The Maldives has been a dream destination for honeymooners and a brand name for affluent tourists who appreciate the art of doing nothing. But now it is a place that people can go to do something: that is, run a road race.

Instead, you might picture yourself sipping a fresh coconut as you soak up the sun while lazing on a pristine white sand beach, or in a hammock under the shade of a coconut palm, a gentle breeze embracing you and the serene rhythm of the waves taking you to the land of nod.

For the adventurous traveler, the Dhiraagu Maldives Road Race opens up new possibilities. It is the perfect way to get a taste of local life in the capital city, blend in with local people and absorb the characteristic hustle and bustle of the liveliest city in the Maldives. Dhiraagu, the largest telecom operator in the Maldives, organizes the race every year. Not only does this race give you the...
opportunity to run along the beautiful coastline of the capital city in one of the most exotic and unique nations in the world, but by participating you help to raise awareness of a pressing social cause. This year the race was dedicated to help protect children and funds generated will be donated to six local NGOs endorsed for the event. Every year the event brings together people and communities from all corners in the country. It is the largest race held in the Maldives and has now been held for eight years.

This year’s race opened new avenues for international participation. It is the first AIMS-certified race in the country. Three thousand runners signed up for the race, representing 32 different nationalities including Japan, United States, Australia, Afghanistan, Palestine, Russia, Mali, Mexico – all running for a single cause, to help protect children.

The race begins at the Surf Area in Male city, commonly known as “Raalhugandu” among the locals, which means “surf spot”. Thousands of people, children and families gather here to enjoy the festivity of the event, including children’s games, stalls for different activities, local music and food.

The run is an adventure, the warm Maldivian air embracing you. While you start the race with the rapid cadence of the Surf Point waves on one side, and the laughter and excitement of the mass on the other, a few metres down the road, you find yourself alongside the beach that caters a third of the Maldivian population. Moving on you pass by the ferries that take you to the nearby island of Hulhumale, and the airport. Past the green patch of Republic Square you are engulfed in the aroma of fresh fish from the fish market while locally-grown fruits and vegetables greet you from the busy markets. Further on lies the Maldives Customs and Maldives Ports Authority, the maritime gateway and the business hub of the country. After many more boats and high-rise buildings, and past the “Dharubaa’ruge” convention centre you will find that you have absorbed the unique charm of a tiny island capital city, a blend of everything, all in a fleeting moment.

You come back to the surf spot after having conquered the course, officially certified as 10,000m. On one side you have the welcoming waves and on the other the crowd, celebrating your victory. On a warm day in June, even at 32°C and 80% humidity, the runners radiate an air of contentment. The crowds cheer the elite runners and locals alike, while the six NGOs rejoice in their hopes and aspirations for a better generation of Maldivian children.

You finally catch your breath and relax after the run. The beach is mere minutes away, where you could take a quick dip in the calm waters, or you could head off on another adventure, but this time hopping on a boat to take you to a quiet island of your choice. After all, there is no better place to relax than the Maldives.

Dhiraagu Maldives Road Race

The race will be run again on 5 June 2015.

For event information visit www.dmrr.mv

Dhiraagu Maldives Road Race

Result

MEN:
1 Benson Olenakeri OLOISUNGA KEN 32:19
2 Edwin Kipchirchir KEMBOI KEN 34:08
3 Ahmed YAUGOUB MDV 40:44
4 Ahmed SHARAF MDV 40:48
5 Wifaag HUSSEIN MDV 45:13
6 Abdulla SHAHUNEZ MDV 45:39
7 Yahir Abdul RAHEEM MDV 45:40
8 Gasim SHAKIR MDV 46:28
9 Ibrahim ZAMEER MDV 46:37

WOMEN:
1 Rodah Jepkorir TANUI KEN 37:48
2 Mueena MOHAMED MDV 52:11
3 Shazna MOHAMED MDV 52:15
4 Mareike EICHORN GER 54:25
5 Alinath NAZRA MDV 55:39
6 Nahida MOHAMED MDV 57:24
7 Mariyam Ilham NIYAZ MDV 1:00:06
8 Leela AHMED MDV 1:01:55
9 Veronica Castrejon GONZALEZ MEX 1:04:52
10 Athira RASHEED MDV 1:10:24