



# **MALDIVES – RUSSIA**

***CELEBRATING 55  
YEARS OF  
FRIENDSHIP***

**14 SEPTEMBER**

Today marks an important milestone in the bilateral relationship between the Republic of Maldives and the Russian Federation, as the two countries celebrate their 55th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.

During the course of diplomatic history, the Maldives – Russia cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral front has increased immensely, including increase in people to people contact.



To date, the Maldives have welcomed over **142,000** Russian tourists this year.

The Maldives and Russia, have a robust tourism sector cooperation. Russia holds the top position of the tourist arrivals in the Maldives with a market share of **23.3%**.

Currently there are 10 flights operating weekly by 3 airlines between Maldives and Russia; Aeroflot, Nordwind and Azur.



Over the course of decades long bilateral relationship, both Maldives and Russia have concluded multiple agreements in various sectors. One noteworthy agreement is the Agreement on “**Mutual Exemption of Visa Requirements for nationals of the Republic of Maldives and the**

**Russian Federation**”. The agreement was signed in June 2019 during the official visit of Minister Shahid to Russia. This was the first time the both the foreign ministers met.



Through the agreement, Maldivians can now freely enter Russia without obtaining a prior visa and can stay in Russia up to 90 days.

The Maldives and Russia continue to closely cooperate on important issues at the bilateral and multilateral fora, especially in the fields of education, trade and investment and other global areas of mutual importance.

## Foreign Minister of Maldives and Foreign Minister of Russia exchanged messages on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between both countries



Foreign Minister Shahid's message:

“It gives me great pleasure to congratulate and extend my best wishes to you, the Government and the friendly people of the Russian Federation on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

During the past fifty-five years of close cordial relations, both our countries have developed an exemplary bond of friendship founded on shared values, mutual understanding and goodwill. The Government of Maldives is grateful for the many contributions Russia has made towards the socio-economic development in the Maldives, particularly in the field of tourism. Tourism is the largest economic industry of the Maldives and Russia has always been a key tourism market, currently holding the top position of the tourist arrivals in the country. It is our hope that the cooperation on this front would be strengthened in the future, along with existing trade relations between both our countries. I look forward to working together with renewed impetus to further enhance our cooperation and collaboration both bilaterally and in the multilateral fora.

Let me extend my best wishes and prayers for your success, good health and well-being, and the continued progress and welfare of the people of the Russian Federation.”

Foreign Minister Lavrov's message:

“Please accept my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Maldives.

The Russian-Maldivian relations are based on the principles of equality and mutual respect. We note the substantial nature of the bilateral political dialogue, the intensity of which has significantly risen in recent years. We are confident that the constructive interaction with Male' in the international arena and further development of our cooperation in trade, economic, humanitarian and other practical areas go fully in line with the interests of the peoples of two countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all your fellow citizens well-being and every success”

