

# Maldives — 6 Nights / 7 Days Luxury Escape

(Curated by Sam Simran Pal – TripsWithSam)

## Maldives — The Art of Island Serenity

An intimate world of turquoise lagoons, barefoot luxury, and endless horizons — where every sunset feels like your first.

### Day 1 – Arrival & Seaplane to Paradise

- Arrive at Malé International Airport (MLE).
  - Transfer by seaplane or luxury speedboat to your chosen resort (25–40 minutes).
  - Recommended resorts:
    - The St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort (for ultra-luxury design)
    - Baros Maldives (for classic romance close to Malé)
    - Soneva Fushi (eco-chic island villas with private butler)
  - Welcome drink and sunset cocktail on your villa deck.
  - Dinner: ALBA (St. Regis) or The Lighthouse (Baros) — refined beachfront dining.
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### Day 2 – Ocean Bliss & Private Dining

- Morning yoga by the sea.
  - Breakfast in-villa or floating breakfast in your infinity pool.
  - Snorkel the coral reefs — manta rays, turtles, and rainbow fish.
  - Lunch at Fresh in the Garden (Soneva Fushi) — organic island-to-table.
  - Afternoon spa treatment with ocean views.
  - Evening: Private beach dinner under the stars with champagne and candlelight.
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### Day 3 – Water Adventures & Sunset Cruise

- Morning: Jet-skiing or kayaking through crystal lagoons.
- Optional: Diving excursion to Banana Reef or HP Reef.
- Lunch at Cargo (St. Regis) — open-air world cuisine.
- Sunset dolphin cruise with canapés and sparkling wine.
- Dinner: Ithaa Undersea Restaurant (Conrad Maldives) — dine beneath the ocean.

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#### **Day 4 – Island Hopping & Local Culture**

- Morning: Visit a nearby local island (like Maafushi or Thulusdhoo).
- Experience Maldivian craft markets & heritage.
- Lunch at a seaside café with local tuna curry and coconut sambal.
- Return to resort for an afternoon nap or beach walk.
- Dinner: Out of the Blue (Soneva Fushi) — overwater dining experience.

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#### **Day 5 – Wellness & Leisure Day**

- Begin with sunrise meditation.
- Spa at Iridium Spa (St. Regis) or The Spa by ESPA (Velaa Private Island).
- Leisure time — paddleboard, photograph the sandbanks, read on your deck.
- Lunch: Casual beach barbecue hosted by the resort chef.
- Dinner: Aragu (Velaa) — Michelin-level fine dining with a sustainable touch.

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#### **Day 6 – Sunrise, Champagne & Stargazing**

- Early morning dolphin watching or yoga session.
- Floating champagne breakfast.
- Afternoon: Photography walk and souvenir shopping.
- Sunset: Stargazing with resort astronomer (Soneva Fushi Observatory).
- Dinner: Private in-villa degustation menu prepared by your chef.

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#### **Day 7 – Farewell to Paradise**

- Breakfast on the terrace.
- Optional: short dip in the ocean before checkout.
- Seaplane transfer back to Malé International Airport (MLE).
- Departure flight — carry a piece of calm with you.

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#### **Practical Travel Info**

##### **Main Airport:**

- Velana International Airport (MLE) — located on Hulhulé Island, about 10 minutes from Malé, the capital.
- Transfers: Seaplane (20–45 min) or speedboat depending on resort location.
- Currency: Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR), but USD widely accepted.
- Best Season: November–April (dry, calm seas).
- Dress Code: Resort casual — barefoot luxury encouraged.
- Electricity: Type G plug (UK standard)

### **Main Areas & Island Zones:**

- Malé Atoll: Close to the airport, ideal for short stays and quick transfers.
- North & South Malé Atolls: Most popular, home to luxury resorts like One&Only Reethi Rah, Gili Lankanfushi, and Waldorf Astoria.
- Baa Atoll (UNESCO Biosphere Reserve): Known for Hanifaru Bay — manta ray and whale shark sightings.
- Ari Atoll: Diving paradise, scenic overwater villas, and coral reefs.
- Raa, Noonu, and Lhaviyani Atolls: Emerging luxury zones with newer resorts and seaplane-only access.
- Local Islands (Maafushi, Thulusdhoo): Budget-friendly stays and local culture.

### **Getting Around:**

- Speedboats: Common for resorts within 1–2 hours of the airport. Comfortable and scenic.
- Seaplanes: Used for farther resorts (25–60 min flights) — stunning aerial views, usually daytime-only transfers.
- Domestic Flights: Connect to southern atolls followed by short speedboat rides.
- Ferries: Government ferries and private charters available for local island-hopping.
- Walking: Resorts and local islands are small — easy to walk or cycle everywhere.

### **Travel Essentials:**

- Plug type: D & G (same as India/UK)
- Currency: Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR), but USD widely accepted.
- Tap water: Not potable — always drink bottled or filtered.
- Language: Dhivehi (English widely spoken in resorts).
- Safety: Very safe for travelers; resorts have 24-hour security and medical assistance.

### **Local Tips:**

- Alcohol is served only on resort islands (not local islands).
- Dress modestly on inhabited islands — swimwear only at private resorts or bikini beaches.

- Sun is strong year-round — bring reef-safe sunscreen.
- Drones may require permission — check with resort.
- Tipping: USD 5–10 per day for villa staff; 10% at restaurants is appreciated.
- Wi-Fi excellent at luxury resorts; most have photo-ready private spots
- Best travel time: November to April (dry season).
- Check seaplane luggage limits (usually 20–25 kg).
- Book transfers in advance; last-minute options are limited.

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