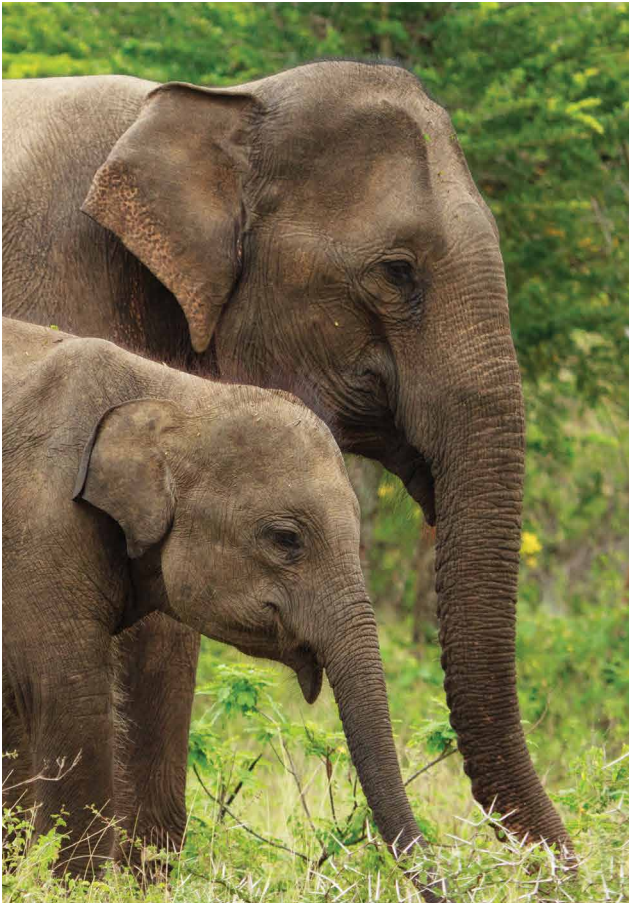




# EXCURSIONS

Uga  
CHENA HUTS

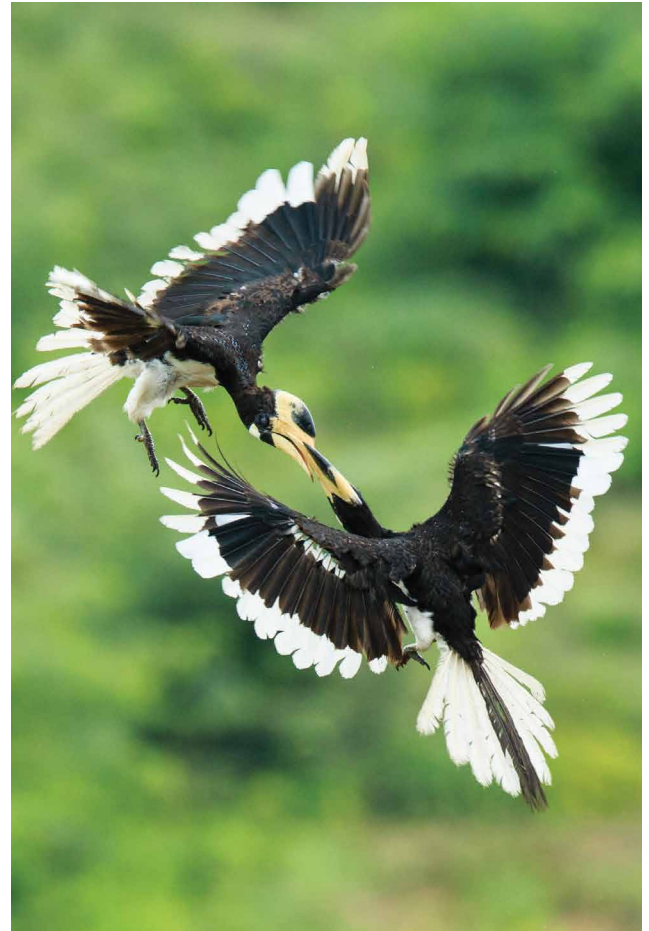


## Bundala National Park

*Best time: early morning*

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Yet again a delight for wildlife enthusiasts, Bundala National Park has much to offer. It is an intricate and enticing tapestry of over 150 different species of birds. Not only does it shelter many local species, but it also harbours migratory birds who fly great distances during the winter months in search of warmer weather. It also has a sprinkling of other animals, such as elephants, crocodiles and turtles. The abundant lagoons and other water sources make it an environmentally rich and diverse area as they attract many different types of wildlife. There is also a beach within the park where you can relax.



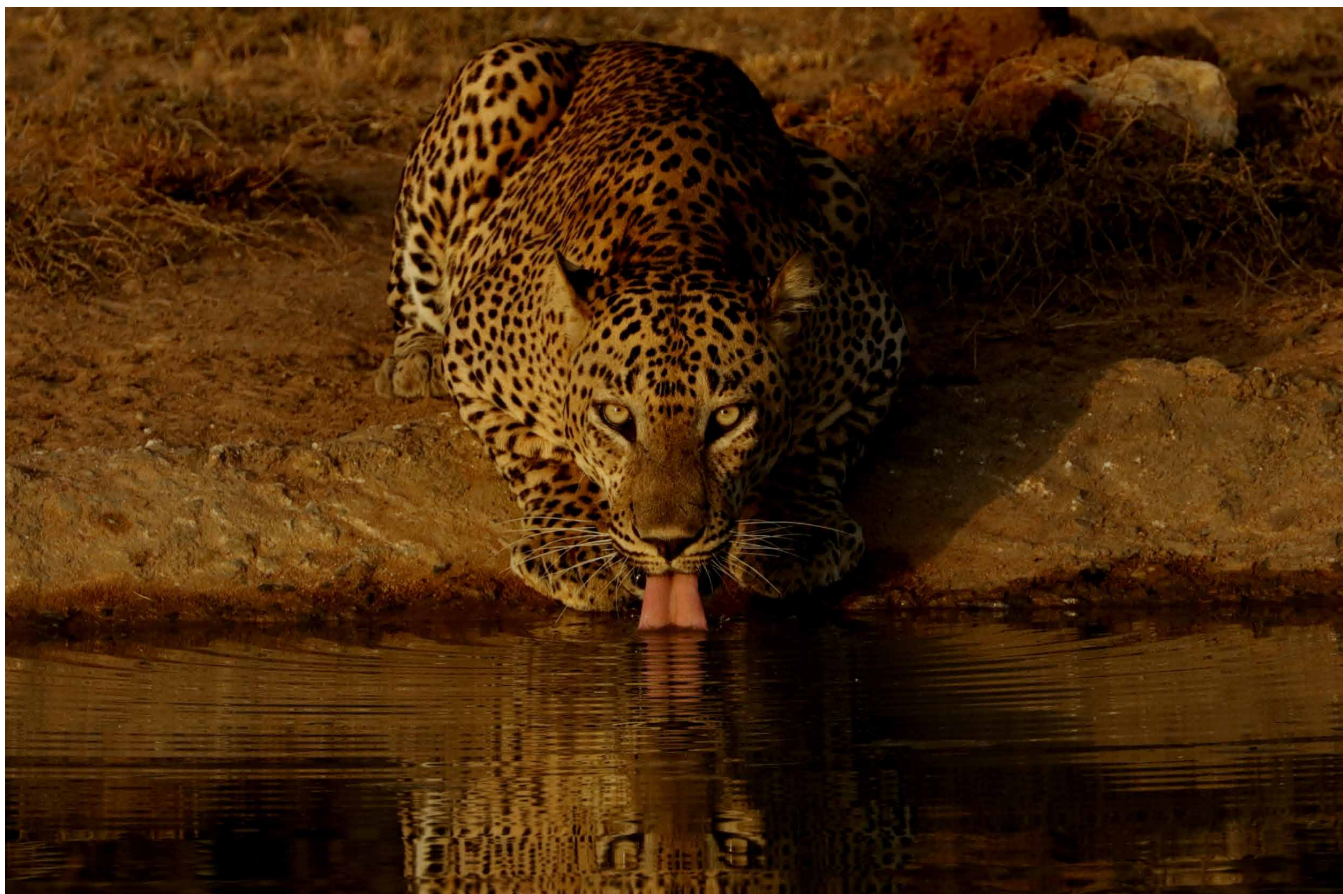
## Udawalawe

*Full day excursion.*

*Best time: Morning in time for the elephant feeding*

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Spread across 308.2sqkm, the Udawalawe National Park is one of the best national parks, especially when it comes to elephant-watching. Although it has less vegetation when compared to other national parks, it has a high density of wildlife. You will be taken on a safari led by some of the most knowledgeable and experienced guides around. They will be able to help you identify all the various species as you make the rounds. The dry season brings out the elephants in full force to the river, which makes for a truly spectacular sight. You can also be a part of the elephant feeding that happens at the elephant orphanage from 12.00 -12.30 pm.



## **Yala**

*Best time: early morning or late afternoon*

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Yala is one Sri Lanka's most famous spots, visited by plenty of locals and tourists alike. Whether you are a researcher, academic, photographer or simply someone who loves nature and wildlife, this is a haven for all things flora and fauna. Home to some of the most exotic creatures such as sloth bears, spotted deer, elephants and the elusive leopard, Yala is an experience to be cherished over a lifetime. Enjoy jeep safaris at the crack of dawn, hike through the terrain and marvel at the wildlife that surrounds you. You can also go through Yala to reach Sithulpawwa, further extending your trip.

## **Galge Park**

*Best time: early morning*

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The second largest national park in Sri Lanka, Yala, can be accessed through several different gates such as Galge. This is the gateway to block 3, 4 & 5 and it is an easy drive. Galge is a locality in itself, where you will also find ruins to explore. Of course, a guide will be assigned to you to ensure your experience is a well-rounded one. We have on board some of the most seasoned and passionate rangers that make the excursion a truly captivating one. As always, please ensure you do not litter or disrupt the peace of the area in any way.



## Bush Walks

*Best time: early morning or late evening*

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Bush walking is one of the best ways to take in the wild and varied beauty of the Sri Lankan landscape. If you are someone who enjoys hiking and trekking, you will find that there are many places to do so; with a little research, you can plan your trip out accordingly.

Bush walks are generally conducted during dawn or dusk depending on your preferences. Do remember, though, that the bush walk depends on the availability of rangers and the migration patterns of wild animals to ensure that you'll be given the best walking experience. Enjoy the splendor of Sri Lanka in the best way possible.



## Katharagama / Kirivehera

*Best time: early morning*

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Standing 95ft tall, Kataragama's iconic Kirivehera is an ancient stupa built by King Mahasena, and is visited by thousands of adoring pilgrims on a regular basis. It is said to have a circumference of 280ft, and was first erected in the 3rd century BC. The stupa was renovated in 1912, and is one of the most popular locations on the island to this day. As with all religious sites, utmost decorum and appropriate clothing are expected. You can make an offering of flowers and incense if you wish, and partake in the proceedings which can be an uplifting experience.



## Sithulpawwa

*Best time: early morning*

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As a country that is deeply entrenched in the principles of Buddhism, it is hardly surprising that many areas contain hidden gems from eras gone by. Sithulpawwa (which means 'the hill of quiet minds') is one such example; it is one of the most revered and ancient rock temples, featuring an abundance of stupas and caves adorned with drawings thought to date back to around the 3rd century BC. In fact, Sithulpawwa is said to have been an abode for hundreds of meditating monks at one time. Another stupa known as 'Small Sithulpawaa' is also around the corner. Though you can visit them both, please note that the climb can be strenuous.



## Kirinda Temple

*Best time: early morning*

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The Kirinda Temple holds a special place in the heart of the Sri Lankan people. The rocky mountain upon which the temple was built, is believed to be the spot where Princess Vihara Maha Devi, daughter of King Kelanitissa, landed from the boat she was ordered to board as a sacrifice. The sacrifice was to appease the Gods from her father's grave sin related to the killing of a Monk. The seas that had risen, threatening to engulf the land, subsided with her sacrifice. The same location was a refuge during the tsunami in 2004. You will be able to see the statue of the Princess at the rock temple, as well as a breathtaking view of the ocean.



## Cooking Demonstration

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The best way to understand the people and culture of a country is through its food. Sri Lankan cooking offers taste and an experience that is a world apart. Drawing inspiration from neighbouring countries and traditional techniques, today Sri Lankan cuisine is a tantalising one. Learn how to prepare some of the country's most famous and well-loved dishes with the help of our seasoned chefs. Along with memories, take back home some delicious recipes to share with your loved ones. Add a little spice and colour to your life with our carefully crafted culinary demonstrations.

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VOTRE TOUR OPERATEUR DES ÎLES  
**TURQUOISE**

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