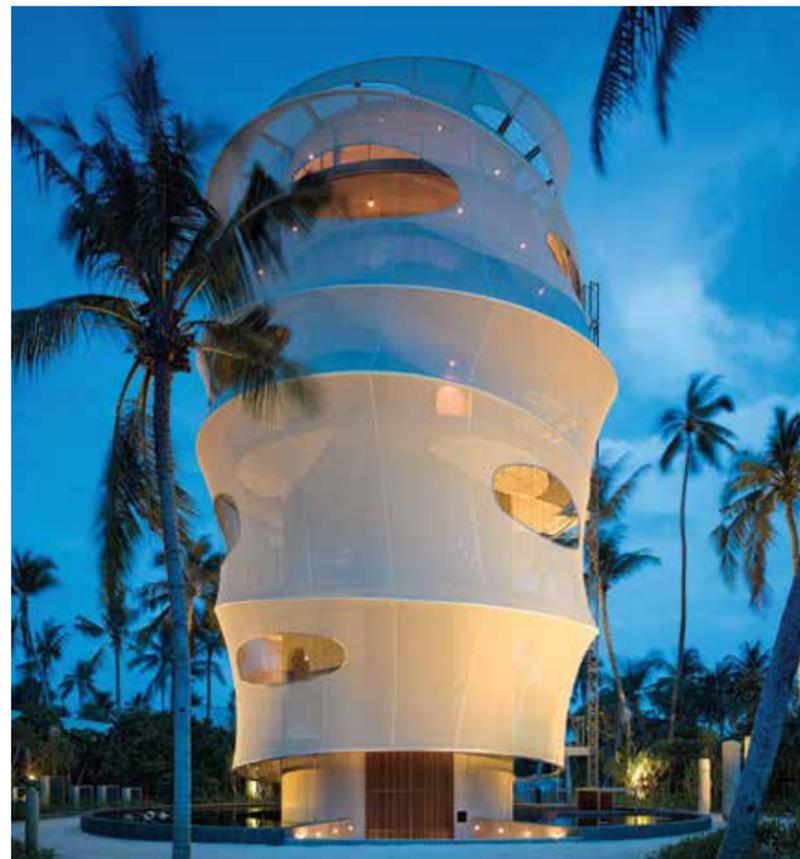


a Romantic Pool Residence that can only be reached by boat, which is perfect for those looking for even more privacy.

The Velaa Private Residences are the only four-bedroom residences in the Maldives offering elegant contemporary design and 1,350 square meters of private interior and exterior space, inclusive of two terraces, a pool and a courtyard. They can accommodate up to ten people, these residences grant a new level of luxury travel in the Maldives for friends and families alike.

The number of activities on the island is countless. A dive center offers excursions, certification courses, and the chance to snorkel over breathtaking marine vistas. Water activities on offer include windsurfing, kayaking, sailing, wakeboarding, water-skiing, and kite surfing, while the truly adventurous can take part in an exclusive semi-submarine expedition. Fishing, sunset cruises, dolphin watching, and private boat excursions can all be arranged for guests on board the luxury Prestige yacht or the custom-built traditional 'Bahtheli' boat.

They also have other activities such as soccer, basketball, tennis, squash, and golf. The Velaa Golf Academy by Olazabal is also the only golf experience of its kind anywhere in the world. Operated by Troon Golf with a resident professional for personalised tuition, it incorporates a state of the art indoor studio for fine-tuning golf swings and a short-game target area with multiple par-3 layouts for pitching from 65



to 180 yards over bunkers and a small lake onto six greens. Frank, the instructor, was very helpful as he explained the concept of the golf course.

Even though the resort was fully booked it was still quiet and peaceful. Speaking of relaxation, the best thing about the resort was the My Blend by Clarins spa. I had an

incredibly tranquil experience. My massage was so soothing I almost fell asleep. After my treatment I sat in the lounge overlooking the sea and enjoyed a cool drink. The spa extends across eight small islands incorporating six secluded treatment villas and an experience zone with a sauna, steam room, ever-flow Jacuzzi, and oceanfront relaxation area.

It also features the first snow room in the Maldives by Klafs, for improving circulation and skin rejuvenation, and a deep relaxation experience called Wolke 7 Cloud 9 in a cloud-shaped reclining treatment pod by Klafs & Sha, along with a Spa Boutique and juice bar, hair salon, and nail studio.

The resort is also family friendly with a fully equipped nursery and playground. Lha Velaa Kids Club has a pool area filled with fun slides and games for the children. You can enjoy a romantic getaway and leave your kids to enjoy their time with the resort's trained staff.

Last but not least, the mouthwatering food served at the resort. Velaa Private Island has three restaurants serving a generous selection of cuisines. Athiri serve an a la carte menu all day on the beach front while Tavaru is situated in an impressive structure serving up Japanese, Korean, and Chinese dishes. Finally Velaa Private Island's signature restaurant Aragu, floats on tranquil waters and serves two distinct interpretations "a 'simplistic' fare focusing on the clean taste of individual elements, and a 'sensational' fusion of exciting and harmonious ingredients."

After a glorious couple of days at the Velaa Private Island we felt like it was the perfect private sanctuary, a destination everyone should take a break to escape to. ■

Velaa Private Island is located in the Indian Ocean. To make a booking, visit www.velaaprivateisland.com

Images Courtesy of Velaa Private Island

