Everyone loves a getaway. But there’s getting away – and then there’s really getting away. Anantara Quy Nhon Villas is firmly in the latter category. Just 26 stand-alone villas fronted by a private beach along a quiet, under-the-radar stretch of Vietnamese coastline. That I was somehow somewhere off the beaten tourist path was clear even as I boarded my Vietnam Airlines flight from Hanoi (where you fly in direct from Dubai) to coastal Quy Nhon. – I was one of only two non-locals on board. From Quy Nhon airport, the resort lies a further one-hour car ride away. So it’s a journey, but all this travel serves the purpose of transporting you to a part of Vietnam that has yet to be inundated with visitors. No one ever said getting away – of transporting you to a part of Vietnam that has yet to be away. So it’s a journey, but all this travel serves the purpose

Anantara Quy Nhon Villas from AED 1,947; 0084-2-56-384 0077, anantara.com

RHEA SARAN escapes to a pretty Vietnamese coastal retreat and finds a hidden gem

Just over half the villas are set on the private beach, with direct access on to the soft sand. I loved falling asleep to the sound of waves crashing just beyond the glass patio doors. Ocean-view villas are perched slightly up the hillside, with a higher vantage point on that postcard-perfect view. All accommodation comes with private plunge pools, spacious decks, air-conditioned interiors and modern amenities like cheese and charcuterie in the main fridge. The villas have a characterful feel, with weathered teak and sliding doors, large bathrooms, and the occasional hint of traditional architecture. The villas are well-equipped for self-catering, with fully stocked kitchens, and for going out, there are numerous restaurants and cafes in the vicinity. The resort is also just a short drive from the city of Quy Nhon, which offers a range of activities and attractions.

The resort feels like a private island, with its own beach and spa. The spa offers a range of treatments, from traditional Vietnamese therapies to modern wellness programs. The resort’s mission is to deepen its wellness bent. There’s yoga in the morning, tai chi in the afternoon, and daily classes in everything from meditation to cooking. I enjoyed a half-day tour of some noteworthy sights in the area. On my half-day tour, I discovered just how culturally diverse Vietnam is, even in terms of religion. We first drove out to a peaceful riverside church and seminary, followed by a climb up to the Banh It Towers, relics of the old Cham dynasty (housed inside one of the ruins was a Hindu god), and finally on to the largest Buddhist pagoda in the region. What stood out most was that I didn’t have to rock up at 5am to get any chance of seeing it without the hordes; at 10am, I was still the only tourist at each site.

Anantara Quy Nhon Villas is a getaway, even when you’re not trying. And that’s worth the journey alone.