

Amangalla

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In the historic port of Galle, Amangalla lies within the ramparts of Sri Lanka's 17th-century Galle Fort, a Unesco World Heritage Site. Offering views of the fort and harbour on one side and the resort's gardens and swimming pool on the other, the graceful residence presents 27 guestrooms and suites, the two-storey, free-standing Garden House and a tranquil spa known as the Baths. Combining the Sanskrit-derived word for 'peace' with *galla*, the Sinhalese word for the town of Galle, Amangalla reveals the Fort's daily activities and rich legacy, its narrow streets lined with buildings from the Dutch and British colonial eras.

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The stately grande dame of Galle Fort on Sri Lanka's south coast, Amangalla boasts all the period charm of a bygone era. Combining the Sanskrit-derived word for 'peace' with *galla*, Sinhalese for the town of Galle, the resort stands at the junction of Church and Middle Streets with commanding views of the harbour and fort ramparts.

With its chandeliers and soaring *fin de siècle* ceilings, being welcomed into Amangalla's *Zaal*, or Great Hall, is like stepping into the past. It houses the elegant Dining Room at one end and a bar at the other, with a welcoming lounge area in-between – ideal for enjoying a cup of Ceylon tea or an evening cocktail to the accompaniment of the grand piano. Upstairs, the Sunset Balcony is a picturesque spot for sundowners with views across Galle.

An intimate setting with a colonial feel, the Dining Room serves Sri Lankan and Western cuisines. Guests can also dine on the veranda, which faces the tree-lined street, or enjoy alfresco breakfasts and lunches under the flamboyant tree with views of the resort's 21-metre swimming pool.

A wander into Amangalla's 200-year-old garden reveals the Baths, the resort's tranquil spa facility. Massage therapies drawing on Ayurvedic healing traditions can be enjoyed in five softly-lit treatment rooms. The Baths' wet areas include hydrotherapy pools, and there is also a Barbershop, a Salon and a yoga pavilion in the garden.

Another peaceful retreat is the Library, which houses an extensive range of reference books, novels and games. It also features an eclectic collection of memorabilia that offers insight into the history of the resort, the fort and the town of Galle.

Amangalla offers accommodation in 26 Bedrooms, Chambers and Suites, the two-bedroom Amangalla Suite and the two-storey Garden House, which is situated in the resort's garden near the swimming pool.

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Amangalla offers accommodation in 26 Bedrooms, Chambers and Suites, the two-bedroom Amangalla Suite and the two-storey Garden House, which is situated in the resort's 200-year-old gardens near the swimming pool. Views and layouts vary, but each room offers a spacious en suite bathroom as well as a four-poster king-size bed, writing desk, dining table, planter's chair, wardrobe and pettagama chest set on the original 300-year-old wooden floors. Most furniture pieces are either original antiques from the New Oriental Hotel or careful reproductions. There are also twin rooms available in each category featuring the original four-poster beds.

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Antique tables and chairs, crisp linen and vintage silverware contribute to the colonial feel of the intimate Dining Room, which serves Sri Lankan and Western cuisines for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Guests can also dine on the veranda, which faces the tree-lined street, or enjoy alfresco breakfasts and lunches under the flamboyant tree with pool views. Upstairs, the Sunset Balcony provides a picturesque spot for sundowners with views across Galle.

Outdoors, lush gardens dating back 200 years border Amangalla's 21-metre swimming pool. Palm-shaded sun loungers run the length of one side, while on the other, the Pool Courtyard contains five *ambalamas* (rest pavilions).

A wander towards the end of the garden reveals Amangalla's Baths, the resort's tranquil spa facility offering five softly-lit treatment rooms. Massage therapies draw on Ayurvedic healing traditions and personalised Ayurvedic programmes can be arranged. The Baths' wet area features hydrotherapy pools and individual facilities for men and women. The Barbershop provides men with a traditional shave and the Salon offers manicures and pedicures. There is also a yoga pavilion in the garden.

Another peaceful retreat is the Library, which houses an extensive range of reference books, novels and games. It also features an eclectic collection of memorabilia from the archives of the New Oriental Hotel, offering insight into the history of the resort, the fort – a Unesco World Heritage Site – and the town of Galle.