

Top 10 most exclusive private island resorts in the world

April 21, 2025 12

Monday newsletters always feature top 10 travel lists to inspire.

Today: Top 10 most exclusive private island resorts in the world

The epitome of luxury travel is staying at a fabulous 5-star hotel that is set on its very own private island. The following ten ultra-bespoke resorts, all of them located on private tropical islands, rank among the most exclusive hotel properties worldwide, offering absolute discretion, unique experiences, and word-class service (with price tags that match their reputations).

There's more information (with reviews and YouTube videos) below the slide show. Think I missed one? Leave a comment.




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10. INTERCONTINENTAL HAYMAN ISLAND, GREAT BARRIER REEF, AUSTRALIA

Hayman Island is a private island resort in the heart of the Whitsundays, managed by the InterContinental Hotel Group. The nearest island to the Great Barrier Reef, Hayman Island is ideal for nature based activities and exceptional guest experiences. Featuring 160 guest rooms, suites, villas and penthouses across three main accommodation wings, the property presents guests the ultimate in Australian barefoot luxury. Restaurants and bars offer an array of local and international cuisines, while the spa is a heaven for the body and soul. The resort's on-island experiences range from nature-bound walking trails, immersive wildlife tours, fish feeding, cultural weaving classes and a curated collection of sports and fitness activities including yoga, tennis lessons, state-of-the-art golf simulator and more.


- **Hotel website:** [InterContinental Hayman Island](#)
- **Other accolades:** Hayman Island also features in my top 10 lists of the [best luxury hotels in Australia](#) and [luxury hotels with private helipads](#).
- **Tip:** get complimentary VIP perks when booking via [Virtuoso](#) (e.g. room upgrade, early check-in, late check-out, daily breakfast, and \$100 USD resort credit).
- **Review:** read my review of Hayman Island [here](#) (when it was still managed by One&Only).

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Hayman Island (Great Barrier Reef, Australia): impressions & review

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9. COMO PARROT CAY, TURKS & CAICOS

COMO Parrot Cay, a favorite among celebrities, is the northern Caribbean's preeminent private island, wrapped in sweeps of sand and peaceful seas in the Turks and Caicos. It combines 1,000 unspoiled acres and a 1.5 km (1 mi) long, powder-sand beach with relaxed luxury. The region's best spa, the award-winning COMO Shambhala Retreat, provides holistic, Asian-inspired therapies. Guests can choose from 72 unique guest rooms, suites, villas, and beachside houses, all decorated with understated elegance. For absolute privacy, reserve a residence tucked away from the main resort. The island's two restaurants serve gourmet dishes, including organic, healthful COMO Shambhala cuisine.

- **Hotel website:** [COMO Parrot Cay](#)
- **Other accolades:** COMO Parrot Cay also features in my top 10 lists of the [most luxurious resorts in the Caribbean](#) and [luxury hotels loved by celebrities](#).
- **Tip:** get complimentary VIP perks when booking via [Virtuoso](#) (e.g. room upgrade, early check-in, late check-out, daily breakfast, and \$100 USD hotel credit).
- **Review:** read my review of COMO Parrot Cay [here](#).

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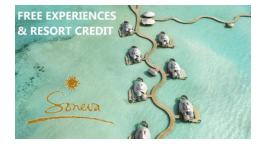
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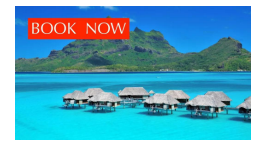
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
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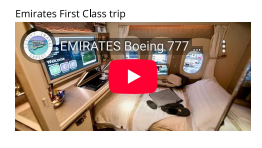
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Phenomenal Soneva Jani Maldives



8. AMANPULO, PHILIPPINES

Accessible only by private plane, tropical Pamalican Island is around an hour from Manila, yet feels a world away from anywhere. Managed by the famous Aman group – one of the [most luxurious hotel brands in the world](#) – since December 1993, Amanpulo is the only property on this Philippine island. Its 40 airy casitas and villas open to 5.5 km (3.5 miles) of coral sand that encircle a jungled center. With a convivial poolside clubhouse, an Aman spa, dive center and a laidback beach club, guests can be as active as they choose; a snorkel on your private beachfront might be all the exertion required to complete a day of restorative lounging. Other diversions include tennis courts, island hikes, turtle spotting and exploring the kaleidoscopic reefs just offshore.

- **Hotel website:** [Amanpulo](#)
- **Other accolades:** Amanpulo also features in my top 10 list of [luxury hotels with private airports](#).
- **Tip:** get complimentary VIP perks when booking via [Virtuoso](#) (e.g. room upgrade, early check-in, late check-out, daily breakfast, and \$100 USD food and beverage credit).

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7. &BEYOND MNEMBA ISLAND, TANZANIA

If you have ever harbored the secret wish of finding yourself the sole inhabitant of a beautiful tropical island, but without the effort of having to lift a finger to fend for yourself, &Beyond Mnemba Island is just the place for you. This romantic, private hideaway – which was recently completely refurbished – is an award-winning barefoot beach paradise just off the northeast coast of Zanzibar, accommodating a maximum of 24 guests at a time. Guest relax and unwind in the exclusivity of their own stretch of beachfront, where 12 beachside bandas peep out onto unblemished sands from the dappled shade of the casuarina pine forest and overlook the Mnemba atoll (a scuba diver's delight). From snorkeling, swimming, and kayaking to massages in the beach, to doing nothing at all, &Beyond Mnemba Island has something for everyone.

- **Hotel website:** [&Beyond Mnemba Island](#)
- **Other accolades:** &Beyond Mnemba Island also features in my top 10 lists of the [best luxury hotels & resorts in Zanzibar](#), the [best luxury hotels in Tanzania](#), and [Africa's most astonishing beach retreats](#).
- **Review:** read my review of [&Beyond Mnemba Island here](#).

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6. BAWAH RESERVE, INDONESIA

Located just 150 nautical miles north-east of Singapore, and easily accessible via private seaplane, this untouched beauty of 6 islands offers an exclusive bucket list destination to discerning travelers. A playground of over 300 hectares, 3 crystal blue lagoons, 13 powder white beaches, lush jungle canopy for trekking and more importantly a philosophy of environmental and conservation policies, Bawah Reserve is a hotel project of love to integrate people with nature and sets the benchmark for future resorts in Indonesia. Taking the route that "less means more", Bawah Reserve only accepts a maximum of 70 guest at any one time. The 35 safari-style tented villas offer the privacy of your own home but also invite you to enjoy the nature that surrounds Bawah Island.

- **Hotel website:** [Bawah Reserve](#)
- **Other accolades:** Bawah Private Island features in my top 10 list of the [best luxury hotels in Indonesia](#).
- **Review:** coming soon

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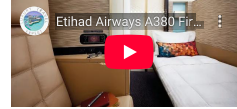
Singapore Airlines A380 First Class trip



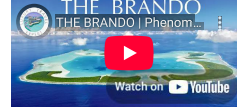
Time + Tide Miiavana, the world's best resort



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The Brando, French Polynesia



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5. THE BRANDO, FRENCH POLYNESIA

The Brando is a unique luxury resort on French Polynesia's breathtakingly beautiful private island of Tetiaroa – an atoll composed of a dozen small islands surrounding a sparkling lagoon 30 miles (50 km) northeast of Tahiti. The Brando offers carefree luxury in the midst of pristine nature and is only accessible by a 20-minute private plane flight from Tahiti. The resort's 35 villas sit on white-sand beaches frequented by sea turtles, manta rays and exotic birds. This Polynesian style resort also offers two restaurants showcasing Polynesian-inspired dishes, East/West fusion and classic French cuisine, as well as a luxurious spa and wellness center. It was in this natural wonderland that the legendary actor Marlon Brando settled down, and finally found his home.

- **Hotel website:** [The Brando](#)
- **Other accolades:** The Brando also features in my top 10 lists of the [most expensive hotels in the world](#), the [most luxurious resorts in French Polynesia](#), the [world's best hotels for a honeymoon](#), the [best beach resorts in the South Pacific](#), and [luxury hotels with private airports](#).
- **Tip:** get complimentary VIP perks at The Brando when booking via [Virtuoso](#) (e.g. daily breakfast, early check-in, late check-out, and \$100 USD food & beverage credit).
- **Review:** read my review of The Brando [here](#).

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4. COMO LAUCALA ISLAND, FIJI

Set upon 3,500 exclusive acres COMO Laucala Island Resort is set amidst coconut plantations, sandy beaches, rich green mountains and breathtaking natural beauty. True luxury is appreciated in the privacy of the resort's 25 Fijian-styled villas widely spread on the northern tip of the island. Seamless transition from indoor to outdoor living creates an inspiringly relaxed yet luxurious atmosphere. Featuring an iridescent kaleidoscope of activities – scuba diving, sailing, fishing, tennis, cycling, golf, yoga, culture nights, tours, and water sports – the resort's integral philosophy incorporates the island's resources into guest experiences, with products and ingredients raised and grown on the island for use in the spa and across the five gourmet restaurants and bars.

- **Hotel website:** [COMO Laucala Island](#)
- **Other accolades:** Laucala Island also features in my top 10 lists of the [world's most expensive hotels](#), the [world's most over-the-top hotel experiences](#), and [luxury hotels with private airports](#).
- **Tip:** get complimentary VIP perks when booking via [Virtuoso](#) (e.g. room upgrade, early check-in, late check-out, daily breakfast, and one complimentary 60-minute spa journey per person, per stay).

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3. TIME + TIDE MIAVANA, MADAGASCAR

Located on an idyllic island off the coast of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean, Time + Tide Miavana is very possibly the most remote luxury getaway in the world. Fringed by an exceptionally beautiful white sand beach and a sprawling coral reef, the resort represents an insanely beautiful haven where guests can enjoy unique bespoke experiences in ultimate privacy. Dotted along the pristine beach, the resort's 14 massive pool villas are a masterpiece in luxury and design. Guests step directly onto the powder-soft sand from their private decks to enjoy spectacular panoramic Indian Ocean sunsets extending to the far contours of mainland Madagascar. Boat and helicopter transfers are provided to the mainland, where the resort's guides can lead you to a world of lemurs and chameleons, and a mosaic of unexplored coves.

- **Hotel website:** [Time + Tide Miavana](#)
- **Other accolades:** Time + Tide Miavana also features in my top 10 lists of the [most remotely located luxury hotels in the world](#), the [world's best hotels for a honeymoon](#), and the [best things to see & do in Madagascar](#).
- **Review:** read my review of Time + Tide Miavana [here](#).

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2. SONEVA SECRET, MALDIVES

Granted, almost every 5-star resort in the Maldives could have made it on this list. But the most exclusive of them all is Soneva Secret, which opened last year in the Maldives' most remote atoll. The property features just 14 beach and overwater villas, including Lagoon Crusoe Villas, accessible only by boat, and the soon-to-be-revealed Castaway, the Maldives' first floating villa. As well as vast master suites, including a roof that slides to reveal star-strewn skies, every villa also features adjoining bedrooms, offering ample space for families or additional guests. Soneva's superlative service reaches new heights at Soneva Secret, with a dedicated Barefoot Guardian and Barefoot Assistant for every villa, curating an utterly personalized stay. The resort's 14 private chefs, one for each villa, craft bespoke menus and unique culinary journeys, whether savored in the privacy and comfort of the villa or enjoyed in nature at the island's most picturesque spots.

Contact me to get **complimentary Soneva ambassador benefits** at Soneva Secret (e.g. best rate and two personalized Soneva experiences).

- **Hotel website:** [Soneva Secret](#)
- **Tip:** **contact me** to get complimentary VIP perks at Soneva Jani
- **Review:** read my review of Soneva Secret [here](#).

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1. NORTH ISLAND, SEYCHELLES

North Island is the world's most exclusive private island resort and one of the best hotels I've ever been to. The insanely beautiful island has only 11 opulent hand-crafted villas overlooking the pristine, powder-white sands and turquoise waters of the Ile Du Nord eco-reserve. Raised off the ground to catch the cooling Indian Ocean breezes, all villas open up onto your private garden and the beach. Plunge pools and outdoor showers provide the finishing touches to your private sanctuary. The island's lounge and dining areas, scenically located health spa and gym, library and dive center, and a rim-flow swimming pool are all built into a granitic outcrop. The resort was the decor for the honeymoon of Prince William and the Princess of Wales in 2011.

- **Hotel website:** [North Island](#)
- **Other accolades:** North Island Seychelles also features in my top 10 lists of the [best luxury resorts in the Seychelles](#), the [most astonishing beach retreats in Africa](#), the [world's best luxury hotels](#), the [world's most expensive hotels](#), and the [world's best honeymoon resorts](#).
- **Review:** read my review of North Island Seychelles [here](#).

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