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Ulagalla

Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka

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9/10

Telegraph expert rating



" A group of 20 chalets within 58 acres of private grounds, the latter home to more than 100 species of birds, is the setting for this superb eco-friendly hotel near Anuradhapura. The hotel is within easy reach of the many attractions of Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle. "

Telegraph Review



By **Emma Boyle**,
TRAVEL WRITER

Location

8/10

The hotel is located a 45-minute drive south of Anuradhapura, a few kilometres off the main A9 highway, within easy reach of the Cultural Triangle's ancient sites. Immersed in a private 58-acre estate, it feels extremely tranquil, and the grounds – which harbour an organic garden, manicured gardens and centrally located reclaimed paddy fields – border two reservoirs dotted with lotus flowers and majestic kumbuk trees. The setting is distinctly rural with traditional villages and areas of farmland all within walking or pedalling distance.

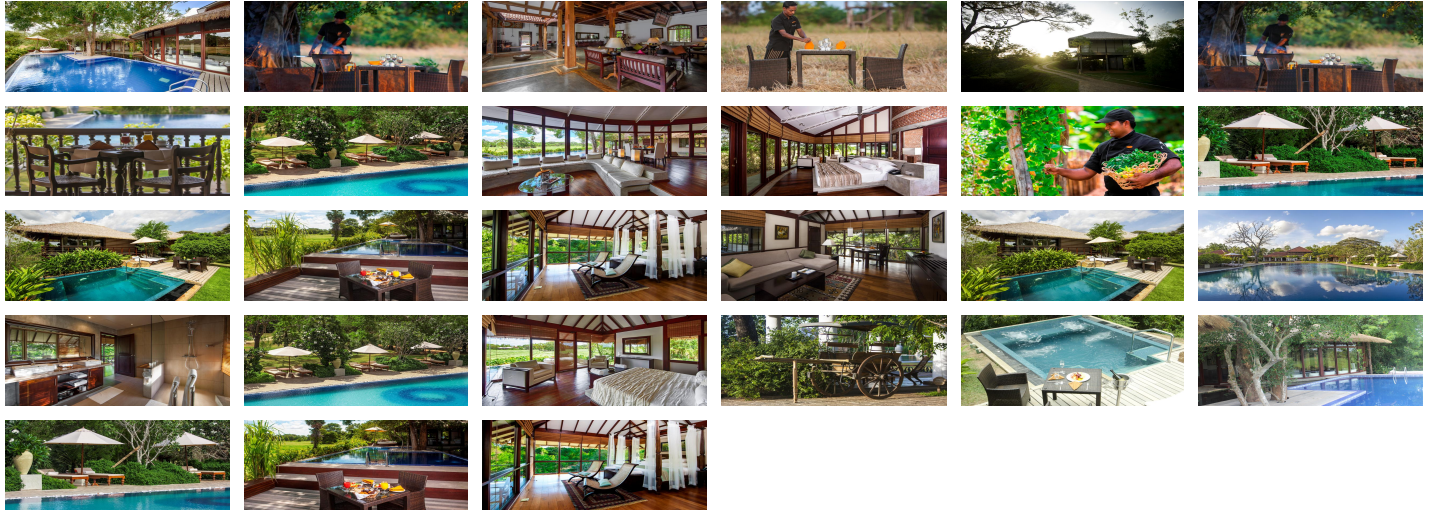


Style & character

9/10

A century-old pillared manor house – once the most important noble seat of the region – is at the heart of the hotel and infuses it with a sense of history. Beautifully renovated, the house is home to the lobby, restaurant and bar, and overlooks a pool and landscaped lawns peppered with mature trees presided over by a troupe of playful grey langur monkeys. The hotel offers contemporary luxuries though has a strong ecological focus – the 20 freestanding chalets are built from local materials to harmonise with their surroundings, wildlife thrives within the grounds and the hotel obtains most of their energy requirements from their own solar farm.





Service & facilities

9/10

Service at Ulagalla is exceptional, and the team use a fleet of golf buggies to whisk you around the resort (though nowhere is more than an easy five-minute walk). A big pool is flanked by well-spaced sun loungers, and next to it, a gym and a spa. There is also a set of riding stables (and some lovely hacks to be had in the surrounding area), a course for archery and two bicycles per bungalow (plus a few kids' bikes) for navigating your way around the resort.

- ✓ Bar
- ✓ Fitness centre
- ✓ Laundry
- ✓ Parking
- ✓ Pool
- ✓ Restaurant
- ✓ Room service
- ✓ Spa
- ✓ Wi-Fi

Rooms

9/₁₀

Accommodation is in the air-conditioned chalets with picture windows overlooking woodland, paddy fields and jungle. They are extremely comfortable and comprise a sleeping area with four-poster king-sized bed, an en-suite bathroom with shower and a separate lounge with cable TV and dining table.

The chalets are equipped with essential amenities, plus jars of homemade biscuits, high-tech lighting and electric safes. All but two have plunge pools and lovely timber decks with loungers-for-two (Chalet 7 is the most private). The rooms are fitted with rattan blinds (only some are lined) so expect the dawn light to creep in early.

Food & drink

9/₁₀

The hotel's restaurant serves very good international fusion cuisine. For a small charge, you can 'destination dine' by the pool, atop an observation deck (also a great place for sunset cocktails) and in a wooded clearing amidst the rice fields. In-chalet dining is also possible. Fresh produce used in cooking comes from the hotel's extensive organic garden (it's well worth a look around), which is also the venue for Sri Lankan cookery demonstrations. There's also a small bar and underground wine cellar. Breakfast allows you to be healthy (fruit, buffalo curd, yoghurt) or more indulgent (Sri Lankan curries, croissants and waffles).

Value for money

8/₁₀

Double rooms from \$388 (£300) in low season; and from \$660 (£511) in high. Breakfast included. Free Wi-Fi.

Access for guests with disabilities?

Yes, two villas have been adapted for guests with disabilities.

Family-friendly?

Yes. Kids of all ages will love roaming the grounds and enjoying the activities; horse riding, archery, nature walks, lake kayaking, cycling and kite making. Rooms can fit cots and one extra bed, at \$70 (£55), for children aged five to 11 years old. There's one spacious two-bedroom chalet.

📍 Thirappane, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.

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