

20 coolest hotels in Sri Lanka

From romantic escapes in the hill country to luxury tents by the beach, these are the best boutique places to stay

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Amanwella's 47m pool overlooks a great beach

13 Diyabubula, Dambulla

Dambulla has long been famed for its ancient cave paintings and proximity to the Lion Rock in Sigiriya, and this is the place to stay when you see them. Diyabubula consists of five rustic villas designed by one of the country's greatest living artists, Laki Senanayake. The resort surrounds Laki's studio, where guests can draw and paint. Meals are vegetarian and no alcohol is served.

Details Half-board doubles cost from £160 a night (diyabubula.com)

Need to know

Sri Lankan Airlines flies from Heathrow to Colombo from about £500 return (srilankan.com). Trailfinders (trailfinders.com) and Kuoni (kuoni.co.uk) can arrange tailor-made holidays that combine different areas of Sri Lanka