

# Sustainable Practices & Projects

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# INTRODUCTION

In an age where climate change affects everyone, our commitment to travel which is memorable, meaningful and sustainable is more important than ever before.

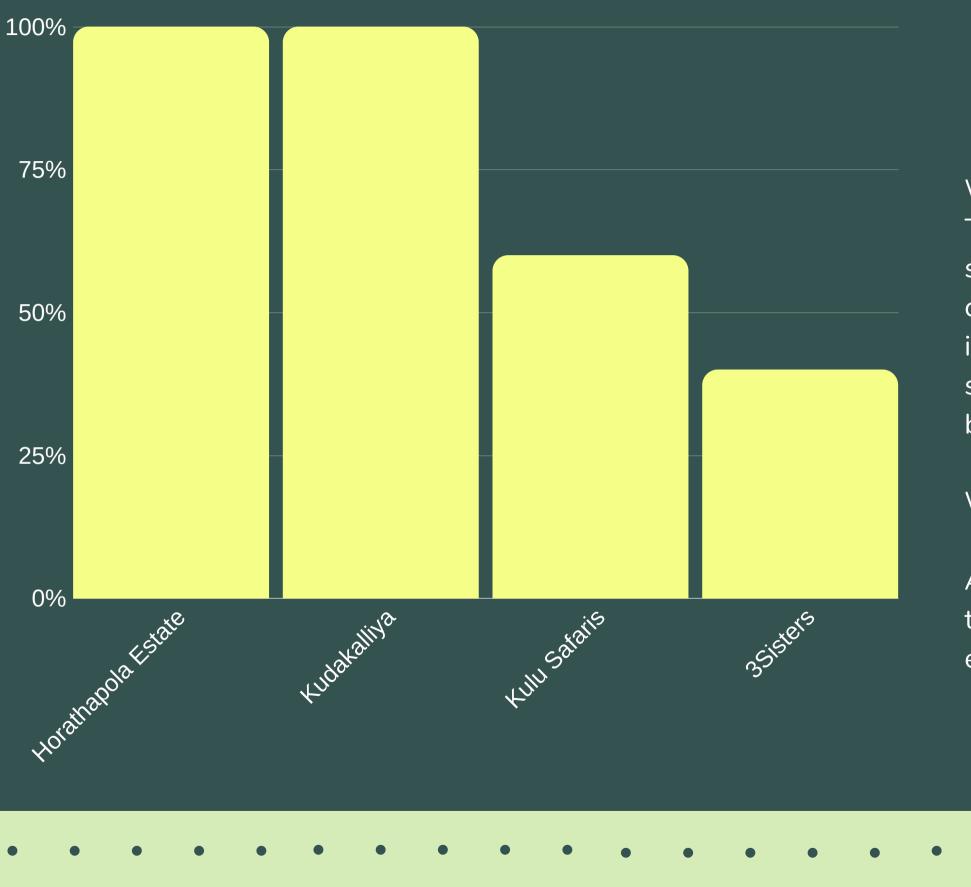
Our properties are set in stunning locations, helping our guests reconnect and appreciate nature. Our experience as responsible professionals has gained us the trust of international wildlife conservationists and photographers including Steve Winter and Nature Documentary Directors like Mark Linfield, Mike Birkhead and organizations like BBC Wildlife, National Geographic (Wild Sri Lanka) and Disney Nature (Monkey Kingdom).

Our staff are trained in the best practices in sustainable travel. Below is a comprehensive report of our current initiatives and long-term projects across all our properties, which we believe carry positive impacts on our environment and local communities.









# **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

We started our journey in renewable energy 8 years ago. Today all properties are either fully or partially powered by solar panels. We even use solar powered water pumps at camp and have furnished second hand solar panels as insulation in roofing at our beach house in Arugam Bay. Where solar is insufficient, we make use of energy saving LED light bulbs & other equipment to reduce our carbon footprint.

We currently run an excess of units generated by solar energy.

At our Yala camp, we only use re-chargeable battery powered torches, which has saved approximately 2000 batteries from entering landfills over the past decade.

# PLASTIC POLICY

- For the last 10 years of our operation, The Haritha Collection have refrained from the purchase of plastic water bottles for guest consumption at ALL properties. This has saved approximately 8000 plastic bottles per year from landfills.
- We use only metal straws across all properties
- We use biodegradable cling wrap across all kitchens
- All drinks purchased from soft drinks to beer are purchased in glass bottles, and recycled, preventing the purchase of over 4,000 plastic bottles a year.
- Aluminium caps from soft drink and beer bottles are recycled
- We refrain from the use or purchase of any product packaged in plastic, wherever possible
- We only use 100% organic shower products in refill ceramic dispensers
- We use only re-usable, high quality fabric face masks across all properties

We source and purify our own water from deep wells located on three of our properties. This water is stored in glass water bottles and offered free of charge, in unlimited supply to our guests for the duration of their stay with us.



All properties separate organic waste for the purpose of composting.

Often, we use our coconut waste (which is high energy cattle feed) to help local farmers









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#### Of jungle bordering Kochchipathana Tank & Yala National Park

#### KULU SAFARIS SRI LANKA



# Kulu Safaris, Yala

Kulu was the first operator in Yala to establish and practice environmentally conscious camping. We have adopted a strict "no-plastic" policy, use renewable energy to as great an extent as possible, and have implemented an eco-friendly waste-management system.

In compliance with responsible standards of game viewing set by the Department of Wildlife, Kulu Safaris abides by a strict code of conduct inside National Parks.



# HOW WE STAND OUT

Using the KATAGAMUWA entrance of Yala Block 1 allows us ease of access in and out of the park, avoiding large crowds, lessening the congestion and strain on wildlife inside the park.

We also venture into the lesser known blocks of Yala, Blocks 3, 4 & 5 and Lunugamvehera National Park.

We work closely with the Forest Department to protect and maintain forest land which adjoins our campsite.

We have a team of qualified and experienced drivers, spotters and naturalists who are passionate about conservation and have undergone training programs on local fauna and flora.



# SAFARI JEEPS

- A new fleet of customized Toyota Land Cruiser jeeps that emit less noise pollution.
- Keeping a safe and respectable distance between our jeeps & wildlife.
- All vehicles are fully customized for professional wildlife viewing and photography.
- All vehicles are equipped with rope tree trunk protectors for responsible winching in tough terrain.





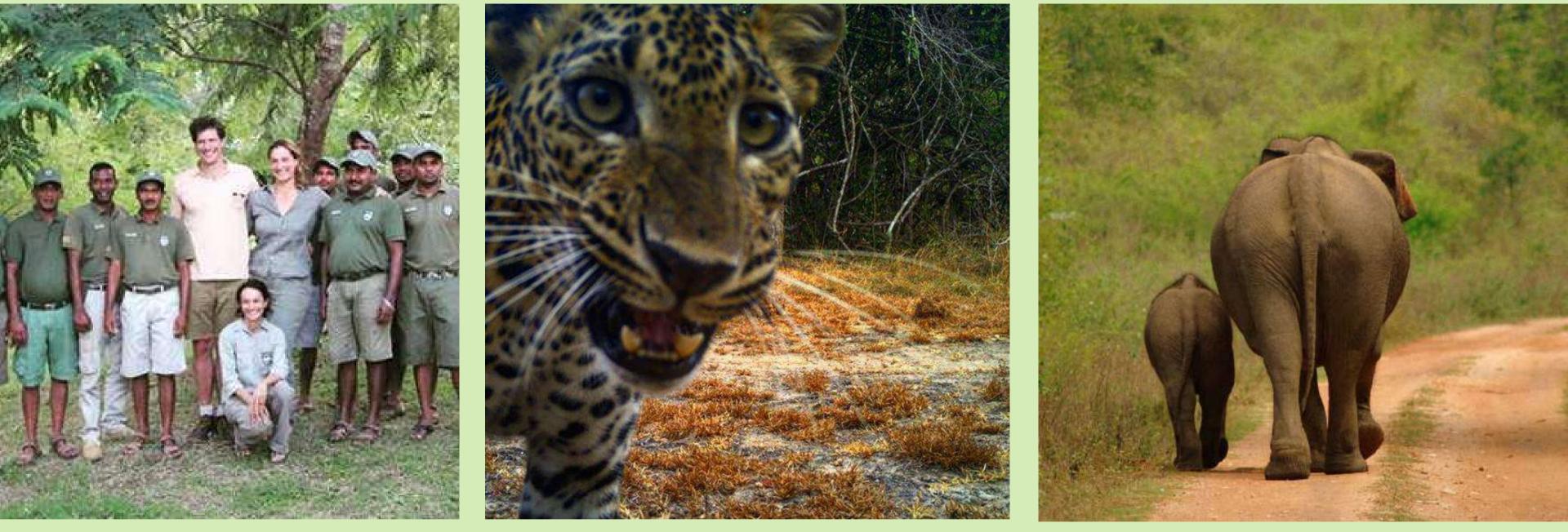
- We have self recovery equipment to allow us to delve deeper into national parks on roads that are off the beaten path.
- Each jeep is equipped with protective and re-usable raincoats to protect our guests and staff from the elements.







#### **CONSERVATION**



Hosting International Conservationists like Saba Douglas-Hamilton

Sponsorship of camera trapping: ongoing project with We curate an educational blog that promotes local wildlife conservation & knowledge sharing. 'For the Leopard Trust' to monitor leopard numbers in Sri Lanka.





#### ANTI POACHING

Kulu Safaris has long provided logistical support to the Department of Wildlife (DWC) to assist with anti poaching efforts as well as sponsorship of protective gear worn by DWC officials while in the field.





#### WILDLIFE DOCUMENTARIES



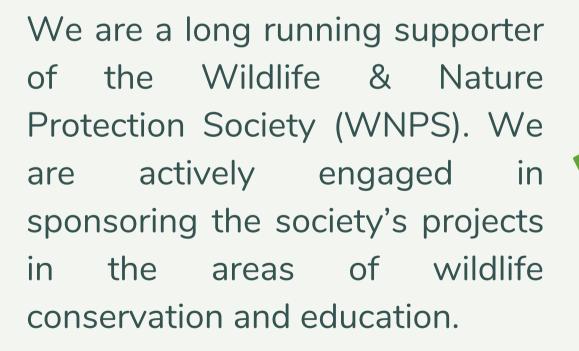
Manju (right) helps on set of Monkey Kingdom getting a vehicle prepared for filming in the jungle

Our Ranger Manju (centre) with film crew of Wlid Sri Lanka



Operations for international wildlife documentaries & research, for channels like National Geographic.

# RECENT COMMUNITY WORK





Local area cleanups: Each year, we sponsor a cleanup of the Yala -Kataragama trail, in which our staff collects hundreds of kilograms of plastic and other refuse left behind by local pilgrims during the 'pada yathra' season.



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# NATURE FRIENDLY EXPERIENCES AT KULU SAFARIS

The spirit of Kulu is to tread lightly, leaving a minimal footprint on the natural ecology of our wilds. Our Yala campsite was handpicked for its stunning natural setting.





#### KAYAKING

# FAMILY FRIENDLY SAFARIS





#### JUNGLE WALKS

# **COOKING LESSONS**





# TREE TOP BREAKFASTS

#### SPACES FOR QUIET TIME



ANCIENT RITUALS & ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES



# **NEARBY CULTURAL SITES**



# STARGAZING



#### And....a team passionate about conservation & sustainable travel



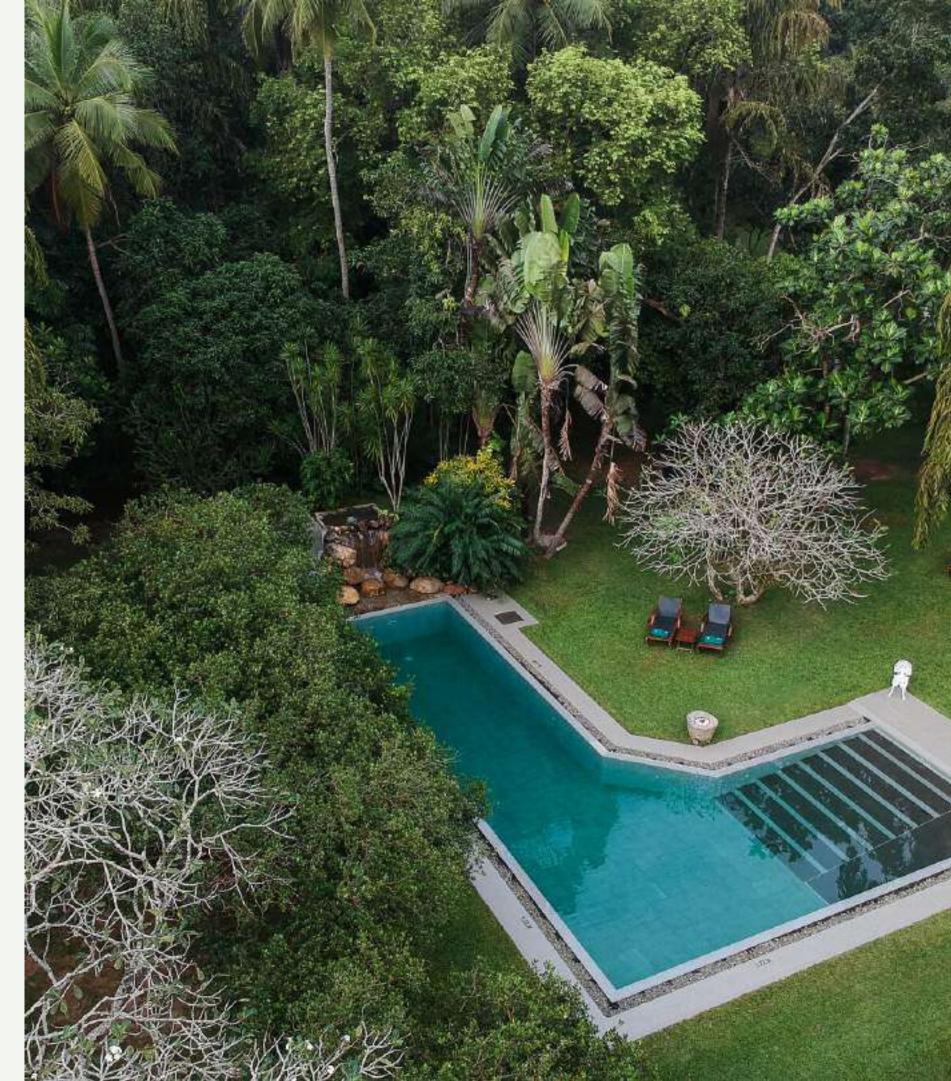
# 60 AGRES

An organic lifestyle in the comfort of a heritage home

## Horathapola Estate



Horathapola Estate is 60 acres of serenity, nestled within the balmy vibe of rural Sri Lanka. A lush garden skirts the building, and features a salt-water swimming pool, a Jacuzzi and the experience of life out in the country.



# **ORGANIC PRODUCE**



At Horathapola Estate, we avoid the use of chemical fertilizers in our farming, which means the rice and coconut along with spices like pepper, cinnamon, fruits and other vegetables that we grow, are organic.

# **SELF SUFFICIENCY**

Our 60 acres of organic rice and coconut estate is able to sustain all our property's needs for rice and coconut. Other organic produce includes a range of fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices like pepper and cinnamon.

We support local farmers, fishermen and local grocers in purchasing fresh produce daily for our properties.

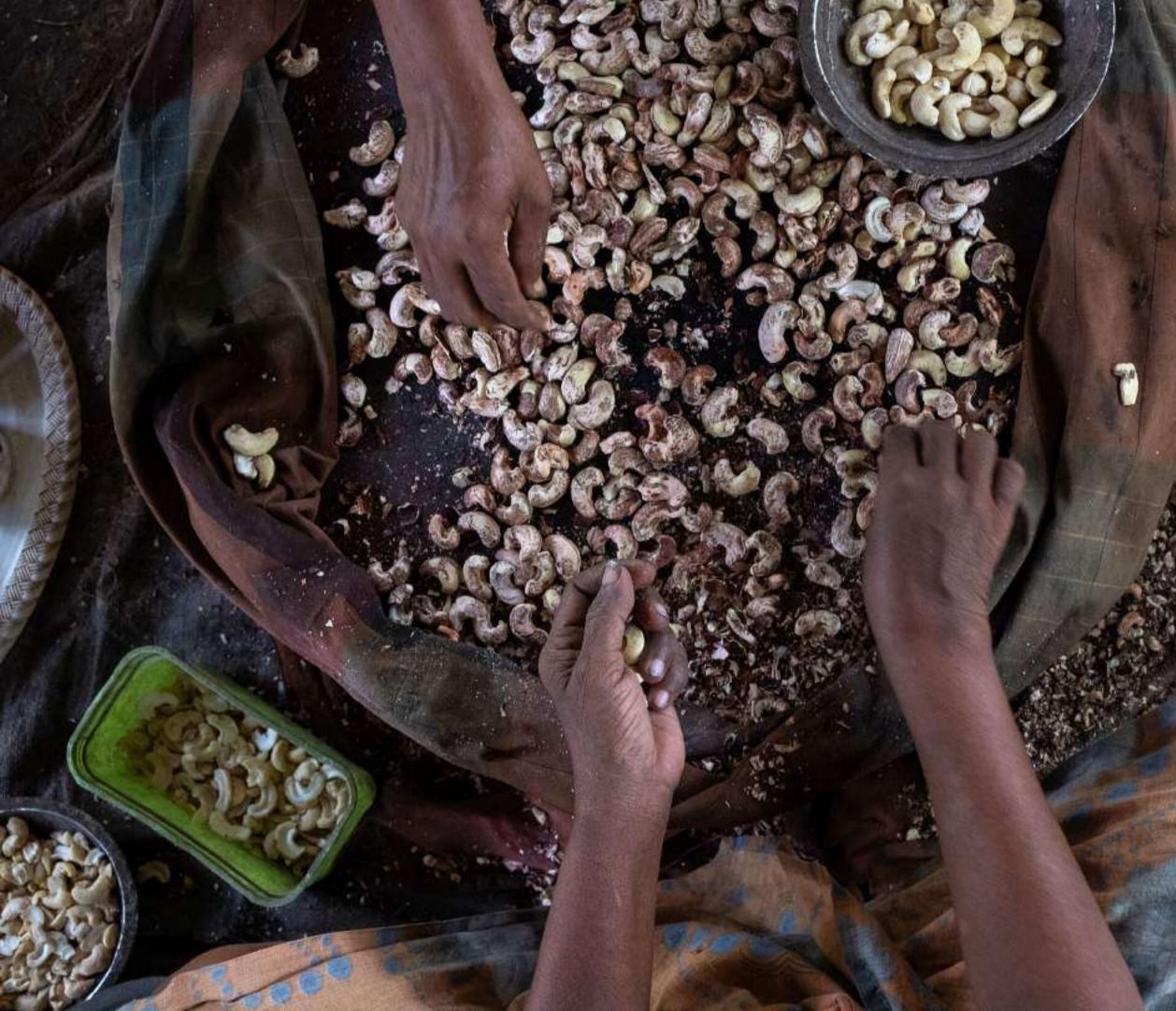
# **COMMUNITY**



# NATURE FRIENDLY EXPERIENCES AT HORATHAPOLA ESTATE

Walking trails, and vibrant birdlife. Beyond the garden, the foliage extends into a live organic estate. Coconuts, fruits and vegetables, herbs, spices, and rice are all grown sustainably, supporting many local families in nearby villages.





# AGRICULTURE



# BIKE RIDES

# LOCAL MARKETS





# THE COCONUT STORY



#### **BIRD** LIFE

# COOKING LESSONS



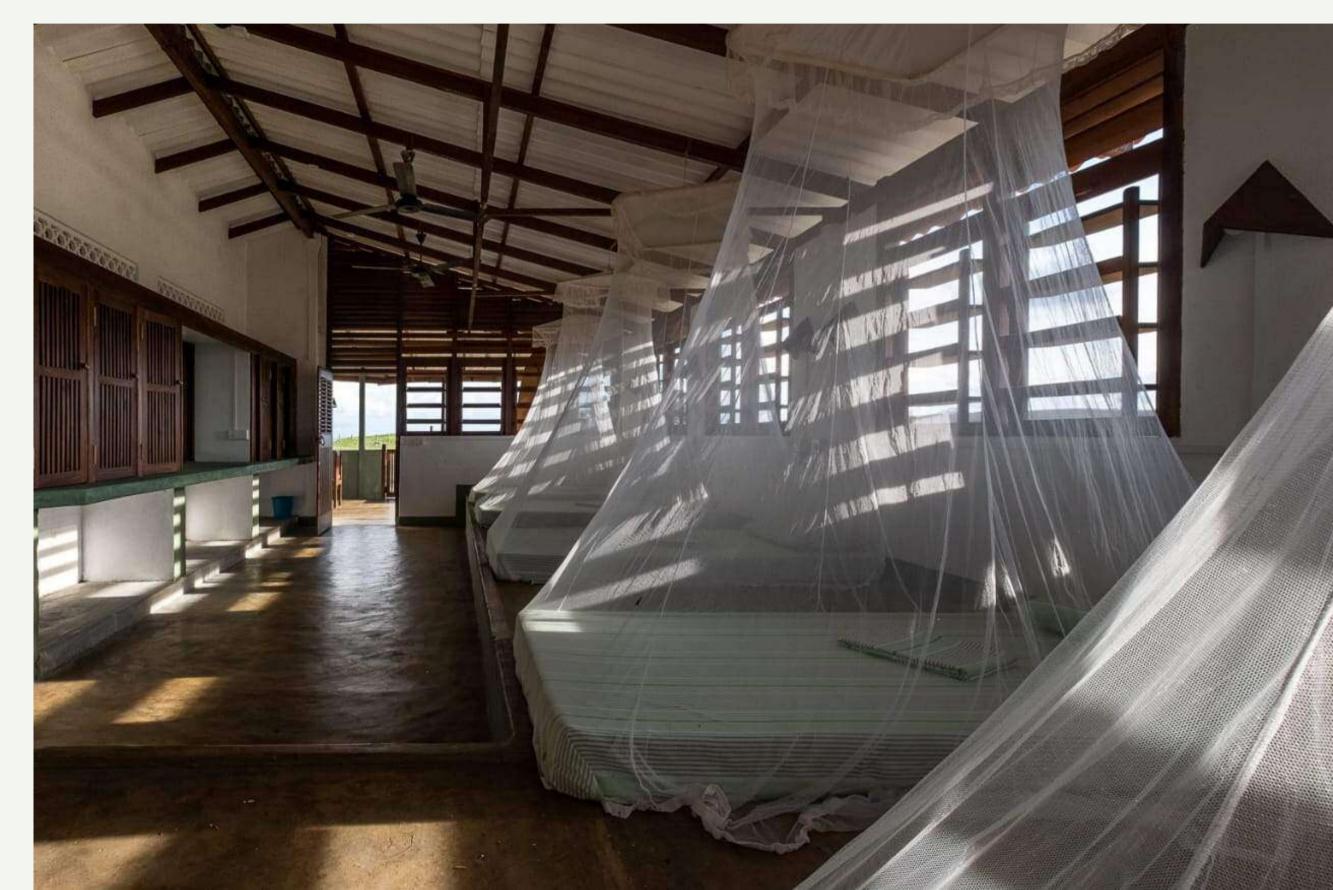
# ELEPHANT COUNTRY

Three rustic beach houses with stunning ocean front & lagoon access



### Kudakalliya Beach House, Arugambay

Kudakalliya is the ideal beach getaway. It's away from the main Arugam Bay stretch - perfect for a secluded stay. Enjoy long strolls along its golden beaches.



## FAIR PRICING & THE ART OF CO-EXISTENCE

The lagoon and surrounding lands near our beach house have for centuries been feeding grounds to wild elephants, mugger and estuary crocodiles. By practicing respectful distancing with these animals, we have managed to co-exist in harmony for decades, all our staff are trained to brief guests on what to expect and how to behave in the presence of any wildlife encountered on the property

The concept at Kudakalliya remains rustic while comfortable. As the area is prone to drought and power failures, we use solar panels to power ceiling fans and we have minimal use of air conditioning.

We have helped mitigate human-elephant conflicts through educating local residents over the years.

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Seasonal tree planting to enhance forest cover in the area.

We organize regular beach cleanups between our property and southwards towards Peanut Farm, educating residents in how to prevent plastic from flowing along the river into the sea. This project is also applied to our South coast villa 3Sisters.





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# NATURE FRIENDLY EXPERIENCES AT KUDAKALLIYA BEACH HOUSE

Arugam Bay lies within close proximity to National Parks like Lahugala National Park, Yala East National Park and Kumana Bird Sanctuary. We have access to certain forest reserves, including the Kumbukkanna Forest Reserve. This area is also surrounded by some fantastic archaeological sites and being off the beaten track means you can cherish the beauty of ancient monuments dating back as far as 2 AD in absolute isolation.







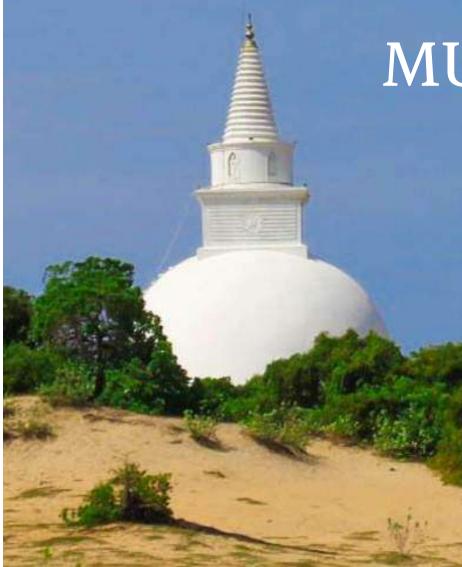


#### (ABOVE) NEELAGIRI HERMITAGE

#### (RIGHT) MAGHUL MAHA VIHARE





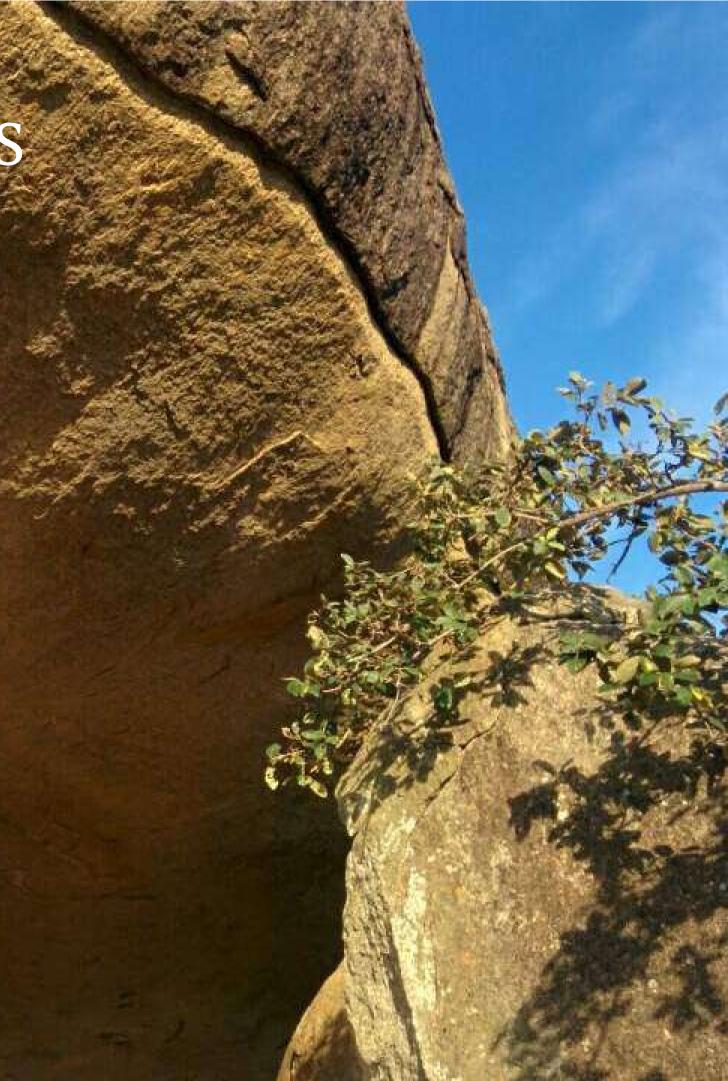


#### MUHUDU MAHA VIHARE

#### KUDUMBIGALA ROCK MONESTARY



#### **BAMBARAGASTALAWA ANCIENT CAVES**



BAMBARAGASTALAWA MONESTARY



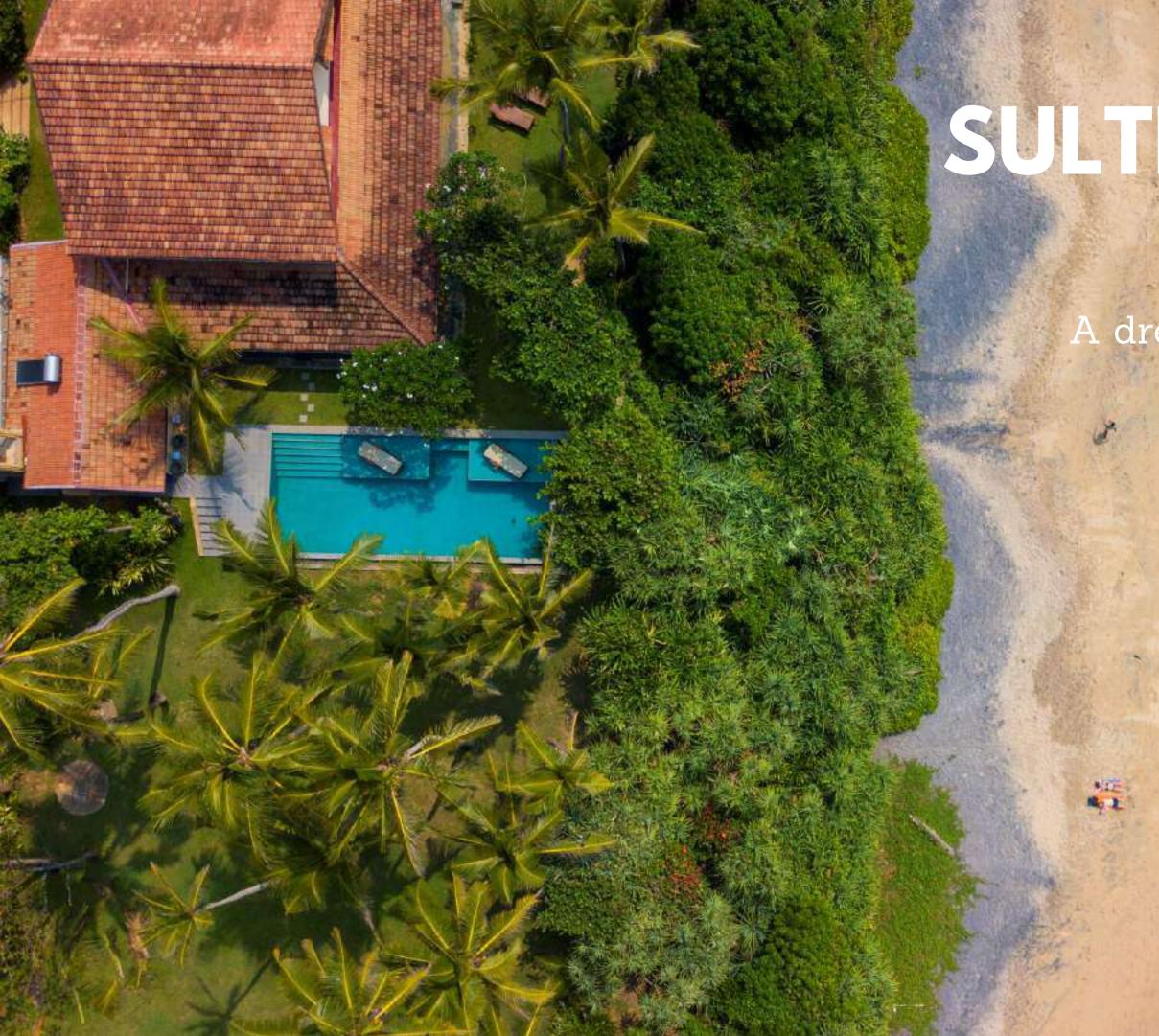


#### ELEPHANT WATCHING



#### YOGA RETREATS





# SULTRY SOUTHERN COMFORT

A dreamy, three-bedroom private villa in the heart of the south coast



3 Sisters is two-storied private beach villa complete with indoor and outdoor living spaces, a saltwater swimming pool with spectacular views across the Indian Ocean, your own staff and private beach access, this is a homely yet luxurious spot to kick back for a few days or a longer stay in the south.



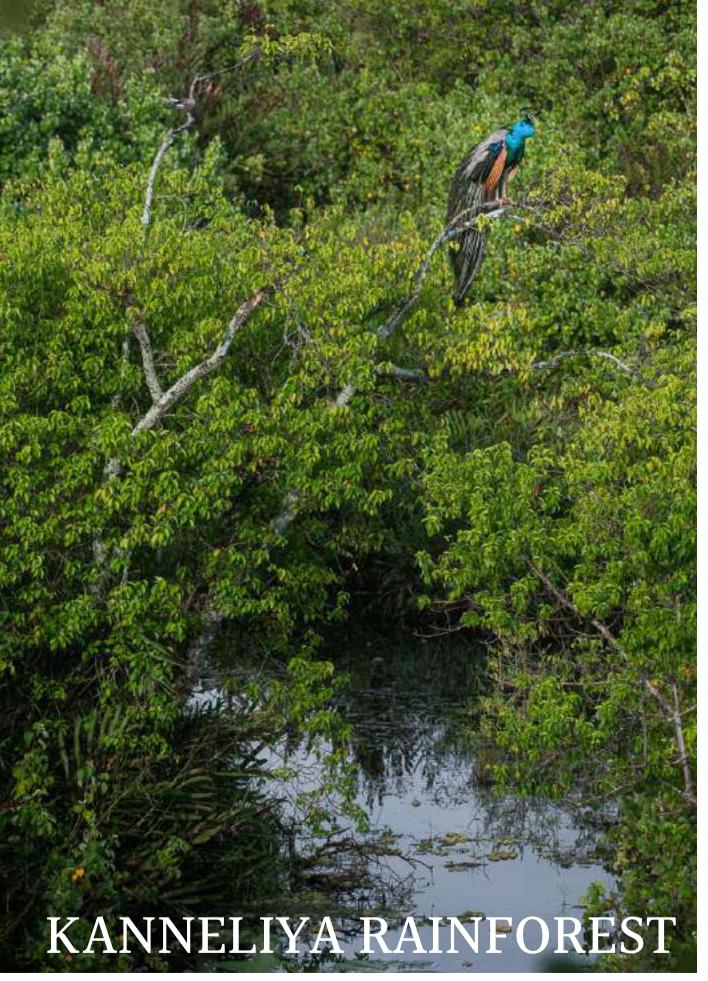
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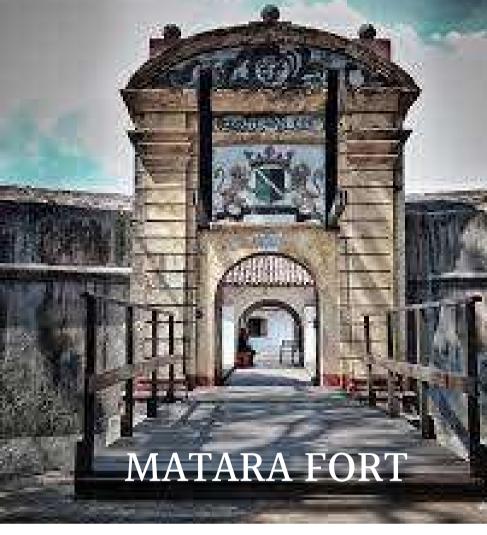
## NATURE FRIENDLY EXPERIENCES AT 3SISTERS MATARA

Set above a small hill which leads down to a beautiful, inviting and near private beach 3-Sisters is located along the southern tip of the island just beyond the city of Matara. This location is your gateway to the best of an undiscovered south coast, where the beaches get more beautiful and less populated the further south you travel.











#### DONDRA LIGHTHOUSE



#### LAST BUT NOT LEAST, A TEAM PASSIONATE ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY!











