

5 FOREIGN DESTINATIONS Perfect for Short Vacations

Not every vacation needs a two-week leave or once-in-a-lifetime budget. Sometimes, all you need is a long weekend, a valid passport, and a destination that offers maximum experience in minimum time.

For Bangladeshi travellers juggling work, studies, and city exhaustion, short international vacations are becoming the smartest way to travel. From Dhaka, several international destinations are surprisingly ideal for three to five-day escapes, offering culture, nature, food, and rest without exhaustion. From misty mountains to neon cities and turquoise waters, these destinations offer thoroughgoing experience with nominal time away.

Here are some destinations that promise exactly that.

Maldives: Doing Nothing, Beautifully
A four-day short Maldives gateway is all about presence. Go straight from Velana International Airport to one of the idyllic islands like Dhigurah, Kandooma, or Maafushi, and let the ocean set your peace.

Once you arrive, powder-white beaches and crystalline lagoons become your backdrop; perfect for sunbathing, swimming, and snorkelling over vibrant coral reefs teeming with tropical fish and in South Ari Atoll.

On a typical Day 2, speedboat excursions take you to multiple snorkel spots, while another day might be perfect for jet-skiing, paddleboarding or simply watching the sunset with a gentle breeze on your face.

Island picnics, as well as local craft exploration options are also there. Spend at least one morning exploring Male's cultural corners, from the historic Male Friday Mosque to small museums that speak to local heritage.

By day 4, a last swim or beach walk feels like a reset, leaving you refreshed before your return. Whether you choose quiet island life or lively water sports, the Maldives delivers a deeply restorative short escape.



Nepal

Nepal: Mountains, Monasteries, and Mindful Slowness

A short trip to Nepal is a soulful blend of spiritual heritage, serene lakes, and Himalayan panoramas. Start in Kathmandu Valley, arriving at Tribhuvan International Airport and heading straight into the bustle of Durbar Square, where ancient palaces and temple courtyards tell stories dating back centuries.

Wander through Swayambhunath and Boudhanath, where fluttering prayer flags and Buddhist chants set a

deeply meditative tone, and pause at Pashupatinath to glimpse a sacred Hindu ritual.

From Kathmandu, a scenic drive or short flight takes you to Pokhara, the gateway to the Annapurna Range and a haven for nature lovers. Here, mornings begin with boat rides on Phewa Lake, mist-softened views of snow-capped peaks lingering on the horizon, and visits to limestone caves like Mahendra Cave that mix geology with myth. For adventure and calm alike, Pokhara offers paragliding, lakeside cafes, and sunrise viewpoints that make the Himalayas feel alive.

Whether exploring heritage sites or reflecting by mountain lakes, Nepal delivers richness in every direction, perfect for a five-day escape.

Singapore: Small City, Big Payoff
Singapore may be compact, but it packs a variety of experiences ideal for a three-day getaway.

Start in the heart of the city on Day 1 by exploring Marina Bay and its iconic skyline, wander through Gardens by the Bay and marvel at the Supertree Grove and Cloud Forest, before catching the light and water show by night. After that, head to Lau Pa Sat or a hawker centre for local delights like chicken rice and satay, where flavours reflect the city's multicultural heritage.

Day 2 dives into neighbourhood culture, start with Chinatown's heritage streets, then visit Haji Lane for indie boutiques and cafes, and finish with panoramic views from Marina Bay Sands SkyPark.

On Day 3, enjoy Sentosa Island's beaches and attractions like Universal Studios or the SEA Aquarium, or opt for a relaxed morning at Tiong Bahru with its art-filled streets and bakeries.

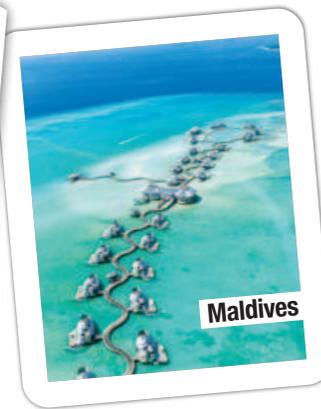
Singapore's efficient transport makes all this possible without rushing, so even a short trip feels remarkably complete.

Northern Vietnam: From the Old Quarter to Open Waters

A three-day trip to Northern Vietnam is perfect for travellers seeking variety

without rushing. Start in Hanoi, where Day 1 unfolds in Old Quarter, narrow streets, colonial buildings, lakeside cafes, and food stalls serving pho and egg coffee. Key stops like Hoan Kiem Lake and the Temple of Literature offer a quick but meaningful introduction to Vietnam's cultural heart.

On Day 2, head to Ninh Binh, often called "Ha Long Bay on land." Just two hours from Hanoi, its limestone karsts, river caves, and ancient temples feel cinematic. A boat ride through Tam Coc or Trang An delivers quiet magic.



Day 3 is reserved for Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Whether on a day cruise or short overnight journey, emeralds waters and towering cliffs make a powerful finale.

Together, these destinations balance city life, countryside calm, and natural wonder, ideal for a short but deeply immersive escape.

Turkey: Istanbul and Cappadocia - Yes, It's Possible

Some travellers may assume that seeing Turkey's magic in five days is impossible; that a country this rich in history and landscape demands weeks. But with smart planning, five days can offer a memorable slice of Turkey's heart: the urban marvel of Istanbul and the surreal vistas of Cappadocia.

Start in Istanbul with its iconic sights on Day 1 and 2, Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, and the bustling Grand Bazaar immerse you in centuries of Ottoman and Byzantine legacy.

A Bosphorus cruise adds a scenic rhythm to the city experience, while spice stalls and cafe culture reveal daily life in the city that bridges two continents. Mid-trip, fly

to Cappadocia where otherworldly landscapes await.

The Goreme Open-Air Museum, fairy chimneys of Love Valley, and underground cities showcase both nature's artistry and ancient ingenuity. A sunrise hot-air balloon ride here becomes the highlight of many travels, painting the sky over rock formations like a dream.

With domestic flights and compact touring, five days in Turkey doesn't just cover highlights, it creates unforgettable moments.

Travel That Respects Your Time

Short vacations are no longer about ticking destinations off a list. They are about emotional return on time invested.

These five places succeed because they offer completeness, each gives travellers a sense of arrival, experience, and closure within days. For Bangladeshi travellers navigating demanding lives, these destinations prove that you don't need long vacations to feel renewed. Sometimes, a few well-chosen days away are enough to come back lighter, clearer, and ready again.

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Photo: Collected



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