

Directions to and from Amba Estate

Please note: Amba is remote – 10-15km from either Bandarawela or Ella, depending on the route. And from either direction, the last 6km is a very small windy country road, followed by 1km of concrete track and 300 meters of cobbled-stone road. Since the guesthouse is newly opened, most drivers refuse to believe that there is actually a guesthouse there, and they will stop 100 times to ask directions along the way! If possible, please print these directions, reassure your driver that you have clear written directions, and be patient!

From Bandarawela:

1. By car - Journey time: 30 minutes.

From Bandarawela Railway Station, take the Poonagala Road. Drive past Nayabedde Tea Estate, Craig Tea Estate and a Hindu temple on the left hand side. Soon after the 10km marker, there is small road forking left with signs for “Morning Mist” and “Hideaway” guesthouses. Take this left fork. A few hundred meters further, when the road forks again, take the left fork. Continue for another 2km, past a small reservoir on the left and through a eucalyptus forest. At the next fork in the road, take the right fork (again signed for Morning Mist). Follow this road downhill into Ambadandegama valley, passing Hideaway on the right. After 2km, cross the narrow bridge over the river in the bottom of the valley. Continue through the village uphill for about 1km until you see a green bus shelter on the left. Turn left onto the small concrete road which has a sign for “Morning Mist” guesthouse. Go past Morning Mist on your left and continue until the concrete road becomes a cobbled track. Continue along the track for 2-300m. You will then see Amba Estate Farmhouse, with a green roof and yellow trim, and the gate to the Estate is clearly marked.

2. By trishaw: Cost will be between 900-1000Rs. Journey time: 30-40 minutes

You can pick up a trishaw outside Bandarawela railway station. Ask the driver to take you to Ambadandegama village (off the Poonagala Road, after Craig Estate). After crossing the river in Ambadandegama village, go uphill for about 1km until you see a green bus shelter on the left. Turn left onto the small concrete road which has a sign for “Morning Mist” guesthouse. Go past Morning Mist on your left and continue until the concrete road becomes a cobbled track. Continue along the track for 2-300m. You will then see Amba Estate Farmhouse, with a green roof and yellow trim, and the gate to the Estate is clearly marked.

3. By Bus: Cost 34Rs. Journey time: 40-50 minutes

Red CTC bus: take bus number 205 to Ambadandegama from outside the railway station.

Bus times from Bandarawela: 6am, 7am, 8am, 10am, 11.30am, 12.45pm, 2.30pm (this is the school bus and likely to be packed) 4.30pm, 5.50pm **LAST BUS:** 6.30pm

Private Bus: There are 3 private buses that leave from the centre of Bandarawela, on the main Badulla Road, opposite HNB Bank. Bus times: 9am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm.

After crossing the river in Ambadandegama village and going uphill for about 1km, get off the bus at the green bus shelter. Walk up the concrete road (past the sign for “Morning Mist”) for about 10 minutes. Go past Morning Mist on your left and continue until the concrete road becomes a cobbled track. Continue along the track for 2-300m. You will then see Amba Estate Farmhouse, with a green roof and yellow trim, and the gate to the Estate is clearly marked.

NOTE: If you get lost, ask to be directed/taken to Ambadandegama village, and then to Morning Mist guesthouse, which most people know. Go past Morning Mist until the concrete road becomes a cobbled track. Continue along the track for 2-300m. You will then see Amba Estate Farmhouse, with a green roof and yellow trim.

From Ella:

1. By Car/Trishaw – Journey time: 30-40 minutes

From the centre of Ella, take the Wellawaya Road. Drive past the base of the Ravana-Ella Waterfall. Keep going for another 2km until you see a sign for “Planters Bungalow” and a small road off to the right with a green bus shelter on the corner. (Note if you miss the turn off, you will get to the Ella Adventure centre and will have gone too far!). Turn right up this road. Go past the turn off for Planters Bungalow, and keep winding up the mountain for about 4km. At the top, you reach a T-junction. Turn right at the junction. Go downhill for about 1km until you see another green bus shelter on the right. Just before this bus shelter turn right onto a concrete road with a sign for “Morning Mist”. Go past Morning Mist on your left and continue until the concrete road becomes a cobbled track. Continue along the track for 2-300m. You will then see Amba Estate Farmhouse, with a green roof and yellow trim, and the gate to the Estate is clearly marked

From Wellawaya (and all points South – Galle, Matara, Yala, Hambantota, HRI, etc.)

1. By Car/Trishaw – Journey time: 40 minutes

Please note: if coming from the South Coast (Galle, Yala, Udawalawe, HRI Airport, etc.) via Wellawaya, the turn-off for Amba is about **10km before Ella** – most drivers insist on driving to Ella first and then asking directions. This will add more than 1 hour to your journey, so please use these directions, and take the turning 10km before Ella!

From the centre of Wellawaya, take the Ella Road. Drive up the Ella Road for 17km past both entrances to the Ella Adventure centre. Keep going for a short while until you see a sign for “Planters Bungalow” and a green bus shelter on the left of the road. Take this sharp left turn and follow the directions as above. If you get to the base of Ravanna-Ella Waterfall, you have gone too far.

Travelling to Bandarawela from Ambadandegama.

It takes about 10 minutes to walk down our bumpy concrete road to the green bus shelter on the main road, where you can catch a bus.

TIMES: 5.30 am, 6.15 am, 7.30 am, 7.50am, 8.30am, 9.30am, 10.50am, 11.20am, 1.00pm, 1.50pm, 2.30pm, 3.40pm, 4.20pm **LAST BUS:** 5.30pm

There are one or two local trishaw drivers but they are not always available and must be organised in advance.

Travelling from Colombo to Bandarawela:

1. **By road – Journey time:** 6 hours
Take the A4 to Avisavella, Ratnapura, Balangoda and Beragala. Then take the A16 to Haputale and Bandarawela.
2. **By Train – Journey time:** 8-9 hours.
Cost: 400Rs for 2nd class, 700Rs for 1st class, 1750+Rs for Exporail or Rajadhani carriages

From Colombo Fort railway station take the Badulla Train. Trains depart Colombo at 05.55, 09.45 and 20.00. Regular tickets can only be purchased at the Railway Station. To get a seat it's best to book in advance. The deluxe "Expo Rail" and "Rajadhani Express" carriages can be booked online at www.exporail.lk or www.blueline.lk

3. **By Bus - Journey time:** 6-7 hours. **Cost:** Around 300Rs
Bus number: 99 to Badulla (bus number is the same for private/public/a/c)

There are two bus stations in Pettah one is for public (red) buses and the other for private, semi-luxury and a/c busses. They are close to each other on different sides of the road. Any trishaw/taxi will know where they are.

The A/C buses are small, relatively comfortable and are more direct. The journey time is around 6 hours. The cost is around 450Rs. The only thing to be aware of is that these buses will WAIT until they are full before leaving so you can end up sitting and waiting on the bus for up to an hour before it departs.

Buses start from around 4am and run at about 15 min intervals until about 11pm.

Travelling to Colombo from Bandarawela:

1. **By Train – Journey time:** 8-9 hours.
Cost: 400Rs for 2nd class, 700Rs for 1st class, 1750+Rs for Exporail or Rajadhani carriages

There are 4 trains at about 7am, 10am, 11.30am and 7pm. Regular tickets can only be purchased at the Railway Station. To get a seat it's best to book in advance. The deluxe "Expo Rail" and "Rajadhani Express" carriages can be booked online at www.exporail.lk or www.blueline.lk

2. **By Bus - Journey time:** 6-7 hours. **Bus number:** 99 (from Badulla) **Cost:** Around 300Rs (A/C buses cost 450Rs and should take 6 hours but they may also be as full as other buses so it can be best to simply jump on the first bus to arrive rather than waiting)

Buses leave Bandarawela from near the main roundabout on the road in front of the railway station. Buses start from around 4am and run at about 15 min intervals until about 11pm.