



Maldives

Maldives officially the Republic of Maldives, is an island country and archipelago in the Indian Ocean. It lies southwest of India and Sri Lanka. The capital is Malé, traditionally called the "King's Island".

Historically linked with the Indian subcontinent, Maldives is a Muslim-majority country. From the mid-sixteenth century colonial powers dominated the islands: Portugal, the Netherlands and Britain. The islands gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1965, becoming a republic in 1968. The country is ruled by a president and its government is authoritarian. The Maldivian economy is dominated by tourism and fishing.

Encompassing a territory spread over roughly 90,000 square kilometers, Maldives is one of the world's most geographically dispersed countries. It is the smallest Asian country in both land area and in population. The archipelago is located atop the Chagos-Maldives-Laccadive Ridge, a vast submarine mountain range in the Indian Ocean, which also forms a terrestrial eco region, together with the Chagos and the Lakshadweep. With an average ground-level elevation of 1.5 meters above sea level, it is the planet's lowest country. It is also the country with the lowest natural highest point in the world, at 2.4 meters. The government has pledged to make Maldives a carbon-neutral country by 2019 amid concerns about rising sea-levels.

Ancient history and settlement

A strong underlying layer of Dravidian population and culture survives in Maldivian society, with a clear Dravidian-Malayalam substratum in the language, which also appears in place names, kinship terms, poetry, dance, and religious beliefs. Malabari seafaring culture led to Malayali settling of the Laccadives, and the Maldives were evidently viewed as an extension of that archipelago. Some argue (from the presence of Jat, Gujjar Titles and Gotra names) that

Sindhis also accounted for an early layer of migration. Seafaring from Debal began during the Indus valley civilization. The Jatakas and Puranas show abundant evidence of this maritime trade; the use of similar traditional boat building techniques in Northwestern South Asia and the Maldives, and the presence of silver punch mark coins from both regions, gives additional weight to this. There are minor signs of Southeast Asian settlers, probably some adrift from the main group of Austronesian reed boat migrants that settled Madagascar.

Philostorgius, a Greek historian of Late Antiquity, wrote of a hostage among the Romans, from the island called Diva, which is presumed to be the Maldives, who was baptized Theophilus. Theophilus was sent in the 350s to convert the Himyarites to Christianity, and went to his homeland from Arabia; he returned to Arabia, visited Axum, and settled in Antioch.

Geography

The Maldives consists of 1,192 coral islands grouped in a double chain of 26 atolls, along the north-south direction, spread over roughly 90,000 square kilometers, making this one of the world's most dispersed countries. It lies between latitudes 1°S and 8°N, and longitudes 72° and 74°E. The atolls are composed of live coral reefs and sand bars, situated atop a submarine ridge 960 kilometers long that rises abruptly from the depths of the Indian Ocean and runs north to south. Maldives is the lowest country in the world, with maximum and average natural ground levels of only 2.4 meters and 1.5 meters above sea level, respectively. In areas where construction exists, however, this has been increased to several meters. More than 80 per cent of the country's land is composed of coral islands which rise less than one meter above sea level. As a result, the Maldives are at high risk of being submerged due to rising sea levels. The UN's environmental panel has warned that, at current

rates, sea level rise would be high enough to make the Maldives uninhabitable by 2100.

Climate

The Maldives has a tropical-monsoon climate, which is affected by the large landmass of South Asia to the north. The presence of this landmass causes differential heating of land and water. These factors set off a rush of moisture-rich air from the Indian Ocean over South Asia, resulting in the southwest monsoon. Two seasons dominate Maldives' weather: the dry season associated with the winter northeastern monsoon and the rainy season which brings strong winds and storms.

Fishing industry

For many centuries the Maldivian economy was entirely dependent on fishing and other marine products. Fishing remains the main occupation of the people and the government gives priority to the fisheries sector.

The mechanization of the traditional fishing boat called dhoni in 1974 was a major milestone in the development of the fisheries industry. A fish canning plant was installed on Felivaru in 1977, as a joint venture with a Japanese firm. In 1979, a Fisheries Advisory Board was set up with the mandate of advising the government on policy guidelines for the overall development of the fisheries sector. Manpower development programs began in the early 1980s, and fisheries education was incorporated into the school curriculum. Fish aggregating devices and navigational aids were located at various strategic points. Moreover, the opening up of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Maldives for fisheries has further enhanced the growth of the fisheries sector.

As of 2010, fisheries contributed over 15% of the country's GDP and engaged about 30% of the country's work force. Fisheries were also the second-largest foreign exchange earner after tourism.

DID YOU KNOW..?



Enjoy these fun dog facts that deliver a variety of information about interesting breeds, puppies, guide dogs such as Labradors and much more. As the famous saying goes, dogs are man's best friend. Whether it's as reliable workers, family pets or loyal companions, dogs are wonderful domestic animals that offer a number of qualities that are put to good use by humans.

- In total there is said to be around 400 million dogs in the world.
- The domestic dog has been one of the most popular working and companion animals throughout human history.
- Dogs perform many useful tasks for humans including hunting, farm work and security as well as assisting those with disabilities such as the blind.
- Although experts often disagree, there is scientific evidence which shows that the domestication of dogs could have occurred more than 15,000 years ago.
- There are hundreds of different breeds of dogs.
- Examples of these breeds include: Bulldog, German Shepherd, Collie, Golden Retriever, St Bernard, Greyhound, Bloodhound, Chihuahua, Labrador, Great Dane, Rottweiler, Boxer and Cocker Spaniel.
- The most popular breed of dog in the

world by registered ownership is the Labrador. With their gentle nature, obedience, intelligence and near limitless energy, Labradors make for excellent family pets and reliable workers. They often assist police and are a common choice as guide dogs.

- Dogs have formed such a strong bond as pets, workers and companions to humans that they have earned the nickname "man's best friend".
- Humans help train various dog breeds to enter in competitions such as breed shows, agility and obedience contests, racing and sled pulling.
- Dog have superior hearing than humans, capable of hearing sounds at four times the distance.
- Dogs have a remarkable sense of smell, they are capable of differentiating odors in concentrations nearly 100 million times lower than humans can.
- The average life span for a dog is around 10 to 14 years.
- Those involved in dog breeding refer to males as 'dogs', females as 'bitches', dogs younger than a year old as 'puppies' and a group of offspring as a 'litter'.
- Domestic dogs are omnivores, they feed on a variety of foods including grains, vegetables and meats.

Banana Bread

What you need

- 2 eggs
- 1½ c. sifted flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1/3 c. vegetable oil
- 2/3 c. sugar
- 1 c. mashed bananas (about 3 bananas)

What to do

- Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). (Ask your parents' help)
- Beat eggs well in a small bowl.
- In a medium-size bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt.
- In a large bowl, add the

vegetable oil. Add the sugar a little bit at a time, and continue beating until the mixture is fluffy.

Add the eggs to the mixture in the large bowl and beat well.

Add some of the flour mixture to the large bowl and beat well. Then add some of the mashed bananas and beat some more. Continue adding flour, then bananas, then flour, then bananas, until everything is mixed in.

Pour mixture into the baking pan. Bake for 70 minutes.

Flip your banana bread out of the pan, let it cool for a bit, and cut it into slices to eat and share!



Recipes for Kids

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7	2	4	5	1	8	5	9	6
6	1	9	3	1	9	8	2	5

Spot 5 differences

