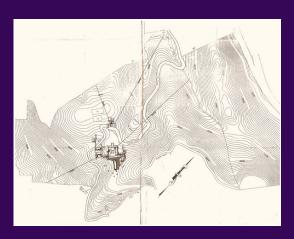




THE FLAME TREE ESTATE & HOTEL PASSPORT

"Not all who wander are lost."

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND



NAME -

ROOM -

ARRIVAL DATE

DEPARTURE DATE



"For your garden is a kingdom, and your beauty is its queen."

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND



Welcome. Much more than a hotel, The Flame Tree Estate is a secret to most and a companion to some.

Its spice, timber, and coconut plantations range across discreet hills and valleys, maintaining a rare seclusion.

Get to know more about the estate's fauna, flora, people, plantations, collections, & essentials with this eco-passport & companion.



ADDRESS

The Flame Tree Estate & Hotel Mudunhena Walawwa Galagedera 20100 Kandy Sri Lanka

NUMBERS

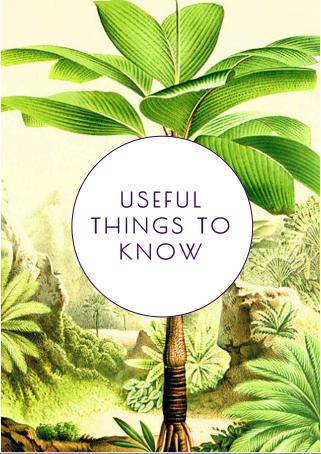
The Hotel Office + 94 81246 1265

Angelo Perera General Manager + 94 77 189 8586

Chathuranga Wansapperuma Finance Manager +94 71 407 6666

> Ranjan Guruge Operations Manager +94 77 029 6476

WI-FI The Wi-Fi Password is flame2021



WHERE'S WHERE

At 1,000 feet high, the estate sits, belly buttonlike, in the middle of 25 private acres, surrounded by deeper jungle on the first high hills that rise from the northern plains. The Dutch Army was stalled here by the Kandyan King in 1765. Flame Trees have given Mudunahena Walawwa its new name, with over 400 planted. It was built in the 1930s by Kandy's Mayor as his country house and stretched over 100 acres. Civil war ceded it to jungle until a major restoration reversed decades of weather & landslides. Restored with the help of the architect Channa Daswatte & Jagat's magical masons, this 100-year-old walauwe crumbles no more. The Pineapple House was added in recherché Art Deco style, and Bianca's Amphitheatre, which leads to Coco's Pavilion (yoga & massage) and Bertie's Kitchen.

GARDENS

The hotel gardens are shaded by frangipani, flame trees, & lipstick palms, with a path winding through lemons, oranges & pomegranates to an Orchid Walk. Behind is the Spice Kitchen, housing rubber rollers manufactured in Wolverhampton in 1942; Kitchen Gardens of herbs & vegetables; propagation nurseries & The Hockin Spice Garden, with pepper, cinnamon, clove, vanilla, turmeric, pandan, & ginger.

PLANTATIONS

Our plantations begin at the Corkscrew Orchard, (mango, rambutan, star fruit, tamarind, guava); a Rubber Plantation interplanted with cloves; a valley of pepper vines interplanted with hardwoods. Further out is Frangipani Valley, favoured by wild boar; Otto's Terraces of feral teak trees; Inken's Coffee Hill; Singing Civet Hill, with cycads, sapu & cinnamon; and the Coconut Grove. Scattered about are wild areas, left to welcome all beings.

SOUNDS

A mellow 1,000-track Flame Tree Estate playlist mixes jazz with Motown (Amazon Music: FLAME TREE MUSIC). Strange noises in the dark are usually porcupine, civets, frogs in radiant song & owls. Wiji, our Nightwatchman, is available throughout the night to handle the unexpected. Prayers are often heard sounding gently through the jungle, from Buddhist monks on Poya days to the musically minded Imam.

UTILITIES

Ceylon Electricity Ltd.'s supply breaks offer unrivalled opportunities to practice patience - but our electricity comes from a special substation: when power cuts, the generator kicks in. Water comes from a 350-foot-deep well bored through rock, though during the dry season this is topped up with mains water.

FEAST

All we serve is made-to-order & unprocessed, with ingredients bought fresh from local businesses, specialist producers & a growing range of organic suppliers. Enjoy homemade marmalade, Cornish Splits & crocodile buns; chutneys; fragrant soups & salads; wafer-thin pizzas; beet burgers; chicken & beef cooked in arrack; classic red rice curry; turmeric ices; honey banana puddings; love cake; healthy mocktails & smoothies. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are served till 9.30 pm. Please tell us if you are celebrating a special occasion so we can arrange something special, or if you have any dietary restrictions. A takeaway Picnic Lunch can be ordered for the day. Room service is available until 9.30 pm.

READING

Among the many hundreds of books in our library is a complete set of the OED, useful for Scrabble.

SOLUTIONS

If anything, however minor, in your room or elsewhere is causing problems, please let us know so we can put things right quickly.

SWIMMING

A 17-metre infinity pool looks out over peopleless jungle hills and valleys open 24/7, and shared with water-skimming Swallows.

TAXES, TIPS & BILLS

Bills are paid at the main Hotel Office and include mandatory government taxes & Service Charge - a legal requirement here. All staff, regardless of seniority, receive the same share + all tips, monthly. By agreement, 1% of it is retained in a Staff Welfare Fund to help our team address serious, unforeseen problems. Nature is nurtured by our policy of using a % of every guest bill to help fund the planting of endangered trees: 8,000 have already been planted, with more to come.

TRANSPORT & TOURS

Cheap-as-chips taxi rates are found at Pick Me, Uber & Kangaroo Cabs, though what's gained in price is sometimes offset by hidden costs, limited availability & poor timekeeping. For our own travel, we use Malchan & Malaka, known to us for years for their efficient, fair & safe service.

They speak good English, are courteous, transparent, have the required state & Tourism Board licenses /insurance - plus the expertise to help shape itineraries. Should you want to use them, obtain a quote, arrange a pickup or tour, contact them directly by phone or WhatsApp.

Malaka Nawarathne: +94 766 529337 Malchan Silva: +94 768 70 8812



AYURVEDA & MASSAGE

The Flame Tree Estate & Hotel offers great on-site Ayurvedic Massage using bespoke organic oils from Sri Lanka's pioneering wellness company. Our on-call, fully qualified Ayurvedic masseuses are Udaya Rajapaksha & Yamuna Jayawickrama, both trained in a full range of practices, including Panchakarma, Abhyanga, & Reflexology. Their technique relies on long, gliding strokes to stimulate nerve endings & rejuvenate skin; quicker back-and-forth movements to generate heat & enhance blood flow; and specific pressure movements to target muscles & joints.

THE CHOCOLATE MASSAGE

Delicious in every way, cacao (chocolate)
essential oil is more than mere aromatherapy. Its
omega-6 fatty acids boost collagen production
and firm up skin, whilst its antioxidants combat
free radicals & promote cell repair.

THE PAINKILLER MASSAGE

Chilli oil, the key ingredient in this massage treatment, harnesses the powers of capsaicin to help reduce pain, inflammation, and skin irritations, stiff necks, backache, and muscle cramps. It is also often used to relieve arthritis & rheumatism, whilst its high Vitamin C content can regenerate skin.

TURMERIC & COCONUT MASSAGE

A nourishing & healing massage that channels the anti-ageing detoxifying properties of turmeric's curcumin & coconut's lauric acid to help reduce inflammation, protect skin cells from damage, and hydrate the skin.

THE ABHYANGA MASSAGE

This classic Ayurvedic massage focuses on energy fields, applying pressure to the skin to help detoxify the body, improve circulation, release muscle tension and nourish skin.

SHAMPOOS & SOAPS

Our toiletries have been developed for us by Green Leaf Herbals. The natural antioxidants in our orange blossom & clove soap smell wonderful & promote healthy skin. Our rosemary shampoo & the natural compounds in our vanilla & coconut conditioner stimulate healthy hair.

YOGA

Our Hatha Yoga sessions are provided by Noel Dharmajith, who has been practising yoga since he was eleven, training continually with yogic masters in Sri Lanka & India. His yoga workout nurtures both body & soul, stretching & rebalancing the muscles and de-stressing the mind with its mellow & measured pace.



PRIMATES

Over half our team live in the villages that abut the estate, and many have retrained to contribute more to the hotel. Our butlers include Nandana & Manju (also, our Mr Fix-It), Lahiru & Thamod. Sudesh is our sous & head chef and runs the kitchen with Kasun, who has worked here, boy to man. They are helped by Dissanayake & Hashan.

Ananda, a dab hand at vanilla pollination, heads the Gardening team, which includes Bandara, Janaka, Ruwan, and our Maintenance Supervisor, Mahesh. Shyamalee (married to Manju) leads Housekeeping, which includes Nadeeka, Chandra (married to Ruwan) & Yassika. Angelo Perera, the General Manager, had to help build the hotel before running it. Ranjan Guruge runs Operations & Chathuranga Wansapperuma, Finance, with help from Mohamed Sadhik. Wiji is our Nightwatchman.

PAWS

Our 5 Directors are headed by Bianca, Mother of all Schnauzers. Archibald juggles his role as husband with perimeter patrols to ensure our total safety. Their offspring include the philosopher, Bertie, and his sister Coco, whose daughter Nestor was erroneously named after Tintin's perfect butler. The junior directors are Mikael, David, & Ranjani Goonetilleke.

WILD

Few countries of comparable size offer as diverse a range of mammals as Sri Lanka, with over 126 species. Several warring families of endangered Toque Macaques live here, along with patrolling wild boar, clacking porcupines, Barking & Mouse deer, the Ceylon Black-Naped Hare, and pharaonic goats. Rare lorises are sometimes noticed; guardian mongooses often: Brown, Grey, Ruddy & Striped-Necked. Civets, Jungle & Rusty Spotted Cats are often glimpsed. Squirrels thrive: Dusky, Layard's, Nilgiri, Three-Striped & Grizzled Giant. The estate's last working elephant died here in 1973 - buried, with relatives, under the Spice Garden Ceylon Ash.

Owls call at night – even the massive Spot-bellied Eagle Owl, or Devil Bird. Of Sri Lanka's 500 bird species, we've spotted over 50: eagles, peacocks, parrots, hornbills, kingfishers, bee-eaters, barbets, swifts, woodpeckers, flame-backs, swallows, bulbuls, babblers, flycatchers, sunbirds, & drongos. Of Sri Lanka's 208 reptile species, stylish little Skinks and colour-changing Chameleons are often seen, along with the odd Monitor Lizard, melancholy Geckos, the rare Star Tortoise, and snakes (only 5 of which are venomous). Fireflies, bees, butterflies & moths abound, but of the island's 11,000 insect species, the estate is refreshingly free of mosquitoes.

BREATHING BETTER

Hundreds of the island's 7,500 plant species grow on the estate, not least its trees, which we especially love and are continually adding to.

Our favourites include -

- 1. Ceylon Ironwood, a slow-growing hardwood.
- 2. Ebony: black, complex, snail-slow, fussy, rare.
- 3. Jak, as perfect for furniture as for superfoods.
- 4. Mahogany, prized for its durability & colour.
- 5. Mara, whose leaves fold in rain.
- 6. Nandu, yellow satiny wood, ever rarer.
- 7. Sapu, the Perfume Tree with fragrant flowers.
- 8. Satinwood, small, scarce & highly decorative.
- 9. Teak, fast-growing, with huge, papery leaves.
- Ruffled, Queen, Stilt, Golden, Fox Tail, Areca, Palmyra, & countless 100-year-old coconuts.
- Flame trees enlivened by pink acacia, African Tulip Trees, jacaranda & a rare Illawarra tree.
- 12. Frangipani. Of course.
- 13. The sacred Cannonball or Sal tree.
- 14. Breadfruit, Norfolk & Cook Island Pines.
- 15. Amherstia nobilis, Queen of Flowering Trees
- 16. Cocoa, with heady pods and massive leaves.
- 17. Mango, beloved by our monkeys.

And growing over them all, is that barometer of air quality, tender-hearted lichens.



FURNITURE

19th & 20th century Ebony, Nadu, Burth, Satinwood, Mango, Teak, Mara, Mahogany, Jak, & Ebony Almirahs; 4-poster beds; Planters & Armchairs, Easy, Desk, Dining, & Occasional chairs & sofas; Card, Side, Dining, Bedside, Dressing, Vase & Coffee Tables; Pettegamas; Swedish Cabinets; bookcases, desks, trolleys & Ayurveda Dispensers.

FABRICS, SCROLLS & MAPS

An extensive collection of batiks by Ena De Silva; Vietnamese Tribal Tapestries; Barefoot wall-hangings; Embroidered Kandyan Bridal Clothes; Bengali Patachitra Scrolls & Ethiopian Goatskin Panels; 18th, 19th & early 20th century maps of S. Asia.

SCULPTURES, PANELS, LIGHTS

Sculptures from Rajasthan, Chettinad, Beijing, Calcutta, Cochin, Cairo, Java, Gaudí, Jaffna, Madras & Lebanon; Kandian Lion Guardians, carved animal heads; Agaria Panels – and The Dying Gaul, a 19th Bronze of a lost Hellenistic sculpture. Sri Lankan & Persian Painted Panels; 19th century & Art Nouveau Spanish & Beijing Screens; 17th century Dutch Coats of Arms; Art deco flag poles; 1920s French Gold Heliconia Lights; Arab & Swedish Chandeliers; Art Deco, Victorian, Indian & French table lights; Edwardian, Rajasthan, Art Deco & French Mirrors.

LITHOGRAPHS, PHOTOGRAPHS

Indian, Japanese & Scandinavian Woodcuts;
Lithographs by Picasso, Chagall, Warhol, Genbers,
Zollofi; from Imperial India, the Middle East, Florence,
London, Mallorca, Auroville; The Engeström Palace;
and by Saskia Pintelon. 19th & early 20th century
European engravings; early Daguerreotypes &
Photographs from Sweden, India & Sri Lanka; 1960s
Hollywood & Vietnamese propaganda posters.

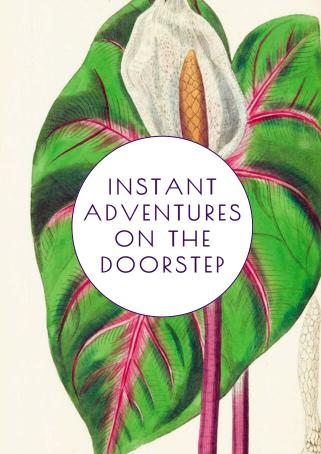
CERAMICS & CURIOS

Ceramic Bowls, Jugs, Plates & Sculptures from the UK, Portugal, France & Sri Lanka; early 20th century English & Swedish clocks; Orrefors & Kosta Boda cut glass; Welsh Urns, Damascene Boxes, Afghani Trays; Art Deco & Imperial Indian silver; 19th century Swedish cutlery, Bowls, & Goblets - and a 6th century BCE ceramic Sri Lankan animal statue.

PAINTINGS

Watercolours & paintings by GM Henry; Inken Engeström, Ebba Ramen, Margarethe Eckhart, Rosic & contemporary Sri Lankan artists - Rajni Perera, Jagath Ravindra, Dilini Paragahawaththage, Gathika Wikramarathne, Abu Bakr, Chammika Jayawardena, Kasun Wickramasinghe, Thushara Illeperuma, and a panoramic painting of Village Life. Monastic, Tribal, Magic Realism & primitive Christian sketches & drawings by Conrad Romyn, Paul Antonio; Family

portraits from India, Europe & the Middle East.



SERENE

Halcyon calm at the 400-year-old Galayawe temple: stupa, monastery, kindergarten, clinic, museum.

DRESSY

Six ancient wooden looms weave handsome handlooms - & sell its finely crafted fabrics.

A WIZARD OF WOOD

A modest shelter where Mahinda Jayalath carves his treasures - or even your special commissions.

THE ABANDONED MANSION

A haunting 1820s abandoned Walawwa.

GALAGEDERA VILLE

A thriving high street of shops, cafes, grocers, schools, ayurveda medicine, goldsmiths, pharmacies, pawnbrokers, banks, spice merchants, & barbers.

THE KING'S SECRET CAVE

Lofty views at Gunadaha, the hideaway of one of Lanka's most unlucky kings, who built a guerrilla resistance to force out invading Tamils.

A JUNGLE WALK

Stroll through plantations of rubber, cinnamon, paddy, jungle and back via tiny hamlets to the hotel.

WALKING THE ESTATE

A 30-minute wander through the estate's varied plantations.

HAPPY RICE. HAPPY LIFE

See rice growing up close in Manju's paddy field.



THE RED MOSQUE

The arresting 100-year-old Red Mosque: candystriped façades in reds & whites.

SLIGHTLY CHILLED

Kandy's best rooftop bar & eatery.

THE SEA OF MILK

Kandy Lake & its dramatic Cloud Wall: whistling ducks, monitor lizards, turtles, cormorants, egrets, pelicans, eagles, and an alligator Gar.

THE ROYAL BAR & HOTEL

A striking old walawwa, and a perfect place to break for a snack.

THE TOOTH FAIRY

Dr Diane's Dentistry: a place of supreme calm amidst inevitable odontic anguish.

ARCHITECTURAL HIDE-AND-SEEK

Waluwa (or mansion) spotting in Kandy is a rewarding game - Ehelepola Walauwa, the Dunuwille Walawwa, Giragama Walauwa.

THE CHURCH OF ST PAUL

Kandy's Anglican Church, with vast wrought-iron gates, fabricated in faraway Edwardian England.

THE TEMPLE OF THE TOOTH

Home to the island's most precious possession, the tooth of Lord Buddha.

THE LAST PALACE

The palace of the last kings of Kandy – buildings of zen-like patrician elegance.

THE SHOP THAT GOES ON FOREVER

From ancient flags to paintings, jewellery & curios, Waruna's cavernous shop is an Aladdin's Cave of credible discoveries.

BIRD SPOTTING IN THE ROYAL RESERVE

The country's loveliest bird forest - Udawattakele, home to 80 bird species & thousands of other species too.

THE QUEEN'S HOTEL

Once a mansion for British Governors, now a hotel overlooking temple, lake, & palace.

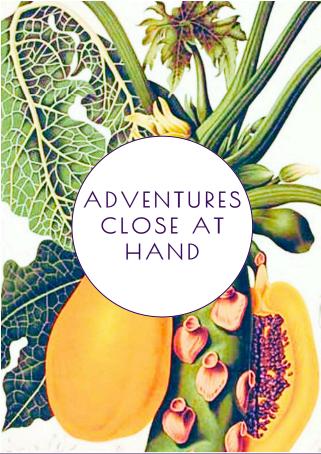
KATARAGAMA DEVALAYA

Kandy's 18C Hindu shrine enlivened by carvings, & colours chosen to banish grey forever.

THE BRITISH GARRISON CEMETERY Home to almost 200 souls since 1817.

MALWATU MAHA VIHARAYA

The headquarters of the Buddhist Malwatta chapter of Siyam Nikaya - the most established of establishment orders.



GANGSTER OR SAINT?

Saradiel Village: home of Sri Lanka's Robin Hood.

HANTANA

Seven peaks: over 100 bird species and, it is rumoured, leopards.

WHERE TEA BEGAN

The 1852 Loolecondera Estate, where tea grows on.

TREASURE: EMBEKKE DEVALE

Devendra Mulachari's lost masterpiece: 500 antique, exquisitely carved statues.

BALANA

Ruins of the 2000 ft high fort that foiled repeated colonial invasions.

THE BRASS & COPPER VILLAGE

Pilimathalawa's shops &workshops keep alive an expertise that dates back to the Kandyan kings.

LOST MASTERPIECES

The island's most significant medieval temples -Lankatilaka & Gadaladenyia Vihara: wonderous Dravidian, Sinhalese & Chinese architecture.

TEA. GLORIOUS TEA

Surrounded by tea, the Hantana Tea Estate is home to the island's only Tea Museum. Even closer to hand is the Giragama Tea Plantation.

BIBLE ROCK

A stunning 5,500 ft Table Mountain & lookout post for the Kandyan kings.

FAIRTRADE FAB

Seylan: the country's only Fairtrade handloom maker: striking clothes, toys, and cloth.

THE KING'S SILVER TEMPLE

The silver mined here 2,200 years ago financed the creation of the island's great stupa.

KADUGANNAWA

Victorian echoes at the Triple Arches Bridge, its arches lost in jungle - home also to the Railway Museum, & Victorian Kadugannawa Pass.

OUR LADY OF LANKA

The National Seminary - a wonderfully tranquil place, overlooking the panoramic beauty of the Dumbara valley from 2,000 ft

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

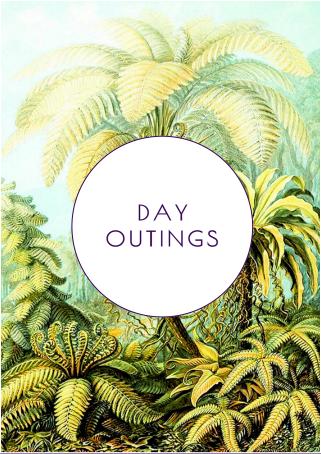
In sorrow - but not disorder - lie two hundred of the eighty-five million victims of World War Two.

GNOME MOUNTAIN

The Kandy home of one of the tallest statues of Lord Buddha.

PINNEWALA ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE

There is no escaping the awe at seeing so many elephants bathing together.



LITTLE ENGLAND

Cool-climate Nuwara Eliya: racecourse, tea plantations, trout streams, botanical gardens; colonial buildings & The Hill Club.

THE PLEASURE PALACE

Sigiriya, one of ancient Asia's Seven Great Wonders: royal citadel, gardens, romantic ruins.

THE CAVES OF GOD

Dambulla: Sistine Tropical - a place of infinite stillness and breathtaking art.

COLOMBO UNCOVERED

A day's outing to the capital, taking in the best food, shopping, art, & history.

WILD ELEPHANTS

Minneriya National Park - a massive gathering place for migrating elephants.

FORGOTTEN KINGDOMS

The dreamy ruins of two lost early medieval capitals: Dambadeniya & Yapahuwa.

THE ALAGALLA MOUNTAINS

A trekker's paradise, home to scores of endemic animals.

MORE DETAIL ON THE ITEMS COVERED HERE CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE

flametreeestate.com



THE STORY OF SRI LANKA...

...is the focus of The Ceylon Press, a digital publishing initiative, based at The Flame Tree Estate & Hotel, whose eBooks, podcasts, histories and guides can be downloaded at -

ceylonpress.com



