



**Coates Wildlife Tours**  
*Specialist in nature tours since 1986*

## **Trip Dossier**

### **17 Day Sri Lankan Wildlife, History & Culture Tour**



**Accommodated Small Group Tour - Max 12 passengers**  
**Colombo - Colombo 15 - 31 March 2020**

#### **Itinerary Highlights:**

- Historic Sigirya - an ancient rock fortress
- The historic town and ancient ruins of Polonnaruwa
- Yala National Park - Sri Lanka's most famous national park is extremely rich in wildlife and home to many species such as leopards, elephants, bears, buffalo, jackal and wild boar
- Bundala National Park - Away from the crowds, Bundala is a wonderful spot for birders and is good for spotting wildlife such as crocs, wild boar, mongooses, monitor lizards, monkeys and elephants
- Birding and botanising in Sinharaja rainforest, home to many endemic species and a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Whale watching at the coastal port of Mirissa

Off the southern coast of India, the enchanting island of Sri Lanka is beautiful, boasting an abundance of exotic, natural riches. Sri Lanka's ancient Buddhist traditions, teaching compassion for all living creatures, have paved the way for the country's long history of conservation.

The island abounds with magnificent scenery and historic fortresses, temples and monasteries. Throughout your tour you will explore both the natural wonders and the island's fascinating culture and history.

Sri Lanka's wildlife is varied, including 86 mammal species, 16 of which are endemic to the island. Sri Lanka is home to several wild elephant herds, leopards, sloth bears, mouse deer and many monkey species. The birdlife and butterflies are colourful and plentiful. The island is home to over 400 recorded bird species, 33 of which are endemic.

Enjoy some of Sri Lanka's best primate watching among the ancient ruins of Polonnaruwa with toque macaques, leaf monkeys and grey langurs at close range.

We will search for the illusive leopard in Yala National Park, which is home to the world's highest concentration of this exquisite cat along with Asiatic buffalo, jackal and wild boar.

A day of whale watching off the coast at Mirissa will be one of the highlights of your tour. Blue and Sperm Whales plus pods of dolphins are regularly seen in these waters.

For those interested in botany, Sri Lanka is a land of plenty. The island features diverse habitats, including wet zone tropical forests and shrub lands. In the hills, vegetation varies from almost treeless pantanas (plains) to dark rhododendron forests.

The tour will be led by Coates Wildlife Tours Managing Director, Tom Grove, and Saman Veediyabandara, one of Sri Lanka's leading birding/naturalist guides.



## Itinerary

### **Day 1, 15 March**                      **Arrive Colombo - Sigiriya Area**

Today you'll arrive at Colombo at around 1:00am. You'll be met at the airport and transferred to the Tamarind Tree Hotel close to the airport. After a rest and lunch we will head north to the historic Sigiriya area.

Accommodation: Tamarind Tree Hotel / Hotel Sorowwa Resort, Habarana BLD

### **Day 2, 16 March**                      **Sigiriya - Polonnaruwa - Sigiriya Area**

This morning we'll visit Polonnaruwa to see ancient ruins. The city was built in the 11th century during an Indian invasion when Polonnaruwa became the next seat of rule. In its day, the city was fortified with three concentric walls, and within these were beautiful parks and four carved-rock Buddha statues. The ruins are now listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Accommodation: Hotel Sorowwa Resort, Habarana BLD

### **Day 3, 17 March**                      **Sigiriya**

After breakfast we'll visit the Rock Fortress of Sigiriya. Remains of this 70 hectare fortified town include a castle, fort, moat and extensive gardens. On our ascent of the rock, we will see the famous frescoes of the 'Heavenly Maidens of Sigiriya'. This afternoon we will undertake a canoe trip looking for water birds before heading to a local village where we will see the traditional cooking methods being used to produce some of the local foods.

Accommodation: Hotel Sorowwa Resort, Habarana BLD

### **Day 4, 18 March**                      **Sigiriya Area to Kandy**

As we leave Sigiriya we'll visit the caves of Dambulla which dates back to the 1st century BC and sheltered a king in exile. When the king regained his throne he built Dambulla, a magnificent rock temple consisting of five caves. The temple boasts over 2,000 square metres of painted walls. The temple ceilings are painted with intricate patterns of religious images following the contours of the rock, which includes many images of the Lord Buddha. We then proceed on to Kandy.

Accommodation: Thilanka Hotel, Kandy <http://thilankahotel.com/> BLD

### **Day 5, 19 March**                      **Kandy**

After breakfast today we'll visit Udawatekele Sanctuary, a natural reserve overlooking the Temple of the Tooth and the town of Kandy. Returning to town we visit the Temple of the Tooth, which contains the most sacred relic of Buddhism and the most precious symbol of Sinhalese pride, the tooth of the Buddha. Carried by the ancient Kings, the tooth is never seen, but puja veneration ceremonies are held at dawn and dusk every day.

After lunch, there will be time to either again visit Lake Kandy or spend time shopping and exploring this historic town. This evening we'll enjoy a cultural Kandyan dance performance at the Kandy Arts Association Hall.

Accommodation: Thilanka Hotel, Kandy BLD

### **Day 6, 20 March**                      **Kandy**

We will visit the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya. This 147-acre garden is the largest in Sri Lanka, hosting a variety of plants and animals including, Flying Foxes and a giant Java fig tree, which covers 1,600 square metres.

After lunch, there will be time to either again visit Lake Kandy or spend time shopping and exploring this historic town.

Accommodation: Thilanka Hotel, Kandy

BLD

#### **Day 7, 21 March                      Kandy to Nuwara Eliya**

Today we leave Kandy, enjoying the undulating scenery of Sri Lanka's famous tea plantations as we head to Nuwara Eliya known as the 'city of lights'. Nuwara Eliya is the highest town in Sri Lanka (around 2000m above sea level) and is surrounded by lush tea plantations. Along the way we'll visit a tea factory, set against a backdrop of beautiful mountains, valleys and waterfalls. This afternoon we will have time to visit Victoria Park and have a wander around the town.

Accommodation: Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya

BLD

#### **Day 8, 22 March                      Nuwara Eliya - Horton Plains - Nuwara Eliya**

Today we'll take a full day excursion to Horton Plains National Park, Sri Lanka's highest and most isolated plateau. This fascinating place features open grassy expanses and patches of mountain forest. At World's End, the plateau drops steeply to the plains over 2,000 metres below. We should certainly hear and hopefully see the extremely handsome Purple-faced Leaf Monkey in the forest and keep our eyes peeled for Dusky Squirrels. Birds to look for include the Mountain Hawk-Eagle, Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon, Sri Lanka Blue Magpie and Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike.

Accommodation: Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya

BLD

#### **Day 9, 23 March                      Nuwara Eliya to Tissamaharama**

We leave the high country behind this morning as we head south towards the coast. We will check into our accommodation and have lunch, then we'll head to Bundala National Park, which is well known for its birdlife, including Black-necked Storks, Spoonbills, Fish Eagles and Hawk Eagles. We also look for monkeys, crocodiles, deer and elephants. We will spend time this afternoon exploring the park before returning to our accommodation.

Accommodation: Chaarya Resort

BLD

#### **Day 10, 24 March                      Tissamaharama - Yala - Tissamaharama**

After a very early breakfast, we'll take a half day excursion to Yala National Park to view some of the local flora and fauna. Yala National Park covers 1,297 square kms and with ecosystems ranging from moist monsoon forests to white sandy beaches, it is home to a large number of animals including the elephants, leopards, peacocks, bears, wild boar, spotted deer, buffalo, monkeys and resident and migrant water birds. This afternoon will be spent exploring the wildlife that can be found around the Tissa wetlands.

Accommodation: Chaarya Resort

BLD

#### **Day 11, 25 March                      Tissamaharama -Lungamvehera National Park - Tissamaharama**

After a very early breakfast, we'll take a half day excursion to Lungamvehera National Park which is a small national park interconnected with Yala but as it is less well known there are less tourists. In the park it is possible to see leopard, crocodiles, elephants, a variety of birdlife, deer and some wonderful scenery.

Accommodation: Chaarya Resort

BLD

#### **Day 12, 26 March                      Tissamaharama to Udawalawe**

This morning we travel to Udawalawe, looking at the natural history of the area as we travel. After lunch we'll visit Udawalawe National Park. This park features different landscapes: a tea plantation,

grasslands, scrub jungle and wetlands.

Accommodation: Grand Udawalawe Resort

BLD

**Day 13, 27 March                      Udawalawe to Sinharaja**

Today we start with a visit to the Elephant Transfer Station where orphaned elephants are cared for until they can be released into the National Park. We then head to Sinharaja Rainforest. The rainforest was designated as a Biosphere Reserve in 1978 and was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988. At Sinharaja, 75% of the flora is endemic and 30 of Sri Lanka's 33 endemic bird species are found here, including the Red-faced Malkoha, Blue Magpie, Orange-billed Babbler and the White-faced Starling.

Accommodation: Blue Magpie Lodge, Sinharaja

BLD

**Day 14, 28 March                      Sinharaja Rainforest**

Full day birding and botanising in the Sinharaja rainforest and the surrounding area.

Accommodation: Blue Magpie Lodge, Sinharaja

BLD

**Day 15, 29 March                      Sinharaja to Mirissa**

After breakfast we'll leave Sinharaja rainforest and head to Mirissa, a coastal town that has grown up around its fishing and tourist cruise harbour. This will be our setting off point for our whale watching cruise. During the drive we will visit a turtle hatchery where they rescue the turtle eggs from local fishermen and once hatched release them into the sea. Mid-afternoon we will arrive at our beach front accommodation where we can enjoy all the facilities that it offers.

Accommodation: Paradise Beach Club, Mirissa .

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**Day 16, 30 March                      Mirissa**

Early this morning we'll head to Mirissa Harbour, where we we'll commence our whale watching expedition. On a boat specifically designed for whale watching, we'll travel the seas off the south coast of Sri Lanka, known to be one of the best locations in the world to see Blue Whales and Sperm Whales. Pods of dolphins are also regularly seen in these waters. After lunch we will visit the town of Galle where there will be time to explore this historic Portuguese fort.

Accommodation: Paradise Beach Club, Mirissa

BLD

**Day 17, 31 March                      Mirissa - Colombo - Home**

This morning we'll leave the coast and head back to Colombo. After lunch we'll undertake a tour of the city. We will have a farewell dinner in Colombo this evening at the 5 star Hotel. After dinner we will be transferred to the Colombo terminal for your evening departure. This marks the end of your wonderful Sri Lankan experience.

BLD

NOTE: the above itinerary may be varied according to conditions and advice.

## **Tour Costs**



Cost: AUD \$6,775.00 Per Person Twin Share  
AUD \$1,165.00 Single Supplement

Departs: Colombo - Sri Lanka 15 March 2020

Finishes: Colombo - Sri Lanka 31 March 2020

## Tour Payments

Deposit: At time of booking \$1,000.00 per person

Final Payment: Due on or before 15 January 2020

Max No. Of Participants: 12 passengers and a Coates Escort (see notes)

Notes:

- 1) An escort from Australia will only accompany a group with 8 or more passengers. For groups of less than 8 passengers, only local guides will be used.
- 2) Flights between Australia and Sri Lanka are NOT included.
- 3) Prices are based on all known costs and current rates of exchange. Any significant changes beyond our control will be passed on to participants.

## Special Offers

### Group Booking

**Save 7.5% per person** for a group of 4 or more

### Loyalty Discount

**Save AUD\$100.00 per person if travelled with Coates 2 - 4 times.**  
**Save AUD\$ 150.00 per person if travelled with Coates 5 or more times.**

**Please note:** Discounts cannot be combined; Discounts are only available on bookings made directly with Coates.

## Included

- Land content as set out in the itinerary;
- Accommodation for the duration of the tour
- Whale watching cruise
- Meals as per itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Tips and gratuities during the tour.
- Village Life experience.
- Entrance fees to the elephant transfer station & the turtle rescue facility.

## Not Included

- Flights to and from Sri Lanka
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended)
- Pre and post tour accommodation
- Travel visas
- All other private expenses
- Alcoholic or carbonated drinks unless stated

## Tour Information

Coates Escort: Tom Grove

**Sri Lankan Naturalist Leader:**

**Mr. Saman Veediyabandara** - With a background in wildlife conservation and management he is a key member of many research teams that carried out work in the birding and wildlife field in Sri Lanka. He is also a highly accomplished all round naturalist.

**Accommodation:**

Twin/Double or share rooms with ensuite in hotels

**Meals:**

As indicated on the itinerary are included. Special dietary requirements can usually be catered for. Please advise any special requirements at the time of booking.

**Physical Requirements:**

Easy to moderate.

**Weather:**

Our tour will be conducted towards the end of Sri Lanka's dry season. Colombo and the low-lying coastal regions have an average temperature of 27°C. At Kandy (altitude 500m), the average temperature is 20°C, while Nuwara Eliya (at 1889m) has an average temperature of 16°C. The sea stays at around 27°C all year.

**Clothing:**

A suggested list of items to bring on tour will be included with our pre-departure information which will be sent to you about one month before departure. However, comfortable casual clothing is recommended. Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes or boots are essential.



**To make a booking or for further information please contact  
Tom or Sylvia Grove at Coates Wildlife Tours**

**P.O. Box 4502**

**Myaree BC, Myaree, WA 6960**

**Phone: 08 9330 6066 Free Call Country & Interstate: 1800 676 016**

**Email: [coates@iinet.net.au](mailto:coates@iinet.net.au) Web: [www.coateswildlifetours.com.au](http://www.coateswildlifetours.com.au)**

## Terms and Conditions

Adina Nominees Pty Ltd (ACN 075 427 324) as trustee for the Grove Family Trust trading as Coates Wildlife Tours (hereinafter referred to as the tour operator) shall not be liable for any accident injury sickness delay irregularity or damage however caused or arising during any tour under its management or otherwise. Tours are often safari trips to isolated areas, they may include off road driving, bushwalking, snorkelling, swimming and other activities. These along with wildlife interactions, planned or otherwise involve a certain degree of risk. All travel involves some measure of personal risk that each passenger has to determine and accept.

Tour participants should be in reasonable health and fitness and be carrying all required medications in ample quantities. A medical clearance from a registered medical practitioner may be required for participants wishing to join some tours. Scenic flights, boat cruises, helicopter flights etc. These activities are not operated by the tour operator, nor by persons or companies associated with the tour operator. These activities involve inherent risk of injury, death, accident and loss. Passengers assume all risks with regard to any misadventure death, injury or loss which occurs during or as a result of any such activity.

Should the tour operator deem it desirable for climatic or other reasons whatsoever to amend or vary any itinerary it may do so by shortening or varying the trip in which case no objection or claim for compensation will be made by the participant.

The tour operator and its employees are unable to guarantee exact arrival and departure times, and are not liable for any failure to make connections with any other services.

The tour operator does not own or operate any third party suppliers of air transportation, hotels, restaurants, cruise craft or local sightseeing companies. The tour operator is not responsible for any loss or expense due to overbooking of flights, accommodations, default of any third parties or any other cause beyond its control. The tour operator takes all reasonable care in selecting these operators, it cannot accept responsibility for the operators conduct or the conduct of their employees or agents or for any ramifications of that conduct.

Whilst all care is taken, The tour operator do not accept liability for loss or damage to baggage, sickness or injury, or additional expenses caused by factors beyond their control.

All care has been taken to ensure this brochure is correct at the time of printing. Prices and services as shown in this brochure are however subject to change or withdrawal without notice.

### BOOKING DETAILS

NON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: US\$750.00 per person is required to confirm the reservation.

FINAL PAYMENT: Is Required on or before the 25 January 2020

### CANCELLATIONS

Coates Wildlife Tours reserves the right to cancel any tour in the event of minimum numbers not being reached, in which case all moneys will be refunded in full.

In respect of cancellations by a passenger, some tours have specified cancellation times and penalties, this specific information is available on the respective tours, trip dossier. Where no specific cancellation time or penalties are in place the following levies plus any costs charged by other parties involved with the tour will apply:-

#### Where written notice is received

- Deposit is non refundable
- Tour balance is non refundable after the 25 January 2020
- No refunds are considered from the day the tour starts.

### INSURANCE

We strongly recommend that travel insurance against imposition of cancellation fees, loss or damage to baggage and extra costs arising from injury or illness be effected.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

EQUIPMENT:- Transport by an air-conditioned our coach or mini bus which ever is appropriate for the tour.

### GENERAL INFORMATION CONT.

SEAT ALLOCATION:- Seats on tour vehicle are not pre allocated. To ensure all participants get to enjoy forward positioned and window seats we have incorporated a daily seat rotation system.

LUGGAGE:- Please note that due to health and safety requirements luggage on tour is limited to one medium sized, soft sided bag per person. The sum of its length, width and height is not to exceed 140 cm. The maximum weight of the bag should not to exceed 15 kilograms. A small day pack is also permitted. International tours, some island tours and the Kimberley Coastal Cruises luggage limits may vary, please see the respective tours trip dossier for specific weight maximums.

WILDLIFE:- Sighting of birds, or animals mentioned in the itineraries can not be guaranteed as they are wild and therefore free to come and go as they please.

WILDFLOWER DISPLAYS:- Can not be guaranteed as they are dependent on seasonal rains.

MEAL SYMBOLS:- B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

### GROUP SIZES

Minimum and maximum numbers apply to all tours. Generally tours have a maximum of 12 passengers.