

Sri Lankan Tales ~ Day 4



Day 4 in Sri Lanka started with wishing a very happy birthday to Yagyadeep Mahato who turned 11 this year. The day began with a beautiful sea side drive from Colombo to Bentota where the students went for a boat safari in the Madu Ganga River near the sea. The boat safari took the students through dense mangroves growing across many miles in the river. The students marvelled at the unique built of the trees with long roots reaching down to the water from the branches. The students also met Alina the baby crocodile and cuddled her in their arms. After the boat safari and a quick lunch, the students proceeded to a turtle nesting site to learn about the sea turtle conservation being operated in Sri Lanka by the local people in association with international volunteers. The students were surprised to see baby turtles which were just one day old to older and bigger turtles who were 50 years old. They held the turtles in their hands and appreciated the care and protection given to the turtles by the local people. The students decided to support the worthy cause and donated an amount of 7,900 Sri Lankan rupees to the hatchery. They were happy to learn that 200 turtle eggs will be saved with the amount donated.

From the hatchery, the students went to an NGO and interacted with children there. They played some games with them and distributed pictorial books to them. They also helped them open their early Christmas presents (donated by another group of visitors) and played with them. Then they proceeded for fun in the sea in the form of a sea bath where the students played in the sea waves in a safe area on the beach. They also made sand castles and collected shells and corals washed on to the beach. After the sea bath, the students visited the beautiful home of Mr. Douglas, our tour guide, and interacted with his family. The family surprised Yagyadeep with a cake, especially baked for his birthday. The warmth and the hospitality of the Sri Lankan people was epitomized by them and each child was deeply touched by their gestures.

The students then finally headed back for Colombo and sent for a shopping spree in the famous House of Fashion. They returned to the hotel with loaded shopping bags and enjoyed a dinner of pizza and soft drinks.

After a long and fulfilling day the students packed their suitcases and retired to bed ready to leave for India the following day. It has been a memorable trip in Sri Lanka and I am sure the fragrance of its culture will linger in our hearts and minds for years to come.



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