

# Aditya: Step Into Serenity



## **Words Madhushala Senaratne**

Snuggled between the cities of Galle and Hikkaduwa, along the Southern coast, Aditya stands wrapped in luxury and tranquillity. Stepping into this boutique hotel, I am greeted by vast open spaces, where rich, authentic art adorns the mellow walls. With emphasis on space and service, Aditya invites its guests to explore, unwind and enjoy the lavish comforts it offers.

Having opened its doors in 2006, Aditya derives its name from Hindu mythology where it is believed that a group of Hindu deities by the name of Adityas had given the sun its life, energy and character. A total of 12 suites are offered at the boutique hotel, each unique in layout, décor and view, thus, ensuring that guests step into something different each time they visit.

Five suites are located on the top floor. Named 'Sagara' or Ocean Suites, these present picturesque views across the ocean and consist of expansive balconies. The 'Shanthi' or Garden Suites are situated on the ground floor and boast of spacious verandas that open out to private gardens. For guests looking to get away from the ocean, after having spent their day at the beach, this is perhaps ideal. The two suites located on the mezzanine floor present country views, while the Surya Suite, also designed facing the ocean, is a large two-storey penthouse with an open-air terrace.

All rooms, although distinct in character, are equipped with the same facilities including a private plunge pool, large screen TV, DVD/CD player and minibar, among others. Art and antiques from Sri Lanka, the subcontinent and the Far East complete the furnishings of the rooms.

To ensure maximum comfort of the guests, 24-hour services, including all-day dining are offered, says Shamindra Fernando, Director/General Manager of Aditya. Breakfast is served even at 12 noon, while the kitchen is open around the clock.

A meal can be arranged to be served anywhere the guests desire, be it at the

restaurant, beachside, in their rooms, library or poolside. The hotel restaurant offers a cosmopolitan menu, fresh seafood and Sri Lankan cuisine, while wines and cocktails are served at the bar.

Just outside the hotel is a long, secluded stretch of beach, offering guests the opportunity to unwind, or drift in the waters. The hotel also offers a pool, gym and yoga room, as well as spa and a library stocked with an extensive collection of books, movies and music from around the world. A variety of species of birds can be spotted near the poolside, offering a rare treat for the nature lovers. The boutique hotel is also ideal for weddings and private functions.

With the historic town of Galle, just around 20 minutes drive away from the hotel, and the pristine beaches of Hikkaduwa, a mere 10 minutes away, guests will be spoiled for choice. For wildlife enthusiasts, the Udawalawe National Park is not too far away, while the hotel organises excursions to Yala National Park. Tours are also organised to other historic sites in the country such as Kandy. In addition, giving foreign tourists a taste of Sri Lanka, cooking demonstrations are conducted, while visits to the markets are an experience in itself.

In all its endeavours, the Aditya team ensures that the impact on the environment is kept at a minimum. The management also strives to serve the surrounding community through its efforts. Thus, the majority of the staff is from the village itself. The staff is also given training on a regular basis, to maintain good quality and consistency, explains Shamindra.

As for the future, plans are now underway to offer enhanced services to the guests. Expanding the number of suites offered and upgrading the spa are a few such planned activities. Shaminda goes on to add that there is something new to experience at Aditya each time you step into this boutique hotel.

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