

Sri Lankan Luxury Villa Living

SL BUREAU

Marketing Villas Ltd has spread its wings from Bali, Indonesia to introduce two villas in Sri Lanka. This increasingly attractive segment of the market offers 20% commissions and real time availability to travel agents.

Ambassador's House



With its tree-fringed exterior discreetly opening onto Lighthouse Street in Galle Fort, Ambassador's



House hides its generous proportions well. Step inside, however, and be amazed by the luxurious amount of space this villa offers. Comprising two buildings connected by an inner courtyard garden, the property's thick walls, many archways and ornate plasterwork provide constant reminders of its Dutch colonial origins whilst period furnishings elegantly reflect the era. Airy sofa-filled living spaces beneath soaring timber ceilings, a sound system with speakers built into the rafters and a choice of dining areas from ground to roof level certainly make Ambassador's House a wonderfully historic location for entertaining.



At one time this property was the residence of the

Bangladeshi Ambassador, hence its name. Many functions must surely have been held here and the various living and dining areas are certainly grand enough to host a large group of people. Families and friends will love Ambassador's House for this reason alone but, as well as these big, social spaces it also offers many pockets of privacy for quiet,

restful moments. Polished wood floors offer plenty of pottering space for toddlers, sundappled walkways connect rooms whilst the roof terrace is easily the best place for soaking up the tropical sunshine; think lazy sundrenched afternoons, chilled beers at sunset and

BBQs under a blanket of stars.

The five bedrooms at Ambassador's are also well laid out for families and groups with the two upstairs – a double and a twin – creating an ideal family suite while the three downstairs bedrooms are perfect for couples or older kids since they open directly onto the inviting, elongated plunge pool and living areas.

Ambassador's House comes fully serviced with a cook who prepares meals from a flexible suggestion menu, cleaning staff and a manager whose previous training as a tour guide makes him well qualified to advise or accompany you on trips around Galle and further afield. Galle Fort is literally on your doorstep; this fascinating, four-century-old living museum is scattered with an increasing number of boutiques, restaurants and museums that are best explored on foot.

5 bedrooms, rates start from USD 400 incl. tax and service charge and breakfast
<http://www.ambassadorhouse.com>

Pooja Kanda



From your own little rocky hillock just inland from Koggala, soak up the serenity of this wonderful jungly

location as monkeys swing overhead and birds twitter loudly in the trees. Moss-encrusted boulders, fern-covered rocks and mature hardwood trees envelope the house and give it a woodland feel. The garden is more than two acres in extent, much of it running wild except for a few dappled pathways. On



the lawn at the front of the house a tall jackwood tree is adored by scampering squirrels who provide entertainment as you relax in the comfy chairs on the airy front verandah. To the rear is an inviting turquoise swimming pool built into the rocky hillside and surrounded by tropical vegetation.

Antique furniture gives character to the house whilst its



design reflects the Dutch in Ceylon; tall arched doorways, pillared columns, wide wraparound verandahs and high ceilings are features throughout. Three bedrooms lead off from a first floor balcony which is enhanced by hidden nooks for curling up with a good book whilst the other two bedrooms are on the ground floor a short walkway away from the pool. There's a large open-plan living and dining area that spills onto the front verandah, whilst a small air conditioned TV room with cushioned seating houses a large wide-screen TV and DVD player.

Although the house is completely private on its hilltop, its ambient village setting mean that local sounds drift softly up on the breeze; listen out for the melody of the bread van, for the cries of the fish sellers or of the laughter of children playing nearby. Better still, wander down the driveway to experience it with your eyes as well as your ears, or travel a little further into the busy coastal village of Habaraduwa for a visit to its bustling market (Wednesdays).

Pooja Kanda is fully-serviced by a small staff team who clean and tidy. The cook will make breakfast and any other meal on request, although the kitchen is equipped with everything for self-catering and the staff can shop for you if required (provisions on guest account).

5 bedrooms, rates start from USD 350 incl. tax and service charge and breakfast
<http://www.villapoojakanda.com>