

Year 8-10 Trip to Sri Lanka 2027

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to share an exciting opportunity for our current Year 8, 9 and 10 students – a 12-day residential trip to Sri Lanka in July 2027, focused on marine and terrestrial conservation as well as cultural immersion. This once-in-a-lifetime experience is planned in partnership with Projects Abroad, a trusted travel provider with whom we've already established a strong and successful relationship through our previous expeditions to Nepal.

The trip is provisionally scheduled for Friday 16th July to Tuesday 27th July 2027 (subject to change) and offers students a unique chance to explore one of the world's most stunning and biodiverse countries. With its vibrant culture, welcoming communities, and incredible food, Sri Lanka offers the perfect backdrop for students to contribute to meaningful environmental work while gaining a broader understanding of global citizenship.

Our core project will be based in Balapitiya, where students will work directly with a local sea turtle conservation hatchery and rehabilitation centre, supporting vital work such as turtle care, beach cleans, mangrove restoration, and community outreach initiatives. These activities tie into key aspects of the curriculum, including environmental science, geography, sustainability, and social responsibility. Students will also take part in a variety of enriching evening activities, including a traditional Sri Lankan cooking class, a traditional batik workshop (dyeing and designing fabric), and a wood carving session with local artisans. Additionally, the group will enjoy an unforgettable weekend excursion featuring:

- Hiking up Sigiriya Rock Fortress and Pidurangala Rock
- A jeep safari through Minneriya National Park to observe wild elephants
- A cultural visit to the historic Galle Dutch Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Whilst in Balapitiya, we will be staying at LaLuna Resort, and during the weekend excursion we will be staying at Hotel Eden Garden in Dambulla (Sigiriya); both of which are safe and comfortable, and feature a swimming pool with twin or triple rooms.

The total cost of the trip will be approximately £3,300 which includes: return international flights, coaches to/from UK airport, travel insurance, accommodation, three meals a day plus drinking water, all project materials and equipment, full in-country transport, all cultural activities and excursions, dedicated pre-departure support, and 110% carbon offsetting. The cost is subject to numbers. The full cost can be paid off over several instalments, but a non-refundable deposit of £270 is required to secure a space. Monthly instalments of £150 - £180 will then be required every month after until April 2027 to make it more manageable.

Students will be accompanied by school staff and local Projects Abroad coordinators throughout. Students are expected to have a valid passport with at least six months' validity beyond the return date, and will need to purchase their own VISA, currently priced at £43. Inoculations may be required, and we advise you to consult your GP for medical advice well in advance of departure. We encourage all students to take an active role in fundraising to help cover the cost of the trip, and students are also responsible for any spending money they take. For general travel information for visiting Sri Lanka, please visit www.gov.uk. Please think carefully before committing yourself to this activity as refunds are not possible once the deposit is paid, as the funds are then committed.

This trip is designed to be both personally and academically enriching. However, please note that places are limited, and students will be selected based on their behaviour, attendance, and commitment to the values of the programme. Therefore, the school reserves the right to cancel a student's participation in a trip if behaviour/attendance does not reach our expected high standards. To register interest in the trip, please complete the google form attached [here](#).

We will also be hosting an information evening in school soon (date/time tbc) to provide further details about the trip, but feel free to email me at fsmith@willingdonschool.org.uk if you have any further questions.

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