

# Maldives Monthly Climate Outlook

March 2026



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## Maldives Monthly Climate Outlook for March 2026

### Summary

Considering the latest climate model outputs, prevailing large-scale climate drivers, and national climate data, the northern atolls are expected to experience normal to below-normal rainfall, whereas the central and southern atolls are likely to receive below-normal rainfall during the month. Both maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to remain slightly above normal across the country.

### 1. Introduction

The Maldives Monthly Climate Outlook for March 2026 has been prepared using national climate data and guidance from leading global and regional climate centres. These include the Probabilistic Multi-Model Ensemble (MME) products from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Lead Centre for Seasonal Prediction, the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES), the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), the Met Office (UKMO), and the APEC Climate Center (APCC).

The forecast also considers key climate drivers such as the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), and the Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO). These factors significantly influence temperature, rainfall, and atmospheric circulation in the region. Their inclusion enhances the accuracy and reliability of the climate outlook for the Maldives.

## 2. Current status and expected conditions of major climate drivers.

As of 23 February 2026, the ENSO is in a La Niña phase. Climate models indicate that a transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral conditions is likely during the period February to April 2026. The IOD is currently in a neutral phase. Model guidance suggests that neutral IOD conditions are expected to persist through May 2026 (Bureau of Meteorology, 2026). Meanwhile, the MJO is presently weak or inactive over the Arabian Sea and Maldives area. Some models suggest that MJO activity may strengthen near the Maritime Continent during the first week of March.

## 3. March Rainfall Climatology Vs Observed (2025)

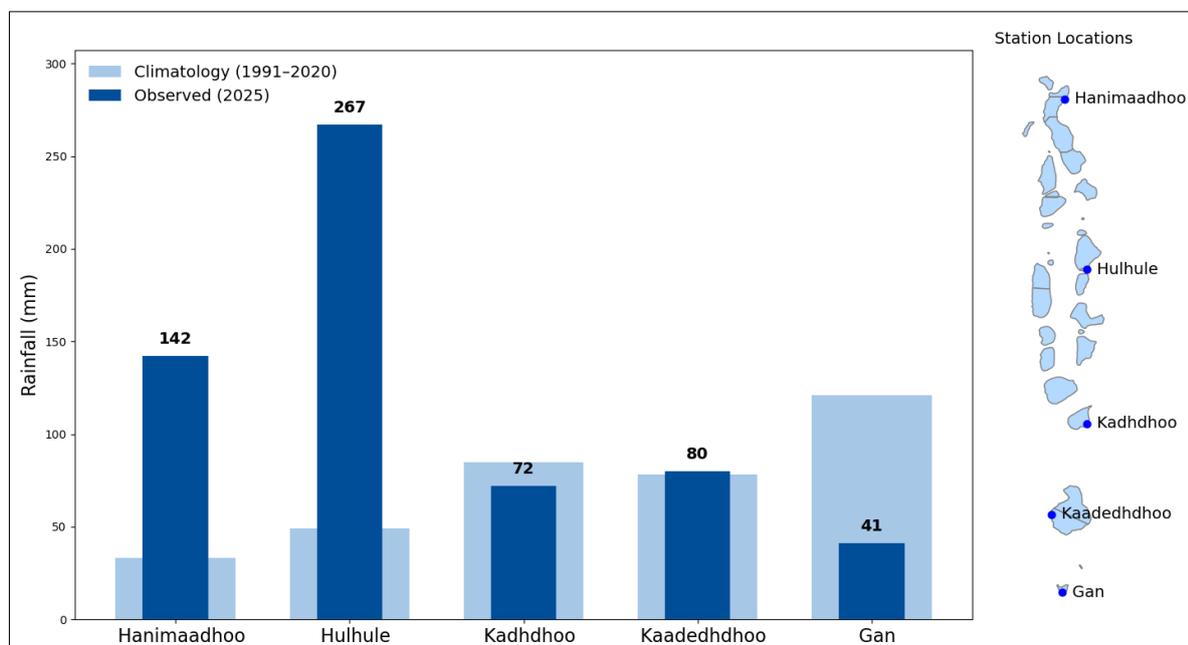


Figure 1: The chart compares the observed rainfall in March 2025 with the long-term climate normal for five Meteorological stations across the Maldives. Hulhule' recorded the most extreme deviation from normal, receiving more than five times its average rainfall. Hanimaadhoo also experienced an exceptionally wet month, with rainfall well above normal. However, Kadhdhoo, Kaadeddhoo, and Gan recorded below-normal rainfall, indicating that the southern part of the Maldives faced a substantial rainfall deficit during March 2025. The map on the right indicates the geographical locations of the five stations across the Maldives.

#### 4. Temperature Variation over the Maldives during March (1991-2025).

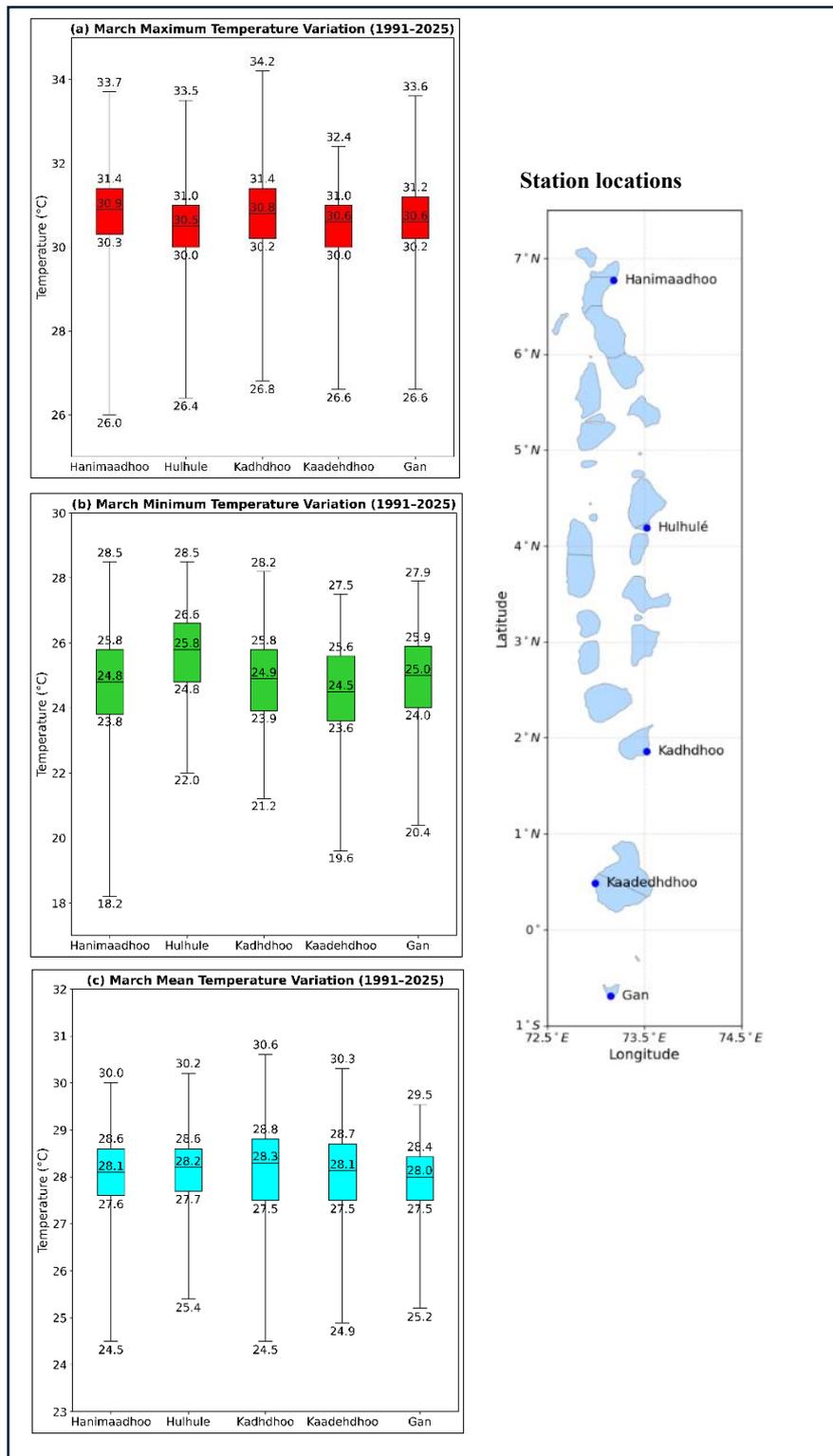


Figure 2: Boxplots showing the distribution of daily maximum, minimum, and mean temperatures in March at five Meteorological stations in the Maldives (Hanimaadhoo, Hulhulé, Kadhdhoo, Kaadedhdhoo, and Gan) for the period 1991–2025. Mean March maximum temperatures range from 30.5–30.9 °C, minimum temperatures from 24.5–25.8 °C, and mean temperatures from 28.0–28.3 °C. The highest maximum temperature (34.2 °C) and highest mean temperature (30.6 °C) were recorded at Kadhdhoo, while the lowest minimum temperature (18.2 °C) was observed at Hanimaadhoo. The map on the right indicates the geographical locations of the five stations across the Maldives.

## 5. Maldives Climate Outlook for March 2026

The March 2026 outlook is based on guidance from a range of global climate models, including 11 Multi-Model Ensemble products from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Lead Centre. Of these 11 models, six indicate that the southern part of the Maldives is likely to experience below-normal rainfall during March 2026. However, when considering the full ensemble, the overall rainfall signal remains weak over the central and southern atolls, while the northern atolls show a tendency toward near-normal conditions.

Accordingly, the final rainfall outlook for March 2026 has been prepared primarily based on guidance from ECMWF, Exeter, together with an assessment of large-scale climate drivers and the prevailing climatological conditions of the Maldives. Overall, the northern atolls are expected to experience normal to below-normal rainfall, whereas the central and southern atolls are likely to receive below-normal rainfall during the month.

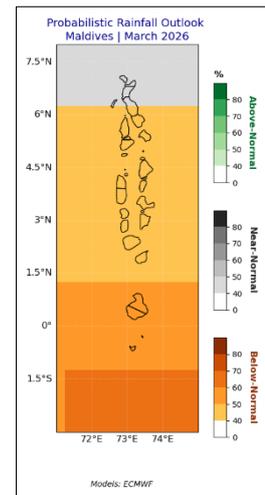


Figure 1: Probabilistic Multi-Model Ensemble (PMME) precipitation forecast from ECMWF for March 2026. The outlook indicates the northern atolls are expected to experience normal to below-normal rainfall, whereas the central and southern atolls are likely to receive below-normal rainfall during March 2026.

With respect to temperature, the probabilistic MME outlook indicates a tendency toward above-normal 2-meter air temperatures across the Maldives in March 2026. However, the probability of above-normal conditions is relatively low between Shaviyani and Kaafu Atoll. Taking this into consideration, along with the typical climatological conditions of March, both maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to remain slightly above normal across the country during March 2026.

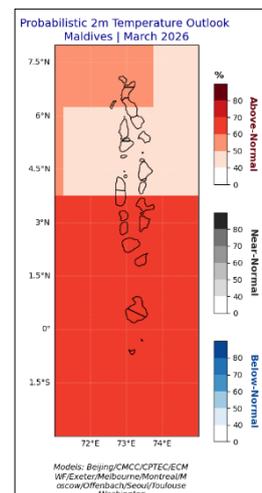


Figure 1: Probabilistic multi-model ensemble (MME) forecast for 2-meter air temperature for March 2026. The outlook indicates that the entire Maldives is likely to experience above-normal temperature during March 2026.

## 6. Conclusion

Climate indicators suggest that ENSO is currently in a La Niña phase. Models indicate that a transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral conditions is likely during the period February to April 2026. The IOD is currently in a neutral phase, and model guidance suggests that neutral IOD conditions are expected to persist through May 2026. Meanwhile, MJO is presently weak or inactive over the Arabian Sea and Maldives area. Some models suggest that MJO activity may strengthen near the Maritime Continent during the first week of March.

Considering the latest climate model outputs, prevailing large-scale climate drivers, and national climate data, the northern atolls are expected to experience normal to below-normal rainfall, whereas the central and southern atolls are likely to receive below-normal rainfall during the month. Both maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to remain slightly above normal across the country.

Note: Rainfall categories used in the Maldives:

- Normal: 90% to 110% of the long-term average
- Above Normal: More than 110% of the long-term average
- Below Normal: Less than 90% of the long-term average