

Workation

save the planet, but there are indeed multiple ways you can help preserve the country's delicate ecosystem while on your next vacation. These are three unique conservation experiences to get your hands on.

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averaging only one meter above sea level. Many scientists have predicted that this already dangerously low elevation will dwindle even further in the next few decades as global warming continues to wreak havoc on Mother Nature.

In more imminent danger is the wide array of sea life that calls the waters of this Indian Ocean nation home. Global warming, which causes the bleaching of coral, is one of the major factors endangering sea life in The Maldives today. Coral bleaching happens when water temperatures rise too high, forcing

Guests at the Sonva Fushi are welcome to work with marine biologists in their whale shark identification program.

the coral is what marine life feeds on, once coral is bleached, reefs can turn into veritable ghost towns and fish, crustaceans and other creatures either die or flee the area in search of food, causing a breakdown in the ecosystem.

Since coral reefs provide a marine habitat critical to undersea life in The Maldives, protecting them plays a leading role in preserving the area's ecosystem. Headed



The reef that sits just below the waters that surround the Anantara Dhigu Resort makes it a perfect sport for snorkeling and diving.

by Chief Scientist Dr. Andrew Bruckner, Coral Reef CPR (Conservation, Protection, and Restoration) is an organization that works with Maldivian resorts and local communities in a concerted effort to conserve the nation's coral reefs.

Dive enthusiasts can join a **Carpe Diem Maldives** luxury liveaboard cruise for the company's Rescue a Reef initiative in partnership with Coral Reef CPR. Join Dr. Bruckner and his team of researchers in the remote reefs of the Raa Atoll, where you'll remove dangerous reef-demolishing starfish, and conduct surveys to monitor the health of the reef.



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party at **Anantara Dhigu Resort** in the South Malé Atoll. Surrounded by a vibrant turquoise lagoon, the region is a haven for snorkeling and diving due to the dynamic reef sitting just below the surface of the sparkling crystal-clear waters.

Also in partnership with Coral Reef CPR, guests at Anantara Dhigu can engage in a coral adoption program. Led by a marine biologist, you'll wade or snorkel out to the shallow waters of the lagoon, and transplant coral onto a plastic frame. Once it has been attached, the marine biologist will plant the frame in a coral nursery within the lagoon, where it can regenerate and help rebuild the health of the reef. Once home, guests can monitor their adopted patch of coral online.

Farther north lies the Baa Atoll, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve that supports one of the largest groups of coral reefs in the Indian Ocean, and is renowned for its populations of marine turtles, manta rays and whale sharks. The eco-chic **Soneva Fushi** resort offers visitors the chance to participate in wildlife conservation programs with their marine biologists.

Instead of lounging by the pool, sipping fruity drinks and getting massages all day, help Soneva Fushi's marine biologist with turtle, shark and manta ray identification programs to help track population numbers, or join a beach and reef clean up to help reduce marine debris, and help prevent injuries to fish and turtles. Good things come to those who give back: guests who participate in the

Also in the Baa Atoll is the **Four Seasons Resort Maldives** at Landaa Giraavaru. In partnership with the Maldivian Manta Ray Project, you'll learn how to spot the ethereal creatures, then how to record information and take identification photos, which are all essential components of manta ray conservation.

A vacation in The Maldives doesn't have to be all work and no play, but chances

doing your part to conserve this beautiful island nation. ✈

1 The Carpe Diem cruise works with the Coral Reef CPR organization on the Rescue a Reef initiative. 2 After enjoying the luxury features of the Four Seasons at Landaa Giraavaru visitors can work with local authorities to identify and protect manta rays.



A solo un metro sobre el nivel del mar, Las Maldivas constituyen el país más bajo del mundo y, por ende, una de las primeras víctimas de la elevación de las aguas del calentamiento global. Es por esto que diferentes resorts invitan a los huéspedes de este archipiélago de 1.190 islas a hacer algo más que relajarse en sus aguas turquesas. Los amantes del buceo pueden unirse al crucero de lujo Carpe Diem que trabaja para monitorear y limpiar los arrecifes. Para quienes prefieren dormir en tierra, en el Anantara Dhigu Resort, de la mano de biólogos marinos, se puede trabajar en el proceso de trasplante de muestras de coral. Al norte, en el atolón de Baa, los huéspedes del Soneva Fushi participan de la identificación de especies de tortugas, tiburones y mantarrayas. Como recompensa, quienes apoyen esta causa reciben cinco noches adicionales de hospedaje en esta paradisíaca locación.