Education Meets Paradise

Education based explorer ecotourism camp in Sri Lanka

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Learn space

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A Fourteen-day eco-tourism camp in Sri Lanka, offering eco-enthusiasts comprehensive learning across diverse ecosystems. The tour covers coastal, montane, wetland, forest zones including Hikkaduwa, Yala, Horton Plains, Kandy and Kalpitiya with hands-on learning, workshops, and field labs. Participants engage in conservation projects like coral reef monitoring, wildlife exploration, and mangrove restoration. The program also includes animal behavior analysis, wildlife photography, and bird watching, promoting ecological knowledge, environmental stewardship, and sustainable practices.

OUR TEAM

Prof. Dr. Sunanda Kodikara

Professor in Botany, Head Department of Botany - University of Ruhuna
Local Coordinator - TROPIMUNDO Master Programme (Belgium, Italy, France)

Dr. Nilanthi Rajapakse

MIS Officer - Department of Wildlife Conservation

Dr. Pathmasiri Ranasinghe

Principal Research Scientist - Industrial Technology Institute

TOUR DIRECTOR FOR KNOWLEDGE TRAILS

Mr. Akthar Mohamed

National Tour Guide

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HIKKADUWA & MIRISSA

Sessions in Hikkaduwa and Mirissa, Sri Lanka, will explore the rich biodiversity of coral reefs and marine life, emphasizing the importance of these ecosystems to global marine health. Participants will learn about the symbiotic relationships within coral reefs and the diverse organisms that inhabit them. Additionally, the behavior and migration patterns of whales, particularly blue and sperm whales, will be highlighted, showcasing Mirissa's significance as a critical habitat and migratory route for these species.

In Hikkaduwa, a snorkeling expedition will allow participants to observe coral reefs and marine life firsthand, while in Mirissa, an exclusive whale-watching tour will provide insights into whale behavior. These experiences, coupled with expert-led lectures and cross-cultural learning, aim to deepen students' understanding of marine ecosystems and the importance of conservation.

YALA

Yala National Park, a global biodiversity hotspot, is home to endangered species like the Sri Lankan leopard, along with diverse mammals, reptiles, and birds. Its ecosystems, including coastal plains and forests, offer valuable insights into symbiotic dynamics and ecosystem health. Yala's ecotourism and wildlife photography also raise international awareness about the importance of protected areas and sustainable tourism practices.

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HORTON PLAINS

This module explores the rich biodiversity of Horton Plains and the effects of human activities on its ecological balance. The park features unique plant communities and endemic mammals, making it an ideal living laboratory for studying ecological interactions, conservation biology, and climate change impacts. Participants will engage in practical, hands-on activities, including forest microclimate assessments, wildlife tracking, bird watching, and quadrat analysis to understand the ecosystem's health. These experiences will provide insights into sustainable environmental practices, the importance of biodiversity, and conservation challenges. Ultimately, this session aims to equip students with valuable knowledge and skills to contribute to conservation efforts and promote ecological balance in Horton Plains and beyond.

Study highlights

Horton Plains - Flora, Fauna, and Climate Balance include the unique features of carrying out on-site field laboratories to microclimate assessment and ecology analyses.

Cultural Highlights – History of Tea cultivation in Sri Lanka
an exposure to the traditional tea industry of Sri Lanka

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KANDY & UDAWATTAKELE

Kandy, Sri Lanka, is renowned for its cultural heritage and natural beauty, highlighted by landmarks like Udawattakele Sanctuary, Dalada Maligawa, and the Royal Botanical Gardens. Udawattakele serves as an urban retreat, showcasing rich biodiversity and distinct ecosystems, including tropical evergreen forests and wetlands. The upcoming session will explore these ecosystems, their interactions, and conservation efforts essential for maintaining biodiversity amidst urban development. Participants will engage in hands-on activities such as plant identification and microclimate assessments, gaining insights into the ecological and social benefits of urban forests and the importance of preserving natural spaces.

Study highlights
An experience blended with Cultural and Natural Diversity

Udawattakele: Exploring the Rich Biodiversity of Kandy's Urban Forest
Cultural Highlights – Dalada Maligawa

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KALPITIYA & MANGROVES

This session focuses on analyzing mangrove restoration in Kalpitiya, Sri Lanka, emphasizing the vital role of mangroves in supporting marine and terrestrial biodiversity. Participants will engage in reforestation initiatives, research and monitoring of mangrove health, and sustainable tourism to promote conservation efforts.

A community engagement project will involve local stakeholders in mangrove restoration, educating them on its significance while implementing sustainable livelihood programs. The initiative aims to replant native species, monitor ecosystem health, and develop policies for long-term mangrove conservation, ultimately fostering biodiversity, enhancing coastal protection, and improving local livelihoods.

Study highlights
Analyzing Mangrove Restoration in Sri Lanka
A Hands-On Exploration in Kalpitiya

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TOUR ITINERARY

Offering an in-depth exploration of marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Activities include snorkeling, whale watching, wildlife studies in Yala National Park, tea plantation visits, and lectures on biodiversity and mangrove restoration, culminating in a closing ceremony on the date of departure.

Day 01: Introductory Session and Lecture
Ecological Significance of Coral Reefs and Marine Life on Southern Coast of Sri Lanka

Day 02: Snorkelling to view the natural corals in Hikkaduwa
Walking tour of Galle Dutch Fortress
Lecture on Whales of the Indian Ocean: Insights into behaviour and migration patterns.

Day 03: Whale Watching Expedition

Day 04: Lecture on Spotlight on Yala: Exploring leopard density and wildlife photography in Sri Lanka

Day 05: Visit to Yala National Park
Lecture on Horton Plains: Flora, fauna and climate balance

Day 06: On-site Laboratory 01- Horton Plains

Day 07: On-site Laboratory 02 – Horton Plains

Day 08: Tea Plantation & Factory visit
Lecture on Udawattakele: Exploring the rich biodiversity of Kandy's urban forest.

Day 09: Nature trek to Udawatakele

Day 10: Royal Botanical Gardens
Temple of the Tooth and Kandyan Cultural Dance
Lecture on Analysing Mangrove Restoration in Sri Lanka: A hands-on exploration in Kalpitiya

Day 11: On-site Laboratory 03 – Mangrove Studies

Day 12: Community Engagement – Mangrove Restoration

Day 13: Closing Ceremony

Day 14: Departure

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ACCOMMODATION

Day 01 / Day 02
Hikkaduwa

Lanka Super Corals	https://www.hotellankasupercorals.com/
Hikkaduwa Beach Hotel	https://hikkaduwabeachhotels.com/

Day 03
Hikkaduwa/Galle/Mirissa

Hotel Silan Mo, Mirissa	https://tinyurl.com/yhuzm7z5

Day 04
Mirissa/Tissamaharama

Oak Ray Wild, Yala	https://www.oakrayhotels.com/wildyala/

Day 05 / Day 06 / Day 07
Tissamaharama/Yala/Nuwara Eliya

Blackpool Hotel, Nuwara Eliya:	https://www.blackpool.lk/

Day 08 / Day 09
Nuwara Eliya/Kandy

Hotel Topaz, Kandy	https://www.topaz.lk/

Day 10 / Day 11
Kandy/Kalpitiya

Chalet by Thilanka, Kalpitiya	https://kalpitiyachalets.com/

Day 12 / Day 13 / Day 14
Kalpitiya/Negombo

Terrace Green Hotel, Negambo	https://www.terracegreenhotel.com/

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A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

This unique program, endorsed by a globally recognized university, stands apart from typical tour packages by offering participants unparalleled hands-on learning in diverse ecosystems—rainforests, wetlands, coastal areas, and mountains. Through on-site field laboratory experiences, participants gain invaluable insights into the complexity and interconnectivity of different biomes.

The program not only fosters collaboration with industry leaders and fellow ecology enthusiasts but also inspires a lasting commitment to environmental stewardship, empowering the next generation to champion sustainability.

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