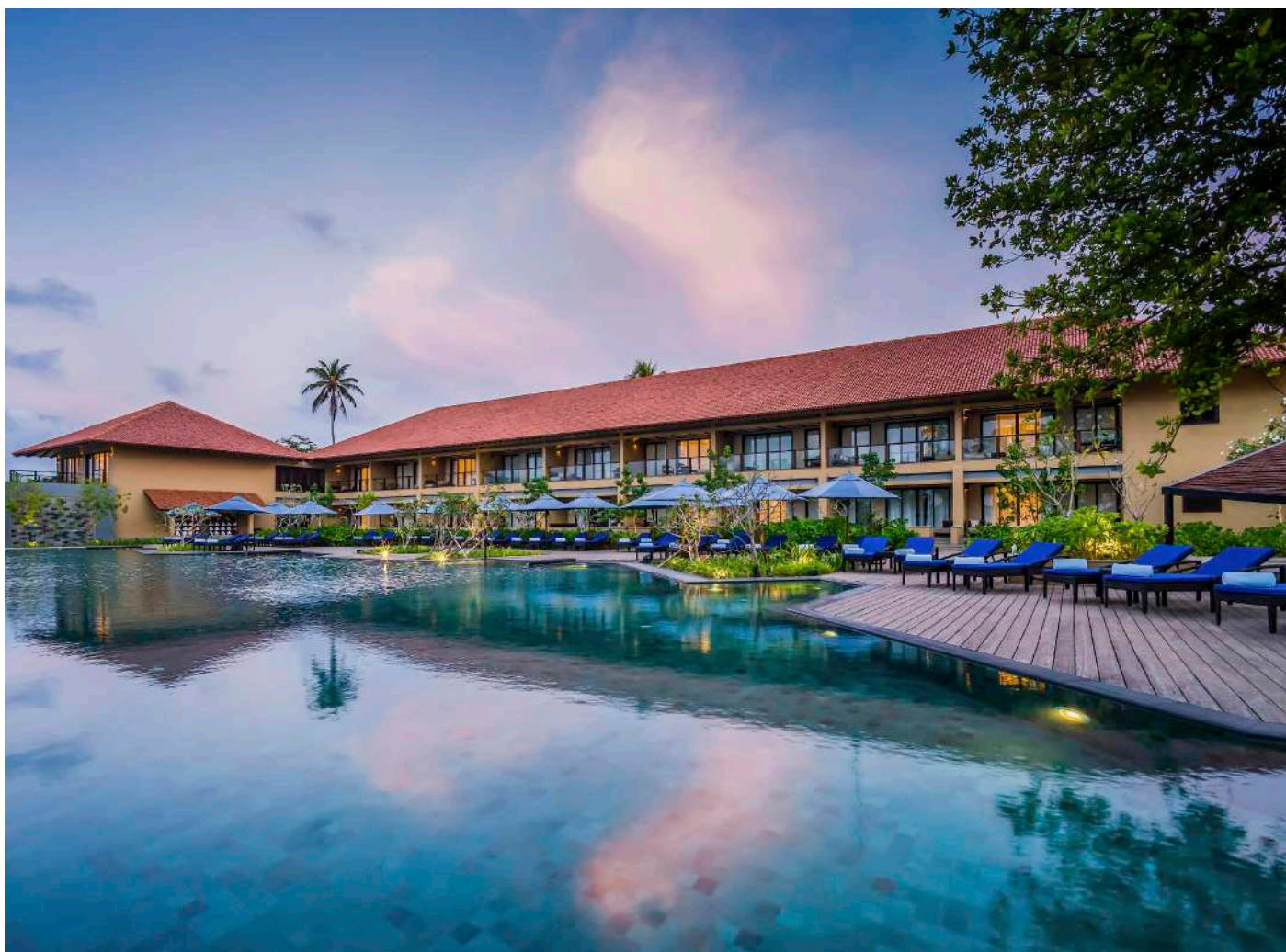


ANANTARA
KALUTARA RESORT

Indigenous Experiences



Welcome to Kalutara's Hidden Gem

Ayubowan!

Where the Indian Ocean meets the gentle flow of the Kalu Ganga River, Anantara Kalutara Resort offers a rare escape into timeless elegance and tranquil seclusion.

Only an hour from Colombo, yet a world away in spirit, our sanctuary invites you to unwind amidst lush gardens and iconic architecture by Geoffrey Bawa – Sri Lanka's master of tropical modernism.

Begin your day with sunrise yoga by the river. Embark on river cruises that whisper tales of ancient trade and sacred pilgrimage. Rejuvenate in Sri Lanka's most luxurious spa, inspired by local healing wisdom. Indulge in vibrant island flavours, candlelit by the sea.

Whether you're seeking soulful relaxation, family connection, or romantic discovery, your journey begins in this serene coastal haven where two waters meet, and every moment flows with meaning.



Explore the Wonders of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is an island of timeless beauty and rich contrasts. With over 2,500 years of heritage, it is a land where sacred traditions, natural wonders, and colonial legacies intertwine. Explore ancient marvels like the majestic Sigiriya Rock Fortress, the spiritual heart of Kandy's Temple of the Tooth Relic, and the serene ruins of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa. Venture into the lush highlands of Nuwara Eliya and Ella, or encounter wildlife in its natural habitat at Yala, Udawalawe, or the misty Sinharaja Forest Reserve. Along the southern coast, enjoy whale watching in Mirissa, visit the historic Galle Fort, or immerse yourself in the vibrant energy of Colombo.

Tucked along the island's southwest lies Kalutara, a charming coastal town where the Kalu Ganga River meets the Indian Ocean. Rich in cultural significance, Kalutara is home to the revered Kalutara Bodhiya, the mystical Fa Hien Caves, and colonial-era Richmond Castle. Nearby treasures like Lunu Ganga Estate, Brief Garden, Kande Viharaya Temple, and the Turtle Hatchery in Kosgoda offer fascinating day trips just minutes away.

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Richmond Castle

Built in 1910, Richmond Castle is a historic mansion located in Kalutara, commissioned by a wealthy aristocrat, Mudaliyar Don Arthur de Silva Wijesinghe Siriwardena. The architecture showcases European influences with Sri Lankan craftsmanship, featuring imported Italian tiles, Burmese teak, and beautifully ornate woodwork.

The estate is surrounded by tranquil gardens and is also home to fascinating stories about the mudaliyar's life. The castle once served as a lavish venue for gatherings and remains a vivid reminder of Sri Lanka's colonial period. Today, it operates as a museum and cultural heritage site.

Distance: 5 km per way

Travel Time: 10 – 15 mins per way

Travel tips: Closed on Public Holidays

Entrance: Rs. 1000 (Per Person)



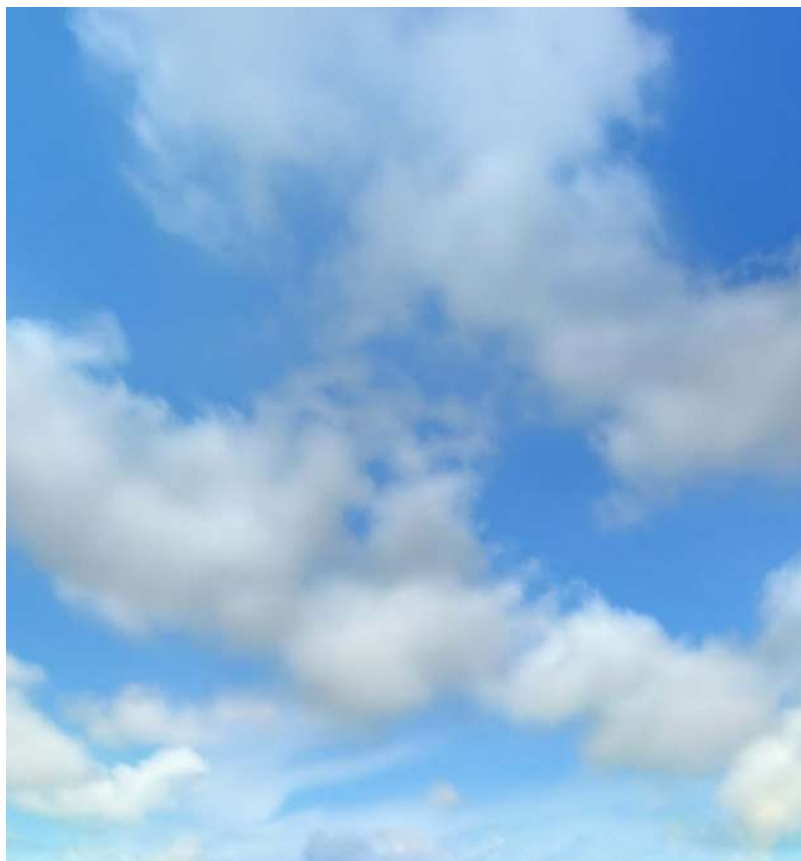
Kalutara Bodhiya

This revered Buddhist temple dates to the 2nd century BC and is considered one of the holiest places in Sri Lanka. The main stupa is unique for its hollow interior, where visitors can see murals depicting scenes from Buddha's life. Underneath a sacred Bodhi tree believed to be grown from a sampling of the original Bodhi tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment—devotees meditate, make offerings, and seek blessings. Kalutara Bodhiya draws pilgrims year-round, especially during Poya (full moon) days.

Distance: 3 km per way

Travel Time: 5 – 10 mins per way

Travel tips: Dress should cover the body





Lunu Ganga Estate (Bentota)

The legendary Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa transformed this rubber plantation into a haven of serenity over four decades. The 25-acre garden estate reflects Bawa's vision of blending architectural design with natural landscapes. Visitors find gardens filled with tropical plants, whimsical sculptures, and carefully crafted spaces that provide both privacy and expansive views. Each corner of Lunu Ganga tells a story, from its picturesque lily ponds to its carefully curated art pieces, making it a must-visit for lovers of art and architecture.

Distance: 21 km per way

Travel Time: 45 mins per way

Travel tips: Guided tour 11:00Hrs / 14:00Hrs

Entrance: Rs. 5000 (Per Person)



Galle Fort

Built initially by the Portuguese in the late 16th century, Galle Fort was later expanded by the Dutch. Today, it stands as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, mixing European colonial and South Asian architectural styles. Enclosed within massive stone ramparts, the fort boasts colonial buildings, museums, churches, and the historic Galle Lighthouse. Its charming lanes feature boutique hotels, art galleries, and artisan shops. Sunset views from the fort's walls are a favorite attraction, while annual cultural events bring the site to life with music, art, and local cuisine.

Distance: 83 km per way

Travel Time: 1 hour 15 mins per way

Entrance: Rs. 1500 (Per Person / entry often enforced only for the history museum)

Yala National Park

Yala spans nearly 1,000 square kilometers, making it one of Sri Lanka's largest national parks and an essential biodiversity hotspot. Divided into five blocks, the park features dense jungles, lagoons, and open plains. It's best known for its high leopard density, but visitors also encounter elephants, sloth bears, water buffalo, crocodiles, and migratory birds. The dry climate and varied ecosystems make Yala an ideal location for wildlife safaris, with early morning and late afternoon being the best times for sightings.

Distance: 242 km per way

Travel Time: 3-4 hrs per way

Travel tips: Entrance times 06:00Hrs / 14:00Hrs

Need to rent a safari Jeep

Entrance: Rs. 13000/-



Colombo City Tour

Colombo is a dynamic blend of modern skyscrapers, colonial architecture, and bustling streets. Key sites include the Gangaramaya Temple, showcasing a blend of Indian, Thai, and Sri Lankan designs, and the National Museum, which houses artifacts spanning thousands of years of Sri Lankan history. Colombo's waterfront at Galle Face Green is a favorite for locals and tourists alike, especially at sunset. Colombo's nightlife, with rooftop bars, fine dining, and street food markets, reflects the city's modern vibe.

Distance: ~40 km per way

Travel Time: ~1 hour per way

Travel tips: Better leave the hotel after 9Hrs

leave Colombo before 16:00Hrs / after 19:00Hrs





Udawalawe National Park

Known as one of the best places in Asia for spotting elephants in the wild, Udawalawe offers more than just elephant sightings. The park's open grasslands and reservoirs attract a range of wildlife, including sambar deer, wild boar, and various bird species. Morning and evening jeep safaris bring visitors close to elephant herds, especially near the Udawalawe Reservoir. The park is also crucial for elephant conservation, with active research and preservation efforts.

Distance: 195 km per way

Travel Time: 3-4 hrs per way

Travel tips: Open times 06:00Hrs to 18:00Hrs

Need to rent a safari Jeep

Entrance: Rs.13000 (Per Person)



Elephant Transit Home

Established in 1995, the Elephant Transit Home rehabilitates orphaned elephants until they are old enough to return to the wild. This sanctuary near Udawalawe offers an alternative to traditional elephant orphanages, focusing on minimal human interaction. Visitors can observe feeding sessions and learn about the reintroduction process, providing insight into the vital work of conservationists and the challenges of preserving Sri Lanka's elephant population.

Distance: 193 km per way

Travel Time: 3-4 hrs per way

Travel tips: Milk Feeding times 09:00Hrs, 12:00noon, 15:00Hrs

Entrance: Rs. 1500 (Per Person)

Wilpattu National Park

Wilpattu's unique feature is its "willus," or natural sand-rimmed lakes. The park covers 1,317 square kilometers and is one of the oldest parks in Sri Lanka, with a long history dating back to 1905. Wilpattu is home to a rich ecosystem with leopards, elephants, and the elusive sloth bear, as well as several endemic bird species. Its relative remoteness means fewer tourists, offering a more secluded wildlife experience

Distance: 306 km per way

Travel Time: 6 hrs per way

Travel Tips: Open times 06:00Hrs to 18:00Hrs

Need to rent a safari Jeep

Entrance: Rs. 13000 (Per Person)



Mirissa Whale Watching

Mirissa is famed for whale watching, with tours typically running from November to April. The deep waters off the coast attract large marine mammals, including blue whales, the largest animals on earth, sperm whales, and playful pods of dolphins. Local operators run early morning tours, guided by experienced naturalists who share insights into marine biology and conservation, creating an unforgettable experience for nature enthusiasts.

Distance: 106 km per way

Travel Time: 2 hrs 15 mins per way

Travel tips:

Need to be at Mirissa Harbor by 06:15Hrs

(All groups leave by 06:30)

Options: Group tour / Speed boat / Yacht (group) / Yacht (privet – 10 to 30pax)

Entrance: Rs. 12000 (Per Person)





Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

Established in 1975, Pinnawala is one of the largest elephant orphanages in the world, housing over 80 elephants, many of whom are injured, orphaned, or rescued from the wild. Twice daily, visitors can observe elephants bathing in the river, a beloved ritual that showcases the strong social bonds between the animals. Pinnawala also operates a breeding program, and guests can learn about efforts to increase the elephant population in Sri Lanka.

Distance: 131 km per way

Travel Time: 3 hrs 30 mins per way

Travel tips: Opening times 08:30Hrs - 17:30Hrs

Entrance: Rs. 6000 (Per Person)



Pinnawala Open Zoo

Located close to the elephant orphanage, the Pinnawala Open Zoo is Sri Lanka's first open-air zoo. Covering 44 acres, it provides natural habitats for a range of species native to Asia and Africa, including crocodiles, deer, and exotic birds. Designed with educational displays, the zoo is ideal for families and offers a more immersive learning experience.

Distance: 131 km per way

Travel Time: 3 hrs 30 mins per way

Entrance: Rs. 6000 (Per Person)

Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Rising 200 meters above the surrounding landscape, Sigiriya is an ancient rock fortress built by King Kashyapa in the 5th century AD. The site is renowned for its elaborate water gardens, frescoes of celestial maidens, and the iconic lion's paw entrance. The top of the rock offers a breathtaking panoramic view of the surrounding jungle and villages. Sigiriya is one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated UNESCO sites, drawing history enthusiasts and adventure seekers alike.

Distance: 160 km per way

Travel Time: 4 – 5 hrs per way

Entrance: Sigiriya Lion's Rock: Rs. 11500 (Per Person)

Sigiriya Museum: Rs. 2000 (including with Lion's Rock ticket if purchased together)



Sinharaja Forest Reserve

A UNESCO World Heritage site, Sinharaja is the last remaining primary rainforest in Sri Lanka. Spanning over 8,500 hectares, it's a treasure trove of biodiversity, home to rare endemic species such as the purple-faced langur, green pit viper, and the Sri Lankan blue magpie. Guided hikes reveal lush vegetation, cascading waterfalls, and a symphony of birdsong, making it an unmissable destination for eco-tourists and bird watchers.

Distance: 80 km per way

Travel Time: 2 hrs per way

Travel Tips: Need to organize a tracker

Entrance: Rs. 8000 (Per Person)

(tracker/guide included tip optional)





Anuradhapura Historical Sites

Anuradhapura, one of the oldest continually inhabited cities, was a political and spiritual capital for over a millennium. Highlights include the Sri Maha Bodhi tree, believed to be over 2,000 years old, and Ruwanwelisaya, a massive stupa built by King Dutugemunu. The city's ancient irrigation systems, monasteries, and sculptures reflect the sophistication of early Sri Lankan civilization.

Distance: 200 km per way

Travel Time: 5 hrs per way

*Travel Tips: Need to be dressed fully covered
(To enter many places of worship)*

Entrance: Rs. 10000

(includes Jethawanaya and Abhayagiriya)



Polonnaruwa Historical Sites

Polonnaruwa became the country's second capital in the 10th century and remains a well-preserved archaeological treasure. Sites include the Royal Palace, the impressive Gal Vihara rock statues, and the Lotus Pond. The ancient irrigation reservoirs, like the Parakrama Samudra, demonstrate advanced engineering techniques of the time.

Distance: 190 km per way

Travel Time: 4.5 hrs per way

*Travel Tips: Need to be dressed fully covered
(To enter many places of worship)*

Entrance: Rs. 10000 (Per Person)

Kandy Botanical Garden

Rising 200 meters above the surrounding
Established in 1821, the Peradeniya Botanical Garden in Kandy spans over 147 acres and is home to more than 4,000 plant species. Highlights include the Orchid House, an avenue of towering royal palms, and a giant Javan fig tree with an extensive canopy. The gardens are both a research center and a recreational park.

Distance: 120 km per way

Travel Time: 3.5 hrs per way

Entrance: Rs.3000 (Per Person)



Temple of the Tooth

This sacred site is a pinnacle of Buddhist devotion, housing a tooth relic of Buddha. The temple's Kandyan architecture and intricately decorated shrines host daily rituals, while the annual Esala Perahera festival in August, featuring parades of dancers, drummers, and elephants, attracts thousands of pilgrims and tourists.

Distance: 120 km per way

Travel Time: 3 hrs per way

*Travel Tips: Need to be dressed fully covered
(To enter places of worship)*

Entrance: Rs. 3000 (Per Person)





Fa Hien Caves

Fa Hien Caves are an archaeological site dating back to the Pleistocene era, with evidence of human habitation from over 37,000 years ago. Findings include ancient tools, bones, and unique cave paintings, offering rare insights into prehistoric Sri Lankan life.

Distance: 36 km per way

Travel Time: 1 hour per way



Brief Garden by Bevis Bawa

Formerly the estate of landscape architect Bevis Bawa, this garden is known for its artistic layout and sculptures. Pathways lead through tropical greenery to discover whimsical sculptures, secluded nooks, and art installations, making it a picturesque retreat.

Distance: 20 km per way

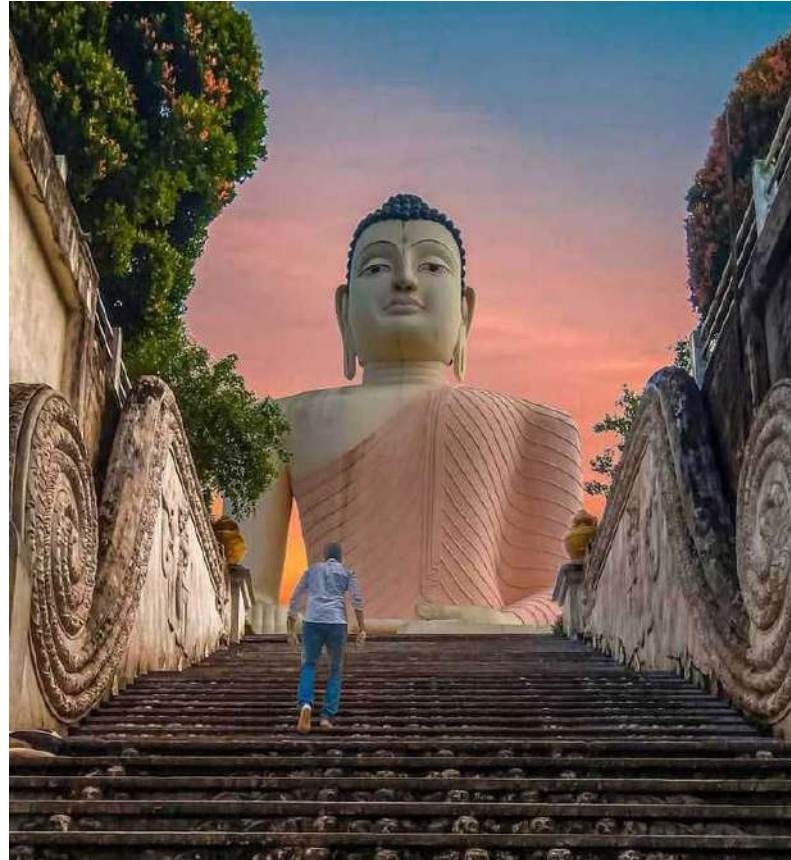
Travel Time: 50 mins per way

Entrance: Rs. 3000 (Per Person)

Kande Viharaya (Aluthgama)

Established in 1734, Kande Viharaya is famous for its 48-meter-high Buddha statue. The temple complex features frescoes, sculptures, and a relic chamber, which attracts pilgrims and visitors interested in learning about Buddhist customs.

Distance: 17 km per way
Travel Time: 45 mins per way



Handunugoda Tea Estate

Known for producing Virgin White Tea, the estate offers visitors an in-depth look at tea production, from picking to packaging. A guided tour includes tastings and views of verdant tea fields, providing an authentic experience of Sri Lanka's renowned tea industry.

Distance: 90 km per way
Travel Time: 2 hrs per way





Turtle Hatchery (Kosgoda)

The Kosgoda hatchery is vital for sea turtle conservation, housing eggs and newly hatched turtles before releasing them into the ocean. Visitors can learn about different turtle species and see baby turtles up close, raising awareness about marine conservation.

Distance: 30 km per way
Travel Time: 1 hour per way
Entrance: Rs. 2000 (Per Person)



Ella

Known for scenic treks, Ella offers panoramic views from attractions like Ella Rock, Ravana Falls, and the Nine Arches Bridge. Surrounded by tea plantations, Ella is a relaxed getaway for nature lovers and hikers

Distance: 175 km per way
Travel Time: 5 hrs per way

Nuwara Eliya

Known as “Little England” for its colonial architecture and cool climate, Nuwara Eliya is famous for tea estates, the scenic Lake Gregory, and the lush Victoria Park. The area is a hub for tea tourism, golf, and leisurely strolls through scenic gardens

Distance: 165 km per way
Travel Time: 5 hrs per way



Available Transfer Options

Semi-Luxury Car: Toyota Axio / Prius

- Capacity: Comfortably accommodates up to 2-3 adults.
- Description: A compact, efficient vehicle offering a smooth and comfortable ride, ideal for couples or small groups.

Semi-Luxury Van: Toyota KDH (High roof)

- Capacity: Comfortably accommodates up to 7 adults.
- Description: Spacious and practical, this van is perfect for larger groups or families, offering comfort and ample space for all passengers

SUV: Mitsubishi Outlander / Montero Sport

- Capacity: Comfortably accommodates up to 3-4 adults.
- Description: This stylish SUV offers a balance of luxury and practicality, ideal for those who want extra comfort without compromising on space.

Luxury Van: Mercedes VITO

- Capacity: Comfortably accommodates up to 6 adults.
- Description: A top-of-the-line van that combines luxury and comfort, ideal for small groups or families seeking a more premium experience.

Helicopter: AIRBUS Helicopters

- Capacity: Comfortably accommodates up to 5 adults.
- Description: For a truly unique experience, travel by helicopter for stunning aerial views of Sri Lanka. A luxurious and quick way to reach your destination.

For more information on prices and to book your transfer, please visit our reception or call 'o' to discuss with our team.

We're here to ensure your travel experience is seamless and enjoyable.



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St. Sebastian's Road, Katukurunda, Kalutara | +94 34 222 0222 | kalutara.resort@anantara.com

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