

The Crew REPORT

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The Maldives ease laws for visiting superyachts

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The Republic of the Maldives has announced some good news for superyachts visiting the region. Previous laws that allowed tourist vessels to stay in the Maldives for a maximum of 90 days have been officially changed to allow a 180 stay for visiting vessels. If the boat is registered by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the stay can be extended up to 270 days in total.



“After two years of convincing work by our team, we can finally share the rule change for tourist vessels,” says Mohamed Hameed of Asia Pacific Superyachts Maldives. According to immigration law, “crews should fly to another country within 90 days for an extension and, on return, they will get an additional 30 days free of charge and 60 days with extension. This can be repeated,” notes Hameed.

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“This is very good news and will be welcomed by many owners and captains,” adds Hameed. “We are happy to be one of the best and most fascinating travel destinations in the world fast emerging as a world favourite for superyacht cruising. We are seeing more and more yachts visiting the region every year and the longer duration yachts are allowed to stay in the Maldives will be attractive and encouraging more yachts to the Asia region as well.”

Asia as a whole is gradually facilitating the growth of the superyacht industry in the region through changing regulations and increasing facilities for visiting vessels. This change in regulation in the Maldives is representative of one of the many governments that are starting to understand the significant social and economic benefits of attracting superyachts and, as a result, are opening up more and more to the industry.