

BAROS'S LIGHTHOUSE RESTAURANT IS OUTSTANDING



platters, there's something for everyone. The Cognac-flamed lobster bisque at the island's signature Lighthouse restaurant is exceptional.

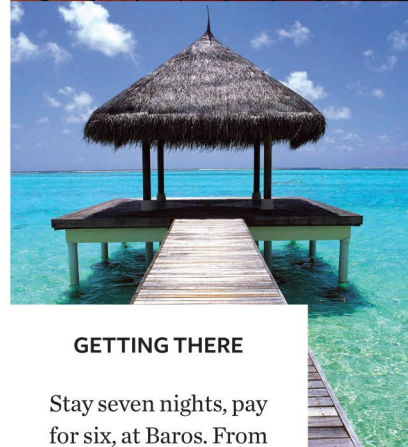
The Maldives have some of the best snorkelling in the world; Baros is surrounded by a reef where you can spend hours investigating the colourful underwater world. You'll

come across Nemo-esque clownfish, prickly pink coral, graceful rays and roaming turtles. If you're brave, it's worth trying the accompanied night snorkel as the reef transforms after dark.

There's a strong sense of character here; the staff are warm and their attention to detail is meticulous. Keen to

share Maldivian heritage with their guests, they host a weekly themed night where traditional dances are performed and local dishes served – the centuries-old ties to nearest neighbours Sri Lanka and India are evident in the delicious curries.

If you're after total escapism, one of the most romantic experiences is sunrise yoga followed by breakfast on Baros's private sand spit. This >



GETTING THERE

Stay seven nights, pay for six, at Baros. From £1,799 per person, b&b, based on two adults sharing a Deluxe Villa, including return flights with Etihad Airways from Heathrow and transfers. Or upgrade to a Baros Pool Villa from £3,359. Valid for travel between 1 May and 30 September 2014, booked through ITC Classics (01244 355 527, itcclassics.co.uk). Find out more at baros.com.

INSIDE A BAROS VILLA



someone's spent hours carefully putting them in place.

I walk into my cool villa and flop

onto the huge comfy bed. The interior is modern and chic in a palette of white and stony greys, with the odd splash of colour. Sliding glass doors lead onto a beautiful wooden decking area. There's also an inviting private plunge pool, and I glimpse the sea sparkling through the trees at the end of the garden. As I explore the villa, it strikes me that

“Everything is geared towards romance – even the pool is the perfect size for a dip à deux”

everything is geared towards romance, from the his 'n' hers sinks in the bathroom to the pair of sunloungers nestling on the beach; even the pool is the perfect size for a dip à deux.

After an afternoon napping in the sun, I head to the Lighthouse Lounge for a pre-dinner cocktail. Elevated over the sea, there's a panoramic view of the island and ocean. Despite being open to the elements, it has a cosy atmosphere, with candle-lit lanterns and jazz playing gently.

When I finally manage to peel myself off the sofa, I head to the island's Cayenne restaurant for a light dinner of fresh sushi and salad. Baros's remote location hasn't limited the amount or quality of food on offer. The menus at the three restaurants are extensive: from delicate pasta dishes to Japanese



THE IDYLIC DECK OF THE LIGHTHOUSE RESTAURANT

GO TO THE MALDIVES IF...

1. You like snorkelling. Its coral reefs, buzzing with life, are world-famous.

2. You're good at relaxing. The focus is on chilling out in peace and quiet – there's no late-night partying here.

3. You're holidaying with your partner. Most guests in luxury resorts are on honeymoon, so the accommodation and activities are often designed for couples. Many resorts, including Baros, do not allow young children to stay.

