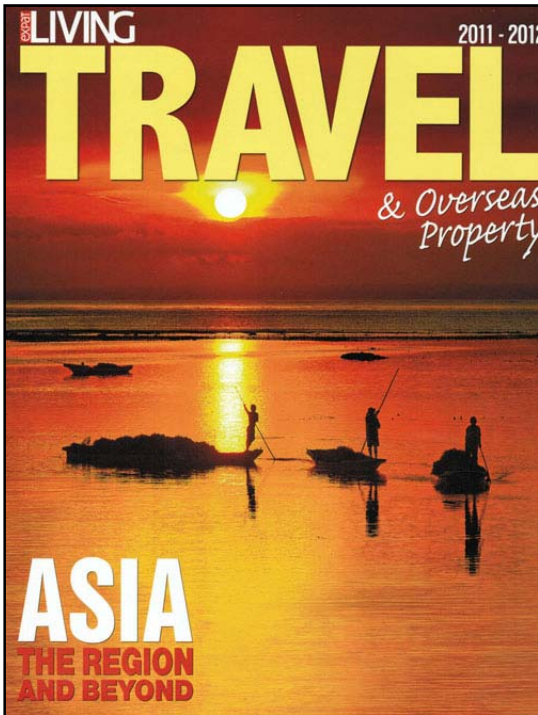


EXPAT LIVING TRAVEL – OCEAN'S EDGE

Edition 2011 - 2012



Sri Lanka's Southern Coast
By Louise York

To my absolute delight, I won a prize in *Expat Living's* August issue for six-nights at a Sri Lankan villa managed by Private Homes and Villas. My in-laws were coming to Singapore for Christmas, so my husband and I thought it would be nice to make use of the villa over the New Year holiday. We opted to stay at **Oceans Edge** in **Tungalle** on the southern coast.

The villa was absolutely stunning and positioned on a 3km white sandy beach that we felt we had to ourselves the whole time. The villa manager and chef Jayasingh greeted us on arrival, and we were sipping gin and tonics on the verandah in no time.

There really aren't enough superlatives to describe how idyllic the location is. It's rather remote but this helps you to relax and get away from it all. One could easily not leave the confines of the villa grounds and beach, yet still be perfectly contented with relaxing by the pool, indulging in sumptuous meals or simply wandering along the beach at sunset.

This is not to say that we didn't make the most of our time. We saw a Buddhist temple, went whale-watching in **Mirissi**, went on a safari in **Yala National Park** and booked a day trip around the city of **Galle**.

But the highlight was most certainly seeing the turtles on the conservation beach in **Rekawa**. The turtle conservation project is only 6km from the villa, and we ventured out at 9pm to witness an olive turtle crawl up the beach, dig a hole, lay her eggs and cover them before returning to the sea. It was breathtaking to see the struggles and exertions of nature so close up. Three turtles came onto the beach that night, but during the main season as many as 25 come at a time!

This was our first villa holiday, but we are certainly hooked. Discussing over breakfast what we wanted for dinner and then having the staff go out, buy and cook the food was fantastic. Our New Year's Eve meal of lobster, prawns and Sri Lankan-style vegetable dishes was exquisite.

Thank you so much to *Expat Living* and *Private Homes and Villas* for a wonderful prize and an excellent holiday.



Travel & Overseas Property EXPATLIVING 159

SRI LANKA'S SOUTHERN COAST

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