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Press Release

SOUL Festival to debut in the Maldives in September 2023

*An immersive exploration of health and wellness will be coming to
Soneva Fushi in the Baa Atoll*



October 26, 2022. Pioneering hospitality brand [Soneva](#) and international wellness enterprise [ORGANIC INDIA](#) have partnered to launch the first-ever [SOUL Festival](#) in the Maldives. Taking place from September 29 to October 8, 2023, the health and wellbeing-focused festival will be held at the award-winning luxury resort [Soneva Fushi](#), located within the Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Over the course of ten days and two weekends, the intimate festival retreat invites guests from across the world to explore wellness in all its forms, from personal to planetary.

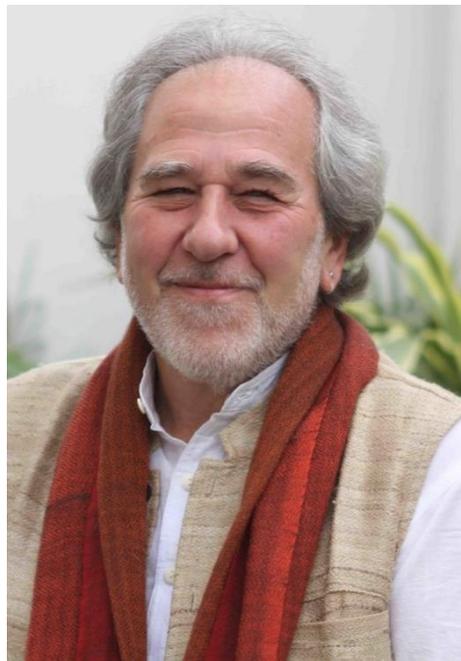
Following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, a focus on wellness and living a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle has never been more important. Champions of innovation and positive change, both Soneva and Organic India are committed to nurturing the wellbeing of their communities and the environment. Proceeds from the sale of SOUL Festival tickets will go to the [Soneva Foundation](#) and ORGANIC INDIA Foundation to support the development of projects that have a positive environmental, social and economic impact.

A life-enriching festival with a purpose, SOUL offers guests a verdant space to move, eat, explore and be creative, while celebrating ancient healing traditions and modern innovations that benefit individuals, communities and the planet. Each weekend, the festival will include a diverse programme of panel discussions with globally acclaimed health and wellness leaders, interspersed with group yoga and meditation classes, healing rituals, live music performances and barefoot gala celebrations on the sand.



Weekdays at SOUL will focus on a more immersive wellbeing journey for guests, with intimate, experiential workshops each day, and one-on-one consultations with world-renowned wellness specialists and practitioners.

Idyllic venues inspired by Soneva Fushi's breath-taking island location elevate guests' wellness experience and invite them to rejuvenate and relax, while delicious, wholesome menus will be specially curated to support guests' wellness goals, with an emphasis on plant-based cuisine and adaptogenic foods that rebalance and restore. Rare, one-of-a-kind experiences also offer the chance to reconnect with nature and embrace the Slow Life in between sessions: from ziplining through the rainforest to dine in the treetops, to snorkelling with expert Marine Biologists, to swimming with manta rays or escaping to a private sandbank to watch the sunset.



The inaugural edition of SOUL will welcome a global line-up of visionaries, thought leaders and wellness pioneers to further explore the frontiers of health and wellbeing. The list of international speakers includes psychologist, scientist and social entrepreneur **Shamini Jain**; gastroenterologist, neuroscientist and author of *The Mind Gut Connection* **Dr Emeran Mayer**; clinical psychologist and mindfulness expert **Shauna Shapiro**; Goi Peace Award recipient and best-selling author **Bruce Lipton**; renowned spiritual leader and motivational speaker **Sadhvi Bhagwati Saraswati**; award-winning journalist and New York Times bestselling author **Jo Marchant**; American director, producer and cinematographer **Louie Schwartzberg**; thirteen-time best-selling author and founder of Bio Blends **Dr Libby Weaver**; award-winning science journalist **Gaia Vince**; naturopathic doctor and doctor of Oriental medicine **Dr Lilly-Marie Blecher**; Ayurvedic doctor and



author **Dr Robert Svoboda**, who is the first-ever Westerner to graduate from a college of Ayurveda and be licensed to practice in India; and anxiety and mindfulness coach **Amanda Huggins**.

“We are so proud to host the first edition of SOUL Festival at Soneva Fushi,” says Sonu Shivdasani, CEO and co-founder of Soneva. “Wellness permeates all that we do at Soneva: our sustainable, barefoot philosophy that reconnects our guests to the earth; our life-affirming natural locations; our delicious yet health-focused cuisine; and our life-changing guest experiences. The festival’s remarkable programme is an opportunity to explore every facet of health and wellbeing, and I cannot wait to welcome the line-up of outstanding wellness experts to our shores.”

“SOUL Festival is a rare opportunity to experience a deeply immersive journey with some of the world’s leaders in wellness, health and regeneration”, adds festival director Chris Deckker. “From keynote talks and interactive panels to immersive workshops, intimate dinners and remote Island adventures, this unprecedented festival retreat is unlike any other in the world, hosted on one of the most magical Islands in the Maldives.”



Throughout each day during their stay, guests will be able to explore and indulge in everything that Soneva Fushi has to offer: miles of pristine sandy beaches edged by tranquil turquoise waters; exquisite private villa accommodation, with Barefoot Guardians on hand 24/7 to anticipate every request; exceptional dining destinations serving the finest cuisine from across the world; and unique experiences that create memories to last a lifetime.

In addition to the live, in-person sessions for Soneva Fushi guests, SOUL’s sessions will also be streamed to a vast global audience. Online participants will be encouraged to make a donation to support the event, further raising funds and knowledge about the causes and initiatives supported by the Soneva Foundation and the Organic India Foundation.



For those wanting to attend SOUL Festival, Soneva's exclusive offer starts from USD 6,900 for two guests for a minimum three-night stay. This includes two festival tickets and full access to the entire programme during guests' stay, with luxurious private villa accommodation alongside daily full board at selected dining destinations and complimentary round-trip wheeled plane domestic transfers.

For more information about SOUL Festival, click [HERE](#)

For more information on the SOUL Festival offer, click [HERE](#)

To watch the official SOUL Festival video, click [HERE](#)

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About Soneva

Founded in 1995, Soneva is an award-winning sustainable luxury resorts operator. At Soneva Fushi, Soneva Jani and Soneva in Aqua in the Maldives, and Soneva Kiri in Thailand, true 'luxury' is defined by peace, time and space. Each day, guests are encouraged to discover the SLOW LIFE, reconnecting with themselves and the natural world through rare, unforgettable experiences that inspire and enthrall.

Soneva is a pioneer for responsible tourism, combining a conscientious, proactive approach to sustainability with exquisite luxury and intuitive personalised service. Carbon neutral since 2012, Soneva launched its Total Impact Assessment in 2016, a first for the hospitality industry, measuring its social and environmental impacts. A mandatory 2% environmental levy is added to every Soneva stay, with proceeds going towards the not-for-profit Soneva Foundation to offset both direct and indirect carbon emissions from resort activities and guest flights. The Foundation funds a range of global projects that have a positive environmental, social and economic impact.

For more information, visit: www.soneva.com

About ORGANIC INDIA

ORGANIC INDIA is involved in the business of manufacturing, trading, exporting and importing all kinds of herbal infusions, ayurvedic medicines and preparations, herbs, herbal products, tea, food products and organic products. At the heart of ORGANIC INDIA is their commitment to being a living embodiment of love



and Consciousness in action. Their products are made in India and reach consumers worldwide with a message of interconnectedness and oneness with Nature.

For more information, visit: www.organicindia.com

ORGANIC INDIA is part of Fabindia Group, a consumer lifestyle platform with an established 62-year legacy focused on authentic, sustainable and Indian traditional lifestyle products. Fabindia is a unique business model of sustainable rural employment that has created a base for over 50,000 artisans through Contract Manufacturers and over 2,200 farmers engaged directly and 10,300 farmers engaged through associates in India.

For more information, visit www.fabindia.com

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