



Sri Lanka

Blue Whale & Leopard Experience

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS








Itinerary

Sri Lanka • Blue Whale & Leopard Experience

9 Days • 8 Nights

Comlombo – Weligama – Mirissa Fishery's Harbour – Yala National Park – Negombo

HIGHLIGHTS

-  Tour of Colombo (optional)
-  Galle Fort - a UNESCO World Heritage Site
-  Whales and Dolphins of Weligama
-  Elephants, Leopards and Sloth Bears of Yala
-  Nature Trails and Bird watching

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Safari Adventure
Tour Start	Colombo
Tour End	Colombo
Accommodation	Hotel
Included Meals	8 Breakfasts, 0 lunches, 8 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium

Explore the idyllic seaside town of Weligama, home to the highest concentration of dolphins and whales. This superb 9-day tour also showcases the rich wildlife of Yala, Sri Lanka's second largest wildlife destination, which is famous for its magnificent elephants and leopards.

Itinerary



DAY 1: ARRIVE COLOMBO (D)

The trip begins at Colombo. We will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel, where you stay for a night. If time permits you can go on an optional tour of the city. Colombo is the largest city and the former capital of Sri Lanka. It is a modern city but still retains the old world charm due to the presence of many buildings with colonial architecture and many other ruins from the past. It has a large harbor and was an important stop in the east-west sea route trade for ancient travelers. *Optional: City Tour*

Overnight Cinnamon Lakeside hotel or similar

DAY 2: MIRISSA (B,D)

We head towards Mirissa in the morning. It is about three and a half hours drive from Colombo. Weligama is a scenic bay, situated on the south coast of Sri Lanka. It is famous for its stilt fishermen and bears the charm of an idyllic fishing village. En route we will be visiting the Dutch built Galle Fort, an UNESCO recognized World Heritage Site. We take a walk around the area. We then proceed towards our resort where we spend three nights.

Overnight Number One Mirissa or similar

DAY 3 & 4: WATCHING WHALES & DOLPHINS (B,D)

The next couple of days will be spent watching various whales and dolphins out at sea. In the morning we leave the Mirissa Fishery's Harbour onboard a comfortable boat along with our naturalist guide. The highlight of the day would be sighting the blue whale. As we head deeper into the waters in search of whales, look out for pods of Spinner Dolphins which can sometime number in their hundreds.



The large concentration of blue whales found here is something which whale watchers can only dream of. During the migration, blue whales are seen relatively close to shore as the continental shelf is narrow to the South of Dondra. After sighting the blue whales, the naturalist will take you further out to sea to look for sperm whales. In the afternoon, you can relax on the beach. In the evening we return to our resort.

Overnight Number One Mirissa or similar



DAY 5, 6 & 7: SAFARI IN THE YALA NATIONAL PARK (B, D)

Today we leave Mirissa and head towards Yala National Park, about three and a half hours away by drive. Yala National Park, located in the southeast region, is the second largest park in Sri Lanka. It is famous for its population of Sri Lankan elephants as well as its aquatic birds. The commonly seen mammals are the leopard and the sloth bear. In the afternoon, we go on game drives and try to spot leopards, elephant and sloth bear. According to some sources, Yala Block 1 has one of the highest densities of leopards in the world. Yala therefore offers one of the best chances in Asia to see them. Other large animals you may see mugger crocodile, spotted deer, sambar, barking deer, wild boar, wild buffalo, jackal, grey langur and mongoose. Yala is also a great place for bird watching. There are about 300 species of birds residing here. Birding highlights include malabar pied hornbill, painted stork, lesser adjutant and black-necked stork. The next two days, Days 6 & 7, are also spent going for various game safaris in the morning as well as in the afternoons.



Overnight Chaaya Wild Yala or similar

DAY 8: NEGOMBO (B,D)

This morning we have the opportunity of an early morning nature trail along with a guide to see some birds around the hotel. There is also an opportunity to go on an optional morning game drive for one last time. After lunch, we will drive for about six hours to reach Negombo, near Colombo where we will check into our hotel. *Optional:* Additional game drive in Yala.

Overnight Chaaya Wild Yala or similar

DAY 9: HOME FLIGHT (B)

After breakfast you will transfer to the airport in time for your home bound flight.

NB: *This itinerary is subject to change – arrangements, routes and facilities are subject to variation depending on local conditions We can also tailor itineraries to suit your exact requirements.*



Important Information

INCLUDED

- Accommodation at the hotels specified in the itinerary 08 Nights stay on BB basis
- Dinners as mentioned
- Transport in a private air-conditioned Car with English speaking chauffeur guide.
- All taxes currently applicable.
- Subject to availability.

NOT INCLUDED

- Camera & Video permits at Cultural sights
- All expenses of personal nature
- Any additional equipment or site visit which are not mention in the tour program.
- Tips and portorage
- Any extra meals during the tour

Notes:

- Rooms are subject to availability
- Visa can be applied for online
- Prices are subject to change in case of any fuel or tax component increases
- All drive times are approximate and are subject to change
- The standard check in & out time is 12 noon

Additional Information

ACTIVITY DURATION	2-5 hours
SEASON	May through November
BEST TIME TO GO	December through March and Mid July to September. The latter dates are when it's 'west monsoon time'
GROUP SIZE	2-8 pax
EXPEDITION SCHEDULE	Tailor Made departures to suit your dates.
DIFFICULTY LEVEL	Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Medium' level (2-5 hours per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness.

