

Canoeing in Kalu Ganga

Canoeing in River Kalu Ganga. 1 and Several Day Canoeing Expeditions in Sri Lanka

SLDT/1702/Can01. SLDT/1702/Can02. SLDT/1702/Can03. SLDT/1702/Can04



Why should you book this trip?

- Canoeing in “Kalu Ganga” (Black River) gives you some of the rare and rewarding experiences of Sri Lanka and its people who live in the riverine villages.
- You are able to witness the most untouched scenic beauty of the country, encounter locals and learn their way of life on this canoe trip.
- An opportunity to visit and be blessed in one of the most sacred shrines – Saman Devale (dedicated to God Saman) – in the country and evoke blessings.
- The journey will take you through the silent waters of Kalu Ganaga amidst the varied bird life.
- It’s a fun-filled adventure for an expert and even for an amateur to try his/her hand.

Quick Facts

- Canoeing in Kalu Ganga could be done as a day programme or with a 1 night, 2 days option (moderate) or a 1 night, 2 days option (hard) or even a 2 nights, 3 days option.
- Clients could decide the option that they want to take based on the fitness level and the time that they can spend for this programme.
- If the clients select the one night option, we could either do the full run up to Kaluthara in two days as explained in the 1 night, 2 days option (hard) programme or finish canoeing half way through (up to Anguruwathota), as explained in the 1 night, 2 days option (moderate), on the second day and get into the vehicle and do the remainder of the journey.
- This option need to be stipulated at the time of reservation.
- Meeting point at Saman Develaya (temple and a shrine dedicated to God Saman) in Rathnapura.
- Meeting time at 10 a.m.
- Safety briefing and orientation will be done before starting the excursion.

You will meet



Gayan

Gayan is one of the senior river guides cum activity assistants we have. Hailing from a village that has a large reservoir built for hydropower, his love towards water activities was natural. Before joining us, he had tried his hand in farming and gem mining. He is a father of two loving kids and resides in Belihuloya.

Important

- Personal effects for warm, windy, rainy conditions should be carried by clients
- Insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended
- Disclaimer to be signed by the clients

Programme		End Point	Km to Canoe	Grading	Hours Taken
One Day Programme SLDT/1702/Can01	Day 1	Kiriella	16	Soft/ Moderate	3 to 4
1 Night. 2 Days Programme SLDT/1702/Can02	Day 1	Kiriella	16	Moderate	2 to 4
	Day 2	Anguruwathota	28		6 to 7
1 Night. 2 Days Programme SLDT/1702/Can03	Day 1	Anguruwathota	44	Hard	8 to 9
	Day 2	Kaluthara	32		6 to 7
2 nights. 3 days Programme SLDT/1702/Can04	Day 1	Kiriella	16	Moderate	3 to 4
	Day 2	Anguruwathota	28		6 to 7
	Day 3	Kaluthara	32		7 to 8

Included in the price

- Professional and experienced river guide/s
- Life jackets and other required accessories for canoeing
- Unlimited drinking water
- Full-time backup vehicle parallel to the canoe with radio communication
- lunch
- Required emergency assistance
- All Government and other stakeholder approvals

Exclusions

- Any other transportation
- Tips to the staff
- Beverages other than water

Tour in Brief

Your first encounter with us will be at the meeting point at Saman Devalaya (a temple/shrine dedicated to God Saman), where you will be greeted by our staff and blessed prior to the commencement of the journey.

Saman Devalaya is set in Rathnapura – famous for its gems. You will be given a short brief on the safety, terrain and other important aspects with regard to the journey.

The first part of the journey is comparatively easy and does not require any special canoeing skills, although you need to be fit to canoe for a long period of time, and may want to rest if you are weary. Along the route, you will witness the beauty of Mother Nature, including varied birdlife from white bellied eagles to bright coloured kingfishers to turquoise parrots to the darkest of commarants. The local activities take place on the river beds which include catamarans topped with wood and men in loin clothes digging up sand.

The landscape is always unique and never a repetition with hibiscus in its colourful glory sitting amidst the greener patches of trees. The gaggles of the women folk and the men getting about in their daily farming are bountiful. You may even find a herd of buffaloes keeping you company along the river beds.

Your adventure will end at “Kiriella”, a village where you will be met with our land crew.

On the way, we will stop at one of the houses near the river bank to have lunch.

Kalu Ganga (The Black River)

The Kalu Ganga provides a relaxing and an adventurous experience with its relatively slow flow. Measuring 129 km (80 mi) in length, the river originates from Adam's Peak and reaches the sea at Kalutara. The Black River flows through the Ratnapura and the Kalutara districts and passed the city of Ratnapura. The mountainous forests in the Central Province and the Sinharaja Forest Reserve are the main sources of water for the river.

Saman Devalaya

The Saman Devalaya is an important shrine for Buddhists. It is a shrine devoted to the God Saman, a Buddhist deity who is regarded as the guardian of Ratnapura. Inspired by the Lord Buddha's doctrine, following the Lord Buddha's Dhamma, listening to his holy preaching, Saman attained the higher state of Ariya. Later, after his demise, Saman became a symbol of worship and was acclaimed as the God Sumana Saman.

Stanzas in the poems of 'Saman Siritha', written during the Kotte period, refers to a procession carrying the sacred statue of God Saman passing the Galkada village in Ratnapura on its way to Sapara-gamuwa. This would be the present Devalegawa village where the Saman Devalaya is situated.