

TRAVEL

*By the* **South  
China**  
*Seashore*

Luxury beachfront living surrounded by every conceivable five-star amenity? Sign us up, please!

Text **Diana Khoo** Photography **SooPhye**

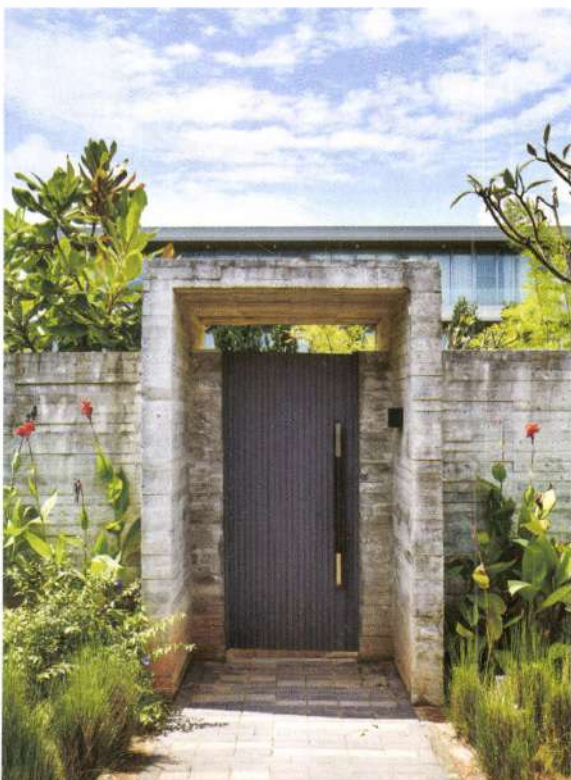


Natural light fills the entirety of the elegant villas

To have a home with a swimming pool is already a great luxury, but a life lived by the sea—that is a higher plane altogether.

Imagine, then, the joy of having both?

Perched on the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula's eastern coast facing the great expanse of the South China Sea, the newly launched and ready-to-occupy Anantara Desaru Coast Residences is designed for those who wish for themselves or their loved ones a unique and accessible beachfront retreat with the unbeatable combination of seaside tranquility and every conceivable luxury thrown in. It is located



within the premium Desaru Coast integrated beach destination resort developed, managed and operated by Themed Attractions Resorts & Hotels (TAR&H), the leisure and tourism arm of sovereign wealth fund Khazanah Nasional Bhd.

The project was designed by Wow Architects of Singapore

Anantara Desaru Coast Residences offers just 20 units of three- and four-bedroom pool villas, with sizes ranging from 3,100 sq ft to 6,426 sq ft. There will be no second phase or additional units, so demand has, understandably, been keen.

All 20 villas are charmingly named after Malaysian islands, such as Redang and Pulau Pinang, and share 10ha of land alongside Malaysia's first Anantara hotel, which is part of the Minor International group, owner and operator of iconic resorts all over the world, such as the Anantara Kihavah in the Maldives and the Anantara Layan in Phuket.



Anantara Desaru Coast Residence's immediate neighbours include internationally renowned hotel and resort brands like One&Only, Hard Rock Hotel, The Westin, the 45-hole Els Club Desaru Coast, as well as an adventure waterpark, while all of Anantara hotel's facilities, particularly its world-class spa and lovely restaurants, are but a mere stroll away.

Sharing 17km of pristine beachfront with the rest of Desaru Coast, the warm waters and lively waves of the South China Sea are but a hop and skip away, while the in-villa swimming pool, 8m and 12m for the three- and four-bedroom units, respectively, is perfect should you prefer to do your laps tranquilly. Ten choice villas offer direct beach access, with two already booked at press time.

Designed by Christopher Lee of Singapore-based Wow Architects, with the interiors conceptualised by EDC International, the resulting effort is a blissful blend of contemporary style and coastal chic. Natural light floods the living spaces, casting a warm glow wherever you look. On the horizon, the sea beckons while swaying palms keep the tropical paradise vibe palpably tangible. The decorative palette is soft and muted – think varying hues of grey, sand, bone and beige – while premium natural materials, such as Merbau wood and travertine, add understated opulence and comfort without being showy in the least.

Infinity pools spanning 8–12m are set on expansive compressed bamboo decks





EDC International conceptualised the contemporary coastal-inspired interiors

The expansive deck by the infinity pool, constructed using eco-conscious and hardy, compressed bamboo, is ideal for lounging with a book or cocktail; the spacious garden, fringed by fleshy green *merambong* shrubs, is perfect for family fun and games or even hosting a little al fresco party with friends.

All units come fully-furnished – you just need to arrive with your suitcases, really. Everything provided is top-notch, with hob, microwave, fridge and washer-dryer all by Electrolux, while owners who need regular caffeine jolts would appreciate the inclusion of Teka and Nespresso coffee machines.

For owners who prefer making the journey to Desaru Coast by road, do know that one car park is also allocated for the three-bedroom villas, and two for those with four bedrooms. **H**

**Prices start from US\$1.75mil and US\$2.5mil for the three-and four-bedroom villas, respectively. All are sold on a 99-year leasehold status, which runs until 2114.**