



**SRI LANKA – WEEKEND TRIP
HILL COUNTRY & SAFARI**

WEEKEND OVERVIEW

The Hill Country offers you a scenic experience like no other, with a mist-wrapped land carpeted with striking colourful scenery, breath-taking mountains, lush green tea plantations and cascading waterfalls – a world away from the humid coastal lowlands.

One of the main highlights of this action-packed weekend trip, is to head out on an early morning safari in the renowned Udawala National Park. Sri Lanka has been voted the best safari destination outside of Africa, with elephants, monkeys, leopards, sloth bears, crocodiles and more roaming the parks.

As a group, we will explore everything this incredible region has to offer, including:

- Taking in the sights at the ancient fort in Galle
- Enjoying the laid-back atmosphere and surf scene in Mirissa
- Observing baby orphaned elephants at the ethical Elephant Transit Home
- Searching for elephants and other animals on safari in Udawala
- Relaxing in the tourist town of Ella
- Seeing a train pass over the famous Nine Arches Bridge
- Trekking up Little Adams Peak and enjoying the 360-degree views
- Going on tour around a tea factory
- Swimming under a waterfall in Nuwara Eliya

The structured weekend trip will ensure you see as much as Sri Lanka as possible. You will be transported by private minibus to maximise comfort and to keep transit times to a minimum.

BOOKING YOUR PLACE

A member of the TMR team will accompany you throughout the trip and English-speaking guides will show you around all of the sites, so you get to fully appreciate their history and cultural significance.

The trips are open to all TMR volunteers with at least 5 people travelling – a guaranteed fantastic social experience.

Each weekend trip leaves on a Friday morning and returns on the Sunday evening, costing just **£159 per person.**

The following are included within this fee:

- All transport by private mini-bus
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day
- All entrance fees

START DATES

Our weekend trip will run on the following dates:

11th October 2019 – 13th October 2019
8th November 2019 – 10th November 2019
10th January 2020 – 12th January 2020
7th February 2020 – 9th February 2020
6th March 2020 – 8th March 2020
10th April 2020 – 12th April 2020
8th May 2020 – 10th May 2020
12th June 2020 – 14th June 2020
10th July 2020 – 12th July 2020
7th August 2020 – 9th August 2020
11th September 2020 – 13th September 2020
9th October 2020 – 11th October 2020
6th November 2020 – 8th November 2020

We can add additional weekend trips if there is enough interest from volunteers. There is a minimum of 5 participants.



You can simply add this weekend trip when applying for any of our programmes in Sri Lanka under 'Optional Extras'.

If you've already signed up for one of our volunteer programmes in Sri Lanka and would like to add this weekend trip then please email us – hello@themightyroar.co.uk.

Places on our weekend trips are non-refundable and non-transferable between volunteers.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 – GALLE, MIRISSA & BABY ELEPHANTS

This action-packed long weekend will start by heading to the historic walled town of Galle – a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will spend the morning exploring this exotic old trading port that has ancient mosques, churches, grand mansions and of course the famous lighthouse. Wandering its small lanes, you will pass many stylish cafes and quirky boutiques where you can spend time relaxing and shopping.

Once everyone is ready, we will make the short journey to the beach resort town of Mirissa. This picture-postcard beach is the perfect setting for some lunch and to climb on-top of Parrock Rock to enjoy the views.

The day is not over yet though! As we start to head in-land, we will stop at the Elephant Transit Home in Udawala. This is your chance to see anywhere up to 50 baby orphaned elephants being fed at this amazing facility – the one and only ethical sanctuary on the island!

The elephants are free to roam a large proportion of the national park and human contact is kept to

an absolute minimum so they can be released to the wild once they become older.

After a busy day we will check into the nearby hotel. You will be able to enjoy a leisurely swim in the large swimming pool and more often than not, try your hand at some traditional dancing and singing with the hotel staff!

DAY 2 – SAFARI IN UDWALA NATIONAL PARK, NINE ARCHES BRIDGE & ELLA

One of the highlights of the weekend, is a morning safari in Udawala National Park. Famous for having a herd of around 250 elephants, the national park is one of the most visited in the whole country. There are also many other animals roaming around, including sambars, jackals, wild buffaloes, macaque monkeys and crocodiles. If you're lucky you may even see a rare leopard or sloth bear.

After hopefully seeing lots of animals, you will get the chance to catch up on some sleep as we drive north to Ella.

Time to see a different side of Sri Lanka that is the highest, wildest and seen as the most beautiful part – the southern hill country. As we drive along the winding roads and start to climb the hills we will make several stops to take in the amazing scenery and make sure you keep your eyes peeled for the monkeys!

When we first arrive into Ella, we will head to the famous Nine Arch Bridge and wait for a train to cross. Located in the dense jungle, surrounded by greenery, this spectacular feat of engineering spans 91 metres and provides some amazing pictures! The rest of the evening is free for you to enjoy everything Ella has to offer! With many restaurants and bars dotted along the main



street, there are no shortage of places to visit. You can also relax with a traditional local massage!

DAY 3 – LITTLE ADAMS PEAK, TEA PLANTATION TOUR & WATERFALLS

After breakfast, we'll take a trip to Little Adam's Peak, which is located just outside of Ella.

This relatively pleasant and not so strenuous 45-minute hike up to the summit rewards you with stunning views across the endless valleys and tea plantations – what a great way to start the day.

We will then hop onboard the bus and leave Ella to go to the nearby town of Nuwara Eliya – also known as Little England. Established by British colonialists the town is surrounded by lush green hills and dotted with English country style houses.

On our way we will stop and have a tour around a tea factory. Here we will learn all about the process of making tea and even have the chance to sample some ourselves – the cake is additional though I'm afraid!

We will also get to witness some of Sri Lanka's most awe inspiring and enchanting waterfalls. Everyone can stop to take in the majestic views and weather permitting even go for a quick swim.

In the afternoon, we will make the long drive back to Akurala.

ACCOMMODATION

Over the course of the weekend you will be staying in hotels or guesthouses. All of the accommodation will be basic but clean and comfortable and perfect for getting a good night's rest.

Rooms will be on shared basis, with up to 4 volunteers staying in one room. Please note, that from time to time some volunteers may be required to share a double bed depending on availability.

You will have all of the amenities you need, such as western toilets, hot water and Wi-Fi – although this may be intermittent.

MEALS

You'll be provided with three meals per day throughout the weekend trip. Meals will generally be local Sri Lankan cuisine and served at either the guesthouse or a local restaurant.

Drinks are not provided and will need to be purchased at your own expense. A big bottle of water typically costs under 50p.

TRANSPORT

We will transport you by private minibus. Depending on the group size, this may either be a large 27-seater bus or a smaller van that can seat 8.

A member of our local team will accompany you throughout the weekend trip and you will have English-speaking tour guides to take you around all of the sites.

If you want to take part on this amazing trip and the dates fall on your last weekend in Sri Lanka then you can still take part! Please arrange your return flight from Sri Lanka for the Monday to ensure you have sufficient time of getting to the airport. The accommodation on your last night is not included and we can recommend several hotels either close to our accommodation or to the airport.

