How to get started

Your journey to the Maldives market in 5 steps

A licensed broker guides you through every step — making the process smooth and straightforward from day one.

1. **Choose a licensed broker**
   Select from CMDA-licensed brokers and dealers operating in Maldives
2. **Complete registration**
   Your broker registers you on the CMDA Foreign Investor Portal
3. **Open a securities account**
   Hold your investments securely at the Maldives Securities Depository (MSD)
4. **Set up your investment account**
   Open a Securities Inward Investment Account at any local Maldivian bank
5. **Start trading**
   Buy and sell on the Maldives Stock Exchange through your broker

No need to travel to Maldives

Your broker can complete the entire registration and setup process on your behalf remotely. Invest and manage your portfolio from anywhere in the world.

Ready to take the first step?
Contact a CMDA-licensed broker today

YOUR GATEWAY TO GROWTH

CMDA

Capital Market Development Authority: the regulator. Licensing, rules and investor registration

cmda.gov.mv

Maldives Stock Exchange

The official trading platform for all listed securities.

stockexchange.mv

Ministry of Economic Development & Trade

Foreign Investment Act approvals and sector licences.

trade.gov.mv

Ministry of Economic Development & Trade

Foreign Investment Act approvals and sector licences.

trade.gov.mv

Maldives Securities Depository

Where your securities are safely held and registered.

msd.mv

This leaflet is for general awareness only. Based on the Maldives Securities Act 2/2006 (3rd Amendment, Sept 2024). Rules effective September 2025. Seek advice from a licensed professional before investing.

CMDA
Capital Market Development Authority

YOUR GATEWAY TO GROWTH

Invest in Paradise. Profit with Purpose.

The Maldives capital market is now open to foreign investors. Transparent rules. Real returns. A growing economy waiting for you

Start investing today

Why the Maldives?

A thriving island economy with room to grow

The Maldives is one of Asia's most dynamic economies — powered by tourism, real estate and a fast-growing private sector. The 2024 regulatory reforms opened the capital market to foreign investors for the very first time.

$2.5B — **Total market capitalisation**
MSE-listed companies spanning tourism, banking and infrastructure

100% — **Bond ownership permitted**
Hold government and corporate bonds without any foreign ownership cap

2025 — **Newly open market**
Be among the first foreign investors in a fresh, regulated market

What makes Maldives unique

- Early mover advantage — less competition, more opportunity right now
- Tourism-backed economy — one of the world's most resilient, dollar-earning sectors
- Regulated & transparent — CMDA oversight protects your investment with a formal legal framework

Who can invest & what you can own

The Maldives capital market warmly welcomes two categories of foreign investor, each with access to a range of listed securities.

Retail investors

Any individual who is not a Maldivian national. Build your personal portfolio through a licensed broker.

Institutional investors

Companies, funds and legal entities incorporated outside Maldives. Invest at scale through the same simple process.

Securities you can hold

- Shares — up to 10% of any single listed company
- Bonds — government & corporate, up to 100% ownership
- Sukuk & notes — all CMDA-approved instruments

Get in early

Foreign participation only opened in September 2025. Investors who move now are entering at the ground floor of a professionally regulated, growing market with a strong sovereign base.

A framework built to protect you

The rules are straightforward — and your licensed broker handles most of the compliance work on your behalf.

- **10% equity cap per company**

  No single foreign investor may hold more than 10% of shares in any one listed company — keeping the market fair and stable.

- **All transactions via licensed brokers**

  Your broker handles compliance on your behalf — you invest, they manage the paperwork.

- **Funds flow through a local bank account**

  A Securities Inward Investment Account makes moving money in and out of Maldives easy and transparent.

- **Sector rules may apply**

  Banking, telecoms and tourism may have additional limits under the Foreign Investment Act 2024.

Your broker does the heavy lifting

Registers you on the CMDA portal
Submits your quarterly holdings reports
Ensures you stay within ownership limits
Executes all your trades on the MSE
Guides you through the annual audit process

Invest from anywhere in the world

You do not need to visit Maldives to invest. Your licensed broker handles registration and setup on your behalf. Trade and manage your full portfolio remotely, at any time.