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SUMMER 2021 QRSO

BAZAAR

THE ESCAPE

VITAMIN SEA

From Diamonds Thudufushi in the Maldives to Qatar's Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas, Bazaar delights in a restorative return to beach living



Shine bright like a DIAMOND

Bazaar heads to Diamonds Thudufushi and discovers a Maldivian resort that unites once-in-a-lifetime experiences with a conscious commitment to sustainability



Scenes from
Diamonds Thudufushi



Accommodation is
thoughtfully curated



On every corner of
the property, there is



Having been awarded the Maldives' Leading Beach Resort accolade at the World Travel Awards last year, visitors to Diamonds Thudufushi, just a 20 minute scenic seaplane flight away from Malé International Airport, will find plenty to love.

The property takes an easy chic approach to luxury, resulting in a resort that feels reassuringly relaxing with a real sense of breezy island living. Accommodation options, including 13 Beach Bungalows, 32 Beach Junior Suites, 14 Water Villas, 7 Jacuzzi Water Villas and 2 Two Bedroom Water Villas offer choice, whilst carefully curated interiors continue that pervasive sense of tranquility. *Bazaar* opts for the Two Bedroom Villa, located in an exclusive position at the end of the pier, featuring a large terrace and ample pool. Tastefully furnished with tailor-made rattan furniture, contemporary Italian lighting and handcrafted parquet flooring, it's ideal for couples looking for privacy or families seeking additional space.

Culinary offerings are varied and delicious. Thudufushi's five different restaurants each feature masterful chefs and a passion for cuisine of the very highest standards. From breakfast or lunch at Maikana Restaurant, located on the beachfront; to à la carte delights at *Aqua* overwater restaurant with its focus on innovative modern European and Asian dishes, local and seasonal ingredients are put centre stage. Private dining experiences can also be arranged. From romantic beach dinners to a bespoke cooking class with Chef Valerio at Thila Beach Grill, or even a couple's picnic on a private sandbank in the middle of the ocean – yes, really – the resort's highly professional team are adept at creating once-in-a-lifetime moments.

For *Bazaar*, another highlight of our stay was undoubtedly the impressive array of activities on offer. Thudufushi's position in the shelter of the outer edge of the atoll guarantees a rich and colourful coral reef and some wonderful diving and snorkeling experiences. Daily excursions to see whale sharks, swim with manta rays, and encounter turtles proved unforgettable and rate amongst the best of all-time Maldivian adventures.

High praise indeed. What makes the experience yet more significant is the fact that Diamonds Thudufushi is deeply committed to, and invested in, preserving its unique ecosystem. Numerous initiatives, including actively promoting scientific research into marine life via a dedicated marine biologist, and introducing a Coral Conservation Project – which aims to preserve the coral reefs and to create and encourage a responsible kind of tourism as well as enabling visitors to adopt a frame and thus contribute to coral growth – are innovative and enlightening. Guests will leave with a better understanding of the plight of the world's oceans and, importantly, what more they can do to help support its flora and fauna.

Back on the island, after a day of exploring the underwater world, and it's time for a full body massage on the private terrace before a mocktail watching the famed Maldivian sunset. Relaxing and invigorating in equal measures, Diamonds Thudufushi is a real gem.

thudufushibeach.diamondsresorts.com ■