

BAZAAR LIFE Travel



A Robinson Crusoe-like hideaway set in the Indian Ocean

Long Weekend Getaway

Maldives – Soneva Fushi

For the ultimate romantic getaway, the Maldives offers unparalleled natural surroundings. Soneva Fushi is a Robinson Crusoe hideaway nestled in the Indian Ocean and the perfect setting for an intimate retreat. Out of the 1,200 Maldivian islands, only 76 are solely occupied by resorts and Soneva Fushi's Kunfunadhoo Island is an unspoiled paradise.

Male, the capital of the country is only a four-hour plane ride from Singapore. Grab a window seat because the half-hour seaplane

ride to Kunfunadhoo is a kaleidoscope of swirling blue, faded green and sparkling white speckled islands.

The brainchild of husband and wife team Sonu and Eva Shivdasani, ('Soneva' is derived from their names) have created the most stylish spot in the Maldives. Pack light as the emphasis is on natural, low-key comfort with an informal dress code of shorts, tee-shirts, swimsuits and sarongs. Your worries will subside as soon as you cross the wooden pier over the shockingly clear blue waters. The island is a haven for newlyweds and jet-setters looking to retreat from the stress of the real world.

The harmonious balance of rustic nature and five-star luxury is what makes this resort so unique. The freestanding villa feels like a private home complete with your own sandy garden on the beachfront. From the minimalist palm wood and plantation teak furniture to the bamboo canisters displaying personalised welcome messages, eco-friendly luxury is maintained.

Stress melts away during days spent doing little more than dipping in warm waters, snorkelling and nibbling on mouth-watering

What to wear...



Silk cashmere tank top; shorts and cardigan, Bottega Veneta

Leather floral print belt with elephant shaped metal buckle, Yves Saint Laurent

Louis Vuitton spring/summer 2007

Summer Terry striped beach bag, Lacoste

Python skin gladiator sandals, Tod's



Relax in stylish comfort in Soneva Fushi's private villa

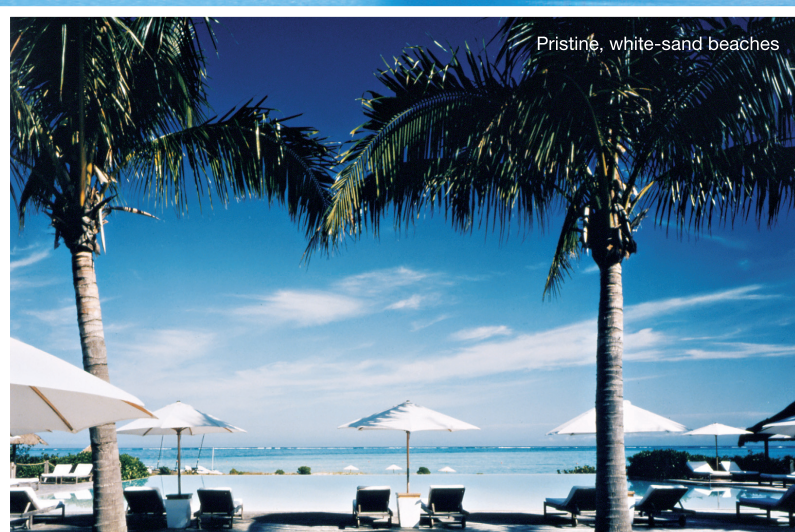
food. For adventurous guests there is windsurfing, water-skiing, fishing and some of the best diving in the world.

Not to be missed is the resort's holistic Six Senses Spa; try a couples massage for that extra bit of romance. For a unique dining experience check out the Tree-top restaurant that sits four metres above the resort's organic garden with amazing views across the jungle canopy. The resort offers numerous romantic dining experiences, including a moonlight barbeque for two, a private desert island picnic lunch and even a private champagne sunrise breakfast on the sand bank.

Soneva Fushi, Maldives. +960 666 0304; www.sonevaresorts.com. Double rooms start from S\$1,100.

The luxurious rustic outdoors

The ultimate private
hideaway of Parrot Cay,
Turks and Caicos



Pristine, white-sand beaches

10-day Retreat

Turks and Caicos — Parrot Cay

The most exclusive destination in the Caribbean, Parrot Cay is the ultimate private hideaway. Luckily the masses are not aware of this little known collection of eight principal islands and more than 40 smaller cays in the British West Indies. Located about 575 miles southeast of Miami, Parrot Cay occupies its very own 1,000-acre island, and is one of the most unspoiled links in the Turks and Caicos chain.

The fastest route to this paradise is via Miami where Providenciales — Provo for short — is just an 80-minute flight away and definitely worth the trip. After arriving at one of the resort's private launches, the pampering begins during the 30-minute water taxi ride.

The island has all the makings of a Caribbean cliché — pristine white-sand beaches surrounded by endless shades of blue. The highlight is the stunning colour of the water — a translucent turquoise made possible by the shallow waters and the absence of a surrounding reef. Owned by Singapore's style icon, Christina Ong, the resort is a reflection of her stylish, pared-down, sleek aesthetic.

PHOTOGRAPHY: DAN LECCA

The main house is the centre of activity, complete with a bar, dining room and library. The terra-cotta-roofed structure is in the colonial style and has a wide wraparound porch, which offers views of the ocean and the vegetation surrounding the resort. The resort features 56 rooms/suites, including 12 beach houses and villas. The minimalist rooms perfectly blend a mixture of Balinese and Caribbean influences. The interiors reflect simplistic elegance: white muslin curtains surrounding the four-poster beds, Zen-inspired black and white photos on the walls, and white wicker furnishings. The most luxurious rooms at Parrot Cay are the beachfront villas, which are simple structures with private plunge pools and outdoor hammocks.

The ultimate Parrot Cay experience is the holistic Shambhala spa. Shambhala, which means "centre of peace and harmony" in Sanskrit, emphasizes Eastern-inspired therapies, and the spa creates a contemplative and relaxed environment. The spa treatment rooms have the same sliding doors as the villas, so they're flooded with light and have views of the outdoors. The Shambhala spa regularly features week-long, guided retreats, which have quickly developed a great reputation and attract devotees of the world's leading yoga instructors and alternative health specialists. Retreat Weeks are available for practitioners of all levels and are the ultimate way to destress, unwind, and spend quality time with your partner for the ultimate getaway.

Parrot Cay, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies; Tel: 649/946-7788, Fax: 649/946-7789; doubles from \$590, including breakfast and round-trip transportation to and from the airport, 25 minutes away.

What to wear...

Cotton chiffon tunic, \$1,700, Bottega Veneta

Watch in stainless steel with rhinestones and lizard print leather strap, D&G Time

Hot pants, Aigner

Tisbury Minu clutch in toast wicker with patent leather detail, \$380, Kate Spade

Hugo spring/summer 2007