

Below, clockwise from left: Pulau Juyo offers barefoot luxury in a classic tropical setting; the island's tear-shaped pool; inside one of the Javanese joglos. Facing page, clockwise from left: Aerial view of Loch Ness; Aldourie Castle's grand living room; the castle sits at the centre of a 500-acre estate



## Private island

When looking for exclusivity and seclusion, it's hard to beat the away-from-it-all vibe of a private tropical island. But choose carefully whom you invite to your piece of paradise – after all, you'll be living in fairly close proximity during your stay.

Although it can comfortably accommodate 20 people or more, once you set foot on the luxury private island of Pulau Juyo you may well feel you want it all to yourself. Located in the Indonesian Riau Archipelago within easy reach of Singapore, the island perfectly captures the tropical fantasy with a line of tall coconut palms rising elegantly above a thin strip of brilliant white sand.

The island retreat was built as a private residence by a British shipowner based in

Hong Kong. This has infused the island with a distinctive personal style that the owner describes as "Robinson Crusoe with staff and fine wine". For him, luxury is defined as: "All your expectations satisfied for a start and then more – a surprise."

He has certainly achieved the latter. Only when you approach the shore by speedboat do you start to catch a glimpse of the island's beachfront 'palaces' peeking through the lush foliage. Built from driftwood gathered by the owners, these eight sumptuous thatched villas are decorated inside with exquisite Balinese furniture and rare *objets d'art* lovingly collected during the owners' extensive world travels. There are also two beautiful *joglos*, traditional houses that were dismantled in Java before being re-assembled here. Sandy paths lead guests to

the island's centrepiece, a pretty tear-shaped swimming pool complete with driftwood tree trunk diving board, while meals are served around the large poolside pavilion. Days can be spent lounging around the pavilion, enjoying massage sessions or snorkelling out on the reef that's protected by a government-mandated 'no fishing zone'. And if you really feel the urge to escape for a while, there's the island's graceful 140-foot charter yacht, *The Hang Tuah*, that can be booked for sunset cruises or picnic trips to nearby uninhabited islets.

*From Singapore, take a ferry to Tanjung Pinang, Bintan, where you'll transfer to Pulau Juyo's jetty and take a speedboat to the island. Two-night minimum stay for 10 people (including meals and return transfers from Bintan) starts from S\$4,000++ per night. Find out more at [www.pulau-juyo.com](http://www.pulau-juyo.com)*