

Condé Nast Traveller

WIN
A STAY
AT
SAMODE
PALACE

0.8
9 17722291431002
SUBSCRIBER COPY

THE LAST WORD IN TRAVEL
AUG-SEPT 2018 | ₹150

INDIAN EDITION

BEST OF ASIA

Sri Lanka for all, shopping in Bali, safari in Nepal and more

HOT LIST 2018

The finest new hotels
across the globe

WELLNESS SPECIAL

SPAS AROUND
THE WORLD
HEALING IN
HIMACHAL
GULMARG FOR
THE SOUL

DUBAI SECRETS DECODED

Neha Dhupia at
The Khyber Himalayan
Resort & Spa, Gulmarg



GETAWAY



GETAWAY

SRI LANKA

THREE

Between its natural and cultural riches, the Emerald Isle can be a lot to take in. **Saumya Ancheri** tells you the best ways to do everything you want

WAYS

PHOTOGRAPHY: TOM F

GETAWAY

A 15-minute drive away, **Galle Fort** is worth a visit—for a cricket match, a heritage walk or lunch and shopping. Stay at the **Galle Fort Hotel** (galleforhotel.com; doubles from LKR51,170 or ₹21,810), a UNESCO-awarded 14-room hotel within the 17th-century fort that is filled with period antiques. The charming open-to-sky pool, shaded by palm trees, is surrounded by the stately pillars fronting the rooms. Linger by the pool with a book and a drink or two, or explore the historic surroundings, before digging into super-fresh jumbo prawns and lobster at the restaurant.

In **Unawatuna**, a half-hour away, stay at **Cantaloupe Levels** (cantaloupehotels.com; doubles from LKR23,190 or ₹9,880), where the look is bold (think gold and silver headboards and pop art on the walls), but the feel is very chill (think personalised spa

therapies and poolside tapas). En route, stop and see the historic **Japanese Peace Pagoda** on Rumassala Hill, built in 2005 as part of a peace programme.

Beach hop to **Kalutara**, where the Kalu Ganga River meets the Indian Ocean at the 105-key **Avani Kalutara Resort** (minorhotels.com; doubles from LKR18,215 or ₹7,780). Each room and suite comes with a private balcony or patio to enjoy views of the ocean, river or tropical garden. If that's not enough to soothe your nerves, the frangipani gardens will do the trick. Kids will enjoy the seaside games the hotel organises, and family time can also be had with indoor games like chess.

Spend your last night in the Emerald Isle at the plush **Serene Pavilions** (serenepavilions.com; doubles from LKR95,995 or ₹40,870) in Wadduwa, replete

with 12 Balinese-style pavilions that come with butler service and a pool with four submerged Jacuzzi beds. **f**

Similar trips can be organised by Qwest Destinations (qwestdestinations.com; from LKR32,2070 or ₹1,36,350 per person on double occupancy for Architecture & Design; from LKR4,05,115 or ₹1,71,500 for Eat & Work It Off; from LKR4,44,710 or ₹1,88,260 for Buddha, Beaches & Ayurveda.

GETTING THERE Fly direct to Colombo with Sri Lankan Airlines or Air India from most major Indian cities. Indian passport-holders can apply online for an e-visa (eta.gov.lk). These visas cost ₹1,350 and take one working day to be processed. Visas on arrival can also be processed on arrival at Colombo, for ₹1,700.



The walkway to the beach at the Shangri-La's Hambantota Golf Resort & Spa.