



*Press Release*

## ***Unveiling the Eco Centre***

The Eco Centre is a unique venue in Kuramathi which has been in operation for over 10 years and is a focal point committed to ensure that guests are provided with a detailed yet enriching experience. Led by a small team of professionals including our Resident Marine Biologist and Horticulturist, the Eco Centre enforces environmental initiatives, integrating eco friendly practices into resort operations and educating guests about the delicate yet delightful environment.

At the Eco Centre, informative approaches await you starting with the 11 metre Sperm Whale skeleton supported with factual information boards on this remarkable marine creature along with a variety of interesting facts about other diverse marine life. Broad insights into the fascinating underwater life through visual and microscopic presentations are organised in English and German to offer an enlightening experience. Guided snorkelling tours are carried out four times a week. The Eco Centre also aims to protect this fragile coral eco system by advocating proper snorkelling etiquette by offering snorkelling lessons and by providing information in different languages.

One of the initiatives to celebrate the beauty of the island is our nature appreciation programs. Your pursuit into the depths of nature starts with the Botanic Walk, where you will find an array of plants in a long yet informative pathway. Edible plants, plants used for its medicinal value, plants rich in fragrance and those used for its ornamental properties are few floras you shall find in the Botanic Walk and each is explained briefly all through the pathway.

The Nature Trail is set on an untouched area of tropical Maldivian forest. A long winding pathway exposes you to a natural world where enticing places are set throughout including seed stations, decomposition stations and a dedicated area to showcase the “lifecycle” of a coconut. For this one fruit, the Maldivians have 12 different names for the 12 stages of growth! You will also find information boards on the variety of trees, animals and plants that call these forests their home.

The Hermit Crab Walk is a circular walk, where you find plenty of these wonderful marine crustaceans. One never misses the opportunity to see groups of crabs in different assortments of shells and sizes. An information board is setup that clearly explains more about this adorable little crab. This is a great experience for both kids and adults.

The Hydroponics Garden stemming under the Eco Centre attributes to 70% of organic greens grown on the island including herbs, fruits and salads. Using chemical salts and pure water, this eco friendly practice contributes fresh organic greens for the resort’s kitchen and is an efficient way to grow organic foods in a limited space without the worry of dealing with the poor soil that is typical on the Maldivian islands.

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Enforcing eco friendly strategies into the resort operations is a significant role played by the Eco Centre. Given that this is a large island, specific measures are undertaken to ensure that efficient energy saving methods are practised. The usage of solar panels to heat fresh water in guest villas, and using specially designed units on guest air-conditioners that save 40% of the energy are some examples put into practice. In addition, the sewerage treatment facility used on the resort premises is of a world class standard, and contributes recycled water for WC's in guest villas as well as recycled grey water for gardening purposes.

The Environment Committee, a group consisting of all operational departments is spearheaded by the Eco Centre. The Committee is devoted to implementing environmental friendly practices into operation, and brainstorming sessions are held once a month to further develop feasible eco-friendly ideas to use in operations. Regular cleaning of the island, organising reef clean ups, marking special occasions with guests and team members are some of the continuous projects initiated by the Environment Committee.

The Eco Centre also works closely in conjunction with local communities to promote environmental awareness and sustainability.



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#### **Note to Editors:**

Kuramathi is one of the first resorts to open in the Maldives and is part of Universal Resorts of Universal Enterprises Private Ltd, a 100% Maldivian owned company, and the pioneers of tourism in the Maldives.

An emerald jewel in the turquoise Maldivian waters, Kuramathi is a stunning island retreat with acres of luxuriant vegetation surrounded by spectacular beaches tapering into an endless sandbank. Villas blend contemporary design and nature, and are set on the beach, amongst lush gardens or over water. Four poster beds, open-air bathrooms, rainfall showers or Jacuzzi, large outdoor decks with inviting daybeds or sun loungers, are just some of the creature-comforts enjoyed by our guests. Dining options are diverse with many restaurants, bars and great-value all inclusive packages, topped off with Maldivian service – welcoming, genuine and friendly.

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**Note to Picture Editors:**

Images of Kuramathi can be viewed via the website [www.kuramathi.com](http://www.kuramathi.com)

High resolution images are available for download at: [www.universalimagesonline.com/kuramathi/](http://www.universalimagesonline.com/kuramathi/)

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