

KADJU HOUSE

Kadju House among Conde Nast Traveller selection of 25 of the best beach villas in the world (February 2010, UK edition).



Sri Lanka Kadju House, Tangalle (sleeps eight)

EXOTIC
ORGANIC

You could reduce the five-hour-drive transfer from Colombo by taking a helicopter, but then you'd miss the scenic coastal road to Tangalle village at the southern end of the island. Kadju House stands on the crescent-shaped sandy beach of Seenimodara Bay and was designed by young architect Pradeep Kodikara, with four en-suite bedrooms, stylishly minimalist living areas and a rectangular pool that's floodlit at night. There are four full-time staff, including a gourmet chef who uses only organic ingredients. Private or group yoga lessons are available.

ON THE DOORSTEP The third-century BC Mulkirigala Temple, cut deep into the rock, with its ancient paintings and statues of Buddhas. The Amanwella hotel is a 30-minute drive away.

PRICE US\$605 to US\$1,420 per night

CONTACT Audley Travel (01993 838000; www.audleytravel.com)

Condé Nast Traveller

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The best beach villas in the world

If you do like to be beside the seaside, here are 25 great places to stay, from Cornwall to the Caribbean and from a romantic shack for two to high-design mansions for families or friends. By **Sophie Butler**

Honeymoon capital:
Villa 11 on North
Island, Seychelles



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ON THE DOORSTEP The third-century BC Mukingala Temple, cut deep into the rock, with its ancient paintings and statues of Buddhas. The Amanwella hotel is a 30-minute drive away.

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Thailand Villa Arawan,
Phuket (sleeps 10)

Sophisticated and stylish, this villa is generously sized for a group of 10 adults and discreetly hidden at the end of a cul-de-sac on a private estate. This part of the west coast has some of the best accommodation and beaches on the island. Of these, the closest is Surin Beach, an easy walk away. Polished teak floors, elegant Thai furnishings, striking art on the walls and an in-house cook add to the feeling of exclusivity. The two master bedrooms have wide, private terraces and there are covered 'salas' for outside dining next to the infinity-edged swimming pool.

ON THE DOORSTEP Exceptional restaurants nearby include Baan Rim Pa at Patong (25 minutes' drive) and Sak at Surin (three minutes' drive). Take a boat to explore the Phi Phi islands.

PRICE £3,150 to £9,275 per week
CONTACT Rocksure Rentals (01993 823809; www.rocksurere rentals.com)



India Coco Shambhala, Goa (sleeps four to 16)

BIG
GROUP
RETREAT

This is a gated enclave of four villas set in tropical gardens, built around a shared pool. All have first-floor, open-air sitting areas, two, Rohini and Ashlesha, have bedrooms on the ground floor and open-air bathrooms, while Bharani and Ashwini have indoor bathrooms. Each villa sleeps four and would suit a group of up to 16 taking the entire property. It's a 10-minute stroll to Coco Beach, a sandy cove on a river delta with views of the Arabian Sea. Daily maid service, plus a car and driver are included in the price.

ON THE DOORSTEP There are good restaurants at Candolim Beach (an eight-minute drive away), including The French Restaurant and East Meets West; the Lila Café serves the best morning coffee.

PRICE £1,304 to £2,195 per villa, per week
CONTACT Lazy Days (01202 484267; www.lazydays.co.uk)