

Ethical Elephant Family Volunteering in Sri Lanka

1 WEEK FAMILY PROGRAMME ITINERARY



Immerse Your Family in Wildlife Conservation and Cultural Exploration

This elephant family programme has been designed to get the whole family involved in wildlife research, conservation and community outreach programmes. It is suitable for all ages and skill levels and is suitable for families with kids that love the outdoors and nature, who want to obtain hands on experience in wildlife research and conservation whilst experiencing the culture of Sri Lanka.

Please Note: Conservation research is dynamic. While research goals are planned, activities may change depending on local situations.

WHY CHOOSE THIS FAMILY PROGRAMME?

- **Help create tolerance** in farmers for wild animals, especially elephants.
- **Support conservation** of endangered species (elephants, sloth bears, leopards, pangolins, golden palm civet cats).
- **Contribute to community** economic development.
- **Instil appreciation for forests** and wildlife in local communities.
- **Understand elephant behaviour** and aid conservation efforts.
- **Gather information** on sloth bears and leopards.
- **Help establish** Sri Lanka's first Wildlife Conservancy.
- **Learn from villagers** about challenges posed by wildlife.
- **Participate in local culture**, cuisine, sports, and games.
- **Learn skills** like using a compass, GPS, field guides, and more.

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 – Monday

12:00 PM

Arrival at Wasgamuwa, as early as possible is recommended. Activities depend on arrival time.

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Check in, refresh, and lunch. Rest and relax.

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Ice Breaker and Orientation. Introduction to the Elephant Family Volunteer Programme, and the week's activities.

3:30 PM – 6:30 PM

- Tank Monitoring: Learn to collect elephant data by recording physical features. Observe elephant behaviour to develop an elephant ethogram.
- Alternative: Visit Tree Huts to observe human-elephant conflicts and interactions in an ancient elephant corridor.

7:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Return to camp, clean field equipment, refresh, dip in the pool and relax.

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Dinner.

9:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Data input, Documentary Film/ Discussion, or social time.

10:00 PM

Lights off.

Day 2 – Tuesday

6:00 AM – 7:30 AM

Birding and observing nature around camp after tea/coffee.

7:30 AM – 8:00 AM

Refresh.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Breakfast and discussion on the day's activities.

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Elephant foraging transects, dung transects, and trail mapping. Observe wildlife and look for leopard and sloth bear signs.





DAILY ITINERARY

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Return to camp, clean field equipment, refresh, lunch, dip in the pool and relax.

3:00 PM – 6:30 PM

- Tank Monitoring: Collect data on elephants via canoe observation - taking photos to identify elephants by recording markings or physical features.
- Alternative: Visit Tree Huts or engage in birding, butterfly identification, and wildlife observation.

7:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Return to camp, clean field equipment, refresh, dip in the pool and relax.

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Dinner.

8:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Data input, Documentary Film/ Discussion, or social time.

10:00 PM

Lights off.

Day 3 – Wednesday

6:00 AM – 7:30 AM

Sunrise hike along the lakeshore. Observe local wildlife and birds.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Breakfast and briefing.

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Visit a village with citrus groves as elephant deterrents. Assist with planting, weeding, watering, or harvesting. Learn about living with elephants from villagers.

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch hosted by villagers. Experience local cuisine.

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Return to camp, clean field equipment, refresh, dip in the pool and relax.

3:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Safari to Wasgamuwa National Park. Your family will be accompanied by several local children. Observe elephants and other wildlife in the park. Collect elephant data and interact with local children.

DAILY ITINERARY

7:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Return to camp, clean field equipment, refresh, dip in the pool and relax.

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Dinner.

8:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Data input, Documentary Film/
Discussion, or social time.

10:00 PM

Lights off.

Day 4 – Thursday

6:00 AM – 7:30 AM

Birding and observing nature around camp after tea/coffee.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Breakfast and briefing.

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Work on the Butterfly Sanctuary: weeding, planting, and identifying species and helping to create micro-habitats for specific species.

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Return to camp, clean field equipment,

refresh, dip in the pool, lunch, and relax.

3:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Observe elephants from canoes or go tracking. Alternatively, visit Tree Huts.

06.30 PM – 7:30 PM

Return to camp, clean field equipment, refresh, dip in the pool and relax.

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Dinner.

8:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Data input, Documentary Film/
Discussion, or social time.

10:00 PM

Lights off.

Day 5 – Friday

6:00 AM – 7:30 AM

Birding and observing nature around camp after tea/coffee.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Breakfast in the village. Learn to cook your own Sri Lankan breakfast.





DAILY ITINERARY

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Participate in culinary and cultural activities in a local village:

- Cooking lessons: make Sri Lankan roti and lавaria.
- Learn traditional weaving from a local artisan.
- Visit the local Buddhist Temple to learn about Buddhism.

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Return to camp, refresh, and relax, dip in the pool.

3:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Entire family participates in solving an adventurous wildlife mystery involving finding an endangered animal before the poachers find it. During this game, learn skills like using a compass, GPS, and map orientation and collecting clues from landmarks, field guides and more. The game is great for children to learn about the important work that rangers are doing to protect wildlife.

7:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Return to camp, clean field equipment, refresh, dip in the pool and relax.

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Dinner.

8:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Social time and discussion.

10:00 PM

Lights off.

Day 6 – Saturday

6:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Breakfast and prepare for the day's activities.

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Expedition to the Knuckles Mountains to conduct biodiversity surveys. Swim in mountain streams and enjoy a meal prepared by locals.

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Return to camp, relax, dip in the pool and refresh. Transfer luge to the Field house because tonight will be spent in the Tree House (optional).

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Engage in sports and games with local villagers.

DAILY ITINERARY

5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Return to camp, clean field equipment, refresh, dip in the pool and relax.

6:00 PM – Dawn

Spend the night in the Tree Huts. Experience nocturnal jungle life and learn about farmer practices. Dinner provided at the Tree Huts.

Day 7 – Sunday

7:00 AM

Return to the Field House for breakfast and debriefing.

9:00 AM

Programme ends. Departure from the site. End of Programme.

Pricing

- Adults (18+): £825 per person
- Children (6-17 years): £685 per person
- Children (3-6 years): £636 per person
- Infants (Under 3): Free

What's Included?

1. Direct transfer from Airport to Project Site.
2. Orientation.
3. Accommodation in a Family Room.
4. All meals and refreshments.
5. Transport in the field.
6. Field activities.
7. Tree Hut Night and Dinner.
8. Field training.
9. Field supervision and guidance.
10. Visit to National Park.
11. Visit to Knuckles Mountains.
12. Visit to villages, meals, and refreshments.
13. Community programmes: culinary lessons, games, and sports.
14. Transfer from Project Site to Airport.



Why Choose This Programme?

Families contribute to meaningful conservation efforts while experiencing Sri Lanka's stunning landscapes, rich biodiversity, and vibrant culture. The programme fosters environmental stewardship and global citizenship in children and adults alike.

JOIN US!

Join us for an unforgettable week of conservation and cultural exploration. Contact us to learn more or secure your spot today!

Email: victoria.mcneil@workingabroad.com

Or visit: www.workingabroad.com

