

# The 10 Best Resorts in Sri Lanka

With lush tea plantations, cloud-shrouded mountains, azure seas and cricket-loving locals, Sri Lanka beckons adventure-lovers the world over. At these top resorts, immersion in nature takes centre stage.

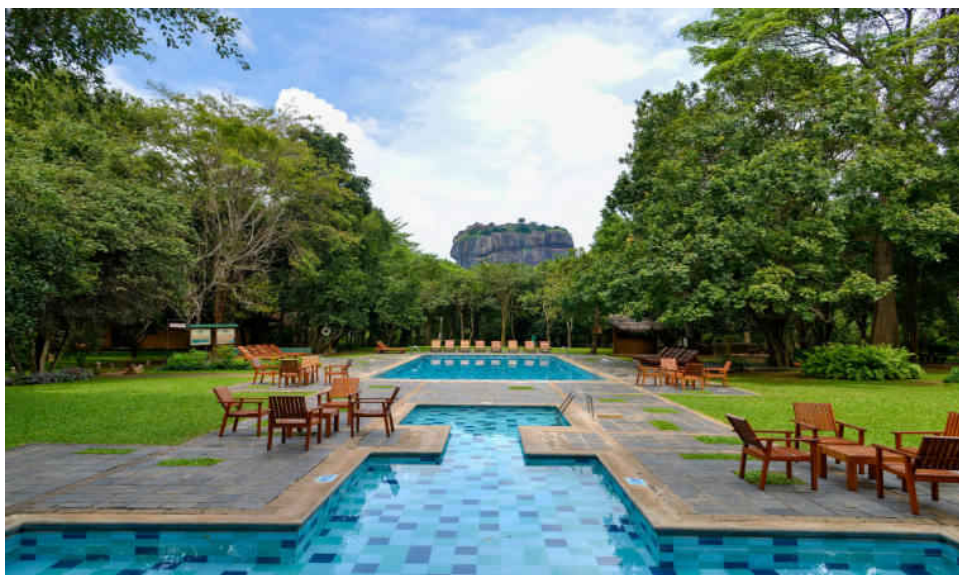
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Iconic Sri Lankan views from the pool at Hotel Sigiriya

An intoxicating blend of wildlife, ancient history, tea and cricket games, the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean' certainly hits a home run in the holiday stakes. It's little wonder that the best resorts in Sri Lanka open their doors to an ever-increasing flock of travellers, seeking lush plantations and beaches void of footprints.

Are you ready for inspiration on a backdrop of jungle green and Indian Ocean blue? Here, we take a look at 10 of Sri Lanka's top resorts.

## Ulagalla Resort



Nature and luxury combines, at Ulagalla

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year old mansion, within 58 acres of astounding natural beauty.

It's the kind of place where staff will drive you around in a golf buggy, if you can't be bothered using the free bikes. Otherwise, swim in the sparkling pool, revitalise with healing herbs at the spa and tempt your tastebuds at the wine cellar and restaurant. To explore the surrounding area of Anuradhapura, the hotel will arrange jungle kayaking, horseback riding, archery and temple visits.

**Where:** Thirappane, Anuradhapura

**Cost:** Average rates from \$390 per night

**Website:** [Ulagalla Resort](#)

## Heritage Kandalama



Heritage Kandalama – an escape in the wilderness © [Heritage Kandalama](#)

Sri Lanka's renowned architect, Geoffrey Bawa, created an enchanting escape from reality with Heritage Kandalama. Set high in the hills overlooking the Sigiriya Rocks, the silvery waters of Kandalama Lake and a monkey-filled jungle, the resort captures natural wonders from every angle.

That's not to say the man-made ones don't rival it. Three impressive swimming pools, tennis courts, a gym and a Six Senses Spa compete, along with rooms featuring rattan furniture, timber panels and glass walls to go with your rainfall shower.

**Where:** 11, Dambulla

**Cost:** Average rates from \$250 per night

**Website:** [Heritage Kandalama](#)

## The Eden Resort & Spa





Pure relaxation by the sea at Eden Resort and Spa © Eden Resort and Spa

Wake in the morning to local fishermen bringing in the catch of the day, browse through charming markets and stroll along one of Sri Lanka's longest beaches, in Beruwela. At The Eden Resort & Spa, return to a lagoon-style pool sitting on the edge of lapping waves, with rolling green grass and swaying palm trees.

An Ayurveda Spa helps you unwind, before dining privately in a tree hut or with your feet in the pristine sand. Wooden floors, elegant décor and lush views mean you'll sleep soundly, ready for yet another day of pure relaxation.

**Where:** Kaluwamodara, Beruwela

**Cost:** Average rates from \$150 per night

**Website:** [The Eden Resort & Spa](#)

## Mount Lavinia Hotel



Mount Lavinia oozes colonial style in an oceanfront setting

Step back in time to the colonial era, at the Mount Lavinia Hotel. Here, you'll feel the old world glamour of a 200 year history, spliced with romantic stories, impeccable service and a private beach in the heart of Colombo.

As the former home of the Governor General of Ceylon, rooms and suites are suitably furnished with dark, antique furniture, parquet floors and four-poster beds. Pools for adults and children, a gym, a spa, games room, shops and beachfront restaurant could even deter you from leaving to explore the casinos, snorkelling and temples in the surrounding area.

**Where:** 100 Hotel Road, Mount Lavinia

**Cost:** Average rates from \$150 per night

## MELHEIM RESORT



Panoramic pool views from Melheim Resort © [Melheim Resort](#)

Watch the sky change colour over soaring mountains, with an 'on top of the world view' at Melheim Resort. The boutique hotel, located in Beragala, is a cosy haven in vast, biodiverse surrounds.

Rooms open to private decks, blending mod-cons like iPod docks and flat screen TVs with forest panoramas. The restaurant serves impeccably presented cuisine, so you can eat in Mother Nature's company. Then, there's the pool with a view that'll make it very hard to focus on your holiday read.

**Where:** Beragala, Haputale

**Cost:** Average rates from \$200 per night

**Website:** [Melheim Resort](#)

## The Kandy House



History and fun make The Kandy House a traveller's favourite © [The Kandy House](#)

With room names including 'Sunbeam', 'Lime Butterfly' and 'Monkey Puzzle', you know you're in for an accommodation treat. People travel far and wide just to stay at The Kandy House, built in 1804 and renovated to include an infinity pool awash with birdsong, overlooking the rice paddies.

Twice weekly, the restaurant serves up a feast of 10 traditional Sri Lankan curries, you can play board games, watch DVD's and read books. Best of all, the staff will even indulge in a spot of cricket with you, if you can't wait to sample the national sport.



[Website: The Kandy House](#)

## Galle Face Hotel



Stay at the Galle Face Hotel for old-world glamour and the Chequerboard bar

The Galle Face Hotel sits on the shores of the Indian Ocean in resplendent, old-world glamour. A property that simply must be called 'she', the grand old dame is fully renovated, but still coated in her evocative, colonial past.

Originally opened in 1864, the hotel now sees the who's who of locals and international travellers, especially for afternoon drinks at the Chequerboard bar for sunset. When you stay, lounge around the saltwater pool, have a spa treatment, eat, drink and simply be merry, in the historic midst of Colombo.

**Where:** 2 CGHW Hwy, Colombo 0300

**Cost:** Average rates from \$200 per night

**Website:** [Galle Face Hotel](#)

[Find flights to Colombo](#)

## Maalu Maalu Resort & Spa



Make the most of Indian Ocean views, from Maalu Maalu

equipped with Wi-Fi and polished floors.

The eco-friendly hotel serves seafood on a backdrop of salty air and Indian Ocean blues, has an infinity pool with endless views, a spa and the all-important ambience of utter relaxation.

**Where:** 30410 Pasikuda

**Cost:** Average rates from \$200

**Website:** [Maalu Maalu Resort & Spa](#)

## Boulder Garden Hotel



Dining beneath the boulder, at enchanting Boulder Garden

Experience the quirky side of Sri Lanka, beneath the towering presence of boulders in the rainforest. The Boulder Garden Hotel is for nature lovers, set amid tea and rice paddy terraces with options close by for bird watching, kayaking and checking out bat-filled caves.

Right on site though, you can dine in the open-air restaurant under a giant rock, sip on cocktails at the Cave bar and swim in a spring-water swimming pool fringed with trees and butterflies.

**Where:** Sinharaja Road, Kalawana

**Cost:** Rates upon request

**Website:** [Boulder Garden Hotel](#)

## Hotel Sigiriya



Lion's Rock in your backyard, at Hotel Sigiriya© [Hotel Sigiriya](#)

Lion's Rock is, quite literally, in the backyard of Hotel Sigiriya within the cultural triangle. From here, you'll want to gaze at the ancient rock fortress until your camera battery dies.

An eco-centre offers informative documentaries, you can indulge in a massage at the Ayurveda spa, smash out a round of volleyball or learn how to play the traditional game of Carom. When you've finished bird watching, elephant safaris and cycling through the jungle, relax in an open-air dining pavilion centred around a tree, to eat organic produce straight from the garden.

**Where:** 21120 Sigiriya

**Cost:** Average rates from \$170











**Website:** [Hotel Sigiriya](#)

Hotel prices may vary according to seasonality and room selection, so please check websites for updates.

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