



**Sultans, North Male Atoll**  
 LAT. 4.313543°N LONG. 73.586281°E

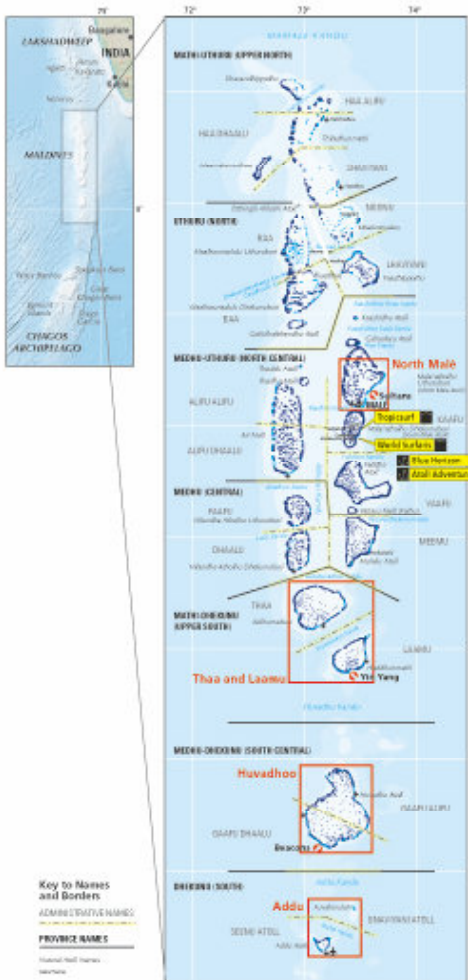
Impressive, righthand, point-style reefbreak that forms half of the Thamburudhoo Island double act, which also stars Monk's warping lefts during the NE monsoon. Some may argue that the shallower, faster waves to the north are better, but Sultans regularly delivers the biggest, longest waves in North Male, starting with a swift, steep drop into a carving wall that throws some hooks on the inside reef, a full 300m down the line. Currents and crowds can be big, but it's worth waiting for a tip to tail bomb.

While the Maldivian surf scene revolves around the popular breaks of **North Male** atolls, there is also a number of breaks in the South Male Atoll area, including Quarters (Gulhi), Kate's (near Veligandu Huraa/Palm Tree Island Resort), Natives (Kandooma Resort, who claim exclusivity over the rights) and Rapids/Foxy's (near Guraidhoo Island), a chunky mid channel right, facing a racy, shallow left. Vaa fu misses out on an east coast surf due to its extended south coast, but Meemu has a little cluster of waves accessed by the Medhufushi resort and occasional safari boats. Veyvah holds fun, zippy lefts with great length of ride. Tacked in a bit, Mulah needs more swell to serve up user-friendly rolling rights for improvers plus. Mulhi Inside



**Yin Yang, Laamu Atoll**  
 LAT. 1.8002°N LONG. 73.4966°E

Central Laamu Atoll is a quiet Maldivian backwater with some noisy, explosive action at it's southern pass. Yin is the reliable, deeper water, outside reef pass, throwing up some nice drops and steely walls before suddenly flipping the Yang switch as it bends round the reef and bowls out, inviting the speedier surfer to tuck and run through a series of concentrated power pockets. Doesn't always link up, but something for experienced surfers to sink their rails into and a challenge at size.



is a full wrap right, that needs big swell but is SE wind protected, while the long walls of Outside work from tiny and are offshore in SW winds. **Thaa and Laamu** atolls are nicely placed at the bottom of the central chain to pick off the swell and some of the spots work in surprising swell and wind conditions. The western atolls of Alifu, Faa'fu and Dhaalu are wind exposed and cut off from the SE-S swell supply, although there are a few waves at southern and western passes in certain conditions, but few charters are bothering to look carefully enough.

**Huvadhoo** atoll is about to see an explosion in numbers as a number of land based resorts open, leaving the long range charters with more crowds than they are used to. Crowds should never be a problem when travelling down to **Addu** atoll, where the waves get heavier and the remote islands give the feeling of real seclusion, almost 500kms from Male.

**Chagos Archipelago**

**S**mask-dab in the center of the Indian Ocean, the windswept, remote Chagos Archipelago is surprisingly devoid of surf spots. Most of its coralline structures are submerged reefs, and of its seven above-water atolls, Diego Garcia is the most well known, home to a USA/UK Navy and Marines installation. The only way you can access Diego Garcia is by joining the military, but you still won't be able to surf there. The atoll is strictly off-limits to the public, and it's actually illegal to surf, even for the troops who are stationed there. They are only allowed to swim in the lagoon. The atoll's north coast has three reef passes and six possible surf spots that are graced with offshore winds but minimal swell exposure, possible only during the summer, but again, surfing is illegal. During times of small, clean swell, there are also several possible spots along the atoll's fringing reef. People have surfed on the other Chagos islands, which are publicly accessible by private yacht, usually combined on a dive mission. In 1-2m swells the rides

**Beacons, Huvadhoo Atoll**  
 LAT. 0.210818°N LONG. 73.142062°E

Equator-straddling, righthand reef that reliably extracts the most power from any variation of S swell. More W will lengthen the rides to it's full 300m potential, while E will attack the line-up with kamikaze peaks that unload short, intense chambers over a sharp, uneven coral base. Punishing if caught inside and the narrow, deep pass can run like a river, but the speed and squirt of a SW bomb will be worth the effort.



Quarters, South Male Atoll

are fairly short over straight reefs, while the interesting left set-ups need strong SW swell to work, the prevailing winds are S-W, so its onshore. Only Peros Banhos has realistic possibilities for rideable waves, but it is very windy and likely to be very fickle. There are no airports or towns of any kind, no facilities and no local residents. Visitor permits and mooring fees are expensive. The archipelago is the world's largest nature reserve, with an area of a quarter of a million square miles. Very sharky.



Hadigilla, Central Atolls