



DISCOVERY GUIDE

EXCURSIONS AT A GLANCE

The following excursions are available at a glance for your convenience. To make a reservation, please contact our Concierge team who will be delighted to assist you.

Please note that prior notice is required. Trips are subject to minimum numbers and are weather dependent. Tailor-made packages are available on request to choose your own path.

You can decide how, when and where to travel. To make the most of your experience why not try one of our blended tours?

All durations stated in the list are inclusive of travel time and experience and prices are subject to 10% Service Charge and applicable Government Taxes.





LOCAL FISHING EXPERIENCE

Experience the serene waters of the 'Kalu Ganga' whilst drifting on a traditional Sri Lankan sailing vessel called "The Oruwa". You will be guided by our resort "Fishing Guru" who will teach you the local fishing techniques and then finish your day by having our Chef cook what you have caught according to your taste.

Duration: 2 hours





KALU GANGA BOAT TRIP

Kalu Ganga (Black River) is the 4th longest river in Sri Lanka which flows calmly right through the heart of Kalutara and is lined with mangrove marshes. Taking a boat ride along this serene river is ideal for a relaxing vacation providing a valuable opportunity to see an abundance of endemic birds and other wildlife. This stately river flows along the unexplored banks of the town, letting the visitors discover a side of Kalutara which cannot be explored by road. While here, be soothed by the cool breeze and enjoy the immense natural beauty unique to this part of the island.

Duration: 2 hours





WARAKAGODA TEMPLE

The "Warakagoda" temple was once where the sacred tooth relic of lord Buddha had been kept before it was moved to the renowned 'Temple of the Tooth' in Kandy.

Distance: 24 Km per way

Duration: 2 hours

FA HIEN CAVES

The 'Fa Hien Caves' are some of the oldest evidence of Mesolithic habitation in Sri Lanka, and can be reached in one of our Hybrid SUV. The caves have earned the name due to the visit of the Buddhist monk and explorer 'Fa Hien' in 399 A.D. Take time to explore these spectacular caves which are believed to be some of the largest caves in Sri Lanka.

Distance: 40 Km per way

Duration: Half day



ECO VILLAGE

Learn about some of Sri Lanka's most ancient skills by visiting a local 'Eco Village' where you can see the traditional trades of weaving, pottery and blacksmiths. Enjoy a scenic journey through the picturesque Sri Lankan countryside passing mountains, paddy fields and rubber estates to the nearby rural village. The village is run by a local monk from the neighboring temple and here you will be able to watch as local craftsmen/ women weave material using age old techniques. You can also see how local potters mould pots from natural clay on the traditional 'Sakaporuwa' or turning wheel. Finally observe as the local blacksmiths skillfully forge metal into various tools and other items, an ancient trade which is still very much alive today in Sri Lanka.

Distance: 30 Km per way

Duration: 2.5 hours

RICHMOND CASTLE

Should you decide to venture beyond your resort experience, take a tour to some of the Sacred, Historical & Mesolithic sites in Kalutara. Your guide will take you on a boat ride to the famous Richmond Castle. This castle was built in 1896 by a wealthy "Mudaliyar" (Landowner) for his wife.

Stroll around the gardens whilst admiring the construction of this two-storied building which boasts 99 doors and 34 windows. Enjoy walking through the mansion where you will see antiques and furniture collected throughout the years and learn about the unique natural ventilation system. In addition many Grecian statues of children can be seen in the garden of the mansion. "Mudaliyars" last will was to donate the castle to less privileged children.

The Curators of Richmond Castle will be more than happy to take you back in time unfolding the story of the castle. Kindly note that Richmond Castle do not accept any forms of donations, instead the entrance fee is spent to manage the castle & school for less privileged children.

Distance: 8 Km per way

Duration: 2 hours



KALUTARA BODHIYA

The Sacred Kalutara Bodhiya (Buddhist temple), built in 1960's where the white three-storied-high dagoba (Shrine) is believed to be the only Buddha Stupa (Dome) in the world which is entirely hollow.

Distance: 5 Km per way

Duration: 1.5 hours

POLGAMPOLA WATERFALL

Go off the beaten track and experience the cool waters of the local 'Polgampola waterfall'. Once again a journey through the local countryside passing mountains, paddy fields, palm oil plantations and tea estates takes you to a small village nestled away. From here you can take a short walk through a forest where you will come to the cascading waterfall and tranquil pool.

Sit and watch the local wildlife such as monkeys, lizards and a variety of birdlife or take a plunge into the refreshing cool water.

After this you will be served a traditional Sri Lankan meal of manioc and jackfruit with coconut and chili paste and a revitalizing king coconut drink. All in the surroundings of nature and an authentic Sri Lankan experience.

Distance: 40 Km per way

Duration: Half day



SPICE GARDEN

The perfect place to stroll around and learn about the different spices and herbs which are native to Sri Lanka, their benefits and how they are used in the traditional ayurvedic treatments. If you wish, you can purchase something from their shop, from slimming tea to hair growing creams all made from indigenous herbs or spices.

Distance: 21 Km per way
Duration: 2 hours

LUNU GANGA ESTATE TOUR

Lunu Ganga is the country residence of the world renowned Sri Lankan architect, the late Geoffrey Bawa (the father of Asian architecture). The legendary architect poured forty years into transforming this abandoned rubber and cinnamon estate into an idyllic garden paradise. Lunu Ganga (which means salty river) was built in 1947. The beautifully landscaped and self-sufficient garden consists of an abundance of local trees including the Gigantic Mahogany, Teak, Ebony and various other trees. Lunu Ganga is a tropical paradise, decorated by jungle and complemented by lily ponds framed with frangipani, all with glorious lake views. It's difficult to put into words how special this idyllic place is. Sri Lanka's cultural heritage is blessed with such an estate and a visit to this place is a wonderful privilege.

Distance: 25 Km per way
Duration: 2.5 hours

BRIEF GARDEN BY BEVIS BAWA

Discover the fascinating gardens of the Bawa brothers. The garden was named 'Brief Gardens' by Geoffrey and Bevis Bawa as their father purchased the land after a successful legal brief. Wander around the magical gardens whilst admiring the unique architecture and diverse flora and fauna.

Distance: 21 Km per way
Duration: 2.5 hours







TURTLE HATCHERY

Meet the day old baby turtles at the Kosgoda turtle hatchery. Here you will find lots of information about Sri Lanka's pioneering sea turtle conservation project - why Sri Lanka (and the village of Kosgoda in particular) is a prime turtle nesting site, why the conservation project is needed and how the project is operated by local people with the help of international volunteers. As a special finish to this experience why not take part in releasing the baby turtles into the ocean at dusk and start their journey to adulthood.

Distance: 35 Km per way

Duration: 2.5 hours

VISIT HADUNUGODA TEA ESTATE

The estate is known as the Virgin White Tea Factory. It produces a white tea completely untouched by human hands. The process of tea plucking follows an ancient Chinese Ritual where the finest of teas were cut by virgins who never touched the tea with their bare skin and offered the resulting produce up as a tribute to the Emperor.

Distance: 90 Km per way

Duration: Half day



VISIT TO KANDE VIHARAYA

The Kande Viharaya Temple dates back to 1734 and lies close to the Beruwala Beach. It was built by Dedduwa Thero and the temple has the Tallest (48M /160ft) sitting Buddha statue in the world.

Distance: 17 Km per way
Duration: 2.5 hours





HISTORICAL TOUR OF GALLE

Galle Fort was built in the late 1500s by the Portuguese, later fortified by the Dutch and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Spend time walking along the ramparts and take in the panoramic views of the Dutch fort, harbor and crystal clear waters below. Something for everyone from small boutiques and museums with colonial antiques to modern bistros and bars to watch the world go by.

Distance: 81 Km per way

Duration: Half day



KECHCHIMALAI MOSQUE

One of the oldest mosques in Sri Lanka, this historic place of worship attracts visitors with its intricate, yet simple, architecture. The mosque is completely white except for the green doorways, the striking contrast adding to its tropical charm. The mosque is situated on a headland and is believed to have been constructed over a thousand years ago. In fact, it is believed that the first Muslims to come from Arabia settled in Beruwela and that the Kechchimalai Mosque was built by them.

Distance: 12 Km per way
Duration: 2 hours





YALA NATIONAL PARK

Yala is the most visited park and second largest National Park in Sri Lanka. The park is well known for its variety of wild animals. Yala hosts diverse ecosystems ranging from moist monsoon forests to freshwater and marine wetlands. It is one of the 70 Important Bird Areas in Sri Lanka. Yala harbors 215 bird species including six endemic species to Sri Lanka. The number of mammals that has been recorded from the park is 44, and it has one of the highest leopard densities in the world. The perfect place to see Sri Lankan wildlife in all its splendor.

Distance: 238 Km per way

Duration: Full day

WHALE WATCHING TOUR (SEASONAL)

Take a 120 minute drive to Mirissa Harbor and set sail on the journey of a lifetime from Weligama Bay where these magnificent creatures are known to frequent the blue waters, off the southern coast.

Distance: 110 Km per way

Duration: Full day







COLOMBO CITY TOUR

Explore the administrative capital of Sri Lanka covering the foremost sites of Colombo. Your dedicated chauffeur will show you:

- The Parliament of Sri Lanka which was designed by renowned local architect the late Geoffrey Bawa.
- The War Memorial.
- Independence Square and a national monument in Sri Lanka built for commemoration of the Independence of Sri Lanka from the British rule on February 1948.
- The Gangaramaya Buddhist temple is a beautiful and vibrant place of worship with a history that dates back over 2000 years.
- Slave Island area with the famous Hindu temple with a uniquely carved Raja Gopuram.
- The scenic Beira Lake in the heart of the city.
- The Colombo Lighthouse with clock tower which was designed by Lady Steinberg Ward and declared open in 1857- (built before Big Ben in London).
- The new south expansion of the Colombo harbor.
- The Old Parliament of Sri Lanka – now the Presidential Secretariat.
- York Street with remnants of British Colonial Architecture.
- Old Colombo Dutch Hospital which is considered to be the oldest building and a shopping and dining arcade in the heart of Colombo.

Distance: 60 Km per way

Duration: Full day

YOGA

Reconnect with your natural flow through the serene power of yoga. Enjoy lessons at Anantara Spa's yoga pavilion, with options to incorporate this holistic practice into an Ayurvedic wellness lifestyle.





WATER SPORTS

Take the plunge and try out the exhilarating array of water sports activities on offer at The Water Sports Center at Anantara Kalutara Resort. Whether it is jet skiing, boat rides, canoeing, water skiing or the fun tube, you are sure to have an adrenaline rush throughout the whole day.

Our qualified instructors are on hand to take you through the fundamentals or to conduct in depth courses.

- Jet Ski
- Boat ride
- Canoe
- Water Ski
- Tube (Ringo)





SPICE SPOONS COOKING CLASSES

Sri Lanka's exotic cuisine blossoms at a culinary crossroads, where passing settlers and traders have each added a layer to the richly spiced *mélange*. Flavours of the Dutch, Portuguese, English, Arabs, Malays and Indians come together to create dishes quite unlike anywhere else on Earth. Spice Spoons invites you to delve into the secrets and take a piece of this indigenous expertise home with you to entertain family and friends with traditional island recipes.

After a breakfast at Olu, your guide leads you through the colours and sensations of a traditional market for an authentic taste of local life. With ingredients in hand, enjoy a step-by-step cooking class in the resort's luxurious surrounds. A local arrack cocktail punctuates the experience with a tropical kick. After relishing your creations, be presented with a certificate marking your new skills and take away a Spice Spoons bag with an apron, chopping board and box of Sri Lankan recipes to recreate the memories.





DINING BY DESIGN

Surprise someone special with a unique culinary experience tailor made just for you. Choose from a menu collection of exquisite Sri Lankan cuisine, gourmet world flavours or a beach barbecue. You may also enlist our skilled chefs to fine tune the perfect menu. Make your evening sparkle by requesting the assistance of our Wine Guru to pair the ideal wines and Champagnes to the island's haute cuisine.

Savour the occasion by our lagoon in a secluded hide-away dining pavilion, or revel over a romantic view of the Indian Ocean. Enriching the experience, your personal butler gives you an insider's window to local culture, regaling you with stories of Kalutara's and Sri Lanka's heritage while serving each unforgettable course.

Anantara Kalutara Resort

St. Sebastian's Road, Katukurunda, Kalutara, Sri Lanka
T +94 342 220222 F +94 342 226000 E kalutara.resort@anantara.com

anantara.com