



# St. Sometimes

*Merry Christmas 2016*

*Traveling with the Judds*

*Underwater Again !*



Go Pro Hero 4 Photo by Matt Judd



<https://www.atmosphere-kanifushi.com/>

## Put it On the Underhills' Bill

### THE MALDIVES?

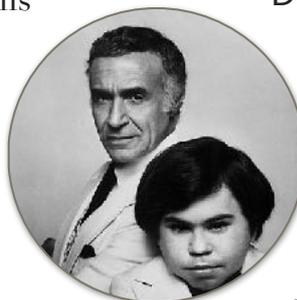
These illustrious islands and atolls are in the Indian Ocean just above the Equator at 4°N. My trip started in Saudi. We flew about 45 minutes to Doha, Qatar for a few hour layover, then Qatar Airways flew us direct for 5 hours to Male, the capital of the Maldives. The resort met us at the airport upon arrival and drove us to their private clubroom to await our sea plane. The sea plane ride flew us over beautiful atolls and islands for a final 45 minutes.

### KANIFUSHI RESORT

Yes, I had another opportunity to stay at an all inclusive resort

for a holiday. Yes, this was expensive! More than I have ever paid for any vacation, but it was well worth it.

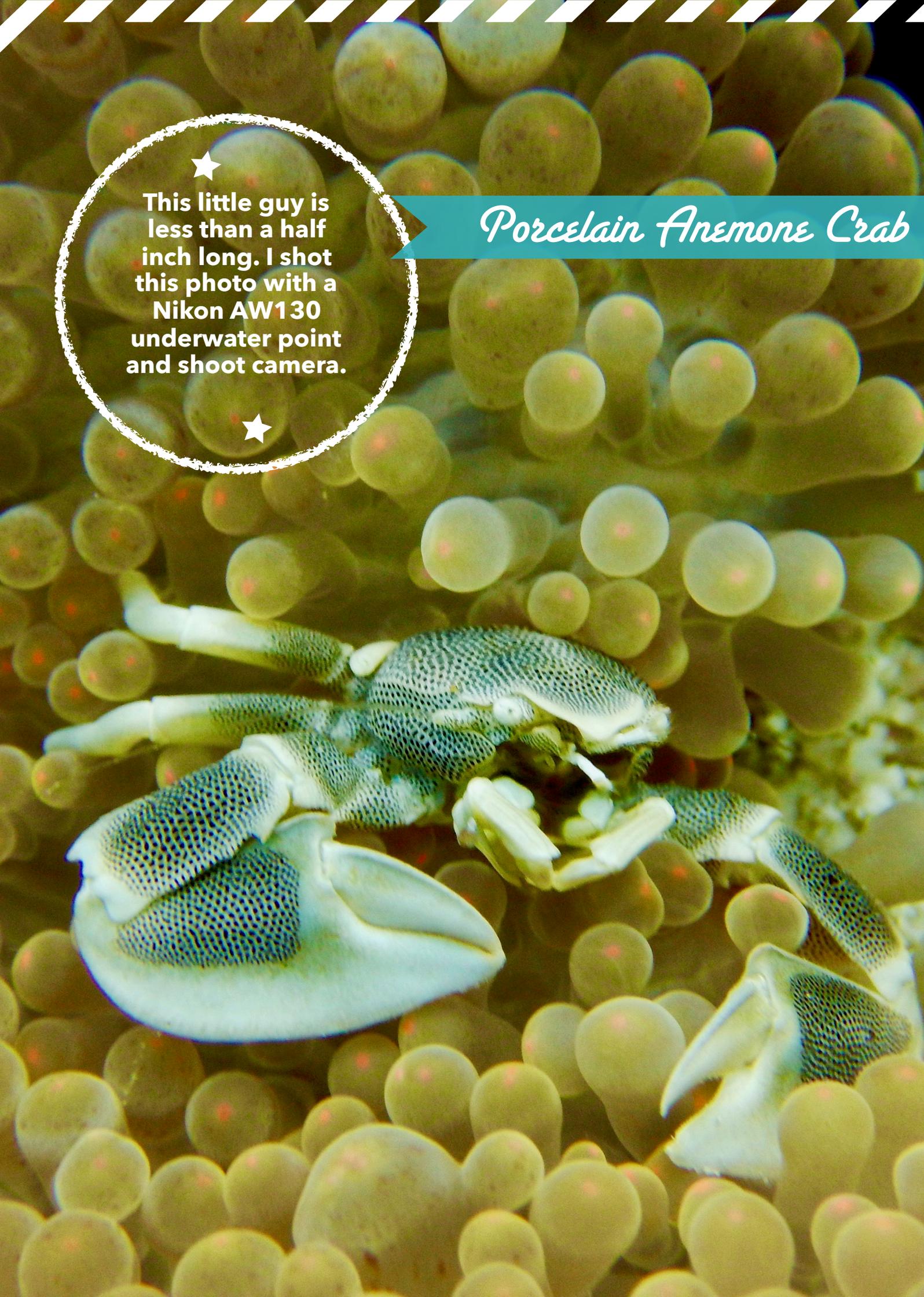
The country is Muslim, which means pork and alcohol are non grata. But, resorts do provide. It was pig and Coronas for ten days.



### DO I HEAR DRUMS?

The official landing reminded me of Fantasy Island, the old 70's show on Friday nights. Too bad Ricardo Montalban and Tattoo weren't there to greet us. But there was a dude beating on the drums as the staff greeted us! Priceless.





★  
This little guy is  
less than a half  
inch long. I shot  
this photo with a  
Nikon AW130  
underwater point  
and shoot camera.

★

## *Porcelain Anemone Crab*



**T**his was the view from our dual bungalows. The wide beach made an excellent barrier for the two year-old twins! Matt and Stacy could just let the kids play in the back. If one of the little cherubs made a run for the ocean, they usually turned around just beyond the chairs. The breadth of the beach also allowed for more privacy for us.

*Complete with Geckos, hermit crabs, and fruit bats! ... "FRUIT BAT!"*

**K**anifushi rooms include an outdoor bathroom with a spectacular whirlpool bath. "Just remember to fill the bath with water before you turn on the jets" says Matt. If you don't there will be water jets spraying all over the bathroom.



**N**ight time on the island was spectacular! The stars would shine down from the clear skies and the resort was lit up for the holidays. All you can drink and all you can eat is certainly something I'm not used to. \*\*It was so much fun to be on an island only 2Km long and 90m wide. On one side is the open ocean and the other is a bay. Absolutely stunning!



# With the Family Again

## WHO'S THE BLONDE STRANGER?

Going on vacation with the Schneider/Judd family is so much fun. I cannot get enough. This is maybe my fourth big trip with Stacy and Matt over the years.

I certainly have to thank them for allowing me to be a part of their family for this trip, but even more so for planning it. I just threw in cash and poof... we are in an all inclusive resort.

Carew is a 4 1/2 year old Star Wars Lego fanatic. Perfect. He is followed around like a Jedi Master by his twin brothers, Brooks and Walker. The only way any of us, including Stacy

and Matt, can tell the difference is by a small birth



mark. Therefore, Brooks is always dressed in blue. It works unless the boys are naked on the beach...and they were naked on the beach all the time!

## NAPS FOR EVERYONE

This wonderful family is my surrogate family overseas. Their bedtimes remind me of Jason and Erin and how the bedtime is enforced nightly. Everything we did on this vacation was dependent on fresh diapers and naps.

Without those, we couldn't sit at the dinner table, hang out in the pool, or steal away for a dive while the kids were at Kindercare.

Talk about a trooper... not only is Stacy pregnant with number 4, she rolled her ankle just before we left Saudi. I don't know how she does it!

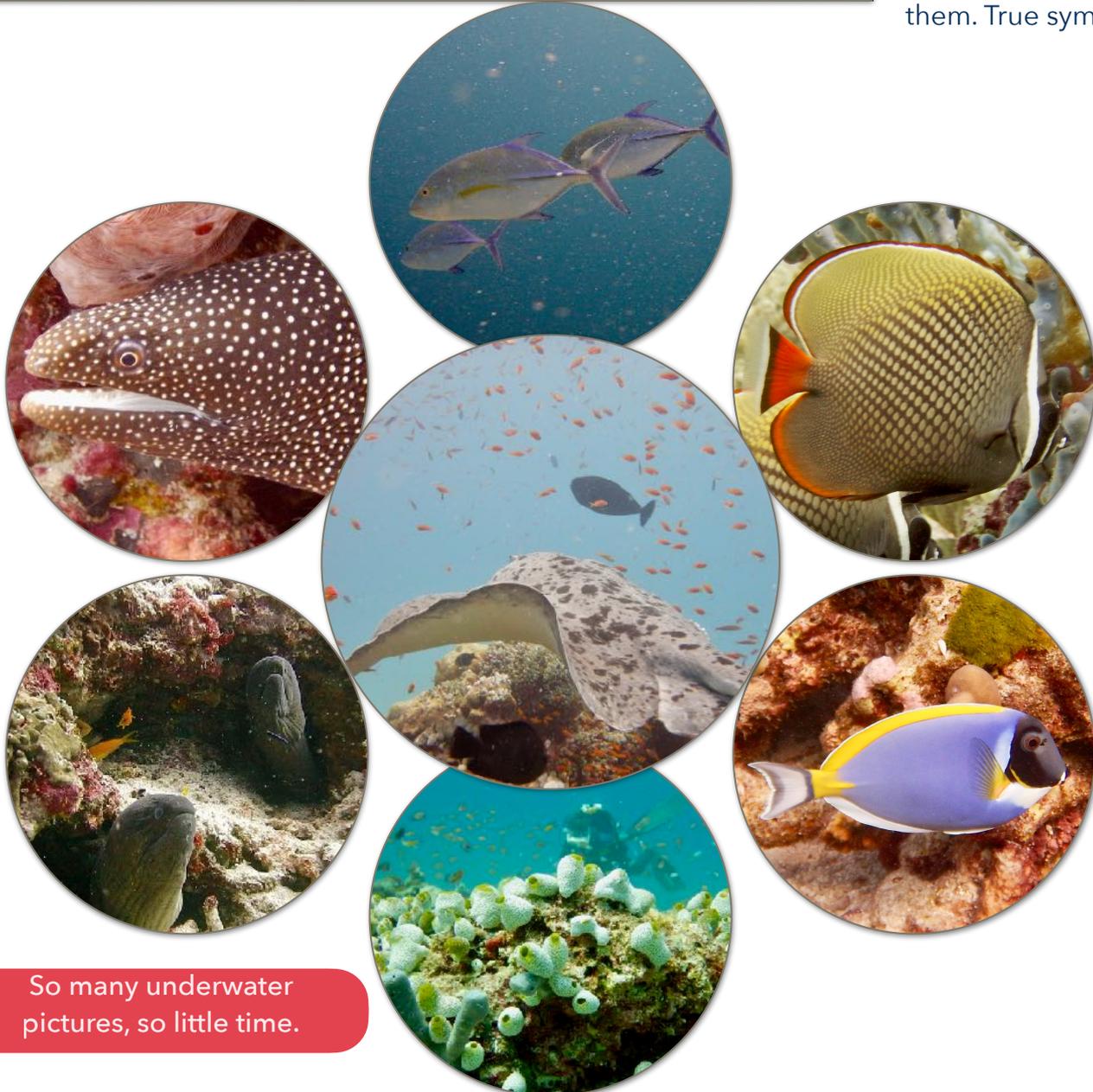
What an amazing family. Where are we going to go next? I vote for Maldives again.



*For Carew and Teddy - two super Lego lovers!*



**E**els come in all shapes and sizes. This was the first time I have seen a white moray with a yellow mouth. In fact, I have searched for information on white morays, but this might just be an albino. Mara, our dive guide, was super excited to find this eel. She and I went back a second time to find it again. The little blue wrasse clean the eel and the eel protects the little fishes rather than eat them. True symbiosis.



So many underwater pictures, so little time.



**D**

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**C**lown trigger fish are one of my favorites. They are very shy and difficult to photograph, at least for me. The clown colors are outstanding and there is no need to fear an attack. This trigger doesn't go after divers like the titan triggers do. Just be patient and snap a whole lot of fotos when you see one. It won't sit still.



## Beautiful

### BATFISH

Also known as Atlantic Spades, these two decided to sit still together for a photo. I just learned the juvenile batfish floats around and looks exactly like a dead leaf.

### JUVENILES

Most of the juveniles of different fish species are brilliant colors. In nature, vibrant colors are usually a warning of toxicity so juveniles are brightly colored or translucent.

### SCHOOLS OF FISH

Perhaps my favorite part of diving the Maldives was the schools of fish. Thousands of black and dark blue trigger fish were the most

abundant reef fish but I saw school of so many different fishes in schools. Matt and I dove right through several large schools of banner fish (see page 6) on different dives.

### MANTIS SHRIMP

Do you see a circle in the sand? Do you see two green Alien eyes? Don't point your finger at this little beast just to show your dive buddy where to look. The Mantis shrimp can (and will) take off a finger tip. We found this guy (bottom right) at the Manta Cleaning Station dive site.

\*\*\*See those green eyes? It can see you back in 16 colors, the most complex set of eyes in the animal kingdom. [Click here for more information and pics.](#)



It is amazing how good a beer tastes after several dry months in a Muslim country.



Carew's Favorite part was either the snorkeling or the waterfall d' chocolate for his marshmallows

- 12 DAYS OF A MALDIVES CHRISTMAS VACATION**
12. Diapers a Day
  11. Hermit Crabs
  10. Spilled Milks
  9. "daddy will get it"
  - 8 Coronas for Greg
  7. Snorkel Trips
  6. Fruit Bats
  - 5 o'Clock Fish Feeds
  4. Choc- Marshmallows
  3. Naked Kids on Beach
  2. Adjoining Suites
  1. Broken Foot for Stacy



Thanks for the diving tours, Mara



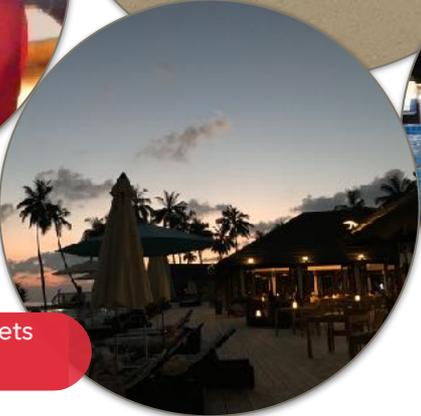
Super Mommy of 3.5 boys



5 Star Hotel Rooms overlooking the beach



Thai Fishing Pants Retired



Beautiful Sunsets by the pool



Daily Pool visits for Carew and Matt

# Diving with Matt

## THE PHOTO TEAM

This issue includes photos from fourteen dives in the Maldives. Most of the pictures are from my Nikon AW130, the new one. My first one drowned on the third day of diving in the Seychelles last Easter. Matt is still processing his shots. Daddy duty took precedence over editing.

at depths of around 25 meters, but Matt and I like the 10-15 meter reef tours for the photo opportunities.

This boat crew really only dives five main areas. The dive sites all follow a basic routine depending on if the current is incoming or outgoing. There are lots of wall dives and drift diving.

## 3 ROCKS...ROCKS!

Three Rocks is the manta cleaning station dive



I was lucky enough to go on fourteen different dives with [Alfonsstraub Dive n Sail](#). There were five different instructors speaking as many languages. We mostly dove with Mara Restelli, an Italian instructor with lots of stories about cruise ships. She and Matt saw a manta the first day and made fun of me the whole time because I was lost looking at some macros. Finally, on the last day, Mara proved herself when two mantas almost hugged me.

## BOATS AND DIVES

The Kanifushi resort diving is run by Dive N Sail with their three dive/snorkel boats. With Nitrox, we were able to spend a lot more time

site. We must have gone three times! It was by far the best of the dive sites. The schools of fish, the mantas, the shallow depths and the circular plans made this a perfect site for Matt and I to explore White Balance, Videography, and getting as many clownfish into one shot as possible.

## COSTS?

Basically, it was \$100 per dive with rental equipment. Their equipment was aqualung or SPro. They had cameras to rent, courses, DSD's and plenty of snorkeling to offer. We dove with less than six on any dive. I recommend this dive outfit to everyone. Thanks Mara!



What a small world. Even the Maldives has its own version of the rarely seen David Lemoine Garage Door Opener!