

FAQS ON SUSTAINABILITY AT PARK HYATT MALDIVES HADAHAA

How was the resort built without damaging the marine life and eco systems?

From its inception, environmental and socially sustainable initiatives have been an integral part of Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa's operational culture. This vastly unexplored area is home to stunning coral reefs, indigenous fish species, and remote islands where the traditional Maldivian way of life is centred on the sea and its resources.

The sustainability concepts applied through the architectural designs and materials used, the environmental conscious concepts incorporated in operating with the highest level of energy efficiency and mindful of the natural surroundings, were a collective cooperation by the architectural and design agencies and our owners.

The infrastructure in the midst of an extremely isolated and pristine tropical atoll poses a risk to the surrounding area and its people. This has empowered us to dedicate our resources to protect this unique and fragile environment. Being environmentally conscious is critical and that is why great emphasis was given to the structure, design and type of materials used in building this significant resort. We were vigilant in ensuring that no corals or marine life were destroyed, no heavy machinery were used and all materials including timbers, cement, stone slabs were all transported by hand.

Today, our mindful focus on the way the resort was built has resulted in our guests enjoying a 360-degree healthy and thriving house reef, still very much untouched by the harshness of ocean activities. Our story on our conception is shared with our guests through talks and through our resort-walks, and guests in return respect and part-take in our initiatives for ocean and marine life conservation.

Does the resort have an environmental sustainability programme?

Sustainability has a high priority at Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa. We have policies in place to reduce the energy and water usage, whilst single-use plastics have been eliminated and replaced with sustainable alternatives (e.g. glass water bottles, paper shopping bags). We put a special emphasis on ocean conservation by briefing guests about the fragility of the coral reef so they can do their part in preserving it for future generations; touching marine life, collecting shells or coral and walking on the reef is strictly prohibited. The team at Blue Journeys are available to provide information and share knowledge about the Maldives' marine life; and are also responsible for monitoring the reef's health condition and providing guidelines on possible operation improvements.

How can a guest be involved in our sustainability efforts and how does the resort combine these efforts with the experiences and activities on the resort?

The resort's commitment to sustainability shines bright in its array of curated guest experiences, which are some of the very best things to experience in the Maldives and for further exploring the remote natural environment. All excursions adhere to the moralities of non-single use plastics, and bento boxes are used for food and glass bottles for drinking water. Local fishing excursions practice traditional Maldivian handline, hook, sinker, and bait fishing techniques, and fish that do not meet the approved fishing specifications or are a protected species are released back into the water. In our efforts to sustain the eco-biology of the marine life, guests are only permitted to keep one catch per villa, and the rest will be released.

We also request that our guests do not bring any plastic items with them as we will provide them with essential amenities. We would send a 'What to pack for your trip' handouts before their arrival so that they are aware of our sustainable practices. We also advise our guests to use only Coral-safe Protective Sunscreen as the micro beads in the some of the sunscreens are plastic and are not biodegradable, and can cause harm to our house reef.

How do our sustainable efforts help the community?

Our ethos on sustainable food resource: Thoughtfully Sourced. Carefully Served.

Our farm-to-table project offers a unique and sustainable dining experience for culinary travellers. Savour meals made with fruits, vegetables, edible flowers and herbs from the farm that are served to you—not just on your plate but also in their raw form so you can see how they were grown.

Our sustainability efforts not only involve activities on our island resort, we are also promoting sustainability by contributing to the livelihood of the local community where we support the initiatives of the neighbouring island, Kondey, only a 15-minutes boat ride away.

Kondey is an agriculture island, invested in small-hold vegetables and fruit plantation, fishing and farming where the produce is distributed to local nearby islands. Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa is the island's premier supporter on acquiring the products, and volunteering our time and expertise on nurturing the locals on responsible farming. Kondey's focus on producing responsible and sustainable products, without the use of chemicals is indeed in line with Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa's sustainable vision and we take pride in doing our part for the environment and the community through our collaboration.

In line with this, to protect our ocean and to offer our guests a unique dining experience, we bought a composting machine where we recycle our kitchen scraps and use them to fertilize our Chef's Garden. Our Chef's Garden grows a variety of nutritious organic vegetables, and guests are most welcome to visit or even pick their own vegetables for an 'all-plant based' menu, served within the garden – The Treehouse, 5 metres above the island shores.

What is being done to conserve energy at the resort?

We have installed solar energy panels through the back of house areas and dining outlets within the resort; with the installation due for completion for the entire resort in the second quarter of 2023. This would save us over 85,000 liters of diesel per year, and allow for one of our generators to be turned off on hot days. Solar energy is overall 45% cheaper than diesel energy and this contributes to our sustainability impact of burning 50% less fuel.

Our on-going process includes switching off air-conditioning and lights in vacant villas or offices, placing signage in the 'heart of the hotel' to continuously remind the team on the importance of energy conservation, and the replacement of technical equipment with energy saving choices.

Does the resort recycle waste?

Yes, Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa has a recycling and waste management system in place. All bins from the guest and team areas are emptied daily at the waste management area and their contents separated according to material type to be recycled accordingly.

Paper items are incinerated and the ash is used for gardening. As for plastic items, these are stored in Parley bags and sent to Male for recycling (*we partner with Parley, a company that turns plastic waste intercepted from beaches and coastal communities into recycled polyester used by some major clothing and lifestyle brands*)

Garbage from the island is sorted and mindfully packed when it leaves the island by boat. Cardboards are bundled together, glassware are crushed and metal is compressed into cubes.

Despite all efforts, why is there still some plastic on the beach and in the ocean?

While we do our best to avoid single-use plastic as much as possible, unfortunately the strong ocean currents still bring it in from elsewhere, even from other Southeast Asian countries. Our team cleans the island's beach every morning and we regularly send volunteers to collect waste plastic from nearby uninhabited islands. The plastic is then sent to Parley, for recycling purposes.

Why is it that my towel was replaced even though I hung it up to reuse it?

Please place the 'conserve card' onto your bed if you don't want the linen and towels changed daily. By doing this, the linen and towels will be changed every other day night of your stay instead – saving energy and water.

What is the future of sustainability for the resort?

Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa continues to receive accreditations and accolades for its innovative sustainability practices, having recently received the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certification for Hospitality & Tourism Activities. This certification is a system and policy framework that combines various industry-specific requirements related to environmental management. It outlines the responsibilities of organisations and individuals within the organisation to reduce, prevent and control possible damage to the environment. This certification will be added to our growing list of other remarkable recognition, namely the Silver and Gold Certification by EarthCheck and Green Globe, and marks more than a decade of sustainability efforts at the resort.

We strive to always improve our processes and systems so that we can provide superior quality products, luxury experiences and exceptional services. This recognition further strengthens our business, and enables us to offer a wider range of added services and comfort for our guests.

Our aim is to continue with our efforts to conserve and preserve the ocean and the island we call home; and decrease the waste going to the landfills, and the carbon footprint.