



Gal Oya Lodge's Seasonal Activities

1. Boat Safari on Sri Lanka's Largest Lake (5 hours)

Enjoy the only experience in Sri Lanka that allows you to spot wildlife from the water. It's a unique way to immerse yourself in the animals' habitats. With a little luck you could spot elephants swimming between islands or bathing at the lake's edge. A 2-3 hour safari by boat, and a scenic 40 minute drive from the lodge to the lake is perfect to explore the national park and surrounding villages.

(\$125+++ for min. 4 guests, \$20+++ for every additional person)

2. Bird Walks and Hikes Through the Local Area (1-3 hours)

Join a resident naturalist for a walk around the lodge, enjoying the abundant birdlife and beautiful surroundings. The walk offers a number of possible routes through the trees and around the nearby lake, to observe a wide range of bird species such as Kingfishers, Eagles, Kites and many aquatic birds.

Please feel free to discuss your interests with your naturalist for a tailored trip to suit your preferences.

(Charges included in your stay)

3. Jungle Drive and Walk Through the Park (4 hours)

Gal Oya National Park is one of Sri Lanka's undiscovered natural treasures. We offer a jeep ride into the forgotten Nilgala section of the park, once the protectorate of ancient royalty for the abundant medicinal plants and endemic birdlife unique to this ecosystem. Although shy and sometimes hard to spot, the park hosts most of the animals found on the island, some of the more likely species to look out for include herds of elephants, four species of deer as well as many bird species. Our more intrepid guests may also opt for the hike to the Makara river mouth with one of our expert naturalists, to further experience the jungle and for the chance of seeing wildlife on foot.

Min 2 persons (\$90+++ per couple, \$25+++ for every additional person)

+++ Please note all prices are subject to 10% SC 2% NBT and 15% VAT

4. Picnic in the National Park (Coupled with Jungle Drive)

Enjoy a lunch next to the river, waterfall or overlooking one of the park's many breathtaking views. We can even provide a delicious picnic lunch prepared by our safari chef. The picnic is best coupled with the jeep safari. We recommend a 12:30pm start for a late lunch and a swim in the river if you wish to continue on with a jeep and walking safari.

(Additional \$30+++ (BB) or \$18+++ (FB) per person on the jeep safari)

5. Morning Trek to the Top of Monkey Mountain (2-4 hours)

For the adventurous early risers, a 1.5 hour uphill trek first thing in the morning is a must. Up top, dramatic 180 degree views over the large forested valley await. An early start allows you to watch the sun rise over the hills in the distance, observing the never ending jungle canopy below. After you've finished, return for a well earned breakfast and enjoy the rest of your day.

(Charges included in your stay)



6. A Walk of Discovery with the Chief Veddha (1-2 hours)

Gal Oya Lodge neighbours one of the last remaining communities of the Veddha – the forest-dwelling, indigenous people of Sri Lanka. We can invite the village Chief to take you on a walk through the jungles of his ancestors. Discover and learn about local nature as he brings the forest alive, explaining his tribe's use of medicinal plants, ancient hunting grounds and cave dwellings. It's a fascinating insight into how the hunter-gatherers lived in the jungles of Gal Oya.

(\$45+++)

7. Bicycle Tour (1-3 hours)

Join one of our naturalists on a leisurely bicycle ride during your stay at the lodge. You may choose to ride on a shorter off-track trail to the small Kiri Oruwa Lake, which is teeming with bird species. Alternatively, you may ride on the longer main road which cuts through the national park to the beautiful Namal Oya Reservoir. Helmets are provided.

Max. 2 persons (Charges included in your stay)

+++ Please note all prices are subject to 10% SC 2% NBT and 15% VAT

8. Gal Oya Lodge Animal Monitoring Program

We have an ongoing project to record and monitor the lodge's resident species of animals. In order to understand them better and take necessary steps to conserve these animals, our team of naturalists regularly embark on evening walks around the lodge to set up camera traps. If you wish to partake in our monitoring project or want to learn more about the animals you are welcome to join our naturalists on their evening walk as they do this.

(Charges included in your stay)

9. Sri Lankan Jungle Cooking Course (2 hours)

Join our Chef Premarathna in our outdoor jungle kitchen hut just a short walk away from the Lodge for an introduction to traditional Sri Lankan cookery. Forage through the forest for some of the key ingredients for your meal on the way to the hut where the rest of the ingredients await you. Cook with Premarathna as he demonstrates how to prepare traditional local meals such as Thalapa, Thumba, river fish curry, spiced yams, forest salads and Kankun.

Guests are of course welcome to enjoy these treats at the end of the course!

(\$50+++ per couple, \$20+++ for every additional person)

10. Jungle Night Walk (1-2 hours)

Join one of our resident naturalists for a night walk in the forests surrounding the lodge, and have a chance to see some of our nocturnal neighbours as they emerge from their daily resting spots. Use a torch to spot eyes peering back at you that could belong to a number of different animals including amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds. One of the highlights is a chance to spot the bizarre looking Frog Mouth bird or if you are really lucky the endangered thick-tailed Pangolin.

(Charges included in your stay)

+++ Please note all prices are subject to 10% SC 2% NBT and 15% VAT

