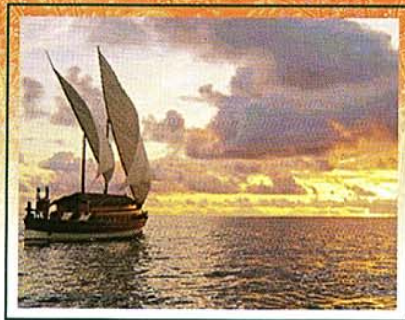


Such sweet, sinful luxury! "Good morning! Where can I serve you breakfast Sir, on the top deck of your luxury dhoni or perhaps on-shore at your bungalow?" says your own personal *Thakuru* (valet). As you wake up to another aquamarine sun-kissed day, you rub your eyes, take a deep breath of fresh air and think to yourself: this is paradise!



Let me introduce you to the world's most luxurious beach holiday right in your own backyard Dhoni Mighili whose philosophy of "wherever and whenever" translates into all the facets of your experience at this very private Maldivian island.

Dhoni Mighili is a world first - six luxuriously appointed fully air-conditioned dhonis, each combined with its own intimate beach bungalow with outdoor bathroom, plunge pools and waterfall showers.

The 65-ft traditionally handcrafted Maldivian sailboats are the epitome of simplistic elegance. The dhonis have both the traditional ivory sail and a motor; sail or cruise the choice is yours. The bow of the dhoni is inviting with its comfy daybeds overflowing with cushions to laze on in the sunshine. At night your *Thakuru* transforms this area into a sensual setting for dining under the stars whilst out at sea. The dhonis are fitted out with king size beds, bathrooms in Philippe Starck, and kitchenettes in SMEG.

With their rustic charm, the beach bungalows are set amongst luxuriant tropical foliage, facing the pristine lagoon. The bungalows are fully air-conditioned with a private bar and an outdoor dining setting. The bathroom leads to a secluded, private walled courtyard, with its own tropical shower open to the sun and stars.

Prior to your arrival on Dhoni Mighili, your *Thakuru* will determine your personal tastes and special needs, from preparing for a special occasion for you and your companion, arranging a lesson in wind-surfing or diving, meeting your culinary needs, or even knowing how you want your martini - shaken or stirred!

There is plenty to do at Dhoni Mighili - explore the islands of the Ari Atoll in your dhoni, visit choice snorkeling spots, sign up for a personalized scuba diving course, indulge in a personalized wellness treatment at the Spa, or wine and dine wherever and whenever you want. Let the chef suggest a specially designed menu or customize one to your palate. Then find that secluded spot on the island to celebrate that once in a lifetime moment.

Getting to Dhoni Mighili is half the fun. After the anti-climax of an Indian Airlines flight to Male from Trivandrum, hop aboard your seaplane for a swift but spectacular transfer to the island. But the most decadent way to do it is to have your *Thakuru* and private dhoni pick you up from Male Airport's aquamarine parking lot and transfer you leisurely to your paradise island.

Robinson Crusoe with a luxurious twist, anyone?

About the author: Ashish Gupta runs his own travel company, Milesworth Holidays, an American Express Travel office in Chennai. He specializes in customized tours to popular and exotic destinations in India and overseas.

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