

AKORN DESTINATION MANAGEMENT SRI LANKA



National Parks

Sri Lanka has a variety of national parks offering great wildlife-viewing opportunities. Yala National Park is home to the highest density of leopards, whilst Udawalawe and Minneriya are excellent parks in which to view wild Asian Elephants in their natural habitat. Wilpattu National Park is full of small, natural lakes or 'Villu', and Bandula and Kumana are the best spots for bird-watching.

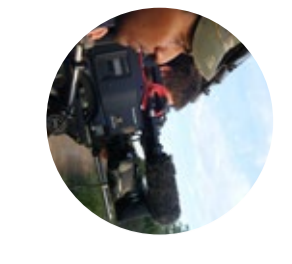
BEST TIME TO SEE WILDLIFE IN SRI LANKA

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Leopard	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Elephant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue Whale	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sperm Whale	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dolphin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Endemic Birds	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

BEST PLACES TO SEE WILDLIFE IN SRI LANKA

Wildlife	Location
Leopard	Yala National Park, Wilpattu National Park
Elephant	Yala National Park, Minneriya National Park, Udawalawe National Park, Wilpattu National Park
Blue Whale	Wilpattu National Park, Wasgamuwa National Park, Yala National Park
Sperm Whale	Mirissa, Kalpitiya, Trincomalee
Dolphin	Mirissa, Trincomalee, Kalpitiya
Endemic Birds	Mirissa, Trincomalee, Kalpitiya

The best viewing season at Wilpattu National Park, the Elephant Gathering in Minneriya National Park, the migrant bird season in Mannar and Bussalala National Park, Annual closure of Yala National Park - September



Wildlife photography tours and nature documentaries
Whether swimming with the largest mammal in the sea or exploring national parks in search of leopards, those moments are best experienced in person and not through your own lens. However, to allow guests to take home and relive those memories, let our industry experts who have worked with the likes of National Geographic, the Discovery Channel and Disney Nature Movies, capture the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity on our special filming and photography tours.

WOW Moment

Being such a small, yet diverse island, means we can pack single days full of adventure. As designed for our Founder and CEO on his private tour of Sri Lanka, we are able to show guests the blue whale by air, let them indulge in fresh seafood on the east coast's sandy beaches, fly to the mountains for an escorted walk through a tea estate and spot the elusive leopard in Yala National Park, all in one day!



Local Food
Rice is a staple food for the islanders while just about anything can be carried and seasoned with many local spices. The 'hot' or 'spicy' taste can be challenging to a first timer's palate. Tropical juicy fruits like papaya, mango, mangoes, wood apples, bannans, watermelons, jack fruit and all the seasonal fruits such as rambutan, durian and mangosteins are a must try. Local and foreign alcoholic drinks are readily available, however the sale of liquor is prohibited on Fridays (full moon day) for religious reasons.

Travel Tips

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Travel Tips

Air Quality Index
Sri Lanka is blessed with a higher quality of air compared to many of its neighbors in the region. The island's positive ranking on global environmental indices is encouraging. In 2014 Sri Lanka topped Environment Performance Index in South Asia and continues to uphold its benchmark record for environmental responsibility.

WOW Moment

Buddhist Monk Ordination Ceremony
Take part in a rare ceremony and admire the sacred rituals depicting the ordination of a Samanera (novice) Buddhist monk. It is said that not only the parents but four generations of the family are invited to witness the ceremony. The family gives consent and blessings for their child to follow an ascetic life. The child is elevated from a layman to a Samanera Buddhist monk as he takes refuge in the Noble Triple Gem of Buddhism.

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

April is the hottest month in Colombo and the coldest is January. The wettest month is May with an average of 382mm of rain while February is generally the driest. The best month to visit is the month of April when the average sea temperature is around 28°C. While the best time to visit is July/August when the weather is pleasant, the best time to visit is April when the weather is pleasant and the sea temperature is around 28°C. While May and June are less expensive months to travel, June, September and October give added value in terms of package cost.

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Bandaranaike International Airport and the Water's Edge. Chartered helicopter options are also available.



South Coast

The south-western coast is famed for its beaches and water sports but also traditional puppet artistry, monsoon music and rubber plantations. The south-eastern coast is home to Arambiyaya - a world-renowned surfing spot. The deep-sea is gaining popularity for cruise tourism. This coast is also home to national parks, turtle conservation projects and pilgrim sites.

LOW AND HIGH TEMPERATURE IN SOUTH COAST

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High °C	29	30	31	30	30	30	29	29	29	29	29	29
High °F	85	86	88	86	86	86	85	85	85	85	85	85
Low °C	23	23	25	25	25	24	24	24	24	23	23	23
Low °F	72	73	77	76	76	75	75	75	75	73	73	73

BEST TIME TO GO

On average, the temperatures are always high, June, July and August usually have pleasant average temperature. Most rainfall is experienced towards May, June, July, October and November. On average, the warmest month is April and the coolest month being January. February is the driest month.

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Dikwella and Meerwala. Chartered helicopter options are also available.

WOW Moment

One Day of Adventure
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Travel Tips

What to Pack
Cotton clothing, a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, sunblock and comfortable walking shoes are best for sightseeing. Shorts, long skirts, long trousers, long-sleeved shirts and extra pairs of socks are recommended for temple visits. Warmer clothing is needed in the hills while a light-weight jacket with some warm layers is recommended for the cooler months. Check the local dress codes. The luggage allowance for carry-on baggage in domestic flights is 5 kilograms.

WOW Moment

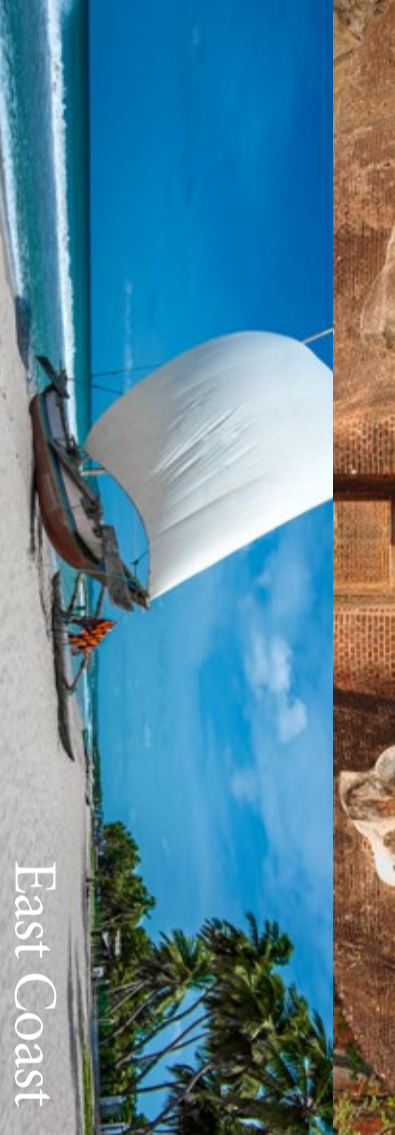
Insider Architectural Tours
Our close connection with a group of archaeologists and architects means that those passionate in both of these subjects can gain an insider's understanding of certain historical sites and monuments. Their expert advice and local knowledge about each of them makes for an interesting, yet fun, private tour concentrating on masterpieces from the likes of Geoffrey Bawa, Sri Lanka's most creative and influential architect.

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

During the months of January, February, March, April and May you will experience pleasant weather with a nice average temperature. Most rainfall comes in October, November and December. The warmest month is April and the coldest month is February. While May and June are less expensive months to travel, June, September and October give added value in terms of package cost.

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Sigiriya airbase. Chartered helicopter options are also available.



East Coast

The north-eastern areas such as Trincomalee is ideal for whale and dolphin-watching, snorkelling, water sports, yachting, diving and known for the famed Koneswaram Hindu Temple. Passisaddi is renowned for its white powdered sandy beach. Only beach with no humidity is also a treat to the holiday makers.

LOW AND HIGH TEMPERATURE IN EAST COAST

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High °C	27	29	30	33	34	34	34	33	31	29	28	28
High °F	80	85	85	91	93	93	93	92	87	85	83	83
Low °C	24	24	24	25	26	26	25	25	24	24	24	24
Low °F	76	76	76	78	79	79	78	78	76	76	76	76

BEST TIME TO GO

During the months of January, February, March, November and December you will experience pleasant weather with a nice average temperature. On average, the warmest month is April and the coldest is December. Rain can be expected in January, February, September, October, November and December. On average, the highest rainfall can be expected in October and November. While the best time to visit is July/August when the weather is pleasant, the best time to visit is April when the weather is pleasant and the sea temperature is around 28°C. While May and June are less expensive months to travel, June, September and October give added value in terms of package cost.

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Battaramulla and Trincomalee. Chartered helicopter options are also available.

WOW Moment

Diving with whale and underwater photography
The Blue Whale is one of the Big 5 animals found in Sri Lanka. We have experts with in the island who are trained to handle special tours such as capturing the biggest mammal in the sea. This special excursion could be done in Trincomalee from Mid-March to first week of April.

Travel Tips

This is a priority service, hosted at Bandaranaike International Airport where the Silk Route representative meets our guests as they disembark and swiftly guides them through immigration and on to an arrival lounge for refreshments from here, they are met by our local airport representative as well as our guide or driver-guide. This service is at an additional, but minimal, cost.

Travel Tips

Shopping
Items made of silver, brass, ceramics and wood are amongst the best and most authentic souvenirs of Sri Lanka. Ritual masks, lacquer-ware, batik and handloom textiles, lace and wood carvings are popular in the country. Ceylon tea, cinnamon and Sri Lankan gems specially the Ceylon Blue Sapphire should not be missed.

WOW Moment

Mini Perahara Pageant
The 'Eala Perahara' taking place in Kandy in July or August is one of the most spectacular festivals in Sri Lanka. For those travelling outside of these months, we can arrange a private event for you to get the traditional Kandy dancers, drummers, flag bearers, dancers, drummers and beautifully decorated elephants, just as you would expect from the main event.

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

On average, the warmest month is April and the coldest is February, October and November are the wettest months with higher rain fall. March, June and July are the driest months. The best month to visit is the month of April when the average sea temperature is around 28°C. While the best time to visit is July/August when the weather is pleasant, the best time to visit is April when the weather is pleasant and the sea temperature is around 28°C. While May and June are less expensive months to travel, June, September and October give added value in terms of package cost.

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Polgolla. Chartered helicopter options are also available.



Central Highlands

Another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Central Highlands hosts the island's highest peaks and is a true photographer's paradise. It's cooler temperatures often call for long treks and hikes, unlike the rest of the island. This climate allows for an extraordinary range of flora and fauna to be discovered. Adams Peak is regarded as one of the two mountains in the world to capture the perfect sunrise. Visit tea beds and scenic water falls are a common sight and Sambaer Deer or leopard is also not too uncommon.

LOW AND HIGH TEMPERATURE IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High °C	20	21	22	21	20	17	17	18	18	18	18	18
High °F	68	70	71	71	70	65	65	66	66	66	66	66
Low °C	7	7	8	8	10	10	12	12	12	9	7	7
Low °F	48	48	48	50	51	52	55	55	55	51	51	51

BEST TIME TO GO

During the months of January, February, March, April and May you will experience pleasant weather with a nice average temperature. Usually, the warmest month is April and the coldest is December. January and February. On average, the highest rainfall can be expected in October and November. While the best time to visit is July/August when the weather is pleasant, the best time to visit is April when the weather is pleasant and the sea temperature is around 28°C. While May and June are less expensive months to travel, June, September and October give added value in terms of package cost.

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Chaldershugh Reservoir - Dikoya. Chartered helicopter options are also available.

Travel Tips

Visa
Sri Lanka has an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) system which grants prior approval for visas for foreign nationals online. You can register online at www.eta.gov.lk to obtain your visa. You may also obtain visa on arrival to Sri Lanka, however we do not recommend doing so. ETAs allow a stay of up to 30 days from the date of entry. Carrying a print-out of the ETA is highly recommended as immigration officials may ask to see it upon arrival.

WOW Moment

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Travel Tips

Keeping Healthy
Carrying a basic first aid kit with an adequate supply of prescribed medicine to last your trip is advised. There are no compulsory vaccinations however vaccination for tetanus, typhoid and hepatitis can be recommended. If travelling from a destination afflicted by a fever, proof of vaccination is a must. We are able to provide a private dining options we are able to host for our guests. From high tea in the middle of a National Park to a farmer's lunch in a paddy field, our influence and local contacts mean that practically anything is possible.

WOW Moment

Private dining at a unique location
Thanks to our connections and standing within Sri Lanka, in 2014 we were the first to host a private event on the Galle fort (one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the world). We are able to provide a private dining options we are able to host for our guests. From high tea in the middle of a National Park to a farmer's lunch in a paddy field, our influence and local contacts mean that practically anything is possible.

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

March, April and May are the hottest months in Galle and the coolest are January and February. The wettest months are May, August and September whereas February and March are the driest months. The best month to visit is the month of April when the average sea temperature is around 28°C. While the best time to visit is July/August when the weather is pleasant, the best time to visit is April when the weather is pleasant and the sea temperature is around 28°C. While May and June are less expensive months to travel, June, September and October give added value in terms of package cost.

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Koggala air base. Chartered helicopter options are also available.



Galle

Colloquially known as a 'city within a city', the busy port of Galle was invaded by the Portuguese, Dutch and the British a few centuries ago. Many influences still remain today, such as the beautiful archways and curved eaves of Dutch architecture. Home to 14 bastions around the fort since early 1500, today the city is famous for its Dutch Fort, cobbled streets, outdoor dining, boutique hotels and stylish stores. The area is renowned for cinnamon tapping and virgin white tea. Surrounded by the sea it is a great spot to see the fisherman in action or in auction of his daily catch.

LOW AND HIGH TEMPERATURE IN GALLE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High °C	31	31	31	31	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
High °F	88	88	88	88	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Low °C	23	23	23	23	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Low °F	72	73	73	73	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77

BEST TIME TO GO

On average, the temperatures are always high, June, July and August usually have pleasant average temperature. Most rainfall is experienced towards May, June, July, October and November. On average, the warmest month is April and the coldest month being January. February is the driest month.

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Koggala air base. Chartered helicopter options are also available.

Travel Information and Map

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