

Read the on-line travel guide to The Maldives in the Indian Ocean and do the activities following it.

THE MALDIVES

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1 Imagine your paradise holiday location. Warm, sunny weather. Clear, blue sea. Tall palm trees. White, sandy beaches. Turquoise lagoons and colourful coral reefs. You can find all this and more in the Maldives.

2 There are over 1000 coral islands in the Maldives and ninety percent of the country's 90,000 square kilometres is covered by sea. The climate is warm and tropical all year round, with an average temperature of 29°C.

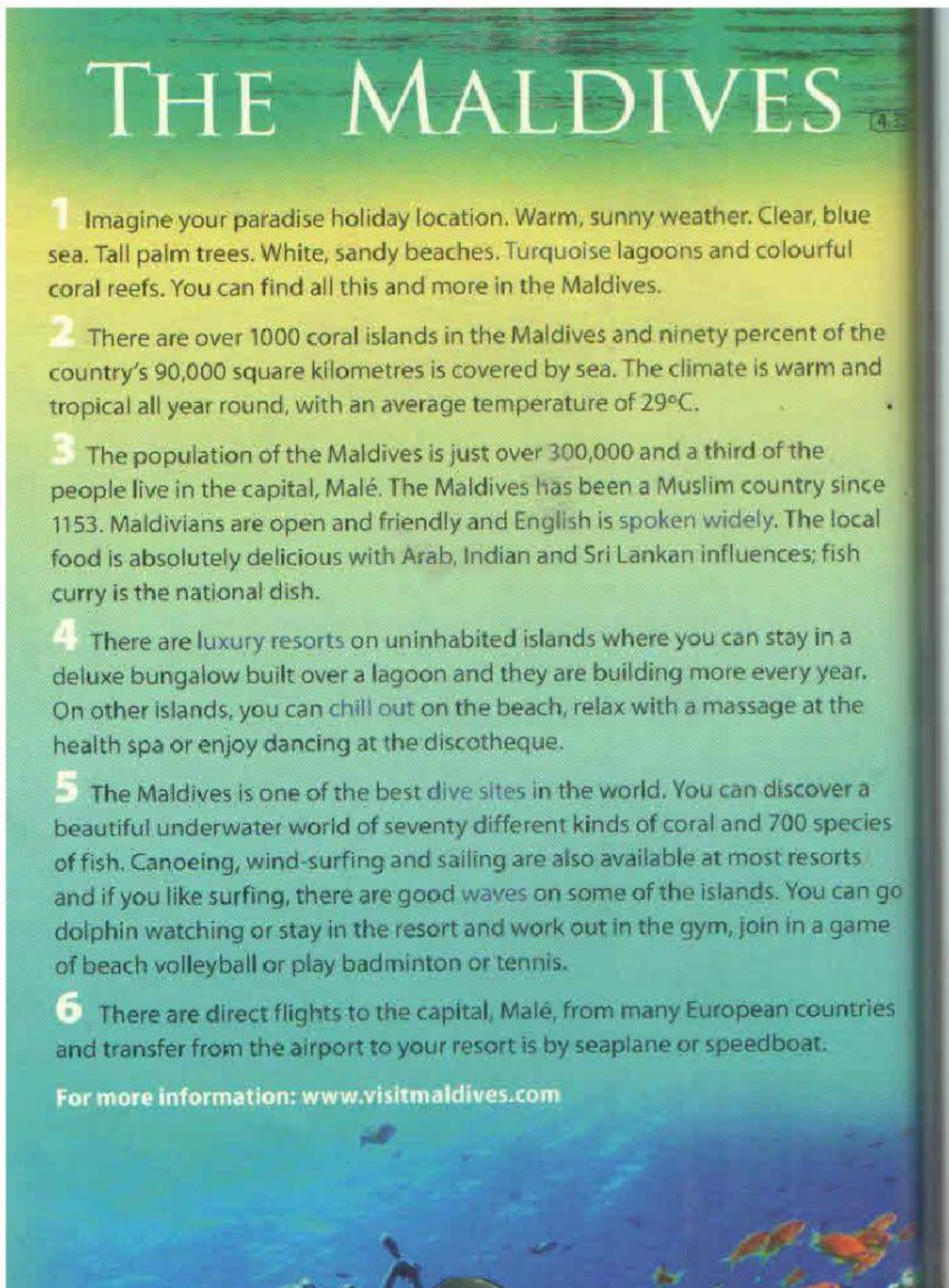
3 The population of the Maldives is just over 300,000 and a third of the people live in the capital, Malé. The Maldives has been a Muslim country since 1153. Maldivians are open and friendly and English is spoken widely. The local food is absolutely delicious with Arab, Indian and Sri Lankan influences; fish curry is the national dish.

4 There are luxury resorts on uninhabited islands where you can stay in a deluxe bungalow built over a lagoon and they are building more every year. On other islands, you can chill out on the beach, relax with a massage at the health spa or enjoy dancing at the discotheque.

5 The Maldives is one of the best dive sites in the world. You can discover a beautiful underwater world of seventy different kinds of coral and 700 species of fish. Canoeing, wind-surfing and sailing are also available at most resorts and if you like surfing, there are good waves on some of the islands. You can go dolphin watching or stay in the resort and work out in the gym, join in a game of beach volleyball or play badminton or tennis.

6 There are direct flights to the capital, Malé, from many European countries and transfer from the airport to your resort is by seaplane or speedboat.

For more information: www.visitmaldives.com



Match the headings (a-g) with the paragraphs (1-6) . There is one extra heading. Write EXTRA next to the option that doesn't apply.

- a) Things to do . _____
- b) How to get there . _____
- c) Islands in The Maldives. _____
- d) A Paradise destination. _____
- e) The people. _____
- f) Places to stay. _____
- g) Geography. _____

Match the numbers with the letters.

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|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Location | a) the inhabitants. |
| 2) Clear | b)very tasty. |
| 3) Sandy | c)transparent. |
| 4) Covered by sea | d)destination |
| 5) The population | e)desert |
| 6) Delicious | f) not the mainland |
| 7) Uninhabited | g)without pebbles. |

Match the numbers with the letters.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) Luxury | a) types |
| 2) To chill out | b) to exercise |
| 3) Species | c) five stars |
| 4) Available | d) without a connection |
| 5) To join | e) to relax |
| 6) To work out | f) to participate |
| 7) Direct flight | g) within reach |