

MALDIVES

The Maldives

The Maldives Islands stretch from North to South of the Equator in the Indian Ocean. 26 Coral Atolls formed above Ancient submerged Volcanic Mountain ranges which made a string of over 1200 Palm fringed Coral Islands, with large barrier reefs, which serve to protect them from the open sea.

Gan International Airport

Gan is situated 0.067 degrees South of the Equator in Addu Atoll, located in the heart of the Indian Ocean. Gan Airport was constructed by Royal Navy Engineers and the Royal Airforce in 1939. The reason being that the Japanese forces had occupied Singapore and surrounding countries, as a result the RAF could not reach Australia by Air. On completion, Gan Airport opened an Air corridor to reach Australia. After the end of the Second World War the RAF operated Gan as an Airbase until 1975. Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip visited Gan in 1965. In 2016 the new Gan International Airport was officially opened. SAA was the first long haul wide bodied International carrier to land in Gan on the 3rd December 2018.

ATO - SAA

A.T.O, in conjunction with SAA, has previously operated 267 round trip SAA charters to the Maldives. A.T.O will offer regular flights to Gan Airport. The flying time from O.R Tambo International Airport to Gan International Airport is 6 hours and 30 minutes. The SAA Airbus 340-300 wide bodied aircraft has four jet engines, 38 Business class seats with lie flat beds, 211 Economy seats.

ATO Mission

Our mission is to develop and promote Tourism to Addu Atoll and the Southern Maldives. The Maldivian authorities have laid down strict laws to protect and preserve the natural Environment, both above and below the sea. We at A.T.O are honoured to be associated with South African Airways, in their endeavour to spread their wings and create new routes into South East Asia and beyond, as we *Fly into the Future*.

