



ANANTARA

KALUTARA RESORT

DISCOVERY GUIDE



LIFE IS A JOURNEY.

Everyday life is filled with opportunities to seek the exceptional, encounter the new and widen our horizons. For our guests, a stay at Anantara is just one more chapter in a lifetime of travel and exploration. And we intend to make it an extraordinary one.

A charming hidden gem rooted in its colonial past, rich experiences and cultural diversity, step into Kalutara's threshold to explore a microcosm of Sri Lanka's beauty with its rich tapestry of past influences reflected in its architecture, cuisine, lifestyle and freedom in art, music and religions.

Please contact Guest Services Centre for advanced reservations.

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RESORT ACTIVITIES

Explore the diversions available within our stunning resort to lure you away from the serenity of your accommodation.



Fishing Guru Experience

Experience the tranquil waters of the Kalu Ganga aboard a traditional Sri Lankan wooden boat called an "Oruwa". Guided by our resort Fishing Guru, learn the local fishing techniques with a simple rod and line used by stilt fishermen for generations. Test your skills and if lucky, get to catch some fresh fish to be prepared by our chef according to your taste.

Duration: 2 hours



Kalu Ganga Boat Trip

Kalu Ganga, or Black River, is the fourth longest river in Sri Lanka lined with mangrove marshes that flows through the heart of Kalutara. Take a boat ride along this waterway for an opportunity to spot an abundance of endemic birds along unexplored riverbanks, and discovering a side of Kalutara which cannot be explored by road.

Duration: 2 hours





Yoga

Reconnect with your natural flow through the power of yoga. Join our dedicated yogi for private lessons at dawn fronting the Indian Ocean or lagoon, or in the tranquil gardens. Enjoy scheduled group classes at Anantara Spa's yoga pavilion, with options to incorporate this holistic practice into an Ayurvedic wellness lifestyle.



Water Sports

Relish high-speed thrills on a jet ski, or test your balance on water skis or a wakeboard. Go on a variety of fun rides available for the ultimate adrenaline rush. For more tranquil experiences on the lagoon waters, master the art of stand up paddle boarding, canoeing or dinghy sailing with our dedicated instructors to guide you.



Fruit Market

Every Saturday at 4.00 pm, sample fresh organic seasonal fruits delivered by a local boat along the Kalu Ganga River. Our chef will be on hand to cut them on the spot for your enjoyment by the poolside - the perfect natural refresher as you bask in the sun.



Sundown Ceremony

Be enthralled by the Kalu Yaka (Black Devil) traditional dance during the ritual healing and sundown ceremony in front of the pool deck at 5.45 pm daily. These dance forms are associated with the performance of various rituals and ceremonies which are centuries old and are based on folk religion and folk beliefs.



Bicycles

Map out exciting resort adventures. Rent bicycles, and enjoy the thrill of fresh air and nature while you explore the resort on two wheels.

Archery

Harness a steady hand and keen eye. Shoot at static targets placed progressively further and further way. Enjoy the most stunning of lagoon views from our lush gardens as you learn the art of archery from the recreation team at hand.



Cocktail Mocktail Mixologist Class

Become a budding cocktail expert with Anantara's mixologist guru. Learn to create Anantara Kalutara's signature cocktail with a Sri Lankan twist. Leave with new skills to entertain friends and family back home.

Art Lessons in the Resort

Take an art lesson with our resident artist, tap into inner talents and express the beauty of the resort's magnificent surroundings in a personal masterpiece. Learn some basics, improve techniques or take a sketching tour. Explore and unleash your creativity amidst a tropical paradise and create memories in art to take home.

Art lessons are available on request.



Activity Tower

Craving more adrenaline-pumping excitement than a hammock by the lagoon? The Activity Tower coming up in 2019 offers guests the ability to abseil, jump or "fly" off the tower in the ultimate rush under t our recreation team.



Aliya Kids' Club & Jungle Gym

Our dedicated kids and teens club offers complimentary supervised indoor and outdoor sports, educational activities, creative cultural fun and gaming stations for ages 4 years and above. Babysitting service is available for a fee and requires an advanced reservation.

Open daily from 9.00 am – 6.00 pm

SPICE SPOONS

Passing settlers and traders have richly influenced Sri Lankan cuisine, resulting in an infusion of multi-ethnic flavours. Delve behind the scenes of the island's culinary roots with a trip to local farms and markets. Refresh with a local arrack cocktail before picking up secret tips with our step-by-step Spice Spoons cooking class with Chef Amila.

Savour your creations for lunch and take home cooking accessories and recipes to recreate the memories.





DINING BY DESIGN

Anantara's signature private dining concept offers the ultimate personalised romantic occasion, inviting you to choose from a collection of fine dining and dégustation menus. Collaborate with your personal chef to fine-tune a menu that is tailored to your individual tastes and desires.

Your beautifully decorated table, which takes place in a choice of dream settings, is enhanced by the flawless service of a personal butler. Make your occasion sparkle with wine recommendations from our sommelier.

ANANTARA SPA

Relax in harmony with nature, surrounded by the majestic Indian Ocean and Kalu Ganga River. Restore balance between body, mind and spirit in an oasis of tranquillity. Indulge in exclusive spa journeys that revive radiance and wellbeing. Holistic wellness blossoms with authentic Ayurvedic rituals and ancient practices from across Asia. Revered western treatments pamper therapeutically. Signature treatments draw on our world-class expertise and Sri Lanka's indigenous healing traditions. Feel renewed by age-old wellness wisdom.

Outdoor Spa

Indulge in blissful outdoor spa treatments at the open-air sala overlooking the Kalu River lagoon. Let yourself be soothed by our expert spa therapists and enjoy rejuvenating and healing therapies specially designed to match the open air experience.



SIGHTSEEING

The following excursions have been curated to showcase the beauty and diverse surroundings of our locale and beyond.



Lunuganga Estate Tour

The late Geoffrey Bawa, legendary Sri Lankan architect and father of Asian architecture, devoted 40 years of his life transforming this rubber and cinnamon estate into his country residence. Lunuganga meaning "salt river", was conceptualised as an extension of its surroundings - a garden within a larger garden. It became the centre of his world, a magnet that drew him into architecture, a place to think, a test bed for new ideas. The landscape is decorated by jungle foliage and complemented by ponds, pavilions, towering trees, sculptures and lake views framed by frangipani. Bawa believed that architecture could never be fully understood through written descriptions or pictures but should be experienced in person.

Distance: 28 km per way | Duration: 3.5 hours



Brief Garden by Bevis Bawa

In 1946, Geoffrey and Bevis Bawa inherited their mother's estate that was purchased in 1925 and rechristened "Brief" as the money to buy it had come from legal fees. The ex-rubber estate began its magical transformation from 1929 when Bevis started living his life there as an estate owner and country gentleman. Laid out in an intuitive and evolutionary way without any fixed blueprint, the famous garden has been visited by many since 1948 and has remained largely unchanged since. Wander the network of overgrown pathways surrounded by diverse foliage, hidden pavilions, lawns, private spaces with open-air pools and courtyards at your own pace before a tour of the bungalow is conducted. Combine this trip with the Lunuganga Estate Tour to understand the different personalities of the Bawa brothers.

Distance: 21 km per way | Duration: 3.5 hours





Kalutara Temple

Built in 1960s, the sacred Kalutara Viharaya or Kalutara Temple is instantly recognisable with its white triple-storey high dagoba or stupa (shrine). One of the few hollow Buddhist stupas in the world, its interior has 74 murals, each depicting a different aspect of Buddha's life. In close proximity to the temple lies Kalutara Bodhiya - a sacred Bodhi (fig) tree, believed to be one of the 32 saplings of the original Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi in Anuradhapura that was planted during the reign of King Devanampiyatissa in the 2nd century BC.

Distance: 5 km per way | Duration: 1.5 hours



Richmond Castle

Constructed in 1896 by a wealthy Mudaliyar (landowner) for his wife, the double-storey mansion boasts 99 doors and 34 windows with a natural ventilation system, including an antique and furniture collection, and Grecian statues of children around the garden. In the Mudaliyar's last will, the castle was donated to less privileged children, attesting to his love for kids. All forms of donations are not accepted. The entrance fee goes towards the castle's maintenance and schooling for underprivileged kids.

Distance: 8 km per way | Duration: 2 hours



Kande Viharaya

Since the late 18th century, Kande Viharaya has been a symbol of resilience against colonial powers and natural disaster for the people of Aluthgama. Established in 1734 by the Ven Karapagala Dewamitta Thero, the temple has the world's tallest Buddha statue, sitting at 48 metres. It has seen several additions of a new library, museum and devalas, but the grounds remain untouched. Nearby is a three-storey white edifice with telling signs of Dutch architecture, yet it bears the embossed logo of the British Royal Coat of Arms - an oxymoron that reflects the transition from Dutch to British rule.

Distance: 15 km per way | Duration: 2.5 hours



Madu Ganga Boat Trip

Madu Ganga is a river in the Southern Province that flows through a wetland estuary spreading over 900 hectares inhabited with 64 islands. Take a boat ride along this waterway for a closer look at this complex wetland ecosystem lined with mangrove marshes and islands filled with hundreds of birds, plants and animals.

Distance: 40 km per way | Duration: Half day



Rathnapura

Derived from the Sanskrit words to mean City of Gems, Rathnapura is the traditional mining and trading centre for Sri Lanka's gemstones. Visit the Gemmological Museum to discover the history and methodology of the gem industry, and how rare gemstones are mined from the earth through workshops. The city is surrounded by large plantations of low-country tea and rubber estates that will be also be visited during the tour.

Distance: 80 km per way | Duration: Full day



Kandy

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988 and the last capital of the ancient Sri Lankan kings' era, Kandy is home to the Temple of the Tooth where Buddha's tooth relic is kept, making it one of the most sacred Buddhist places of worship. See the world's largest herd of wild Asian pachyderms at the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, admire over 4,000 plant species at The Royal Botanical Garden in Peradeniya and tour a tea factory, spice and herbal garden and a wood carving workshop in the area.

Distance: 165 km per way | Duration: Full day



Nuwara Eliya

Journey to Sri Lanka's Little England, founded in the 19th century by the British, to explore its famous tea production. The picturesque highland countryside with its cool climate hosts a multitude of water attractions such as the magnificent Devon Waterfall and St Clair's Waterfall, the island's widest waterfall that's also called the Little Niagara of Sri Lanka. Emulate the ancient British tradition of relaxing by the shores of the historic Gregory Lake where boat and pony rides are also offered.

Distance: 195 km per way | Duration: Full day

Ella

Surrounded by hills covered with cloud forests and tea plantations, this town is popular for its Nine Arches Bridge between the Ella and Demodara stations. Almost a century old and spanning 91 metres at a height of 24 metres, the architectural marvel is a hotspot to traverse by rail especially on the iconic blue train. Other must-visits are Little Adam's Peak, Ella Rock, the legendary Ravana Falls, Ravana's Cave with human habitation dating back 25,000 years, and Ravana's Temple with its beautiful carvings.

Distance: 190 km per way | Duration: Full day



Colombo City Tour

Explore the administrative capital of Sri Lanka covering the foremost sites of Colombo that includes:

- The Old Parliament Building, now the Presidential Secretariat
- The Independence Square, a national monument built to commemorate the Independence of Sri Lanka from British rule on February 1948
- The Gangaramaya Buddhist temple, dating back to over 2,000 years, that is not just a place of worship but also a seat of learning and a cultural centre
- Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall
- Colombo Town Hall (White House)
- Pettah area with Hindu temples featuring uniquely carved raja gopuram towers with colourful statues of deities
- Viharamahadevi Park, the oldest and largest park of Colombo
- Galle Face Green
- Colombo Mosque
- Old Colombo Dutch Hospital, considered to be the oldest building built during the Dutch rule and transformed into a shopping, dining and entertainment haven

Distance: 60 km per way | Duration: Full day

Warakagoda Temple

The historic temple was once where the sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha had been kept before it was moved to the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy. Its origin goes back 1,600 years in the time of the Anuradaphura Kingdom when monks lived in the caves that are now beautiful and colourful shrine rooms.

Distance: 24 km per way | Duration: 2 hours Available on poya days only

Galle Fort

Galle Fort was built in the late 1500s by the Portuguese, fortified by the Dutch thereafter and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Wander along the ramparts and take in the panoramic views of the Dutch fort and harbour. Explore quaint boutiques and museums housing colonial antiques or pick from a plethora of bistros and bars to watch the world go by.

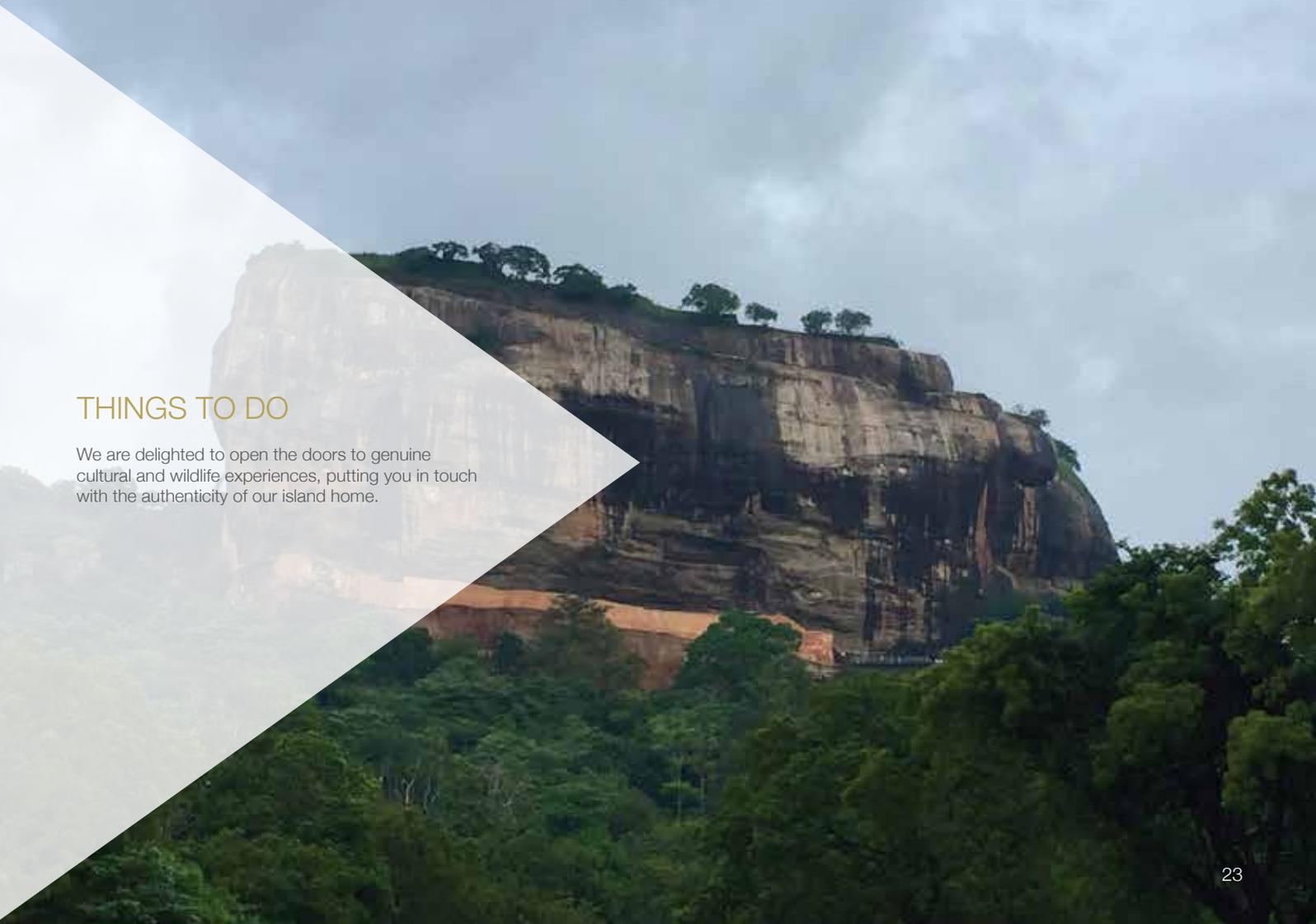
Distance: 81 km per way | Duration: Half day

Kechimalai Mosque

One of the oldest mosques in Sri Lanka, this place of worship beckons with its ancient Moorish architecture, standing upon a promontory surrounded by the ocean and coconut palms. Completely white except for its green doorways, the striking structure is situated at the end of the Beruwala port. It is believed to have been constructed over a thousand years ago by the first Arabian settlers in Beruwala. Non-exclusive to Islamic devotees, it is a place where faiths intermingle with Buddhist and Christian fishermen, and pilgrims stopping by.

Distance: 12 km per way | Duration: 2 hours





THINGS TO DO

We are delighted to open the doors to genuine cultural and wildlife experiences, putting you in touch with the authenticity of our island home.

Sigiriya

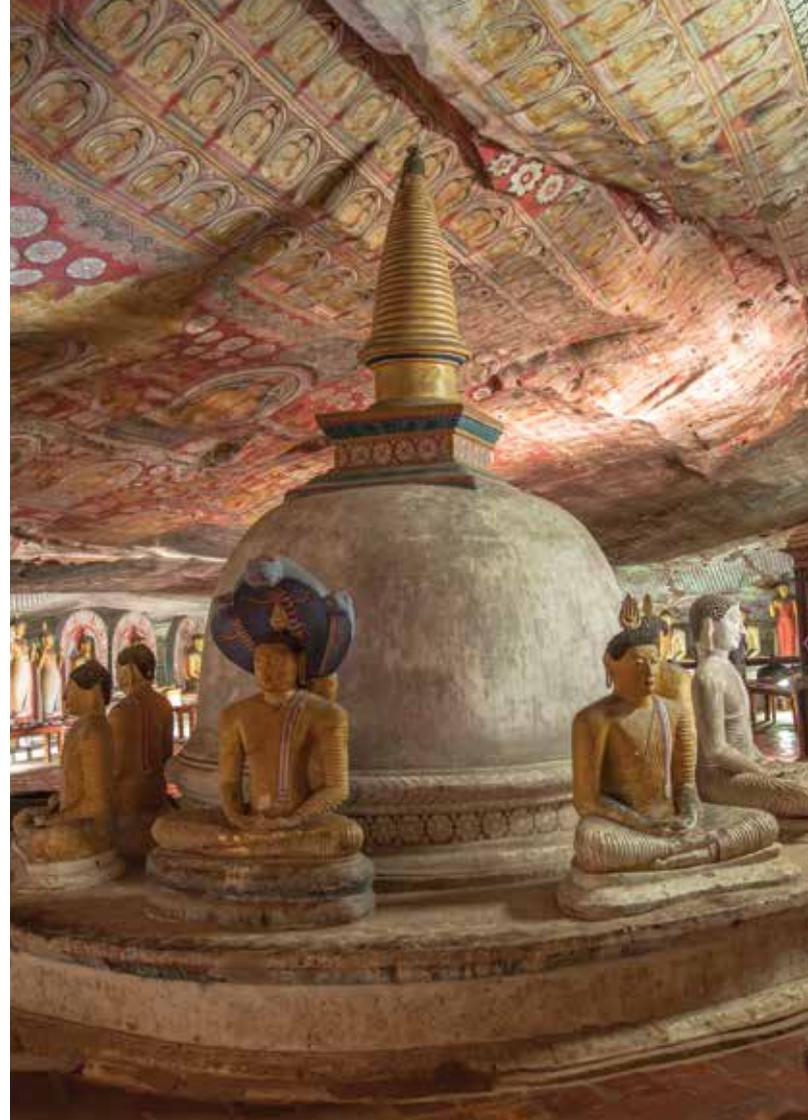
An ancient rock fortress located near Dambulla town in the Central Province, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is dominated by a massive rock nearly 200 metres high. According to an ancient Sri Lankan chronicle, Sigiriya was developed into an elaborate palace complex and fortress, decorated with colourful frescoes, a mirror wall and gardens during King Kashyapa's reign between 477 - 495 CE. On a small halfway point plateau, an enormous lion gateway was built giving it the name of Lion's Rock. Abandoned after the king's death, it was used as a Buddhist monastery until the 14th century. It remains as one of the best preserved examples of ancient urban planning, water engineering, horticulture and arts today.

Dambulla Cave Temple

Also known as the Golden Temple of Dambulla, this functional cave monastery is a World Heritage Site that remains as a well preserved ancient edifice in Sri Lanka. The caves were converted into a temple complex in the 1st century BC and by the 11th century, it had become a major religious centre up until today. Composed of five caves under vast overhanging rock, the ceilings are painted with intricate patterns of religious images following the contours of the rock with a huge collection of statues related to Buddha and his life.

Explore both these amazing wonders during a full day excursion with a quick stop at a pineapple garden to see how these sweet fruit is cultivated.

Distance: 207 km per way | Duration: Full day





Udawalawe National Park & Elephant Transit Home

Established in 1972, the park provides a sanctuary for a host of endemic wildlife and protects the Udawalawe reservoir catchment area. Spanning over 30,821 hectares, it is also home to over 400 Asian elephants including Maligawa Tuskers. The habitat comprises of the Walawe river and its tributaries, marshes, forests and grasslands. Visit the Elephant Transit Home where orphaned calves are cared for until their release back to the wild with minimal human contact during their rehabilitation.

Distance: 202 km per way | Duration: Full day

Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery

Meet the hatchlings at the turtle hatchery and discover why Sri Lanka, the village of Kosgoda in particular, is a prime turtle nesting site. Discover the reasons behind the pioneering sea turtle conservation project and the efforts led by locals with the assistance of international volunteers. Participate in the release of endangered turtle hatchlings to the ocean at dusk as they start their perilous journey into adulthood.

Distance: 30 km per way | Duration: 3.5 hours



Whale Watching Tour (Seasonal)

Take a 120-minute drive to Mirissa Harbour and set sail on a traditional leisure trawler to Weligama Bay where giant blue back whales and dolphins are known to frolic in the azure waters. Opt to pack a picnic to enjoy aboard as you look out in search of these ocean's gentle giants. This seasonal excursion is available on the southern coast of Sri Lanka between December to April.

Distance: 103 km per way | Duration: Full day

Yala National Park

Sri Lanka's most popular wildlife reserve, this is the second largest park on the island with a diverse ecosystem ranging from monsoon forests to freshwater and marine wetlands. Home to 215 bird species including 6 that are endemic to Sri Lanka, discover the natural treasures with a park tracker, in search of storks, crocodiles, fan-tailed peacocks, monkeys and more, including the most famous yet elusive residents, the leopards. The park has one of the highest leopard densities in the world.

Distance: 238 km per way | Duration: Full day



Handunugoda Tea Estate

This family-owned estate nestled in the southern province, is renowned as artisan producers of luxury teas including the prized Virgin White Tea. The exquisitely delicate white tea has the highest naturally occurring antioxidant content in any beverage, and is manufactured following an ancient Chinese legend that keeps to the imperial tradition of being completely untouched by human hands from harvest until it is brewed. They are the only tea estate in the world situated in close proximity to the sea, creating the distinctive flavour of their teas. Learn the age-old art of producing tea from your guided tour and enjoy a delightful tasting session to find your preferred brew.

Distance: 89 km per way | Duration: Half day

The Cinnamon Experience

Sri Lanka produces 90% of world's supply of true cinnamon and cultivation is a unique, scarcely known process. Visit a hilltop villa surrounded by a working cinnamon plantation with 360° views over Koggala Lake and misty mountain ranges. The 1 hour guided tour will encompass the tools, techniques and interesting facts involved in making cinnamon quills. A 2.5 hour guided tour inclusive of a four-course cinnamon inspired lunch is also available upon request. Combine this aromatic excursion with a visit to Handunugoda tea estate located nearby.

Distance: 90 km per way | Duration: Half day





Sinharaja Forest Reserve

The majority of areas within Sinharaja was originally declared a forest reserve in 1875, providing a long history of protection. The island's last viable area of primary tropical rainforest, this forest reserve is afforded the highest level of legal protection under the National Heritage and Wilderness Area Act of Sri Lanka. Almost all the peripheral natural forests along the boundary have already been marked as conservation or reserved forests. Declared a Biosphere Reserve in 1978 and subsequently inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988, more than 60% of the trees are endemic and many of them are considered rare. Home to vast indigenous wildlife, especially birds, and over 50% of Sri Lanka's endemic species of mammals and butterflies, including insects, reptiles and rare amphibians, this is a truly biodiverse hotspot not to be missed. Stop by a rubber and tea plantation during your excursion to learn more about these main industries.

Distance: 157 km per way | Duration: Full day

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage started off caring for five abandoned calves at their premises in 1975 and has grown to being a home for 93 elephants today. Catering not only for the abandoned babies but also for those injured and maimed within the jungle, the orphanage employs the expertise of both modern veterinary and indigenous medical treatment. Time your visit to their scheduled feedings and river bathing sessions. Drop in to pineapple and spice gardens along the way.

Distance: 137 km per way | Duration: Full day



Kitulgala

The Kelani River was the climatic scene setting for the 1957 film, The Bridge on the River Kwai although only the concrete bridge foundations remain today. Kitulgala has since gained popularity for experiencing white-water rafting in the picturesque Kelani River with 5 major and 4 minor rapids that caters to the experienced and beginners. This is the place to be for adrenaline junkies with other adventurous activities on offer such as confidence jumps, stream slides and canyoning, guided by certified professionals. If you still have energy to spare, learn about the natural rubber industry at a plantation.

Distance: 123 km per way | Duration: Full day



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