Dream Destination in Danger—
3 Approaches for Rescue

Darmstadt, 4 August 2016. Known as the dream paradise with azure blue water, white beaches and as one of the most romantic places that earth has to offer: the Maldives. But what may look paradisiac, also contains environmental problems, as two travelers report.

Simone and Alexander Hommel-Schäfer from Darmstadt, enthusiastic travelers spent 2 weeks on the dreamy islands. As much as their arrival over the heavenly view took their breath away, so did their sightings on the ground: "What really shocked us and made us unspeakably sad was the plastic waste that swam in the water. To see something like this in paradise made us feel guilty."

Experiences like these affect everyone. Is it even possible to travel to the Maldives with a good conscience anymore? 3 Green Pearls® hotels in paradise show that it can be different - with wonderful projects that create awareness and all have the same goal, namely to sustainably preserve the endangered island group and their biodiversity for future newlyweds, loved ones and travel enthusiasts.
1) Conserving Marine Environment at Coco Bodu Hithi

As part of the Coco collection, Coco Bodu Hithi plays its part in saving the Maldives by contributing to the conservation of the local marine environment.

In weekly awareness sessions, the Resident Marine Biologist at Coco Bodu Hithi ensures information and education of guests associated with the fragile marine life and eco system and emphasizes the need of conservation efforts.

Next to various research programs regarding the local sea dwellers, the Coral Nursery Program at the resort gives naturally broken corals a survival chance and hence contributes to protecting the marine environment. At conscious snorkeling trips, the broken corals are collected and fixed with metal structures. Thus also the monitoring of their growth is enabled.
2) Waste Management at Reethi Beach Resort

To ensure the sustainable existence and well-being of the Maldivian environment, Reethi Beach Resort bets on efficient waste management, centering on solutions of removing, recycling and re-using waste.

By bottling their own drinking water in re-usable glass bottles, over 400 plastic bottles are saved daily since 2010. While plastic straws and bags will not be found at the resort, the portioned packaging is reduced to a minimum and the toiletries for guests are re-fillable. Reethi Beach focuses on raising awareness of saving and recycling options among staff, local communities and guests.

3) Turtle Protection at Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu

Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu shares the same values as Coco Bodu Hithi and delights with similar initiatives to protect the Maldivian environment. Part of their efforts to conserve the biodiversity at the Maldives is their Turtle Project. The nesting of the endangered turtles is monitored and potential nest poaching activities are prevented, in order to ensure the final release of the baby turtles into the open ocean. Guests at
Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu are invited to support the construction of the first Olive Ridley Project Turtle Rescue Center with a donation, and hence enable education, tailored snorkeling sessions and research excursions in regards to the turtle conservation project.

The German Green Pearls GmbH with place of business in Darmstadt, Germany unifies international tourism companies that support environmental protection and demonstrate social commitment. Thereby, Green Pearls is the first holding company worldwide that consolidates sustainable hotels, a destination and restaurants in a global data source.

Among the criteria of admission to Green Pearls, are a sustainability plan on management level, sustainable architecture, comprehensive water, energy saving and waste recovery measures, the use of seasonal and regional ingredients in the kitchen, as well as a large commitment for the social balance in each of the vacation regions.

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