

- ANANTARA INSIDERS -

SKY EDHURU

On a private island in the Indian Ocean, Anantara Kihavah Maldives Villas unveils an astronomer's paradise. Situated in the Baa Atoll, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Anantara Kihavah stands as one of the best places on earth to enjoy stargazing. With minimal light pollution and its proximity to the equator, the region offers breathtaking views of both the southern and northern skies. At SKY, the finest overwater stargazing observatory paired with a luxurious cosmic-themed bar, guests can indulge in champagne while gazing at the stars alongside a resident storytelling SKY Edhuru. Equipped with the most powerful telescope in the region, this experience offers a captivating window into the universe.

Resident SKY Edhuru Sajida, fondly known as Saji, and Ali Arushal, known as Shalli, share their deep understanding of the Maldivian night sky through captivating celestial stories. In the local Dhivehi language, *Edhuru* means a person of knowledge or a teacher. While Shalli is a native of Baa Atoll; both Saji and Shalli bring the stars to life with warmth and insight, guided by a personal connection to the skies above the Maldives.



ANANTARA

KIHAVAH MALDIVES
VILLAS

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SAJIDHA

Saji's fascination with the night sky began in childhood, inspired by quiet moments of looking up and stories shared beneath the moon. What started as curiosity grew into a lifelong passion, shaped by the belief that the cosmos is a living gallery of stories and possibilities waiting to be explored.

A defining moment came during a meteor shower over the lagoon, when streaks of light crossed the horizon and transformed the night into something intimate and alive. In that stillness, Saji realised the universe is not distant, but present and deeply connected to our sense of wonder.

As the first female SKY Edhuru at Anantara Kihavah, Saji sees her role as an open invitation. She hopes to show that astronomy is for everyone, creating an environment where guests feel welcome to ask questions, reflect and reconnect with curiosity.

At SKY, she guides guests through constellations and celestial events with a balance of science and storytelling. Using simple explanations and hands on moments, she makes the experience engaging for all ages, allowing guests to explore at their own pace.

Stargazing at Kihavah, she believes, is uniquely immersive. With dark skies, warm air and the gentle rhythm of the lagoon, the universe feels close and personal. Saji hopes guests leave with a renewed sense of awe, curiosity and connection that lingers long after they look up for the last time.





“Under the Maldivian sky, science and storytelling come together. When we combine observation with knowledge, the universe feels less distant and more meaningful, especially when shared beneath the stars.”

- Sajidha-

- SKY EDHURU -

ALI ARUSHAL

Shalli, a native of Baa Atoll, was born and raised on the island of Kendhoo. While his childhood there was happy and enjoyable, his interest in the stars began early on. However, it wasn't until he joined Anantara Kihavah that he fully immersed himself in the field of astronomy.

Joining Anantara Kihavah's transport department in 2021, Shalli is part of the resort's launch crew, responsible for ensuring smooth transport operations. Despite his primary responsibilities, his fascination with the Maldivian night sky led him to volunteer as the resort's next SKY Edhuru.

Over one and a half years of training under the resort's first SKY Edhuru, Shalli underwent intensive learning, including theory tests, reading assignments, and stargazing demonstrations.

He eagerly supplements his training by seeking additional information online. Shalli describes his first stargazing session with guests as stunning, quickly embracing his role as a SKY Edhuru.

He enjoys sharing his passion and revealing unknown knowledge about the stars. While Antares star holds a special place in his heart, Shalli finds joy in showing guests distant constellations or witnessing celestial events such as lunar eclipses, solar eclipses, or meteor showers with them.



“Stargazing isn't just about observing stars; it's about connecting with the cosmos. Beneath our Maldivian skies, every twinkle tells a story, and every moment spent gazing upward is a journey into the endless wonders of the universe. To the naked eye, it may seem blurry, but through our telescope, it's stunning: thousands of stars sparkle like diamonds, each one over 17,000 light years away.”

- Ali Arushal -



Our SKY Edhurus lead guests on a cosmic journey across both hemisphere's stars and planets, clarifying what can be seen in the sky with the naked eye and using a green laser, they point out different constellations and explains light years and different types of galaxies. Guests are then able to view the sky from the observatory telescope which has a viewing capacity of 30 million light years away.

The locale gives guests an opportunity to see lunar eclipses, stars and planets invisible from Europe or America. Sometimes, depending on climate and time of the year, you can even catch a glimpse of Saturn with its pale-yellow rings, belts of Jupiter that vary in width, colour and intensity from year to year and the several hundred thousand of stars that make up Messier 13.

SKY is the finest over water observatory in the Maldives built with a 3.8 metre revolving Ash-dome and equipped with a research-grade Meade 16" LX200 telescope with a magnification of 400x mounted on a super-giant field tripod.

