



Experience life at its most luxurious at Huvafen Fushi, The Maldives.



# Paradise *found*

Remote island escapes offer a retreat from the urban senses so you can rejuvenate. As Rachael Oakes-Ash discovers the only decision you'll need to make on these islands is which sunscreen to slather on.

## Huvafen Fushi, Maldives

**The deal:** If you want heaven you can find it here. In a Maldivian world where luxury abounds, Per Aquum resorts' Huvafen Fushi island has set the bar sky high. Each overwater bungalow comes complete with its own fibre optic-lit infinity pool, tiered sun basking deck and your own personal butler.

Add underwater spa LIME for pampering, private sunset cruises for two, beach picnics and swanky Bond style motor yachts. Plus there are the six dining options including an underground wine experience, beachside cocktails or degustation with all the sundries.

**The details:** beach bungalows start at US\$880 per night during low season and the most you'll pay will be US\$7500 per night peak season for the exquisite Beach Pavilion. Overwater lagoon bungalows start at US\$1430 per night. For more information, visit [www.huvafenfushi.com](http://www.huvafenfushi.com) →



## BUSINESS CLASS

*Seven bungalows, two villas and one mega villa overlook a pristine private beach that is home to one of Asia's best surf breaks.*



**Enforced relaxation: your mobile phone won't work at Nihiwatu Resort.**



### **Nihiwatu Resort, Sumba Island, Indonesia**

**The deal:** founded by philanthropist Claude Graves, Nihiwatu is situated on the island of Sumba, 400 kilometres east of Bali. Seven bungalows, two villas and one mega villa overlook a pristine private beach that is home to one of Asia's best surf breaks and surrounded by 400 acres of lush undeveloped bushland.

A-list visitors include the Hermes fashion family, who book the resort out annually, and world class surfer Mark Occhilupo. They mix effortlessly with a host of honeymooners and urbanites looking for some serious time out.

The resort is run on a generator so BBC, CNN and Sky News are out, and be warned that your mobile phone will not work here.



Mounu Island, Tonga

Expect to be moved by the local Sumbanese and their warm hearts, surf to your hearts content, lounge in the pool, be massaged on the yoga deck, trek to a waterfall, visit the local village or simply sit with cocktail in hand and watch a glorious sunset from the clifftop bar.

Nihiwatu contributes to Claude's Sumba Foundation, that addresses the need for improved health, education, clean water and income generation for the indigenous population of the island. For more information, visit [www.sumbafoundation.org](http://www.sumbafoundation.org)

**The details:** from US\$440 per night for two people, with a minimum stay of five nights. All meals, one massage, a village tour and a horseride on the beach are included. For more information, visit [www.nihiwatu.com](http://www.nihiwatu.com)

## Mounu Island, Tonga

**The deal:** This private coral atoll in the Vavau archipelago in Tonga is edged with glorious white sand and flanked by thriving tropical waters. It uses solar power for energy, features organic cuisine and the seafood is plucked from the surrounding sea. Spend your days kayaking, snorkelling or diving, or you can even take a dip with migrating humpback whales from July to December. With only four beachfront fales (bungalows) on a six-and-a-half acre island, your time and space is your own.

**The details:** rates start around AU\$200 per night twin-share with an extra AU\$100 per day for meal plans. For more information, visit [www.mounuisland.com](http://www.mounuisland.com)







## Haggerstone Island, Australia

**The deal:** 600 kilometres north of Cairns, this privately-owned, family-run island sits near the tip of Cape York, Queensland. Surrounded by turquoise lagoons and multi-coloured reefs, Haggerstone Island's accommodation is just four huts located on the beach, in the trees or by the calm waters of a lagoon protected by barrier reef. They're no ordinary huts either: open-plan hand crafted timber structures are enhanced by thatched roofs, open decks and rope bridges.

Guests congregate in the pavilion for pre-dinner drinks and meals are prepared each evening on the open fire. You can relax by firelight with tales of island adventures, including heli fishing, boat cruising, snorkelling and snoozing in the shade.

**The details:** AU\$750 per person per night for seven nights (children under 14 are half price). The island can be exclusively rented for \$3900 per day and sleeps up to 14. All meals and excursions are included. For more information, visit [www.haggerstoneisland.com](http://www.haggerstoneisland.com) **L**



### **SPOILED FOR CHOICE?**

→**Mnemba Island, Africa**  
A private island in the Zanzibar archipelago. 10 beachside bandas (huts) offer access to superb diving and crystal waters in an unpretentious paradise. [www.ccafrica.com](http://www.ccafrica.com)

→**Waiheke Island, NZ**  
Enjoy beach houses, wineries, boutique hotels and guest houses on this Tolkien-esque island in Auckland Harbour. [www.waihekenz.com](http://www.waihekenz.com)

→**Dolphin Island, Fiji**  
Part of the exclusive Huka Retreats, Dolphin Island is a private residence with a welcoming host couple who will cater to your every whim. [www.dolphinislandfiji.com](http://www.dolphinislandfiji.com)

### **COMING SOON:**

→**Tetiaroa, Tahiti** Owned by the late Marlon Brando, this 4.5 mile atoll comprises 12 small islands and will be home to The Brando eco resort, a lush 30 villa development scheduled to open in 2008. [www.brandohotel.com](http://www.brandohotel.com)

→**Poseidon, Fiji** The world's first seafloor resort will open on Mystery Island in 2009 with six restaurants and seven bars. Why not be the first to sleep 40 feet below the water. [www.poseidonresorts.com](http://www.poseidonresorts.com)

→**Naka Yai, Thailand** Six Senses Resorts will open Erawan Destination Spa Resort on the island of Naka Yai later this year with a series of multi-day retreats designed to increase health, vitality and fitness. [www.sixsenses.com/sixsenses-erawan/](http://www.sixsenses.com/sixsenses-erawan/)