

Amangalla

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Amangalla lies within the ramparts of Sri Lanka's 17th-century Galle Fort, a Unesco World Heritage Site. Offering views of the Fort on one side and the hotel's gardens and swimming pool on the other, the historic residence presents 29 Guestrooms and Suites, the two-storey, free-standing Garden House, a tranquil Aman Spa and a number of dining venues. Amangalla reveals the Fort's daily activities and rich legacy, its narrow streets lined with buildings from the Portuguese, Dutch and British colonial eras.

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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 on one side and the hotel's gardens and swimming pool on the other, the historic residence presents 29 Guestrooms and Suites, the two-storey, free-standing Garden House, a tranquil Aman Spa and a number of dining venues. 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 Portuguese, Dutch and British colonial eras.

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The stately grande dame of Galle Fort, a World Heritage Site 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 hotel stands at the junction of Church and Middle Streets with commanding views of the Fort's 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 cocktail station at the other, with a welcoming lounge area in between – ideal for enjoying a cup of Ceylon tea or an evening cocktail accompanied by live music. Upstairs, the Sunset Balcony is a picturesque residents-only spot for sundowners with views across Galle and the Indian Ocean.

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 and enjoy alfresco breakfasts at the Garden Terrace with views of the hotel's 21-metre swimming pool.

A wander through Amangalla's 200-year-old gardens reveals the hotel's tranquil Aman Spa. Massage therapies drawing on Ayurvedic healing traditions can be enjoyed in five softly lit treatment rooms, while the two Hydrotherapy Suites each feature a warm massage pool, sauna, steam room and cold-water therapy pool. There is also a Barbershop, a Nail Salon and a yoga pavilion in the gardens.

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 hotel, the Fort and the town of Galle.

Amangalla offers accommodation in 29 Bedrooms, Chambers and Suites and the two-storey Garden House situated in the lush gardens near the swimming pool.

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The stately grande dame of Galle Fort on Sri Lanka's south coast, Amangalla boasts all the charm of a bygone era. Combining the Sanskrit-derived word for 'peace' with *galla*, Sinhalese for the town of Galle, the hotel stands at the junction of Church and Middle Streets with commanding views of the Fort's ramparts. Originally built by the Dutch East India Company (VOC) in 1684, the historic premises opened as the Oriental Hotel in 1863 and was renamed the New Oriental Hotel at the turn of the 20th century. It traded under this name until 2002, when Aman acquired the property. Fully restored to its former grandeur, it was opened as Amangalla in 2004.

Amangalla offers accommodation in 29 Bedrooms, Chambers and Suites and the two-storey Garden House, which is situated in the 200-year-old gardens near the swimming pool. Views and layouts vary, but each room offers a spacious ensuite bathroom as well as a writing desk, dining table 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. Most room categories have four-poster king-size beds, but there are also twin rooms available, featuring antique single beds.

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 cocktail station 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 live music.

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 throughout the day. Guests can also dine on the Veranda, which faces the tree-lined street and enjoy alfresco breakfasts at the Garden Terrace with pool views. Sundowners at the Sunset Balcony are accompanied by picturesque views across Galle and the Indian Ocean.

Outdoors, lush gardens border Amangalla's 21-metre swimming pool. Palm-shaded sun loungers run the length of one side, while on the other are five *ambalams* (rest pavilions).

A wander through the gardens reveals the entrance to the Aman Spa. The hotel's tranquil wellness centre offers five softly lit treatment rooms and extensive hydrotherapy areas. Massage therapies draw on Ayurvedic healing traditions and personalised Ayurvedic programmes can be arranged. The two Hydrotherapy Suites each enjoy their own warm massage pool, sauna, steam room and cold-water therapy pool, while the Barbershop provides men with a traditional shave and the Nail Salon offers manicures and pedicures. Outside, the Garden Pavilion is the perfect spot for practising yoga.

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 hotel, the Fort – a Unesco World Heritage Site – and the town of Galle.