



## ACTIVITIES AND EXPERIENCES

**Jetwing**  
**KADURUKETHA**  
WELLAWAYA • SRI LANKA

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## Paddy Farming & Harvesting Festivals

Sri Lanka's primary form of agriculture is rice production. Rice paddy is cultivated during Maha and Yala seasons. In view of the fact that paddy cultivation was pivotal to the survival of the community, all activities connected to paddy cultivation were treated with the highest honour and respect. Kaduruketha farmers also have their farming and harvesting festival with many customs and rituals and guests at Jetwing Kaduruketha will have the rare opportunity of witnessing and participating in these festivals.

### Yala season

Farming festival - April

Harvesting festival - July

### Maha season

Farming festival - November

Harvesting festival - February





## Birdwatching

Jetwing Kaduruketha is located in an intermediate zone which has created good climatic conditions for a mix of dry zone and wet zone flora and fauna. The land extent of Jetwing Kaduruketha is 60 acres, 50 of which are devoted to paddy cultivation, however 10 acres comprise of lush vegetation with many utility trees and forest trees; habitats for many birds including some endemics such as Sri Lanka grey hornbill, Sri Lanka hanging-parrot, Sri Lanka emerald-collared parakeet, Sri Lanka small barbet etc. Join the trail at 6:30 am, however, please confirm reservation by 8:00pm the previous day.

**Duration:** 2 hours





## Tree Trail at Kaduruketha

As the location of Kaduruketha is in an intermediate zone it creates suitable climatic conditions for many dry zone and wet zone trees. 10 acres of lush vegetation at Kaduruketha harbours more than 100 species of trees. It will be an exciting and informative experience for guests to learn more about tropical trees.

**Duration:** 1 hour



## Night Walk at Jetwing Kaduruketha

Jetwing Kaduruketha is set amidst acres of paddy farmlands and lush riverine forests while bordering Kirindi Oya (river), creating many diverse habitats within the property. As a result Jetwing Kaduruketha is rich in biodiversity with endemic birds and animals such as the rare elusive Flying Squirrel and Fishing Cat. Observing this wildlife at night is surely a fascinating experience. So come, join our night walk at 7:00pm, organized daily. Please confirm reservation by 4:00pm.

**Duration:** 1 hour





## Village Walk

With this walk you begin to experience rural village life in Sri Lanka. Traverse through paddy fields, village tank and traditional vegetable farming fields to an authentic village home to enjoy lunch or tea complemented with local sweet meats.

**Duration:** 2.5 hours

**Distance:** 2km walk or 5km bicycle ride (round trip)





## Spice Story of Kaduruketha

Jetwing Kaduruketha supplies the hotel with the pepper and coconut requirement by cultivating it in the hotel grounds. Cinnamon trees will also become part of the offering. We're excited to say that we also locally source our spices thereby helping the local community by uplifting their livelihood. We are organize tours to visit our local spice supplier nearby. Guests can witness preparation and processing spices at home through small household business ventures. Guests also have the opportunity to buy premium quality Sri Lankan spices from these local businesses.

**Duration:** 30 min bicycle ride or 15 min tuk tuk ride and 1 hour demonstration tour

**Distance:** 4km







## Cycling to Elle Wala Waterfall and Bathing in the Natural Pool

Elle Wala Waterfall is a small but beautiful waterfall lying in the Poonagala Mountain Range. This waterfall is created by a small river tributary called ‘Alikota Aara’, starting from the Poonagala Mountain Range. The base of the waterfall has created a beautiful basin type natural pool to safely enjoy the waterfall. Bicycle ride will be on a scenic road along the river and if you are adventurous enough, you can check your mountain cycling skills on the 500 metre rough stretch that rapidly ascends up to the waterfall. Picnic service can be arranged at the location.

**Duration:** 1-2 hours break at Elle Wala

**Distance from the hotel:** 8km bicycle ride (one way)





## Archaeology Experience - Buduruwagala, Yudhaganawa, Maligavila & Biso Kotuwa

Buduruwagala is an ancient Buddhist temple in Sri Lanka. The complex consists of seven statues dating back to the 10th century and belongs to the Mahayana school of thought. The gigantic Buddha statue still bears traces of its original stuccoed robe and a long streak of orange suggests it was once brightly painted. The central figure of the three to the Buddha's right is thought to be the Buddhist mythological figure Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara. To the left of this white painted figure is a female figure in the thrice-bent posture, which is thought to be his consort -Tara.

Yudaganawa Temple is located close to Buttala. This is one of the largest stupas in the country and dates back to the 2nd century BC. This is thought to be the place Prince Tissa and his brother Prince Gamini (later to be known as the great King Dutugemunu) had an epic battle after the death of his father King Kavanthissa (the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC).

Maligawila is one of the most important archaeological sites, with several monuments including a free standing 11m tall limestone Buddha statue (some claim this to be the tallest free standing Buddha statue in the world) and Avalokitesvara (10m) Buddha statue which were discovered in 1950 and restored in 1989-1991. This statue was believed to have been constructed by Prince Aggabodhi in the 7th century.

Cont:





### Achaeology Experience Cont.

The Biso-kotuwa complex at Galabedde, 9km from Moneragala on the Pottuvil Road includes an interesting sluice gat, pond, moats, ramparts and the remnants of a palace of a local Princess Sugala Devi dating from the 12th century A.D. The swimming pool of the princess in the palace garden is one of the masterpieces of ancient Sinhala architecture. The swimming pool at Jetwing Kaduruketha has also adopted this ancient architectural design.

**Duration:** 5 hours

**Distance:** 80km round tour

Note: Individual archaeology site visit also can be arranged on request.





## Adventure at Diyaluma & Udadiyaluma with Picnic Service

The Diyaluma Falls is the second highest waterfall (220m) in Sri Lanka. Diyaluma or Diya Haluma means “rapid flow of water” or may be translated as “liquid light”. This hiking experience includes climbing/ walking through savannah grasslands in Poonagala, and the rare chance of encounters with elephants, ending at the Udadiyaluma waterfall (hidden waterfall) featuring a natural rock pool that is perfect for a dip. You will also hike to the waterfall head, have a picnic lunch there and climb down towards the waterfall base.

**Duration:** 3km walking/hiking and 3 hours

**Distance from the hotel:** 26km and 1 hour drive





## Elephants at Udawalawe National Park & the Elephant Transit Home (ETH)

Udawalawe is undoubtedly the best place in Sri Lanka to see wild Asian Elephants throughout the year. There are about 500 elephants in the park and they often roam in herds of up to 100. Other main attractions of the park are water buffalo, wild boar, spotted deer, sambar deer, jackal, the endemic toque macaque and gray langurs. Sighting leopard and other smaller cats like fishing cat and jungle cat would be a rare sighting. It is also one of the best places to see raptors in Sri Lanka and affords excellent opportunities for photography. The best hours to visit the park are in the mornings and evenings. Late evening also affords photographic opportunities with the backdrop of sunsets.

The Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) has established the Elephant Transit Home (ETH) within Udawalawa National Park in 1995, in order to provide shelter to orphaned and abandoned baby elephants. At present around 30 rescued baby elephants are being looked after by the DWC. They will be released back in to the jungle, when they are strong enough to survive in their natural habitat. Visitors can go to ETH at specific times to see them especially when they are playing around with others at feeding time.

**Duration:** 3 hour safari drive and 1 hour at ETH

**Distance from the hotel:** 70km and 1 hour and 15 minute drive





## Exploring Ella

Ella, once a simple town in the hills has emerged as one of the most popular destinations in Sri Lanka due to its strategic location as base for travel around Sri Lanka. On the way to Ella, first we witness Rawana Waterfall which has become part of the trail for those visiting waterfalls associated with the great Indian tale 'Ramayana'. In that, Sita, the wife of Rama, a king of Ayodhya in Hindu scriptures was abducted by Rawana, the King of Lanka and held captive in a cave near Rawana Waterfall.

Little Adams Peak is 2Km away from Ella town. From this view point, you can observe the scenic Ella gap, shore line of Hambantota and Kataragama which are hundreds of kilometres away.

Demodara loop is a railway engineering marvel of the colonial era. Demodara railway station is situated 2km away from Ella and you can witness how British railway engineers in the early 1900s managed to overcome extremely steep points. There is local folklore about how railway engineers were inspired by the head scarf (Thalappawa) of the tea estate workers to overcome this steep point. The 9 Arch Bridge (a.k.a. Arukku Nawaya Palama) is also a main attraction in Demodara at 300ft long and 25ft wide. Located almost 3100ft above sea level, the bridge has been made of large cubic stones. This massive bridge is built entirely of solid rock, brick and cement without using a single piece of steel. Local folklore asserts that when construction work was commenced on the bridge, World War I broke out; the steel consignment assigned for this site was seized and was used for war related projects. When the work came to a standstill the Sri Lankan mason worker came forward and built the bridge with solid stone, brick and cement without steel.





## Tea Fields & Factories up to Lipton Seat

Visit the scenic tea fields of Haputhale, Poonagala, Dambethanna and see the largest tea factory in the Badulla district, and experience firsthand how tea leaves are processed right up to a nice cup of 'Ceylon Tea'. Lipton seat was a favourite view point for the great tea planter Sir Thomas Lipton when surveying the surrounding region of his tea plantations at Dambatenna near Haputale. From this point you get a spectacular view over the Southern (Galle, Matara, Dewundara, Hambantota), Uva, Sabaragamuwa, Central and Eastern provinces. Uda Walawa Lake, Chandirka Lake, Lunugamwehera, Kataragama, Wedihiti Kanda Hill, Handapanagala Lake, Moneragala Lake, sugarcane plantations of Palawatta, Wellawaya and Koslanda towns, even the Hambantota harbour and airport can be seen from here if you go early in the morning before it gets covered by mist.

**Duration:** 1 hour at the tea factory and 30 min walk to Lipton Seat

**Distance from the hotel:** 55km and 1 hour and 30 min drive





## Elephants at Handapanagala Tank

The Handapanagala Reservoir lies between Thanamalvila and Wellawaya in the middle of elephant country and is well known for its elephant population. Both sides of the Handapanagala Bund consist of rocky plains. On top of the rocky plain at the end of the bund lies a rock pond called Kanabiso Pokuna. The drip ledge cave near the Kanabiso Pokuna has been listed as a protected archaeological monument by the Department of Archaeology. The tank is full of water throughout the year and fed by the Kirindi Oya. There are facilities to cross it by canoes. The inland fishery industry also thrives around the tank and visitors can hire one of the fishing canoes to cross the tank. Handapanagal Tank is popular as a place to witness elephants roam freely and elephants gather at the tank every evening.

**Duration:** 2 hours elephant watching and canoe ride

**Distance from the hotel:** 13km and 20 minutes drive (cycling as an option)





## Leopard Safari at Weheragala (Yala block V)

Weheragala is part of the Yala National Park complex. It is bordering Lunugamwehera National Park. This unexplored part of Yala National Park is building a reputation as a good leopard watching site. Recently built (2009) Weheragala reservoir and archaeology monuments in the surrounding area will add variety to the visit.

**Duration:** 3 hours safari drive

**Distance from the hotel:** 45km and 1 hour drive





## RESPONSIBLE TOURISM



Jetwing Hotels is committed to practising responsible tourism and have pledged to take forward the concept, focusing on local culture and environment. Because unregulated visitation and inappropriate behaviour by tourists can cause serious damage to ecologically and culturally sensitive areas - we offer the following guidelines to our guests.

#### In Natural / Protected Areas:

- You are entering the domain of wild animals. Please treat them with respect. Do not crowd or annoy them to get the perfect photograph. Always be mindful of your own safety.
- The best way to observe animals is to be quiet and avoid sudden movements. Point, rather than speak. Keep mobile phones on silent mode!
- Avoid wearing bright colours on bird walks, as birds respond to colour and fly away. Earth-coloured clothes - browns and dull greens - are the best colours.
- Refrain from feeding wild animals and using headlights, flashlight, sounds or call lures to attract animals.
- Do not pick or collect any specimens.
- Refrain from off-roading and drive along prescribed paths. Off-roading damages habitats. Unless permitted, do not get down from the vehicle.
- Adhere to specified speed limits and time limits when visiting national parks or reserves.
- Refrain from smoking or travelling under the influence of liquor into the national park or reserves.
- Please obtain the services of an official tracker when entering a national park or reserve, and listen to his instructions.

#### At historically/ culturally important sites:

- Archaeological sites and historical places are unique and irreplaceable. Destruction of a site is permanent and irreversible. Never climb, sit or stand on archaeological structures or remains.
- Never remove anything from an archaeological site. If you pick something up from the surface, return it to the same spot before you move on. It is best not to pick anything up. Also remember that removing objects from archaeological sites is illegal.
- At temples, dress modestly respectfully covering knees and shoulders; remove shoes and hats/caps.
- At temples and religious sites, photography and filming are usually permitted. However, please note that persons should not be seen posing in front of any religious sites, statues or temples for the cameras as it is considered disrespectful.

Entry fee you pay at the entrance to the historical/archaeological sites you visit contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the sites. Visitors should respect the feelings and beliefs of the local cultures and communities; and respect the letter and spirit of laws meant to ensure protection and conservation of both the natural and human heritage of all protected areas.

Take only photographs, steal only time, leave only footprints - *Anon*





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