

A M A N W E L L A





Writer Leonard Woolf described Sri Lanka's exquisite south coast a century ago saying, "The evening air is warm and gentle. An enormous sky meets with an enormous sea." Nothing much has changed. The beaches scalloping the coastline are as pristine as they were when this tear-shaped island was called 'Serendib' by the ancient Persians, its jungles reveal ancient temples and holy caves, and its national parks are home to a plethora of indigenous species including elephant and leopard.

Claiming its own beach on an extensive property just minutes from the fishing village of Tangalle, Amanwella is truly a destination unto itself on this breathtaking coastline. Whether relaxing poolside, doing yoga in the coconut grove, learning to cook a Sri Lankan curry, fishing in the bay or whiling away time in the library, it is impossible to feel at a loose end. Yet to not venture beyond the resort's boundaries would be to miss experiencing a unique culture and unparalleled natural beauty. The resort offers a broad range of personalised activities and excursions, both offshore and into the island's lush interior.





Ocean-based Adventures

The south coast's golden beaches are lapped by the Indian Ocean, with some bays boasting world-class surfing breaks and others the gentlest swell. Not just a playground for human visitors, the coastline is a diverse ecosystem: Blue whales pass by on their annual migration and the beaches are nesting sites for five different turtle species. Learn to surf with a local pro, watch turtles hatching by moonlight or spend a day deep sea fishing. Amanwella can arrange private transfers, a personal guide and a delicious picnic lunch - just don't forget your swimwear and sunscreen.



Ocean-based Adventures

Rekawa Turtle Conservation Project

Watching turtles laying their eggs or baby turtles hatching and making their way over the sand and into the sea by moonlight is an unforgettable experience. Just 10km east of Tangalle, Rekawa runs an award-winning community turtle conservation project that employs ex-poachers of turtle eggs to protect one of Sri Lanka's most important sea turtle nesting sites. Five different turtle species lay their eggs in the sand here every night throughout the year. The best time to see turtles is between January and April, and Rekawa's record is 23 turtles visiting in one night. This two- to three-hour excursion includes private transfers, entrance fees, gratuities and refreshments.

Whale and Dolphin Watching

From December to April, the south coast of Sri Lanka is considered one of the best places in the world to see blue whales, often accompanied by sperm whales and large pods of spinner dolphins. Earth's largest mammals, blue whales particularly favour the calm, krill-rich waters of Mirissa Bay, 6km south of Dondra Head, Sri Lanka's most southerly point. An early start is recommended as the drive to Mirissa Bay takes 60 minutes, and excursions can last between three and five hours. After a morning on the water, savour an Amanwella picnic on the beach or book a delicious curry and rice lunch at the legendary Mirissa Hills.



Fishing

Catching your own dinner is an unforgettable experience, especially when Amanwella's chefs will prepare your fish – whether mahi mahi, tuna, mullet, para or seer – just as you like it. At 6.00am with the sun gilding the sea, join Wasantha, a local fisherman and father of two, and his friend Asiri, and learn the traditional handline method of fishing. (Contemporary rods are also available.) You will travel 3km offshore and fish for about two to three hours. From above the well where arriving pilgrims would once have washed before consulting the oracle.

Private boat charters

Amanwella's 21m fiberglass powerboat Sanriku operates with twin Yanmar diesel engines and offers an air-conditioned cabin with saloon, kitchenette and bathroom. Fully-equipped with all navigational, communication and safety gear, it is ideal for deep sea fishing excursions and other private boating expeditions. Sanriku can accommodate up to 10 passengers and 4 crew members.

Mawella Lagoon

The serene waters of Mawella Lagoon provide an ideal setting for sunrise or sunset canapes aboard Amanwella's floating lounge. With a glass of champagne in hand, drift along the verdant shoreline and out into the tranquil deep, spotting pelicans, kingfishers and other water birds as the calm surface reflects the sky above. The biggest lagoon in the Hambantota District, Mawella lies just a 10-minute drive from Amanwella. This experience takes about 90 minutes, with recommended departure times at 6.30am or 5.00pm. A must for nature lovers, the evening experience also offers the chance to witness fruit bats as they take flight for a night of hunting.

Surfer's Paradise

Sri Lanka is renowned for its surf and attracts both experienced and novice surfers year-round, although the best waves are said to roll in between April and November. The beaches near Amanwella boast a range of breaks for all levels, and the resort can organise two- to three-hour surfing sessions or private lessons with experienced local surfers. Just ten minutes' drive from Amanwella, Unakaruwa Beach has a right-hand break suitable for advanced and professional surfers, while Nilwella Beach is ideal for beginners with its sandy bottom and both right- and left-hand breaks. Surfing sessions and lessons are weather dependent and include vehicle transfers, boards and beverages.





Adventures on Land

Sri Lanka's historic and cultural heritage embraces more than 2,000 years. Known as Lanka - the 'resplendent land' - in the ancient Indian epic Ramayana, the island has numerous other references that testify to the region's natural beauty. Islamic folklore maintains that Adam and Eve were offered refuge on the island as solace for their expulsion from the Garden of Eden, while Asian poets, noting Sri Lanka's geographical location and lauding its beauty, called it the 'pearl upon the brow of India'. Amanwella offers personally tailored excursions to explore the south coast's villages, temples and national parks.



National Parks

Within two hours by car from Amanwella, a brace of national parks promises wildlife sightings to rival the most celebrated African game reserves. Elusive leopards and wild elephants roam Udawalawe National Park, while Bundala attracts huge numbers of migratory birds. Yala is the country's second largest National Park and home to at least 44 mammalian species. Luxurious vehicles and expert guides ensure world-class safari experiences.

Bundala National Park

A one-hour drive northeast of Tangalle, this coastal reserve offers great opportunities for birdwatching (with around 150 reported species) and the occasional sighting of elephants and crocodiles. The salt pans attract a vast number of migratory shore birds, making this 6,216-hectare park one of the most important wetlands in Sri Lanka. The best time to visit Bundala is between November and March when the winter migratory birds arrive. Numerous grey langur monkeys populate the larger trees and in the scrub jungle you may also come across jackals, hares and spotted deer.

We recommend departing from Amanwella at 6.30am. Once inside the Park, guests are transferred to a 4x4 jeep and accompanied by a tracker. This 5- to 6-hour excursion includes transfers, entrance fees and beverages.

Yala National Park

Situated a two hour drive northeast of Amanwella, Sri Lanka's most visited wildlife reserve covers almost 100,000 hectares. The park's wildlife has its own distinctive charm, with huddles of colourful painted storks perched on the edge of lagoons between dozing crocodiles, fantailed peacocks kicking up clouds of dust, and monkeys chattering in the treetops. Yala's most famous residents are its leopards, boasting the highest density of these beautiful cats in the world.

We recommend departing from Amanwella at 5.00am. Once inside the Park, guests are transferred to a 4x4 jeep and accompanied by a tracker. This 7- to 8-hour excursion includes transfers, entrance fees and beverages.



Udawalawe National Park

90 minutes by car northeast of Tangalle and bordering a reservoir, this is one of the island's most popular national parks totalling 30,800 hectares in size. It is best known for its elephants (estimated to number around 400) and birdwatching opportunities. It is primarily an open parkland traversed by a river and numerous streams, which makes elephant sightings particularly accessible.

Often the pachyderms can be seen in herds of up to 100 or more. Other animals which may be sighted here include spotted deer, langur monkeys, jackals, wild boar and water buffalo. We recommend departing from Amanwella at 6.00am.

Once inside the Park, guests are transferred to a 4x4 jeep and accompanied by a tracker. This 6- to 7-hour excursion includes transfers, entrance fees and beverages.

Biking

Just a 15-minute drive from Amanwella lies the traditional village of Palathuduwa, surrounded by lush paddy fields and verdant jungle. Explore the village and discover its peaceful way of life, before cycling a beautiful 12km route through the surrounding countryside on mountain bikes. The entire outing will take approximately 2.5 hours, with a delicious picnic lunch and a visit to a picturesque Buddhist temple on the way.

Mulgirigala Rock Temple

Perched on a 210-metre high rock at the top of 533 steps, Mulgirigala Rock Temple is as famous for its terraces, temples, caves and views as it is for its historic role in the translation of Sri Lanka's ancient text. The Tika on Mahavamsa leaf scripts found at the temple in 1827 were the key, making them in effect Sri Lanka's Rosetta Stone.

The temple and its monastery are situated a 30-minute drive north of Tangalle, and a three-hour round-trip excursion is recommended in the early morning or late afternoon to avoid the heat of the day. Departing Amanwella at 4.00pm offers the added bonus of viewing a spectacular sunset from the very top of the rock. Modest attire is required.





Adventures by Air

Travelling by helicopter or seaplane is an exciting way to see this spectacular country from the air. Helicopter flights from Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) in Colombo to Tangalle take just 60 minutes. Shorter flights to Galle or slightly longer journeys inland to Sigiriya and the Cultural Triangle or the tea plantations of Sri Lanka's fabled Hill Country can also be arranged. Lets add Sinharaja Rain Forest (45 min flight)



Galle Fort

The undisputed queen of the coastline is the quaint colonial town of Galle, dominated by the imposing Galle Fort since the days when Dutch settlers strolled the town's cobbled streets. Between 1 and 2 hours by car from Amanwella depending on the route taken, Galle is just a short helicopter flight away. Explore the Fort and its lofty ramparts, browse its many boutiques and savour a delicious meal on the veranda of sister resort Amangalla.

Sigiriya

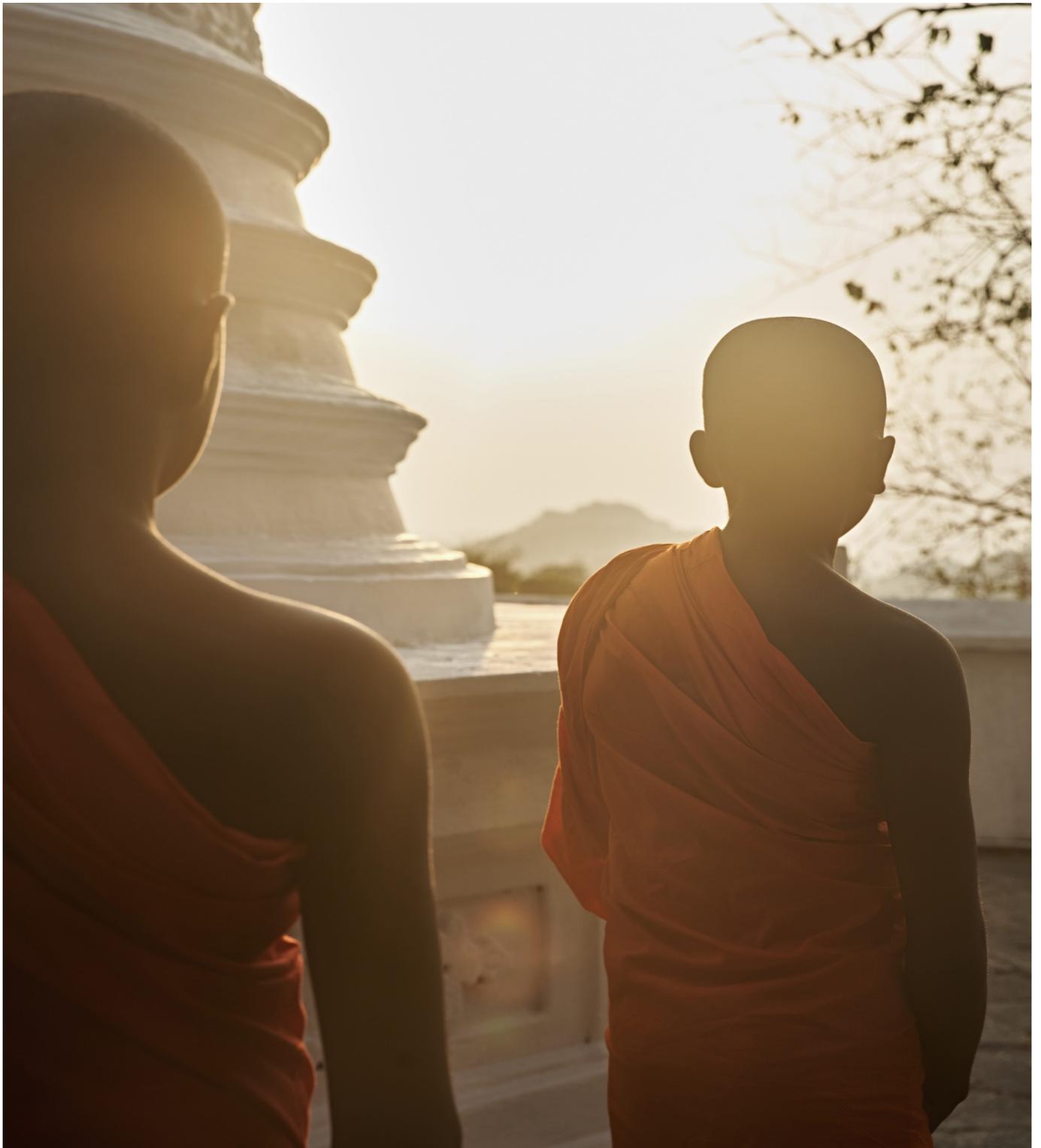
Soar north to the cloudhugging rock fortress of Sigiriya in Matale, regarded by many as a wonder of the world. After departing from Amanwella at 8.00am, you will fly over verdant mountains and the Hill Country capital of Kandy in an Airbus Helicopter AS350B3, before landing near the entrance to Sigiriya's magnificent gardens. A personal driver and guide will ensure that you experience this remarkable site to the max, climbing to the very top past beautiful frescoes and through the iconic lion gateway. Built for King Kashyapa in the 5th century, all that remains are the lion's giant stone paws, but the panoramic views from the top of the 200-metre-high rock where his palace once rested are unchanged.

Hill Country

The misty, emerald peaks of Sri Lanka's highlands are where the island grows its finest tea. After a flyby of Adam's Peak and its sacred Buddha's footprint rock formation, land at Hatton in Nuwara Eliya where you'll be met by a car and driver ready to whisk you to your choice of destinations. Explore the tea plantations cloaking the hillsides and enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. You could even play 18 holes at one of Sri Lanka's oldest golf courses. We recommend departing from Amanwella at 8.00am.

Sinharaja Rain Forest

45 minutes flight from Amanwella, the Sinharaja forest is steeped in deep legend and mystery. The word Sinharaja means, lion (sinha) king (raja) and the popular belief is that the legendary origin of the Sinhala people in Sri Lanka is from the descendants of the union the lion king who once lived in the forest and a princess. Sinharaja Forest Reserve is one of the least disturbed and biologically unique lowland rain forests now remaining in Sri Lanka.



Cultural Insight

Sri Lanka claims the world's second-oldest continuous written history – one that chronicles the Indo-Aryan Sinhalese or 'People of the Lion', who arrived from northern India around 500 BC to establish magnificent Buddhist kingdoms on the central plains, and the Tamils of Dravidian stock, who arrived a few centuries later from southern India. Colonised by the Portuguese, the Dutch and finally the British, the island gained independence in 1948. Amanwella delights in offering insight into the rich cultural heritage of this fascinating country and its many influences.



Pottery Making

Visit the village of Palapotta, known for its pottery, and learn the skills that villagers have passed down through the generations. A 25-minute drive from Amanwella along scenic Beliatta Road, the village is home to a family of master potters who have sourced clay from two nearby riverbeds to fashion curd bowls, cooking pots and storage vessels for centuries. Learn the secrets of the renowned terracotta designs fired in open pits with a mixture of wood, rice and coconut husk, then guide you through creating your own unique piece.

Lace Experience

Situated 20 minutes by car west of Amanwella and renowned for its traditional lace making, the coastal village of Dickwella suffered greatly in the 2004 tsunami. Enterprise development projects supported widows in growing their own businesses, and today visitors can witness the making of Dickwella's beautiful frothy lace, even trying their own hand at this unique skill. The pure joy of creating something so breathtaking, coupled with the satisfaction of knowing that these ladies are being helped on their way to self-sufficiency, makes this a truly memorable experience.



Market Visit

A 10-minute drive east of Amanwella, Tangalle is a bustling fishing town typical of Sri Lanka's south coast. The daily fish, fruit and vegetable markets provide insight into village life as well as excellent photographic opportunities. Tangalle also hosts a colourful market on Wednesdays and Sundays where villagers come from all over the region to sell their wares. On Saturdays, a market is also held in Dickwella. These are not markets geared to the tourist trade. Rather they are authentic venues for locals to deal in home-farmed produce and handcrafted goods.



Navajeevana Centre

Our ethos at Amanwella is very much about supporting the community around us, and the Navajeevana Centre is endlessly deserving for the amazing work it does with the disabled and disadvantaged of Hambantota district. Founded in 1987, Navajeevana started off as a health centre and pre-school for children but has grown to become the primary organisation in the area working with people of all ages who face challenges. Open Monday to Friday, the Centre offers a beautiful coffeeshop with sea views and a craft shop selling handmade gifts ranging from table linen to jewellery. All proceeds go to the Navajeevana community.

Village Nature Walk

Amanwella is situated close to Wellawathuara Village. An early morning or evening stroll along the village paths that wind through the jungle provides interesting glimpses of daily village life. There's a strong chance you might encounter a mongoose or other local wildlife including monkeys, birds, mouse deer, monitor lizards and hares.



Culinary Experiences

Sri Lanka is renowned for its cuisine, and Amanwella celebrates its variety with a full menu of authentic dishes made from local, seasonal ingredients. In addition, the resort specialises in Asian and Mediterranean cuisines, with a focus on fresh seafood. Amanwella offers a number of unique culinary experiences both on-property and in the surrounding villages and countryside – as hands-on as you desire!



Botanical Gardens Picnic

Once a thorny wasteland, the Mirijjawila Botanical Gardens near Hambantota are now a verdant wonderland showcasing Sri Lanka's varied flora. Just over an hour's drive from Amanwella, enjoy a personalised tour then a private picnic in a picturesque spot.

Rice Paddy Picnic

Raised above a sea of vivid green rice paddies an hour's drive from Amanwella is a traditional wooden pavilion, the ideal spot for a delicious Amanwella picnic surrounded by nature. Combine this tranquil dining experience with a visit to Mulgirigala Rock Temple.

Private Beach BBQ

Romantic private dining can be enjoyed in multiple settings on and off the property as well as in-suite with a tailor-made menu. One of our most popular options is a private beach BBQ, which can take place in front of the Beach Club or in the Coconut Grove. Relax at your own private table for two surrounded by candles and 'ginipandans' (Sri Lankan oil torches) and dine on your selection of grilled meats and seafood as the stars come out. Entertainment options include traditional dances and the fire limbo. If you're very lucky, you may even witness a turtle laying her eggs.

Village Dinner

Travel by tuk-tuk to a colonial home built in 1945 for dinner in a typical Sri Lankan village. After being warmly welcomed by the family, relax over drinks beneath the stars then savour an authentic Sri Lankan feast cooked the traditional way and served in clay crockery.

Roti Feast

In a traditional mud home surrounded by jungle, join a local family as they prepare their evening roti meal. As darkness falls, gather around the firepit in their freshly-swept backyard and savour this delicious and authentic taste of village life by candlelight.



Cooking Lessons

Sri Lanka's tropical climate ensures a cornucopia of fruit and vegetables, fragrant spices and fresh seafood year-round. Visit the local markets with one of Amanwella's chefs to discover more about the fertile island's varied produce. Then choose your own ingredients to create an authentic Sri Lankan feast back at the resort. You can even cook right on the beach, cooled by ocean breezes in the Coconut Grove's outdoor kitchen. Then enjoy your creations for a memorable alfresco lunch.

Sunset Beach Cocktails

Sipping a cocktail at sunset is the quintessential beach holiday experience. As the sky turns a myriad pinks and the ocean provides a soothing soundtrack, your personal barman will mix your choice of our signature arrack cocktails and serve it with a selection of canapes.

Mixology Class

Learn all there is to know about mixing cocktails from Amanwella's professional bartender in this interactive mixology class. Taking place at the bar in The Lounge, you will learn to mix the classics as well as Amanwella originals with distinctive Sri Lankan arrack distilled from coconut flowers. Your creations can then be enjoyed with delicious canapes overlooking the sea.

Mocktail Class

Ideal for the whole family, this class also takes place at the bar in The Lounge and incorporates all the fun of making cocktails with non-alcoholic ingredients.



Wellness at Amanwella

The murmur of waves and gentle rustle of coconut palms soothe all who come to Amanwella. Wellness treatments incorporate indigenous herbs, plants and flowers, and experienced therapists draw on Ayurvedic traditions to ensure that every massage, facial, body polish and wrap is tailored to individual needs.



Signature Treatment

Enjoy a traditional warm-oil Ayurvedic treatment such as the signature Abhyanga massage that helps to eliminate impurities from the body while rejuvenating body and mind. India's 5,000-year-old system of preventive medicine, Ayurveda combines the Sanskrit word for 'life' with veda meaning 'science' and encourages balance in all things.

In-suite Relaxation

Spa treatments take place in the privacy of guest suites with massage beds set up in the pool courtyard or air-conditioned indoors – whichever you prefer. Every treatment begins with a gentle head massage and herbal inhalation to relax and prepare you for the treatment.

Fitness Classes

Amanwella's fitness trainer, Gayan, is a martial arts expert with over 15 years of personal training experience. He offers fitness classes for all levels, as well as private kung-fu, gymnastics and water aerobics sessions.

Private Yoga

Wake with the sun and join your personal yoga instructor on the beach or in a private glade. Sessions are tailored to suit individual needs, goals and fitness levels and promise that rejuvenating endorphin rush brought on by exercising in nature.

Guided Meditation

Resting on the rocks above the sea, on your private terrace or in a palm-shaded glade, meditate with a local monk who will guide you through this beneficial practice. Guided meditation sessions can also be arranged at nearby temples or the local Buddhist Centre.

Bliss on the Beach

Experience a foot massage on the beach while sipping champagne, with just the waves and palm fronds for company. Amanwella's beach is extensive enough to ensure total privacy, at one with nature.

Booking Information

Ocean Adventures

Rekawa Turtle Conservation Project

Per vehicle 125 USD
Tour duration: 2-3 hours

Private boat charters

1700 per couple
Tour duration: 6-7 hours

Surfer's Paradise

\$140 per person
Tour duration 2-3 hours

Whale and Dolphin Watching

1700 per couple
Tour duration: 6-7 hours

Mawella Lagoon

\$250 per couple
Per additional person is charged \$50
Tour duration: 2-3 hours

Fishing

\$350 per person
Tour duration: 2-3 hours

Adventures on Land

Biking

\$200 per person
Every additional person is charged \$25
Tour duration: ?

Mulgirigala Rock Temple

Per vehicle \$110
Tour duration: 2-3 hours

Udawalawe National Park

One person charged \$420
Two person charged \$450
Three person charged \$480
Four person charged \$650
Tour duration: 6-7 hours

Bundala National Park

One person charged \$350
Two people charged \$445
Three people charged \$75
Four people charged \$630
Tour duration: 6-7 hours

Yala National Park

One person charged \$420
Two person charged \$470
Three people charged \$550
Four people charged \$650
Tour duration: 7-8 hours

Booking Information

Adventures By Air

Galle Fort

Round-trip flight time: ?

Sigiriya

Priced ist not listed

Round-trip flight time: ?

Hill Country

Priced not listed

Round-trip flight time: ?

Sinharaja Rain Forest

Priced is not listed

Round-trip flight time: ?

Cultural insight

Pottery Making

\$100 per couple

Tour duration?

Lace Experience

\$175 per person

Tour durationn: ?

Market Visit

Per vehile: \$75

Tour duration: ?

Navajeevana Centre

Price is not listed ?

Tour duration: ?

Village Nature Walk

Tour duration one hour walk - complimentary

Booking Information

Culinary Experiences

Botanical Gardens Picnic

Price not listed ?

Roti Feast

Price not listed?

Rice Paddy Picnic

Pic per couple

Breakfast \$130

Lunch \$130

Sunset: \$130

Additional person \$30

Private Beach BBQ

Seafood BBQ Dinner per couple \$330

Mix BBQ Dinner per couple \$330

Cooking Lessons

Price not listed ?

Village Dinner

Per couple \$265

Per additional person \$75

Sunset Beach Cocktails

Per couple \$200

Mixology Class

Per person \$100

Mocktail Class

Per person \$25

Booking Information

Wellness at Amanwella

Signature Treatment

Price not listed?

In-suite Relaxation

Price not listed?

Fitness Classes

Per hour \$55

Private Yoga

Price not listed?

Guided Meditation

Price not listed?

Bliss on the Beach

Price not listed?

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