

## **Mahoora Camps at Gal Oya National Park**

### **Mahoora Safari Camp at Gal Oya National Park. Go On Boat Safaris and Spot Swimming Elephants!**

SLDT/1702/Cam09



### **Why should you book this trip?**

- You will be led by an enthusiastic, professional naturalist guide.
- It is a unique experience where boat safaris in the Galoya reservoir take the centre stage – a rare occurrence.
- The highlight of your stay will be to witness elephants swimming from one island to another in the reservoir in the Galoya Park.
- Camping is in the heart of the wilderness in Galoya, giving you the opportunity to go back in time, savour and experiential living in the bush.
- The comfortable setting of the tented camp gives you a relaxing atmosphere. A warm campfire and Sri Lankan cuisine will add to the flavour of your experience.
- An opportunity to meet the only indigenous, tribal community of the country – AadiVaasi or the Veddas – a fast dwindling community.
- Your experience is led by a professional naturalist cum environmentalist who is very familiar with the Galoya National Park.

- Unique photo opportunities in the Galoya National Park that will turn your friends green with envy.

## Quick Facts

- Availability – all year around
- Transfer arrangements to be picked up and dropped off to any preferred destination could be provided on request
- Arrival at 12.30p.m. at the park entrance. 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. Every additional night entitles you to two safaris in the GalOya National Park.
- Camping in the outskirts of the Galoya National Park, as per the Mahoorra Explorer Camping package

## You will meet



### **Devaka Dumindu Jayamanna**

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.
- One jeep safari and one boat safari
- Service of a professional naturalist who is very well familiarized with Galoya National Park Safaris.
- Park entrance fee and the tracker fees
- Picnic basket with snacks and hot and cold beverages during the safaris.
- Unlimited beverage service
- All meals during your stay
- Bottled water throughout the day.
- All government taxes.

## Exclusions

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

## Tour in brief

Upon your arrival, we advise you to touch base with us in order to provide detailed information on the pickup point. Considering the terrain, it would be difficult to find the campsite on your own. You will be picked up and driven to the campsite at the pre-arranged meeting point (Gal Oyapark entrance) at 12.30 p.m. by Mahoorra staff and no extra cost will be charged, or your driver can be guided over the phone step by step.

At the campsite, you will be welcomed by the Camp Manager who will brief you of the day's plan and activities including an introduction to the area. Once refreshed, your lunch will be served in your tented accommodation. Thereafter, your naturalist will guide you in setting for the evening safari. The safaris are done by boat due to the setting of the national park where the best viewing is possible.

Your return to the campsite is marked with freshly brewed tea and coffee with time to unwind and relax. Dinner is served under the stars amidst a blazing campfire to keep you warm. Our very special five-course BBQ dinner is bound to tantalise your taste buds. The nights are quiet and calm and it is bound to give you peaceful rest after a full day of activities.

The wakeup call is given at 5 a.m. and by 5.45 a.m. as you need to be up for tea and coffee by 6 a.m. and leave for an adventurous morning safari.

Once you are back at the campsite, a sumptuous Sri Lankan continental breakfast is served. You will depart from the campsite late morning with one of the best experiences of your life.

## Important

- The pickup time from each pickup point is 12.30p.m.; late or early arrivals may result in inconveniences.
- Mahoorra 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 safari/activity. Guests should leave the campsite by latest 2.30 p.m. for the afternoon safari 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

## Gal Oya National Park

The Gal Oya National Park, situated in Sri Lanka's South Eastern Province, was established in 1954 by the Gal Oya Development Board. Its primary function is to protect the catchment area of the vast Senanayake Samudra. It was subsequently handed over to the Department of Wildlife Conservation in 1965. This reservoir is the lake which holds the largest amount of water in Sri Lanka.

The Buddhanga sanctuary, which is one of the four protected areas that makes up the Gal Oya National Park, has ruins of a dagoba and other buildings dating back to the 2nd century BC. It is believed that Lord Buddha visited here during his last time in Sri Lanka. In the hilly country to the west of the park was one of the last strongholds of Sri Lanka's indigenous tribes – the Veddas.

The Gal Oya National Park is rich in both flora and fauna. About 45 percent of the park is covered by evergreen forest and a further 33 percent is taken up by savannah areas. The 25,900 hectare park has about 32 species of mammals including the Common Langur, the endemic Toque Macaque, Sri Lankan leopards, Sri Lankan sloth bears, Sri Lankan elephants, wild boar, water buffalo and three species of deer.