



DESTINATION ITINERARY

Maldives

4-5 Days

From INR 56,000 per person

Best: Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, Nov, Dec

The Maldives is a chain of coral atolls strung across the equator south-west of India, and almost all of it is water - hundreds of low islands, none more than a few metres above the sea. Flights from several Indian cities reach Male directly or with a connection, and the journey...

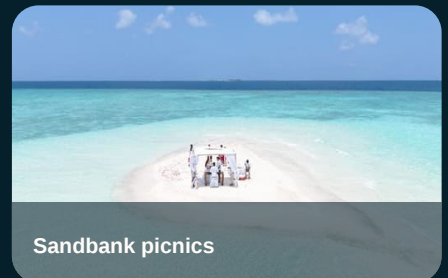
FEATURED IN THIS JOURNEY



Overwater villa resorts (Male atoll)



Snorkelling / house reef excursions



Sandbank picnics

INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY PLANNING BRIEF

Destination overview

The Maldives is a chain of coral atolls strung across the equator south-west of India, and almost all of it is water - hundreds of low islands, none more than a few metres above the sea. Flights from several Indian cities reach Male directly or with a connection, and the journey then continues by speedboat, domestic flight or seaplane to whichever island you are staying on. What draws people is the reef: warm, clear water, coral gardens within swimming distance of the shore, and dependable sightings of turtles, reef sharks and rays. Resorts occupy whole islands to themselves, while guesthouses on inhabited islands such as Maafushi offer a cheaper and more local alternative. It suits honeymooners, couples and families with older children happy to swim, snorkel and read, rather than travellers who want a full sightseeing programme.

PACKAGE DURATION

4-5 Days

STARTING PRICE

From INR 56,000 per person

BEST TIME

Peak: Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, Nov, Dec | Shoulder: Jul, Aug, Oct | Avoid: May, Jun, Sep

TRIP TYPES

beach, honeymoon

8 APPROVED SUBLOCATIONS

Places you'll visit


Overwater villa resorts (Male atoll)
ISLAND | FULL DAY

Private-island resorts in the atolls around Male, where accommodation is built on stilts over the lagoon with steps leading straight down into the water. Days pass between the villa deck, the house reef and the dive centre; transfers from the airport are by speedboat or seaplane depending on distance.


Snorkelling / house reef excursions
NATURE RESERVE | HALF DAY

Guided swims over the coral reef surrounding each island, either straight off the beach or by boat to a nearby site. Common sightings include parrotfish, turtles and blacktip reef sharks, with manta rays at certain channels and cleaning stations. Centres provide fins, masks and buoyancy vests for weaker swimmers.


Sandbank picnics
ISLAND | HALF DAY

Boat trips out to a bare crescent of sand that sits just above the water at low tide and disappears again as the tide rises. There is no shade and no building of any kind; the resort sets out umbrellas, a packed lunch and snorkelling gear for a few hours before returning.



Bioluminescent beaches

BEACH | 1-2 HOURS

On some nights plankton disturbed by the waves glow blue-white along the tideline, most often reported around Vaadhoo and on islands in Baa and Raa atolls. The effect depends on season, moon and current, so it cannot be scheduled, and darkness away from resort lighting improves the chance of seeing it.



Sunset dolphin cruise

VIEWPOINT | 2-3 HOURS

A late-afternoon boat trip out from the atoll to look for spinner dolphins, which travel in large, active pods and often ride the bow wave. The boat then turns to watch the sun drop over open water. Sightings are common but never guaranteed, and the sea can be choppy.



Male city tour

HERITAGE SITE | HALF DAY

A walking tour of the capital, among the most densely populated cities in the world and packed onto one small island. Stops usually take in the coral-stone Old Friday Mosque and its minaret, the Islamic Centre, the busy fish market and the National Museum in Sultan Park.



Maafushi and inhabited-island life

ISLAND COMMUNITY | 1-3 DAYS

An inhabited island stay offers guesthouses, local streets and a different rhythm from private resort islands. Travellers visit for a more community-based base while following local dress and alcohol rules outside resort islands.



Resort-island beach time

BEACH | 1-3 DAYS

Private resort islands centre the stay on the beach, lagoon and house reef, with accommodation and activities contained on one island. Confirm the transfer mode and inclusions before choosing the resort.

4 DAYS

Suggested day-by-day plan

01

DAY 1

Overwater villa resorts (Male atoll) and Sunset dolphin cruise

Visit Overwater villa resorts (Male atoll), Sunset dolphin cruise.

02

DAY 2

Snorkelling / house reef excursions and Male city tour

Visit Snorkelling / house reef excursions, Male city tour.

03

DAY 3

Sandbank picnics

Visit Sandbank picnics.

04

DAY 4

Bioluminescent beaches

Visit Bioluminescent beaches.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travel essentials

CURRENCY

The Maldivian rufiyaa is the local currency, though resorts quote and settle in US dollars. Cards are accepted throughout resort islands.

LANGUAGE

Dhivehi is the national language, and English is spoken fluently across resorts, dive centres and transfer services, so guests communicate easily.

TIME DIFFERENCE

The Maldives is 30 minutes behind Indian Standard Time (IST); some resorts may use their own island time.

WEATHER

Tropical and warm throughout the year, with a drier, calmer north-east monsoon season and a wetter, breezier spell bringing passing squalls mid-year.

CONNECTIVITY

Roaming works around Male and inhabited islands, local SIMs and eSIMs are available, and resorts provide Wi-Fi across villas and public areas.

VISA AND PERMITS

Tourists receive permission on arrival when they meet current entry conditions; pre-approval is not normally required. Complete the free Traveller Declaration through the official IMUGA portal within the stated pre-arrival window and carry confirmed onward travel and accommodation details.

Food and culture

Maldivian food combines tuna and coconut in dishes such as mas huni, garudhiya and filled short eats. Food is halal; alcohol is restricted to resort islands, and vegetarian or Jain meals need advance notice. On inhabited islands, dress modestly away from designated bikini beaches and avoid public displays of affection.

AIR, RAIL AND ROAD

Getting there from India

AIR

Velana International Airport near Male is the principal gateway, with direct or one-stop flights from several Indian cities. Resort transfers continue by speedboat, domestic flight or seaplane.

RAIL

There is no railway connection to the Maldives.

ROAD

There is no road link from India. Transfer mode depends on the chosen island, weather, daylight limits and the resort or guesthouse arrangement.

Official guidance: Maldives Immigration tourist visa guidance - <https://www.immigration.gov.mv/visa/tourist-visa> (checked 2026-08-30)

Official guidance: Maldives IMUGA Traveller Declaration - <https://imuga.immigration.gov.mv/traveller> (checked 2026-08-30)

FROM OUR PLANNERS

Practical notes

- The rufiyaa is the local currency, but resorts price and bill in US dollars and cards work everywhere, so you rarely need to change money at all.
- Confirm whether your island is reached by speedboat, domestic flight or seaplane; seaplanes fly in daylight only, so a late arrival into Male can mean a night in the capital.
- Swimwear is fine on resort islands but not on inhabited ones, where cover from shoulders to knees is expected away from the marked bikini beach.
- Alcohol cannot be brought into the country and is confiscated at Male airport; it is sold only on resort islands and licensed vessels.
- November to April is the drier north-east monsoon; May to October brings squalls and choppy seas that affect boat transfers and snorkelling visibility.
- Reef-safe sunscreen, a rash vest and reef shoes matter more than they sound - the coral is sharp and the equatorial sun is strong even under cloud.



PLAN WITH ORBITZ HOLIDAYS

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Explore
Experience
Remember

This itinerary is a planning guide based on the approved destination information held by Orbitz Holidays. Final services and inclusions depend on the confirmed booking.