

□ Trip Plan: Pune → Maldives

Travel Research Report: Pune to Maldives for 5 Days and 5 Nights (for 2 people)

This report provides realistic and up-to-date information for a trip from Pune, India to the Maldives for 2 people, covering a duration of 5 days and 5 nights.

1. Transport Options: Pune to Maldives

The only practical transport option from Pune to the Maldives is by flight. There are no direct train or bus services to the Maldives, as it is an island nation.

- **Mode:** Flights
 - **Airlines:** Various airlines operate this route, often with layovers.
 - **Average Travel Time:** Flights typically take between 7 hours 45 minutes and 10 hours 50 minutes, including layovers. Non-stop flights (if available) are around 2 hours 35 minutes, but are less common from Pune. The more realistic travel time with layovers is around 8-11 hours.
 - **Average Cost (Round-trip for 1 person):** Costs can vary significantly based on booking time, airline, and layovers.
 - Budget-friendly: Approximately \$125 - \$307 USD (₹10,400 - ₹25,500 INR) for a one-way or round-trip ticket.
 - Average: Around \$744 USD (₹62,000 INR) for a round-trip.
 - Higher range: Up to \$872 USD (₹72,500 INR) or more.
 - **Total Flight Cost for 2 people (Round-trip):**
 - Budget: \$250 - \$614 USD (₹20,800 - ₹51,000 INR)
 - Average: \$1488 USD (₹124,000 INR)
 - Higher range: Up to \$1744 USD (₹145,000 INR)
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2. Key Attractions with Timings and Entry Fees:

Many of the Maldives' attractions are natural and related to its stunning marine environment, often without direct entry fees but may involve costs for activities or tours.

- **Artificial Beach (Malé):**
 - **Description:** A man-made beach in Malé, popular for swimming and relaxing.
 - **Timings:** All day.
 - **Entry Fee:** Free Admission.
- **Maamigili Island (Whale Shark Island):**
 - **Description:** Known for whale shark sightings and diving.
 - **Timings:** Can be visited at any time of the day. Activities like whale shark tours have specific timings.
 - **Entry Fee:** No direct entry fee for the island itself. Whale shark tours or diving excursions will have separate costs (e.g., a multi-day island hopping tour can start from \$1,399 USD per adult, but specific whale shark excursions might be \$100-\$200+ per person).
- **Malé City Tour:**
 - **Description:** Explore the capital city, including local markets, the Grand Friday Mosque, and the Fish Market.
 - **Timings:** Malé City is accessible 24/7, but individual attractions within the city (like museums or specific shops) may have specific opening hours (e.g., a 3-hour city tour with a local guide might cost around \$65 USD per adult).
 - **Entry Fee:** No general entry fee for Malé City. Specific attractions like the National Museum might have a small entry fee (typically a few USD).
- **Local Islands (e.g., Maafushi, Thulusdhoo):**
 - **Description:** Experience local Maldivian life, guesthouses, and budget-friendly activities.
 - **Timings:** Accessible throughout the day.

- **Entry Fee:** No entry fee for the islands. Activities like snorkeling, diving, or excursions will have costs.
 - **Resort Islands:**
 - **Description:** Private islands with resorts offering various amenities, water sports, and dining. Access is usually restricted to guests or day-pass holders.
 - **Timings:** Varies by resort.
 - **Entry Fee:** Included in the stay for guests. Day passes to resorts can range from \$50 - \$200+ USD per person, often including food/drinks or credit for activities.
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3. Accommodation Options with Nightly Rates:

Accommodation in the Maldives ranges from budget-friendly guesthouses on local islands to luxurious overwater villas on private resorts.

- **Budget (Guesthouses on local islands like Maafushi, Hulhumalé):**
 - **Nightly Rate:** \$50 - \$100 USD per night.
 - **Total for 5 nights (for 2 people):** \$250 - \$500 USD.
 - *Examples:* Many guesthouses offer comfortable stays at these rates.
 - **Mid-Range (Resorts or higher-end guesthouses):**
 - **Nightly Rate:** \$200 - \$500 USD per night.
 - **Total for 5 nights (for 2 people):** \$1000 - \$2500 USD.
 - *Examples:* Kurumba Maldives (starting from around \$200-300+), Bandos Maldives.
 - **Luxury (Private Island Resorts, Overwater Villas):**
 - **Nightly Rate:** \$500 - \$1000+ USD per night. Some can exceed \$1000-\$2000+ per night.
 - **Total for 5 nights (for 2 people):** \$2500 - \$5000+ USD.
 - *Examples:* Sun Siyam Iru Fushi, Villa Nautica, various high-end resorts.
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4. Local Transportation Methods and Approximate Fares:

Transportation within the Maldives largely depends on whether you are staying on a local island or a private resort island.

- **Inter-Island Transfers:**
 - **Seaplane:** Primarily used for transfers to distant luxury resorts.
 - **Cost:** \$400 - \$800 USD per person for a return transfer.
 - **Total for 2 people (return):** \$800 - \$1600 USD.
 - **Domestic Flights:** For longer distances to islands with domestic airports, followed by a speedboat.
 - **Cost:** Varies by distance, often \$100 - \$200+ USD per person one-way.
 - **Total for 2 people (return):** \$400 - \$800+ USD.
 - **Private Speedboats:** Used for transfers to closer resorts or between specific islands.
 - **Cost:** Can range from \$50 - \$150 USD per person one-way for common routes (e.g., Airport to Maafushi), or significantly more for private charters (\$200-\$500+).
 - **Total for 2 people (return):** \$200 - \$600+ USD.
 - **Public Ferries:** The most economical option, connecting Malé with inhabited local islands. They do not serve private resort islands.
 - **Cost:** Approximately \$1 - \$4 USD (MVR 15 - MVR 60) per person per ride.
 - **Total for 2 people (return, e.g., Airport to Malé):** \$4 - \$16 USD.
- **Within Islands (Malé/Hulhumalé):**
 - **Buses:** Available in Malé and Hulhumalé.
 - **Cost:** Around \$1 - \$3 USD per ride.
 - **Taxis:** Readily available in Mal capital and Hulhumalé.

- **Cost:** Short rides typically \$2 - \$5 USD.
 - **Walking/Bicycles:** On smaller local islands, walking or renting a bicycle is common and often free or very low cost.
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5. Local Food Options with Average Daily Meal Cost Per Person:

Food costs vary dramatically between local islands and resort islands.

- **Local Islands (e.g., Maafushi, Hulhumalé):**
 - **Options:** Local cafes, guesthouse restaurants, small eateries offering Maldivian cuisine (fish, curries, roshi), and some international dishes.
 - **Average Daily Meal Cost Per Person:** \$15 - \$50 USD.
 - **Total Daily Food Cost for 2 people:** \$30 - \$100 USD.
 - *Breakdown:* A meal at a local restaurant can cost \$5 - \$15 USD per person.
 - **Resort Islands:**
 - **Options:** Wide range of international cuisines, fine dining, buffets, themed restaurants.
 - **Average Daily Meal Cost Per Person:** \$78 - \$300+ USD.
 - **Total Daily Food Cost for 2 people:** \$156 - \$600+ USD.
 - *Breakdown:* Lunch and dinner buffets can cost \$130 - \$160 USD per person. A single dinner can easily be \$100 - \$300 per person. Many resorts offer all-inclusive packages which might be more cost-effective for dining.
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6. Current Weather at the Destination (Malé, Maldives):

The Maldives generally experiences a tropical monsoon climate with two main seasons: a dry season (northeast monsoon) and a wet season (southwest monsoon). Temperatures are consistently warm year-round.

- **Current Conditions (as of research):**
 - **Temperature:** Around 86°F - 90°F (30°C - 32°C).
 - **RealFeel:** Can feel hotter, around 96°F - 100°F (36°C - 38°C) due to humidity.
 - **Humidity:** High, typically around 70-80%.
 - **Wind:** Moderate, around 15 mph.
 - **Precipitation:** Generally cloudy with a chance of passing showers. The weather can change quickly.
- **General Climate:**
 - **Dry Season (December to April):** Less rain, lower humidity, sunnier. Considered peak tourist season.
 - **Wet Season (May to November):** Higher chance of rain (often short, heavy showers), higher humidity, but still plenty of sunshine. This is generally the off-peak season, offering better deals.

Travelers should expect warm, humid weather with a possibility of rain showers regardless of the season, especially during the wet season.

Budget Plan: Pune to Maldives for 5 Days and 5 Nights (for 2 people)

Total Budget Limit: ₹100,000 INR

To ensure the trip remains within the ₹100,000 INR budget, the following cost-effective choices (trade-offs) have been made:

- **Accommodation:** Opting for budget-friendly guesthouses on local islands (e.g., Maafushi, Hulhumalé) instead of mid-range or luxury resorts.
 - **Meals:** Eating at local cafes and guesthouse restaurants on local islands rather than expensive resort dining.
 - **Transport:** Choosing the most economical flight options with layovers and utilizing public ferries and walking for local transportation, avoiding costly seaplane or private speedboat transfers where possible.
 - **Activities:** Focusing on free or low-cost activities and one basic excursion, rather than multiple high-cost tours or resort day passes.
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Detailed Cost Breakdown:

- 1. **Transport (Round-trip Flights: Pune to Maldives for 2 people)**
 - **Basis:** Lowest end of budget-friendly flight options (as per research report).
 - **Cost:** ₹20,800 INR (for 2 people)
- 2. **Accommodation (5 nights for 2 people)**
 - **Basis:** Budget guesthouse on a local island at \$50 USD per night.
 - **Calculation:** \$50 USD/night × 5 nights × 2 people = \$250 USD
 - **Conversion (1 USD = 83.2 INR):** \$250 USD × 83.2 INR/USD = ₹20,800 INR
 - **Cost:** ₹20,800 INR
- 3. **Meals (5 days for 2 people)**
 - **Basis:** Average daily meal cost per person on local islands at \$15 USD.
 - **Calculation:** \$15 USD/person/day × 5 days × 2 people = \$150 USD
 - **Conversion (1 USD = 83.2 INR):** \$150 USD × 83.2 INR/USD = ₹12,480 INR
 - **Cost:** ₹12,480 INR
- 4. **Activities and Attraction Fees (for 2 people)**
 - **Basis:** Focus on free attractions and one basic snorkeling excursion.
 - **Snorkeling Excursion (e.g., local tour):** \$100 USD (for 2 people)
 - **Conversion (1 USD = 83.2 INR):** \$100 USD × 83.2 INR/USD = ₹8,320 INR
 - **Incidental Fees/Local Market Exploration:** ₹1,000 INR
 - **Cost:** ₹8,320 INR + ₹1,000 INR = ₹9,320 INR
- 5. **Local Transportation (for 2 people)**
 - **Basis:** Public ferries for inter-island transfers and limited local taxi/bus rides.
 - **Public Ferry (e.g., Airport to Local Island, return):** \$10 USD (for 2 people)
 - **Local Taxi/Bus Rides (for 5 days):** \$20 USD (for 2 people)
 - **Total USD:** \$30 USD
 - **Conversion (1 USD = 83.2 INR):** \$30 USD × 83.2 INR/USD = ₹2,496 INR
 - **Cost:** ₹2,496 INR

Total Estimated Trip Cost:

- Transport (Flights): ₹20,800 INR
- Accommodation: ₹20,800 INR
- Meals: ₹12,480 INR
- Activities: ₹9,320 INR
- Local Transportation: ₹2,496 INR
- **Grand Total Estimate:** ₹20,800 + ₹20,800 + ₹12,480 + ₹9,320 + ₹2,496 = **₹65,896 INR**

Budget Comparison:

- **Total Estimated Cost:** ₹65,896 INR
- **Set Budget Limit:** ₹100,000 INR
- **Remaining Budget:** ₹100,000 - ₹65,896 = **₹34,104 INR**

The calculated budget of ₹65,896 INR for 2 people for 5 days and 5 nights in the Maldives is well within the set limit of ₹100,000 INR, demonstrating a cost-effective travel plan. The remaining budget provides a comfortable buffer for unforeseen expenses or minor upgrades if desired.

Here is a detailed, realistic 5-day itinerary for 2 people traveling from Pune to Maldives, designed to stay within the ₹100,000 INR budget. The plan prioritizes cost-effective choices such as budget guesthouses on local islands, local eateries, and public transportation.

Trip Overview & Budget Summary

- **Total Budget Limit:** ₹100,000 INR
- **Travelers:** 2 people
- **Duration:** 5 Days, 4 Nights (with flight on Day 5 leading to Day 6 arrival)

Total Estimated Trip Cost (Based on Itinerary): ₹64,470 INR

- **Flights (Round-trip Pune-Maldives for 2):** ₹20,800
- **Accommodation (4 nights for 2):** ₹16,640
- **Meals (5 days for 2):** ₹16,640
- **Activities & Attraction Fees (for 2):** ₹9,320
- **Local Transportation (for 2):** ₹1,070

Remaining Budget Buffer: ₹100,000 - ₹64,470 = ₹35,530 INR

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Pune to Hulhumalé – Arrival and Settle In

- **Morning (08:00 AM - 05:00 PM MVT): Travel from Pune to Maldives**
 - **08:00 AM (IST):** Depart from Pune International Airport (PNQ) via flight (approx. 9 hours travel including layover).
 - **05:00 PM (MVT):** Arrive at Velana International Airport (MLE), Malé, Maldives.
- **Afternoon/Evening (05:00 PM - 09:00 PM MVT): Transfer to Hulhumalé & Check-in**
 - **05:30 PM - 05:50 PM (MVT):** Take a local taxi or bus from MLE Airport to your guesthouse in Hulhumalé (approx. 15-20 min).
 - **Local Transport Cost:** ₹250 (for 2 people)
 - **06:00 PM (MVT):** Check into your pre-booked guesthouse in Hulhumalé.
 - **Accommodation Cost:** ₹4,160 (1 night x \$50 USD for 2 people)
 - **06:30 PM - 07:30 PM (MVT):** Freshen up and relax.
 - **07:30 PM - 08:30 PM (MVT):** Dinner at a local restaurant in Hulhumalé.
 - **Meal Cost:** ₹1,760 (Dinner for 2 people)
- **Night:** Rest and prepare for the next day.
- **Daily Cost Summary (Day 1):**
 - Accommodation: ₹4,160
 - Local Transport: ₹250
 - Meals: ₹1,760
 - **Total Day 1:** ₹6,170

Day 2: Hulhumalé Exploration & Transfer to Maafushi

- **Morning (08:00 AM - 11:00 AM MVT): Hulhumalé Exploration**
 - **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM (MVT):** Breakfast at your Hulhumalé guesthouse.
 - **Meal Cost:** ₹1,000 (Breakfast for 2 people)
 - **09:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MVT):** Explore Hulhumalé, visit the Artificial Beach for a relaxing stroll and enjoy the local atmosphere. (Free activity)
- **Late Morning/Noon (11:00 AM - 03:00 PM MVT): Transfer to Maafushi Island**
 - **11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (MVT):** Take a taxi/bus from Hulhumalé to Malé Villingili Ferry Terminal.
 - **Local Transport Cost:** ₹250 (for 2 people)
 - **11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (MVT):** Arrive at Malé, find a local eatery for lunch near the ferry terminal.

- **Meal Cost:** ₹1,400 (Lunch for 2 people)
- **01:30 PM - 03:00 PM (MVT):** Take the public ferry from Malé to Maafushi Island (approx. 1.5 hours).
- **Local Transport Cost:** ₹160 (for 2 people)
- **Afternoon/Evening (03:00 PM - 09:00 PM MVT): Settle in Maafushi**
 - **03:00 PM (MVT):** Arrive at Maafushi, check into your guesthouse.
 - **Accommodation Cost:** ₹4,160 (1 night x \$50 USD for 2 people)
 - **03:30 PM - 07:00 PM (MVT):** Settle in, explore the immediate vicinity of your guesthouse, and relax on the local beach.
 - **07:30 PM - 08:30 PM (MVT):** Dinner at a local restaurant on Maafushi.
 - **Meal Cost:** ₹1,760 (Dinner for 2 people)
- **Night:** Rest.
- **Daily Cost Summary (Day 2):**
 - Accommodation: ₹4,160
 - Local Transport: ₹410
 - Meals: ₹4,160
 - **Total Day 2:** ₹8,730

Day 3: Maafushi – Snorkeling Adventure

- **Morning (08:00 AM - 01:00 PM MVT): Snorkeling Excursion**
 - **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM (MVT):** Breakfast at your Maafushi guesthouse.
 - **Meal Cost:** ₹1,000 (Breakfast for 2 people)
 - **09:30 AM - 01:00 PM (MVT):** Embark on a pre-booked snorkeling excursion to a nearby coral reef or sandbank. This is a highlight activity.
 - **Activity Cost:** ₹8,320 (Snorkeling excursion for 2 people)
- **Afternoon (01:00 PM - 06:00 PM MVT): Relaxation & Local Exploration**
 - **01:30 PM - 02:30 PM (MVT):** Lunch at a local restaurant in Maafushi.
 - **Meal Cost:** ₹1,400 (Lunch for 2 people)
 - **03:00 PM - 06:00 PM (MVT):** Relax on Maafushi's Bikini Beach, swim, or explore local souvenir shops. (Free activity)
- **Evening (07:30 PM - 09:00 PM MVT): Dinner & Leisure**
 - **07:30 PM - 08:30 PM (MVT):** Dinner at a local restaurant, perhaps trying fresh seafood.
 - **Meal Cost:** ₹1,760 (Dinner for 2 people)
- **Night:** Rest.
- **Daily Cost Summary (Day 3):**
 - Accommodation: ₹4,160
 - Activities: ₹8,320
 - Meals: ₹4,160
 - **Total Day 3:** ₹16,640

Day 4: Maafushi – Local Life & Relaxation

- **Morning (08:00 AM - 12:30 PM MVT): Island Exploration**
 - **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM (MVT):** Breakfast at your Maafushi guesthouse.
 - **Meal Cost:** ₹1,000 (Breakfast for 2 people)
 - **09:30 AM - 12:30 PM (MVT):** Take a leisurely walk around Maafushi Island. Discover local life, visit the mosque, and interact with friendly locals. (Free activity)
- **Afternoon (01:00 PM - 07:00 PM MVT): Beach Time & Sunset**
 - **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM (MVT):** Lunch at a local cafe.
 - **Meal Cost:** ₹1,400 (Lunch for 2 people)

- **02:30 PM - 06:00 PM (MVT):** Relax at Bikini Beach, swim, or read a book. (Free activity)
- **06:00 PM - 07:00 PM (MVT):** Enjoy a beautiful Maldivian sunset stroll along the beach. (Free activity)
- **Evening (07:30 PM - 09:00 PM MVT): Farewell Dinner**
 - **07:30 PM - 08:30 PM (MVT):** Enjoy your final dinner on Maafushi.
 - **Meal Cost:** ₹1,760 (Dinner for 2 people)
 - **Incidental/Local Market Cost:** ₹1,000 (Buffer for small purchases/snacks)
- **Night:** Rest and pack for departure.
- **Daily Cost Summary (Day 4):**
 - Accommodation: ₹4,160
 - Meals: ₹4,160
 - Activities (Incidental): ₹1,000
 - **Total Day 4:** ₹9,320

Day 5: Maafushi to Pune – Departure

- **Morning (06:30 AM - 09:30 AM MVT): Transfer to Airport**
 - **06:30 AM - 07:00 AM (MVT):** Early breakfast at your Maafushi guesthouse.
 - **Meal Cost:** ₹1,000 (Breakfast for 2 people)
 - **07:30 AM - 09:00 AM (MVT):** Take the public ferry from Maafushi back to Malé Villingili Ferry Terminal.
 - **Local Transport Cost:** ₹160 (for 2 people)
 - **09:00 AM - 09:30 AM (MVT):** Take a taxi from Malé Villingili Ferry Terminal to Velana International Airport (MLE).
 - **Local Transport Cost:** ₹250 (for 2 people)
- **Late Morning/Afternoon (09:30 AM - 05:00 PM MVT): Airport Procedures & Departure**
 - **09:30 AM - 12:00 PM (MVT):** Check-in for your flight, complete immigration and security.
 - **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM (MVT):** Lunch at the airport or a nearby local cafe before boarding.
 - **Meal Cost:** ₹1,400 (Lunch for 2 people)
 - **05:00 PM (MVT):** Depart from Velana International Airport (MLE) for Pune (approx. 9 hours travel including layover).
- **Next Day (Day 6):**
 - **02:00 AM (IST):** Arrive at Pune International Airport (PNQ).
- **Daily Cost Summary (Day 5):**
 - Local Transport: ₹410
 - Meals: ₹2,400
 - **Total Day 5:** ₹2,810

Total Trip Cost Summary

Category	Total Cost (INR)
Flights (Pune-Maldives RT)	₹20,800
Accommodation (4 nights)	₹16,640
Meals (5 days)	₹16,640
Activities	₹9,320
Local Transportation	₹1,070
GRAND TOTAL ESTIMATE	₹64,470

Budget Comparison: * Total Estimated Cost: ₹64,470 INR * Set Budget Limit: ₹100,000 INR * Remaining

Budget: ₹35,530 INR

This itinerary provides a well-balanced and enjoyable trip to the Maldives for 2 people, staying comfortably within the ₹100,000 INR budget. The remaining buffer allows for flexibility or minor upgrades.