SRI LANKA travel hotels



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Sanyog Gupta Voyages

Luxury Destination Management Company

As we have evolved as a company, we have come to realise that our love lies not in booking tour packages, but in showcasing the unique experiences across the nations we serve. We realised that there are many secret corners of our world, rare moments, mysteries and stories.

Our company owned by a family, but run professionally. We have hierarchical systems which are driven by our core family values. We have come to understand we do not want to be the largest company globally. We have never tried to be the richest or the most influential. I say, we just want to be the bestest in what we do.

We are a family tradition for over three decades that have been highlighting this part of the planet. All over Indian sub-continent, we have grown to become a popular, valued and autonomous DMC providing the finest cultural experiences, personal immersions and natural wonders. We are here to build stories for our clients, tales of love, of wonderful excitement. We are proud of our past and its legacy.



President - Sales & Marketing

'We are real voyagers and love varying voyager's

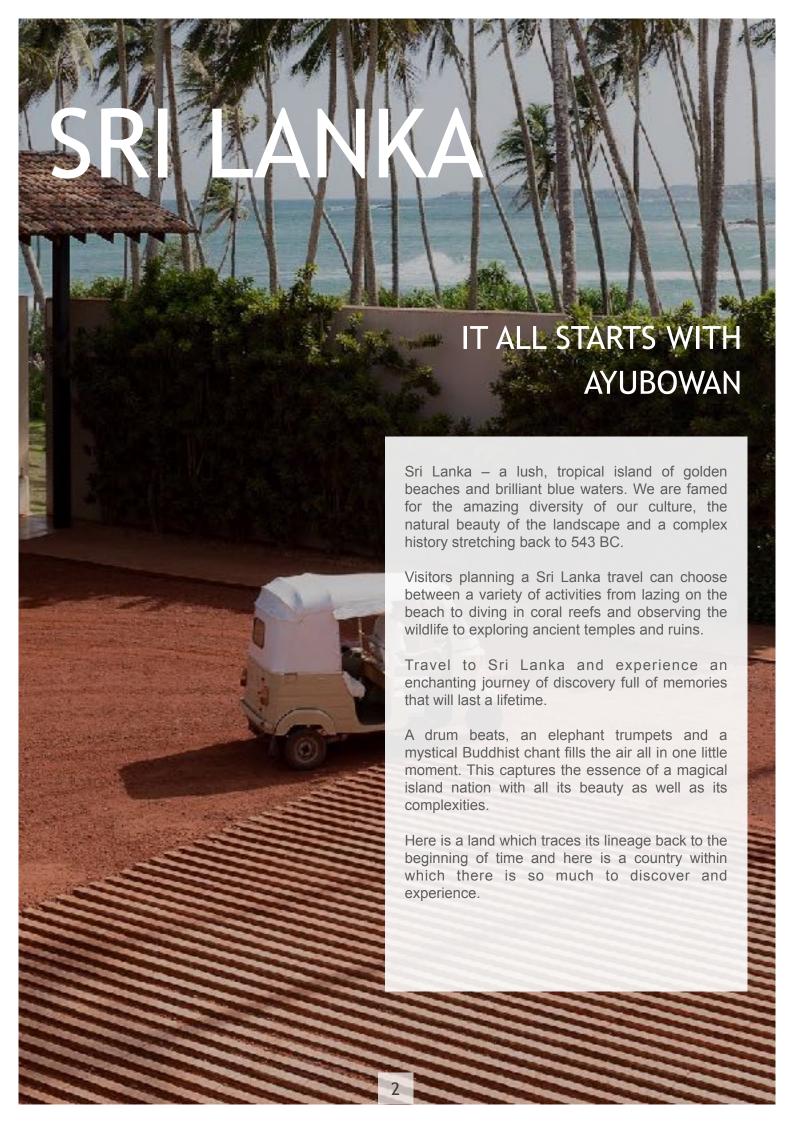
THE LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERTS.

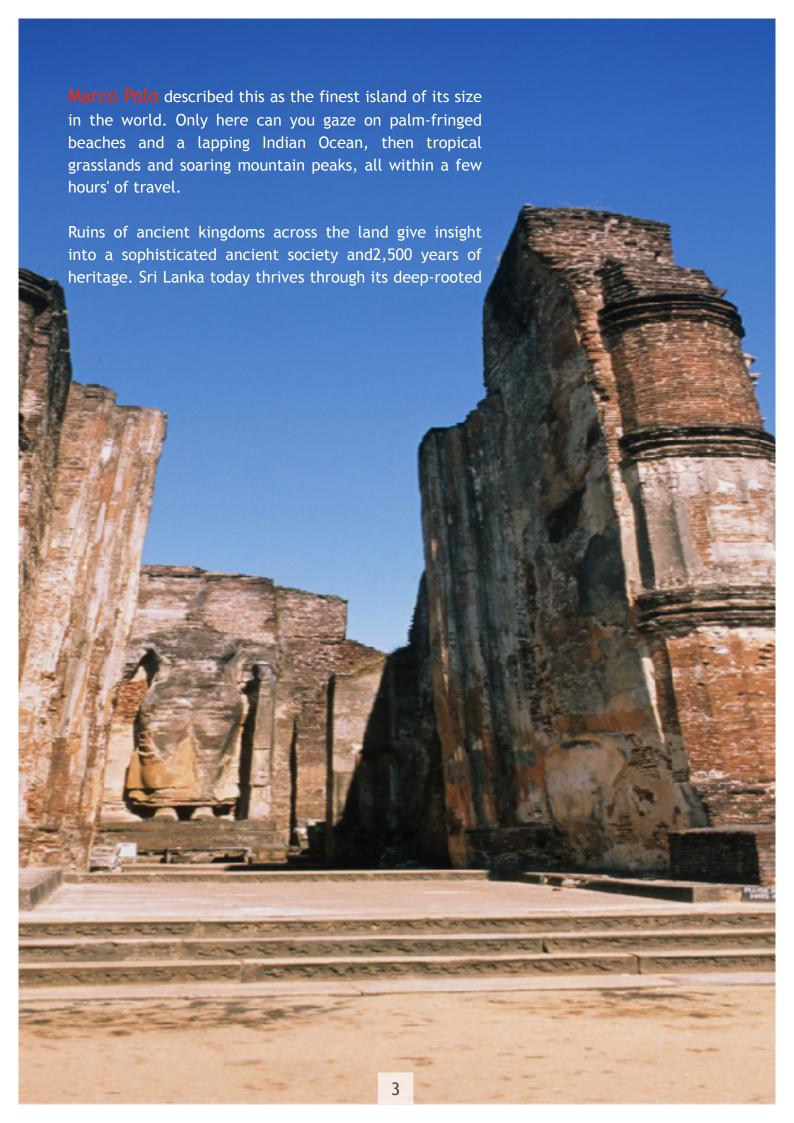
YESTERDAY, TODAY, ALWAYS.

Sanyog Gupta Voyages brings to you finest luxury holidays in India and Asia. Indulge your passion, arrive in a private jet, travel in a limousine or a yatch, the Opulent Routes Concierge services will weave magic in your holiday experience.

SO IS THE TIME SO IS THE PLACE **SO SRI LANKA**

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Getting There

Sri Lankan Airlines, Emirates, and Qatar airways offer one-stop flights from the UK via the Gulf to Colombo. Those travelling from the USA, Europe, the Middle East, South East Asia and the Far East can catch a connecting flight to Colombo from many of the main cities in Europe, the Middle East or South East Asia.

Getting Around

Barter for a 3-wheeler at around Rs.40 per km or take set price taxis for longer journeys. Soak in the spectacular scenery of a train journey. Buses are also cheap and regular. Roads seem chaotic chauffeur-driven cars run at similar cost to independent car hire, and are probably safer. Bicycle hire is only really suitable for the quieter roads.

When to go

Sri Lanka's tropical climate generally offers warmth and sunshine throughout the year. The south-west monsoon (Yala) brings most rain during May/June.

The north-east monsoon (Maha) brings rain between December and February. There are also inter-monsoon rains, usually in October/early November.

Sri Lanka don't mind Mondays

The Sri Lankan Week

Sri Lanka has adopted 8 hours a day 5 working day week in general. While the government institutions are closed in the weekends, some of the commercial enterprises including the banks are open on Saturdays too.

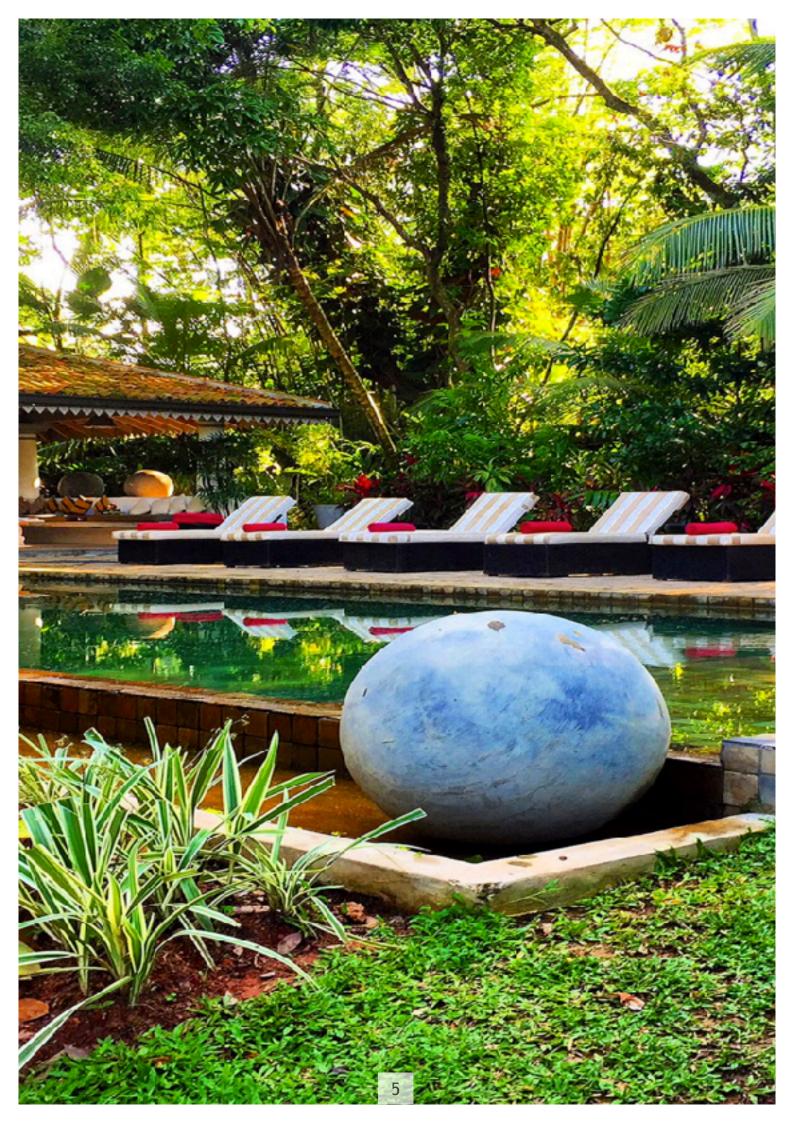
All about the money Currency & Exchange

The domestic currency is Rupee (LKR). Local and foreign money may be brought into Israel as cash, traveler's check, and credit cards.

Foreign currency of all kinds may be exchanged at the airport, banks, most hotels or licensed exchange agencies in large cities. Cash withdrawals can be easily made from the many widespread ATMs via International credit or debit cards.

Languages

Sinhala and Tamil are the official languages of Sri Lanka. Sinhala is widely spoken in the southern, western and central parts of the island, while Tamil is almost exclusively spoken in northern and eastern parts of the island.



PLAN YOUR TRAVEL

Tailor Made

SGV provides expert advice, total flexibility, support when you need it, and the keenest prices. You may need a last minute booking or a full, guided Sri Lanka tour.

You may be seeking out Sri Lanka special offers, or the best deals on Sri Lanka flights. Whatever your needs, we offer efficient and caring service.

And, by the way, we have an impressive programme in the Maldives and South India too.

Route Planning

Planning your trip can be one of the most enjoyable parts of your holiday – and there is every chance to indulge yourself on SGV's comprehensive website. We guarantee that our advice is fiercely independent and up-to-date too, as we constantly strive to keep abreast of all the latest developments.

Many people prefer to gather information before they contact us. Some have definite proposals. Others happily leave everything to us. However you prefer to plan your holiday, we offer a free tailor-made service of unrivalled flexibility.

Short Break - One Week

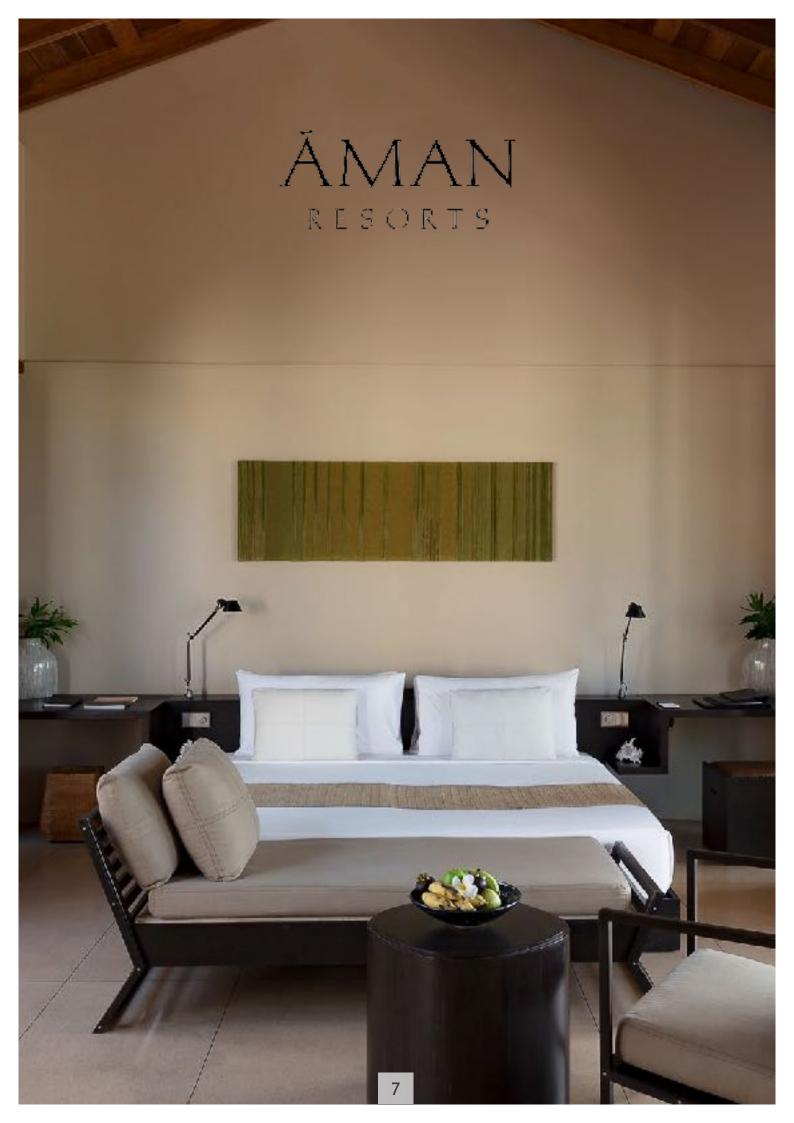
A one week itinerary which involves the Cultural Triangle, Kandy, the highlands, a game park and a quick dip in the Indian Ocean could leave you travel-worn. If that is the holiday you need then expert advice and smooth ground-handling is vital. We advise you to decide which part of the island holds most appeal.

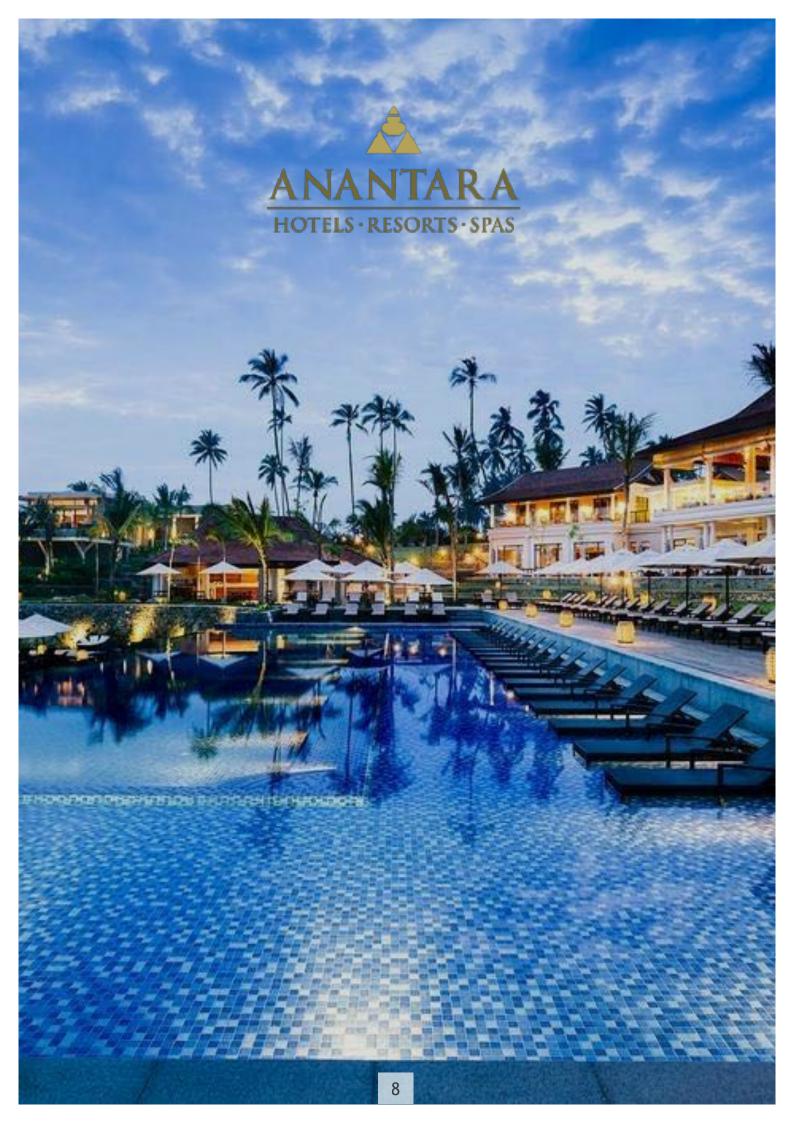
Possible one-week itineraries can include 3 nights of Cultural Triangle, 2 nights in Kandy, 2 nights for Negombo or Wadduwa. Another popular option is 3 nights in the Hill Country and then 4 nights on the south or west coast.

Island Tour - Two Weeks

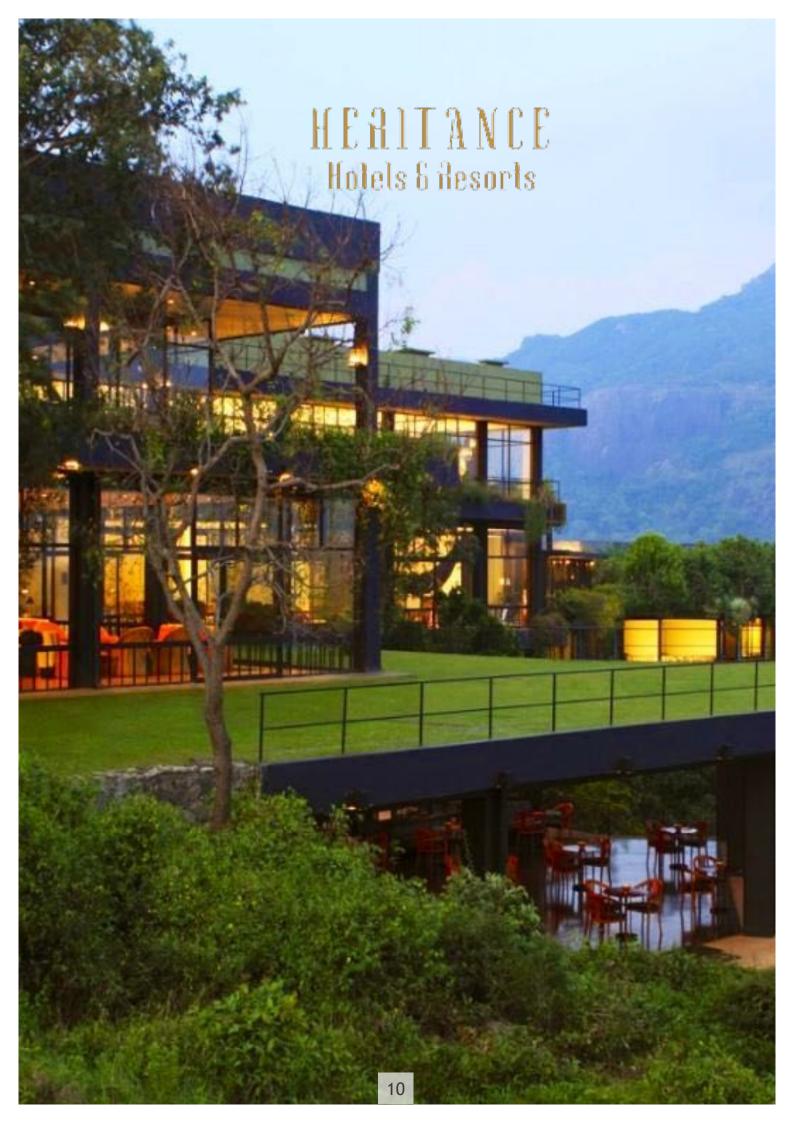
The majority of our Island Tour itineraries are set over two weeks and strives to give you an instant insight into the many alternatives available. Identify your priorities: often a successful holiday is as much about what you leave out as what you put in.

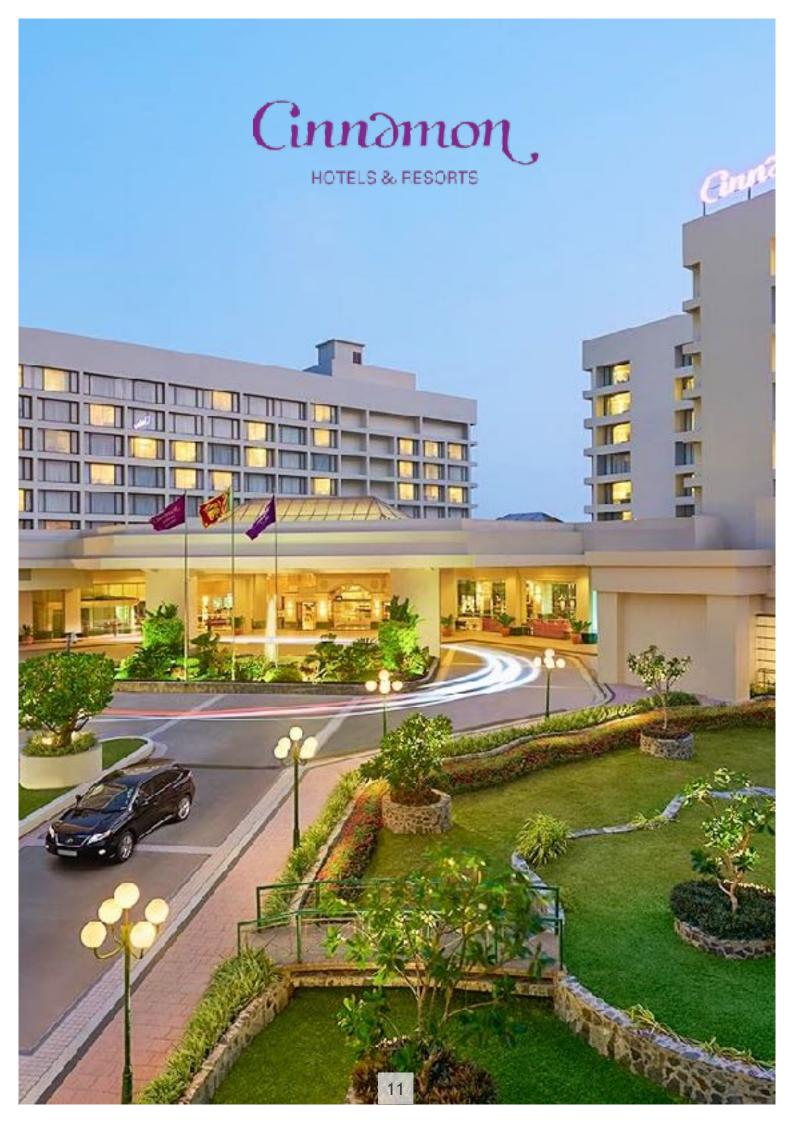
A traditional two-week holiday starts from the North West Coast and then on to the Cultural Triangle in the North Central province, Kandy and the Tea Country in the hill country, and finishing with a few days on the beach in the south. Into this itinerary you can also insert one or two days at either Yala, Sinharaja or Uda Walalwe National Parks.

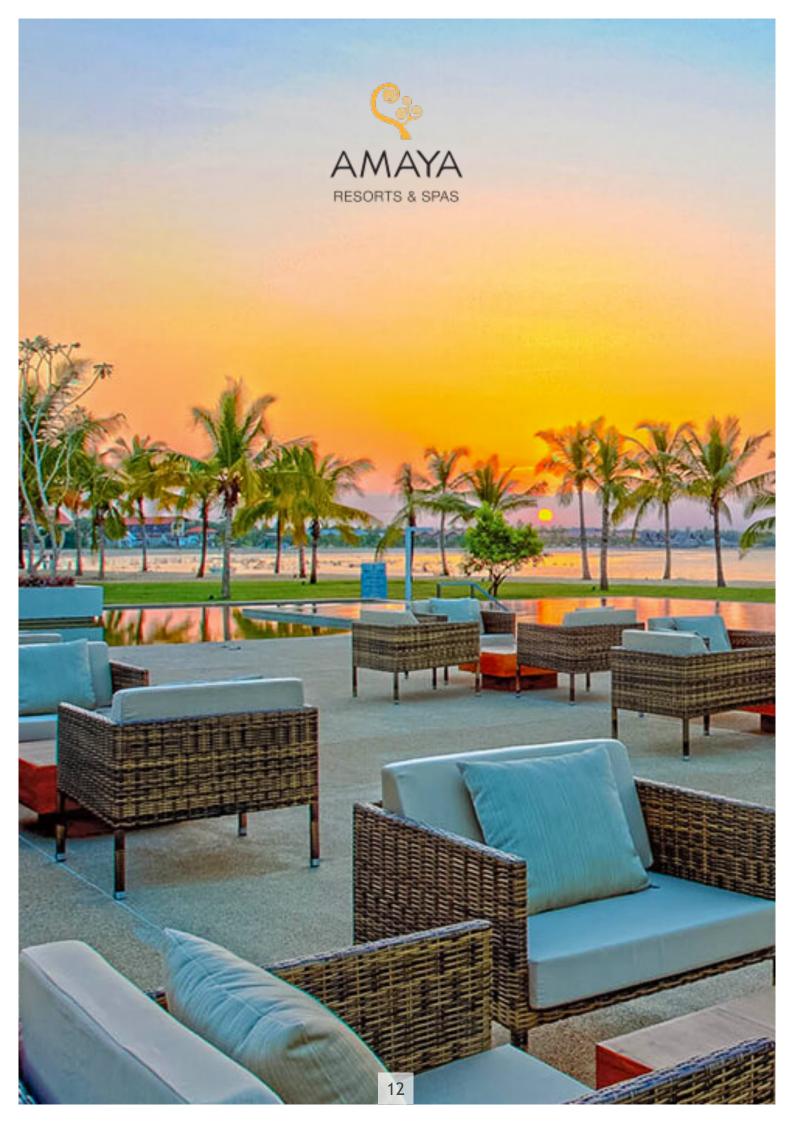


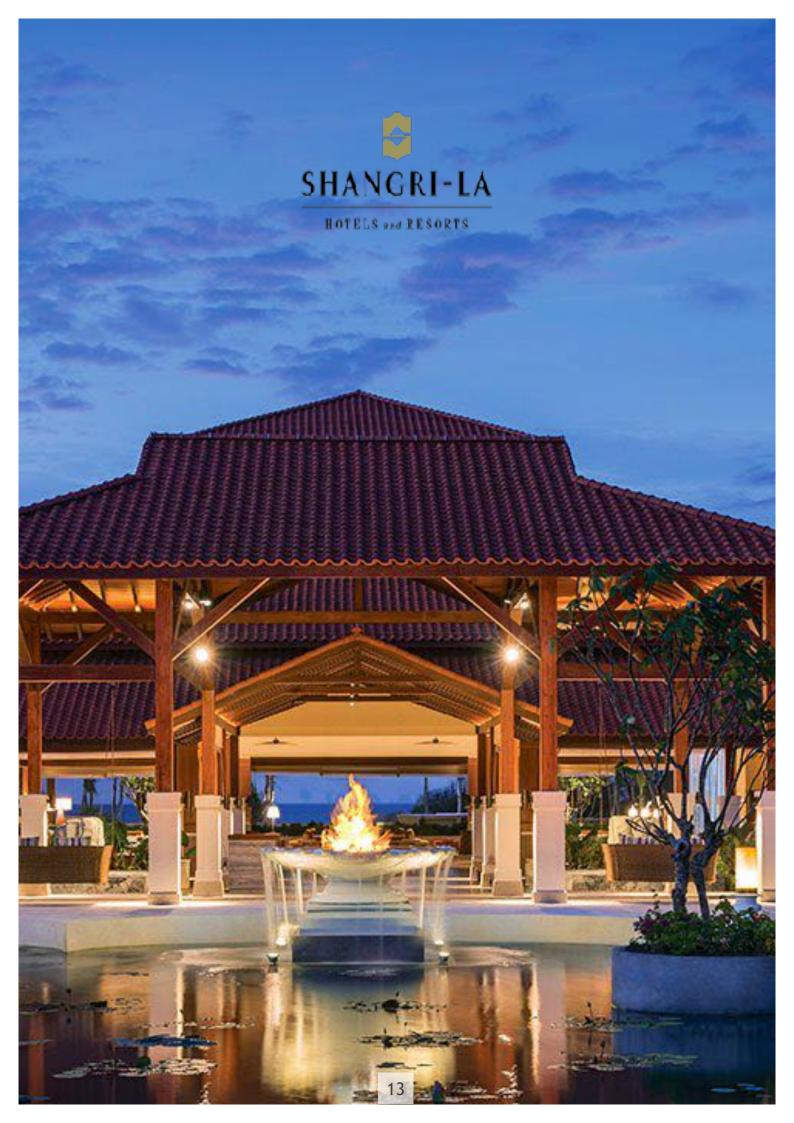


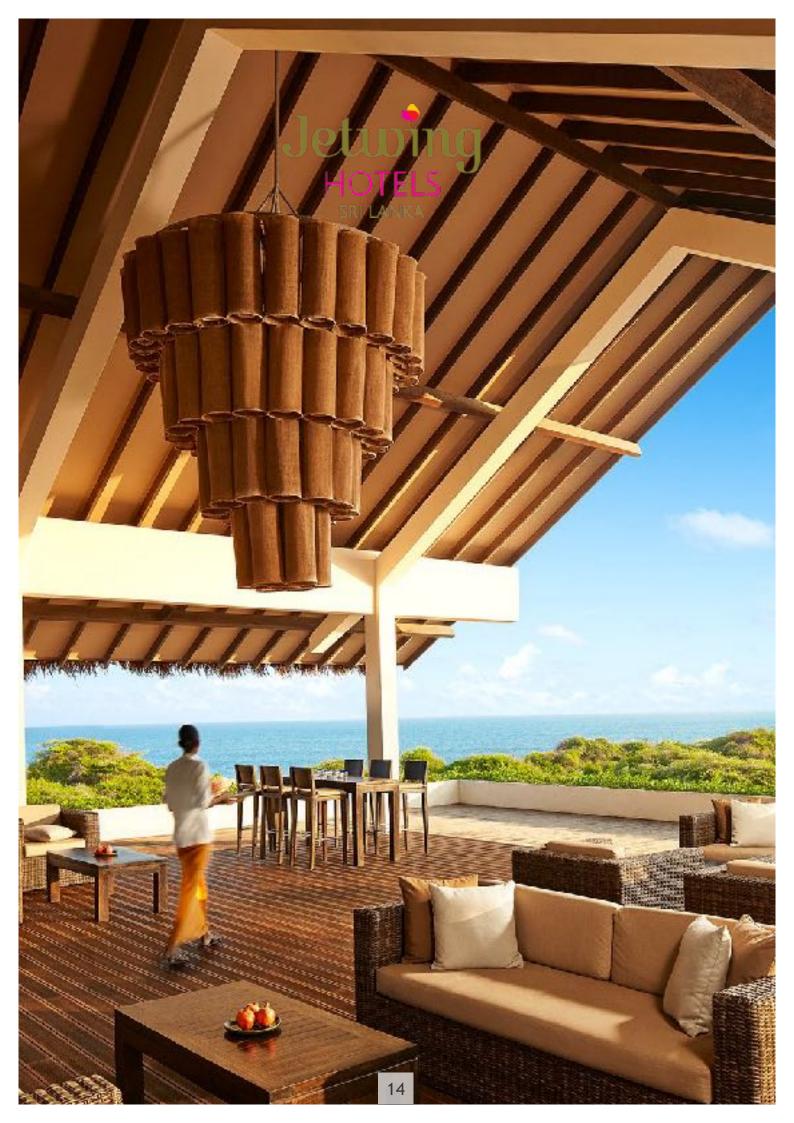


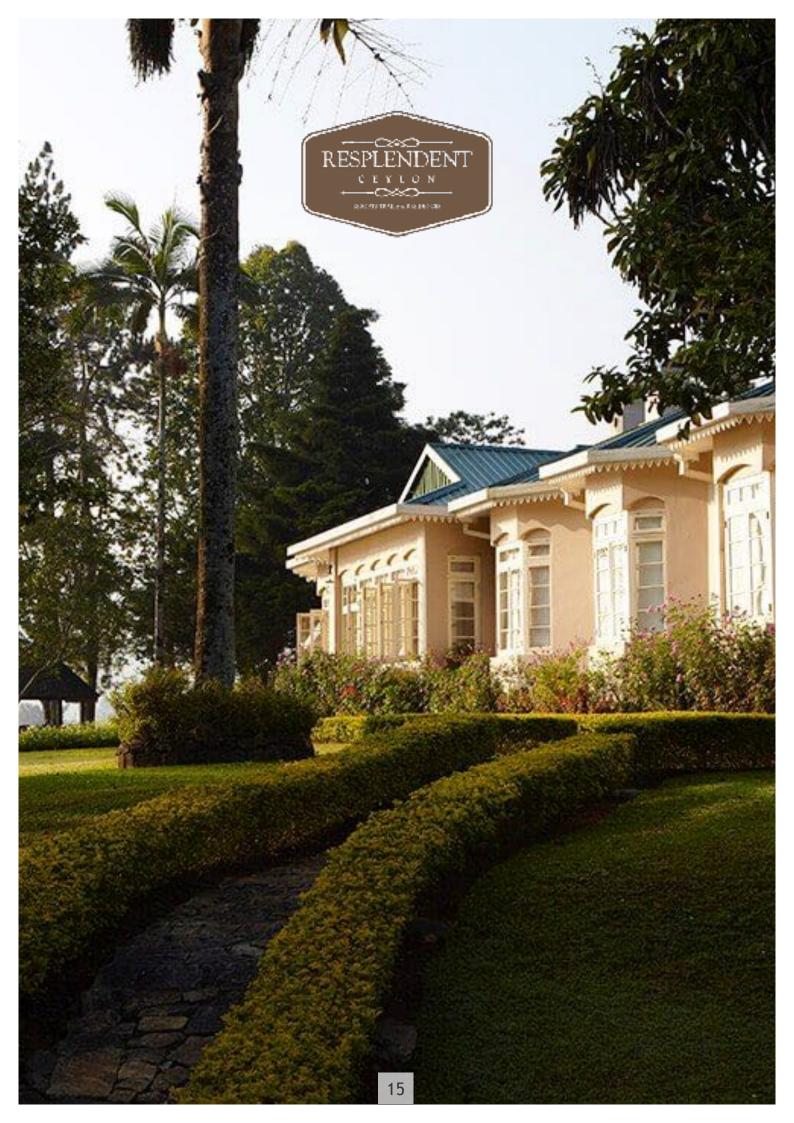


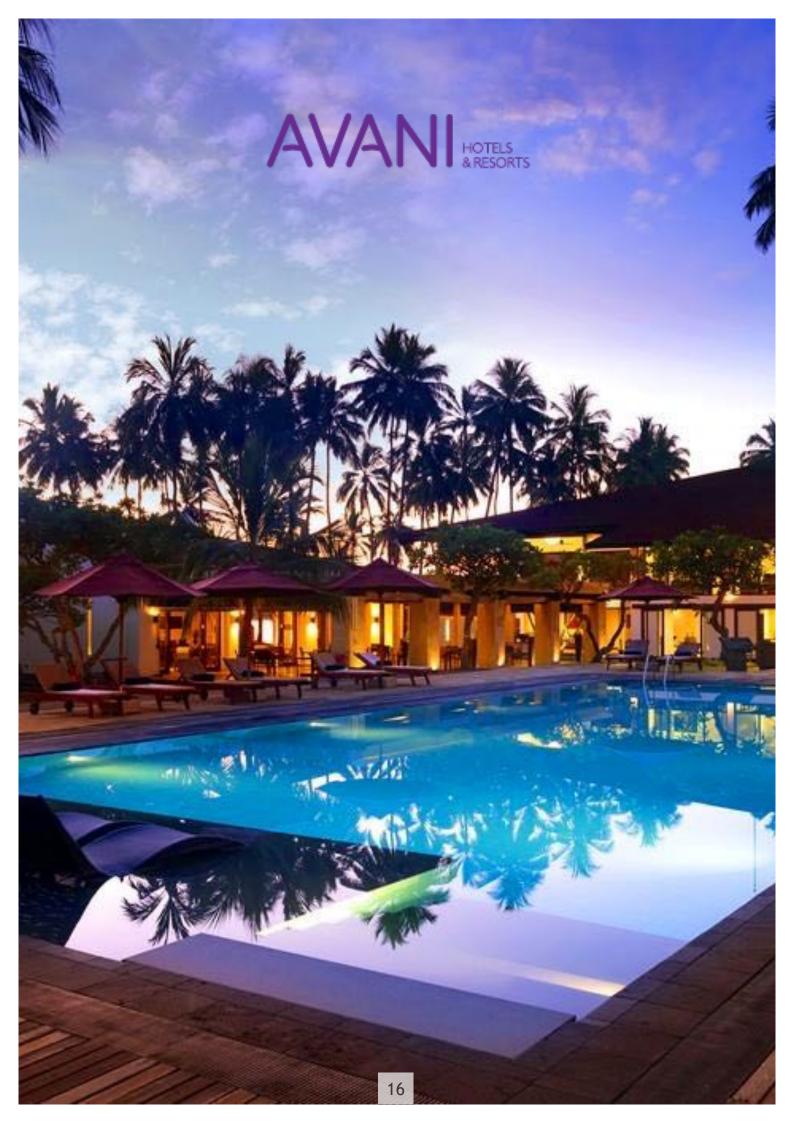


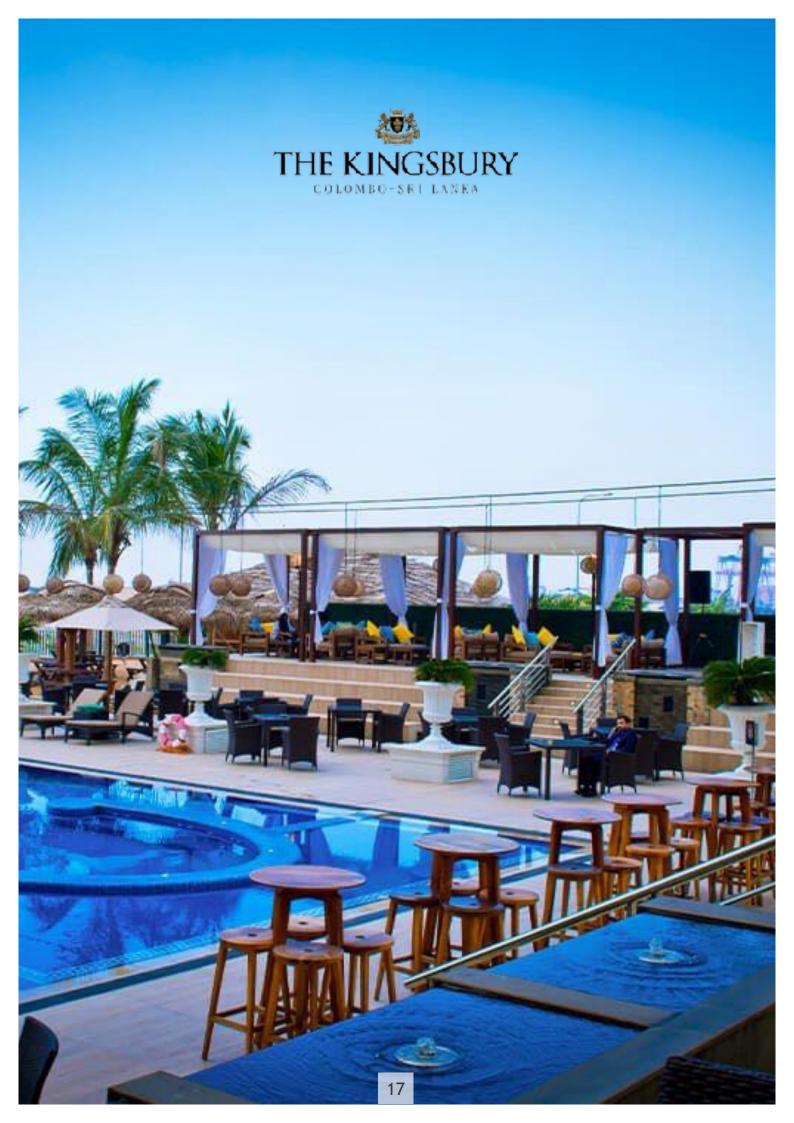


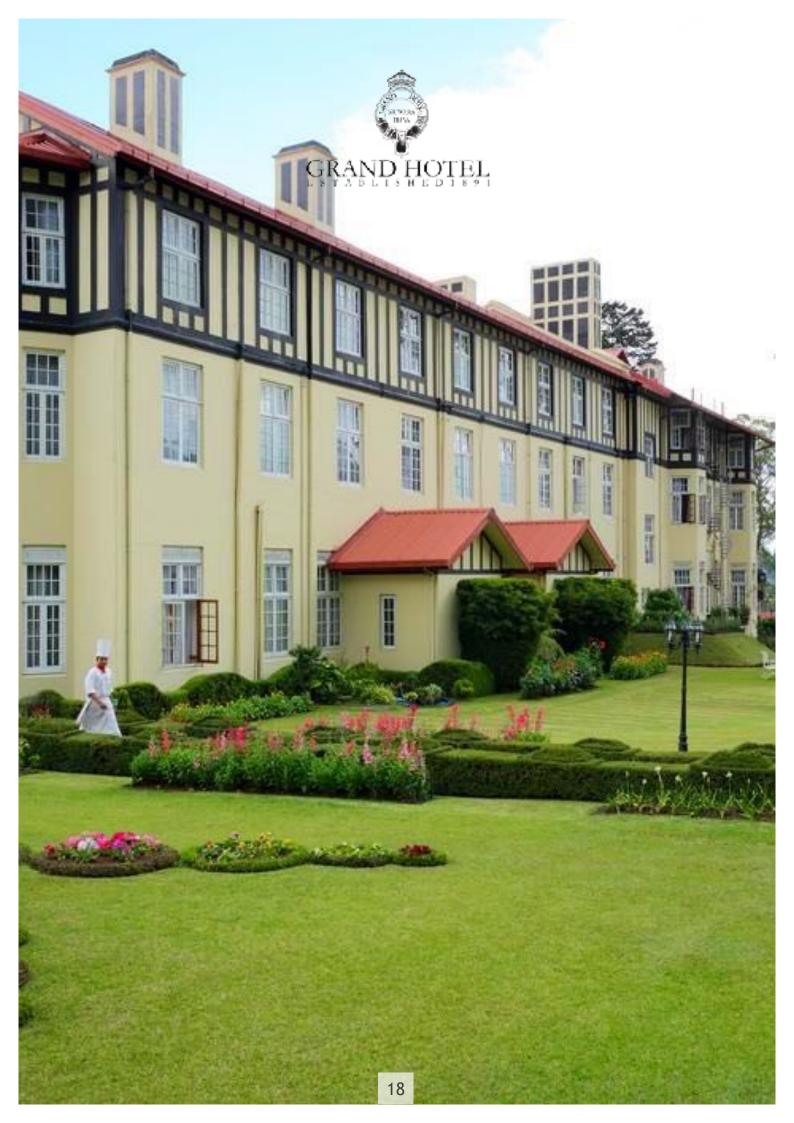




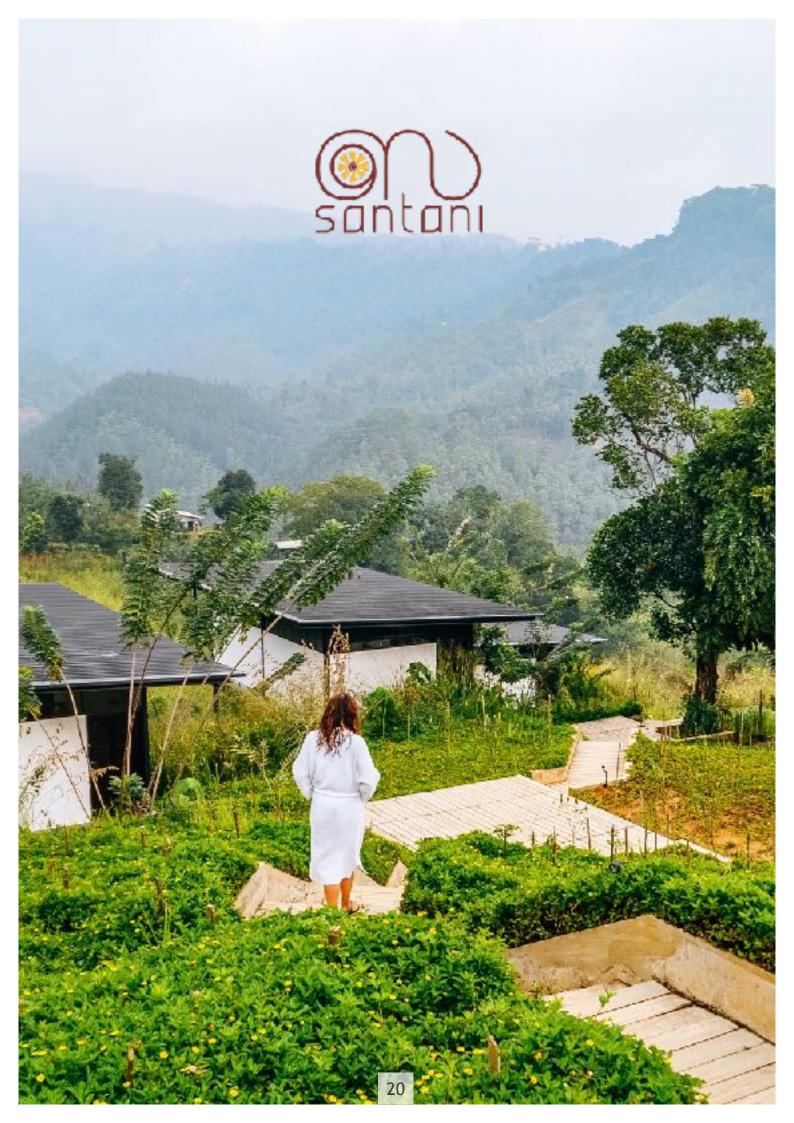


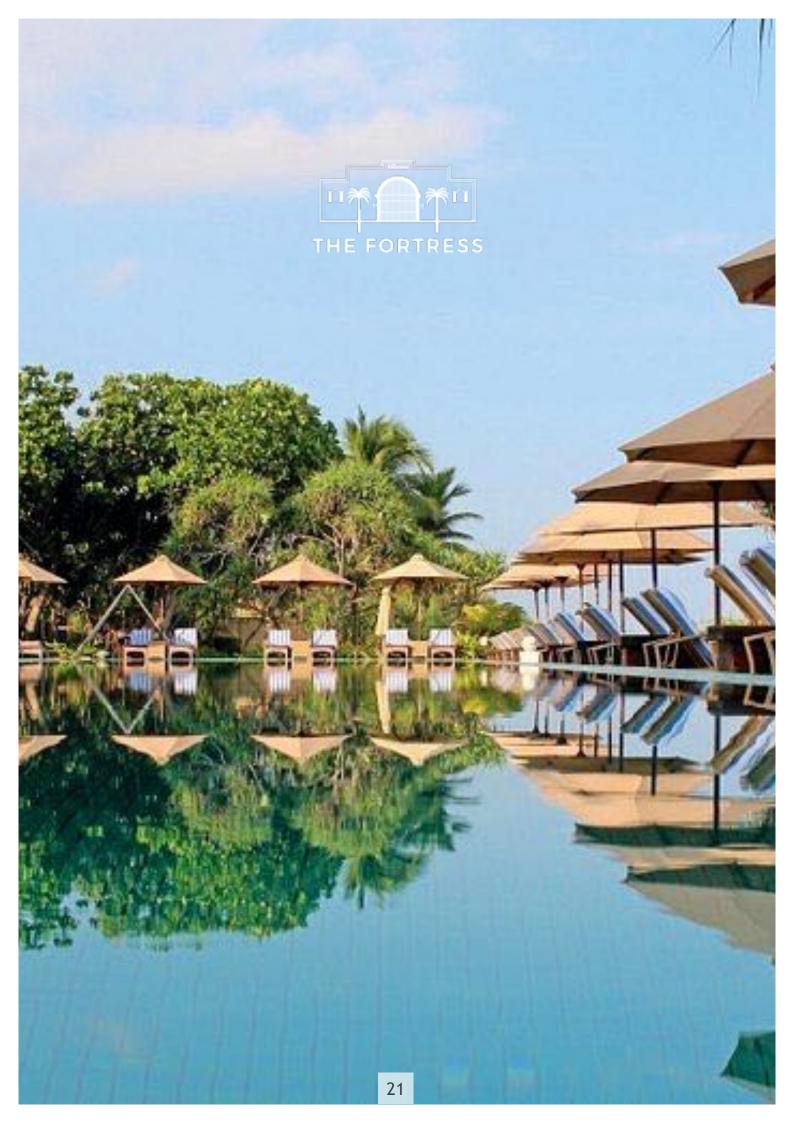


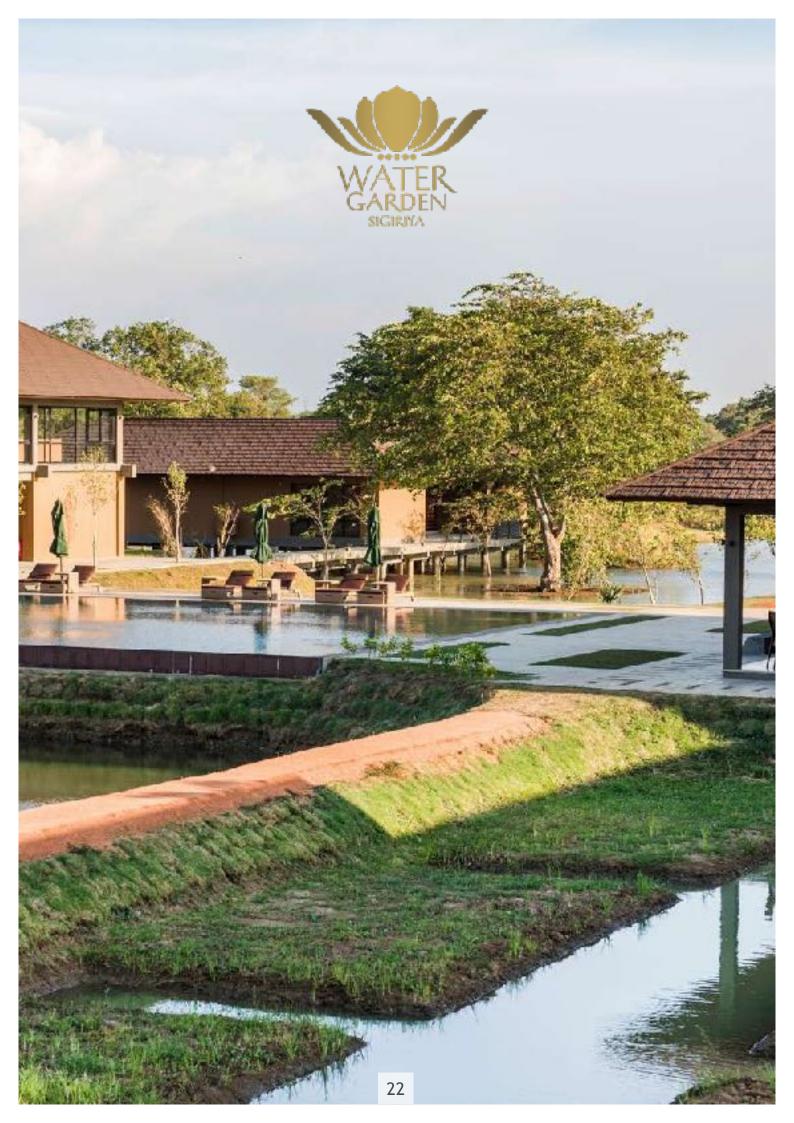












COLOMBO

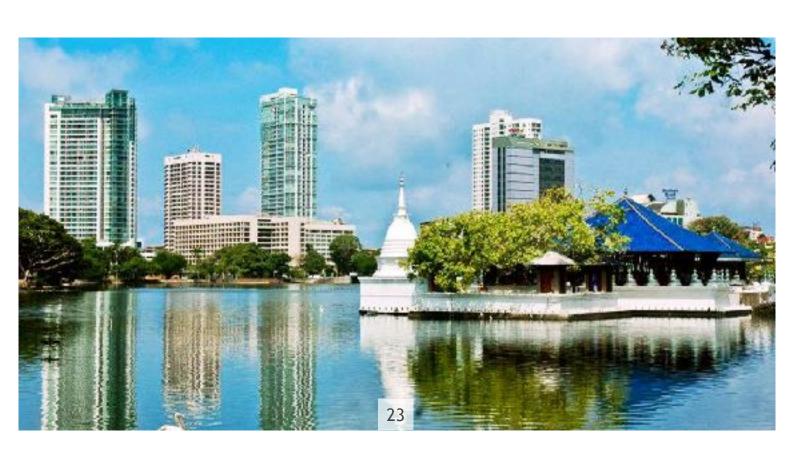
A CITY OF CONTRASTS, IT IS BOTH AN ECLECTIC MIX OF SHINY HOTELS AND SWANKY OFFICE BLOCKS, NEIGHBOURING BEAUTIFUL RED-TILED COLONIAL-ERA BUILDINGS.

Cosmopolitan Colombo, gateway to the wonder of Sri Lanka, boasts a rich colonial heritage, featuring a melting pot of races, religions and cultures.

A city of contrasts, it is both an eclectic mix of shiny hotels and swanky office blocks, neighbouring beautiful red-tiled colonial-era buildings. Sprawling bustling street markets brim with fragrant spices, colourful silks, cottons and fresh fruit and vegetables.

Discover Colombo's multi-ethnic legacy with churches, mosques & temples congregating on the same streets, and delve into iconic sites including Fort Station, the Red Mosque, and the Khan clock tower. Plunge into Colombo's enticing street food scene, eat like a local, and immerse yourself in the sights, sounds and aromas of the whirling Pettah Bazaar.

This seaside city offers a plethora of exciting adventures, experiences and places to visit. Delight in an exhilarating tuk tuk ride around the city, relish high tea at a magnificent colonial style hotel overlooking the azure ocean, and play a round of golf on scenic green courses.



CULTURAL TRIANGLE

HISTORIC REGION PACKED WITH MONUMENTS AND TEMPLES

Sri Lanka is often overlooked as being simply a beach destination, but at its heart you'll find a collection of historical and cultural wonders well worth a closer look.

Sprawling between Dambulla, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and encompassing everything in between – the Cultural Triangle is a treasure trove of ruins, rocks and wildlife.

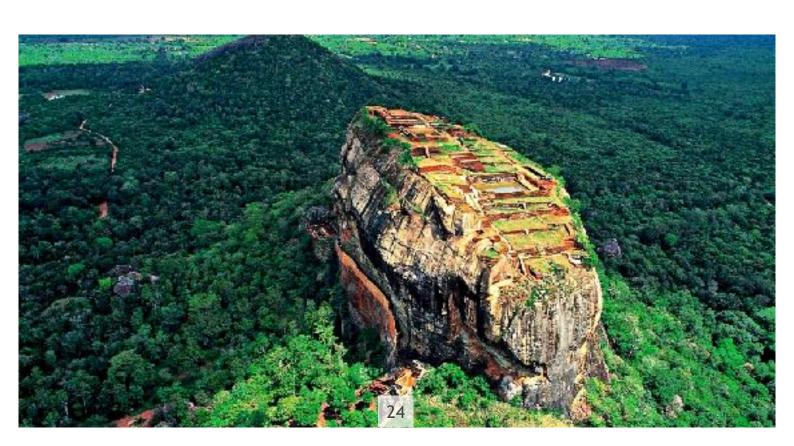
Easily accessible either over land from Colombo, or via a short internal transfer with Cinnamon Air, both ancient cities – Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa – offer a wealth of historical and religious sites, whilst the cave temples of Dambulla make up the third point of the triangle.

Within the triangle you'll also find the iconic Sigiriya Rock and the parks of Kaudulla and

Minneriya, ideal spots for elephant safaris in open-topped 4x4 vehicles.

The Triangle can fit easily into a multitude of different itineraries. Whether you start off on the East coast via a Cinnamon Air flight before heading inland, or make it the start of a journey taking in as much of Sri Lanka as possible, heading south to Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, and Yala National Park.

Alternatively head in to the Triangle before spending a few nights on the beautiful Southwest coast, Negombo or Bentota.



KANDY

TREAT TO THE EYES AND SOUL

A WORLD OF ANCIENT KINGS, ORNATE TEMPLES, LUSH GARDENS AND VIBRANT TRADITIONS – KANDY IS THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN SRI LANKA AND ITS CULTURAL CAPITAL.

Nestled in the midst of hills and surrounded by tropical paddy fields and tea plantations, the town is the home of the Temple of the Tooth Relic (Sri Dalada Maligawa), the country's most important religious shrine.

At the heart of the city is the man-made Kandy Lake, where a scenic shaded path offers views of the surrounding hills and town, ideal for walkers, joggers and bird spotters. Browse bustling market places with bright, fresh produce, local delicacies and fragrant spices, or spend the day exploring the opulent temples and learning about the city's rich history.

The dense downtown area is surrounded by tropical rainforest, so look out for exotic monkeys swinging overhead.

Kandy served as the capital of the last Sinhalese kingdom, before falling to the British in 1815 and navigating its streets reveals an intriguing mix of old Kandyan and colonial buildings.

With the vibrant green of the highlands as a backdrop, Kandy is not only Sri Lanka's most cultural city, but one of its most beautiful.



NUWARA ELIYA

GET CLOSER TO PRISTINE NATURE

NUWARA ELIYA, WHICH LITERALLY MEANS, 'CITY OF LIGHT', IS THE COOLEST CITY OF SRI LANKA. THE PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPES OF THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY WILL SURELY BLOW YOUR MIND IF YOU LOVE VISITING HILL STATIONS. WITH THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN PEAK IN SRI LANKA, NUWARA ELIYA BOASTS ON ITS NATURAL BEAUTY.

Nuwara Eliya is most famous for its tea gardens and scenery. It is a perfect place to visit for a romantic vacation or for someone who is looking for a relaxing trip. With misty clouds, lush green sloping hills and a train that looks that it has come out of the Harry Potter films, Nuwara Eliya is a hilly paradise and another great addition to Sri Lanka's tourist attractions.

The popular places to visit in Nuwara Eliya include Victoria Park, Bale Bazaar, Moon Plains, Ramboda Falls and St. Clair's Falls.

Nuwara Eliya is also the prime tea producing land in Sri Lanka. With is lush green terraces, it produces some high quality aromatic tea.

Due to its cool climate in a hot and humid country like Sri Lanka, Nuwara Eliya is also referred to as 'Little England'.

During the winters, the nights are chilling. But as soon as the day breaks, the place gets warm and comfortable.



GALLE

A 16TH CENTURY MARVEL

GALLE IS A STUNNINGLY ATMOSPHERIC TOWN AT THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF SRI LANKA WITH FASCINATING HISTORY EVIDENT AT EVERY TURN THROUGH ITS ECLECTIC ASSEMBLAGE OF ARCHITECTURE.

Galle is an important city in Sri Lanka and is a one-stop destination wherein you can take in all sights and sounds. One of the best places to visit in Sri Lanka is the Galle Fort.

The Galle Fort area has wide cobblestoned roads and a number of eateries and cafes. Try and catch the sunset while you are there.

There are a number of trinket shops and galleries that you can visit. It is among the most visited places in Sri Lanka.

Another picturesque place for sightseeing in

Sri Lanka is the Japanese Peace Pagoda. Quite close to the Unawatuna beach, it is a white dome of serenity.

Galle Fort itself is sat on an angular promontory that juts out into the sea. An important seaport for the spice trade long before the Europeans came, the Portuguese arrived in the 16th century only to be usurped by the Dutch who built the impressive granite fort – the largest of its kind in Asia – that encloses and demarcates the old town, before they in turn were replaced by the British.



BENTOTA

THE RESORT TOWN OF SRI LANKA. LOCATED IN MESMERISING SOUTHWEST AND ON ITS COASTAL BELTS, BENTOTA IS A SPECTACULAR PART OF RURAL SRI LANKA WITH GREEN ENVIRONS IN THE BACKGROUND, AWASH WITH TALL COCONUT PALM TREES EVERYWHERE IN THE LANDSCAPE.

The lagoons, the estuaries, the calm weather, all will scintillate you like never before. Bentota is also famous for its dazzling marine life and you will love the atmosphere once you step in.

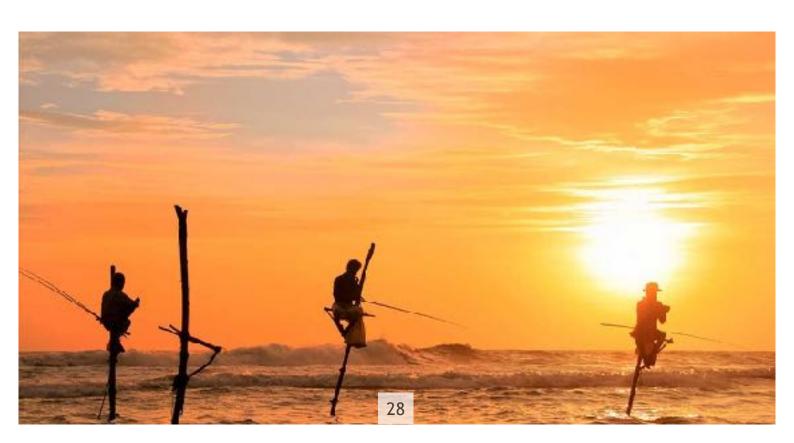
A serene beauty, especially for the newly wedded couples, this place is speechless and its exquisiteness cannot be expressed in words, but only felt.

You can visit Kasgoda Turtle Hatchery and also go on a boat cruise on the Bentota River.

An extraordinary experience amidst an ordinary setup lies 65 kilometres from Colombo and is named Bentota beach.

Soak yourself in the ordinary golden sand while enjoying the marvellous sound of the mighty Indian Ocean crashing against the shores.

The mesmerizing view of the sea will leave you speechless. If you are planning to break the monotony of the routine just try your hands at adventure sports found alongside the palm trees.



HILL COUNTRY

THE MOST MAGICAL PART OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, AND THE TRAIN JOURNEY FROM COLOMBO UP INTO THE WINDING HILLS IS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

Home to striking colorful scenery, one of the most stunning train rides in the world, hiking opportunities galore & unique tea plantation accommodation, Sri Lanka's Hill Country is a must for any visit to the island.

Sitting in the observation deck of the old, colonial British train as it slowly snakes its way up into the hills is a truly wonderful experience.

Tea plantations are scattered through the area and you can wave to women picking tea leaves as you pass by.

The temperatures drop the higher you get, and as the mist rolls in it's as if you're in another country entirely.

Away from the heat of the coastal regions, the Hill Country contains some of Sri Lanka's most stunning scenery. From the rolling tea plantations of Nuwara Eliya to the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy, the Hill Country is a land unto itself, pulsating with adventure and charm. Watch out for monkeys in the mist-filled jungle, and the sounds of waterfalls nearby.



YALA NATIONAL PARK

HOME TO A HOST OF WILDLIFE AND BIRDS

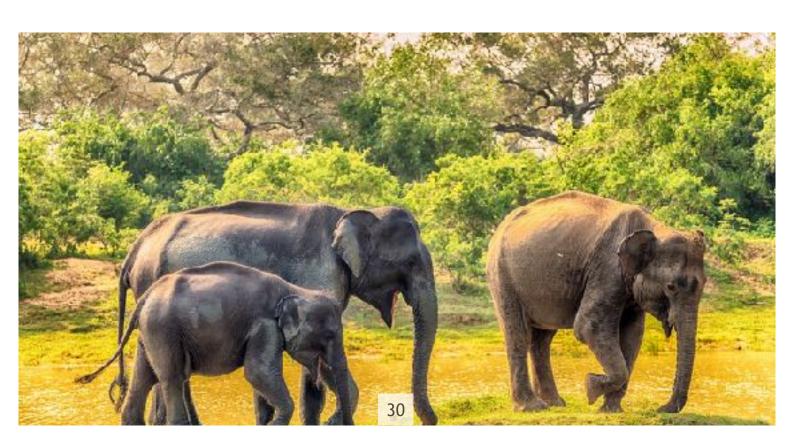
Yala National Park is located in the southeast corner of Sri Lanka and is the most popular destination for wildlife viewing. Leopards are the star attraction and Yala is believed to have the world's highest concentration of these big cats.

During the dry season, which spans from June to September, large concentrations of mugger crocodile can be seen in the dwindling waterholes.

Yala is also an excellent birding destination with close to 300 species recorded.

The varied landscapes from lagoons and beaches to rocky outcrops, immersed among the scrub jungle are also a treat as you search out the park's wildlife. Further north the Gal Oya National Park has a large seasonal gathering of wild elephant in search of food.

The park itself is divided into five blocks, two of which, Ruhuna and Kumana, can be explored on guided game drives, and stretches from the sea inland, encompassing some 979 square kilometres (378 square miles) of forest, wetlands and savannah.



NINE ARCH BRIDGE - ELLA

BRIDGE IN THE SKY

Ella sits right within the verdant Hill Country that Sri Lanka is famed for, making it an ideal destination for both scenic walks and getting a taste of a local tea planter's life.

From the spectacular Nine Arch Bridge in Demodara, to Ella Rock, Little Adam's Peak and the underrated Buduruwagala temple, you can visit several beautiful sites here.

The lush green scenery is a huge draw in itself: if you appreciate unspoiled nature, you will love this region for its rolling hills, cloud forests, cascading waterfalls & mountainous valleys.

Home to arguably 'the most beautiful train ride' in the world, Ella has become a magnet in recent years.

The iconic viaduct built by the British to transport Ceylon tea to the capital is well worth a visit.

If you are lucky, you may catch a glimpse of the handsome 1800's steam train that chugs its way along from Colombo to Kandy and Nuwara Eliya before crossing the bridge to arrive at Ella's charming pink-washed hilltop station.



TRINCOMALEE

AN UNMISSABLE BEACH GETAWAY

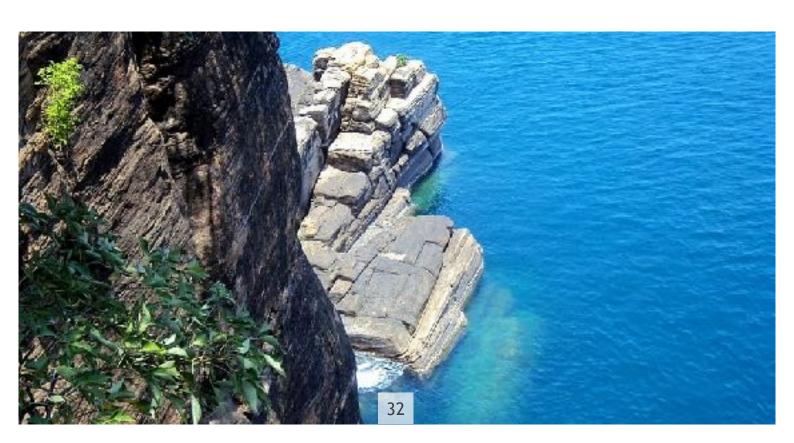
The largest town on Sri Lanka's up-and-coming eastern coast, Trincomalee spreads across a number of rocky promontories surrounding a beautiful harbour and bay. The Portuguese, the Dutch, the King of Kandy, the French and the English all repeatedly fought over this strategically-located harbour, which ultimately even served as a base for the Allied fleet in World War II.

Some of the best beaches in the country can be found here, especially in the northern stretch of 'Trinco', known as Nilaveli, where shallow beach goes up to half a mile into the sea. Palms sway in the breeze and provide dappled shade onto the soft white sand, meaning these beaches are both scenic and comfortable.

Snorkel and scuba-dive here to join the colourful marine life and visit the Pigeon Island National Park nearby if you're after particularly good sightings.

Famed for whale and dolphin watching, we highly recommend visiting Trincomalee if you would like to see these wonderful sea creatures leaping out of the ocean in front of you.

While this is mostly done by boat, we would say that the best way to witness the movements of these magnificent animals is from a helicopter high above, where you can enjoy a bird's eye view.



MIHINTALE

THE BIRTH PLACE OF BUDDHISM

It is a mountain peak near Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka. It is believed by Sri Lankans to be the site of a meeting between the Buddhist monk Mahinda and King Devanampiyatissa which inaugurated the presence of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. It is now a pilgrimage site, and the site of several religious monuments and abandoned structures.

According to the Mahavamsa, Thera Mahinda (son of India's Emperor Asoka) came to Sri Lanka on the full moon day of the month of Poson (June) and met King Devanampiyatissa and preached the doctrine to the King and his people.

The traditional spot where this meeting took place is revered by the Buddhists of Sri Lanka.

The climb to Mihintale is not strenuous – it takes approximately 15 to 20 minutes. The best time to climb is in the early morning or the late afternoon. Mihintale is a fabulous place to see the sunset.

Mihintale is not touristy at all. Archaeologists and historians say that the ruins of the great 40 foot stupa and the surrounding caves date back to the 1st century B.C.



JAFFNA

PEEP INTO THE PAST

Steeped in a glorious but turbulent history, yet almost completely unknown to tourism, the largely Tamil city of Jaffna is located at the northern tip of Sri Lanka, and was at the heart of the country's 26-year civil war (ended in 2009). Jaffna's post-war recovery has been remarkable and the region is now emerging as Sri Lanka's rising star.

A tour of Jaffna and its surrounds offers visitors the opportunity to explore the province's rich history, as well as its more recent past, and gain an insight into Jaffna's distinct cultural and culinary traditions.

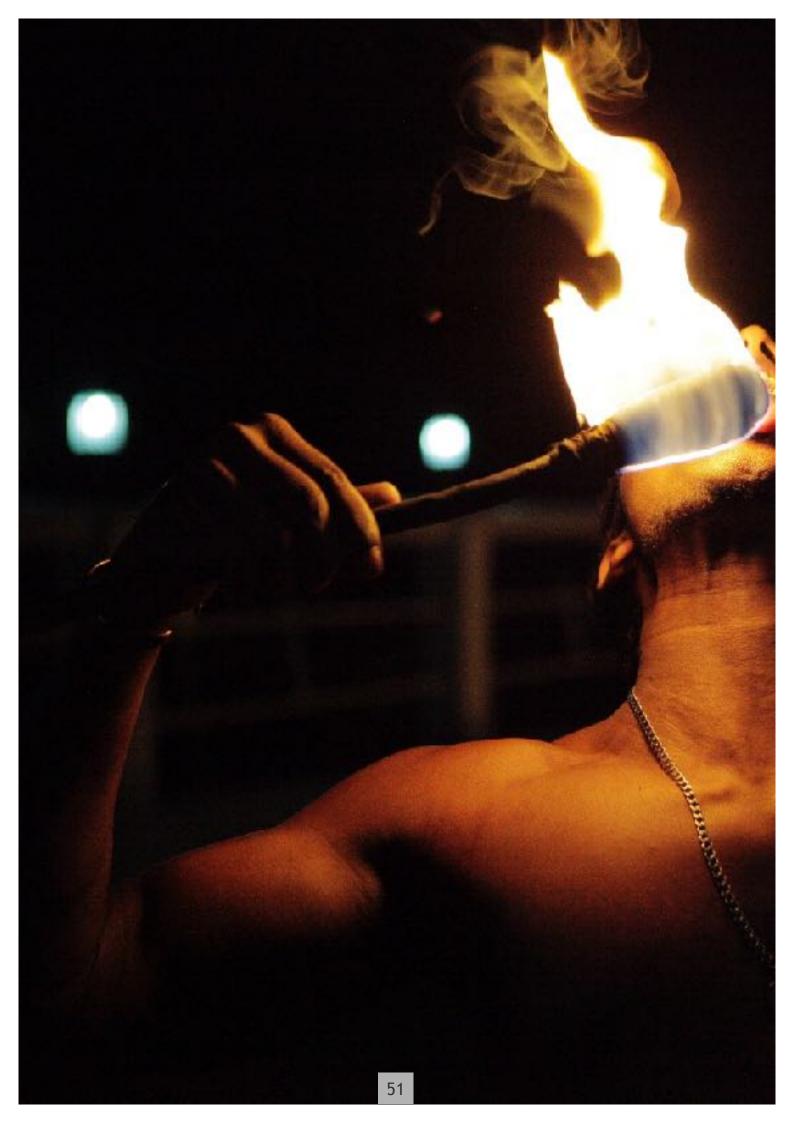
Visit, the star-shaped Jaffna Fort, which was at the heart of several momentous events; view Jaffna library, which was burnt during

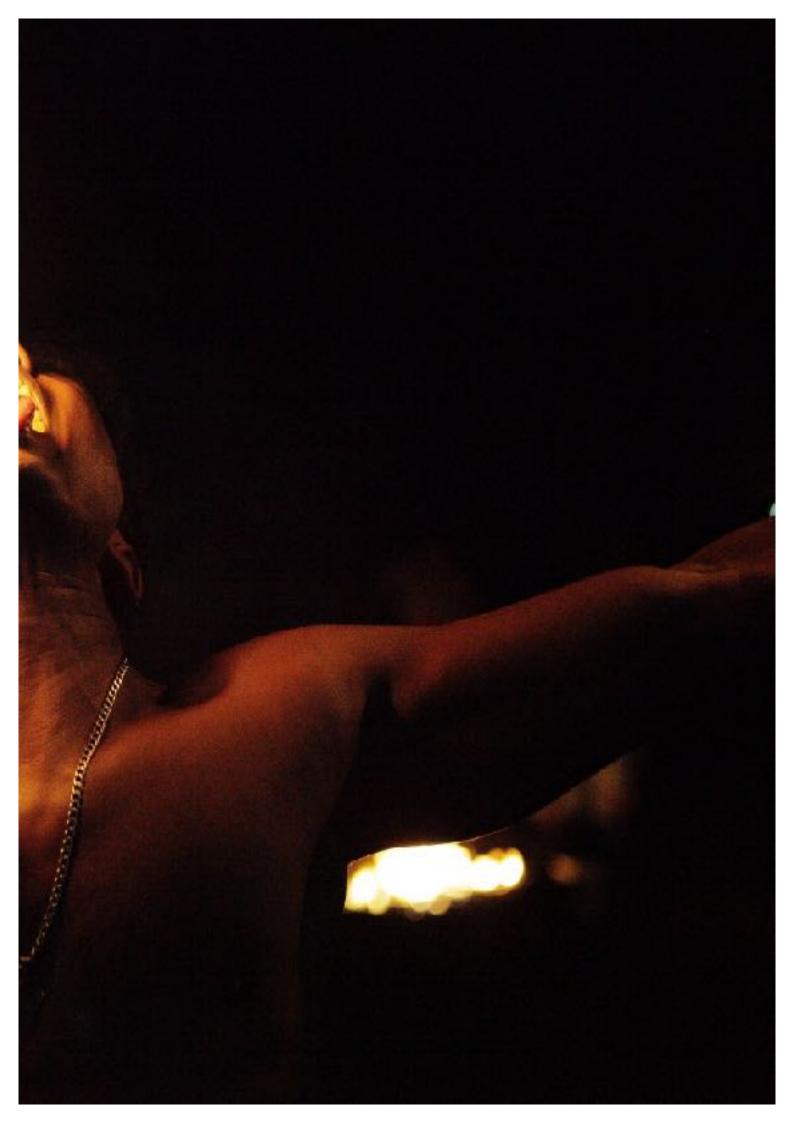
the civil war, and drive through deserted villages that are yet to recover following the restoration of peace. Stop at Point Pedro, the northernmost point of Sri Lanka; see the Keerimalai hot springs and explore the wonderful Kanthrodai Buddhist stupas.

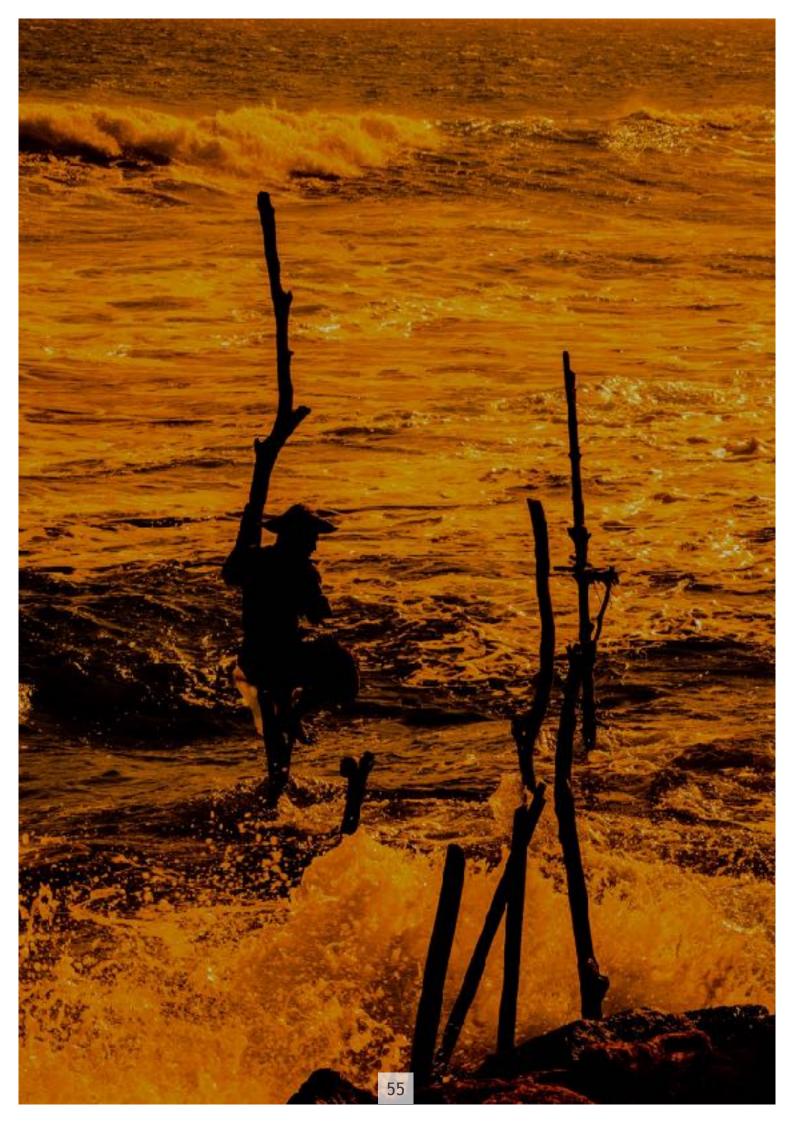
An absolute 'must see' is the ancient Nallur Kandasamy Kovil - an architecturally striking Dravidian style Hindu temple.

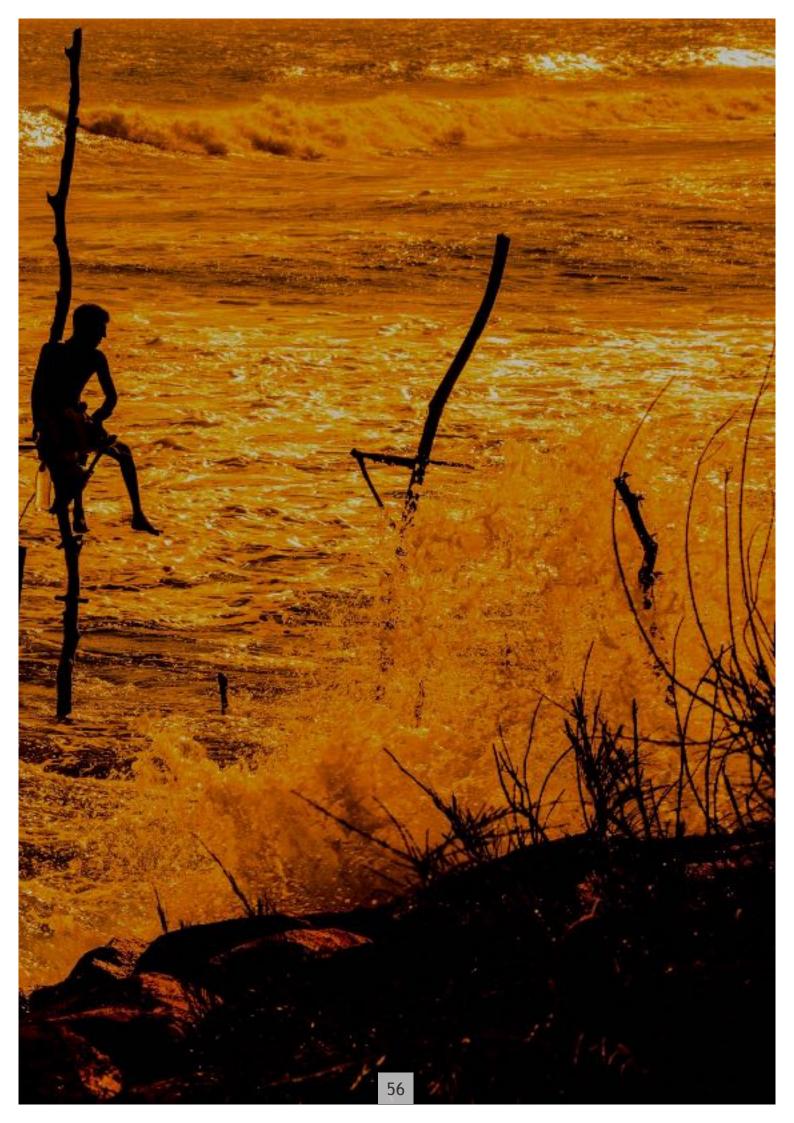
On sparsely populated Neduntivu or Delft Island visit the remnants of the Dutch Fort and the 'growing rock' venerated by the locals, then see the giant Baobab trees and look out for the Wild ponies that roam the island freely.

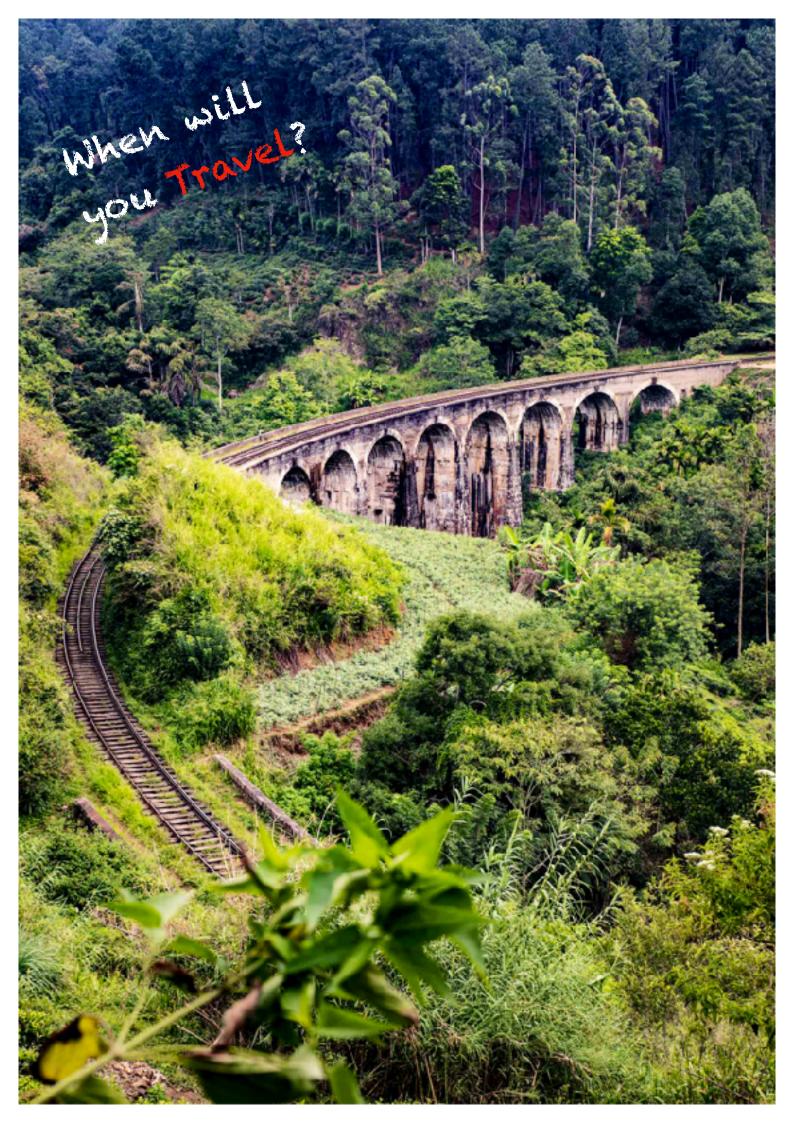
















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