

Travel Planning

FOR MALDIVES

This document offers useful information on travel to Maldives, health planning advice & what to pack.

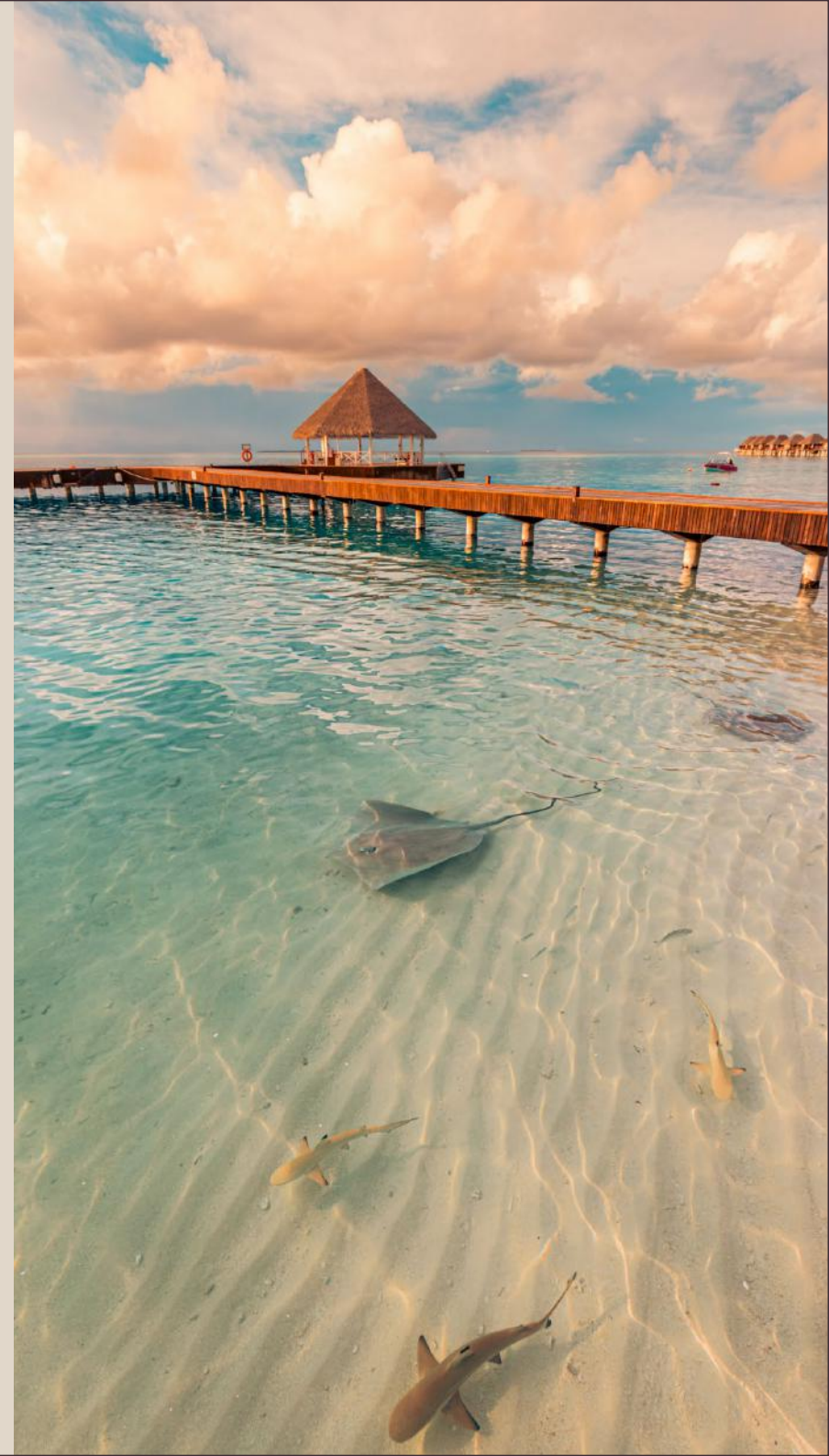
About MALDIVES

The Maldives, an enchanting tropical paradise in the Indian Ocean, is a captivating archipelago comprising 26 atolls and over 1,000 coral islands. Renowned for its pristine white-sand beaches, crystal-clear turquoise waters, and vibrant coral reefs, the Maldives is a haven for sun-seekers and underwater enthusiasts alike. This South Asian nation, located southwest of Sri Lanka and India, boasts a unique geography with low-lying coral islands surrounded by stunning coral atolls.

The Maldivian culture is a blend of influences from India, Sri Lanka, the Arab world, and East Africa, creating a rich tapestry of traditions, art, and cuisine. Malé, the capital city, is a bustling hub where modernity meets tradition, featuring colourful markets, historic mosques, and a lively atmosphere.

Tourism is the lifeblood of the Maldives, attracting visitors with its luxurious overwater bungalows, world-class diving and snorkelling opportunities, and the chance to experience a serene and idyllic island lifestyle. The Maldives is also known for its commitment to environmental conservation, as the nation faces challenges posed by climate change and rising sea levels.

The Maldives is a picture-perfect destination, offering a sublime blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, a commitment to preserving its unique environment and epitomizes a "one island, one resort" paradise, where each island offers an exclusive and idyllic escape in a breathtaking tropical setting.





CURRENCY

The local currency used in the Maldives is the Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR), however the United States Dollar (USD) is widely accepted in all resorts.

BANKS

Most banks are open Sunday-Thursday from 08h30 to 14h00.

Automated teller machines (ATMs) are available at Velana International Airport. There are many banks and ATMs on the main island, Malé, and some of the tourist resorts along the coasts also have ATMs onsite.

CREDIT CARDS

Mastercard and Visa Cards are widely accepted throughout the country, whereas American Express and Diners Club are accepted at selected hotels.

LANGUAGE

The official language of Maldives is Dhivehi (or Divehi), which is also known as Maldivian. English is widely spoken in the Maldives.





CLIMATE

The Maldives position on the equator gives it an all-year-round warm temperature that sits consistently between 25 C and 32 C. The picture-perfect weather can be experienced throughout the year.

The Maldives experiences two seasons every year. It's sunny and dry from December to April. And has a few showers in May to November, brought in by the South West trade winds. But the sun usually shines brightly for more than 7 hours of the day.



TIME

Maldives Time (MVT) is 5 hours ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).





WATER

Drinking water in Maldives in general is not safe to drink. We recommend that all guests drink prepared and/or filtered water.



LUGGAGE LIMITATIONS ON SCHEDULED LIGHT AIRCRAFT TRANSFERS

There are strict luggage weight restrictions for all scheduled light aircraft transfers. These restrictions are as follows:

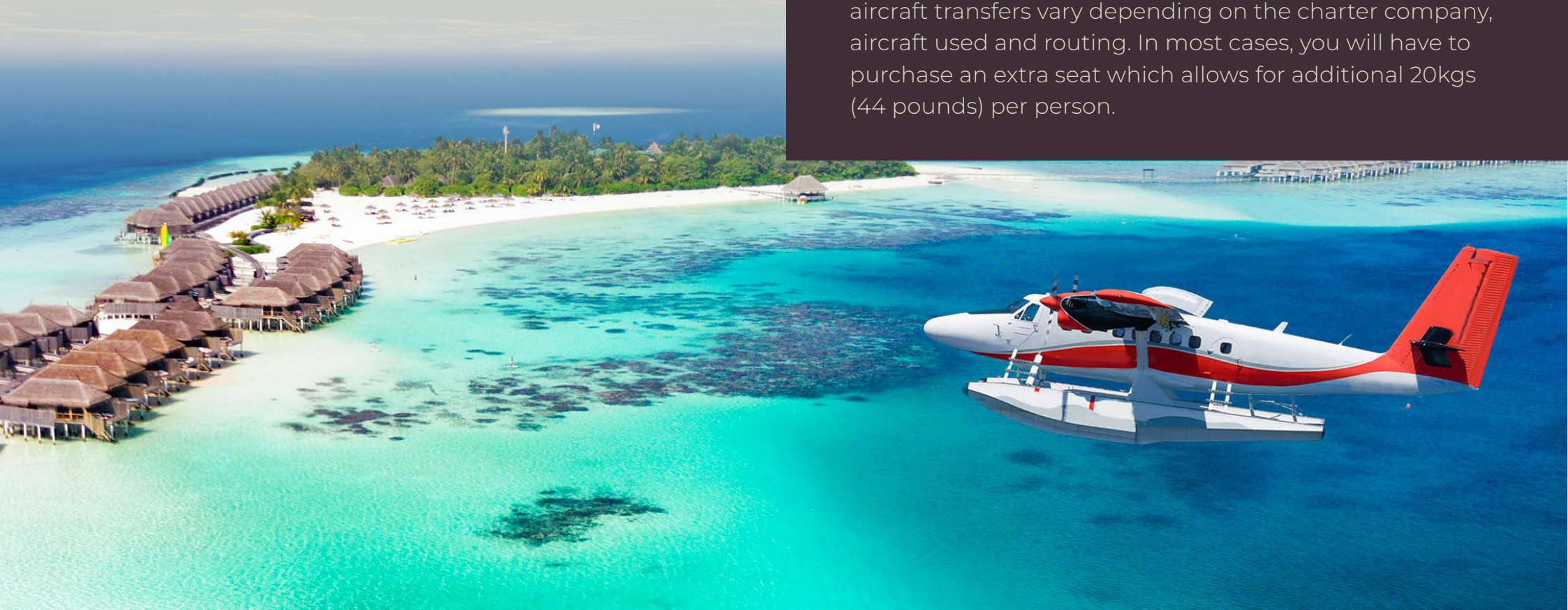
- Camera & Hand Luggage per person is restricted to 5kgs (11 pounds).
- Only Soft-sided bags will be accepted.
- Suitcases, bags with wheels, frames or hard sides will not be permitted on scheduled light aircraft flights.

Maximum dimensions Soft-sided bags which can be accommodated are as follows:

- 25cm (10 inches) wide x 30cm (12 inches) high and 62cm (24 inches) long.
- Please remember that baggage compartments on light aircraft are only 25cm high (10 inches), so the pilots must be able to manipulate the bag into the compartment.
- A collapsible wheeled luggage frame/trolley (separate from the bag) is allowed as long as the basic dimensions are similar to the bag.

Excess Luggage:

- Requirements and costs for excess luggage on any light aircraft transfers vary depending on the charter company, aircraft used and routing. In most cases, you will have to purchase an extra seat which allows for additional 20kgs (44 pounds) per person.





PASSENGER LIMITATIONS ON SCHEDULED LIGHT AIRCRAFT TRANSFERS

- Besides luggage allowances, light aircraft are designed to carry a specific maximum body weight.
- Many of these airfields are also located in tropical regions, therefore, the permissible aircraft carrying capacity is further reduced.
- Please inform us in advance if guests weigh more than 100kg (220 pounds), as additional weight allowance on the aircraft must be purchased for safety and comfort.
- The costs for this are calculated on request, according to specific region and routing, and provide for a maximum of 70kg (154 pounds) excess weight per passenger.
- These limits apply to guests travelling on a seat rate, scheduled light aircraft transfer basis.
- This requirement may differ if guests have booked sole use of an aircraft or private charter option, in which case the maximum passenger weights will depend on the type of aircraft and the number of passengers booked.

“All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveller is unaware.”

M. BUBER



TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Fully Comprehensive Travel Insurance Cover, including Comprehensive Medical Cover, is essential and must be purchased before travelling.
- Comprehensive Insurance Cover can be extended to cover loss of luggage, personal items, and trip cancellations.
- Depending on your country of origin, a separate Comprehensive Medical Travel Insurance policy may be required, over and above your Fully Comprehensive Travel Insurance policy.
- Please ensure you have these Insurance Documents with you at all times during your trip.

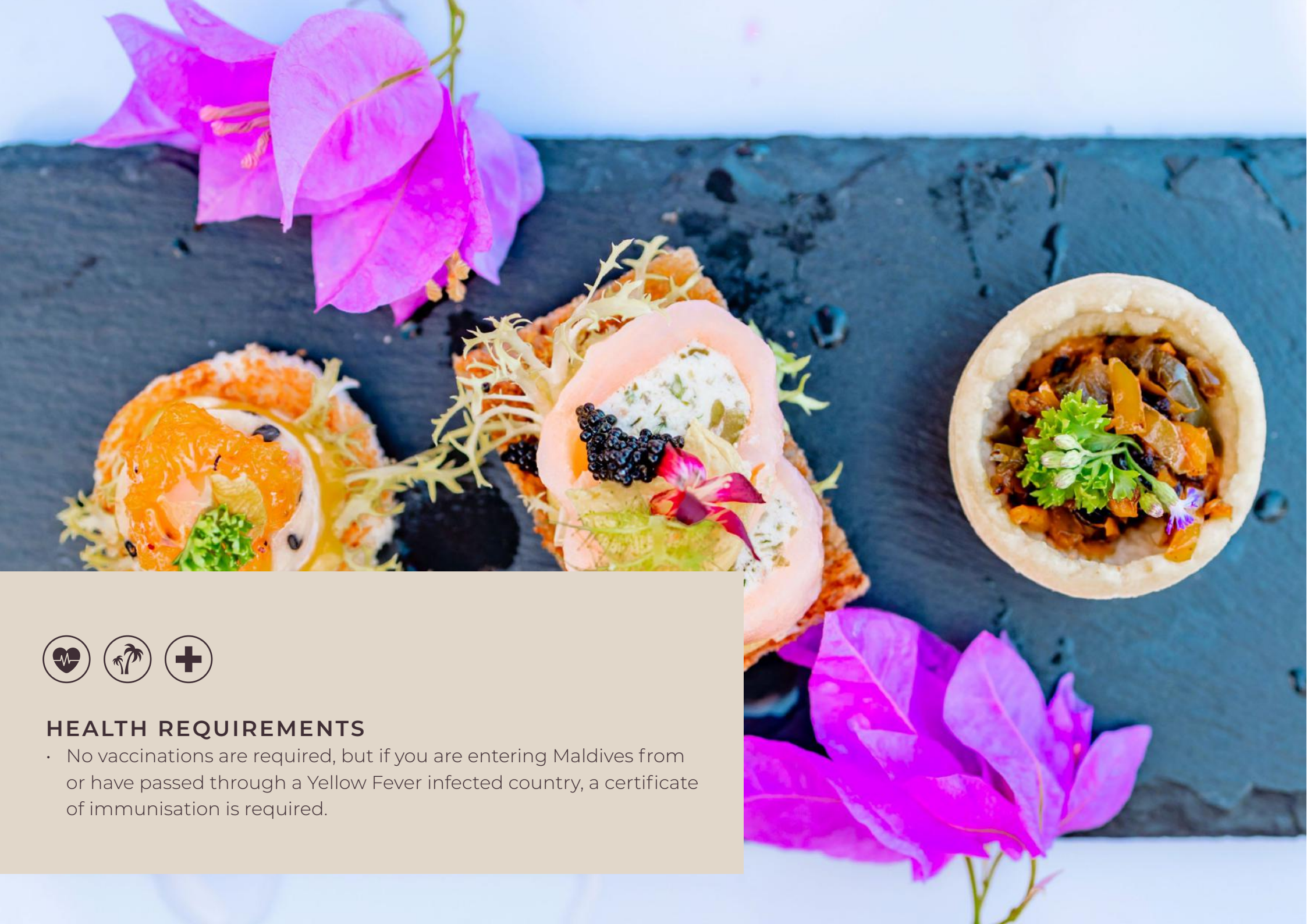


PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN

- All visitors receive a 30-day visa on arrival.
- The following documents must be shown upon arrival at Velana International Airport (Maldives):
 - A passport valid on the date of entry to and exit from Maldives.
 - Return or onward ticket
 - Proof of accommodation, including contact details.
- Visitors to Maldives must possess a passport valid for at least six months from the date of travel and have at least three blank pages available in their passport.
- It is advisable for visitors who intend to travel to neighbouring Southern African and/or additional African countries to also have sufficient passport pages in place and, where applicable, apply for multiple entry visas.

For all VISA requirements, including the entire application process and costs, please contact your local Maldives Embassy, Consulate or other Maldives Representative Office for further details or visit: <https://www.immigration.gov.mv/travel-advisory-to-the-maldives/>





HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

- No vaccinations are required, but if you are entering Maldives from or have passed through a Yellow Fever infected country, a certificate of immunisation is required.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Please be mindful of others when taking photographs at all times. Should you wish to photograph local people, particularly children, please be courteous and ask permission before taking pictures. Some local people do not want to be photographed for cultural reasons. Photography is not permitted at certain locations, including government buildings, museums, art galleries, private houses, etc., these areas are usually clearly marked. If in doubt, please ask, otherwise, camera equipment can be confiscated.

SHOPPING

Most of the shopping in Maldives is centred in Male, with numerous local markets and shops. You can also shop for souvenirs and gifts at the Male airport duty-free shops. There are also curio shops at the resorts.



POWER SUPPLY

Maldives operates on a 240V supply voltage and 50Hz, uses types D and G outlet types.



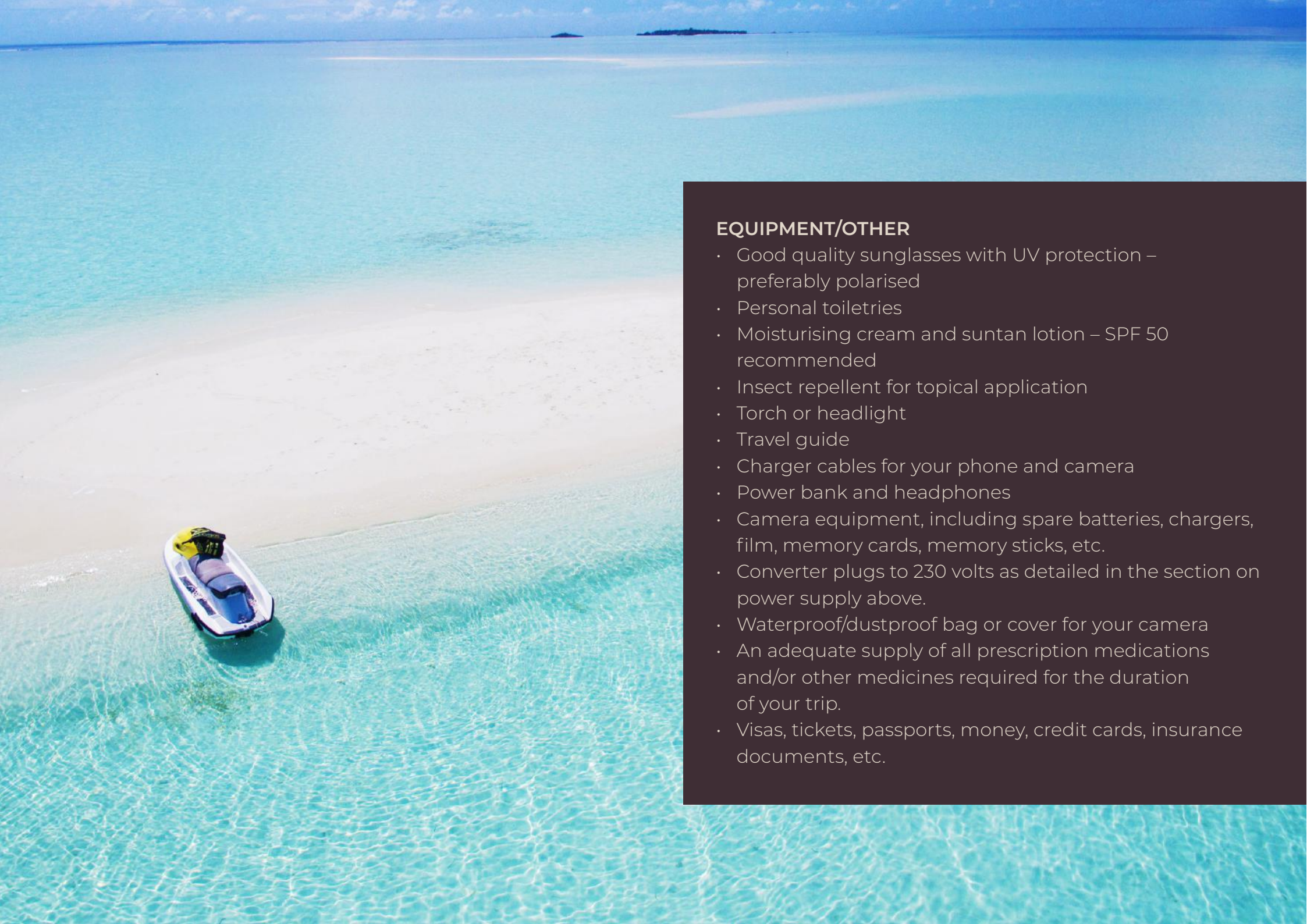


SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

CLOTHING

- Sun hat
- Light and comfortable clothing: shorts, t-shirts, tank-tops, summer clothes etc.
- Long-sleeved cotton shirts
- Shorts and/or skirts
- Long trousers/slacks
- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers, tennis shoes or similar sports shoes
- Flip-flops and sandals
- Water shoes
- Backpack or beach bag
- Snorkelling equipment
- Swimming costume
- Light weight jersey/ jumper for the evenings
- Light rain gear or waterproof jacket
- Formal attire for evening meals in luxury hotels or resorts.





EQUIPMENT/OTHER

- Good quality sunglasses with UV protection – preferably polarised
- Personal toiletries
- Moisturising cream and suntan lotion – SPF 50 recommended
- Insect repellent for topical application
- Torch or headlight
- Travel guide
- Charger cables for your phone and camera
- Power bank and headphones
- Camera equipment, including spare batteries, chargers, film, memory cards, memory sticks, etc.
- Converter plugs to 230 volts as detailed in the section on power supply above.
- Waterproof/dustproof bag or cover for your camera
- An adequate supply of all prescription medications and/or other medicines required for the duration of your trip.
- Visas, tickets, passports, money, credit cards, insurance documents, etc.



PLEASE NOTE: There may be a restriction on luggage limits on your journey – please ensure that you have the details from your agent according to your itinerary. Please ask your agent ahead of time if you would like details on the feasibility and costs of taking excess luggage with you, as noted above in Luggage and Passenger Limitations on Scheduled Light Aircraft Transfers.



GRATUITIES GUIDELINES

We would like to reiterate that tipping is not compulsory, nor should our guest feel obliged to offer a gratuity at any time. Tipping should be offered only by choice, subject to the service received. As such, we have enclosed a brief guideline to assist guests.

In addition, guests may wish to add a nominal amount for incidentals (subject to personal budget choice), i.e. if additional activities are booked once on their journey, if travel arrangements change for any reason, and in acknowledgement of good service received in any other areas, etc.



USD GRATUITIES GUIDELINE

SERVICE

Meet & Greet

Airport Transfer Driver

Hotel / Airport Porters

Guides for City Sightseeing (Half Day)

Guides for City Sightseeing (Full Day)

Local Safari Guides at camps/lodges

Local Safari Trackers at camps/lodges

Housekeepers

General staff at camps/lodges

- Gratuities are then shared among the general staff

Meals at Restaurants, incl Room Services **10-15%** *Unless already included

OUR RECOMMENDATION

US\$ 5 per person, per Meet & Greet

US\$ 10 per person, per transfer

US\$ 2 per person per bag movement

US\$ 10 per person per Half Day

US\$ 20 per person per Full Day

US\$ 20 per person per day

US\$ 15 per person per day

US\$ 5 per person per night

US\$ 15 per person per day

