

The Elephant & Wildlife Trail

Day 01 Airport / Sri Lanka

Day 02 Colombo / Anuradhapura

Welcome and assistance at the airport on arrival. Transfer to Anuradhapura. En-route have lunch at Diyadahara. Transfer to Palm Garden Village Hotel, Anuradhapura for dinner & over night stay. Evening at leisure.

Day 03 Anuradhapura/ Jungle Trek & Bird Watching

After early breakfast depart to the ancient ruined city of Anuradhapura. Excavation at Anuradhapura confirms that human settlements began here before 500 bc. It remained the capital of Sri Lanka for 1400 years until the 10th century ad while most of the western countries except for the Mediterranean countries were emerging from the late stone age. The island was one of the main trade centuries of the world. Its ruins are second to only the mighty pyramids of Egypt. Also Anuradhapura boasts of the oldest historically documented tree on earth, the sacred "Sri Maha Bodhiya" which has been worshipped by devotees for no less than twenty centuries. This was a sapling brought to the island from India by Theri Sangamiththa, the daughter of Emperor Ashoka as a token of goodwill from the very tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment. Thereafter proceed to Palm Garden Village Hotel, Anuradhapura for lunch (or else have picnic lunch), thereafter, proceed to forest by bull carts(half a day trip). Starting point is right behind the hotel where the tank is. Proceed to jungle where you can see lot of birds, small lakes and visit one of the oldest temples in the area. Picnic lunch by the side of the lake. After lunch visit a paddy field and proceed to the hotel. en-route visit "arboretum" where you can see collection of indigenous trees in Sri Lanka. Transfer to Palm Garden Hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 04 Anuradhapura/Bird Watching & Jungle Trek

After breakfast depart for Giritale. Lunch at Royal Lotus Hotel. After lunch trek to Giritale Forest close to the hotel. Trekking along around this jungle route, the chances of seeing elephants is very good. There is also an abundance of bird life around this area to watch (2 hours) & then transfer to the Royal Lotus Hotel for dinner & overnight stay.

Day 05 Giritale /Minneriya

After breakfast depart to Polonnaruwa which has its own share of fabulous buddhist architecture and an irrigation network that had been built up over the centuries including the famous minneriya tanks from the 3rd century a.d Transfer to hotel for lunch after which proceed to Minneriya jungle by 4x4 jeeps. Here you can see elephants & endemic birds of Sri Lanka. Thereafter transfer to hotel for dinner & over night stay.

Day 06 Giritale/ Elephant Ride/ Wasgomuwa /Giritale

After early breakfast enjoy an elephant ride. Thereafter depart to Wasgomuwa National Park. Wasgomuwa, the only national park in the central province, is the ideal rendezvous for the weary traveler and the nature lover to meet with mother nature. Wasgomuwa is in the eastern division of Matale East, in Laggala Pallesiya Patuwa.

Wasgomuwa is the home of orchids, the most eye catching being the fox tail orchid cascading from the trunks of trees from a considerable height in the shape of a bushy tail of a fox. This is also the home for the divers varieties of plants, specially of medical value like, "bim khomba" a kilo of which has a market price of around us \$14.0. Species of Sri Lanka mammals have been observed in the park, the king of the forest, the elephant too is found here, numbering a population approximately 150. Additionally, wild buffaloes, sambhur, spotted deer, sloth bear, wild boar, porcupines and crocodiles roam in the water holes of the park, Sri Lanka has 428 species of birds and of them 143 species live in the park. Eight species are endemic to Sri Lanka. Additionally, eight species of amphibians, 17 species of reptiles, seventeen species of fish and fifty species of butterflies and peacocks inhabit this land mass. Return to the hotel for lunch. dinner & overnight stay at Royal Lotus Hotel.

Day 07 Giritale/Sigiriya /Spice Garden & Batik factory

After early breakfast climb the Sigiriya Rock Fortress, the world famous 82 meters high rock built by King Kashayapa in the 5th century a.d. In fear of his brother after commenting patricide. The first thing that comes to mind at the mention of Sigiriya is the phenomenal 15 centuries old frescoes of the sky maidens. The graphite written on the wall highly polished to a mirrored surface with egg white and lime still gleams even after 1500 years. Sigiriya means lion's throat because the original stairway to the top of the rock was through the gaping jaws of a sculptured lion, which is now partly ruined. The symmetrically planned ornamental water garden with its still functioning fountains surrounding the rock is the oldest surviving landscape gardening in asia. Part of the moat that surrounded the fortress is still in existence. Thereafter depart visit a spice garden & a batik factory. Lunch at spice garden at Matale. Arrive at Hunas Falls Hotel Kandy. On arrival you will be welcomed with a welcome cocktail. Dinner & over night stay at Hunas Hotel, Kandy.

Day 08 Kandy /Peradeniya/Pinnawala/Kandy Temple

After breakfast proceed to Peradeniya and visit the Royal Botanical Gardens, established in 1816, as a coffee and cinnamon plantation is now stocked with a vast variety of exotic flora from all over the world. Lunch at Elephant Bay, Pinnawala. After lunch visit the elephant orphanage at Pinnawala. It's most interesting to see the baby elephants being bottle fed by the visitors. At bath time the babies with the adults have fun and frolic in the Mahaweli River. Transfer to hotel, Kandy. Evening tour of the city of Kandy, the hill capital of Sri Lanka from 1590 for 225 years. Kandy is famous to the world as the place where the sacred tooth relic of the Buddha is kept in the "dalada maligawa". In addition to this, a treasure trove of priceless ola leaf manuscripts and other treasures such as the miniature Buddha carved out of a single emerald and a Buddha cut

out of a single block of rock crystal is preserved. Evening visit to this sacred temple is followed by a Kandyan dance performance. Dinner & overnight stay at Hunas Falls, Kandy.

Day 09 Kandy / Horton Plains /Nuwara Eliya

After breakfast depart to Nuwara Eliya which was a favorite retreat during the colonial days. It's buildings & gardens can be compared to a little village in England. The cool climate is ideal for the world's best tea, where one can visit these tea factories and sample the golden brew. Nuwara Eliya has one of the best golf courses in Asia. Legacy of the British domination. So is the "Lake Gregory", where you can fish for trout or go boating. The refreshing natural spring water which flows in its streams is the main ingredient of a brand of beer which has won several international awards. Visitors are encouraged at times to visit the brewery to sample the beer and stout. En-route visit a tea plantation and factory. Have lunch at Ramboda Falls restaurant. En-route visit the famous world's end also known as "the Horton Plains". Many visitors come to Horton Plains to see the world's end, considered to be the finest view in all of Sri Lanka. Here the Horton Plains comes to a sudden end with a sheer vertical drop of 1500 m. In the early morning the Indian Ocean 81 kms away can be seen in crescent of silver in the horizon to the south. Later in the day a heat haze can obscure the view. During the southwest monsoon, the only view is of boiling vaporous clouds in all directions. Arrive at the Galway Forest Lodge for dinner and overnight.

Day 10 Nuwara Eliya/Bundala/Hambantota

Early morning after breakfast depart to Oasis Hotel, Hambantota. Arrive at hotel for lunch. After lunch visit the Bundala National Park by 4 x 4 jeeps. Bundala is a nature reserve for the wildlife of Sri Lanka and is in a magnificent setting. Situated 309 km south of Colombo, Bundala is approximately 1,259 sq. Km in extent & is located in the south eastern corner of the island. Its northern boundaries border the lahugala elephant sanctuary and it has the added bonus of a scenic ocean frontage. The terrain is varied – flat plains alternating with rocky outcrops. The vegetation ranges from open parkland to dense jungle. Water holes, small lakes, lagoons & streams provide water for the animals & birds. The species here is the large numbers of elephants. The park consist of many species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and butterflies (including all endangered species), crocodiles, monitors, pythons, bear, deer, wild boar and a wide variety of birds. The time duration for the park safari will be 1 & 1/2 hours. Arrive at Oasis Hotel for dinner & over night stay.

Day 11 Yala

After having an early breakfast visit the Yala National Park by 4 x 4 jeeps. Yala is one of Sri Lanka's best known wildlife reserves and covers an area of 500 sq miles. Here wildlife roam freely amongst the dry thorn scrub. Here you are likely to see elephants, leopard, elk and even the sloth bear also frequent this area. Dinner and overnight at the Oasis Hotel.

Day 12 Hambantota

After breakfast enjoy hot springs in Hambantota. Arrive at hotel for Lunch. Dinner & over night stay at oasis hotel.

Day 13 Induruwa

Early morning after breakfast transfer to Induruwa. En-route visit the port city of Galle. Standing of one of the main sea routes, Galle is situated in a strategic location, and boasts of a natural harbor & an inner with its strategic location on the world sea routes, Galle was the strong hold of the Portuguese & Dutch. The famous Galle fort as originally built by the Portuguese and later by the Dutch. Today it is famous for its exquisite handmade lace, ebony, wood & tortoise shell jewelry. Lunch at Unawatuna Beach Hotel. Arrive at Hotel Induruwa Beach Hotel for dinner & overnight stay .

Day 14 Bentota

Early morning after breakfast transfer to bentota. There are about 300 families are living in this area. You get a school, post office etc. Take a boat ride on Bentota River. Visit the cinnamon plantation where you have the possibility of seeing cinnamon with bark of the tree. When the boat riders take you through mangrove trees, you will get to fisherman who catch prawns, crabs using ancient methods. At the same time you will get to see monitors, birds, (like king fisher, comoro, wood pecker etc.) Sometimes even crocodiles !! When you proceed further down to the inner part of the river, the scenic beauty can be breathtakingly beautiful. Thereafter depart to Induruwa beach hotel for dinner & overnight stay .

Day 15 Induruwa / Airport

After breakfast, transfer to airport for departure.

Day 16 London