

Mahoorra Camps at Rekawa Beach

Witness the Sea Turtles Nesting on The Gorgeous Beaches of Southern Sri Lanka. Turtle Excursion with Mahoorra Camping in Rekawa

SLDT/1702/Cam04



Why should you book this trip?

- Marine turtles have been roaming the world's oceans for about 190 million years and today eight of these reptiles remain. We camp at a safe distance where five out of these species regularly visit to nest.
- Seeing and witnessing the life of this amazing animal coming to the beach and laying eggs is a once in a lifetime experience.
- Furthermore, most of our clients get the opportunity to witness the hatchlings going to the sea as well.

- The comfortable setting of the tented camp gives you a relaxing atmosphere. A warm campfire and Sri Lankan cuisine coupled together with BBQ dinners will add to the flavour of your experience.
- An opportunity to meet and interact with the local communities.
- Your experience is led by a professional naturalist cum environmentalist who is very familiar with responsible turtle watching in the natural habitats.
- Your naturalist-guided night walks to see turtles and morning nature walks makes your experience unique – a facility that Mahoora guarantees.

Quick Facts

- Availability – November to March
- Transfer arrangements to be picked up and dropped off to any preferred destination could be provided on request
- Arrival at 12.30 p.m. at the Ranna Junction. You will be dropped back to the same location around 11 a.m. on the following day
- Children 6 to 12 years of age sharing the parents' tent will be charged 50%
- Not recommended for children under six years
- Possible to extend the stay beyond one night
- Camping on the Rekawa Beach, as per the Mahoora Explorer Camping package

You will meet



Devaka

He was born in southern Colombo, near the Bolgoda Lake in his hometown of Moratuwa. He studied at the prestigious Prince of Wales College in Moratuwa throughout his school career where he developed a deep love for the vibrant nature that surrounded him. He carried on with his academic work, acquiring an English Diploma from the Aquinas University College in Sri Lanka and a Diploma in Wildlife from the Open University of Sri Lanka. Furthermore, he has also completed the Wildlife Conservation course at the Wildlife Trust, amassing a deep knowledge to go with his enthusiasm for nature. Devaka, or someone in his calibre, who is available on the day you book the tour, will be leading this tour.

Included in the price

- Tented Accommodation on the Rekawa beach
- Service of a professional naturalist who is very well familiarized with responsible turtle watching
- Permit fees
- Unlimited beverage service
- All meals during your stay
- Bottled water throughout the day
- All Government tax

Exclusions

- Tips for the staff
- Anything that is not mentioned above

Tour in brief (1 night, 2 day)

Do get in touch with your safari specialist as soon as the booking is confirmed, where you will be advised on the meeting point. You will be picked up and driven to the campsite at the pre-arranged meeting point at 12.30 p.m. by Mahoora staff

In reaching the campsite, the Team Leader will warmly welcome you and brief you about your stay with Mahoora. Thereafter, you will be accompanied to your tent by our staff. Lunch will be served shortly afterwards

In the afternoon, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the Turtle Conservation Project by meeting conservationists in the area, followed by evening tea and coffee

On your return from these visits/meetings and once you are refreshed, you will have the wonderful opportunity to dine under the stars enjoying the exquisite BBQ meal that our chef prepares

Generally, late nights are the best for turtle watching. Guests can choose to stay in the tent and then be woken up when staff spot the turtles or join the patrolling teams

On the following day, after a morning nature trail followed by breakfast, you can depart from the campsite with the best experience of Mahoora Camping on the Rekawa beach

Important

- The pickup time from each pickup point is 12.30p.m.; late or early arrivals may result in inconveniences
- Mahoora Camping's meal basis is on full board, from lunch on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 2. This is a standard procedure and will remain the same for all our guests
- Lunch is served at the campsite; it is an experience by itself (any change to this will be specifically advised by our staff)

- There should be enough time to do an evening activity. Guests should leave the campsite by latest 2.30 p.m. for the afternoon activity after having lunch
- In case you get delayed due to unavoidable circumstances or for help on how to get to the location, please call the contact person early
- Personal effects for warm, windy, rainy conditions should be carried by clients
- Insect repellent, sunscreen etc. are recommended
- Sandals or walking shoes are recommended
- Please refrain from making casual donations to anyone. If you like to tip, please hand it over to the Team Leader at the camp. He will distribute it amongst the staff
- Please do not buy any wildlife-related products from anyone, as it is illegal and against our sustainable policies

Rekawa responsible turtle watching programme

The small fishing village of Rekawa is located about 10km east of the south coast town of Tangalle. Sri Lanka Day Tours works closely with the TCP (Turtle Conservation Project) in their 'Turtle Watch' programme on the Rekawa beach where visitors can observe the ancient ritual of turtles coming ashore and laying eggs. This pioneering conservation programme was started in 1996 to protect sea turtles in their natural habitat while providing an alternative source of income to people formerly dependent on the illegal collection of turtle eggs. Five out of the seven species of marine turtles that are familiar (but endangered) come to nest in this part of the Sri Lankan coastline, making it an ideal location to marvel at one of nature's most fascinating processes.

Marine turtles of Sri Lanka

Marine turtles were roaming the oceans for about 190 million years. Among the many different varieties of this species only eight reptiles are found living today. Of the eight, Sri Lanka is famous for five kinds of turtles (Green turtle, the Leatherback, the Hawksbill the Loggerhead and the Olive Ridley) who regularly visit the sandy beaches to nest in the south-western and south-eastern coast. Turtles are best seen in the nights.

Turtles are very nervous when they are looking for a place to nest and can be easily scared. The turtle can only be approached when she starts laying the eggs. By then the turtle is engaged in a very mechanical, almost trance-like behavior and it is unlikely for her to be frightened by spectators. Turtle watching can include some waiting and some walking on the beach as this is nature and it is the turtle (female) that sets the time and place of the event. Of course there is no guarantee that the turtles come to nest every night, but sitting on a deserted beach under the open starry sky is an incredible experience in itself.