



UNIVERSAL RESORTS

maldives

news|letter



New Beachfront Cottage at Full Moon



Welcome Pavilion, Full Moon arrival Jetty.

Thank You For Your Support

The staff and friends of Universal Resorts would like to sincerely thank all of you who have sent so many touching messages of support in light of recent events in the Indian Ocean. You will be pleased to hear that the majority of our resorts escaped the full force of the Tsunami, with limited damage, and all staff and guests are safe and well. All resorts are open and operating normally.

A Postcard From Full Moon

My wife and I arrived on Full Moon on 14th January for a seven-night stay, after which we have booked for four nights on Kurumba. This was a long-standing booking and, once the tsunami occurred, we worried as to whether or not we should travel. Kuoni Travel was extremely fair offering us the alternatives of a refund, or a change of venue, or a delayed holiday to the same venue. We emailed the resort, and were reassured, so decided to travel in any event.

We are having a marvellous time, but concerned for the resort because there are so few guests here. It seems

that numbers are cancelling, because they are told that there are building works going on and are naturally

concerned that this will be a problem. Whilst it is right that there are building works, these are on only one side of the island and the good news is that the accommodation, the bars and the restaurants are on the other side of the island. We have not heard any noise from building works.

In summary, if you want a unique experience to sample a first class resort island without ever needing to reserve a sunbed, and with a guaranteed best table at every restaurant - then come! I'm now going back to my sunbed.....

David Mitchell

Live From Baros



John Amor and Fran Size have been guests with Universal Resorts for the past 6 years, and arrived in the Maldives on January 17th for their annual six week stay at Baros. This is John's report on the resort, post Tsunami.

On arrival, our boat was immediately available and we sped to Baros to be welcomed by a smiling Binu. He assured us that everything was absolutely normal (very little damage and that was sorted within a couple of days) but the one and only problem was – cancellations; the island running at only 50%.

BUT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON FOR THIS – EVERYTHING IS NOT ONLY NORMAL BUT PERFECT!

We set out on the next page our findings after careful inspection during the past few days:

Condition of the island – You can find little evidence that anything happened here. Yes, if you know where and what to look for (which we obviously do after our past multiple visits which total over 6 months!) you can indeed spot a few things, the biggest of which is that a few plants (in particular the banana trees opposite the side door to reception which opens onto the “cut-through” path) are rather sickly as they did not enjoy the salt water. But that apart the island is its normal well-groomed self with every leaf being swept up as it falls.

Food & Service – First class as always and we have been unable to detect any difference from last year. We would particularly wish to confirm that there are no shortages of any commodity or ingredient. Whilst there was a disruption to normal deliveries for a few days thereafter things were quickly back to normal and will remain so.



Aerial view of Baros

Diving – is absolutely normal and always has been – the diving boat operated the following day!

Staff – Nobody was hurt on Baros. Nothing to do with the tsunami but the Head-Chef (Peter) has gone back to Australia - his contract was at an end and he decided that it was in the best interest of his two small children. He has been replaced by Gavin from the U.K. – glad to report that the menus have not been changed and the standard of food is, as usual, excellent.



The Tsunami – The Maldives in general were saved from what could have been a complete obliteration by the fact that they are surrounded by very deep water as opposed to a gentle decrease in depth starting a mile or even miles offshore. What went across the ocean was not a wave but a swell – probably over a mile from front to back but at most one or two meters high – if you had been out to sea in deep water, even in a rowing - boat, you would have hardly have noticed it pass beneath you. I asked Binu as to which direction it had come from: his answer was “No direction – from all sides simultaneously”. Basically when the swell reached Baros it was just like a very quick, very high, very short-lived high-tide – there was no great impact, surge or vicious current. Then the “tide” went back down – and apart from being wet nothing much was changed.

In conclusion – there is no possible valid reason for anyone to cancel their holiday – as stated, everything, apart from the lack of people, is completely normal here. If you come, then not only will you have the usual great time but, in addition, you will be doing your part to avoid future huge financial problems for those, that over the years many of us have come to know as friends – the people of the Maldives.



John Amor and Fran Size

P.S. Fran and I will be here for our usual 6 weeks of paradise (until 28th February). We are in Room 117 – if you come and it's not as described above you are welcome to take it up with us direct. Should you demand satisfaction then the choice will be yours - snorkels at dawn or cocktails at sunset!