



21st Century Innovation
16th Century Address

DUTCH BAY RESORTS: A VISION REALISED

Dutch Bay Resorts, the newest tourism development in northwestern Sri Lanka, is the outcome of an inspired vision by a Sri Lankan, Neil D'Silva, who -- after starting his career as a receptionist at Triton Hotel and graduating from Taj International Hotels -- emigrated to Bahrain and became a very successful hotelier, realtor and property writer. His regular real estate columns and articles were featured throughout Bahrain, Doha and the UAE.

Wanting to create his own tourist enterprise he searched sites in Spain, Italy and Indonesia before discovering an opportunity in his homeland. Proposing his concept to four European friends he secured and bought 184 acres of freehold land on Dutch Bay Island, near Kalpitiya, at a time when the area was riddled by war.

It took nine years for his dream to come true with the opening in 2013 of Dutch Bay Resorts, 16 solid white-painted clay brick chalets like Dutch-style Lagoon Lodges, deep in a mangrove jungle where the lagoon laps the shore.

A huge glass door on the wooden deck of each Lodge swings open to reveal a room of startling white-painted, unplastered brick (manufactured in clay works in

Kalpitiya and Anamaduwa of Puttalam district). The bed, at seven feet by seven feet built of solid mahogany and raised to waist height for easy sliding under the luxury linen duvet, has a mattress that promises guests a great night's sleep.

The Lodge's interior is sensibly designed with television and DVD player at the foot of the bed, a dressing alcove with plenty of shelves, drawers and hanging space, with a full length mirror. There is a minibar, a safe, free Wi-fi and satellite channels. The customised cosmetic line, bathrobes and carpet slippers accentuate the luxury within the Island hideaway concept that Neil and his team want guests to experience.

The bathroom is as brilliantly white as the rest of the Lodge with an individual solar power heating unit, a rain shower, two wash basins, and super soft white towels, each with the Dutch Bay logo in gold of a shield with ponies rampant topped with a crown. The ponies acknowledge the wild ones that roam the island, while the crown commemorates the ancient kings of Kandy and the Portuguese, then the Dutch, who settled the island, built churches (there's a ruined one to be seen) and forts.

There is a recreation complex fronted by a saltwater swimming pool and with a restaurant serving delicious fusion seafood (no pork or beef).

In spite of the difficulties of construction (with everything having to be ferried in by tractor when the tide was low as only a sand bar provided vehicular access from Kalpitiya), Neil D'Silva is keen to get on with the development of Dutch Bay Island. Phase Two is for 100 signature villas complemented by a magnificent town centre, a reproduction Dutch Fort as a reminder of the past, a golf course and club house. The final phase will see the addition of a Marina and a Yacht Club.

Of prime importance in the development will not only be the preservation of the area's rich biodiversity but also the bringing of prosperity to the rural area, supporting local industry and creating not just jobs but career opportunities as well.

It's not awards from Trip Advisor that Neil D'Silva deserves for making Dutch Bay Resorts a reality; he merits an award for Social Empowerment. Through realising his dream he has changed for the better the lives of the neglected people of the area. His idea of sustainable tourism is giving them, and generations to come, a future.



Dutch Bay Resorts, Dutch Bay Island, Kalpitiya. | Web: www.dutchbayresorts.com



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DUTCH BAY RESORTS KALPITIYA

A VIRGIN DESTINATION TO BE DISCOVERED..

For bookings: www.dutchbayresorts.com