# It's a 'Waterful' Life

Whether it's lazing by the sea or meditating by the riverside, here's a round-up of waterfront properties, handpicked for you.



## Waterland - Negombo, Sri Lanka

Negombo is a popular gateway to Sri Lanka because of its proximity to the Bandaranaike International Airport and a vibrant beach scene. Waterland, tucked away in a corner of Negombo, is an oasis of calm. With only five villas, it is exclusive and intimate. Flanked by the Maha Oya stream and Dutch Canal, the property greets you to magnificent views. Each villa comes with its own infinityedge plunge pool. The dining barge allows guests to not only simply dine by the water but also relish a meal on the water, while their floating spa gently rocks

with the flow of the river. Popular quest activities include on-site Sri Lankan cooking classes and tea tasting sessions, bicycling along a specially curated route in and around Negombo, and boat tours from their private dock. Go south to experience village life along the river and pass coconut plantations, paddy fields, and

picturesque mangroves. In the north you may see herons, egrets, water monitors, cormorants, kingfishers and parrots. Come back to a warm glass of toddy (fermented coconut sap), freshly tapped from the palm trees at Waterland.





### Devnadi – The Heritage Hotel – Haridwar, Uttarakhand

Steeped in culture and tradition, Devnadi – The Heritage Hotel is a 150-year-old haveli located on the banks of the Ganges in the holy city of Haridwar. The waterfront property was once the summer holiday home of the Queen of Nepal and fondly called the 'Nepali Kothi'. It was later taken over by prominent Indian director-producer Ramanand Sagar, who wrote many tales of spirituality here, including the legendary TV serial Ramayana that aired in the 90s.

The eight-room haveli is more home than a hotel with most of

its original interiors still intact. It has the largest private ghat in Haridwar – Madan Mohan Ghat – allowing guests to take a comfortable dip in the holy river with complete privacy and hygiene. Every morning and evening, aarti and yoga sessions are organised by the banks of the Ganges. To get a pulse of the city, go temple-hopping in a cycle rickshaw around Har ki Pauri (literally, 'footsteps of the Lord') or set out on a food trail and try the city's famous aloo puri and kachoris.



Take a rain check

Sri Lanka has a tropical

receives rains twice a

year. From December

season on the North and Northeast

coasts. From Mav to September, it is rainy season on the South

and Southwest coasts. June and November

months, which means

coast you'd like to visit

depending on the time

of the year. There is no

dearth of good hotels

along the Sri Lankan

every type of traveller.

coastline suited for

are inter-seasonal

it rains throughout

the country. Take a moment to confirm

which side of the

climate much like India, but the country

to April, it is rainv

#### **Estuary Sarovar** Portico – Poovar, Kerala

Marthanda Varma, a former ruler of Travancore, was so enthralled by the beauty of a tiny hamlet in southern Kerala near Kovalam, that he named the place Poovar – meaning a string of flowers. Rightly justifying the term 'estuary', Poovar's Estuary Sarovar Portico has a unique setting where Kerala's backwaters, the Neyyar River and Poovar beach meet to connect to the Arabian Sea.



The property, in the lap of nature, offers all things extravagant – from a swim in the pool under the stars to buffets on a floating restaurant. Experience relaxing massages - Vaidyashala and Paridisi at their in-house Avurveda centre after a stroll on the quiet Poovar beach. And if that isn't all, take a drop to their car park by a speedboat through the backwaters. Estuary Sarovar Portico is a world in itself, away from the hectic city life. It is a luxurious break to gift oneself, because we all deserve it, don't we?

#### **GET A ROOM**



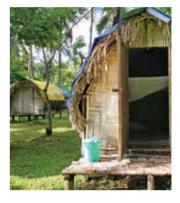
#### Raga on the Ganges – Rishikesh, Uttarakhand

For a spiritual retreat, head to Raga on the Ganges, a luxury boutique hotel in Rishikesh. Away from the hustle and bustle of the city, the property promises rejuvenation of the body, mind, and soul. Guests can head down to the Ganges through a private route to meditate by the river or indulge in a range of wellness treatments – sauna, hydrotherapy, Jacuzzi, and steam bath – at their in-house spa, Teertha. The rooms are spacious and tastefully designed with a balcony that opens out to panoramic views of the waters of the Ganges and the Shivalik ranges. The chefs at the in-house restaurant Tarana work closely with the local community to introduce guests to authentic Garhwali cuisine. For a shot of adrenaline, sign up for activities such as white-water rafting in the Ganges, rappelling, trekking, cycling, and canoeing.



# – Havelock, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

**Barefoot Scuba** 



Beyond the usual

Havelock, the most

tourist-friendly. One

Havelock by renting a

two-wheeler for a day.

Make sure you visit the

beach and the world's

seventh best beach

by *Time* magazine. If

you're up for a quick hike, visit the Elephant

beach for its turquoise

waters that can easily

European beach a run for its money.

give any Southern

Radhanagar beach,

which was once ranked as Asia's best

popular island in

the Andamans, is

can easily explore

The Andaman Islands is considered one of the best sites for diving in Asia. Barefoot Scuba is the first 5-star PADI Dive Center and Resort in the Andamans. The resort is renowned as the melting pot of Havelock where you can interact with a wide variety of fellow divers and travellers.

Barefoot Scuba Resort is located at Beach No.3 with four types of room offerings – from 5 euros per day to 50 euros per day. Their sea-facing duplex cottages are wooden air-conditioned bungalows that face the sea through a small grove of coconut trees. The airy bedroom on the upper floor opens to a private balcony, which is the perfect place to relax after a day of diving. They also have non a/c bungalows facing the sea that are as much cozy and ideal to unwind. For backpackers on a tight budget, they offer basic A Frame Huts that are small, elevated cane and bamboo structures. The resort's in-house restaurant, Cafe Del Mar, is the oldest and the best-known restaurant at Beach No.3 serving Indian and continental fares as well as some great seafood.