

Cycle trips from Back of Beyond Dehigaha ela

	Distance (km) (Round Trip)	Duration (hrs)	Suggested departure	Cost for 2 persons (USD)	Cost – each additional person (USD)
1. To Wewela Wewa via Mahaweli Channel	19km	2 hrs	7.00 am or 3.30 pm	22	6
2. To Kaludiya Pokuna, Thimbiritta wewa and Kumbukkandanwela wewa (return via Nikawatawena and mahaweli canal)	26.7km	4 – 5 hrs	8.00 am	35	10
3. Along Mahaweli canals (Trail # 8) (can turn back at any point)	62 km	1 – 6 hrs	7.00 am	32	9
4. Around Kandalama Tank and Pahala Eraula Wewa and Mahaweli Canals (also see water spout) (Trail # 6)	38 km	3.5 – 4.5 hrs	7.00 am	32	9
5. To Pidurangala (inclusive of climbing Pidurangala rock and picnic breakfast)	20.5km	4 – 5 hrs	6.30 am	36	12
6. Sigiriya Moat and Sigiriya rock inclusive of guided tour of Sigiriya (the cost of the Sigiriya entrance ticket is included)	18.5km	4 – 5 hrs	6.30 am	105	40
7. Cross country trail BoB Dehi > Polattewa > Mahaweli Canal > Medirigiriyaya > BoB Dehi	15.7km	1.5 hrs	6.30 am or 4 pm	20	5
8. To Sigirimulla and back	11.5km	1.5 – 2 hrs	6.30 am or 4 pm	20	5

Included

- Bicycles
- Guide to accompany you
- Drinking water and basic refreshments
- Tickets to archeological sites (Sigiriya, Pidurangala and Kaludiya pokuna)



Description of Routes

All the cycle routes can be undertaken by amateur cyclists. The longer trails may require additional fitness / commitment.

Route 1 : To Wewela wewa (lake) via the Mahaweli Channel

This trail will give you a glimpse of one of the greatest joys of cycling in the dry zone: the irrigation canal network that connects with tanks (lakes) of varying sizes and shapes. Cycle on red earth roads cutting across farmlands and forests to reach the isolated village of Wewala on the banks of the ancient Wewala Wewa. Ringed in by forest and the Nuwaragala Hills, Wewala Wewa is a beautifully located water body, and idyllic spot for a rest stop prior to turning back. Return along the Hurulu Feeder Irrigation Canal that carries life giving Mahaweli water from the wet central hills to the paddy lands of the dry zone.



Cycling on flat, mostly red earth roads. Very remote environment.

Route 2 : To Kaludiya Pokuna, Thimbiritta wewa and Kumbukkandanwela wewa (return via Nikawatawena and Mahaweli canal)

A trail that takes in remote farmlands, irrigation canals, forests, lovely forest tanks (lakes) and finally the ruins of an ancient Buddhist Vihara buried in the jungle on the slopes of a boulder strewn range of hills. The two forest tanks provide beautiful rest stops as well as scope for bird watching. Those with extra energy, can do some climbing on the lower slopes of the Kaludiya Pokuna Archeological Reserve.

Cycling surface combines red earth roads and well surfaced tarred roads. We will be parking the cycles and walking for at least 30 min in the Kaludiya Pokuna Archeological Reserve.

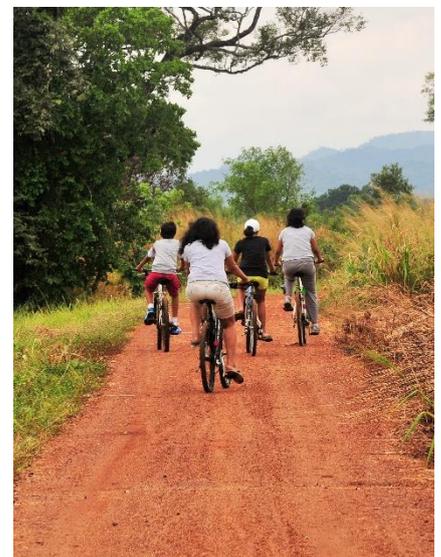
Route 3 : Along Mahaweli canals

This trail is for the committed cyclists! If you are not already a 'bund road' addict, then this will introduce you to the joys of using the dry zone irrigation network as a navigation aid.

The trail will take you up the Hurulu Feeder Canal to the point where the Mahaweli Waters is transferred from one river basin to another via the Bowatanne Tunnel.

The trail follows the canal bund all the way through, and as can be expected farmlands is the primary landscape. All along the trail the mountain ranges will be seen, first at a distance and then much closer as you approach the watershed of the Central Hills from where the water is diverted to the dry zone.

Cycling on flat, mostly red earth roads. This is the longest trail, and you can turn back at any point if you wish.



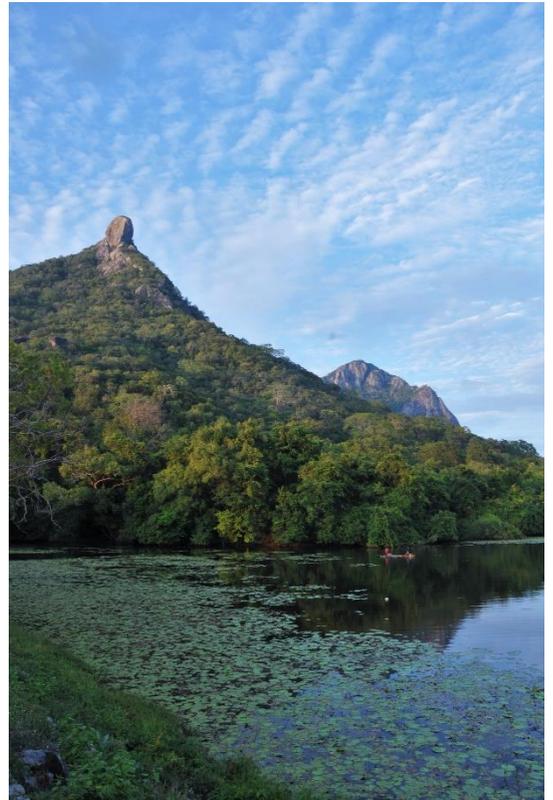
Route 4 : Around Eraula Hills (around Kandalama Tank and Pahala Eraula Wewa and Mahaweli Canals)
(Trail # 6 of Sigiriya and Beyond)

This trail introduces you to the irrigation canal network that connects with tanks (lakes) of varying sizes and shapes. A beautiful bonus is the craggy but green Eraula Hills which the trail circles around.

We set out along the 'bund road' of the Hurulu Feeder Canal that diverts water from the mighty Mahaweli Ganaga to the dry zone planes. We carry on past somewhat populated farming villages, on to the bund of the stunning Kandalama Wewa at the western foot on the Eraula Hills. We return via the more remote farmlands and forests passing by small village tanks.

Even on a hot day, it's a very water based trail. The two mighty tanks: Kandalama Wewa and Pahala Eraula Wewa lie on the opposite sides of the Eraula hills and our trail follows the inflow and outflow canals to these irrigation tanks. Contrastingly, the small village tanks are more like deep forest pools with plenty of birdlife.

Cycling surface combines red earth roads and well surfaced tarred roads, and has plenty of potential for lovely rest stops by the water.



Route 5 : To Pidurangala (inclusive of climbing Pidurangala rock and picnic breakfast)

This highly varied trail combines village life, nature and heritage as well as cycling and hiking.

Heading north through the forest reserve brings us to the small villages at the base of the Sigiriya rock. Over the bund of the Sigiriya Tank and through the Sigiriya Wildlife Reserve we cycle to Pidurangala Archeological and Wildlife Reserve. Parking our cycles, we hike up Pidurangala Rock, the lesser known sister of famous Sigiriya Rock. Breakfast on the Pidurangala summit is one of the top 5 activities we at Back of Beyond recommend to our guests!



Cycle back along the moat of the Sigiriya Citadel with excellent views of the Sigiriya Rock.

Cycling surface combines red earth roads and well surfaced tarred roads. Ideal for family groups with good fitness.

Route 6 : Sigiriya Moat and **Sigiriya rock** inclusive of guided tour of Sigiriya

Ride down to the World Heritage Site of Sigiriya!

We approach the Heritage site from the back, ie riding through the forest reserve and the villages lying in the shadow of the rock, rather than through the tourist centre. We will park our cycles by the Western Entrance and explore the gardens and climb the Rock. From the summit we can trace with delight the route we cycled!

We return by circling the rock, so that you have cycled all the way around past all four entrances to the mighty fortress. Ideal for family groups with good fitness.



Route 7 : **Cross country trail** - BoB Dehi > Polattewa > Mahaweli Canal > Medirigiriyaya > BoB Dehi

This trail is designed for those who would like a quick exploration of a remote farming community on the edge of a forest reservation.

With the green Inamaluwa and Eraula Ranges rising in the horizon, we ride through fields and villages as we follow the Mahaweli irrigation canal (Hurulu Feeder Canal). The track between Dehigaha Ela and Pollattawa village runs by the edge of the forest reserve, passing the outlying homes of Pollatawa village and the tiny Pollattawa School. It's an easy route, and you can stop when a tree, a farmer, a bird or the water takes your fancy!

The surface is mostly flat, red earth tarred roads.

Route 8 : To **Sigirimulla** and back

A lovely way to start or end the day – cycle to Sigirimulla, a site that has been used by Buddhist monks for over 2000 years as the stone inscriptions indicate.



We cycle through farmlands and forests turn off to an earth road that gently twists through the tiny village and then fizzles out at the foot of a gently rising tree covered rock outcrop.

We park our cycles and explore the temple, the caves and the long granite rock with multiple medicinal trees and plants growing wild on it.

Ideal for family groups or anyone who loves to peddle around and explore. The Sigirimulla temple/archeological site is a wonderful bonus. The surface is flat, red earth roads.



HISTORY & CULTURE

- incl. transportation, entrance ticket, *guide, refreshments

Cost (USD)

	2 persons	Extra (adult / child)	Hours
Sigiriya Rock Fortress & Museum *	100	35 / 20	3h (morning / evening)
Polonnaruwa Ancient City *	140	35 / 25	5 - 6h
Anuradhapura Ancient City*	150	45 / 35	6 - 7h
Dambulla Cave Temple	55	25 / 15	3h
Kaludiya Pokuna Archeological Site	40	10 / 05	3h
Ritigala Forest Monastery	80	25 / 15	4 - 5h

SAFARI & NATURE

- incl. transportation, entrance tickets, guide, refreshments

2 persons Extra (adult / child) Hours

(with /without Naturalist)

	2 persons	Extra (adult / child)	Hours
Minneriya National Park	110 / 95	25 / 15	4 - 5h
Kaudulla National Park	105 / 90	25 / 15	4 - 5h
Hurulu Eco Park	85 / 75	20 / 15	4 - 5h
Popham Arboretum Dambulla	40	10	2.5 - 4h

BACK OF BEYOND ADVENTURES

- incl. Naturalist or guide, transportation, cycles

2 persons Extra (adult / child) Hours

	2 persons	Extra (adult / child)	Hours
Chena (farm) walk & Village breakfast	30	10 / 5	2h
Nature walk (bird watching, bat cave, boulders, stream)	25	10 / 5	2h
Bird Watching tour by cycle	29	15 / 0	2 - 3h
Village life (cycle ride, village life, Breakfast)	45	20 / 15	3 - 4h
Pidurangala sunset (guided hike of Pidurangala Rock)	40	15 / 10	3 - 4h
Pidurangala experience (guided hike, loris watching & dinner at BoB - Pidurangala)	90	35 / 25	3 - 5h (afternoon/evening)
Cycle rides (see separate info)	20-50		1 - 5h

