A Castle Above the Clouds, Just an Hour from Colombo: Ayr Castle 1922 by Reveal The Collection

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Ayr Castle 1922 stands majestically amid lush greenery and rolling hills, offering a tranquil retreat in the picturesque landscapes of Padukka./

There are few places in Sri Lanka where you can escape into the atmosphere of the hill country, explore the grounds of a historic castle and, when the mist clears, catch a glimpse of the Colombo skyline.

Perched on a hilltop in Padukka, surrounded by a sprawling rubber estate and rolling green landscapes, Ayr Castle 1922 offers precisely that. Just an hour’s drive from Colombo, it feels a world away from the everyday.

But the story of this remarkable property begins with a love story. Built in 1922, Ayr Castle was the ambitious creation of Scottish-inspired planter J.F. Arley Elford. Hoping to impress and win the heart of his fiancée, Elford set out to build a castle reminiscent of the grand residences of Scotland.

The project consumed nearly a decade of his life. So absorbed was he in bringing his vision to life that his responsibilities as a planter suffered, eventually costing him his job. By the time the castle was completed, he had also lost the woman for whom he had envisioned it. What remained was an extraordinary architectural legacy, built on a story of ambition, devotion and heartbreak.

Constructed entirely of stone, the castle retains its distinctive arches, substantial double walls and old-world architectural character. Antique furnishings and carefully preserved period features give the interiors a sense of timelessness.



The historic stone façade of Ayr Castle 1922.

The castle boasts five spacious suites — the Elford Suite, Edinburgh Suite, Turnberry Suite, Governor’s Suite and Ayr Suite — each thoughtfully named to reflect both the colonial days of Sri Lanka and Scottish inspiration.

The suites feature plush beds, elegantly designed living spaces, luxurious bathrooms with scenic bathtub views, and spacious balconies offering sweeping views of the surrounding hills.

Dining at Ayr Castle is an experience in itself, with a menu that brings together fine dining, an exquisite breakfast selection, local flavors and the essence of Sri Lankan

tea culture.



Personalized hospitality, where guests can unwind beneath historic stone arches while enjoying the tranquil surroundings.

Beyond its architecture, Ayr Castle is a destination for experiences and celebrations. Its elevated setting offers spectacular panoramic views, making it an exceptional setting for marriage proposals, intimate weddings, anniversaries and private celebrations.

Whether it is an intimate dinner overlooking the hills or a special occasion shared with a select group of loved ones, the castle offers a backdrop that is difficult to replicate.

The surrounding estate offers plenty to explore. Guests can enjoy leisurely bicycle rides along the rubber estate, discover the traditional process of rubber tapping, or venture out for a picnic beside a nearby waterfall.

Excursions to Ranmudu Ella and Kumari Ella bring guests closer to the area’s natural beauty, while visits to tea factories in Ingiriya offer a glimpse into Sri Lanka’s plantation heritage and the making of Ceylon Tea.


An elegantly appointed suite.

Ayr Castle 1922 is part of Reveal The Collection, a boutique portfolio by Browns Hotels and Resorts, bringing together distinctive stays in Mirissa, Pussellawa and Padukka.

Each property reflects its own character and sense of place, brought together by the collection’s signature standards of hospitality and personalized experiences.

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