

**Matale** is renowned for Sri Lanka's cocoa cultivation. Cocoa is grown by the farmers in Matale area as a major cash crop, among other varieties of spices.

Matale, is located along the A9 road between two UNESCO World Heritage sites; Kandy and Dambulla, (famous for its rock cave Buddhist temple). The **Cocoa processing factory** in Matale is located on the Nalanda industrial estate, just off the main road.

ICEI collaborated with the factory from the initial setting up stage to improve the livelihoods of small scale organic cocoa farmers. A visit to the Cocoa Processing Factory will give you an interesting insight to how cocoa is collected, dried, fermented and processed.

At the small outlet in the factory premises you can buy some of their produce that are well packed. During the off-season for cocoa, the factory processes ginger. You can have a cup of freshly brewed ginger tea at the centre.

Once you have seen how cocoa is processed, you can see how it is grown, visit a few home spice gardens and see many other spice plants as well. If your visit is during the season, you'll be able to taste ripe cocoa.

The Home Spice Gardens in Matale are treasure chests of spices. You will get a chance to taste Clove, Cardamom, Cinnamon and many other spices. Not only spices but some seasonal fruits in these home gardens are great to try. The villagers who own the gardens are so generous they will let you taste whatever you choose.

If you wish to see how natural rubber is processed in Sri Lanka, ask your guide to take you to the small scale natural rubber factory situated nearby.

After the walk about you can savour a typical oriental Sri Lankan lunch at a village house, arranged by the hospitable villagers.

The next stop would be the famed **Rock Temple of Aluvihare** that has colourful paintings and carvings. From atop the rock the temple is situated, it is indeed a fascinating view.

Please turn overleaf for excursion itinerary....



#### Guidelines for travelers

- When visiting Buddhist temples or any other place of worship, ensure that you are appropriately dressed. Wear tops with sleeves and pants.
- Footwear and hats should be removed when entering places of worship.
- For bathing in open places:  
Women: A t-shirt and a pair of shorts.  
Men : A pair of shorts.
- Women should always wear ¾ trekking trousers and t-shirts with sleeves (not reveal the shoulders).
- Trekking shoes are recommended. High heeled shoes are not advisable.
- Smoking is not well accepted among village people, especially women- smokers.
- It is advised to avoid smoking in public areas of the village.



7.00 am	Departure from Kandy
9.00 am	Arrive in Matale Cocoa Factory Factory tour; view the cocoa processing operation. Refreshments (ginger tea)
10.30 am	Visit a spice home garden - see the cocoa plants and many other spices
11.30 am	Traditional Sri Lankan lunch at a farmer's house, made with organic vegetables and spices
1.00 pm	Proceed back to Kandy
01.30 pm	Visit Aluvihare Rock Temple in Matale
02.30 pm	Departure to Kandy
03.30 pm	Arrive in Kandy.

