Coastal tourism offers a diverse range of recreational activities and attractions, from pristine beaches to luxury resorts, attracting millions of travellers seeking relaxation, adventure, and cultural experiences. Coast and ocean play a vital role in Maldives tourism, driving economic development and prosperity. While tourism’s appeal lies in natural beauty and recreational opportunities, it also presents challenges such as environmental degradation and overdevelopment. Sustainable practices aim to address these issues by balancing economic growth with environmental protection and social inclusion. This module explores the economic significance, environmental impact, and future challenges of coastal tourism, emphasising the importance of responsible development for preserving our “paradise”.

Topics covered:

What does coastal tourism offer?
Aspects of tourism in the Maldives
What are sustainable practices in coastal tourism?
Artificial Resort Islands: Can they be natural?
The impact of climate change on coastal destinations
Can the current level of growth/development sustain our pristine coastal environment?