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The most heavenly hotel in the Andaman Islands

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Havelock Island, the Andamans Finally, the paradise-perfect Andaman Islands have the sensational place to stay we've all been waiting (years) for

It was the most anticipated

Reached via Calcutta or Chennai, Havelock Island may be tricky to get to (and closer to Bangkok than Mumbai) but the intrepid travellers who make it to this unplugged spot get it almost entirely to themselves: the thick jungle, stunning diving and stretches of cotton-white beaches.

Jalakara, a labour of love for British owner Mark Hill, sits on a hilltop plantation and is pitched cleverly between the rustic vibe of eco-hideaway Barefoot (previously the only other place to rest your head) and the slick styling of the coming-soon Taj resort.

The architecture is simple; the seven bedrooms are minimal but smart with lots of polished plaster and block-printed local textiles. The room to book is this loft-like villa, whose towering teak shutters open up fully to let in the breeze and birdsong.

Wake for morning yoga and mango smoothies, sign up for a restorative massage or retreat to daybeds by the infinity pool. Evening G&Ts are followed by seafood curries from the brilliant Nepalese chef. Mark and his wife Atalanta are often pottering around. To stay here is to join their charmingly laid-back house party.

Greaves (+44 20 7487 9111; greavesindia.com) offers a nine-night trip to Jalakara via Chennai and Port Blair from £1,995 per person, including flights and transfers

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