

Aerial Whale Watching Tours From December



Simplifly, the helicopter, floatplane and aircraft operator, is launching their second season of whale watching tours by aircraft starting from December 2014.

Operating from Koggala airfield, guests will board Simplfly’s eight-seat Airvan aircraft and fly to the marine shelf for a bird’s eye view of the world’s largest animal-the magnificent blue whale. The aerial tour will allow guests to enjoy a view of the coastline before ending with a fly over above the World Heritage Galle Fort.

“We had a very successful product launch last winter combined with the opening of our fully staffed office located within the Galle Fort, and we wanted to bring the same experience to tourists who have chosen our beautiful island to spend their holidays this year, which also happens to be our tenth full year of operation in the

country," said Suren Mirchandani, Founder/Vice Chairman – Simplifly.

"Simplifly has always been known as an innovator in the domestic airline industry, and we are very proud to be the only airline able to offer this unique product to the local and foreign guests. With Our Wings-Over-Whale tours, Sri Lanka is one among the handful of places in the world where people can fly out to see whales," Mirchandani added.

Information released by the airline said, "one of the reasons why we launched aerial whale watching was to showcase that it is indeed possible for tourism to co-exist with nature. It is our contribution to responsible tourism. If we continue to crowd the whales with hundreds of boats in an unregulated manner, these animals may simply move away and find quieter places to rest, winter and nurture their young." Long advocated by marine biologists, viewing whales by aircraft have the benefit of not disturbing whales in their natural habitat, which is a worrying trend in Sri Lanka, where dozens of vessels chase down whales and create a large stress burden for the world's largest mammals, in addition to the marine pollution caused from lubricants and fuel.

"There is no place on earth like the south coast of Sri Lanka for whale watching. With our warm waters, clear blue skies and great tropical weather, Sri Lanka will surely continue to see growth in this important segment. In addition to blue whales, we often sight other kinds of whales and we almost always see huge pods of dolphins in the water. We look forward to another great season for our Wings-Over-Whales excursions, which will run from December 1, 2014 through March 31 next year," added Ishan Munaweera, Head of Business Development – Simplifly. Simplify will operate six flights per week and cater to both local and foreign tourists, with tickets available online or from the Simplifly office in Galle Fort.

