



Escape to luxury

Switch off your smartphone, unplug your laptop and pack away the gaming console – it's time for a little rest and recreation



AS temperatures continue to sizzle, Eid Al-Fitr provides an opportunity to escape for a blissful breakaway and there's nowhere more tempting than the balmy islands of the Indian Ocean. What better place to kick back than a luxury resort? Whether it's an active jaunt, a wellness journey for the body, mind and soul, a family getaway or a romantic sojourn you're looking for, these slices of paradise are everything you're searching for and more. ►



Clockwise from below: An unforgettable dive in the Maldives; one of Diva Maldives' stunning water villas; the view from one of Jumeirah Vittaveli's plush villas.



MALDIVES

THIS archipelago of over a thousand islands isn't just a great place to relax on the sand and work on your tan: a plethora of sea life makes it a diver's dream. Add to that soothing wellness treatments, mouth-watering dining and breathtaking scenery and you've got the perfect spot for everything from a couples retreat to a family fun park.

If you've ever fancied having the beach or, even better, the ocean on your doorstep, look no further than Diva Maldives resort. While its bright and airy beach villas promise luxurious comfort on the sands, it's the water villas that truly sparkle. Spacious rooms are housed in picturesque wooden structures perched on stilts, ensuring spectacular views of the expansive ocean surrounds. It doesn't stop with the accommodation – the spa is nestled in a cocoon of lush vegetation and the treatment rooms with panoramic views and glass floors will give you a sensory high.

When you're ready for some adventure, the PADI 5-star certified diving centre is the perfect jump-off point for an underwater escapade for both beginners and veterans. On water try wakeboarding or hire a catamaran for a private trip. Restless land-lovers can be kept busy with volleyball, table tennis or billiards, while youngsters will be captivated

A mere 20-minute boat ride from Malé you'll discover private pools, beaches and lagoons



dnata offer

Diva Maldives

4 nights starting from AED 7,950 per person

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy flights • 4 nights stay in a Beach Villa • Return airport transfers by sea plane • All meals and drinks on an all inclusive basis

Valid until 15 September 2011

Special offer: Stay for 2 nights and receive an additional 2 nights free

Jumeirah Vittaveli

3 nights starting from AED 7,380 per person

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy flights • 3 nights stay in a Beach Villa • Return airport transfers by speed boat • Breakfast daily
- All taxes and service charges

Valid from 1 September to 30 September 2011

Special offer: Stay for 4 nights and receive an additional night free

Receive free speed boat transfers

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by games and activities at teen club The Place and kids club The Nest. That much activity is sure to work up an appetite but you won't go hungry with Diva's 13 gourmet options and with its all inclusive dining package, you have the perfect excuse to sample its extensive culinary fare.

Jumeirah Vittaveli, due to open this September, is set to be another unforgettable destination. A mere 20-minute boat ride from Malé you'll discover private swimming pools, beaches and lagoons, rain showers, flatscreen TVs outfitted

with Apple media centres, Bose sound systems with iPod docks, sumptuous down pillows and plush bedding. Kids will be endlessly entertained in the resort's dedicated clubs or

splashing about in the children's pool. Adults might choose to mellow out at the Talise Spa or try windsurfing and mono skiing before sampling Maldivian classics from live cooking stations at Samsara. For candlelight and sundowners, make your way to Mu for perfectly grilled dishes. Looking for something extra-special? Fenesse overwater restaurant sits atop the crystalline waters, serving Mediterranean fare.

As time disappears, cherish the rhythm of the gently lapping waves and the glimmer of the golden horizon. This is the place to indulge yourself to your heart's content.

MAURITIUS

THE warm culture of Mauritius is mimicked within the island's resorts, which are renowned for their outstanding service. The cuisine, too, has been influenced by the island's rich ethnic diversity and bon vivants the world over have been seduced by its explosive flavours. If you've over-indulged on Mauritian delicacies, work it off through an abundance of activities from surfing to unusual undersea walks. The island caters wonderfully to all ages and tastes, making it a fabulous family destination.

Snorkellers will delight in the rare coral beyond Long Beach Mauritius's pristine sands. The resort boasts the longest and widest stretch of white sand coastline and each room has an ocean view and a private beach. Flatscreen TVs, Wifi access and iPod docks will keep techies happy, while families are catered for in spacious suites and rooms.

Of the resort's five restaurants, three are on the piazza and two are along the beach. Feast on quality Italian foods at Saponi, delicate Japanese sushi and yakitori at Hasu or aromatic Chinese cooking at Chopsticks. Internationally spiced seafood is the star attraction at Tides, but if you're not the adventurous type you'll be relieved to know they also serve up the classics with panache.

It's not all snoozing and snacks though – water sports, aerobics, golf, bocceball, volleyball, archery, wall climbing and even accro-branche for kids keep you active. No luxury resort would be complete without a wellness centre and the tailor-made Sea Spa overlooking the lagoon is spectacular. While you're surrendering your body and mind, little ones are kept busy in the Angels Kids Club as they learn how to swim, play tennis and windsurf before enjoying their own special dinner events held under the supervision of trained hostesses. Adolescents can make new friends through the Waves Teens Club's get-togethers that include campfire beach BBQs and pizza nights. The resort's live shows such as folklore and musical performances and bonfire nights are a great way to spend quality time as a family.

With 20 acres of gardens and a 600 metre oceanfront, The Oberoi Mauritius has limitless possibilities for both relaxed, moonlit strolls and exploration and adventure. You can opt for conventional pursuits like water sports and spa treatments or plump for unique activities such as mountain biking, cookery lessons, art classes and bike rides around the village. For a truly unforgettable and undeniably romantic experience, try star gazing.

Seclusion is guaranteed with many of the lavishly decorated rooms and suites offering private pools while villas come with a dining gazebo and their own walled garden. Lush gardens run throughout the hotel and nature-lovers will delight in coming across birds, butterflies, frogs or hedgehogs around the beautiful pathways. During the day, The Lagoon Pool Restaurant serves up easy bites, while you can dine under the stars in The Restaurant at night before heading to The Bar for some live music.

With quality, luxury and endless adventures to be enjoyed, the only dilemma you'll be faced with is how to tear yourself away from Mauritius. ➤



From top to bottom: Long Beach's luxurious pool is a stellar place to relax; children meanwhile will love the island's adorable animals; water-based activities are a must-do in Mauritius.

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Long Beach Mauritius

3 nights starting from AED 8,600 per person

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy flights • 3 nights stay in a Sea View Standard Room • Return airport transfers
- Breakfast and dinner daily • All taxes and service charges

Valid until 30 September 2011

Special offer: Stay for 4 nights and receive an additional night free
Two children below 12 stay for free

The Oberoi Mauritius

3 nights starting from AED 8,370 per person

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy class flights • 3 nights stay in a Luxury Pavilion • Return airport transfers • Breakfast daily • All taxes and service charges

Valid until 30 September 2011

Special offer: Stay for 4 nights and receive up to 4 nights for free

Call dndata Travel on 04 316 6666



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SEYCHELLES

THE Seychelles, with its silky sands and azure waters, is a hotspot for newlyweds. Blissfully secluded, the islands are popular among those looking for a discreet hideaway – just one of the reasons it was chosen as the royal honeymoon destination by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. After the media blitz following their wedding, it was the ideal location for relaxing in the utmost privacy.

Those wanting to follow in royal footsteps can make their way to Desroches Island, where the couple holidayed years ago when they were still simply known as Prince William and Kate Middleton. The resort, which covers the entire island, is committed to preserving the resplendent ecosystem. The wide-ranging activities cover diving and fishing, cycling and tennis and are strictly controlled to ensure the longevity of marine and land life. Its conservation initiative also means you have a good chance of sighting one of the island's 150 green turtles.

International and Creole specialties can be enjoyed in the elegant restaurants, but we'd advise trying the marvellous private dining arrangements at least once. The spa also offers treatments in your own suite and however you choose to rejuvenate yourself, your stresses will quickly melt away. Each of the suites and villas have been designed with absolute seclusion in mind featuring private verandas, pools and outdoor baths. Some are even tucked away within the tropical forest just steps away from the beach.

The Constance Ephelia Resort is another sensational option with the Port Launay marine national park as its backdrop. The expansive villas and suites boast state-of-the-art entertainment systems, but when you have the urge to explore, meander down to one of the four pools, recline on the beach, ride bikes, go fishing or stretch out in a yoga class. Youngsters can join the Mini Club, this fab multifunctional space combines a games room and dining area and caters to 4-12 year olds. The Club also organises daily activities and excursions. If you need to unwind, the Spa de Constance and Shiseido Spa (designed to work in harmony with the lush environment) is the place to go.

For nourishment, choose from wok-sautéed dishes and fragrant tandooris at Corassol, or if you're pining for ice cream, Helios's sundaes will hit the spot. At Adam and Eve,



Clockwise from above left: Seychelles is a fabulous honeymoon destination; a breathtaking view from a hillside villa at Constance Ephelia and picturesque dining at Desroches Island.

juicy meats are grilled à la plancha and dished up alongside native breads. For haute cuisine head to Cyann for refined signature dishes, or chill out and kick your shoes off at lively beachfront restaurant Seselwa, where you can watch the chefs prepare fresh meals that embody the spirit and flavours of the Seychelles. ■

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Desroches Island

3 nights starting from AED 14,000 per person

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy flights • 3 nights stay in a Beach Suite • Return domestic flight and airport transfers
- All meals and drinks on an all-inclusive basis • All taxes and service charges

Valid until 30 September 2011

Special offer: Stay for 5 nights and receive an additional night free
Two children below 12 stay for free

Constance Ephelia Resort

3 nights starting from AED 6,520 per person

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy flights • 3 nights stay in a Junior Suite
- Return airport transfers • Breakfast and dinner daily
- All taxes and service charges

Valid until 30 July 2011

Special offer: Stay for 6 nights and receive an additional night free
One child below 12 stays and eat for free

Call dnata Travel on 04 316 6666