



—Sri Lanka—
Day Tours

Lonely Planet's Greatest Elephant Gathering Safari – Minneriya National Park

“Enjoy an action-packed safari to witness The Elephant Gathering, listed by Lonely Planet as one of the Top Ten Wildlife Spectacles in the World, where over 300 elephants gather at Minneriya National Park”

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Why should you book this trip?

- The Minneriya National Park is probably the most easily accessed national park from the cultural triangle.
- The largest seasonally recurring concentration of wild elephants takes place between July and September at Minneriya (and Kaudulla) National Park. Over 300 elephants may gather on the seasonally drying lake bed in Minneriya National Park.
- This gathering is listed by Lonely Planet as among the Top Ten wildlife spectacles in the world. The list includes famous nature events such as the great wildebeest migration in Serengeti, brown bears feasting in Alaska, the penguin rookery in the Atlantic, the Monarch butterfly migration in Mexico, orca feeding in Argentina, starling roosting in England, and the salmon run in South Africa.
- Although the months in which the elephant gathering occurs offers the best experience, the safari tour of Minneriya National Park is a rewarding safari experience any day of the year.
- Although elephants are its main attraction, Minneriya hosts more than 160 species of birds, a few of which are endemic to Sri Lanka, such as the Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot, the Sri Lanka Jungle Fowl, and the Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill.
- Large mammals, including, sloth bears, Sambar deer, and axis deer, as well as smaller mammals such as the Purple-Faced Langur, Toque Macaque, and the Grey Slender Loris make the Minneriya National Park their home.
- Guidance by our local specialised guide makes this experience even more special.

Quick Facts

- Preferred starting time of the tour is Morning:6.00a.m. or Evening: 2.30p.m.
- Starting point: Gate entrance of Bundala National Park
- Duration: this is a half-day programme
- Arrival and departure transport for any location could be arranged on request for an additional cost
- Possible period - All around the year

Tour in brief

- You will first meet up with the Sri Lanka Day Tours crew and your designated guide at the gate entrance to the Minneriya National Park. For the evening half-day tour, the starting time will be at 2.30 p.m.
- The Minneriya National Park is a protected wildlife reserve in the heart of Sri Lanka's Dry Zone. Its main feature is the Minneriya Reservoir, the largest of 16 built in the 3rd Century AD by King Mahasena.
- After entering the national park with your guide in a jeep, you will be able to spot several species of birds and other animals that have made their homes in this sanctuary.
- Minneriya National Park is home to one of the most spectacular natural events in the world – the Elephant Gathering. In the dry months of August and September, about 300 elephants from the park and the surrounding area – including the Wasgamuwa National Park – gather at the reservoir in large numbers to get much-needed refreshment.
- These gentle giants are a sight to behold, as they frolic in the waters and interact with elephants from other herds.
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- Finishing the Safari, around 6 p.m. you will be dropped at the park entrance.

Important

- Suitable casual clothing for windy, rainy, warm weather conditions should be considered
- Insect repellents, sun-protection creams etc. are recommended.
- Cameras/video recorders to capture those amazing moments.

Included in the price

- Experienced local guide
- Jeep cost
- Entrance fees
- Bottled water

Exclusions

- Arrival and departure transportation
- Any extra beverages or food consumed
- Any tips to the staff
- Any personal effects not mentioned above