

HOUSE & GARDEN® DESTINATIONS

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QATAR

BLUE-SKY THINKING

THE MALDIVES **MAURITIUS** SRI LANKA
AUSTRALIA INDONESIA

GREAT ADVENTURES

SKIING IN JAPAN

YUNNAN THROUGH THE LENS

FAY MASCHLER'S CULINARY RAJASTHAN

CRUISING THE GALAPAGOS

THE ESSENTIAL INSPIRATION FOR YOUR TRAVELS IN 2016

Southern Sri Lanka

Beyond the beaches, 2016 is the year to see Sri Lanka through fresh eyes, be that by hiking in the Knuckles range north of Kandy, boogie boarding or surfing off the southern tip (pictured) or doing tree-top yoga in the new Tri eco resort beside Koggala Lake. Travel throughout the country has become quicker and easier thanks to an expanded network from privately owned 'air taxi' service Cinnamon Air.

Stretching along the south-east coast, Kumana National Park has all the wildlife and drama of Yala, without the crowds. Leopard sightings are close-up and lingering; birdlife is prolific. Specialist tour operator Ampersand Travel has launched a secret mobile safari within the park, including fly-camps on beaches and riversides. Ampersand's founder James Jayasundera recommends visiting off season. 'People think rain is bad but, in the tropics, the rain is warm, dramatic and short-lived. To swim in the sea when it's raining, when the sea is like a warm bath, is a euphoric experience.' A new way to discover Sri Lanka indeed.

WHEN TO GO Peak season is December to April but another great time to visit is August and September when the island is at its best and there are no monsoons; prices also fall in September.