



Why should you book this trip?

- Truly experience Sri Lanka's untouched natural beauty.
- It's the perfect destination for endemic bird watching.
- You will be led by an experienced naturalist who has great knowledge on the Makandawa Rainforest.
- Traditional dugout canoe ride to cross the Kelani River.
- Local community interactions and learning their way of life.
- A two-and-half-hour drive from Colombo. Very well connected on your way to Colombo from Nuwara Eliya via Hatton.
- Possibility of combining this excursion with whitewater rafting and canyoning.
- Excellent photography opportunities.

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 6.30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at pre-agreed location in Kitulgala
- Children 8 to 12 years of age will be charged 50%
- Not recommended for children under eight years
- Possible to extend the activity with accommodation

You will meet



Smantha

Samantha Liyanage is a trekking guide for Eco Team in Kitulgala with around five years experience in the field. Samantha was part of the Sri Lanka Army before he took up his job as a trekking guide. He lives with his wife and child in his hometown of Kitulgala and states that he has a great interest in cricket while being an accomplished singer as well.

Included in the price

- Services of a local guide for the trek
- Bottled water
- Entrance fees to the Makandawa forest

Exclusions

- Any transportation to and from the meeting point
- Any additional beverages or food, ordered extra
- Any tips for staff
- Any personal effects not mentioned here
- Optional activity costs
- Any others expenses not mentioned in price inclusions section

Tour in brief

Do get in touch with your sales consultant as soon as the booking is confirmed and you will be advised on the meeting point.

You will be met by the excursion leader at this point. After the briefing, we walk through the village and find our dugout canoe handled by a villager to go across the village.

From the landing point we start our trail. The reserve has rich birdlife and has many endemic species, which makes it a great spot for avid birdwatchers. The hike takes you through a thick canopy of lush forest with trees towering above and providing natural shade and coolness even on the hottest days. The reserve has several waterfalls and it's possible to swim in local swimming holes inside the reserve.

Some of the birds that you may see in this area include the Sri Lankan Wood Pigeon, White Faced Starling, Green-billed Coucal, Sri Lanka Magpie, Red Faced Malkoha, Malabar Trogon, Sri Lanka Orange-billed Babbler, Sri Lanka Chestnut-backed Owlet and the Lesser Yellow Nape.

Finishing the trail, we take a swinging bridge or the same canoe to cross back.

Important

- Clients should bring suitable clothing for warm, windy and rainy conditions
- Recommended items such as insect repellent and sun protection should be brought by clients
- Water bottles and refreshments should be carried by clients at all times

Makandawa Rainforest

The Makandawa forest reserve is one of the oldest forest reserves in the country and is a significant protected area that is a birdwatcher's paradise. It exceeds 192 hectares of land and is home to some of the most exotic and endangered wildlife including a dazzling array of endemic, migratory and resident birds.

The Makandawa forest was declared as a forest reserve all the way back in 1903 and has been an important location for birders, nature photographers as well as wildlife academics with the reserve being one of the best places in the country to observe and study a host of different creatures.

Bird watching is very rewarding in Makandawa as you will get a chance to see plenty of rare species including the Black Eagle, the Trogon, Sri Lanka Orange-billed babbler, Chestnut backed owlet, the Blue Magpie and the Red Faced Malkoha. The forest reserve is also home to several species of mammals, insects, and amphibians to make your visit to this natural haven a complete wildlife experience.