

“We are woken, not by the butler who brings our tea, but by a peacock on top of our tent.”

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Taj Lake Palace Hotel, Udaipur

Above and right: Amanwella villa and pool. Left: Taj Lake Palace suite

“We are woken, not by the butler who brings our tea, but by a noisy peacock on top of our tent”

Above: Sher Bagh, Ranthambore. Below: Amangalla baths, Galle

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TRAVEL HONEYMOONS

a villa with our own pool, right on a beach lined with palm trees and old fishing boats. We eat barbecued snapper on the sand before heading to Udawalawe National Park, where we are greeted by the sight of a young bull elephant enjoying a mud bath - before being mock-charged by a protective elephant mother. In the adjacent elephant orphanage, meanwhile, around 60 babies charge up to their carers for a feed of milk from giant bottles.

As we enjoy our last evening with a Sri Lankan curry back at our villa, we're interrupted by the resident black labrador, Nero, jumping into our pool for a swim. After 10 glorious days of people welcoming us into their world, it seems only fitting we do the same for him.

Getting there
Greaves Travel (greavesindia.co.uk) offers tailor-made India trips, with 10 nights in the Rajasthan region from £3,150pp, including return British Airways flights from London to Delhi, internal flights and travel, excursions, full board at Sher Bagh, Ranthambore (sherbagh.com), plus stays at Oberoi Rajvillas, Amarvilas and Gurgaon (oberoihotels.com) and Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur (tajhotels.com). The Ultimate Travel Company (theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk) arranges bespoke stays in Sri Lanka, including transfers, excursions and stays at Aman resorts, price on request. Amanwella, Tangalle, has doubles from £365, and Amangalla, Galle, has doubles from £340 (amanresorts.com).

Amanwella Beach Club, Tangalle

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