

5 Historic Places to Visit in MALDIVES

1. Home of a legendary Maldivian hero

Located in Haa Alif Atoll, 'Utheemu Ganduvaru' is the childhood home of Mohammed Thakurufaanu – the Maldivian national hero who, alongside his brothers, toppled the Portuguese rule in 1573. Visitors are able to tour the palace which is over 500 years old.

The palace, with its fascinating and intricate wooden interiors, holds particular historic significance to the Maldives as it still includes swing beds, lamps that burn coco palm oil and various furniture which were used during the time.



2. Oldest cemetery of the Maldives

Located in Addu City Meedhoo, 'Koagannu' is the oldest cemetery in the Maldives and the resting place of many important figures from local history. The island is one of the oldest inhabited islands in Addu City with a history stretching back some 3000 years. The tombstones in the cemetery reflect the craftsmanship of the early inhabitants.

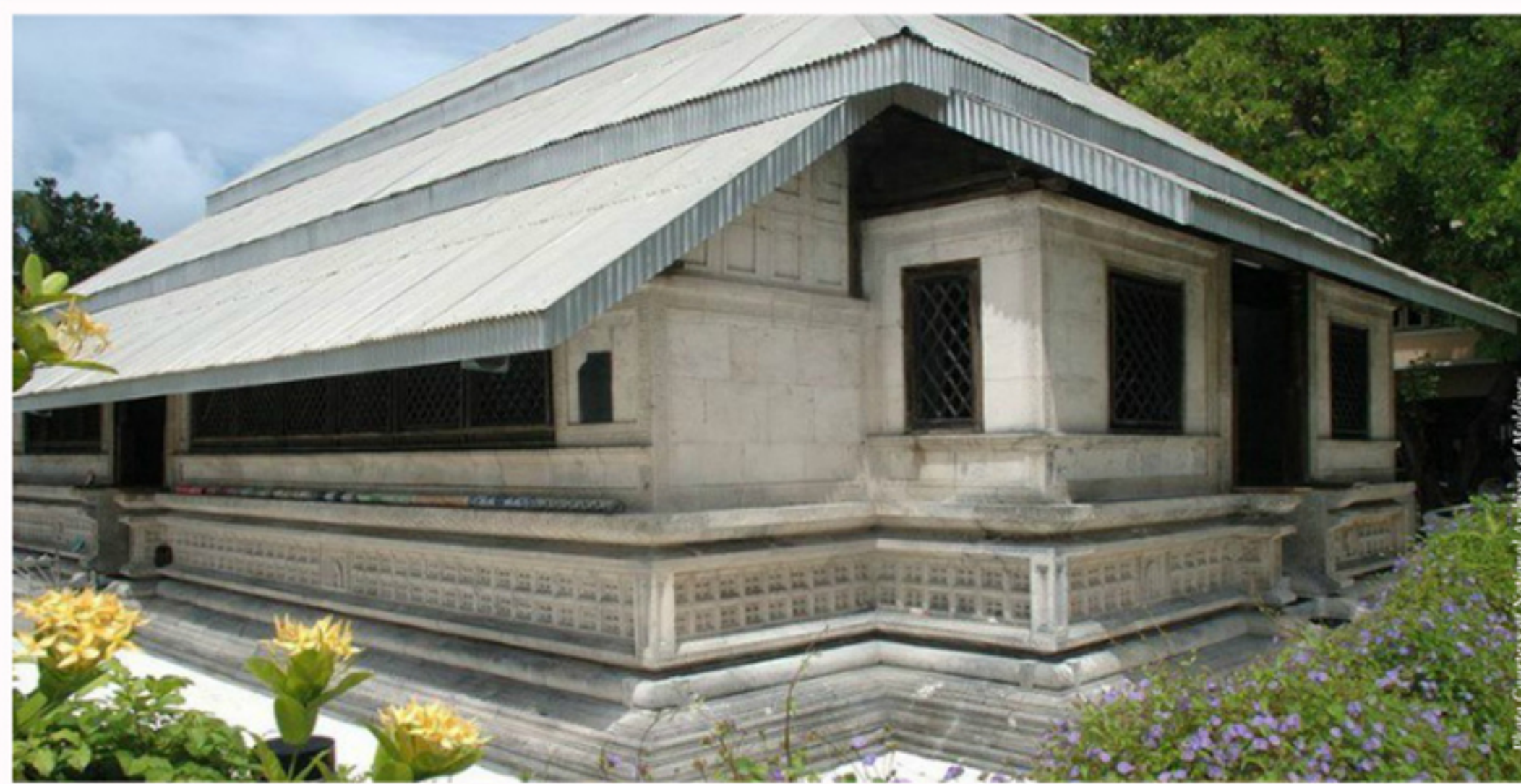
While on the island the visitor can also visit the ruins of British military bunkers that were erected during the Second World War, when the island was used as a staging post. And within close range of the cemetery are other important historical places.



3. Relics of World War Two.

Gan is the southernmost island in the Maldives, and acted as a British Naval and Airbase during the Second World War. Much of what the British left behind remains today, including living quarters and open baths.

Visitors can also visit the wreck of the WW2 era tanker, 'British Loyalty,' which was torpedoed by a German U-Boat in 1944. Gan also preserved several ancient Buddhist remains which were studied by the famous explorer HCP Bell in 1922. Worth a look for history buffs.



4. The Friday Mosque

'Hukuru Miskiy' or Male' Friday Mosque is among the oldest mosques in the capital city and the most visited tourist attractions as well. The mosque is over 350 years old and its walls and ceilings preserve intricate carvings and lacquer work.

The mosque, which was built with Coral boulders, is on the tentative UNESCO World Heritage cultural list as a unique example of sea-culture architecture. It also has a capacity of around 10,000 worshippers making it one of the biggest mosques of the time.



5. Haunted Mangroves

The longest island in the Maldives, L. Gan, is also home to a mysterious and historic mangrove known locally as 'Boda Fenganda.' It is whispered that at night the genies (Jinn, or fairies) come to the mangrove to bathe and rest.

Legend says the waters around the mangrove are bottomless. They say that if something falls into the waters it will emerge far out to sea – do you dare to swim in these waters? Whether you believe the tales, the mangrove is a natural beauty and home to exotic fauna.