

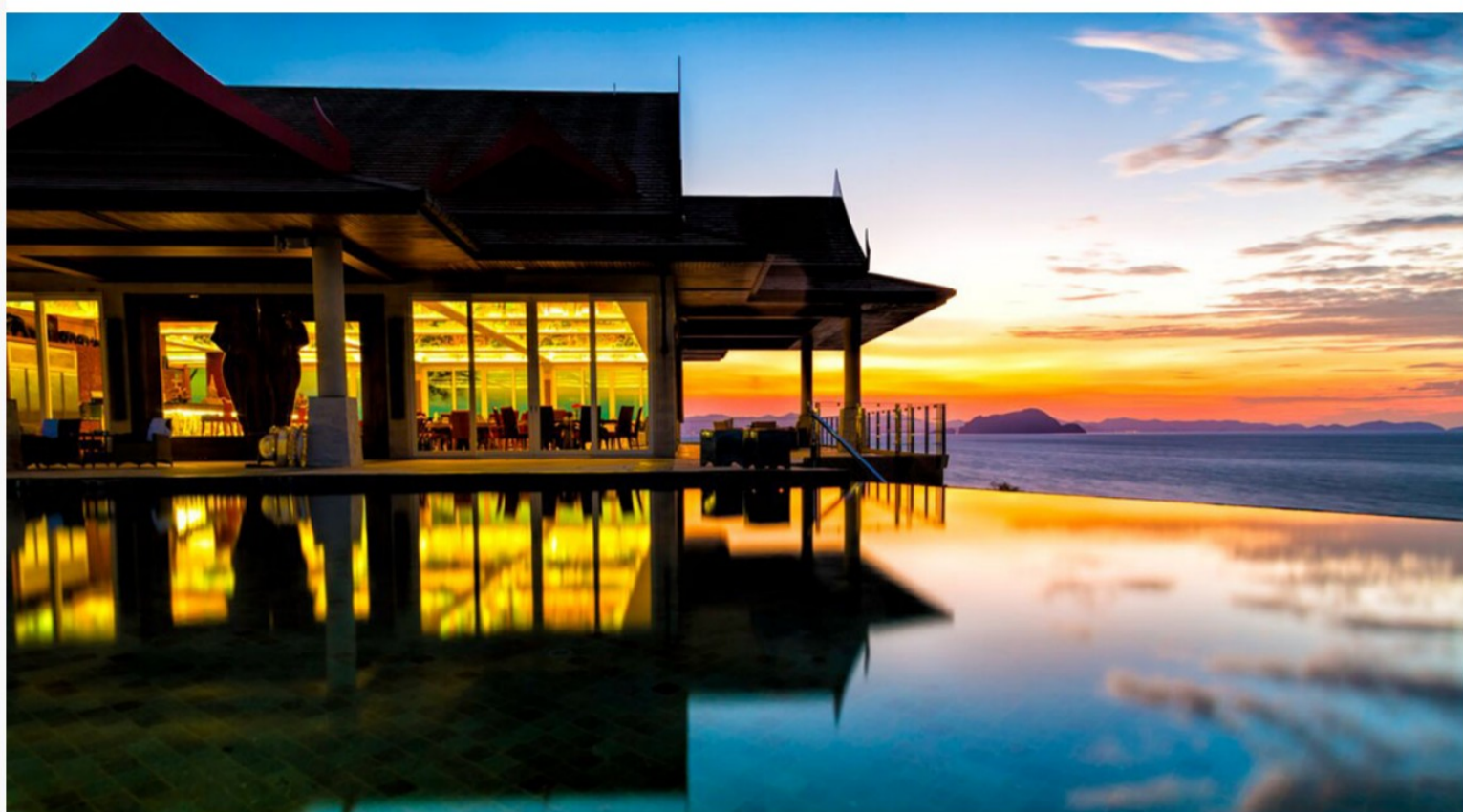
Private islands near Singapore: The best resort hideaways for a luxurious weekend trip



Robb Report

Robb Report Singapore

11 February, 2020



Twelve islands that are giving the Maldives a run for its money

Life in a **modern metropolis** like **Singapore** can be overwhelming. Sure, it's alive and thriving, but once in a while we need to dial things down and take a breather. What better way to do that than to make a quick escape to a **secluded island** nearby, where you can cast your worries aside? Exchange your regular residence for a rustic palace, your backyard for a jungle, and your lap pool for a vast and endless ocean. You won't even have to venture far to your **Shangri-La**. Here are 12 luxury private islands around Singapore you can have all to yourself.



Amanpulo



Amanpulo

Where: The Philippines

What about: Trust Aman – one of the leading hospitality groups – to find an unspoiled haven and turn it into a paradise on earth. Think of it as your Robinson Crusoe moment, except that instead of dread, you'll be engulfed with tranquillity and wonder as you take in the views of the surrounding hills, forests, beach and sea. Located on the Sulu Archipelago in Palawan, the private oasis houses just 40 Casitas (wooden cabins) on the 890,000-sqm island.

Footwear is optional, so sink your toes into soft white sand as you explore the beach. Do note, the beach stretches for 5.5km, so bring a bottle of water along if you're intending to do complete the walk.

There is no lack of water-based activities here, including sailing, scuba diving, wind-surfing and kite-surfing amongst others.

Robb tip: Each Casita comes with its own personal chef and butler, which means all meals can be had in the privacy of your abode, but it's still worth paying the resort's restaurants a visit. Regardless of which establishment you select, you'll be treated to an international array of cuisines using locally caught seafood and island-grown vegetables.

Amanpulo



Lounge by the infinity pool on Ariara Island



Ariara Island

Where: The Philippines

What about: To get to Ariara Island, you'll have to take a 90-minute plane ride from Manila, drive an hour to a dock and hop on a yacht for a two-hour ride. Or, you could hop on board your yacht from Singapore and make your way there in comfort. It may take you two days or so, but the 500,000 sq m of paradise that awaits is well worth the wait.

With just eight villas scattered on the beachfront and by the mountains, this offers one of the cosiest island experiences. In fact, it's best enjoyed as a personal holiday home given that it can accommodate just up to 18 guests. The resort offers complimentary activities such as jet-skiing, windsurfing and wakeboarding for thrill seekers, or yoga sessions and island explorations for more laidback vacationers.

Robb tip: Those who enjoy wreck diving should pay a visit to Busuanga and Coron Bay. Here, you'll find 13 Japanese naval ships, which were sunk by the US forces in 1944.

Ariara Island

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