

blue whale sri lanka

the largest animal on the planet



I. march 7 - 20; II. march 17 - 27; III. march 27 - april 9, 2012

new opportunity

Paradoxically, political turmoil has protected marine wildlife in the northeast waters of Sri Lanka for the past twenty-eight years. Since the government has forbidden civilians from fishing or travelling through the waters up to ten miles offshore, cetacean life has flourished, including the pygmy blue whale, sperm whale, and common + spinner dolphins.

Two years ago, the conflict ended. Now that peace has come to the area, worldwide interest in local tourism and whale-watching has boomed.

Big Animals Expeditions and local tour operator Nature Trails - John Keells Hotels was critical in advising the Sri Lankan Navy to establish new, higher eco-tourism standards, protecting the whales' privacy and developing safe adventure access for research, whale-watching, and diving.

Allowing only two people per boat and two vessels at a time, Big Animals Expeditions provides stunning, intimate encounters and guided personal photography of these gentle sixty-foot giants passing only a few feet away.

While staying at four-star accommodations along the coast of Trincomalee, our vessels are equipped with state-of-the-art four-stroke engines, top-level communication and navigation systems.

eco-tourism

Whales are acoustically sensitive animals that shy away from noise pollution.

Sri Lanka is deeply involved in governing and protecting access to these new treasures. Big Animals Expeditions is on the forefront of protecting their privacy in Sri Lanka. We use quiet engines and train our guides, assuring a conscious approach to the whales as they navigate the warm, clear waters.

photo nilantha kodithuwakku

a rare creature

The pygmy blue whale is a subspecies of the blue whale found only in the Indian Ocean off Sri Lanka and the southern Pacific Ocean west of Chile.

The pygmy differs from the “true” blue whale in a number of physical characteristics. It has broader and shorter baleen plates, a shorter tail, and hence a proportionately longer body in front of the dorsal fin, and a larger head relative to body size.

All whales around the globe migrate from north to south to feed, socialize, and breed. Only the pygmy of Sri Lanka migrates east to west, traveling between Sri Lanka to the horn of Africa.

The opportunity to witness and photograph these off-beat, amazing whales is only part of our unique trip. In addition, we will be witnessing the sperm whale and giant pods of common dolphins.



juvenile sperm whale

amos nachoum

Professional photography will be done with Amos Nachoum, who was the BBC **wildlife photographer of the year** in 2007 and 2008. He will be coaching individuals on wide-angle and ambient-light photography of big animals.

Amos has **twelve years experience** diving with Blue Whales worldwide.

Amos's explorations have been featured on National Geographic, BBC and the **Discovery Channel**. He has also spoken at the TED conference.

Big Animals Expeditions re-creates the same adventures and photo opportunities for you.



chaaya blu hotel in trincomalee

Worldwide Blue Whales Experience
12 years

Where Sri Lanka

Date I. March 7 - 20, 2012
II. March 17 - 27, 2012
III. March 27 - April 9, 2012

Duration I. 14 days
II. 11 days
III. 14 days

Pricing
I. \$ 7,900 per person
II. \$ 6,300 per person
III. \$ 7,900 per person

Registration
Deposit is one-third of trip price

Max No. of Guests 4
(only two people per boat)

Availability Open

Facility
Land-based operation
Daily excursion to sea on two 21'
fiberglass vessels, each equipped with
a 40HP 4 stroke engine + emergency
engine, first-aid kit, navigation

Activities
Free diving / Snorkeling

Temperature
In Water: 84° F
Air Temps: 90°+ F

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all photos amos nachoum

dates and prices subject to change without prior notice

