Introduction Hot Air Ballooning

"Did the Wright Brothers get it wrong? Balloon is the way to fly"
Sir Arthur C. Clarke

Enjoy the High-Life; view Sri Lanka's Capital and exotic centre of the south from the warm blue skies above. A unique and original life time experience, many describe as surreal, peaceful, quiet, whilst others are lost for words! Commencing from the historic & rich Cultural Triangle of Kandalama, Dambulla, Sigiriya,"SEALS". offer both daily scheduled and exclusive charter flights for that special occasion, for up to 16 people.

View wildlife, rugged mountains, ancient temples, an expansive coastline, distant mountains up-country, lotus ponds, life and the people from aloft amongst the astonishing beauty of rural Sri Lanka from the peaceful solitude of your hot air balloon.

Flights commence several kilometers inland and rise to approx. 2,000ft to 3000ft offering a breath taking panorama to the horizon across the Dambulla.

Experience the magical waking moments of the day with a sunrise flight while gently floating with the wind over Sri Lanka's fascinating cultural heritage. A champagne and tropical fruit breakfast is bursting to greet you on landing. After the flight our van will return you to your hotel or starting point.

Ballooning Locations:-
- Central North - Cultural Triangle (Kandalama, Dambulla, Sigiriya)

Ballooning & History:-

1783 - FRANCE: The first public demonstration of a lighter-than-air machine took place on June 4, 1783, in Annonay, France, by Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier. Etienne Montgolfier carried out the first experiment at Avignon, France, in September 1782, proving their theory. They had rediscovered the theory of buoyancy, which the Greek mathematician and philosopher Archimedes had discovered in the 2nd Century B.C.E. They finally built a large cloth and paper balloon 10 meters in diameter and tested it on June 4, 1783, in the marketplace at Annonay. The balloon, from then on called a Montgolfier rose about 2,000 meters (6,562 feet) into the air.

1783 – GALLE: It is the capital of the Southern Province, 72 miles (115km) south of Colombo. Galle, (famous for its Old Dutch Fort) which saw Persians and Arabs, Chinese and Malays, South Indians, Portuguese and Dutch, English and even Romans, visit Galle in the dim past. In 1344, Ibn Batuta found a Moorish vessel in the harbor.

The Portuguese came 1505 and in 1640 Galle was taken by the Dutch. Whilst in France hot air ballooning was about to be born, January 8, 1782 Galle was captured by the British, only to be recaptured by the French on August 29 of the same year. In 1783 France ceded it to Britain and then by Britain to Holland. However, in 1795 the British recaptured and held it till Sri Lanka's independence in 1948.

2007 – The 1st Hot Air Balloon Flights in Galle (thanks to the inventive French) will take place thanks to an Australian adventurer and with a lot more finesse than the 1780's. We hope to see you on board!

Rate: - (*Sri Lankan Nationals*) Flight only package or Flight Voucher

Fees LKR's per person

Adults LKR PP
Children <12yrs LKR PC

Rate: - (*Foreign Guests*) Flight only package or Flight Voucher

Fees Euro's per person

Adults € PP
Children <12yrs € PC
Resident Expat's€*PP

What's included:-

- Approx 1hr flight +/- (not guaranteed)
- Champagne - Tropical Fruit Breakfast
- Transfers to and from your hotel in the region
- Flight Certificate
- Binoculars on board
- All passengers insured

Bookings and Cancellations:-

- No deposit then no confirmation.
- Deposit payment must be 1 week prior to the flight. (50% Advance)
- Client must be paid up fully before the flight.
- A ticket will be issued from our Colombo Office for the client to be handed over to the pilot.

Cancellation Policy (Cancellations Due to Weather)

The flights will take place as weather permits. An early morning wake up call confirms your departure.

Note: - Guests will have their ticket fully refunded in the event of a cancelled flight.

Cancellation Fees

- Cancellation 7 days prior to flight - full refund
- Cancellation 3-6 days prior to flight – 10% of the advance fee
- Cancellation 2 days or less prior to flight – 25% of the advance fee
- Reservation will be made for guests however a place on the flight cannot be guaranteed without a deposit having been made. Priority will be given to pay up guests.
- If a guest does not show up for their flight a 100% cancellation fee applies (i.e. Full value of ticket)

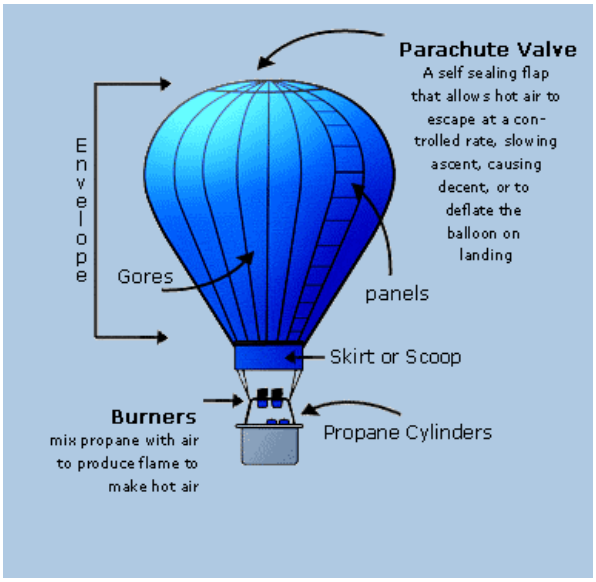
Note: If “SEALS” cancels for any reason then 100% refund

How the Balloon Works
Hot air balloons are an ingenious application of basic scientific principles. Here we shall explain how the balloon works, including what makes it rise and fall and how a pilot is able to maneuver it in flight.

The basis of how the balloon works is that warmer air rises in cooler air. This is because hot air is lighter than cool air as it has less mass per unit of volume. Mass can be defined by the measure of how much matter something contains. The actual balloon (called an envelope) has to be so large as it takes such a large amount of heated air to lift it off the ground. For example, to lift 1000 pounds worth of weight you would need almost 65,000 cubic feet of heated air! To help keep the balloon in the air and rising, hot air needs to be propelled upwards into the envelope using the burner

Hot Air Balloons are made up of 3 main parts:

- **The Envelope**
  The actual fabric balloon which holds the air
- **The Burner**
  The unit which propels the heat up inside the envelope
- **The Basket**
  Where the passengers and pilot Stan



The burner uses propane gas to heat up the air in the envelope to move the balloon off the ground and into the air. The pilot must keep firing the burner at regular intervals throughout the flight to ensure that the balloon continues to be stable. Little hot air escapes from the hole at the very bottom of the envelope as hot air rises.

The controls for piloting a balloon are actually extremely simple....

1 - To move the balloon upwards - the pilot opens up the propane valve which lets the propane flow to the burner which in turn fires the flame up into the envelope. Works in much the same way as a gas grill, the longer you open the valve, the more heat, the faster the balloon rises.

2 - To move the balloon downwards - the 'Parachute Valve' at the very top of the balloon is what is used to bring the balloon down towards the ground. It is essentially a circle of fabric cut out of the top of the envelope which is controlled by a long chord which runs down through the middle of the envelope to the basket. If the pilot wants to bring the balloon down he simply pulls on the chord which will open the valve, letting hot air escape, decreasing the inner air temperature. This cooling of air causes the balloon to slow its ascent. A gentle decent can also be initiated by burning less often as the balloon gradually cools due to heat loss from the warm surface of the balloon.

So essentially this takes care of the up and down movement, so how does the balloon move from place to place? Again the answer is very simple, the pilot can maneuver horizontally by changing the vertical position of the balloon because the wind blows in different directions at different altitudes. If the pilot wants to move in a particular direction they simply ascend and descend to the appropriate level and ride with the wind. This is however limited to the variation in wind direction on the day which may only be 10 degrees and may not be consistent.

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