

DESTINATION MALDIVES

The most incredible overwater villas in the Maldives

Katie Lockhart, CNN • Updated 13th July 2022



(CNN) — Glass-bottomed bathrooms, roof-deck water slides and stairs leading directly into the ocean. What could be dreamier? For travelers yearning for a tropical escape, overwater villas are the epitome of vacation goals.

While Tahiti may have started the overwater trend in the 1960s, the Maldives has undoubtedly perfected it.



This year marks 50 years of tourism for the idyllic Indian Ocean nation, and today, there are over 150 resorts welcoming guests with a cold towel and a coconut, or other signature treats. Best of all, these resorts are committed to sustainability, featuring everything from water desalination plants to reef restoration projects.

Ready to book that trip? Here are 12 of the best overwater villas in the Maldives. (Starting rates are in US dollars per night.)

The Nautilus



The Nautilus offers 11 overwater accommodation options.

The Nautilus



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There are a few concepts that don't exist at Nautilus: edges and time. Its 26 villas and residences are made of entirely curved walls, resembling the flow of waves lapping on its shores.

The resort's motto is, "time stands still." Guests at this Maldivian-owned hideaway can do or eat anything whenever they want, day or night. It's an entirely bespoke experience in an ultra-relaxed beach haven.

The 11 overwater houses, residences and retreat are the epitome of boho-chic with braided tapestries and bright pieces of custom-made furniture. The glass-bottomed living room cut-out is a nice touch, as is the custom-made, wooden beaded chandelier and geometric floor patterns throughout.

This Maldivian-owned resort aims to safeguard its home. Nautilus works with surrounding islands to purchase locally grown produce, buy handcrafted decor and employ craftsmen. It's also the resort with the highest concentration of Maldivian citizens in management positions.

The Nautilus, Thiladhoo, Baa Atoll. Rates start at \$2,700++ per night.

