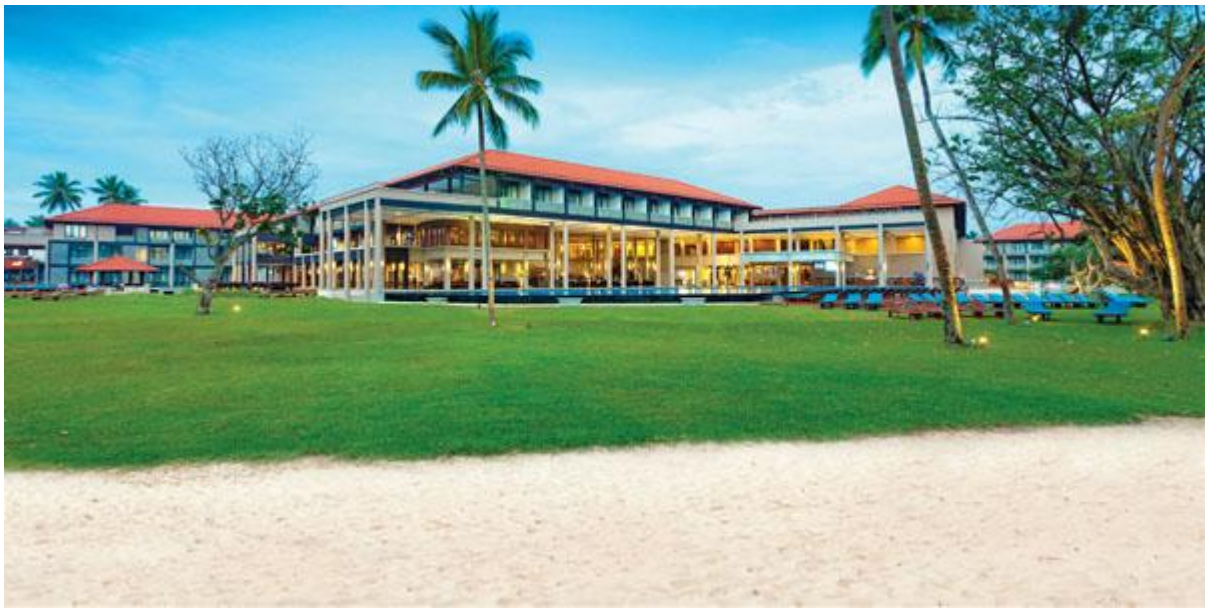
Cinnamon Bey: Entangled in an Arabian Adventure

Posted on



The glittering aquamarine depths of the ocean, the clear azure blue skies above and the magnificent structure that towered before me set the perfect backdrop for a weekend repose. With all these unique charms, Cinnamon Bey, nestled along the coast of Beruwala, presents an idyllic paradise for travellers who seek tranquillity next to the deep blue.

Words Krishani Peiris

Stretched along a narrow 11 acre strip by the Beruwala coast, Cinnamon Bey draws inspiration from the Arabian heritage of Beruwala, which dates back to the Tenth Century. The word ‘Bey’ used to address Turkish nobleman is utilised to emphasise the Turkish architecture and the lavishness associated with Turkish nobility.

Hued in brick red outside, the moment one steps into the reception of the Hotel, spacious walkways and spaces capture the mind while the gaze is instantly drawn towards the shimmering pool, the lush garden and the ocean beyond.

The walls surrounding this area are textured in cement and trellises are employed to divide spaces. Amidst all this, unique decorations of a sea lotus and a sea wave caught in action made out of 90-100 years old wooden boats brought from North takes centre stage, signifying the vibrant nature of Cinnamon Bey. Possessing stunning sights of the ocean and the Beruwala Bay, the swimming area in front of the Hotel is secured by a reef creating a safe natural pool for swimmers.

Arrayed with 200 rooms, which include 170 superior rooms, 28 deluxe rooms and two suites, Cinnamon Bey has ample space to accommodate a multitude of guests. The rooms, spacious in size, combine dark and bright tones with light hues to accentuate the beautiful facets of the Turkish architecture. All rooms have either beautiful vistas of the lush garden or the sparkling ocean and are equipped with a myriad of amenities, which include two designated swimming pools – for superior and deluxe rooms. However, the eight restaurants and bars of Cinnamon Bey designed to oblige all cuisine and beverage cravings of the guests steal the limelight. By name they are Büfe, Fire, 800 degrees, ICE (Ice Cream Emporium), Grain Bar and Lounge, Raw, Rock Salt, Mezz², and Tranquility.

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Büfe is the main restaurant of Cinnamon Bey and serves breakfast, dinner, lunch and also offers an à la carte menu that is available 24 hours a day. At the restaurant the guests can select from a wide range of mouthwatering dishes that encompass Asian to Continental cuisines. Located close to Büfe, Fire features a wood fired stone deck that enable the guests to enjoy a variety of grilled dishes amidst a colourful and vibrant setting. 800 degrees, also located nearby, is a restaurant that specialises in pizzas and presents many signature dishes for pizza lovers. Also found on the ground level, ICE consists of an ice cream, sorbet and frozen yoghurt menu of nearly 70-80 delectable flavours.

Located on the first floor, Grain Bar and Lounge allow the guests to enjoy a wide range of beverages while gazing onto the picturesque landscape outside. Walk out of Fire and onto the terrace where Raw serves sushi or sashimi dishes that comprise of fresh sea food. Another door positioned at one corner of Raw leads to Rock Salt, where the guests can enjoy a unique experience. Here guests are given either a hot stone or a salt tablet with the necessary ingredients to create their own medley or even a signature dish from the menu. Mezz², arrayed with an Arabian menu, let guests experience a delicious range of Arabic dishes while seated in the comforts of

a private tent overlooking the surrounding panorama. Last but not least, Tranquility located out on the grounds offers a variety of spa cuisines.

Cinnamon Bey’s Azmaara Spa housed with experienced Balinese therapists presents the guests an opportunity to indulge in soothing spa rituals with six treatment rooms, one steamer and even a sauna. Stunning water ways decorate the surrounding environs and guests can immerse themselves in the treatments that revitalise their body and mind. Next to the Spa, the Fitness centre permits guests to exercise. Not with stopping there the Cinnamon Bey also has a conference hall that can accommodate 250 guests and is planning on opening an archery and rifle firing range in the near future. For visitors who seek adventure and excitement the Hotel arranges a variety of activities such as water sports and excursions to nearby tourist hot spots such as the Mask Museum in Ambalangoda and Turtle Hatchery to name a few.

Located a mere one and half hour drive from Colombo, Cinnamon Bey offers an ideal location to enjoy a tranquil vacation. And gazing out into the lovely vistas that accompany the Hotel, I was mesmerised by the beauty that was before me.

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