



University Centre Bishop Burton

PROJECT INFORMATION PACK



Sri Lanka Elephant & Wildlife Conservation Field Trip

ASIA

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TRIP OVERVIEW



University Centre Bishop Burton College – 4696

Trip Dates:

30/03/2026 to 13/04/2026

International Flights:

Flight No	Flight Date	Dept.	Dept. Time	Arr.	Arr. Time
TBC	30/03/2026	Manchester (MAN)	TBC	Columbo (CMB)	TBC +1day
TBC	12/08/2026	Columbo (CMB)	TBC	Manchester (MAN)	TBC + 1 Day

*Always check the flight timings on your final documents

Baggage Allowance – to be confirmed once flights have been

Project: Sri Lanka Elephant and Wildlife Conservation Field Trip

Trip Cost:

£2895 per person

£300.00 deposit

50% Instalment of £1275.00 due 08/12/2025

Full Balance of £1275.00 due by 02/02/2026



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work
in more detail



ABOUT SRI LANKA

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Project Location and Travel

- ❖ The project is based in the Wasgamuwa region in the Central Province of Sri Lanka, near to the Wasgamuwa National Park.
- ❖ This area exhibits one of the highest levels of biodiversity in Sri Lanka and is home to 23 species of mammal. The 'endangered' Sri Lankan elephant often takes most of the limelight, with 150 strong herds roaming freely.
- ❖ The National Park is approximately 150 kms from the capital, Colombo.
- ❖ The first night in Sri Lanka will be spent in Colombo then you will move to the project where you will spend most of your time researching and studying in this environment with the opportunity to focus on the communities and villages located around the National Park.



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Sri Lanka Elephant and Wildlife Conservation Field Trip

- ❖ The SLWCS supports the livelihood of communities and keeps elephants safe. They firmly believe in the philosophy that local communities must participate, as well as benefit, from conservation and research efforts to save threatened ecosystems, endangered wildlife and their habitats.
- ❖ The SLWCS model is an inclusive strategy that considers environmental protection, integrated or holistic sustainable development, poverty alleviation, social mobilisation, decentralisation, bottom-up planning, mainstreaming gender and ensuring the community is becoming more self-sustaining.
- ❖ The age old mantra of working *with* and not *for* is critical to the conservation philosophy; sustainable conservation is only achieved when the community participates and benefits from conserving and researching an entire threatened ecosystem, along with its endangered wildlife and their habitats.
- ❖ In addition to the elephant population, other wildlife in the region include purple faced langur monkeys, wild boar, sambar and spotted deer, buffalo, rarely sighted leopards and sloth bears. Among the reptiles are water monitor, mugger crocodile, estuarine crocodile and the Asian rock python.



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Your Conservation Programme

- Elephant demographic and behavioural research
- Human – elephant interactions and conflicts
- Electric fence monitoring and maintenance
- Dung transects and trail mapping
- Elephant health monitoring
- Elephant ID – compile photographic records, catalogue features & markings of individual elephants
- Study of carnivores to determine numbers
- Identification of specific leopards
- Set up camera stations and maintain existing ones
- Use of night vision scopes and infrared cameras for observation of small wild cats
- Conduct pug mark surveys
- Learn about the wild cats' ecological role and the threats to their survival
- Maintain habitats for the butterfly conservation project
- Identify butterflies and help to create micro-habitats for specific species
- Understand the diversity and ecological role of butterflies

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Sample Itinerary – TBC

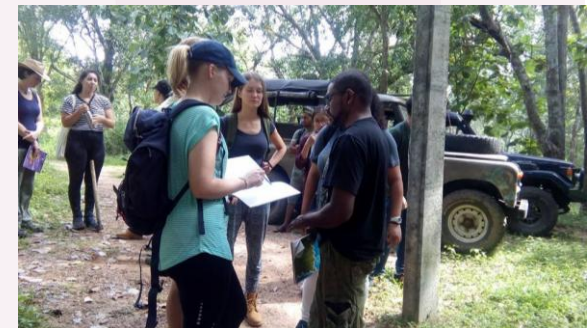
- ❖ **Day 1 & 2 : Depart from UK, arrive in Bandaranaike** – Overnight flight from the United Kingdom to Bandaranaike International Airport, Colombo. You will be met at arrivals and taken to your hotel for the first night, afternoon and evening at leisure we can recommend activities
- ❖ **Day 3 : Transfer to the Project, Elephant Sightings** – to you will transfer by coach to the project. The afternoon spent monitoring elephants and photographing for identification.
- ❖ **Day 4 : Elephant Foraging Transects & Monitoring** – Birding & observation around camp before breakfast. Elephant foraging transects and mapping trails, after lunch elephant monitoring and after dinner a chance to road cruise to spot reptiles.
- ❖ **Day 5 : Fence Patrol and Safari** – Early rock and lakeside hike at sunrise. After breakfast fence line checks and patrol. Afternoon safari in Wasgamuwa National Park.
- ❖ **Day 6 : Birding and Human–Elephant Conflicts** – Birding & observation around camp. After breakfast conduct HEC surveys in villages. After lunch, tree hut observation of HEC in ancient elephant corridor.
- ❖ **Day 7 : Butterfly Sanctuary, Elephant Monitoring, Wild Cat Study** – Morning at the butterfly sanctuary; weeding, planting, plant maintenance and identifying butterflies. Elephant ID and photographing in the afternoon. Small wild cat study after dinner.
- ❖ **Day 8 / 9 : Weekend at Leisure** – You can relax and unwind at the project, with a day spent in the local community
- ❖ **Day 10 : Sand Traps, Camera Traps, Elephant Monitoring** – Birding and observation at camp, after breakfast check sand and camera traps, collect data cards, after lunch elephant monitoring with photos. Evening road cruise to spot reptiles after dinner.

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Sample Itinerary

- ❖ **Day 11 : Elephant Foraging Transects and HEC** – Birding and observation at camp, after breakfast elephant foraging transects & mapping trails. Spotting of leopard and sloth bear signs. After lunch tree hut observation of HEC in ancient elephant corridor. After dinner night safari to observe nocturnal wildlife.
- ❖ **Day 12 : Pug Mark Survey & Elephant Monitoring** – Sunrise rock and lakeside hike, after breakfast pug mark survey along stream banks, after lunch elephant monitoring with photos and data.
- ❖ **Day 13 : Birding and Human-Elephant Conflicts** – Birding and observation around camp followed by breakfast, then conduct HEC surveys in villages after lunch tree hut observation of HEC in ancient elephant corridor.
- ❖ **Day 14 : Holistic HEC Methods, Elephant Monitoring, Wild Cat Study** – Birding and observation around camp followed by breakfast then observation of citrus groves around villages which act as an elephant deterrent. After lunch elephant monitoring with photos and data. After dinner, an opportunity for a small wild cat study
- ❖ **Day 15 : Return Journey** – Depart from the project after breakfast to Bandaranaike International Airport for your flight home to the UK.
- ❖ Each day there is leisure time after lunch and before the afternoon activities. Activities of birding & observation at camp, small wild cat study, reptile spotting, sunrise hike and night safari are included but are optional participation.





USEFUL INFORMATION

Details on accommodation,
what's included, kit list

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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Accommodation

- ❖ Accommodation at the project is a field house with dormitory style gender-based rooms and bathroom facilities
- ❖ Three meals per day are provided, plus snack with evening tea; you can access the kitchen outside of meal prep times and coffee and tea is always available. Please advise us of any dietary requirements so we can ensure you are adequately catered for.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

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What is included

- Flights
- Transfer to/from project
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day (except on travel days)
- All activities as part of the project
- ATOL protection
- Airport meet/greet
- 24/7 In country support

Not Included

- Personal Travel Insurance *
- Meals on travel days
- Any activities and additional weekend activities not specified as part of the project
- Visa's/travel documents

* We recommend that you take out personal travel insurance as soon as your booking is confirmed.



USEFUL INFORMATION

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Suggested kit list

- Short sleeve shirts
- Light coloured cotton clothes (long trousers, shorts long and short sleeved tops)
- T shirts
- Hiking Boots/comfortable walking shoes to work in every day
- Flip flops and comfortable rubber sandals (quick drying)
- Waterproof rain jacket/poncho
- Daypack rucksack
- Socks
- Hat for sun protection, wide brimmed (all year round)
- Changes of casual clothes for evenings
- Underwear
- Sandals/comfy shoes to wear after work hours
- Towel (large, quick drying travel towel is best)
- Swimming costume (women must wear long T shirt over the top)
- Toiletries

- Tick / insect repellent
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre)
- Hand sanitiser
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream (high factor)
- Personal first aid kit (adhesive plasters, 1 medium & 1 small dressing, antiseptic wipes, blister kit, iodine, antihistamine)

Other useful items:

- Personal medical items
- Binoculars
- Good torch
- Camera
- Spare batteries
- Sunscreen
- Mammal/bird book
- Notebook/diary and pen
- Playing cards/games

Please note any prescription medications must bear your name, description and dosage



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