

A low-angle photograph of a white lighthouse with a spiral pattern, reaching towards a blue sky with light clouds. A large palm frond is in the foreground, and a hand is visible on the left side, holding it. The lighthouse is the central focus, with its spiral design clearly visible.

Unforgettable Encounters

An opportunity to enjoy many unique experiences during your stay in Galle



ATTRACTIONS AND EXCURSIONS

Be it laidback beachside relaxation, cultural adventures, wildlife encounters or nature escapes, Sri Lanka offers something new to discover each time you visit. At the Fortress Resort & Spa guests have the opportunity to enjoy many of these unique experiences from exploring iconic landmarks to experiencing the many captivating things to do in Galle, Sri Lanka.



THE GALLE FORT

Patiently standing watch over the centuries and protecting those who live within its walls, the Galle Fort is one of the most stunning colonial landmarks in the island. While the original structure was built by the Portuguese, it was the Dutch who expanded and improved the fort to its current grand state during the 17th century. A UNESCO World Heritage Site and amongst the foremost places to visit in Galle, this fort and the area encircled by its ramparts provide a unique insight into Sri Lanka's rich colonial heritage.



STILT FISHING

Experience a unique and rare tradition of Sri Lanka during your stay at The Fortress Resort and Spa.



THE KOGGALA LAKE

Embark on an adventure across one of Sri Lanka's most scenic lakes. Amongst the key places of interest in Galle, Koggala Lake flows serenely just a few minutes away from The Fortress Resort & Spa inviting all to come enjoy its splendours. A boat safari on its tranquil waters will give you the opportunity to observe local wildlife be it exotic birds, giant water monitors or even some saltwater crocodiles.

Dotted along the lake is a wonderful collection of islands; this includes 'Cinnamon Island' where one can witness the manufacturing process of cinnamon, and 'Madol Doova' on which the celebrated Sri Lankan author, Martin Wickramasinghe based one of his most acclaimed novels on. After you have explored the many wonders of Koggala Lake, head over to one of the 'fish spas' located along the banks where tiny fish will work on giving you a soothing massage.



KOGGALA FOLK MUSEUM



One of Sri Lanka's most acclaimed and beloved authors, Martin Wickramasinghe (1890 – 1976) grew up in Koggala and his family home has today been transformed into the Koggala Folk Museum. Conveniently located just across The Fortress Resort & Spa, this unique museum not only offers a glimpse into the island's distinctive folk culture but also gives you an insight about this great author.

HANDUNUGODA TEA FACTORY



While there's nothing like the taste of a revitalising cup of tea, there are many varieties each with different stories to tell. At the Handunugoda Tea Factory, you can discover the story behind one such tea type, the world famous Virgin White Tea; this is the rarest type of white tea that's made according to an ancient ritual in Chinese tea making, completely untouched by humans.



THE TURTLE HATCHERY

Sea turtles are extraordinary creatures that have roamed our oceans for over 100 million years. Unfortunately, mostly due to human interferences such as poaching, beach development and fishing, the sea turtle population is drastically declining. Out of the seven species of sea turtles that exist today, three are classified as endangered and another three as critically endangered.



BLUE WHALE WATCHING HUB

Witness the largest animal currently in existence, live in action! Blue Whales are simply magnificent creatures that can reach up to 98 feet in length making them the largest in the world. To see one is a once in a lifetime opportunity and a dream for some travellers. The Fortress Resort & Spa can make this dream come true for you. Just half an hour away from our resort is a quiet fishing hamlet that has now become one of the best destinations for spotting these marine mammals; Mirissa, Sri Lanka. Whale watching is particularly rewarding in this area since the sea around Mirissa is rich in plankton which is a type of microorganism that whales are very fond of feeding on.



RUMASSALA HILL

Nestled along Sri Lanka's south coast, lies an ancient hill that is a rich storehouse of plant life and offers some truly stunning views. Rumassala Hill is one of the most popular Galle attractions and is also linked with ancient folklore; according to a tale in the Ramayana epic, Hanuman, the Hindu Monkey God was returning to the island with a chunk of the Himalayas that contained special medicinal herbs. On his journey back a piece of it fell on the area now known as Rumassala. Some claim this to be the reason why one can find medicinal plants in the locale that are quite rare.



YATAGALA TEMPLE

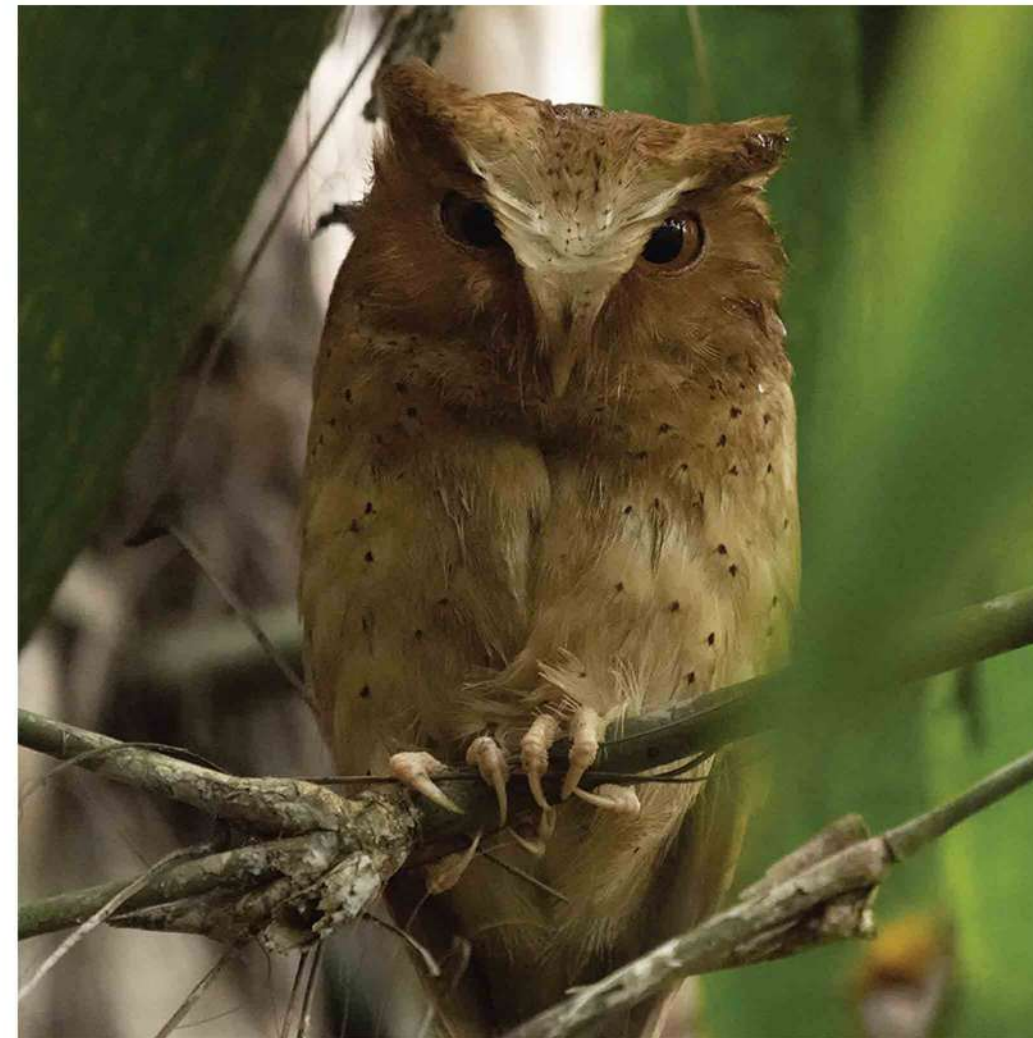
A sacred site wrapped in serenity, the Yatagala Temple (or Yatagala Rock Cave Temple) offers a rewarding insight into the island's Buddhist heritage. Locally referred to as the 'Yatagala Raja Maha Viharaya', this ancient rock temple dates back more than 2,000 years and was built during the time King Devanampiya Tissa ruled the Kingdom of Anuradhapura. Only around four kilometres from Unawatuna, which is within easy reach of The Fortress Resort & Spa, the Yatagala Temple is one of the most beautiful places in Galle and is well worth exploring.



NATIONAL SANCTUARIES AND RAINFORESTS

Blessed with a rich natural heritage, Sri Lanka offers countless outdoor adventures at its national sanctuaries, home to an amazing range of flora and fauna. Be it glimpsing stealthy leopards at Yala, encountering elephant herds roaming wild and free at Udawalawe or spotting a crested hawk eagle circling his terrain above, wildlife safaris at national parks are truly unforgettable.

Apart from such sanctuaries, The Fortress Resort & Spa is also within easy reach of ancient forest reserves such as Kanneliya, Kottawa, Hiyare and Sinharaja. One of the last remaining primary tropical rainforests on the island, the Sinharaja Forest Reserve is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is home to a stunning array of endemic trees and wildlife, especially bird species. Named as a Biosphere Reserve, this enchanting site offers much to experience while on a Sinharaja rainforest tour; head off along winding paths deep into the forest where babbling brooks whisper secrets from days of old and the sweet songs of birds mingle with the breeze.



VISIT SRI LANKA'S BEST RAINFORESTS

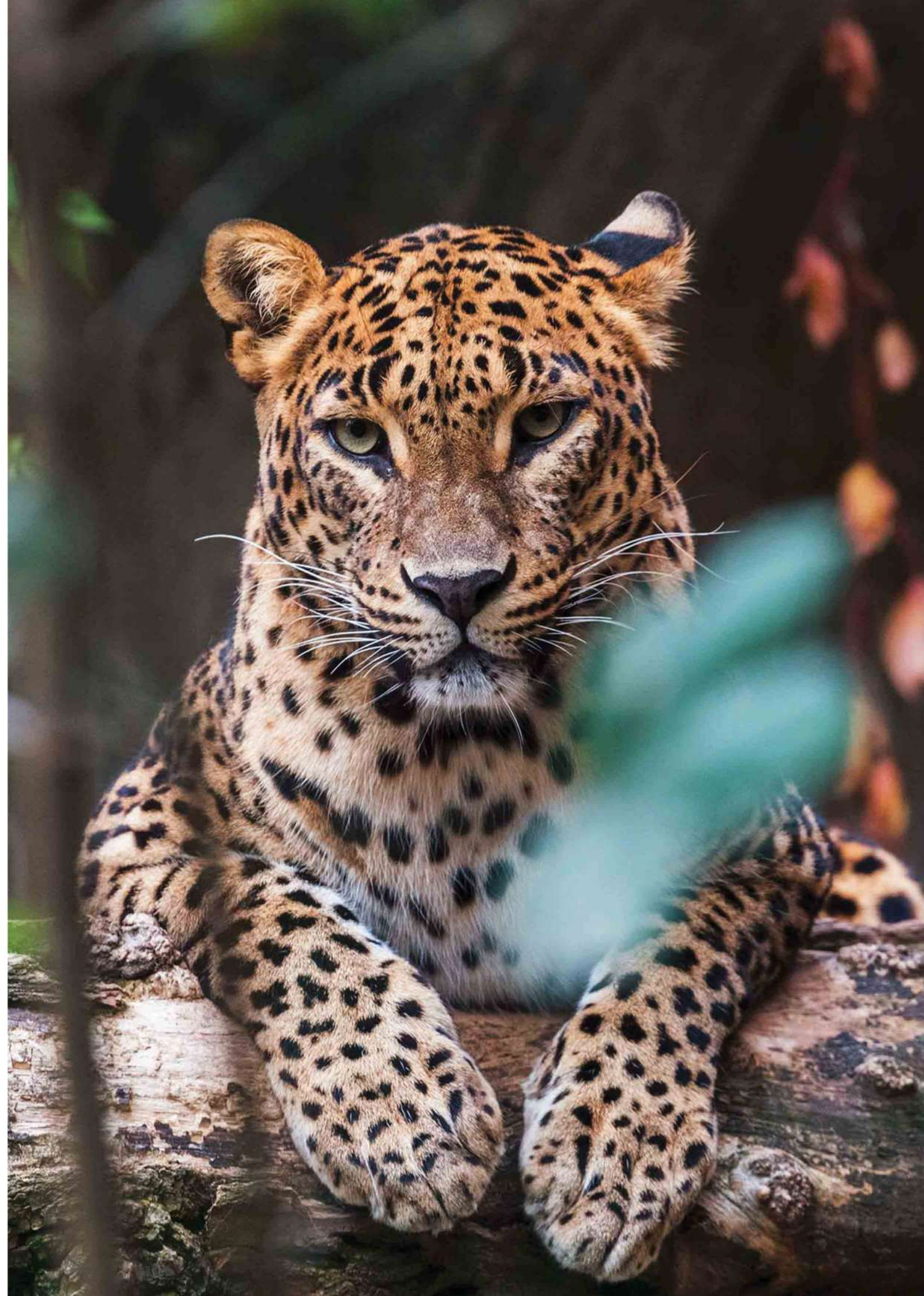
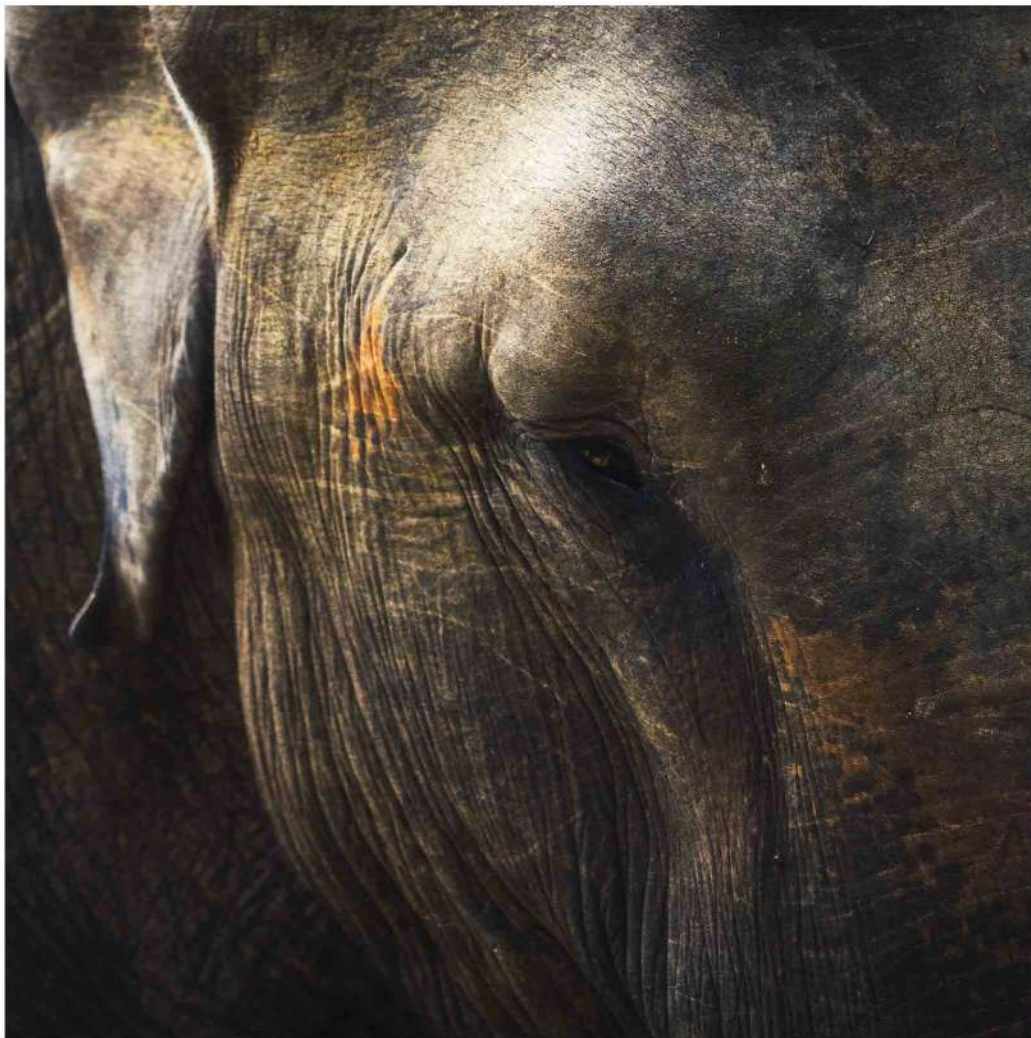
Located within easy reach of Galle, the Hiyare Forest Reserve can be found beside a reservoir and is ideal for a trek along leaf-strewn paths or a captivating boat ride. Close to Hiyare is the Kottawa Rainforest and Arboretum which is blessed with a large variety of endemic trees and bird life as well.

More trekking escapades await at the Kanneliya Rainforest along its two main trails; tranquil streams, scenic waterfalls and a range of bird and butterfly species are all part of the fascinating landscape here.

Not to be missed is a chance to explore Sri Lanka's most famous rainforest, Sinharaja. A UNESCO World Heritage Site and a World Biosphere Reserve, the Sinharaja Forest Reserve is rich in endemic flora and fauna. On your treks be on the lookout for the Sinharaja Bird Wave, a natural phenomenon where different bird species come together, flying through the forest as one feeding flock.

YALA NATIONAL PARK

The Reserve covers 979km², although only 141km is open to the public, and is mostly made up of parkland and scrub jungle but also contains beaches, lagoons, freshwater lakes, rivers, enormous rocky outcrops and dense jungle. Yala is one of the best places to see Leopards, boasting the highest concentration of leopards in the world: the park is also home to a good number of Asian elephants, sloth bear, spotted deer, crocodiles, wild boar, water buffalo, grey langur and several other species of large animals.



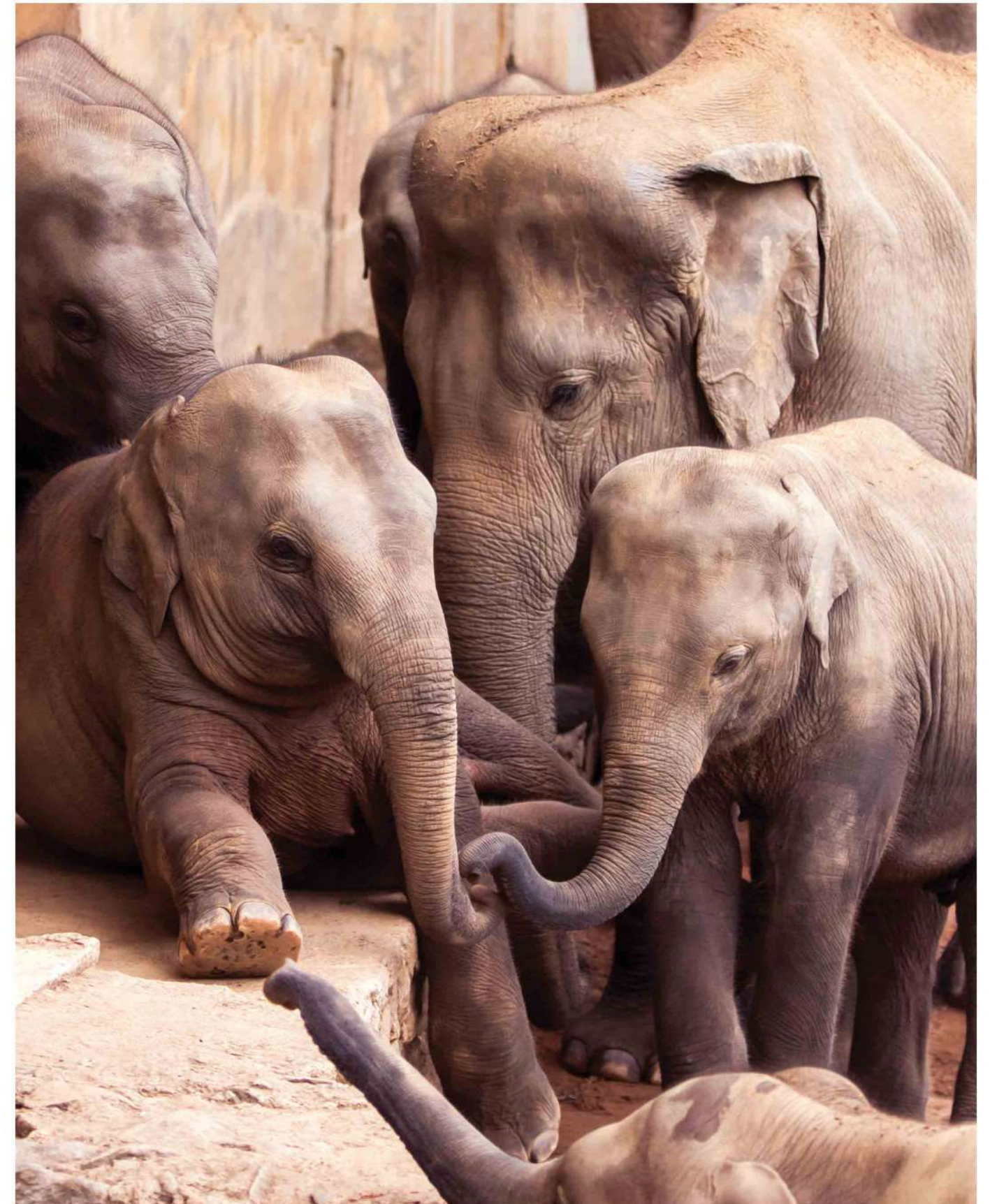


UDAWALAWA NATIONAL PARK

When it comes to an elephant safari, the Udawalawe National Park is not to be missed. This idyllic park has a reservoir that attracts elephants here, giving visitors a unique opportunity to see these gentle giants up close. As with Yala, Udawalawe is also home to other fascinating animal and bird species.

BUNDALA NATIONAL PARK

The Bundala National Park is one of the top places to observe endemic and migratory birds in Sri Lanka. It also has a wetland sanctuary that attracts aquatic birds which are amongst almost 200 bird species that have been spotted at the park; these include the greater flamingo, redshank, crested hawk eagle and Sri Lankan junglefowl to name a few.



PINNAWALA ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE

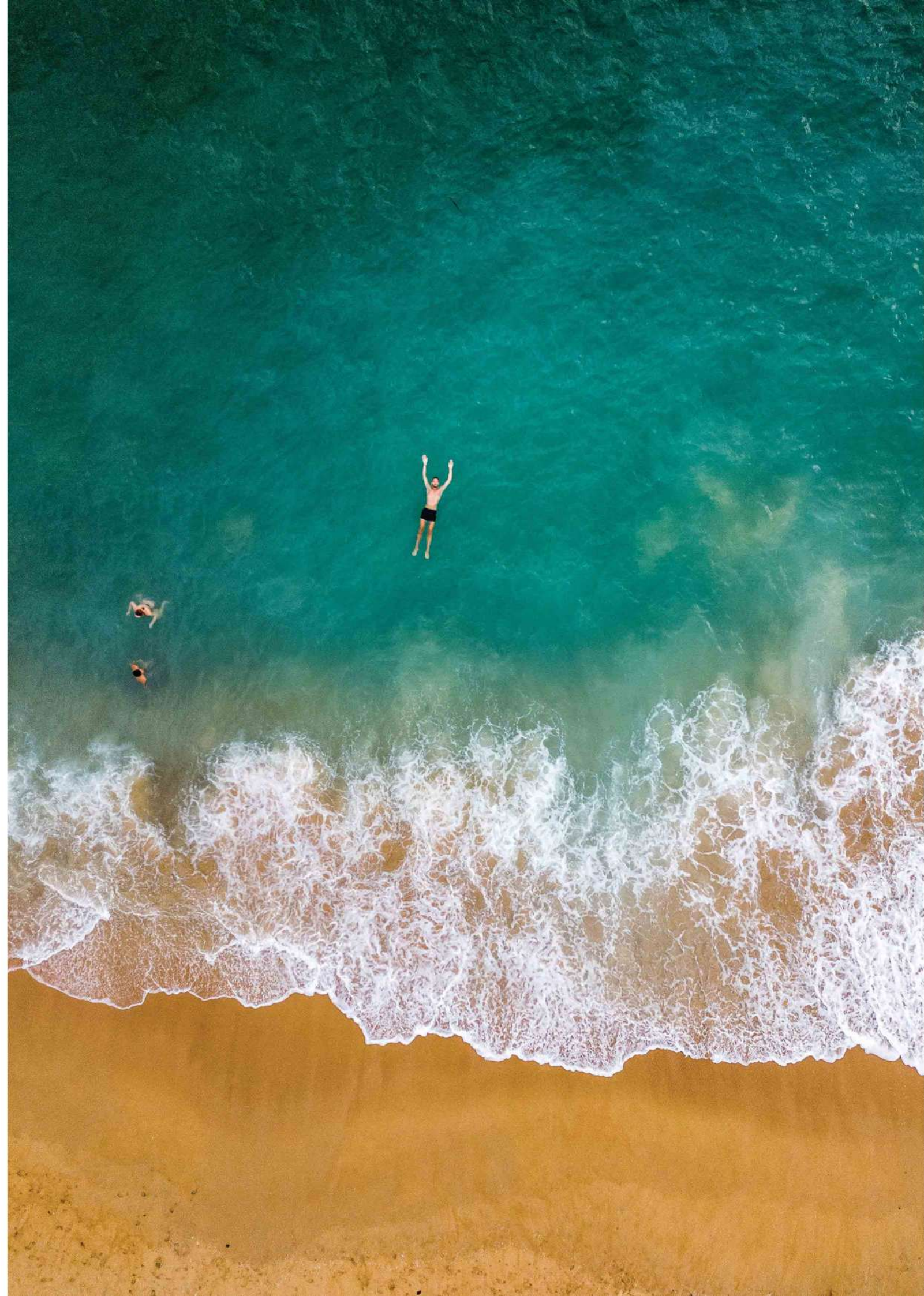
Visit the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage with us; located approximately four hours away from the resort, Pinnawala boasts the world's largest herd of captive elephants. Since its inception in 1975, it has been an orphanage as well as a nursery and captive breeding ground for Sri Lankan Elephants that have been abandoned or injured in the wild.

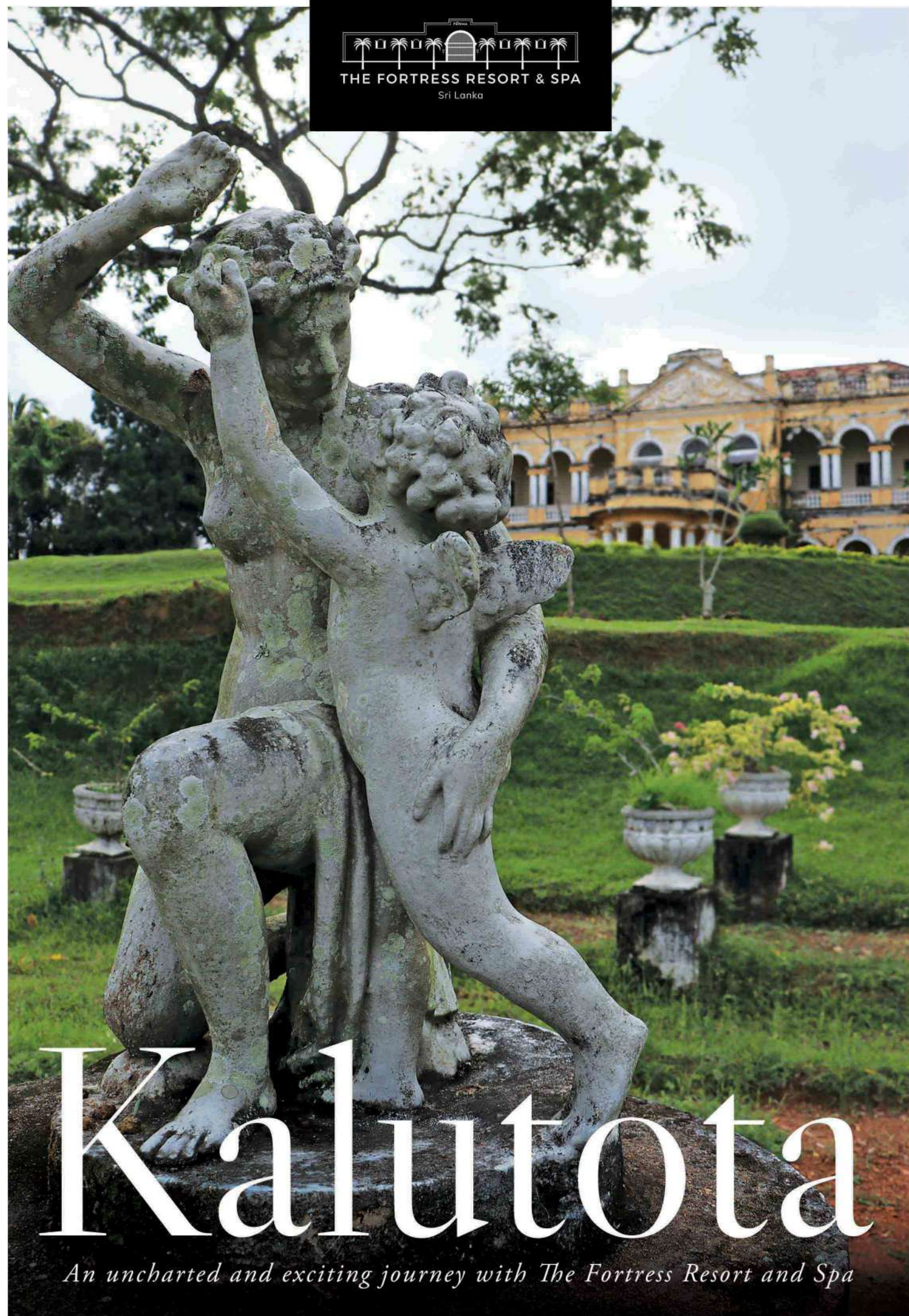
SEA, SUN AND SAND

Perfectly positioned along the island's south coast, The Fortress Resort & Spa is close to some of Sri Lanka's best beaches. Within easy reach of the property are two such popular coastal hotspots, namely Unawatuna Beach and Mirissa Beach each with their own distinctive setting.

Around a 15 minute drive away is the soft shores of Unawatuna Beach amongst the most well known places to visit near Galle. With its golden sands bordered by palm trees and azure waters, it offers a picture postcard like setting in which to soak up the sun and have fun in the surf. Swimming is a popular activity here as is snorkelling since you can witness a fascinating array of marine species at the nearby reef.

For a different beach experience head to the shores of Mirissa, within a 30 minute drive from The Fortress Resort & Spa. Mirissa Beach provides a relatively less crowded getaway by the Indian Ocean and is home to some charming cafes and restaurants serving delectable seafood. You can also enjoy a bit of snorkelling, while the western end is a favourite amongst surfers planning to catch some great waves.



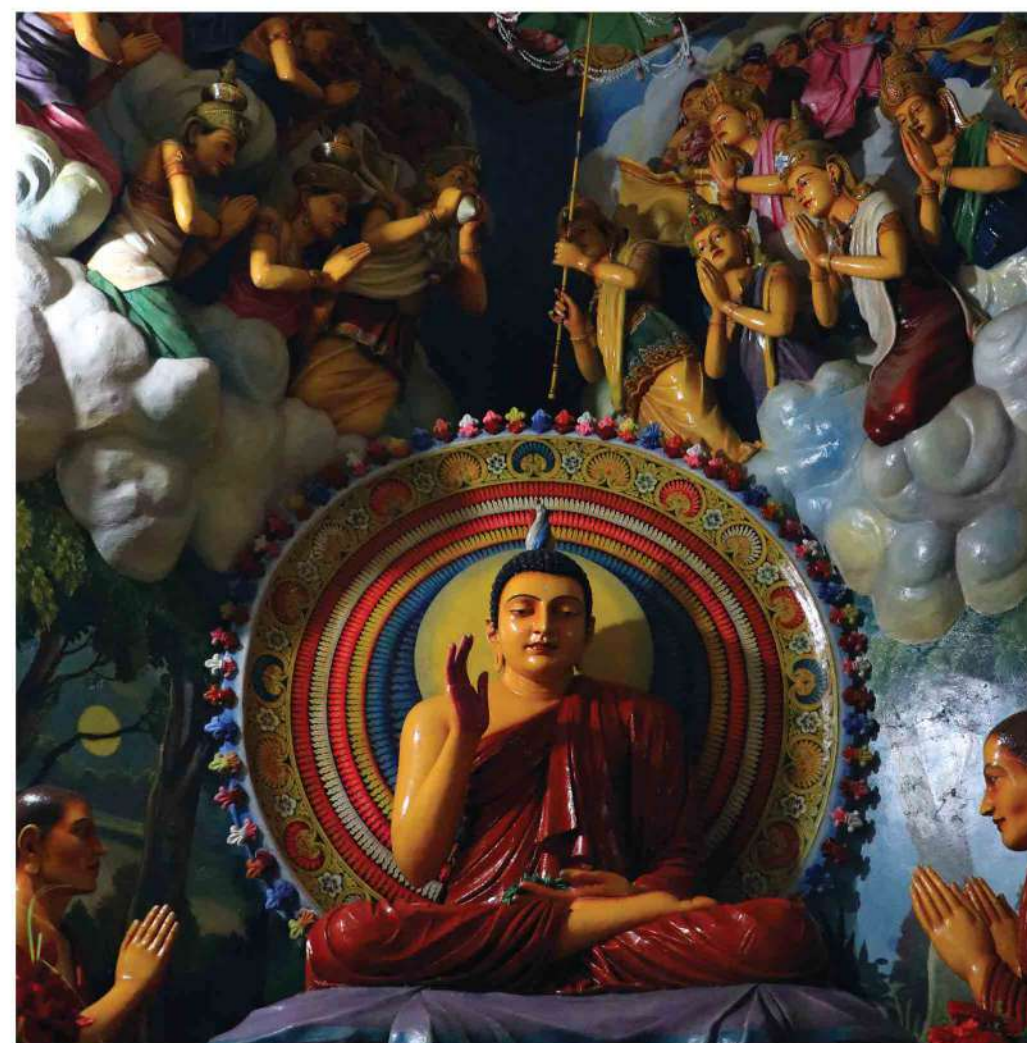


Kalutota

An uncharted and exciting journey with The Fortress Resort and Spa

A DAY TOUR TO KALUTOTA

Kalutara, also known as Kalutota, is one of the most scenic places to visit in Sri Lanka if you're looking for an exciting coastal adventure. A new addition to the 'Things to Do' at The Fortress is our day tour to the undiscovered parts of Kalutara. Explore the hidden and breathtaking Warakagoda Cave Temple, visit the marvellous Richmond Castle and learn about the secrets behind rubber making during your tour in an esteemed Rubber Estate



Find out more details about our unique day tour to Kalutota by visiting our website.

www.fortressresortandspa.com

FORTRESS JOURNEYS PROGRAM

Discover this tropical paradise like never before with our tailor-made 5, 7 and 10 night tours that gives you inspiring insights on the island we call home.

FIVE NIGHTS ITINERARY OF SRI LANKA

Day One: Colombo – Dambulla
Day Two: Dambulla – Sigiriya – Kandy
Day Three: Kandy – Koggala
Day Three to Day Five: Koggala
Day Six: Koggala – Airport

SEVEN NIGHTS ITINERARY OF SRI LANKA

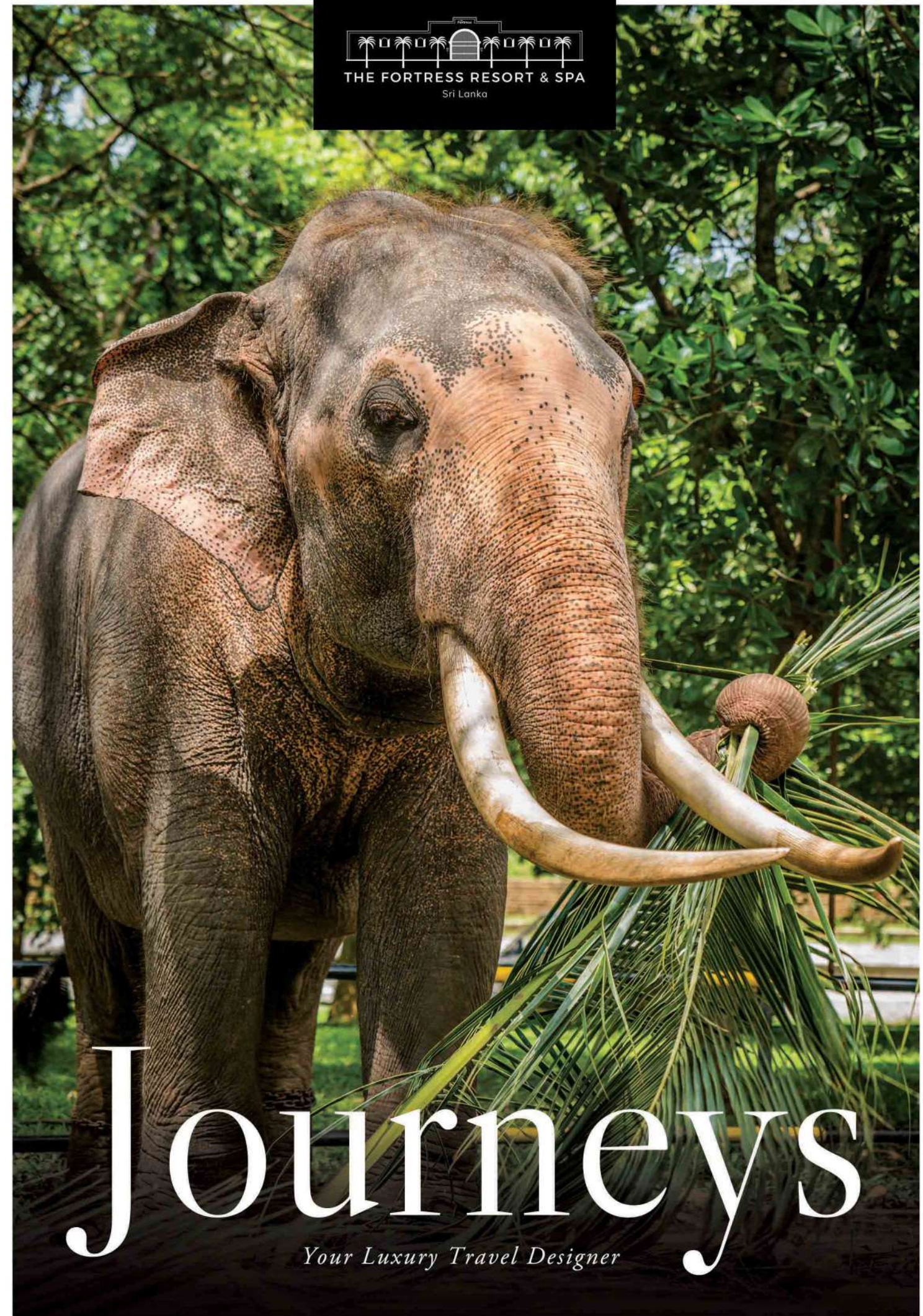
Day One: Colombo – Dambulla
Day Two: Dambulla – Sigiriya – Kandy
Day Three to Day Four: Kandy – Nuwara Eliya
Day Five to Day Seven: Nuwara Eliya – Koggala
Day Eight: Koggala – Airport

TEN NIGHTS ITINERARY OF SRI LANKA

Day One: Colombo – Dambulla
Day Two: Dambulla – Sigiriya – Kandy
Day Three : Kandy – Nuwara Eliya
Day Four: Nuwara Eliya – Yala
Day Five : Yala – Koggala
Day Eleven: Koggala – Airport

Find out more details about our journeys program by visiting our website.

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UNFORGETTABLE ENCOUNTERS

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