



## MADU RIVER SAFARI & KOSGODA TURTLE FARM



The forest covers over 61 hectares, that is over 150 acres. 14 of the 24 species of mangroves are found in this area.

Boat safari along the Madu River is a relaxing trip with plenty of interesting stops. You pass dozens of islets forested with mangroves and you can appreciate the timeless natural rhythms of rural life. You cruise in a canopied, outboard motor powered boat. You can see prawn farming and traditional fishing techniques in action & abundance of wildlife including water monitors, wild monkeys, lizards and many birds such as Kingfisher, Hawk Eagle and Cormorans.



Boat stop at following destinations.

- Kothduwa Temple - her you can visit 200 year old Buddhist temple and history.
- Cinnamon Island - Family living in the cinnamon farm demonstrate Cinnamon peeling and some local industries such as Coir manufacture and Rope making. No entrance fees to cinnamon farm, however they expect you to buy at least one item at the end of the demonstration. May cost you on avg Rs.300 per item (Cinnamon sticks/oil /powdered Cinamon- a tea enhancer )
- Fish farm offers you "The Fish Spa" built on the river itself , Hundreds of Thilapiya and Mosambique Fish eat the dead cells off your feet. There's no feeling like it in the whole world. (Rs 200 per person)



At the farm you can take pictures with a small crocodile and carbs included in the entrance fee of Rs 200. On your return, visit a Turtle Hatchery .

This hatchery is located 5 Km north of Balapitiya . These turtle hatcheries were constructed to rescue and protect turtle eggs because of the rapidly declining numbers of marine turtle in Sri Lankan shores. Marine turtle eggs are purchased from the fisherman and re-buried along the beach and left there for 48 days allowing the eggs ample time to hatch.

Thereafter the baby turtles are collected from the beach and kept in tanks for 2-3 days, and released into the ocean to fend off for themselves. The few female turtles that survive will return to their natal shores after ten years to lay their own eggs. Visitors to the hatchery could release baby turtles into the ocean at night; they could also take a glimpse at two very rare albino turtles that are kept at the sea turtle project for conservation .

**PRICE** with AC car, guides, boat rentals:

1 person 20500 Rp, 2 person 11000 Rp/person, 3 person 7000 Rp/pe, 4 person 6000 Rp/person, 5 person 5000 Rp/person, 6 person 4500 Rp/person.