

# EXCURSIONS

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THE FORTRESS RESORT & SPA

Sri Lanka

SMALL  
LUXURY  
HOTELS  
OF THE WORLD

*Considerate Collection*



## Galle Fort City Tour

USD 20 nett by Tuk Tuk | USD 40 by Van or Car  
30 minutes per way

The capital of the southern province is a city with a colorful history that has UNESCO declared as a World Heritage Site. The magnificent Dutch Fort is the most popular attraction of the town. 300 year old Dutch atmosphere is still very much alive around the Fort and amidst its many historical buildings not invaded by the skyscrapers. The southern coastal belt is the most popular among the tourists and comes to life mainly from October through April when the monsoon moves northeast and the sea becomes calm with blue skies. The City of Galle was the earliest European administrative center of Sri Lanka for over 4 centuries, while being the major port and largest city until the British shifted the port to Colombo. Portuguese built the first fort to withstand attack from the Sri Lankan kingdoms to the north. Dutch who captured the coastal cities from the Portuguese improved the defense system of the fort, widening the moat on the land side, improving the ramparts and the bastions. British who captured the city did not make many changes as they shifted the part to the northern town of Colombo and therefore the atmosphere of Dutch days are preserved to date. Still there are many Old Dutch buildings intact and, but unfortunately except for those in the private hands. The ramparts and the bastions still bring to life the old world.

## Yala National Park

2 hours each way by SUV Jeep, (4 hours both ways)  
USD 325 (2 guests)

including Return transfers, entrance fees & Safari jeep.  
Duration of the safari is 4 hours in the park.

Ruhunu National Park, widely known as Yala National Park, is located in Hambantota District and is an important national park in the south of Sri Lanka. The reserve covers 979km, although only the 141km "Block 1" is open to the public, and is mostly made up of parkland and scrub jungle but also contains beaches, lagoons, freshwater lakes, rivers, enormous rocky outcrops and dense jungle. Yala is one of the best places to see Leopards, boasting the highest concentration of leopards in the world: the park is also home to a good number of Asian Elephants, sloth bear, spotted deer, crocodiles, wild boar, water buffalo, grey langur and several other species of large animals.



## Udawalawe National Park

One and half hours each way by SUV Jeep, (3 hours both ways)  
USD 300 (2 guests)

including Return transfers, entrance fees & Safari jeep.  
Duration of the safari is two and half hours in the park.

Established in 1972, the Udawalawa National Park is situated in the dry zone of the country and belongs to the Uva and Sabaragamuwa provinces. The park area is just over 30,800 hectares and consists of dry lowland forest, thorny scrub jungle and grassland; several areas of the park have been planted with teak.

One of the most iconic attractions of this park is the majestic Udawalawa Reservoir which is fed by the river that flows through the park, the Walawe River. The park is home to several large herds of Asian Elephants as well as many other species of large animals such as deer, buffalo and more.

Eth Athurusevana (Elephant Transit Home) visit included in this tour. (optional)

# Mirissa Whale Watching



The cost will vary according to suppliers and boat size.

Mirissa is the ideal place for whale and dolphin watching between the months of November to April, as the waters become a playground for a myriad of whales and dolphin species. Some of the most commonly spotted whales include sperm whales, killer whales, Bryde whales, short finned whales, while you'll be able to see schools of bottlenose dolphins and striped dolphins as they playfully frolic around your boat! However, the main whale type to look out for is the blue whale – the largest animal in the world! Whale and Dolphin watching in Mirissa is ideal for nature lovers as they set sail into the ocean.



## Sinharaja Rainforest

Full day tour – USD 200 for 2 guests including full tour with a qualified naturalist. 6 waterfalls can be seen. (Leaving the hotel around 6 am and will be returning around 7 pm)

Half day tour – USD 170 for 2 guests with a qualified naturalist. 2 waterfalls can be seen.

Sinharaja Forest reserve is one of the least disturbed and biologically unique lowland rain-forest in Sri Lanka. This forest covers an extent of about 11,187 hectares from east to west, and was declared a Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB) in 1978 as a representative of the tropical humid ever-green forest ecosystem in Sri Lanka. It is situated in the southwest lowland wet – zone, lying across the districts of Ratnapura, Matara and Galle. The average annual rainfall of Sinharaja is over 2500mm and the average annual temperature is 23.6C. It has been recognized by UNESCO as a part of its International Network of Biosphere reserves and been declared a National Wilderness Area in 1988. Sinharaja was also recognized as a World Heritage Site in 1989.

## Ridiyagama Safari Park



USD 200  
for 2 guests including tickets. Safari duration is about 2  
hours

Ridiyagama safari park is the first ever man made safari park in Sri Lanka which opened its doors to the public in 2016.

It was built for tourism with the assistance of the National Zoological department of Sri Lanka. Spanning across 500 acres, the park consists of 22 species of animals which mainly includes mammals and birds.

The safari park consists of two separate zones for carnivores and herbivores respectively a home to many animals such as African Lion, Elephants, Tigers and more



# Unawatuna Diving Center

USD 15 nett by Tuk Tuk | USD 35 nett by Van or Car  
(Return transfers)

A 10 minute drive north of the Fortress is the golden beach of Unawatuna. It's also one of the safest and most beautiful beaches in the world as it is protected by a reef. Surfing, Snorkeling and Diving are some of the water sports

you can participate in Unawatuna Diving Center, managed by PADI and CMAS instructors. Any equipment you may require can be rented from here or your own equipment can be used.

\*Chargers are subject to your specific requirements.



# Turtle Hatchery



USD 5 nett by Tuk Tuk | USD 15 nett by Van or Car  
(Return transfers)

2km north of the Fortress, you can see several species of turtles, specially the hawksbill and Green, Leather back, Oliver and Hawks Bill turtles at the Turtle Hatchery.

All these varieties are on the endangered list and conservationists have been working for the last three decades to save them from extinction.

Most vulnerable of all are their eggs, which are left uncovered on beaches all around the coast. The goodwill of those fishermen, who bring these eggs gratis to the hatchery, has led to the hatching and release of more of more than a million young turtles.

A person in a small boat on a lake at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow over the water. The person is using a long pole to navigate the boat. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, and the water reflects the sun's rays. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

## Koggala Village Tour

USD 20 nett by Tuk Tuk | USD 40 nett by Van or Car  
(Return transfers)

Koggala Village is an attractive and tranquil body of water, just a short distance from Fortress and close to the golden beaches of the southwest coast.

Dotted with rocky island, fringed by mangroves and scented by aromatic cinnamon trees, Koggala Lake is famous for its fresh water prawns and crabs. As you voyage atop the glassy surface of the lake in an authentic fishing catamaran, you can observe the patterns of the exotic lowland birds that can be seen here in abundance.

Discover the Koggala village with our own community by three wheelers, who will guide you to see the beauty of the village.

# Sigiriya Rock Fortress

USD 400 with tickets for 2 guests. Arriving back at the hotel about 10 p.m. after leaving around 4 a.m.

## Additional visits/ service

Village safari, bull-cart ride, boat ride, local cooking experience, tuk-tuk ride at USD 50 per person

Elephant ride at USD 60 per person | Dambulla Cave Temple Visit at USD 10 per person.

Sigiriya Rock Fortress – Sigiriya perhaps is the most fantastic single wonder of the Island. It is also known as Lion Rock because of the huge lion that used to stand at the entrance to the fortress. This rock fortress was built by King Kasyapa in the 5th century A.D. and was a royal citadel for more than 18 years. In a sheltered pocket, approached by a spiral stairway, are the famous frescoes. The summit of the rock, with an area of nearly one hectare was the site of the palace, the outer wall of which was built on the very brink of the precipice. The UNESCO - sponsored Central Cultural Fund has restored Sigiriya 5th century Water Gardens to their former glory.



## Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

Three and half hours each way by SUV Jeep,  
(7 hours both ways)

USD 350

including return transfer & entrance tickets for 2 guests.

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage is one of the most iconic attractions for local and international tourists alike and is home to the biggest captive herd of elephants in the world. The orphanage was the first of its kind in the world and is now a place where abandoned and disabled elephants get given a whole lot of love, care and protection, and scoff their way through over 14,000kg of food every day. It also houses one of the world's best elephant breeding centers and employs over 100 people to run the facility and take care of bathing and feeding the elephants, especially the babies who are bottle – fed. Bathing times (10.00hrs and 14.00hrs) are a particular treat as the elephants are led down to the nearby river, and feeding times are about an hour before.



## Following site visits can be added on to the Elephant Orphanage Tour

### Temple of Sacred Tooth relic (Dalada Maligawa)

This is where a sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha rests. The temple is located in the ancient city of Kandy. Kandy was the last Kingdom of the Sinhalese kings and is a UNESCO world heritage site partly due to the temple.

Times of Visit – Any weekday 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

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### Peradeniya Botanical Garden

It is renowned for its collection of orchids and various tropical woody plants.

Times of Visit – 8.00 am to 5.00 pm

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### Pinnawala Open Zoo

A zoological garden in Pinnawala, which is situated closer to the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage. This is the first open-air zoo in Sri Lanka and opened for visitors since 2015.

Additional Fees - USD 25 per person

Times of Visit – 8.00 am to 5.00 pm

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### Laksala (Kandy)

A traditional boutique shop where you can buy all handicraft, spice, tea, clothes, gems and other stuff at a reasonable price.

Additional Fees - USD 60 per person

Times of Visit – Any weekday

A close-up photograph of tea plants with vibrant green leaves against a clear blue sky. The plants are in sharp focus in the foreground, while the background is softly blurred, showing more of the tea plantation.

## Handunugoda Tea Factory

USD 15 nett by Tuk Tuk | USD 30 nett by Van or Car  
(Return transfers)

Handunugoda has now become a world famous designation for both travelers and Connoisseurs of tea. This plantation has received acclaim as a unique place that produces some of the best tea varieties in the world, including White Tea, untouched by human hands in the whole world. Their plantation and Tea centers are also very popular landmarks among visitors to Sri Lanka who wish to obtain comprehensive knowledge of the workings of tea, rubber and cinnamon plantations. Plantation managers with years of experience conduct visitors round the estate. Bird life and Wild life abounds on the plantation. It is truly an eco – sanctuary, with deep commitment to preserve the nature’s bounty.



## Rumassala

USD 20 nett by Tuk Tuk | USD 40 nett by Van or Car  
(Return transfers)

Rumassala is a massive hill oddly out of place in the landscape just outside the Galle harbor. Legend details that during the Rama – Ravana war Rama's brother Luxhmana was injured and Hanuman was sent to the Himalayas to fetch medicinal herbs. Hanuman forgets the name of the herb, but brought back a chunk of the peak containing many herbs. However the mountain fragment slipped and broke in to five pieces of which one fell to Rhumassala. It should be noted that the renowned scientist Sir Arthur C. Clarke has a bungalow in the precincts of Rhumassala, as it is said to be the place that has the highest specify gravity globally. Located just 20 minutes' drive from the resort.



## Yatagala Raja Maha Viharaya

USD 20 nett by Tuk Tuk | USD 40 nett by Van or Car  
(Return transfers)

The 2300 year – old Bo tree at Yatagala had been worshiped and venerated by Generations of people who lived around the village of Yatagala. From time immemorial, this place of great scenic beauty and splendid environment always drew the attention of the monarchs who ruled the country. There is a statue of Lord Buddha built the cave of the gigantic rock outcrop. Archaeologists believe that the great granite boulders that stand guard around the Bo tree in elephant stature are in fact a kind of rocky garden, and the reason why whoever planted the Bo tree may have chosen this place in particular.

Guests are requested to dress conservatively avoiding shorts and similar revealing attire. Located just 20 minutes' drive from the resort.



# Koggala Folk Museum



Entrance fee to be paid directly

Just walk away from the Fortress you can step in to the house of Sri Lanka's greatest novelist, Martin Wickramasinghe, established to a folk museum complex, surrounded by a restored ecosystem planted with hundreds of varieties of indigenous trees and shrubs in which bird life abounds.

Have an in detail look of Southern Sri Lankan Culture influence by Portuguese, Dutch and finally English who were ruling the country for 300 years.



## Kottawa Rainforest

USD 60 nett By Tuk Tuk | USD 100 Nett by Van or Car  
including entrance free - 30 minutes per way

Kottawa rainforest and Arboretum situated about 18km northeast of Galle is a 15 – hectare low – country woodland that displays characteristic features of a tropical wet evergreen rain-forest.

Tall trees with buttressed trunks and overlapping lead canopies reach skywards in a bitter race for light and prevent the sun's rays from illuminating the many stunted seedlings that litter the dark, damp and gloomy forest floor.

Since trees are the dominant plant species here, Kottawa is considered having a typical climax community, which is a healthy sign for the forest's longevity.

## Madu River Safari

1 ½ hours each way from the hotel (3 hours both ways)  
USD 100 by Tuk Tuk | 130 by Van or Car  
including transfer & Madu river safari 2 hours.

Madu River, which flows across the Balapitiya area, is one of the most rarely visited and unspoiled attractions in Sri Lanka.

This extraordinary estuary with a cluster of 64 small islands scattered along its impressive breadth, most of which are covered with mangroves and uninhabited, and is also a haven for crocodiles. The largest island is home to around 300 families and the smallest, barely an Islet, holds a tiny shrine with a statue built in respect of the gods of Kataragama.

There is also “Kurundu Doowa (Cinnamon Isle)” where a small family maintains a two acre cinnamon plantation and the main attraction, “Koth Doowa (Island of the Pinnacle)” which houses a serene Buddhist temple, all of which adds up to a truly remarkable and unforgettable boat ride.



## Kanneliya Rainforest

1.5 hours each way 80 USD by Tuk Tuk | 130 USD by Van  
or Car from the hotel  
(3 hours both ways) entrance fee & guide fee

Kanneliya forest reserve is located in Galle district, Sri Lanka. Apart from Sinharaja World Heritage Rainforest, this is one of the main rainforests found in Sri Lanka. The boundary of Kanneliya – Dediyaagala – Nakiyadeniya is the area of the KDN complex. The KDN complex has two waterfalls namely “Naranga Ella” which are made up by “Nannikitha Ala” starting from Kanneliya forest reserve.

There is a safe place for a bathing in Nannikitha also close to entry to the forest reserve. They provide a nature trail to Kabbale Kanda Mountain which is one of the highest locations in KDN complex.



## Hiyare Reservoir

USD 60 nett by Tuk Tuk | 100 USD by Van or Car  
45 minutes per way including entrance fee

The word Hiyare originates from an expression which means a hundred streams. Over thirty species of freshwater fish have been recorded in the rainforest streams of which several are endemic. The site is now managed by the wildlife conservation society of Galle which runs an education, conservation and research center.

It is also a designated rehabilitation center for injured and distressed wildlife. You can currently see a resident family of hog deer and other animals being nursed back to health before being reintroduced to the wild.

A black and white bird with a crest perched on a green branch. The bird has a black crest, a white breast, and black wings and tail. It is perched on a green, leafy branch. The background is a blurred green forest.

## Bundala National Park

USD 325 nett - 3 hours per way by SUV Jeep, including jeep & entrance fee.

Bundala National Park is situated in the southeast part of the country in the semi – arid zone of the Southern Province.

With a park area of 6,216 hectares, Bundala mainly consists of four Salt – water lagoons, salt pans, marshes, thorny scrub jungle, sand dunes and dry grasslands.

The main attraction of Bundala is the abundant birdlife, especially migratory waders such As the Greater Flamingo (which can be seen around January); visitors can also see Spot – Billed Pelicans, the largest resident bird in Sri Lanka, the Lesser Adjutant, as well as the tallest Resident bird, the Black – necked Stork. Large flocks of terns, gulls, sandpipers, snipes, teals, Cormorants, egrets and more are commonly seen



## Matara Star Fort

USD 40 nett By Tuk Tuk | USD 55 by Van or Car  
45 minutes per way

Another Dutch – built fort along the South Coast, the Star Fort in Matara is a significant structure from the country's rich colonial history, and one of the major tourist attractions in the South. Matara is a significant structure from the country's rich colonial history, and one of the major tourist attractions in the South. Matara is actually famous for two forts, the main Matara Fort and the better preserved Star Fort, built in an unusual and unique star shape by the Dutch

Between 1763 and 1765 to compensate for the weakness of the main fort, of which only the magnificent rampart and gateway still remain. The Star Fort is a fine example of colonial military architecture; it fulfilled its purpose as an administrative building and was never attacked. It was the last major defensive construction by the VOC in Sri Lanka.

It is now a protected monument cared for by the Archaeology Department as well as a museum which showcases the history and splendor of Matara on its heyday.

\*\*\* All the rates quoted are for 02 adults.

The Fortress Sustainable Tourism Initiative at the Fortress Resort & Spa, we believe in sharing the benefits of tourism revenue with the residents of the Koggala area. The Fortress, together with the Koggala Tourist Vehicle and Three - Wheeler Owner's Association, have initiated a convenient local area tour and transport initiative which offers our clientele a selection of excursion to the popular tourist venues of the area.