

Southeast Asia's top 10 private villas

A rundown of the best luxury rentals in the region, handpicked by *The Villa Guide*

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There are a few reasons you might want to rent a private luxury villa rather than stay in a resort

Extra space. Naked swims in your private pool. Personal chefs.

In terms of sheer swank factor, combined with fashion-spread worthy surroundings, Southeast Asia has some of the world's best private villas.

Based on its inspections of over 200 properties in the region, *The Villa Guide* -- a booking site that features reviews of villas in the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka -- recently put together a list of what its reviewers feel are "without a doubt the top 10" villas in the region.

Criteria: "Every villa that actually makes it onto [The Villa Guide website](#) (many do not) has been independently reviewed and rated. The criteria is stringent, and in each category they are scored from a possible 10 points, then combined to give an overall result.

"All villas in the 7-plus range are great rental properties, therefore any villa that the seasoned reviewers rate at 9-plus, is absolutely out of this world."

1. Ariara, Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines



One could easily spend weeks, even months here and have a new adventure each day — or simply do nothing but lie back and drink cold San Miguel brews all day.

Rating: 9.4

Price: From US\$5,868 per night

Bedrooms: Eight

Staff: Eight

Pros: Private island; personal dive guide; delicious gourmet meals; plenty of watersports; great design and craftsmanship.

Cons: Pool access unsafe for families with young kids; pier is lacking a handrail.

More on CNN: [The Philippines' best beaches and islands](#)