

SRI LANKA AUTHENTIC

Day 01

Welcome to Sri Lanka!

Airport | Colombo (D)

Arrival at Colombo International Airport and transfer to hotel in Colombo. (Approximately 45 minutes' drive)

Colombo-Sri Lanka's commercial capital and major port – Colombo, is a fine amalgamation of all the hues and cultures within this paradise isle. This chic metropolitan that accommodates skyscrapers, sandy beaches and a collage of markets and gardens, brings together the many facets of this island nation. If you are on a tight schedule, you would definitely appreciate the many opportunities Colombo offers for fine-dining and shopping, not to mention the overarching beauty of the city's rapidly developing landscape; a perfect combination of well-preserved colonial architecture and urbanity. Meanwhile, if you are free to spend a few days in the city you will be amazed by the many cultural and historical wonders located within locales such as Fort and Cinnamon Gardens. The bustling market streets of Pettaha also make up for an interesting place of visit.

Arrive and check in at the hotel and Evening do the city tour in Colombo.



Thereafter, return to hotel and relax.
Overnight Stay in Colombo.



Day 02

Colombo | Dambulla (B, D)

After Breakfast, transfer to Sigiriya for a climb up the Rock Fortress. (Approximately 4 ½ hours' drive)

Sigiriya -The marvelous rock fortress of Sigiriya is a rare jewel among the many treasures in Sri Lanka. The site was the domain of King Kashyapa whose aim was to build an impregnable fortress and within it, a heavenly abode. Rising over the dry plains of the Dambulla district, the tough climb up this flat-topped monadnock ends with the most scenic bird's-eye view of the emerald plains and leafy villages below. The skeletal layout of the ancient city within the fortress marvels its observers with the grandeur and complexity of 5th century urban-planning of Sri Lanka. On the way to the top one can observe the famous Sigiriya frescoes of the buxom, wasp-waisted maidens bearing flowers, amidst the wilderness and ancient ruins. The smoothly glazed 'Mirror Wall' located a few steps away has sealed the expressions of ancient visitors, inspired by the vibrant frescoes.



Arrive and check in at the hotel. Evening relax at the hotel.

Overnight Stay in Dambulla.

Day 03

Dambulla | Polonnaruwa | Dambulla (B, D)

After breakfast excursion to Polonnaruwa. (Approximately 1 ½ hours' drive)

Polonnaruwa – A 'World Heritage Site', Polonnaruwa was the medieval capital of Sri Lanka from the 11th to the 13th century AD. Great revival was achieved in the country, politically, economically and socially during the periods of kings Vijayabahu 1, Parakramabahu 1 and Nissankamalla. The monuments here are better preserved than at Anuradhapura - the previous capital. Parakrama statue, royal palaces, audience halls, Vata-da-ge, Thuparama, Rankoth Vehera, Kiri Vehera, Gal Vihara, Lankathilaka & Thivanka Image House are some of the interesting monuments here.



Thereafter go on a safari to Minneriya National Park.

Minneriya National park- located in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka, was designated as a national park on 12 August 1997. Located in the centre of the cultural triangle, Minneriya is a good alternative to the busier parks in the south and it's easy to weave in a day here between visiting the ancient cities. The dry season, preferably from June to September, is the best time to visit the park when the ancient tank, the lake that dominates the area, dries out and the grasses and shoots push through. During this time, it is possible to see herds of up to 150 elephants feeding and washing, as well as toque macaques, sambar deer and leopards.



Thereafter, return to hotel and relax.

Overnight Stay in Dambulla.

Day 04

Dambulla | Kandy (B, D)

After breakfast transfer to Dambulla cave temple.

Thereafter, proceed to Kandy Via Spice Garden. (Approximately 2 ½ hours' drive)

Dambulla cave temple -Located in the Matale district, Dambulla is part of the cultural triangle and is home to the world famous Dambulla cave temples. The cave temples complex that lies atop a massive hill on the edge of the town is one of the eight UNESCO world heritage sites in the country and is renowned for its unique mural paintings and sculptures. If you are not a history-buff, fret not, because there is more to Dambulla.



Spice garden-Since time immemorial, this emerald isle has remained popular for its exotic spices, world over. To those who bear an interest in these rich elements that stirred the interests of many nations, the spice gardens located in Kandy, Matale and Mawanella offer wonderful opportunities to view these spices up-close. The gardens are not only delightful spots for a stroll midst the fragrant greenery but also offer interesting perspectives into the local spices, as the visitors are educated on the diverse variety of spices available in the country as well as on how they are grown and processed.



Thereafter, proceed to Kandy.

Often referred to as the hill capital of Sri Lanka, Kandy offers a diverse variety of experiences to its visitors ranging from history, culture and simple scenic beauty coupled with a touch of urbanity. It was the last Sinhalese Kingdom that fell under British rule in 1815. The journey to this mellow weathered city can be quite enjoyable, particularly by train owing to the scenic delights that lie alongside. The city's colonial architecture has been preserved well even in the backdrop of rapid urbanization. Close to the city's centre is the prime landmark - Sri Dalada Maligawa that houses the sacred tooth relic of Buddha. Apart from the ancient monuments of the Kandyan era, the delightful jumble of antique shops and the bustling market in the city also make up for interesting places of visit.

Arrive and check in at the hotel.

Witness a cultural dance show and also visit temple of the tooth relic in the evening.

Temple of the tooth relic-Sri Dalada Maligawa or the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is a Buddhist temple in the city of Kandy, Sri Lanka. It is located in the royal palace complex of the former Kingdom of Kandy, which houses the relic of the tooth of the Buddha. Since ancient times, the relic has played an important role in local politics because it is believed that whoever holds the relic holds the governance of the country. Kandy was the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings and is a World Heritage Site mainly due to the temple.



Thereafter, return to hotel and relax.



Overnight Stay in Kandy

Day 05

Kandy | Nuwara Eliya (B, D)

After breakfast proceed to Nuwara Eliya by train. **(Seats subject to availability)** (Approximately 2 ½ hours' drive)

Nuwara Eliya-Dubbed the 'Little England of Sri Lanka', Nuwaraeliya is located in the thick, misty hills of this paradise isle, 180 km away from Colombo. The summer resort of Sri Lanka, it is one of the few areas where the colonial atmosphere is preserved, still resembling a British countryside complete with rose gardens, hedges and red-roofed bungalows. Although the town-center has receded from its old-world charm, the lush tea-plantations, the racecourse, the English country house-styled Hill Club and the beautifully kept golf course instantaneously rushes its visitors back to the colonial times. Touring locations include: the lovely Queen Victoria Park and the Gregory Lake, the legendary Haggala botanical gardens, Galway Land bird sanctuary, the misty landscapes of Horton Plains as well as several tea factories where one can obtain an up-close perspective on how your cuppa originates. It is also ideal for hiking or biking. April marks the Nuwaraeliya 'season'.



Arrive and check in at the hotel. Evening relaxes at the hotel.

Overnight Stay in Nuwara Eliya.

Day 06

Nuwara Eliya (B, D)

Early morning excursion to Horton Plains National park for trekking expedition with a packed breakfast. (Approximately 1 ½ hours' drive)

Horton Plains - 'World's End' and the beautiful bridal veil 'Bakers Falls' Sri Lanka's highest plateau 7200 ft above sea level in the central mountain country. This 'Fen' is a very scenic region with an astounding variety of scenery from mountains to grasslands, from marshes to trout streams. Sri Lanka's best-flavored high grown teas are grown in the surrounding areas. Spectacular view from 'Worlds End' where the plateau plunges a thousand feet in a straight sheer drop.



Thereafter Sightseeing in Nuwara Eliya and visit to a tea plantation & factory in the afternoon.

Tea plantation -Sri Lanka, Tea and Tourism are words which cannot be separated. Take a tour to the cold & misty hills that take pride of an ultimate tea tour, covering lush green blankets of tea plantations. Or just step into a tea factory processing the prestigious brand of Ceylon Tea, to observe a rich tradition kept alive up to date. As you observe the hissing and swishing of machines, inhaling the heavenly scent arising from these facilities, make sure to end your day in style over a perfectly blended cup of pure Ceylon Tea.

Return to hotel and relax.

Overnight Stay in Nuwara Eliya.

Day 07

Nuwara Eliya | Ella | Yala (B, D)

After Breakfast, Leave for Tissamaharama via visit 9 Arch bridge in Demodara near Ella. (Approximately 4 ½ hours' drive)

The 9 Arch Bridge -was built at Gotuwala between the Ella and Demodara stations during the British Colonial period. Locally it is known as 'Ahas Namaye Palama' meaning nine skies bridge in Sinhala. The name derives from the visual experience. When you stand below the bridge and look up you can see the sky through the nine arches. The unique part about this bridge is that it is built entirely from rocks, bricks, and cement with no use of steel or metals throughout the structure. The bridge was commissioned in 1941 and the story goes that as the bridge was being planned World War I broke out. The steel and metal materials destined to be used in the bridge were reassigned to be used for military purposes. The materials were then gathered in the form of rocks, bricks, and cement to make sure the bridge construction still went ahead.



Thereafter proceed to Tissamaharama.



Yala – its magnificent sights of majestic elephant herds, fine-feathered peacocks, great black bears and agile leopards that steal away into the shadows of the thick foliage are unparalleled to any of the national parks in the country. Apart from the rare sightings of varied animal species, which includes herds of elephants and leopards, the visitors can also enjoy a picnic lunch on the beach in the beautiful setting of unspoilt beaches, as the Southern park border lies along the South-eastern coastal line. The ancient monastic settlement, Sithulpawwa located midst the thick verdure of the park also makes up for an interesting place of visit. The best time to visit the Yala National park is during the dry season (March to April).



Arrive and check in at the hotel. Evening relaxes at the hotel.
 Overnight Stay in Tissamaharama.

Day 08

Yala (B, D)

Early morning do a private jeep safari in Yala National park with a packed breakfast.

Yala National Park - Yala National Park is famous for big herds of elephants, large number of leopards, spotted deer, sambar, crocodiles, mongoose, wild boars, wild buffaloes and many other animals. More than 130 bird species have been recorded which include the resident birds and winter visitors. The common birds found here are spot-billed pelicans, cormorants, egrets, spoonbills, herons, storks, ibises, bitterns, Indian moorhens, white-breasted water hens.



Return to hotel and Lunch at the hotel
 Afternoon do a private jeep safari in Yala National park
 Overnight Stay in Tissamaharama.



Day 09

Yala | Galle (B, D)

After breakfast leave for Galle. (Approximately 5 hours' drive)

Galle Fort-in the Bay of Galle on the southwest coast of Sri Lanka, was built first in 1588 by the Portuguese, then extensively fortified by the Dutch during the 17th century from 1649 onwards. The fort has a colourful history, and today has a multi-ethnic and multi-religious population. The heritage value of the fort has been recognized by the UNESCO and the site has been inscribed as a cultural heritage UNESCO World Heritage



Join a local resident whose family has lived and worked in Galle for generations, on a guided walk through Galle's historic 17C Dutch Fort - a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Galle's natural harbour has long been a hub of trade dating back to ancient times. The accidental arrival of the Portuguese Lorenzo de Almeida in 1505, when his fleet of ships steered off course following a storm at sea, changed the history of this island nation. The Portuguese were followed by the Dutch and then the British in 1796. With each occupation, Galle's landscape changed and the cultural influences remained. Galle Fort covers nearly four sq. kms and is protected by 12 bastions and connecting ramparts. Wonder the maze of narrow cobblestone paved roadways lined with colonial period buildings still in use and old merchant houses where generations of Moorish families still live. Take a walk along the sturdy ramparts looking out to sea and visit colonial period churches, the lighthouse and museums. Along the way, stop by for a cup of Ceylon Tea or fresh king coconut.

Arrive and check in at the hotel. Evening spend relax at the hotel.

Overnight Stay in Galle.



Day 10

Galle (B, D)

After Breakfast Galle cycling tour.

Galle Cycling tour- A truly invigorating way to start your day, hop on a bike and cycle through flourishing paddy and cinnamon plantations in the charming southern countryside.

Embark on trails beginning at 12km and glide by unfrequented village life, local temples burning incense and vibrant blue kingfishers flying overhead. There is no better way to experience the local landscape than by bike, an opportunity to really explore its meandering paths and lanes. Peddle past buffalo and egrets, rice farmers and smiling children, looking out for tea bushes, banana trees, jaggery, pineapple plantations and coconut palm. If you opt for a slightly longer ride, take a break for Thambili (King Coconut).



Thereafter proceed to Sri Lankan Masks making and painting.

Mask Making -Mask Making and painting Masks are used more for performance and ritual in modern day Sri Lanka but their past is rooted in ancient beliefs and the ideology that they have healing and protective powers. Your journey through time starts with a preliminary introduction to the history of masks in Sri Lanka. As you learn its usability and watch a demonstration as how the tools used to make the masks are handled. The artisans will assist you in moulding your very own traditional mask. Once completed, you have the option to paint the wonderful mask you've crafted. The local artisans will teach you how to paint the masks in a traditional manner and give you a few decorating tips along the way. Once completed, the mask is yours to keep!



Return to hotel and relax.

Late evening proceeds to dinner at **Galle Fort Hotel**

Overnight Stay in Galle.



Day 11

Galle | Airport (B)

Breakfast in hotel.

According to your flight time check out from the hotel and leave to the airport (Approximately 3 hours' drive)

End of Services

Hotel and Accommodation Details

| Nights | City | Hotels | Room Category | Meals |
|--------|---------------|------------------------|------------------|-------|
| 1 | Colombo | Uga Residence | Park Suite | HB |
| 2 | Dambulla | Water Garden | Deluxe Villa | HB |
| 1 | Kandy | Elephant Stable | Deluxe Room | HB |
| 2 | Nuwara Eliya | Jetwing Warwick Garden | Deluxe Room | HB |
| 2 | Tissamaharama | Flameback Eco Lodge | Deluxe Eco Lodge | HB |
| 2 | Galle | Le Grand | Deluxe Room | HB |

Package Includes

- 10 night's accommodation in a double/twin room at the hotels mentioned above or Similar
- Meals as specified above
- Entrance fees to all places specified in the itinerary above
- 2 Half day private jeep safari in Yala National park
- 1 Half day private jeep safari in Minneriya National Park.
- Transport by air-conditioned vehicle with an English- speaking chauffeur Guide
- All applicable taxes

Package Does Not Include

- Additional meals
- Compulsory Supplements
- Early Check-in & Late checkout
- Compulsory supplements
- Mineral water, soft drinks & alcoholic beverages
- Camera permits
- Tips & portorage
- Anything not mentioned under "Package Includes"

Complimentary

- Flower garlands on arrival
- Farewell gift on departure

General Cancellation Policy

- More than 90 days prior to arrival date – 50% of the full price
- 31 to 89 days prior to arrival date – 75% of the full price



- Less than 30 days prior to arrival date – 100% of the full price
- No Shows and Early Departure – 100% of the full price

Important

- Check in time at all hotels is 1400 hrs
- Check out time at all hotels is 1200 hrs

TRAVEL TIPS

Language of measurement

Most of Paradise Island's foundation was set during the British rule of this tiny nation of islanders. As a result, Sri Lankans mainly use the Metric system: centimeters, meters, grams, kilograms. However, when regarding height and area this may vary between imperial as well: square feet, inches and feet.

Sunshine Island

Sri Lanka is known for its fun in the sun and most locals brave the sun's rays fearlessly, however, visitors are recommended to wear their preferred sunblock and sun-hats whenever possible, and to stay hydrated during their travels. Adventurers are recommended to have an intake of 3 liters of water per day, at the least.

Summer chic

Given the tropical weather and natural humidity, the most comfortable clothing while traveling Sri Lanka would be made of cotton or linen, pair this with a chic open-toed sandal and your beach or party ready for the tropics

Little inhabitants

Dab on a little insect and mosquito repellent, especially around dusk/ late evenings, as Sri Lanka is home to variety of them to avoid itchy bites

Electronics

In Sri Lanka the standard voltage is 230V and the frequency is 50Hz. Most electric appliances can be used in Sri Lanka, as both two-pin and three-pin - circle and square adapters are used locally.

Respect and Responsibility

When visiting places of worship and ancient ruins, visitors are encouraged to wear modest clothing that are preferably white or light in color.

Sri Lanka is picturesque to say the least, and is a great place to create a beautiful picture-scape of your travels; be prepared however, for rules on photography and especially flash photography around ancient sites and in-and-around places of worship. Permits may be required at specific locations before you can take photos.

Many historic sites request the purchase of entrance tickets that are available only from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. These tickets cover charges for photography, recording and parking. Rates are quoted in US Dollars and rupee parities are subject to fluctuation.

Poya days are religious holidays providing to Sri Lanka's residents throughout the year. Poya days usually fall on full moon days and are considered as public, bank and mercantile holidays. Throughout the nation, many people observe religious practices and refrain from eating meat and drinking alcohol.

The sale and purchase of alcohol as well as fresh meat is prohibited on these special religious holidays.



When traveling around Paradise Island, make sure to look for designated smoking areas especially when out and about, as smoking in public places is prohibited by law.

Exceptional Service

When indulging at most of Sri Lanka's luxury and semi-luxury hotels, cafes, restaurants and nightclubs, you'll find that at the end of the night your total bill includes taxes and a "service charge" which technically is considered as the tip you would generally give your waiter. As such it isn't necessary to provide a tip should you wish not to, but as islanders we love to show our appreciation in gratitude, praise and just a little bit of an extra tip before ending our night, especially when we've experienced exceptional service.

Generally, 10% of your total bill value is the accepted norm globally for tipping, with the minimum at LKR 100.

Time and place

Paradise Island is marked at GST +5.30 and most visitors tend to experience even a little bit of jet lag, as such it's always best to make sure you have plenty of time to recuperate and be awake during your travels. Most often than not, there are many adventures to be had whilst traveling the paths in Sri Lanka.

Medical aid

Paradise Island is well known for its easily accessible, acclaimed, affordable medical care throughout the island. Whether a teaching hospital, general/ government hospital or a private clinic, Sri Lanka is host to several well-stocked and staffed clinics and hospitals. Pharmacies can also be found every 1km even when traveling along the path less taken.

Currency

The rupee is the currency of Sri Lanka, and one [01] rupee is divided into 100 cents. It is issued by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and abbreviates into LKR to distinguish between other rupee currencies.

As you enter paradise island, you will find a host of bank outlets located within the airport where you may convert your currency.

Once outside and along your travels, you may convert your currency at any bank or money exchange outlet by providing your passport as proof of intent. Banks and/ or money exchange outlets can be found easily within every major city or town.

Tip: Carry sufficient amounts of change, especially in Rs. 10, 20, 50 and 100 denominations.

Foreign Currency Regulations

Visitors bringing in more than US\$10,000 should declare the amount at Customs upon arrival. All unspent rupees converted from foreign currencies can be re-converted to the original currency on departure as long as encashment receipts are produced.



Emergency Services

Ambulance / Fire & rescue
Government Information Centre
Police Emergency Hotline
Accident Service-General Hospital-Colombo
Emergency Police Mobile Squad
Tourist Police
Police Emergency
Report Crimes
Fire & Ambulance Service

Telephone Number

110
1919
118 / 119
011 2 691 111
011 5 717 171
011 2 691 500
011 2 433 333
011 2 691 500
011 2 422 222

