

# A CASE OF THE BLUES

From azure skies and turquoise waters to neon blue sands at night (no kidding), Sun Siyam Iru Fushi has visitors experiencing cerulean in the best possible way.

By HO YUN KUAN



**O**n your next Maldives holiday, be sure to visit the beach at night, when the white sand and blue waters take on the murky tones of darkness and the landscape becomes a canvas for bioluminescence. This is a natural phenomenon caused by phytoplankton that glows an electric blue to distract predators when startled by physical

disturbances. The Maldives is one of the best locations to spot it and those who have caught a glimpse have described the sight as akin to stars washing up on the shore.

How poetic, which was why we were on the deserted beach of Sun Siyam Iru Fushi resort at one in the morning engaging in some bizarre behaviour. My companion went past me doing the moonwalk across the

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Sun Siyam Iru Fushi offers a range of leisure activities such as water sports, tennis and badminton, and multiple swimming pools.



sand, right where the waves meet the shore – the best spot to find phytoplankton without actually diving into the sea.

Sun Siyam Iru Fushi is located in the northernmost part of the Maldivian archipelago, about 45 minutes by seaplane from Male, in Noonu Atoll. The 21-hectare island houses 221 rooms and 11 food and beverage outlets, earning it the distinction

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Visibility was incredible. Schools of fish swarmed around us, looking like scattered glitter as their silvery bodies glistened in the fragmented rays of sunlight.



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of being one of the largest in the Maldives.

Our late-night jaunt at the beach made waking up early for our scheduled snorkelling trip a struggle, but any thoughts of sleep were discarded from the first plunge into the turquoise water. With temperatures on land hovering in the high 30s, the water

Smaller fishes stuck curious noses out from the crevices of the reefs.

Then we saw it: a dark, majestic shadow looming in the distance. All in the party stopped our playful splashing and a respectful silence took over. Time seemed to pause as we waited for the new visitor to approach. It

Accommodation types include water villas (top) and beach villas (inset).

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swooped by gracefully a few metres below us, its extended wings the equivalent of about two men across the widest point. It was a manta ray, one of the most coveted sea life sightings for any diver or snorkeller in the Maldives.

Post-snorkel, our tired muscles welcomed a pampering session at the resort's spa, which offers treatments rooted in Ayurveda and traditional Chinese medicine.

Taking full advantage of the island's large area, this wellness sanctuary has an impressive 20 rooms, each an independent hut located a discreet distance from the others along a pebbled path that winds through a lush garden.

On the last evening, we wound down at the Bubble Lounge, a trendy, over-water champagne bar. Baby sharks, attracted by the lights on the deck, darted playfully between the supporting stilts in the shallow waters below. It was the perfect ending to my Maldivian experience, triumphed only by a sighting of yet another manta ray the next day, this time seen from the air, during the seaplane journey back to Male.

[www.thesunsiyam.com](http://www.thesunsiyam.com)



Resort staff will set up a romantic candlelit tent, complete with a gourmet feast and champagne, on the private beach.

