



second-floor bedrooms with a separate front door (ideal for teenagers). Kayaking, snorkeling and diving are on offer, along with dolphin-spotting tours and excursions to local villages, and there are three restaurants to pick from. **Details:** A week's 8&6 for a family of four staying in a beach villas costs from £8,350, including flights and transfers (01491 678400, turquoiseholidays.co.uk)

13 Ellaidhoo Maldives by Cinnamon North Ari Atoll

The gorgeous turquoise reef at Ellaidhoo will impress even the most hard-to-please teenager, as will the pristine sandy beaches and wide range of water sports. An ideal place for new divers, Ellaidhoo

has a spectacular house reef 20m from the beach, along with drop-offs, overhangs and even a shipwreck. The resort is pleasantly lively, with regular evening entertainment and an international buffet restaurant. Bedrooms — functional rather than luxurious — can sleep up to three. **Details:** A week's all-inclusive costs from £14,050, including flights and transfers (thomson.co.uk)

14 Anantara Dhigu Dhipufinolhu

A great choice for parents who need pampering while the children are kept happy, Dhigu has a kids' club (3-11 years) that combines arts and crafts with outdoor activities, and a pizza bar and restaurant serving classic Italian dishes. A ride on the resort's Cayago Magraz — an underwater "rocket" — is a must for all the family, while the Anantara spa, staffed by therapists trained in Thailand, is the perfect retreat for parents. **Details:** A week's 8&6 costs from £2,400pp, including flights and transfers (020 3797 7187, scottian.com)

15 Ozen by Atmosphere at Maadhoo South Malé Atoll

This isn't the cheapest family option, but the all-in concept means that everything is covered: limitless non-motorised water sports, snorkelling trips, use of the kids' club, one excursion, one spa treatment per person, and all food and drinks at five restaurants. It's an all-villa resort



and Ozen's island rooms have tropical gardens or private pools, and over-water suites have uninterrupted ocean views. The X factor is the Mōen (minus six metres) underwater restaurant. **Details:** A week's all-inclusive costs from £2,943pp (0344 739 5985, virginholidays.co.uk)

16 Lux* South Ari Atoll Dhidhoofinolhu

Children of all ages are catered for at Lux*, which has two kids' clubs: Play, for those aged 3 to 11, and Studio 17, for 12 to 17-year-olds. The beach pavilions are perfect for families, with interconnecting doors between two pavilions, while family lagoon villas have two bedrooms, sleeping up to six. The 4km of white-sand beach means that there's always space for sandcastle-building, and teenagers will love Beach Rouge, the Maldives' only DJ-style beach club, with a floating dancefloor at night. **Details:** A week's 8&6 costs from £5,649 for a family of four (02484 678400, turquoiseholidays.co.uk)

Best for activities

17 Biyadhoo South Malé Atoll

A great choice for divers who don't want to splash too much cash, Biyadhoo's strengths are its charming staff and the renowned Padi dive school that takes advantage of the large number of five sites near by. Bedrooms are simple, but comfortable, in two-storey blocks a few footsteps from the water. The Aavun Spa offers treatments using local ingredients,

including orange, coconut and herbs. It is a refreshingly unpretentious retreat. **Details:** A week's all-inclusive costs from £1,485pp, including flights and transfers (0800 138770, kuoni.co.uk)

18 Outrigger Konotta Maldives Gafu Dhaalu Atoll

With some of the largest rooms in the Maldives — all with their own pool — Outrigger also has a wide range of activities, from cooking and yoga classes to kite-surfing and windsurfing. Gafu Dhaalu Atoll is one of three in the Maldives where it is possible to surf, and its location, 50km from the Equator, means that the resort can offer exclusive cruises that allow visitors to cross the line of zero degrees latitude. Diving options include topgunyaki and a raw bar. **Details:** A week's half-board costs from £2,239pp, including flights and transfers (020 7001 5828, travelbag.co.uk)

19 Kuredu Island Resort & Spa Lhaviyani Atoll

One of the larger islands in the Maldives, Kuredu offers a huge number of activities, including cycling, pitch and putt, a golf driving range and a wide selection of water sports. Rooms range from simple garden bungalows to over-water villas, and there are three additional restaurants to choose from (paid for in resort) if the all-inclusive buffets start to pall. The three pools include one for over-12s only, and the Duriye spa delivers a good choice of treatments. **Details:** A week's all-inclusive costs from £1,345pp, including flights and transfers (01342 886921, tropicalsky.co.uk)

20 Oluveli Beach & Spa Resort South Malé Atoll

The fantastic dive sites and Padi school at Oluveli, which offers the chance to swim with manta rays, turtles and reef sharks, is just one way to spend time in the water at this activity-rich resort. Guests can pitter around the lagoon in canoes or glide along in a catamaran, or try water-skiing, windsurfing or jet-skiing. Big-game fishing and snorkelling safaris are also on offer, along with five restaurants and an all-inclusive spa. **Details:** A week's full board costs from £1,999pp, including flights and transfers (01733 224828, thomascok.com)