



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

EXCITING BLUE WHALE AND LEOPARD



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.



Pioneer Expeditions

Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN
t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

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OVERVIEW

Located off the southern tip of India, the tropical island of Sri Lanka has attracted tourists for centuries with its natural beauty. With endless beaches, timeless ruins and friendly, welcoming people, Sri Lanka has a lot to offer.

Due to Sri Lanka's 2,000 years of history and cultural heritage, it is one of the few places that has so many UNESCO sites (8) in such a small area. Sites including forest reserves, highlands and legendary temples sheltered in caves or on prominent peaks. It's vast history and culture can be seen in these fantastic sites, allowing you to delve into another world. Labelled as one of the best all-round wildlife destinations in the world, Sri Lanka is a wildlife lover's paradise. Take a Jeep Safari into the Yala National Park, which is famous for its population of Sri Lankan Elephants as well as aquatic birds. You'll also get the chance to see leopards and sloth bears. In fact, Yala actually has one of the highest densities of leopards in the world! And when you think you've just about seen it all, the majestic Blue Whales will take your breath away.

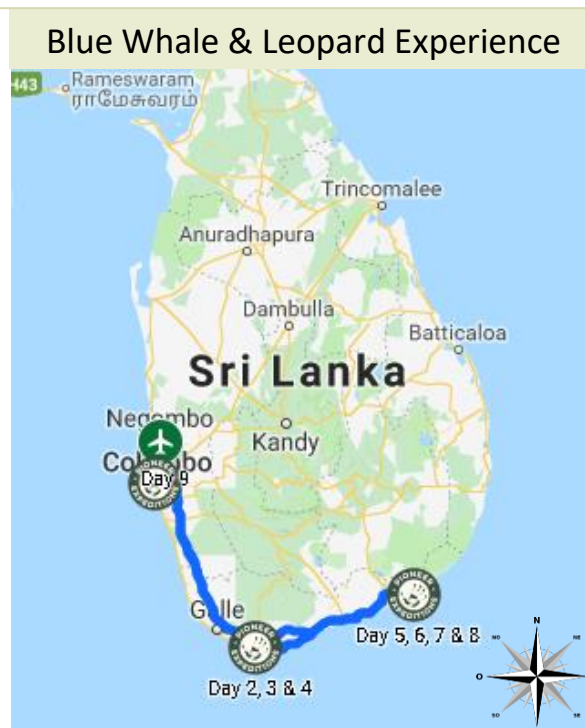
WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really do off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel.

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DAY 1: ARRIVE COLOMBO

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:
Hotel



Meals:
D



Distance:
1 Hour



Activities:
Travel

Overnight Cinnamon Lakeside hotel or similar

DAY 2: MIRISSA

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:
Hotel



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
Approx. 3 and a half Hours



Activities:
Hiking

Overnight Number One Mirissa or similar

DAY 3 & 4: WATCHING WHALES & DOLPHINS

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:
Hotel



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Whale and Dolphin Watching

Overnight Number One Mirissa or similar



DAY 5, 6 & 7: SAFARI IN THE YALA NATIONAL PARK

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:
Hotel



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
Approx. 3 and a half hrs



Activities:
Safari

Overnight Chaaya Wild Yala or similar

DAY 8: NEGOMBO

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:
Hotel



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
Approx. 6 Hours



Activities:
Travel

Overnight Chaaya Wild Yala or similar

DAY 9: HOME FLIGHT

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



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
B



Distance:
N/A



Activities:
Travel

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.



ACCOMMODATION *at a glance*

Subject to availability

Cinnamon Lakeside hotel
Colombo

<http://www.cinnamonhotels.com/en/cinnamonlakesidecolombo/>



Number One Mirissa
Mirissa

<https://numberonemirissa.com/>



Chaaya Wild Sri Lanka
10km from Kirinda

<http://www.chaayawild.com/chaaya-wild-yala-sri-lanka.html>



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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
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WHAT HAVE OUR CLIENTS SAID?

“We had a fantastic holiday once again! Everything went smoothly, accommodation was just right and the people were so friendly. It was a full and interesting schedule which was just perfect for that part of the holiday. Thank you so much!!”
The Bellinghams

WHEN TO GO

December to March is the best time to visit the south-west coasts of Sri Lanka where our trip is located, with the ideal weather being between late November and April, having the fewest rainy days and avoiding the monsoon season. This is good for wildlife sightings as the animals gather around the water holes. Average Temperature at this time is 30°C.



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.

THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at info@pioneerexpeditions.com if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website www.pioneerexpeditions.com to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

1. Contact us -

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

2. Leave everything to us -

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

3. Wait for your adventure to begin -

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

