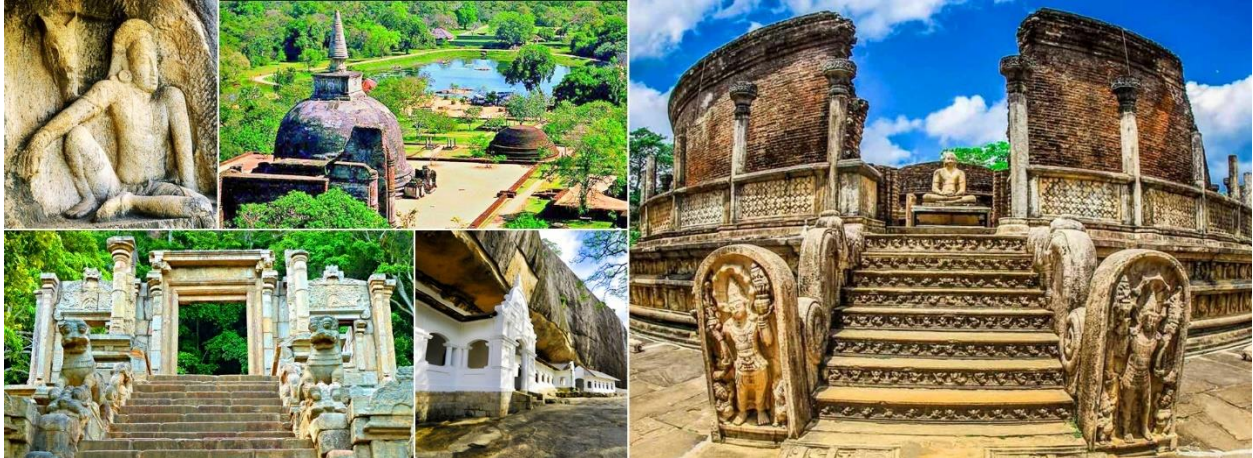


Architecture Tours of Sri Lanka



Welcome to Sri Lanka!

A breath-taking island paradise nestled just off the south-eastern coast of India. Though compact in size, Sri Lanka boasts an extraordinary diversity that captivates every traveller. From golden beaches to mist-covered mountains, ancient temples to bustling cities, the island offers an unforgettable experience at every turn.

Steeped in over 2,000 years of rich history, Sri Lanka is home to sacred Buddhist sites, legendary ruins, colonial landmarks, and no less than eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Explore the iconic Sigiriya Rock Fortress, wander through the ancient city of Anuradhapura, or marvel at the timeless beauty of Kandy's Temple of the Tooth.

Nature lovers will find their paradise here. Relax on palm-fringed beaches, trek through rainforest trails, or witness majestic waterfalls and lush tea plantations in the central highlands.

Key Destinations

- *1 Night in Negombo / 3 Nights in Dambulla / 2 Nights in Kandy / 2 Nights in Galle / 3 Nights in Ahungalla / 2 Nights in Colombo*



Day 01 – Airport / Negombo

Highlights

- Arrival in Sri Lanka / meet and greet
- Proceed to Negombo (Approx. 20 Min)
- Visit a Fishing Village in Negombo
- Visit Old Dutch Building
- Check in at the Hotel and Spend the day on leisure



Negombo is a famous fishing village located on the west coast of Sri Lanka, near the Bandaranaike International Airport. It is known for its picturesque landscapes, vibrant fish markets, and a rich cultural heritage. Here are some key features of the fishing village in Negombo

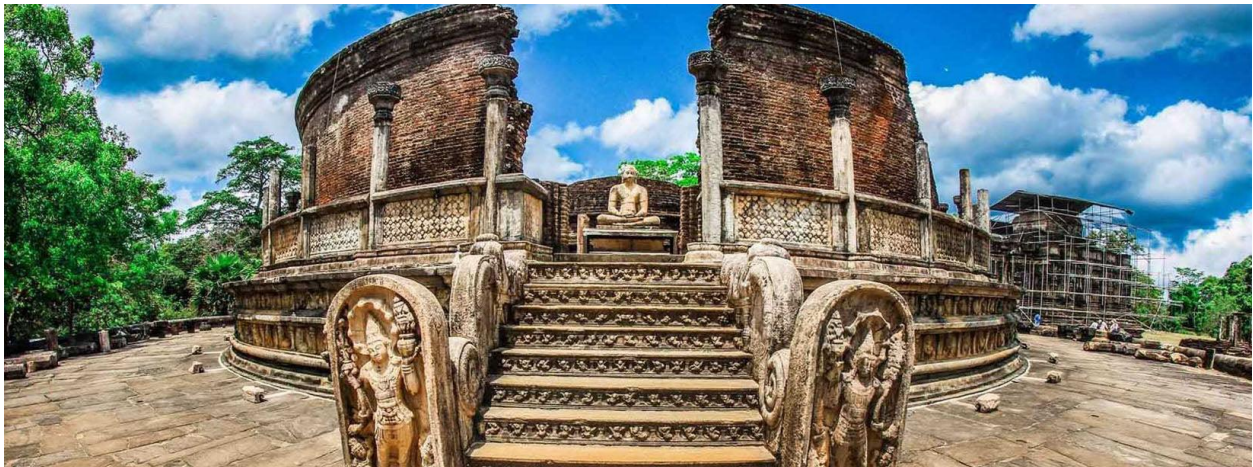
Negombo is situated along the shores of a large lagoon, which is a significant feature of the area. The lagoon is interconnected with a network of canals, creating a unique landscape. The primary livelihood for many residents of Negombo is fishing. You can witness traditional fishing activities, including colorful fishing boats, fishermen casting nets, and the sorting of the day's catch.

---Overnight stay in Negombo ---

Day 02 – Negombo / Polonnaruwa / Kandalama

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Proceed to Polonnaruwa (Approx. 4 hrs)
- Visit the Ancient City of Polonnaruwa (Approx. 4 hrs)
- Proceed to Kandalama (Approx. 1.5 hrs)
- Check in at the hotel and spend the leisure



Polonnaruwa is a treasure trove of ancient Sri Lankan history and culture. It offers visitors the chance to step back in time and appreciate the architectural and artistic achievements of the period while exploring the well-preserved ruins and temples scattered throughout the city.

Gal Vihara: The Gal Vihara is a rock temple renowned for its impressive granite sculptures of Lord Buddha. It features four main statues carved out of a single rock, including a standing Buddha, a seated Buddha, a reclining Buddha, and another smaller standing Buddha.

Vatadage: The Vatadage is a circular relic house with beautifully carved stone pillars and guard stones. It was built to house a sacred relic of the Buddha.

---Dinner and Overnight stay in Kandalama---

Day 03 – Kandalama / Sigiriya / Minneriya / Kandalama

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress (Approx 3 hrs)
- Minneriya National Park and jeep Safari (Approx. 3 hrs)
- Return to hotel and spend the rest of the day on leisure



Sigiriya, also known as Lion Rock, built on top of a huge boulder in the 5th century. A palace. A rock fortresses. The hidden castle of King Kasyapa. A Buddhist monastery from the 14th century. The eighth wonder of the world? No place in Sri Lanka has generated as many theories and legends as the 180m monolith, set amidst stunning scenery.

Sigiriya consists of 1200 steps. The first part of the visit is a leisurely walk through the pleasure gardens. Then one starts to climb. There are two areas where one can take a break on the way up. The entire duration of the experience takes approximately 1.5 to 2.5 hours depending on the speed at which you want to climb. Water is provided. If it looks like it might rain don't forget to take an umbrella from the vehicle



The Elephant Gathering at Minneriya National Park is a unique and awe-inspiring wildlife spectacle that draws visitors from around the world. It provides an excellent opportunity to observe and appreciate the natural behavior of Asian elephants in their natural habitat.

The best time to visit Minneriya National Park is during the dry season, which typically runs from June to September. This is when the Elephant Gathering, the famous congregation of elephants, occurs, making it an excellent time for wildlife enthusiasts. In addition to elephants, Minneriya National Park is home to other animals, including sambar deer, axis deer, buffalo, leopards, sloth bears, and various species of reptiles and amphibians.

---Dinner and Overnight stay in Kandalama---

Day 04 – Kandalama / Hiriwadunna / Kandalama

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Experience a village Tour with village Lunch and boat Ride Experience (Approx. 3 hrs)
- Return to Hotel and spend the rest of the day on leisure



Trek through this archetypal Sri Lankan village. The trek begins with a scenic walk along a bund of a Wewa (manmade reservoir). The amazing birdlife, butterflies and possible sightings of crocodile only add to the charm of the trek. Sight the villagers as they go about their early morning tasks of fishing or washing clothes at the periphery of the lake. Initially one wades through a shallow stream and thereafter crosses a wider tributary in a catamaran of an obliging farmer to inspect Chena cultivation (slash and burn agriculture) Enjoy the farmer's humble hospitality. With the guidance of the farmer, pick some fresh vegetables from the plot.

---Dinner and Overnight stay in Kandalama---

Day 05 – Kandalama / Dambulla / OxxKandy

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Visit at the Dambulla Cave Temple
- Proceed to Kandy (Approx. 2.5 hrs)
- Check in at the hotel
- Visit the Temple of Tooth Relic (Approx. 2 hrs)
- Enjoy a cultural dance performance later in the day (Approx. 1 hr)
- Return back to the Hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure



Kandy was once the capital of the venerated 16th century Kandyan Kings, who fiercely and successfully defended their kingdom against Portuguese and Dutch invaders for 300 years. It eventually fell to the British in 1815, but the salubrious hill station has maintained its position as an epicenter of Sinhalese culture and the site of an important spiritual pilgrimage for Buddhists. Many of the legends, traditions, and folklore are still lovingly kept alive by the region's friendly people.

The city tour will include a visit to the local markets, lake area, and Kandy town.

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 which houses the relic of the tooth of 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 UNESCO world heritage site partly due to the temple.

Today Kandy is the center of Buddhism, Arts, Crafts, Dancing, Music and Culture. Visitors can see these dance & music performances at the daily cultural performance which starts in the evening and runs for more than 1 hour. With more than 7 different dance performances, captivating drumming and the skills of the traditional musicians on display, this show will give you a great insight to traditional Sri Lankan culture.

---Dinner and Overnight stay in Kandy---

Day 06 – Kandy

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Visit at Embekka Dewalya, Gadaladeniya Vihara and Lanka Thilaka Temple (Approx. 3 hrs)



Gadaladeniya, Lankathilaka, and Embekke tri temples are located about 8 km in proximity and 12 km south of Kandy. These tri temples belonged to Gampola Period (1341 – 1410 AD). Those temples are considered to be the masterpieces of Sri Lankan architecture and craftsmanship.

Gadaladeniya Temple is a Buddhist temple located in Pilimathalawa, Kandy, Sri Lanka. It is situated on a rocky outcrop between Kandy and Colombo, making it accessible to visitors traveling between these two cities. The temple is known for its historical significance and architectural beauty.



Gadaladeniya Temple is renowned for its unique mix of architectural styles. It predominantly reflects South Indian architectural influences, particularly the Dravidian style, which was brought to Sri Lanka by South Indian craftsmen during the 14th century.

Embekka Devalaya is a historical and cultural site located near Kandy, Sri Lanka. The temple is renowned for its unique and intricate woodcarvings, particularly on the wooden pillars (or "hewisi") found in the main hall. The carvings depict various designs, including dancers, musicians, wrestlers, and floral patterns.

---Dinner and Overnight stay in Kandy---

Day 07 – Kandy / Galle

Highlights

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Proceed to Galle (Approx. 5 hrs)
- Visit Galle Dutch Fort, Galle Dutch Reformed Church
- Check in at the hotel and spend the day on leisure



Galle's unique blend of history, culture, and natural beauty makes it a popular destination for tourists and a place where you can immerse yourself in the rich heritage of Sri Lanka while enjoying the modern amenities and coastal charm of the city. Galle is home to a picturesque lighthouse located at the point where the fort meets the sea. It is a popular spot for visitors to enjoy the scenic views of the coastline. The city is surrounded by beautiful beaches, making it a



popular destination for sunbathing, swimming, and water sports. Unawatuna Beach, just a few kilometers from Galle Fort, is a well-known beach destination.

---Overnight stay in Galle ---

Day 08 – Galle

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Relax at Hotel and spend the rest of the day on leisure

---Overnight stay in Galle---

Day 09 – Galle / Ahungalla

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Proceed to Ahungalla (Approx. 1.5 hrs)
- Visit Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Center and Madu river Safari
- Check In to hotel and spend the evening at leisure



Ahungalla is a coastal town in Sri Lanka known for its beautiful beaches, and it is not widely recognized for a turtle conservation project. However, it's important to note that conservation efforts can be dynamic, and new projects may have been initiated since then.

---Overnight stay in Ahungalla---

Day 10 – Ahungalla

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Visit Lunuganga Garden Estate
- Return at the hotel and spend the evening at leisure



Geoffrey Bawa purchased a neglected rubber plantation on Sri Lanka's south coast in Bentota, in January 1948, on the eve of Sri Lanka's independence from British colonial rule. From the onset, Bawa was intent on finding a land with a connection to the water, and it took a considerable search to arrive at Lunuganga. Upon seeing the land, Bawa at once knew that with some operations, it could be transformed as he envisioned. Much later, in the process of working on the monograph Lunuganga published by Bawa with Christoph Bon and Dominic Sansoni in the late 1980s, he wrote to his friend Jean Chamberlain of the effort, "When I had first seen Lunuganga I had known that with a first few clearings of trees and opening up of obvious vistas an inevitable basic pattern would emerge. It was enormously exciting, and the morning after the dramatic breaking of walls and the feel of possession the adventure began—and(sic) adventure that has lasted 40 years and the pleasure of which has never palled."

The salty water of the lake, which is actually a lagoon branching from the Bentota River, explains Bawa's name for the garden; "lunu-ganga" or "salt-river". Bawa also lowered the ridge of the hill here to be able to catch a glimpse of the water at the far end and placed a large antique Chinese jar whose silhouette catches the eye as it sweeps over the hill towards the southern horizon.

---Overnight stay in Ahungalla---

Day 11 – Ahungalla

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Relax and spend the rest of the day on leisure at the Hotel

---Overnight stay in Ahungalla---

Day 12 – Ahungalla / Colombo

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Proceed to Colombo (Approx. 2 hrs)
- A tour to the Geoffrey Bawa House in Colombo
- Check in to hotel and spend the evening at leisure



Colombo is the largest city and commercial capital of Sri Lanka. Here are some key features and information about Colombo. The city reflects its colonial history with buildings and architecture influenced by the Portuguese, Dutch, and British periods. Some notable colonial-era structures include the Old Parliament Building, Dutch Hospital, and Galle Face Green. Colombo offers a range of shopping experiences, from street markets to modern shopping malls. Odel, House of Fashion, and Liberty Plaza are popular shopping destinations. The city also has a vibrant nightlife with clubs, bars, and restaurants.

---Overnight stay in Colombo---

Day 13 – Colombo

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Enjoy Colombo City and Shopping Tour
- Visit Gangarama Temple, Independence Square and Colombo Municipal Building
- Return to hotel and spend the rest of the day on leisure





The Gangaramaya Temple, also known as Gangarama Vihara, is one of the most prominent Buddhist temples in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Gangaramaya Temple is located in the heart of Colombo, near Beira Lake. Its central location makes it easily accessible for both locals and tourists. The temple was initially established in the late 19th century by Venerable Hikkaduwe Sri Sumanatissa Thera. Over the years, it has undergone expansions and renovations.

---Overnight stay in Colombo ---

Day 14 – Colombo / Airport

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Check out from hotel and proceed to Airport for Departure (Approx. 45 Min)

---End of Tour---

Tour Details (13 Nights / 14 Days)

Destinations & Hotels

- 1 Night in Negombo at Villa Hundira | Deluxe Room | HB
- 3 Nights in Kandalama at Heritance Kandalama | Superior Room | HB
- 2 Nights in Kandy at FOX Kandy | Deluxe Room | HB
- 3 Nights in Galle at Owl & The Pussycat | Suite Little Treats | HB
- 3 Nights in Ahungalla at Heritance Ahungalla | Superior Room | HB
- 2 Nights in Colombo at Colombo Courtyard | Superior Room | BB

Package Starting from USD 1800 per person

Value Additions

- Water bottles will be provided during the tour
- Special welcome on arrival with flower garlands
- A departure souvenir

Package Inclusions:

- Accommodation at above mentioned Hotels
- Meal Plan as mentioned above



- All transfers on private basis with services of an English- Speaking Chauffeur Guide
- All taxes and service charges Included

Package Included Excursions:

- Polonnaruwa
- Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Minneriya National Park with Jeep Safari
- Experience a village Tour with village Lunch and boat Ride Experience
- Embekka Dewalya
- Gadaladeniya Vihara
- Lanka Thilaka Temple
- Temple of Tooth
- Kandyan Cultural Dance Show
- Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Center
- Madu River Safari
- Lunuganga Garden Estate
- A tour to the Geoffrey Bawa House in Colombo
- Gangarama Temple

Package Exclusions:

- Flights and visas
- Insurance
- Entrance fees to sights
- Any other charges not mentioned above

How much to tip drivers or chauffeur guides:

A driver or chauffeur guide can be tipped Rs3,500-4,500 (approx. 10 – 15 USD) a day for good service. You can give this to them at the end of each day, which is often preferred, or if you prefer you can give it to them in total at the end of your holiday. Please do give more if you feel it is deserved, or less (even nothing) if the service has not been satisfactory. If you are unsatisfied with your driver, please let us know why.

How much to tip Sri Lankan hotel staff:

Tipping hotel staff in Sri Lanka is expected if you stay in a small hotel or villa – you can do this either as you go along or on departure. Giving a collective tip is fine – usually to the most senior of the staff while making it clear that you would like it shared out. Most small hotels have a tip box now. Even in large or expensive hotels, wages are very low (you would be surprised), so these tips are appreciated and needed.



This amount is impossible to dictate and depends entirely on how helpful/friendly they have been and how generous you are feeling. Rs1,500 – 2,500 per day is a good guide (Approx USD 5).

Tipping in Sri Lanka's Restaurants:

A 10% service charge is usually included in restaurant bills, so it's best to check whether or not it's been added. In small local places, however, it's not normally included so if you've had good service, do leave a small tip – anything up to Rs 500 (1.5 USD) – and in tourist or posh city restaurants an extra tip is always gratefully received as well. Try and keep the small change (notes of anything less than Rs 500 denomination and especially 50 and 100 notes!) as much as possible for small purchases and tipping in Sri Lanka.

Cancellation Policies:

Cancellation policies associated with tours

4. Cancellations before 30 days - No charge
5. Cancellations before 21 days - 75%
6. Cancellations before 14 days – 100%