



# Gili Lankanfushi Maldives

## Where rustic-luxe sophistication meets picture-perfect paradise

Winning a staggering 30 out of the total 106 awards given out at the sixth edition of the South Asian Travel Awards (SATA) this year - South Asia's most hotly anticipated tourism and hospitality awards evening - including the 'Leading Honeymoon Destination - Visitors Choice Award,' the Maldives continues to set an example for the international tourism industry as it marks its golden jubilee. Comprising 1,192 coral islands grouped into 26 natural coral atolls, and teeming with tropical marine life, the bucket-list destination is currently undergoing a huge sustainability and conservation effort to preserve the island nation's vibrant ecosystem.

A resort famous for its overwater villas, rustic-luxe design, and magical blue lagoon, Gili Lankanfushi was named the number-one hotel in the Maldives, and top 5 in the world, in the 2018 TripAdvisor's Travellers' Choice awards. Located on its own private island, Lankanfushi, the luxury resort is only a 20-minute speedboat ride from Male airport, which means guests can arrive and begin unwinding in their villas within an hour of landing - all without the stress of a seaplane.

With the Maldives remaining open during the Covid-19 pandemic, Gili Lankanfushi developed into an oasis for travellers looking to escape the hustle and bustle of daily life. As they enjoyed a paradise naturally suited to social distancing, the resort's ethos - 'no shoes, no news' - invited guests to disconnect with the world and reconnect with nature. Gili Lankanfushi understands that its guests choose the Maldives to relax and recharge, and its luxury philosophy is centred around sophisticated simplicity combined with true inner peace. "We offer the most valuable luxury - the luxury of time. With us, our guests rediscover the simple things in life," says Nicolas Khairallah, General Manager of Gili Lankanfushi Maldives.

The resort's luxury philosophy creates exceptional guest experiences through its highly talented and incredibly welcoming



Nicolas Khairallah  
General Manager

team of hosts. Each of the 45 overwater villas is supported by 6 hosts, ensuring all guest needs are catered for. As Khairallah reveals, the secret to Gili Lankanfushi's distinctive guest service is the relations hosts build up with guests. "Guests want to connect with their hosts and learn more about life in the Maldives. Over time, we've gained an intimate understanding of what each guest likes and wants to do on the island - our guest service is intuitive," he says. Testament to Gili's Lankanfushi's excellent guest satisfaction, 35% of the resort's business now consists of repeat stays, a number which rises to 50% during festive season, and many guests even rebook their next stay before leaving.

Visiting the Maldives is a unique experience, but Gili Lankanfushi makes it truly unforgettable. The resort offers guests an extensive array of tropical, ocean, and beach activities - including big game fishing on Gili's luxury yacht, private surfing lessons,

and breathtaking diving sessions at beauty hotspot Manta Point - as well as a range of global spa therapies and world-class yoga experiences. From lavish five-day detox retreats as part of an immersive wellness journey to a one-day Ayurvedic remedial treatment, Gili Lankanfushi's offers a life-lasting holistic experience to ease mind and body into a state of serene catharsis. "We offer a Destination within a Destination, you'll never want to leave," says Khairallah. The resort also boasts some of the finest dining experiences in the Maldives and has recently launched a new plant-based vegan menu drawing on traditional Maldivian cuisine, supplied by its very own 'Gili garden.' Guests can also enjoy a private sunset cruise with champagne on ice or taste authentic ocean-to-plate sushi and delicious Japanese fusion Teppanyaki in one of its three stunning restaurants, 'By the Sea.'

Gili Lankanfushi's plant-based menu is just the latest step in the resort's overarching sustainability mission, with an emphasis on preserving the natural environment and protecting the delicate marine ecosystem. Starting with its overwater villas - constructed using sustainably-sourced plantation teak, palm wood, and bamboo - all guest amenities are supplied in specially crafted refillable earthenware containers, whilst the resort's on-site compost centre is capable of processing 100% of generated organic waste. Gili Lankanfushi also supports a major conservation effort to promote the health and biodiversity of its surrounding coral reef ecosystem. Alongside hosting expert coral reef scientists from around the world, the resort's resident marine biologists dedicate their work to promoting coral regeneration and spreading awareness to guests, such as through the popular family-favourite coral line making activity. "Gili Lankanfushi's awe-inspiring surroundings make it a truly special destination for guests, we're doing everything we can to maintain its natural beauty for decades to come," says Khairallah.