

Barefoot luxury

The Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle resort takes pride of place on Sri Lanka's delightful southern coast

WHERE
TO
STAY

ANANTARA PEACE
HAVEN, TANGALLE



Sri Lanka

PRICE

From \$406
per night



tangalle.anantara.com



CMB



In recent years, Sri Lanka's star has been on the rise. Often described as the Pearl of the Indian Ocean – a hidden gem abundant in natural riches – the teardrop-shaped island country is finally starting to be lapped by the waves of luxury.

Leading the sea change is the Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle Resort, which opened its doors in December 2015. Set on a 21-acre former coconut plantation on the island's southern coast, the sprawling property of 152 rooms and villas boasts unbeatable views over the Indian Ocean. Unfortunately, the rough waters at the secluded beach directly below the resort render it unsuitable for swimming, but guests are able to walk along to the next bay.

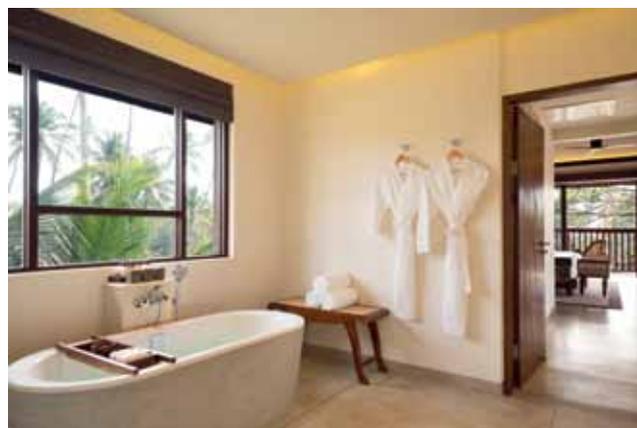
This is a resort with all of the trimmings – spacious, well-equipped rooms with supersized bathrooms, a 25-metre infinity pool, an inviting spa offering Ayurvedic treatments, and a choice of six stylish restaurants and bars. The Italian fine-dining spot, Il Mare, has the best real estate, perched on a clifftop overlooking the dramatic swells below.

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For a glimpse into local life, an intrepid option is to jump on a tuk-tuk – the ubiquitous form of transport sometimes cheekily referred to as the Sri Lankan Ferrari – and discover Tangalle's vibrant street markets, where vendors sell everything from bunches of bananas to hand-crafted hunting knives.

Anantara's 'experience gurus' also offer guided excursions to nearby attractions, like the ancient Mulkirigala rock temple, the Udawalawe elephant sanctuary, or the Handunugoda tea estate, renowned for producing the elusive virgin white tea, untouched by human hands.



From Tangalle, the charismatic colonial town of Galle on the island's southwestern tip is well worth the day trip. The settlement was founded in 1505 by the Portuguese, who started building a fortress to protect the trading port. When the Dutch came along a century later, they took on the job, making it bigger and stronger, until the arrival of the British in the late 18th century.

The fort remains today, and Galle is perhaps Sri Lanka's closest semblance

of a tourist town, with a number of boutique guesthouses, art galleries, gift shops and cafes within its historic walls.

While it may be tempting to overlook Sri Lanka in favour of its famous Indian Ocean neighbour, the Maldives, this compact island nation contains all the right ingredients for a luxury getaway.

Pristine shores make for an idyllic flop and drop holiday, while national parks, bustling beach towns and eight Unesco World Heritage sites provide added spice for more adventurous travellers. 📍

SEE

EAT

DO

FROM THE
CONCIERGE

Wild elephants
Udawalawe National Park is home to around 500 Asian elephants, and is considered one of the best places in the world to catch a glimpse of the gentle giants. Open-top safari jeeps take visitors through the 31,000-hectare nature reserve, which is also home to water buffalo, crocodiles, and even Sri Lanka's national bird, the junglefowl.

Curry
Sri Lankan curries are rich, fragrant and a staple of the local diet. Learn how to recreate the dish at one of Anantara's Spice Spoons cooking classes, which includes a guided tour of the colourful fresh food markets in the area.

Catch a wave
Sri Lanka's unspoilt southern coast is an ideal spot for beginner surfers. Novices can take lessons with luxury surfing operator Tropicsurf, which is stationed at the resort.