

HOLIDAYVIBE MALDIVES PRESENTS

Maldives Travel Guide 2026

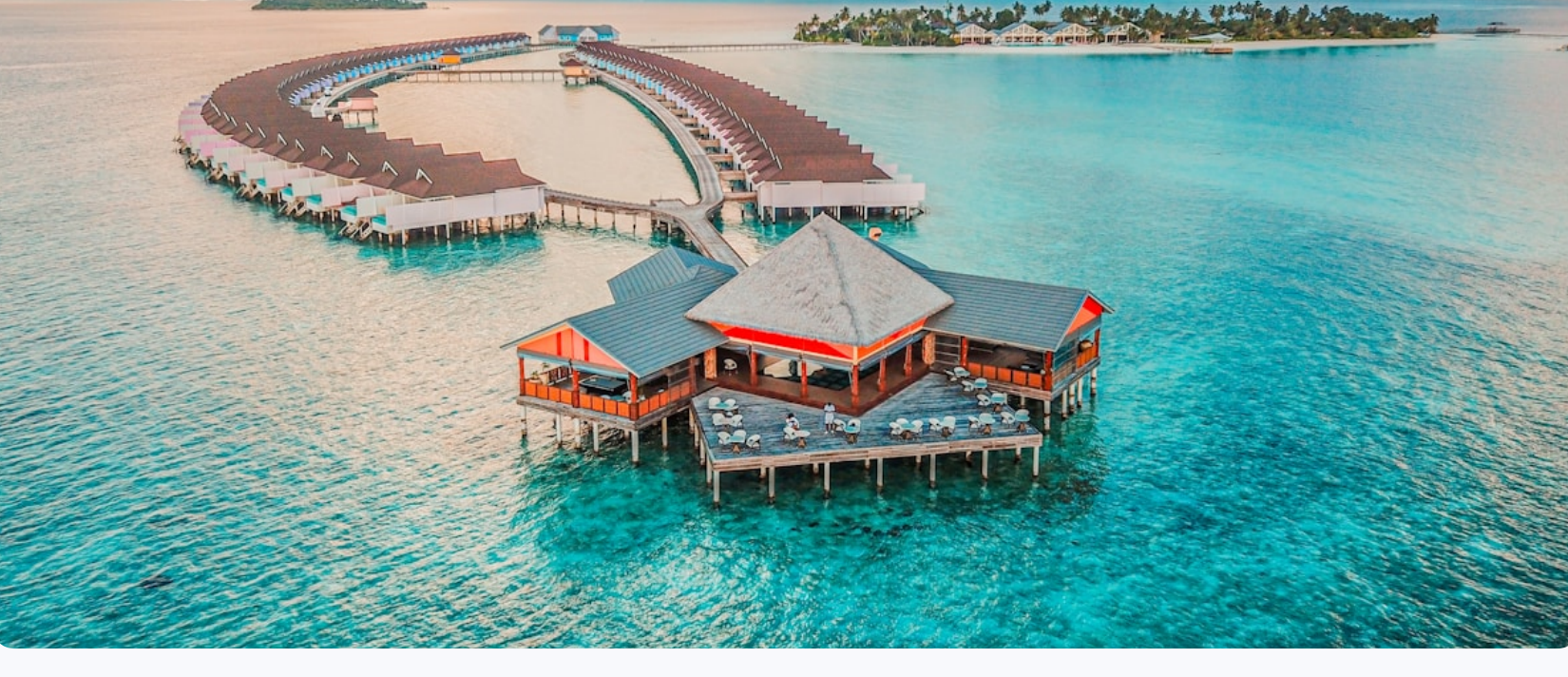
The complete guide to planning your dream Maldives holiday — atolls, resorts, costs, transfers, activities and more.

[Plan My Maldives Holiday](#) [Find My Resort](#)

In short: This Maldives travel guide covers everything for your 2026 trip — the best time to visit, how the atolls differ, which resort type suits your budget, how transfers work, what to do, and how much to budget. Trips start from around \$1200 for a 4-night local island stay and go up to \$10,000+ for a luxury overwater villa resort.

Maldives at a Glance

Key facts every traveller needs to know

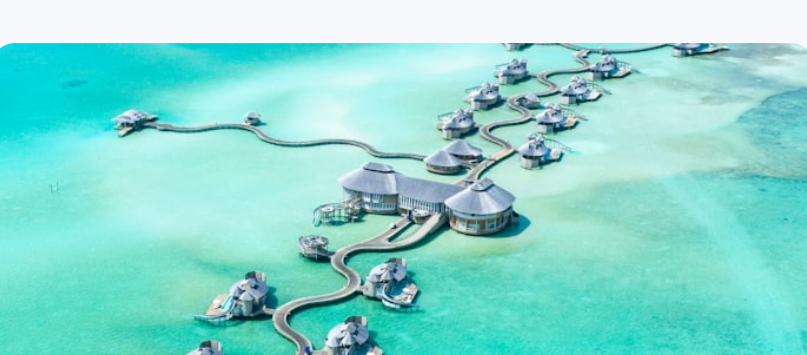
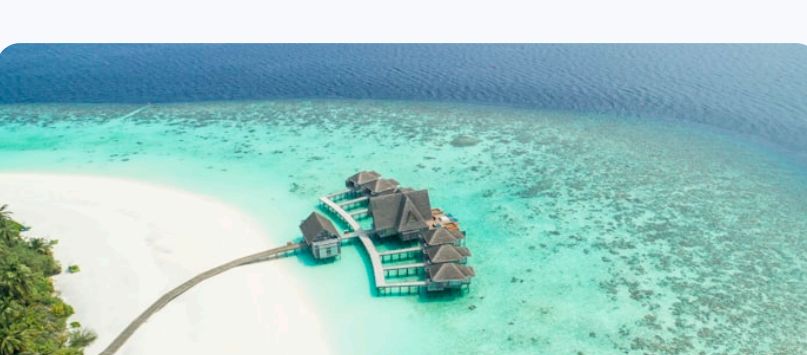


Fact	Detail
Location	Indian Ocean — 700 km south-west of Sri Lanka
Islands	~1200 coral islands across 26 atolls
Capital	Malé — home to Velana International Airport (MLE)
Language	Dhivehi (English widely spoken in tourism)
Currency	Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) — USD universally accepted
Time zone	UTC+5 (no daylight saving)
Visa	Free 30-day on-arrival visa for most nationalities
Green Tax	USD 6 per person per night — charged by all resorts
Drinking water	Bottled or resort-provided water only

[Check Visa Requirements for Your Country](#)

Best Time to Visit the Maldives

Weather, seasons & marine wildlife calendar for 2026

Dry season conditions (Dec–Apr) — calm seas, brilliant skies and perfect visibility for snorkelling.

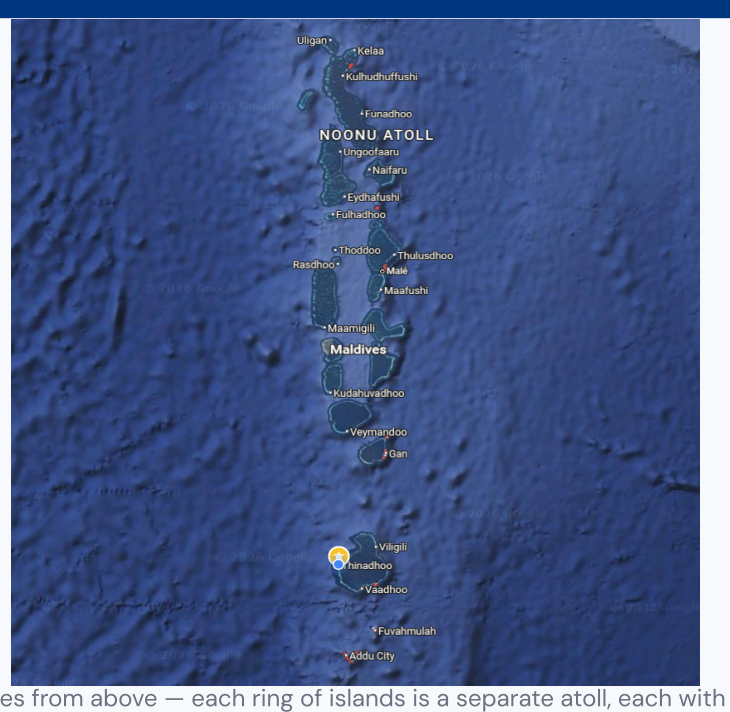
Months	Season	Weather	Best For	Prices
Dec – Feb	Dry	Sunny, calm seas	Snorkelling, honeymooners	High
Mar – Apr	Dry/turning	Mostly dry, some cloud	Diving, families	High–Med
May – Jul	Wet start	Short afternoon showers	Budget travel	Low
Aug – Oct	Wet	Rain + sunny spells	Mantas & whale sharks	Low–Med
Nov	Transition	Improving fast	Best value balance	Medium

Pro tip: Even during the wet season, rain usually comes in short afternoon bursts. Most mornings stay sunny. May–July is often the sweet spot for price + weather — lower resort rates with plenty of sunshine.

[Check Weather & Activities by Month](#)

Choosing Your Atoll

Six regions and how they differ for travellers





The Maldives from above — each ring of islands is a separate atoll, each with its own character.

Atoll	Transfer from MLE	Best For	Budget
Malé Atoll	Speedboat 10–45 min	Short trips, budget stays, first-timers	\$–\$\$
Ari Atoll	Speedboat / seaplane	Whale sharks, mantas, diving	\$\$–\$\$\$
Baa Atoll	Seaplane 30–40 min	Manta ray gatherings at Hanifaru Bay (UNESCO)	\$\$\$–\$\$\$\$
Lhaviyani / Raa	Seaplane 35–50 min	Couples, modern resorts, quiet getaways	\$\$–\$\$\$
Gaafu Atolls	Dom. flight + speedboat	Seclusion, pristine reefs, off-the-beaten-track	\$\$\$
Addu Atoll	Domestic flight ~90 min	Local culture, WWII history, diving	\$\$

[Find My Perfect Resort](#) [Ask the Team](#)

Transfers & Resort Types

Getting there + choosing your island stay

Left: Speedboat transfer — quick and scenic. Right: Seaplane — the iconic Maldives arrival experience.

Method	Journey Time	Return Cost / Person	Notes
Speedboat	10–45 min	USD 60–150	Day or night — most common transfer
Seaplane	25–50 min	USD 380–650	Daylight only — incredible aerial views
Dom. flight + speedboat	45–70+ min	USD 250–350	Southern + northern atolls

[Estimate Your Transfer Cost](#)

Resort Types

- Local Guesthouse** From USD 50–120/night. Authentic local life, beach access, budget-friendly. [Explore](#)
- Budget Resort** From USD 100–200/night. Great house reefs, dive centres, good value. [Explore](#)
- Mid-Range Resort** From USD 250–500/night. Full facilities, beach + water villas, couples & families. [Explore](#)
- Luxury Resort** From USD 800+/night. Overwater villas, butlers, world-class spa & dining. [Explore](#)

[Browse All Maldives Resorts](#)

Maldives Trip Costs — 2026

4-night trip for 2 adults — accommodation only

BUDGET	MID-RANGE	LUXURY	ULTRA-LUXURY
\$1,200–\$1,800	\$2,000–\$3,800	\$4,000–\$8,000	\$10,000+
Local island guesthouse	3–4-star island resort	Overwater villa resort	Private island / trophy resort

Additional Cost	Typical Range
Meals (à la carte)	\$40–\$150 per person per day
Transfers	\$60–\$650 per person return
Activities	\$50–\$300+ per experience
Green Tax	USD 6 per person per night

Smart tip: All-inclusive plans usually save money if you enjoy cocktails or wine daily — they eliminate unexpected bills at checkout. [Compare all-inclusive options](#).




[Calculate Your Resort Budget](#) [All-Inclusive Guide](#)

Combine with another destination — twin-centre holidays:

- [Sri Lanka + Maldives](#) [Bangkok + Maldives](#) [Dubai + Maldives](#) [Singapore + Maldives](#)
- [India + Maldives](#)

Activities & Experiences

Water sports, marine wildlife & island culture

Snorkelling • Beach life • Romantic sunsets — the Maldives does it all.

Water & Marine	Wellness & Cultural
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snorkelling on house reefs Scuba diving (PADI available) Swimming with whale sharks Manta ray encounters Sunset dolphin cruises Sandbank picnics Jet ski, kayak, paddleboard Livesboard diving cruises Bioluminescent sea of stars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spa & wellness treatments Yoga retreats & meditation Floating breakfast in villa pool Private romantic beach dinner Local island day trips Overwater villa experiences Underwater dining Family & kids activities Island hopping

[Browse All Maldives Experiences](#)

Meal Plans Explained

BB, HB, FB or All-Inclusive — which is right for you?

Plan	What's Included	Best For
BB — Bed & Breakfast	Breakfast only	Local island stays with nearby cafes
HB — Half Board	Breakfast + Dinner	Couples wanting lunch flexibility
FB — Full Board	All three meals	Families keeping it simple
AI — All-Inclusive	All meals + selected drinks	Resort-stayers, cocktail lovers

[Compare All-Inclusive Options](#)

Free Maldives Planning Tools

No sign-up required — use them all for free

- Resort Price Calculator** Estimate total resort cost by nights & season
- Resort Finder** Filter by price, budget, activities & type
- Weather & Season Checker** Month-by-month conditions by atoll
- Transfer Cost Calculator** Speedboat, seaplane or domestic flight
- Itinerary Generator** Day-by-day Maldives trip planner
- Dream Tour Builder** Customise your perfect trip from scratch
- Marine Life Spotter** What you'll see underwater by atoll
- Visa Checker** Entry requirements by nationality
- Trip Planner Wizard** Answer a few questions, get an outline
- Resort Deal Tracker** Current offers & early-bird deals

What to Pack

Keep it light — most days it's swimwear, sandals and sunscreen

Clothing & Sun	Gear & Extras
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light cotton/linen clothing Extra swimwear sets (2–3) Reef-safe sunscreen SPF 50+ Sunglasses & wide-brim hat Flip flops or light sandals Cover-up for local islands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underwater camera / GoPro Snorkel gear (optional) Waterproof phone pouch Aloe vera / after-sun gel Mosquito repellent (evenings) Small dry bag for excursions

Maldives Travel Guide — FAQ

The most common questions, answered plainly

What is the best time to visit the Maldives?
December to April is the dry season with the best weather — bright skies and calm seas. May to November is wetter but offers lower prices and excellent marine wildlife, especially manta rays and whale sharks. There's no truly bad month.

How much does a Maldives holiday cost?
A 4-night trip for 2 adults starts from around \$1,200 (local island guesthouse) and goes up to \$10,000+ for a luxury overwater villa resort. Use our [Resort Price Calculator](#) to get a personalised estimate.

Do I need a visa for the Maldives?
Most nationalities receive a free 30-day tourist visa on arrival — no advance application required. You need a valid passport, confirmed accommodation and evidence of onward travel. [Check your country here](#).

Is alcohol available in the Maldives?
Yes — alcohol is served on resort islands and liveaboards. It's not available in local island towns and villages, as the Maldives is a Muslim country.

Can you wear bikinis in the Maldives?
On resort islands and designated bikini beaches, yes. In local village streets and public areas, modest clothing is required.

When is the best time to see manta rays?
Baa Atoll's Hanifaru Bay sees huge manta gatherings between June and October during the South West monsoon. Ari Atoll has year-round manta sightings. See our [manta ray encounters guide](#).

Can I combine the Maldives with another country?
Absolutely. [Sri Lanka + Maldives](#) is particularly popular given the short Colombo–Malé flight. [Bangkok](#) and [Dubai](#) also work brilliantly as twin-centre combinations.

Are drones allowed?
It depends on the resort. Some allow drones with prior permission; others ban them to protect guest privacy. Always check with your resort before bringing or flying a drone.

Ready to Plan Your Maldives Holiday?

HolidayVibe Maldives specialises in Maldives holidays only. We find the right resort, handle your transfers and build an itinerary around your exact budget and dates — at no extra cost to you.

[Start Planning](#) [Browse Resorts](#) [Free Tools](#)

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