

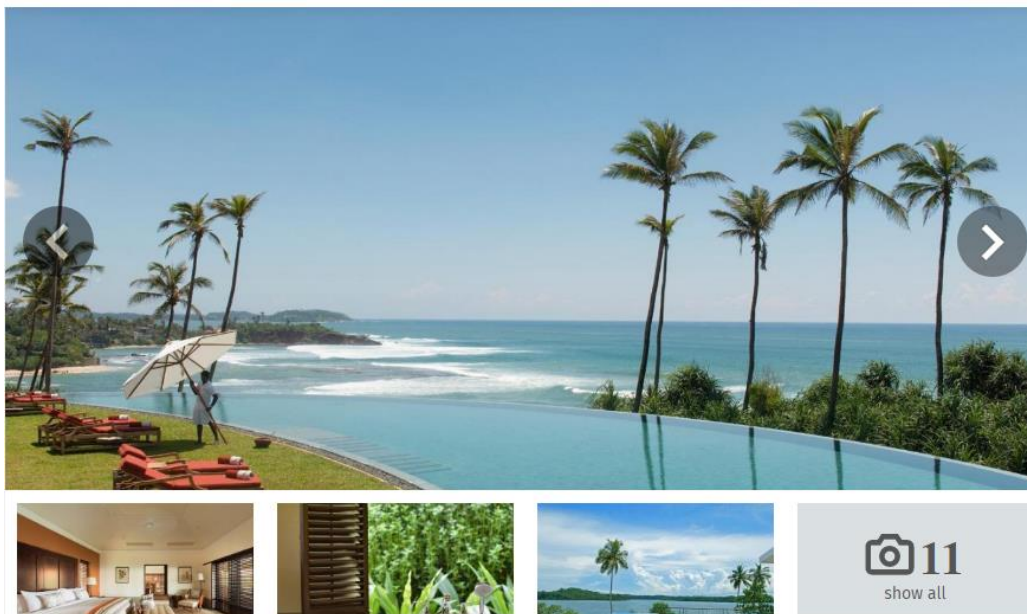
5 of the best hotels in Sri Lanka

Alice Tate gives you the lowdown on the best hotels Sri Lanka has to offer whether you're after a colonial villa or a luxury hut on the beach

Thursday 12 January 2017

<http://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/travel/5-of-the-best-hotels-in-sri-lanka-a3438111.html>

Best Sri Lanka hotels - in pictures



From the mouthwatering cuisine to the colourful culture, characterful cities, surf beaches, and national parks teeming with wildlife, Sri Lanka has a whole lot on offer.

Add to that list a plethora of first-class hotels; whether you're looking for a peaceful lake-front eco suite, a colonial villa complete with butler, or a luxury hut on the beach, you're covered.

So which will it be? Here's our pick of the very best hotels in Sri Lanka...

Tri, Koggala

Chances are your first stop south of Colombo is going to be Galle, a historical fort town that's well worth a visit. Your next stop should be Tri, a new, sustainable luxury hotel on Lake Koggala, that's the ultimate spot for a little R&R. A glorious day would be spent simply dipping your toes in the striking infinity pool, though if you want more than that, there's a yoga studio complete with jungle breeze, a well-being library, and a spa with Ayurveda treatments, all set in the most serene of surroundings. Comprised of just 11 contemporary villas and rooms, Tri is wonderfully private; each of the suites are contemporary and comfortable with spacious modern bathrooms, airy balconies with beautiful views, and private pools.



A family villa at Tri

Enjoy breakfast on the lake jetty, zone out with a swim, and don't miss the opportunity to take a boat across to Cinnamon Island to try local cinnamon tea. The food here is excellent: breakfast is endless courses with fresh fruits, juice and Sri Lankan classics, and come dinner time, feast like king on fresh seafood and modern Sri Lanka flavours.

Rates from £305/night; trilanka.com

Ceylon Tea Trails, Hill Country



- [READ MORE](#)

Why Galle should be on your winter sun bucket list

Up in Hill Country, Ceylon Tea Trails (Cape Weligama's sister hotel) is a characterful oasis of calm with stunning views and a welcoming attitude that nothing is too much trouble. Made up of four colonial bungalows, decadent rooms have wood-fires, claw foot bathtubs, bay windows and libraries — plus butlers too. The setting is simply idyllic, you'll struggle to drag your eyes away from the views, but when you do, you'll see it's the perfect base to explore the surrounding tea estates, ravines and waterfalls. Later, there's afternoon tea (the most local kind!), and mountain-fed pools to bathe in. Heaven? Pretty much.



Ceylon Tea Trails (Sansoni Norwood)

Rates from £500/night; resplendentceylon.com

Ulagalla Resort, Cultural Triangle

Set among rice paddies with 58-acres of lush grounds, the eco-friendly Ulagalla Resort is where luxury and nature collide, and it's the perfect base for exploring Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle. The 20 villas are simply breathtaking; glass walls bring the outside in and they all have plunge pools or jacuzzis. Jump on your his and hers bicycles and get out and explore the landscaped grounds, the stables, 150-year old mansion house, and later on, the wine cellar. Along with fellow human guests, don't be alarmed to see monkeys, peacocks, elephants and horses sharing the place with you too...



(Smith Hotels)

Rates from £430/ night; ugaescapes.com

Cape Weligama, Weligama



• READ MORE

10 reasons why you should visit Sri Lanka in 2016

Like to just kick back and do nothing when on holiday? Cape Weligama is just the place to do just that, with its grand colonial villas scattered around an Indian Ocean headland, each complete with ocean views, pools, and private

butlers too. The pace of life here is luxuriously leisurely: wake up with a dip, wander down to explore the few bays, spot the fishermen stilt fishing, watch sunset from the crescent-shaped infinity pool, and later, fall asleep to sound of the ocean. There are activities on offer included in your stay if you fancy them though, and the guided bicycle ride around Weligama is totally underrated and the best way to witness the day-to-day life of the locals. Cape Weligama is perfect for couples — villas are tucked away and feel very private — but great for families too, with a separate children's pool and play area. Dining is a sure highlight here too. Start the day with the authentic Sri Lankan breakfast of hoppers, and in the evening, its Sri Lankan curry buffet is fantastic.



(Tom Parker)

Rates from £459/night; resplendentceylond.com

Chena Huts, Yala National Park

Yala National Park is at the top of the list for many visitors to Sri Lanka, eager to see its leopards and elephants, and there's no better base than Chena Huts — a series of luxurious huts scattered along the beachfront, five minutes drive from Block 5's entrance to the park. Location aside, this place wows. I say huts but really, they're far more than that; each naturalistic open-plan abode is complete with a giant bed, a standalone bathtub, a private pool on the terrace, and a glass front that looks straight out to the wilderness and ocean. Kudos to the chefs as the food here is superb, very authentic and fresh, plus, the dining experience itself is special; it isn't unusual for an elephant to wander along the beach to join you for dinner... How's that for close to nature?



Chena Huts

Rates from £758/night; ugaescapes.com

Alice Tate is a fitness and travel writer. Follow her on [Twitter](#) and