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Maldives Photographer of the Month – Lucie Mohelnikova

April 15th, 2014

The Maldives has many photogenic qualities, from landscape to marine life and even the people and culture. Some photographers have the ability to capture the essence of this archipelago in a way that stands out from the average photograph taken by holiday makers. Their photographs not only show us a picture but somehow bring us inside the scene and let us escape to the islands for a moment in time.



Island life perfection. Photo: Lucie Mohelnikova

Here we highlight the photographs of Lucie Mohelnikova, who was inspired to take up photography professionally after a random trip to the Maldives.

We asked Lucie about her experiences:

1. Q: What inspired you to get into photography?

A: It all started after my first visit random to the Maldives in 2009. It was also my first touch with DSLR Camera Olympus E-500, with two set lenses, and it was a really very big. Since I was going on vacation to the best destination in the world, my friends told me take a DSLR and not to use a compact camera. They said: maybe you will never visit Maldives once again, so keep your memories in good quality. So, I took it. I shot on Auto Mode all the time. I did not know what to do with this camera. LOL.

One beautiful female friend was with me on this trip and we just had fun taking some photos on the beach. When I came back to Europe, my friend saw my photos – landscape, portraits, street snapshots from Male' etc – and he told me I was good, that I have good eye for photography. He suggested that I go to try it professionally. I took his advice and I went back to Maldives after one year where met amazing people and started my friendship and business in the Maldives. The truth is, travel to Maldives, especially tickets from Europe, can be expensive. I could not do that as often as I do without my friends that I have in the Maldives.

2. Q: Tell us about your style of photography.

A: My photography style? Hmmmm, I like snapshots, landscape, street photography, ordinary life. All my portraits of Maldivians and people from Maldives are snapshots. I do not like stylized photos. Post-process is basic. I like colors and contrast on landscape photos and on the portraits like black & white post-process but does matter which kind of portrait etc.



The next generation of Maldivians growing up in the islands. Photo: Lucie Mohelnikova

3. Q: How did you end up in the Maldives and what got you hooked on Maldives photography?

A: As I mentioned, it was random. Now, I travel between Europe and Maldives a few times per year and usually stay around one or two months there. What hooked me? I do not know – the landscape, nature, and the people are really amazing in the Maldives and I want to show it to people who cannot go to Maldives because they do not have money etc. Unfortunately, I lost friends which I knew for many years when I started to travel to Maldives (people are jealous, but they do not know what does mean this profession. Everyone thinks it is dream work but...) but I found new ones, better ones. Everything has two sides. 😊

4. Q: What is it like to live in the Maldives? Tell us about your average day.

A: Ordinary life in the Maldives is the same as everywhere in the world. In Male' and Hulhumale' is common life like everywhere in cities. Same traffic. People wake up, go to work (shops, restaurants, taxi...) after work they go for dinner with friends and sleep. Next day, still the same. On the islands life is similar but more lazy. LOL. When I am in the Maldives I still travel between islands because we also have travel agency specialized for local travel in the Maldives and we manage our guest house. So I have to check all places if they are working good etc. When I'm not travelling, I try to relax but I am a very active person and after one day on the beach I am very tired and bored. Always wanting to do something.

5. Q: What islands and attractions should visitors make sure they see in the Maldives?

A: The best attractions for me are sand banks. They are the most amazing things that I have ever seen. Also, of course, the underwater life, fish, mantas, dolphins, turtles etc. To go fishing, sunset fishing, is the best. You can see the amazing sunset and after dark millions of amazing stars. I never saw such an amazing sky like in the Maldives. Island hopping is also interesting, and visiting the capital city, Male', for example National Museum, is very interesting. There is also Jumhooree Maidhaan (Republic Square), Friday Mosque, Fish Market, shopping etc. You can do whatever you want to do in the Maldives. If you like real pearls, buy them in the Maldives, real pearls are very cheap there.



Island Feydhoo Fnoithu Maldives. Photo: Lucie Mohelnikova

6. Q: What equipment do you use to capture your stunning tropical scenes?

A: Equipment:
Camera: Canon EOS 60 D
Lens: Canon EF 20mm f2.8 USM
Lens: Canon EF 35 mm f2
Lens: Canon EF 50mm f1.4 USM
Lens: Canon EF 70-200mm f4L USM
Flash: Canon Speedlite 430EX II Camera: Olympus E-620
Lens: Olympus Zuiko Digital 25mm f2.8 Pancake
Flash: Olympus FS-FL36R

7. Q: What are some tips for visitors who are photographing their moments in the Maldives?

A: Take your camera with you every time and everywhere. You never know what you will see or experience.

8. Q: What projects do you have in the pipeline that we can look forward to seeing?

A: Projects? Hmmmm, I am trying to finish a black and white photo series, street life photography from Maldives. Some photos have been and are on the exhibition in Prague.



Sand banks drop off into clear blue pools in the sea, in the Maldives. Photo: Lucie Mohelnikova

Who is Lucie?

Born in Czechoslovakia, Lucie Mohelnikova lives in Prague when she is not in the Maldives. She specializes in budget travel in the Maldives and runs a guest house. Lucie's work has featured in international publications, including Tiger Tales Magazine of Singapore, as well as in public photography exhibitions. More of her photography can be found at: www.luciemphotography.com.

How interesting it is to see how these beautiful photographs are created! If you're a photographer that highlights the Maldives in your work, we would love to feature you as the Maldives photographer of the month. Get in touch here: luciem@luciemphotography.com

A marvellous way to take your own amateur or professional photos of the Maldives is from a liveboard. As you cruise through the islands there will be nothing but inspiration for beautiful photography. Check out the details now on for the Maldivian Dream, here.

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