

Monkey Kingdom Expedition Meet The Kings, Queens and Troops of Polonnaruwa - The Home of The Famous Disney Nature Monkey Kingdom

SLDT/1707/CT06



Why should you book this trip?

- Observe a variety of social behaviors, including: maternal care, play, food competition, grooming, a rich repertoire of facial gestures, body postures and vocal signals of these very interesting primates
- It's a very different, unique activity to be done in the historical cultural triangle; going beyond historical monuments. [easy access from Habarana / Sigiriya / Kandalama / Polonnaruwe]
- It is a fascinating activity for those who love observing animal species in their beautiful natural environment
- Understand monkeys' different social organizations and ecological strategies
- Opportunity to take easy, up-close photographs of monkeys
- Guidance by an experienced guide/naturalist makes the tour more interesting

- See how monkeys are different as individuals, and observe the similarities they share with humans
- Learn about their family relationships and friendships as well as their often dramatic social histories
- Opportunity to follow monkeys on foot in the forest
- Opportunity to contribute to primate conservation

Quick Facts

- Preferred starting time of the tour is in the morning: 6 a.m.
- Duration: 4 hours
- Lead time: Three days prior notice
- Possible period – all year round
- Arrival and departure transport for any location could be arranged on request for an additional cost
- Breakfast/lunch/dinner could be arranged at an additional cost
- The Central Cultural Fund charges separately for entry tickets to the Polonnaruwa Archaeological Reserve

You will meet



Dr. Dittus

Dr. Dittus had his undergraduate training and experience in geology through McGill University and the International Nickel Company (INCO) in Canada. He has done experimental studies on the behavioral development (nature vs. nurture) of song in cardinal birds (*Richmondia cardinalis*). In the USA, he graduated with a Ph.D. in Zoology (Behavior and Ecology) from the University of Maryland, College Park based on his field research of toque macaques in Sri Lanka. As a post-graduate, he did brief population surveys of sloths and howler monkeys in the forests of Panama.

The early years of his childhood were spent in the Black Forest region of southwestern Germany where he acquired an appreciation for nature. This was developed further by life on Vancouver Island, British Columbia and later by many summers camping in the wilderness of the Laurentian Mountains of Quebec. He volunteered and worked in Canadian social welfare programs (Red Feather) as a boy's camp leader and instructor. Throughout most of career Dr. Dittus has devoted his studies and teaching focused on nature and the outdoors.

Dr. Dittus is Chairman of the Association for the Conservation of Primate Diversity (ACPD) and is a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Conservation Ecology Center, Washington DC, USA. He is also a Visiting Scientist at the Institute of Fundamental Studies in Sri Lanka.

Included in the price

- Guided tour with Professor Dittus on availability or a senior researcher
- Refreshments
- Documentary film
- A lecture about the primates if required

Exclusions

- Entrance fee to the Polonnaruwa Archaeological Reserve
- Transportation to the location
- Any extra beverages or food consumed
- Any tips to the staff
- Any personal effects not mentioned above

Tour in brief

Morning session of the Monkey Tour starts at 6 a.m., after the briefing by the team that will assist you throughout the tour. The first species you would find would be the grey langur and a small troop of monkeys. Watch as they wake up and follow them closely for a small part of the day, as they venture to feed themselves and interact socially with each other, as well as with other species and other animals including humans. We enter the land of the archeology of Polonnaruwa and the nature reserve, which is our study area for monkeys and langurs around 7:15 a.m. The tickets should be bought here from the box office of the Central Cultural Fund for all foreign guests.

Once inside, you can also meet Maya and Kip and the other 'actors' of Disney Nature's Monkey Kingdom, along with the troop, if they are within the study area.

Some days there would be spectacular territorial struggles between langurs and monkeys, with hours of preparation.

Our field session ends at 9 a.m., since the primates are fed and are back to the trees to rest.