

(Home Page)

Welcome to the wild!

Explore the unknown and wander into uncharted jungle territory.

Discover yourself at Arana where you can enjoy gracious hospitality in an idyllic, spacious ambience close to the Yala National Park.

About Arana by Forest Trails

Page 1

Arana or අරණ in Sinhala means 'wilderness', and as such our space provides a cozy haven surrounded by jungle scenery and sounds of nature to help you wind down and relax (after an exhausting search for the elusive Sri Lankan Leopard!).

Indulge in the peace and tranquility that seeps into this space of relaxation from the surrounding forest. Let your wanderlust take over as you delve deep into the wild jungle depth of Yala to be in the presence of the majestic Sri Lankan Elephant and to witness the alluring charm of the Sri Lankan Leopard.

Location

Page 2

Immerse yourself in a serene jungle abode enveloped by the presence of nature and wildlife.

Located a mere 8km from the Yala National Park, Arana is fringed by a rustic village around its borders. Arana offers a quiet green jungle getaway tucked away far from the hustle and bustle of noisy cities and close to the jungle where wild cats lerk amidst the thicket and magnificent elephants roam the plains.

Our space is 235 km from the International Airport and 10 km away from Tissamaharama.

[<Add a map widget here>](#)

Accomodation

Page 3

Your Stay at Arana

We offer a soothing stay out here in the wild. Our experience is unique in the way we combine a luxury boutique setting within a forest location with many excursions to quench your thirst for adventure.

At present, Arana spans over an acre of land and accommodates 16 rooms in total with 14 deluxe rooms and 2 standards rooms. All units offer a pool and garden view while some offer a balcony sitting area. A 62 ft pool forms a cool centerpiece in our expansive garden space that is surrounded by beautiful flora. We invite you to utilise our space to enjoy the maximum level of comfort and freedom with soothing activities such as meditation or yoga during your stay at Arana.

We will soon be expanding our property to include dormitories for larger groups and backpackers so that we can share our space and offer a relaxing atmosphere for budget travellers and visitors who travel light. We will also be adding a spa and a gym xx that your focus on health and fitness does not derail during your stay with us.

Amenities include:

- Balcony, Pool / Garden view
- Private entrance
- Air conditioning and fan
- Private bathroom with shower
- Free Wi-Fi
- TV with cable channels
- Writing desk and cupboard
- Ironing facilities
- Toiletries, linen and towels
- Minibar
- Outdoor furniture

Page 4 Cuisine

Let your taste buds run wild

The shortest way to a person's heart is through their stomach! At Arana, we believe that no amount of relaxing is perfect without the right food in your stomachs! You will satiate your palate for exquisite Sri Lankan cuisine with our delectable menu as our Head Chef Malik prepares authentic Sri Lankan cuisine to fit your mood. We source our ingredients locally from in and around our location so that you are able to experience a genuinely Sri Lankan gastronomic journey during your stay here.

Special Avurudu Treats at Arana

Sinhala and Tamil New Year or සිංහල නින්ද අලුත් අවුරුද්ද falls on April 13 & 14th and is celebrated in Sri Lanka to denote the New Year which begins when the sun moves from Meena Rashiya (the house of Pisces) to Mesha Rashiya (the house of Aries). It also marks the end of the harvest season and of spring. Preparing traditional food such as kiribath (milk rice), kavvum (small oil cake) and kokis (crisp and light sweetmeat) takes prominence among the seasonal traditions. At Arana, we wish to present our guests with the traditional *avurudu* culinary experience.

Page 5 Activities

Header Text: Into The Wild

Sub Header Text: Things to do when you're in Yala

Visit Yala National Park

The Yala Park is about 30 minutes (8 km) drive from Arana and the main excursion that attracts adventurers from all around the world. In Yala you will find 44 varieties of mammal and 215 species of bird, with the Sri Lankan Leopard being the star attraction as Yala happens to be the world's biggest concentration of leopards. Among it's majestic ensemble of animals are elephants, sloth bears, sambars, jackals, spotted deer, peacocks and crocodiles. The best season to visit Yala is during the dry season from February to July when the water level is low and the animals roam out in search of water. Safaris are usually organised early morning around 4 or 5 am so that you can watch the animals gather at the many water bodies inside Yala and then again in the evening around 2 to 3pm. Safaris can last from 3 to 5 hours depending on your requirement and you are free to communicate it to the guides who take you around.

Safaris in the park are very safe. However, you must maintain composure and respect your surrounding when you visit the park. Littering is a crime punishable by law in the park and as such, the number one rule you must adhere to while on site. Many travellers get excited when they see the leopard or any animal for that matter, but it is wise to remain calm and just observe without making any noise. The animals, especially the leopard and elephants are generally very used to having humans in their territory. The leopard even "displays" itself in front of people when it's in the mood. Spotting a leopard can't be guaranteed during your safaris but the thrill of rumbling on inside the safari in a four-wheeled vehicle and being with nature is an experience in itself that you must indulge in when you're in Yala.

Tip: Take enough water and dress to suit the dry and tropical climate during your safari. Use sunscreen too.

Bundala National Park

This park is for the birdwatchers among you as it is a wintering ground for migratory water birds and is a resting place for 197 species of birds, the highlight being the greater flamingo. This [park](#) is located 40 to 50 minutes (25 km) away from Anana Yala and is another great park to observe and be with nature.

Ussangoda National Park

This gorgeous beach park features bright red cliffs and plains that are boarded by an uncharted beach that begs you to dip yourself in it. This [park](#) is located an hours drive (54 km) away from Arana and is a breathtaking place to enjoy a peaceful beach that isn't populated by tourists. A combination of mountains and beaches make up this beautiful setting and you can spend hours on the beach there. Legend has it that the bright maroon colour of the earth is due Ravana

landing his chariot there, but scientifically what causes the bizarre colour of the earth is a meteoroid falling on it many years ago. This may explain the reason behind the barren nature of the soil and strange vegetation that grows on it. There are a few local eating spots at the entrance of the park where you can help yourself to some hot *belimal* tea, *roti* and *dhal wade*. We extend a gentle reminder to all visitors to not litter in the park and be mindful of the impact of your explorations on the natural ecosystem of the park.

Kirinda Beach and Temple

[Kirinda temple](#) marks a place with a lot of historical significance. It is believed that Queen Viharamahadevi who had been cast off into the ocean as a sacrifice had been washed ashore here. The shore leading away from the temple gets secluded as you go and you can enjoy a quiet strip of beach to yourself too. Be mindful to dress modestly when you enter the temple grounds.

Deep Sea Diving and Fishing

If you wish to explore the depths of the ocean, we can arrange for you to go snorkeling and deep sea diving too. Fishing is a great pastime and it can be arranged if you so wish to. You can even catch your own fish and have it BBQed during your stay at Arana Yala Hotel.

Kataragama

Located 40 minutes (26 km) away from Arana is the sacred pilgrimage town of Kataragama which is visited by Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims alike. [Ruhunu Maha Kataragama Devalaya](#) is a shrine dedicated to Skanda Kumara also known as the deity of Kataragama while [Kiri Vehera](#) is a Buddhist Stupa that was built by King Mahasena.

Kataragama Perahera

Usually held in July or August this perahera or procession is celebrated in the name of God Skanda and is a mesmerising spectacle. The procession runs every night for about two weeks and ends with the water cutting ceremony on the last day. During the perahera the entire town is riddled with devotees of all faiths eagerly anticipating the procession which commences at the auspicious time with the cracking of the whips and the sounds of drumming. The procession includes dancers, drummers, flag bearers, torch bearers and many other intriguing aspects to it symbolising many cultural aspects. As a visitor, you will be treated to the mesmerising sounds and sights of this procession.

Tissa Wewa and Yoda Wewa

Sri Lanka is famous for its intricate irrigation systems that were built as far back as [Tissa Wewa](#) (22 km) and [Yoda Wewa](#) (8.7 km) are both notable irrigation systems built during 3rd Century BC. To this day, these giant water bodies provide water to cultivation systems in the area and sustain the livelihood of the people.