



Top ten honeymoon destinations in Sri Lanka and India

Escape to your very own Indian or Sri Lankan paradise with our guide to the best hotels, villas, lodges and havelis courtesy of Ampersand travel.....

24 August 2012 By Sarah Jordan

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The world's most romantic hotel

Where: Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur, India

Set beside the blue waters of Pichola Lake against a backdrop of green mountains, Udaipur's position is wonderfully romantic.

Its most famous hotel, the Lake Palace, stands right in the centre of the lake above its watery reflection. This 250-year-old white marble palace floats like a mirage and is reached by a short boat ride.

There are two restaurants; one informal serving both buffet and a la carte from around the world and the other a fine dining option which overlooks the famous lily pond.

To really experience the luxury, treat yourselves to an afternoon on Taj's Jiva Spa Boat. This customised spa boat is equipped with a massage therapy room and a jacuzzi full of rose petals.

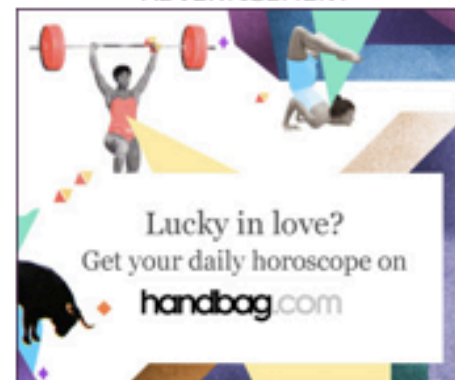
Ampersand Travel offers 7 nights at Taj Lake Palace from £2,988 per person, includes flights.

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Traditional mudhouse

Where: The Mudhouse, Anamaduwa, Sri Lanka

For adventure seekers looking for something truly special, the Mudhouse is the new frontier in Sri Lanka.

Experience the way local villagers live for a few days in one of three thatched roof huts filled with blooms of purple lilies.

Relax in a hammock as the sun sets over the trees, before picking up ingredients for a late night supper at the organic farm nearby.

There's also bird-watching, cycling, fishing and rock temple visits to keep you entertained.

Ampersand Travel offers 5 nights at The Mudhouse from £1,290 per person, includes transfers.

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Private hideaway

Where: Kahanda Kanda, Galle, Sri Lanka

Kahanda Kanda is a sprawling hideaway perched on a ridge north of Koggala Lake.

It is one of Sri Lanka's most sophisticated boutique hotels, with 8 pavilion suites, a [gorgeous](#) bar and a great restaurant.

If you [love](#) both nature and style, this hotel is perfect. Run by the eccentric and charismatic George Cooper, you are guaranteed an intimate and exclusive experience.

It is immaculately styled by him but still relaxed, as if you are staying in a private [home](#).

Awake to magnificent sounds of wildlife and views of the rainforest, marshlands, Kogala Lake, cinnamon trees and tea fields.

Ampersand Travel offers 5 nights at Kahanda Kanda from £1,660 per person, includes transfers

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Chic townhouse

Where: No.20 Middle Street, Galle, Sri Lanka

It simply does not get better than this villa in terms of location, history and the exquisite level of taste. Set in the very heart of Galle with great views over the 17th-century Dutch Reform Church, it is a private heaven amidst the town's [gentle](#) bustle.

For some buzz, simply pop next door for an Arak Sour cocktail at the Amangalla's terrace bar - the waterhole for the [glamorous](#) Galle scene.

The interior decoration is a mix between understated modern [glamour](#) and cool terrazzo floors with original teak windows and furnishings.

Marvel at the sweeping staircases and gaze at the sunset on the rooftop terrace.

There are all high tech gadgets and facilities for [entertainment](#) such as a plunge pool, games room with pool table, flatscreen TV/DVD with surround sound, WiFi throughout the house and a well stocked library.

Ampersand Travel offers 7 nights at #20 Middle Street from £3,290 per person, includes transfers.

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Eco-luxe resort

Where: Ulagalla, Thirappane, Sri Lanka

This new and conceptual hotel has been designed to combine luxury with top-notch eco credentials.

Laid out over a truly enormous area surrounded by buffalo fields, the villas are extremely luxe – akin to an Aman villa but with more flair and colour – and all come with separate living rooms, private pools and amazing bathrooms.

Each villa comes with 2 bicycles and there are electric [buggies](#) to take you to the main pool. They have lots of eco-powered activities: cycling, kayaking, archery and horse riding (with very impressive stables & horses).

There is also a poolside air-conditioned gym, a helipad, a small spa and an "island" in the middle of a huge paddy field where they put on private candle-lit [dinners](#).

Ampersand Travel offers 7 nights at Ulagalla from £1,950 per person, includes transfers.

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1920s-style glamping

Where: Sher Bagh, Ranthambore National Park, India

Picture this: nostalgic tents right out of a 1920s colonial hunting camp, a roaring campfire in the middle of a welcoming circle of antique canvas chairs, 'Tigertini' cocktails served at sunset, oil lamps that hang from branches to light up the earthy paths and personal service by elegant staff...all of this in the middle of a lush forest [crawling](#) with tigers, sloth bears and sambar deers.

Sher Barg is the perfect place to [get away](#) from it all and plunge into an exotic landscape full of authentic, quirky and unique touches. Not to be missed!

Ampersand Travel offers 7 nights at Sher Bagh from £1,950 per person, includes flights.

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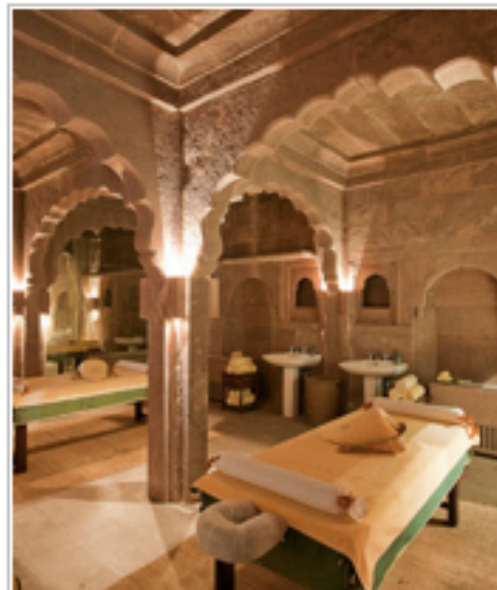
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Heritage haveli

Where: Raas, Jodhpur, India

This is one of India's coolest and most intimate little boutique hotels.

Located at the foot of the Mehrangarh Fort amid the colourful old quarter of the Blue City of Jodhpur, Raas is a [soothing](#) 31-room sanctuary built around an immaculately restored haveli (private house).

By day, the rose sandstone buildings are bathed in [soft](#) rays and, come night, the courtyard is subtly lit up with hundreds of twinkling lights.

Gorgeously [sleek](#) bedrooms have been decked out with shiny black terrazzo floors, custom-made rosewood furniture and creamy-white walls.

This is the perfect place for honeymooners to enjoy the hustle and bustle of Jodhpur without feeling at all ruffled by the crowds.

Ampersand Travel offers 7 nights at Raas from £1,565 per person, includes flights.

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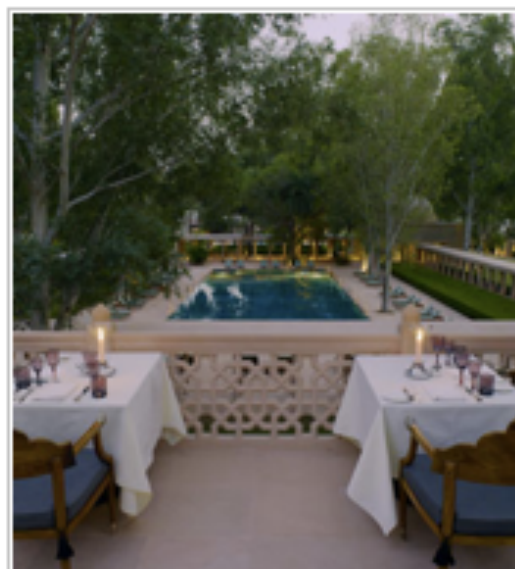
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Goddess worthy hill tops

Where: Amanbagh, Alwar, India

Secluded in a valley of the Aravalli Hills, the most ancient mountain range in the world, and set on what was once the site of the Maharajah of Alwar's hunting lodge, Amanbagh is a sexy and sophisticated retreat.

The hotel has a feeling of peaceful [calm](#) and is a real oasis compared to other busier parts of India.

There is a [beautiful](#) open-plan restaurant with views over the main pool and the Private Villas are brilliant for honeymoon couples looking for pure privacy.

There is a historic, almost spiritual aura at this resort and you will feel like an ancient god and goddess bathing in your magnificent green marble tub!

Ampersand Travel offers 7 nights at Amanbagh from £3,180 per person, includes flights.

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Gem in the desert

Where: Lakshman Sagar, India

Discover a remote gem in the desert called Lakshman Sagar – a [gorgeous](#), newly opened resort two and a half hours drive from Jodhpur.

Set in a heritage fort, its rustic feel and roughly hewn walls are offset by candy-coloured blue and pink accents that you just know Sienna Miller and her boho-chic clan would [love](#)!

Each of the 12 private villas come with a tear-shaped plunge pool and colourful ethnic Rajasthani décor – the perfect hideaway for some back-to-basics romance.

This is great for honeymoon couples who don't have a mega-watt budget but still enjoy [stylish](#) adventures.

Ampersand Travel offers 7 nights at Lakshman Sagar from £1,350 per person, includes flights.

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Palace Hotel

Where: Samode Palace, Samode, Jaipur, India

One of the best heritage properties in Rajasthan, this glittering fairy-tale palace is like a desert mirage set against a striking mountain backdrop– and it's even more [beautiful](#) lit up at night.

All the rooms are decorated around themes of Indian royalty and are beautifully accessorised with traditional furnishings.

The village of Samode is extremely charming and a lovely place to stroll through. Enjoy a champagne aperitif on the candlelit terrace next to its cliff-facing infinity pool... a truly unforgettable romantic experience!

Ampersand Travel offers 7 nights at Samode Palace from £1,520 per person, includes flights.

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