



LUXURY HOLIDAYS IN THE
LUSH TEA COUNTRY OF SRI LANKA



RESPLENDENT CEYLON

RESORTS TRAILS & RESIDENCES



Resplendent Ceylon, the leisure arm of family tea company Dilmah, is creating a collection of small luxury resorts that offer a unique trail across Sri Lanka. The goal is to offer the upscale traveller a range of experiences linked to Sri Lanka's history, culture and nature. www.resplendenceceylon.com

On a stunning Indian Ocean headland near Galle, **Cape Weligama** is a luxe cliffside retreat with 39 private residences and villas, designed by renowned Thai architect Lek Bunnag. Each of the spacious villas is surrounded by a flower-filled garden, 15m infinity edge pool and attended to by a private butler.



Wild Coast Lodge, Yala end 2016

A luxurious camp on a secluded beach in the Yala National Park, a Leopard hotspot in southeastern Sri Lanka. 28 custom designed, air-conditioned 45m² tents with a 25m² deck, offer the adventure of a jungle camp with the comfort of a deluxe hotel room.



Sigiriya 2017

A 30 suite retreat designed by renowned architect Lek Bunnag, in an ancient forest, near the World Heritage Sigiriya Rock Fortress. The suites overlook a private lake and mountains.



Red Rocks Beach Camp, Trincomalee 2017

A family oriented, 28 room luxury resort that sits on a stunning stretch of flat white sand that runs 10km down the coast to Nilaveli, near the famed seaport of Trincomalee in northeastern Sri Lanka. The resort is inspired by organic forms to create amazing tensile membrane structures





View across the valley from Norwood bungalow



Preparing for afternoon tea in the Tientsin gardens



“Not often is it that men have heart when their one great industry is withered, to rear up in a few years another as rich to take its place, and the tea fields of Ceylon are as true a monument to courage as is the lion at Waterloo”

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes

Ceylon Tea Country

Conan Doyle refers to the heroics of the early Ceylon planters and the disasters they overcame to mould the present tea industry. In 1865 the coffee plantations in the Central Highlands were devastated by blight. The plucky planters fought back and planted tea. From utter despair and penury to endless green acres. Over 2000 square kilometres of rolling green hills now annually produce over 300 million kilograms of the famous Ceylon Tea.

Here in solitude at an altitude of 1250m, lies Ceylon Tea Trails, four colonial era tea planters' bungalows infused with a new and decidedly gourmet vibe. Each villa, built between 1888 and 1950, offers a taste of gracious living thanks to butler service & period furnishings, accompanied by gourmet cuisine.

The Central Highlands is now a World Heritage Site, with breathtaking views of mountain ranges and ravines, of winding roads and waterfalls. It is home to the holy mountain Adam's Peak, which holds significance to Buddhists, Muslims and Christians alike. Almost daily, hundreds of devotees make the three-hour trek to the peak, climbing thousands of steps to welcome the dawn - one of the most spectacular sights in Sri Lanka.

The World's First Tea Bungalow Resort

Ceylon Tea Trails, Sri Lanka's first Relais & Chateaux resort, comprises four luxurious colonial era tea planters' bungalows, connected by walking trails through stunningly beautiful Ceylon tea gardens.

Each of the four bungalows is different. Summerville with an air of a country cottage, Castlereagh with an eclectic style of its own, the high colonial Tientsin, one of the first planter's residences to be built in Ceylon and the more modern Norwood; abounding with 50's character. 21 exquisite rooms and suites in all. Follow the Tea Trail from one unique bungalow to the next, staying a night or two at each or just laze in one.

This is the ideal setting for trekking and biking against the breathtaking backdrop of mountains, lakes, winding roads and waterfalls. If you prefer to unwind, observe life on a working tea estate while being pampered by your butler, enjoy a spa treatment, croquet on the lawn or sunbathe alongside the pool. Or explore the lush tea fields & visit a century old factory for a gentle education in the art of Ceylon Tea.

Rates at Tea Trails are fully inclusive of gourmet meals and drinks, including top shelf spirits and wines. Even service charges, taxes and laundry are included. We won't bother you with bills...

At Tea Trails, we promise you an unforgettable holiday that will rejuvenate your spirit in the heart of the magical world of Ceylon tea.





Bungalow Ambiance

Summerville and Castlereagh are situated opposite each other on the shores of the Castlereagh lake, Norwood is at the other end of the valley about 15 minutes away by car and Tientsin is about 30 minutes away in the next valley. Each bungalow comes with its own manager, chef, butler and houseboys and from 4 to 6 rooms each. Master Suites with a separate living room and private gardens, Garden Suites with verandahs to private gardens and spacious Luxury Rooms of great character.

Relax in immense four-poster beds, crisp white sheets. 21 elegant and charming rooms and suites decorated each in a unique style, ranging from neo-colonial to classic English. Rooms are named after past tea planter occupants. Heritage with a contemporary style and non-hotel, private house ambiance is the hallmark of the Tea Trails experience.

Life in all its variety is played out in the living rooms. Pale tones and natural wood create equilibrium in the midst of a hectic life. Each bungalow has many sitting areas, old wooden desks to write postcards with real stamps and not just email. Silk cushions, regency stripped footstools, huge spaces warmed by roaring log fires. Mulled wine or the finest spirits, a drink that thrills the heart. Old books, old prints, antique maps, rooms filled with flowers in vibrant colours. Wide verandahs. Time for relaxing on cushioned cane chairs, waited on hand and foot by the discreet butler. Long expanses of slate to spend long afternoons with a gimlet, white wine and cucumber sandwiches or freshly roasted cashews, your butler at your beck and call. Watch the lake and study the garden bees, while reading Somerset Maugham.



Norwood Bungalow

Built 1890 Rebuilt 1950, Altitude 4300 ft, 6 bedrooms

Abounding with 50's character

MASTER SUITE
Hazel

GARDEN SUITES
Irvine, Andrew, Trevaldwyn

LUXURY ROOMS
Jeffery, Wyatt

SWIMMING POOL

SUMMER HOUSE

CROQUET

LIBRARY

CONSERVATORY

GARDEN DINING

IN-ROOM SPA TREATMENTS

The bungalow at Norwood commands a fine view of the eastern end of the Bogawantalawa valley and rests in the shelter of one of the finest bamboo stands to be found anywhere.

The suites are oversized with imposing colonial style furniture, some with four-poster beds and very elegant bathrooms. A spacious lounge, conservatory and well-stocked library lead out to a croquet lawn, a large swimming pool and sun deck. It is here where planters of the past invited friends to enjoy the pristine air and glorious outlook.

You too can wander the gardens unchanged since yesteryear, soaking up the atmosphere of a time gone by.





Tientsin Bungalow

Built 1888, Altitude 4600 ft, 6 bedrooms

High colonial

MASTER SUITE
Irvine-Stewart

GARDEN SUITES
Bretherton, Moir, Fraser

LUXURY ROOMS
Brebham, Meares

SWIMMING POOL

TENNIS COURT

GARDEN DINING

LIBRARY

IN-ROOM SPA TREATMENTS

Step into the world of Tientsin and step back in time. Named after the Chinese village from which the original tea seedlings came, this very British residence is a historical landmark. Six glorious rooms and suites open onto magnificent English gardens still standing loyal to the colonial planters' wives who created 'a little bit of home' in a far away land.

Wander the glorious rose terraces and hide away under a leafy arbour to the myriad sounds of the many birds that make their homes there. Each suite too is faithful to the original design with polished wooden floors and high ceilings; some with four-poster beds. A large swimming pool and raised garden offers panoramic views of the tea-carpeted mountains that lead towards the World Heritage Horton Plains National Park.





Castlereagh Bungalow

Built 1925, Altitude 4025 ft, 5 bedrooms

An eclectic style of its own

Travellers approaching Castlereagh from the road can glimpse tantalising views across the lake of this magnificent symbol of the glory days of colonial life.

Nestled in a wooded dell close to the water, this century old bungalow offers unrivalled water views and superb garden suites to suit every taste. Elegant parquet floors all around with open fireplaces in the dining and drawing rooms, evoke recollections of the life and times of the tea planters who once lived here.

In the extensive grounds summerhouses can be found where tea is served and a good book enjoyed until the sun goes down over the water and it's time for sundowners on the terrace.

GARDEN SUITES
Baker, Alston, Palmer, Jamieson

LUXURY ROOMS
Tate

SWIMMING POOL

SUMMER HOUSES

CROQUET

LIBRARY

GARDEN DINING

IN-ROOM SPA TREATMENTS





Summerville Bungalow

Built 1923, Altitude 4000 ft, 4 bedrooms

The air of a country cottage

High above the lake at the edge of a tea plantation, Summerville stands sentinel. This smallest of the four bungalows enjoys magnificent views of the water and beyond to tea planted mountains in the distance.

Some suites open to private gardens and all accommodations have easy access to the cozy lounge where picture windows provide a backdrop to a roaring fire as the evening mist draws in.

Summerville offers individual accommodation or the entire bungalow can be booked for a group to enjoy the very personal atmosphere of this great house.

MASTER SUITE
Shuttleworth

GARDEN SUITES
Garnet, Goddard

LUXURY ROOM
Middleton

SWIMMING POOL

SUMMER HOUSE

SUNBATHING DECK

GARDEN DINING

IN-ROOM SPA TREATMENTS





Fine Cuisine



The day at Tea Trails starts with that wonderful colonial institution, Bed Tea. Served by your butler as part of a gentle wake-up call, this must be the most civilised way to start the day. Then an early morning walk followed by an English or Sri Lankan breakfast.

A unique aspect of Tea Trails' cuisine is the use of fresh, home grown herbs, vegetables and teas from the surrounding estates. Basil, rosemary, thyme, tarragon, sage, parsley and mint inspire and enliven the chef's menus every day: Broccoli with roasted almond soup with blue cheese. Keemun tea and fresh tarragon infused roasted chicken with braised curly cabbage and baby carrot. Oyster mushroom soup with garden fresh basil pesto. Moroccan mint tea crusted lamb rump steak with grilled herb polenta and roasted peppers in tamarind sauce. Zucchini and pumpkin frittata with rocket and pine nut salad.

Desserts are unashamedly luscious: Orange and lime cheese cake with cinnamon rhubarb. Apple tart with Assam tea cream anglaise. Cinnamon tea poached pears with butter scotch ice cream. Passion fruit pannacotta with minted citrus fruit salad. Banana and sultana compote served with Hibiscus sorbet.

Tea Trails is all about the time-honoured planters' traditions: Roaring fires and the comfort of a single malt whisky while the mists roll in or a stiff gin and tonic after a long day's walk in the tea gardens, accompanied by the spicy flavours of Sri Lankan nibbles to stimulate the appetite. A fabulously aromatic, authentic Sri Lankan rice and curry for lunch — a definite harbinger of the afternoon siesta. Scrumptious afternoon high teas in gardens curiously English and exotic at the same time. A four-course dinner that is at once contemporary and colonial with its garden-fresh ingredients married with choice wines, best shared in good company. *Rates include all food & drinks, no bills to sign.*

Around the Bungalow and Gardens

Sweeping lawns and swimming pools. English gardens filled with roses, dew filled agapanthus and spring crocus. Tea on the lawn with Dundee cake, scones, strawberries and cream or lunch alfresco by the pool, a 180 degree view of the viridian lake and mountains behind, a summerhouse to meditate in or watch the forest wagtail flit from tree to tree. An in-room pampering spa treatment by expert therapists. Tennis, swimming, croquet and classic board games all come together for a leisurely lifestyle.

The English love of gardens has left its stamp on the lovely old colonial tea planters bungalows that dot Sri Lanka's tea country. Tea Trail's four colonial bungalows are no exception to this legacy. Complementing the magnificent vistas of lakes, hills, valleys and lush tea plantations are the bungalows' own charming gardens. They are at once very English and yet entrancingly exotic.

Visitors to Tea Trails have the glorious stands of giant bamboo at Norwood to admire, or the profusion of wild banks of Anthuriums, Agapanthus Salvias, Chrysanthemums, Daisies and Lilies that tumble down the slopes of Tientsin.

Ceylon Jungle Fowl. Parrots, House Sparrows, Doves, Coucal, Mynahs, Sunbirds, Honey Suckers, Flower Peckers, Streaked-throated Woodpecker, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Common Kingfisher, Oriental Magpie Robin are some of the birds found in our gardens.





The Tea Experience

The essential Tea Trails experience. Our Resident Tea Planter will show you first hand the age-old tea making process. First, follow the trail of the planters of old Ceylon, as they trekked through the dense jungle looking for the best slopes on which to plant tea. Then on to watch the tea pluckers pick two leaves and a bud with deft hands.

Then to the factory where the all-important conversion to “made” black tea happens. The machinery used is of very traditional British design, some as old as 100 years.

The process is a very artisanal one, unchanged for a century. The complimentary tour ends with a tasting of different grades of this great brew.

Taken together with tea infused cuisine, tea based spa treatments and trekking trails that traverse tea blanketed hills, you can literally lose yourself in tea.

You will leave Tea Trails with a newly found appreciation of this wonder herb “*Camellia Sinensis*” & the terroir of Ceylon Tea.

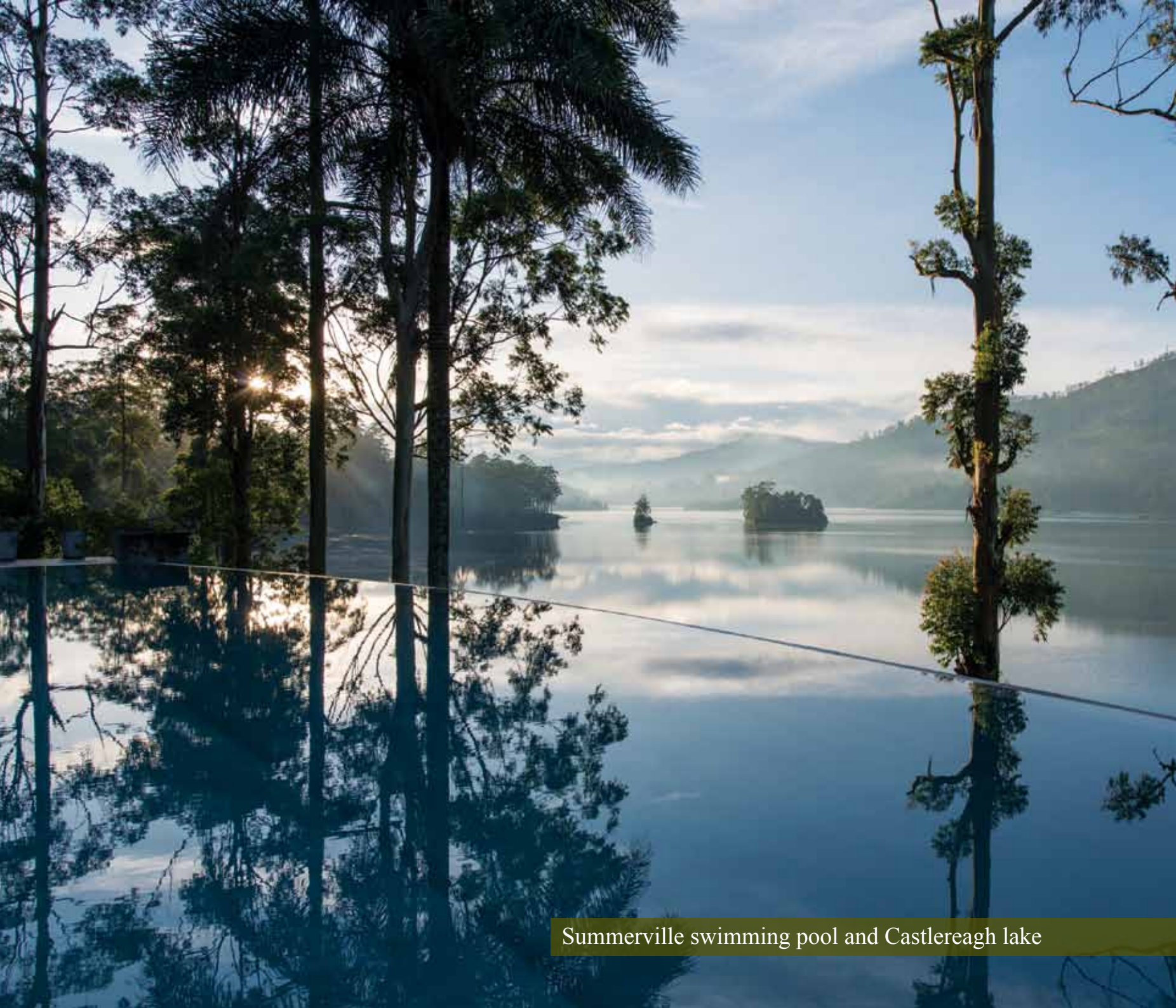
Activities and Excursions

Ceylon Tea Trails has opened up a world of adventure and discovery in the Bogawantalawa Valley. The pristine trails through immaculate tea gardens, at an altitude of over 1500 metres, provide a wide array of walks, adventure trails and mountain bike rides for different levels of ability. Trained guides are available and most trails are marked. The unspoiled beauty of the surrounding valleys and hills offer an unparalleled experience with vistas of mountain lakes, the verdant, beautifully manicured hillside tea gardens, forests and doll's house villages. Or kayak on the Castlereagh lake. with glorious emerald mountains surroundings.

Tea Trails is the ideal basecamp for a dawn expedition to climb the famed 2250m Adam's Peak holy mountain. The Peak has been an object of worship & pilgrimage by kings and commoners for centuries. Or take a day trip to the UNESCO World Heritage sacred city of Kandy, the 16th Century capital city, steeped in political, cultural and religious history. Visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic (the sacred tooth of the Buddha), a famous pilgrimage site.

Further afield, rafting on the white water is popular in Kitulgala. Avid golfers can play at the 117-year old 18-hole championship golf course in Nuwara Eliya, also known as "Little England". The World Heritage Horton Plains National Park is Sri Lanka's highest plateau at an altitude of 2300 metres. The Park is home to a wide variety of flora and 24 species of mammal such as elk, deer, giant squirrel, wild boar, wild hare, porcupine and the occasional leopard. For bird enthusiasts, there are 87 species.





Summerville swimming pool and Castlereaigh lake

Tea Trails is part of Resplendent Ceylon, the luxury resort arm of Dilmah Tea.

BUSINESS IS A MATTER OF HUMAN SERVICE

Dilmah is the world's first ethically made tea; earnings from its global sales remain in Sri Lanka and are shared with workers and the community, and re-invested in the industry to make tea sustainable. The success of this family business has been in caring for the workers who produce Dilmah as much as it cares for its customers.



www.dilmahtea.com

MJF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Funded by the Dilmah family and revenue from sales of Dilmah & our hotels, the MJF Foundation designs, funds and implements over 150 projects each year. Fulfilling Dilmah Founder Merrill J. Fernando's personal pledge to care and share, the Foundation changes the lives of over 10,000 people each year through education, housing, welfare and empowerment programmes. Its schools offer education, scholarships and care to over 6,500 children and the Foundation's Small Entrepreneur Programme has been hailed as an example of empowerment with dignity.



www.mjffoundation.org

DILMAH CONSERVATION

Fully funded by Dilmah and hotel revenues, Dilmah Conservation extends the credo that business must go beyond commercial objectives. Formed with the involvement of IUCN – the International Union for the Conservation of Nature – Dilmah Conservation strives to ensure the sustainable interaction of man and his natural environment. Through its programmes in the areas of habitat and species conservation, ecosystem restoration, environmental education and protection of biodiversity and indigenous communities, a firm commitment to sustainability in every part of the Dilmah business is complemented by a substantial effort to protect the environment.



www.dilmahconservation.org

Ceylon Tea is still hand-picked to ensure the two leaves & bud essential for its quality





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