

Grand Tour 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 Habarana / 2 Nights in Kandy / 2 Nights in Nuwara Eliya / 2 Nights in Yala / 3 Nights in Galle*



Day 01 – Airport/ Negombo

Highlights

- Arrival in Sri Lanka / Meet & greet
- Proceed to Negombo (Approx. 30 Minutes)
- Check in at Heritance Negombo and spend the day at leisure.



Staying in the hotel leisurely, spend your day unwinding by sipping coffee, and enjoying the calm, quiet atmosphere. With no rush or schedule.

---Overnight stay in Negombo---

Day 02 – Negombo / Habarana

Highlights

- Enjoy breakfast at the resort and Proceed to Habarana (Approx. 4hrs)
- Check in to Hotel and spend the afternoon at leisure

Staying in the hotel leisurely, spend your day unwinding by sipping coffee, and enjoying the calm, quiet atmosphere. With no rush or schedule



---Overnight stay in Habarana---

Day 03 – Habarana / Polonnaruwa/ Minneriya / Habarana

Highlights

- After an early breakfast, proceed to Polonnaruwa ancient city
- Thereafter, enjoy a jeep safari at Minneriya national park
- Return to the resort and spend the evening at leisure

Polonnaruwa is the second most ancient of Sri Lanka's kingdoms, Polonnaruwa was first declared the capital city by King Vijayabahu I, who defeated the Chola invaders in 1070 to reunite the country once more under a local leader. Today the ancient city of Polonnaruwa remains one of the best planned archaeological relic sites in the country, standing testimony to the discipline and greatness of the Kingdom's first rulers. Polonnaruwa is divided into 4 areas. The visit starts with the Kings Palace and Baths. We then visit 3 different tooth relic temples and then proceed to the stupas. The visit ends on the far western side of the complex where you will see one of the most astonishing Buda rock carvings in Sri Lanka. One can walk, bike or drive between locations. It's hot – no doubt. If it looks like it might rain don't forget to take an umbrella from the vehicle.



Minneriya National Park. The park covers 8,890 hectares and consists of a mixed forest of evergreen shrubs, a favorite habitat for animals, which include leopards, deer and wild elephants.



The Park's main feature is the former reservoir or tank built by King Mahasen in the third century AD. During the dry season from June to September, this is a fantastic place to watch herds of elephants come to graze and bathe. In more recent times it been discovered that the park witnesses the largest elephant

gathering in the world during these months.

---Overnight stay in Habarana--

Day 04 –Habarana / Sigiriya / Anuradhapura / Habarana

Highlights

- After breakfast proceed and visit Sigiriya rock fortress.
- Afterwards visit Anuradhapura and explore the ancient city
- Return to the resort and spend the evening at leisure.

Sigiriya, also known as Lion Rock, built on top of a huge boulder in the 5th century. A palace. A rock fortress. The hidden castle of King Kasyapa. A Buddhist monastery from the 14th century. Similar to the cosmic mountain of Meru? The eighth wonder of the world? No place in Sri Lanka

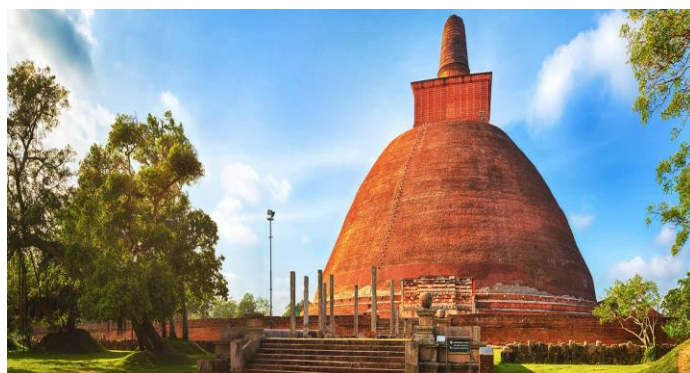


has generated as many theories and legends as the 180m monolith, set amidst stunning scenery.

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.

Ancient cities don't get much bigger than Anuradhapura, and few capitals around the world have ever been as long lasting. Dating back to the fourth century BC, Anuradhapura was the spiritual



and secular capital of the island for well over a millennium. At its height, the city was dotted with monasteries and home to over 10,000 monks, many of these monasteries and colossal dagobas can still be seen today. The story of Anuradhapura can be mystic at times, and visitors to the sacred site have been said to feel stillness in time. Anuradhapura consists of more than a dozen archeological sites. Typically one moves

around from site to site either by bike or inside the vehicle. The most important / significant sites are the 3 largest man made stupas in Sri Lanka, which were – at the time of the pyramids of Egypt – the second largest man-made structures in the world. Then Sri Maha Bodhi, is a Sacred Fig said to be the southern branch from the tree under which lord Buda was enlightened. Altogether the visit to Anuradhapura takes approximately 2 to 3 hours.

---Overnight stays in Habarana---

Day 05 – Habarana / Dambulla / Kandy

Highlights

- After breakfast proceed to Dambulla Cave Temple
- Thereafter, proceed to Kandy and Check in to hotel
- Evening visit temple of tooth relic and cultural dance show
- Return to the resort and spend the day at leisure

The Dambulla Cave Temples are the largest and best-preserved rock cave temple complex in Sri Lanka, towering 160 m over the surrounding plains with more than 80 documented caves in the surrounding area. The site is of particular interest for anyone that loves historic art, as five of the caves contain ancient statues and paintings related to and depicting Lord Buddha and his life. The



climb from the base is not strenuous – and can be done at a leisurely pace. It takes approximately 30 minutes. Your guide will buy your entrance fee and climb with you. There are approximately 200 steps. The best time to climb is in the early morning or the late afternoon to avoid the heat. You will need to cover your knees and shoulders – and access the inner chambers barefoot or with socks. You will

find socks in the basket inside the vehicle and a sarong in case you need one. The entire visit takes approximately 1.5 hours.

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.

Monks of the two chapters of Malwatte and Asgiriya conduct daily worship in the inner chamber of the temple. Rituals are performed three times daily: at dawn, at noon and in the evenings. On

Wednesdays there is a symbolic bathing of the Sacred Relic with an herbal preparation made from scented water and fragrant flowers, called Nanumura Mangallaya. This holy water is believed to contain healing powers and is distributed among those present.

The visit typically lasts 1 hour. First you walk towards the temple through the gardens. Your guide will buy you the entrance tickets. We recommend buying a lotus flower right at the entrance – 100 LKR per set. Buy it yourself for the experience, why not? Your guide will walk you through the various chambers explaining the history and significance of 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.



---Overnight stays in Kandy---

Day 06– Kandy / Pinnawala / Peradeniya / Kandy

Highlights

- Enjoy breakfast at the resort and visit Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage
- Afterwards visit Royal botanical garden
- Return to the resort and spend the day at leisure.

The Pinnawalla Elephant Orphanage, an orphanage, nursery and captive breeding ground for wild Asian elephants located at Pinnawala village, 13 km (8.1 mi) northwest of Kegalle town in Sabaragamuwa Province of Sri Lanka. Pinnawalla is notable for having the largest herd of captive elephants in the world. In 2011, there were 88 elephants, including 37 males and 51 females from 3 generations, living in Pinnawalla. The orphanage was originally founded in order to afford care and protection to many of the orphaned unweaned wild elephants found wandering in and near the forests of Sri Lanka. It was established in 1975 by the Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC).



Your guide will buy your tickets and walk inside with you. The orphanage consist of various areas which you walk to in a sort of circular fashion. At one point you reach the platform where the little baby elephants are being fed. It's touristy but charming to see the little ones, especially for children. We prefer seeing elephants in the wild. It has to be said that comparatively Sri Lanka does not have a great 'elephant

experience' where you're up close and personal, you're not. It is not an engaging experience. After the visit the elephants are taken down to the river and everyone follows them.

The Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens is the largest of the botanical gardens of Sri Lanka and the finest of its kind in Asia. In the Mediterranean climate of Kandy, the gateway to the central highlands, the Gardens lies at an elevation of 460 meters above sea-level, tightly bounded on three sides by the loop of the River Mahaweli (Great Sandy River), Sri Lanka's largest river. During WWII the gardens were the headquarters of the allied command for the pacific.

Your guide will buy your entrance. Your chauffer guide will wait for you in the vehicle outside. It's a leisurely walk in a circular fashion.



Eliya by Train (approx. 4 hrs)

--Overnight stay in Kandy--

Day 07 – Kandy / Nuwara
Eliya

Highlights

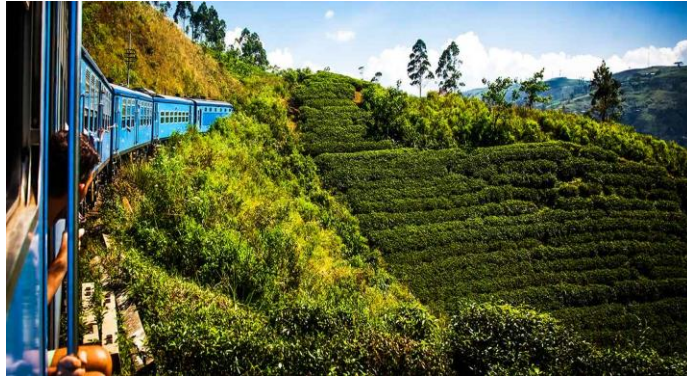
- After breakfast, proceed to Nuwara

- Check in to Hotel and spend the day at leisure

Train tickets are subject to availability

Train tickets can only be confirmed approximately 28 days prior to the train journey, and unfortunately seats cannot be guaranteed as they are often pre reserved by government officials and groups. We will be in touch to let you know if we have been able to confirm the tickets in the carriage requested or an alternative carriage. If we have been unsuccessful, we will continue to try to obtain tickets up until the date of the train journey, and your chauffeur will inform you of the status. In an event where train tickets are not obtained, the sum will be refunded immediately.

One fabulous way of exploring the tea country is to jump aboard the train. The dramatic landscape of the highlands stirs the senses as you wind past lush tea plantations, majestic peaks and rushing waterfalls.



The Sri Lanka Railways – the government railway network was first started in 1864 during the colonial period. The main reason for building a railway system in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) was to transport tea and coffee from the hill country to Colombo. Today, Sri Lanka Railways runs on Victorian-era infrastructure and aging equipment. Slowly this is changing and the railway systems are modernizing.

With modernization greater efficiencies will be achieved, however part of the old world charm that surrounds train travel in Sri Lanka will be lost forever.

The train departs from PERADENIYA. Your guide will take you to the station usually 45 to 30 minutes in advance. He will have your tickets and will hand them over to you. You may leave your luggage in the vehicle. The vehicle will drive to the station where you will be picked up – on the other side. Take only essentials. Your guide will accompany you into the station and show you where the platform is and reconfirm the arrival time with the station master. Feel free to walk around the train station. Some are wonderfully nostalgic. Don't be afraid to ask the Station Master questions about their systems and the technology they use. Ask the station master to explain the 'tablet' system – it's fascinating. The question is "what is the tablet system", "how does it work". Your guide will give you water to take with you. When the train arrives he will show you to your seats. If you are travelling with a National Guide he will go with you on the train. If you are travelling with a Chauffer Guide he will drive the vehicle to the train station down the line where you will be picked up. Your chauffer guide may be pressed to 'rush off' so that he can make it to the other station on time.

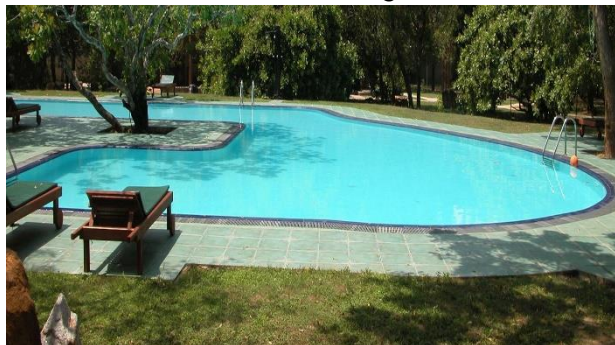
--Overnight stay in Nuwara Eliya---

Day 08 –Nuwara Eliya / Horton plains / Nuwara Eliya

Highlights

- After breakfast, visit Horton plains
- Return to the resort and spend the day at leisure

Horton Plains is a beautiful, silent, strange world with some excellent hikes in the shadows of Sri Lanka's second- and third-highest mountains, Kirigalpotta (2395m) and Totapola (2359m). The 'plains' themselves form an undulating plateau over 2000m high, covered by wild grasslands and interspersed with patches of thick forest, rocky outcrops, filigree waterfalls and misty lakes. The surprising diversity of the landscape is matched by the wide variety of wildlife.



--Overnight stay in Nuwara Eliya---



Day 09 – Nuwara Eliya / Yala

Highlights

- Enjoy breakfast & proceed to Yala (approx. 5Hrs)
- Check in at Cinnamon Wild and spend the day at leisure

Staying in the hotel leisurely, spend your day unwinding by sipping coffee, and enjoying the calm, quiet atmosphere. With no rush or schedule

-- Overnight stay in Yala---

Day 10 – Yala

Highlights

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Afternoon Jeep safari at Yala national park
- Return to the resort and enjoy the late evening

Yala's arid boulder-scattered parklands are dramatically different from the lush jungles and paddy fields that cover so much of the island. Spanning 100,000 hectares of dry thorny scrub and dusty glades, you could easily be in an African bushveldt, right down to the long-thorn bushes. This background was so suited to viewing elephants, leopards, wild boar, spotted deer, crocodiles and jackals that the entrepreneurial South African Englebrecht, who was shipped over as a POW after the Boer War, rightfully instigated it as a sanctuary – Sri Lanka's first – at the turn of the twentieth century. It's now the oldest and most prominent of them all.

Starting either at 5AM or at 3PM, your guide will take you on a 2.5 to 3 hour game drive into the National Park. The campsite is situated outside the national park. Entrance fees are all included. The vehicles are customized Toyota safari jeeps with row seating. There is cool box with drinks, there are binoculars as well. In the evening gather around the campfire in the evenings to enjoy a range of international drinks from our jungle bar. With the sounds of the jungle around you and the campfire casting a romantic glaze over the natural surroundings, you can't help but be enchanted by the unique experience of being in the jungle at night.

--Overnight stay in Yala---

Day 11 – Yala / Galle



Highlights

- Enjoy Breakfast at the resort and after the proceed to Galle
- Check in the Amari Galle and spend the day at leisure

Staying in the hotel leisurely, spend your day unwinding by sipping coffee, and enjoying the calm, quiet atmosphere. With no rush or schedule



---Overnight stay in Galle---

Day 12 –Galle



Highlights

- After breakfast continue to Galle fort walk
- Return to the hotel and spend the day on leisure

UNESCO World Heritage Site of Galle Fort and the surrounding area may have been home to the Biblical city of Tarshish from where King Solomon obtained gems, spices

and peacocks. It has been visited by great figures: the explorers Ibn Batuta and Cheng Ho, as well as Mahatma Gandhi or Pablo Neruda. For centuries it has been a hub of trade and culture and this exciting tour will take you through the different periods: Portuguese, Dutch, and British, into the present day. Begin your walk from the newer and now main entrance which, after climbing some stone steps, you will be stood upon. Survey the inside of this remarkable fortification, the Indian Ocean beyond and iconic cricket ground as your host regales you with historic tales of its creation and threats. Meander your way past some of the fort's best known landmarks but look out also for some lesser known gems. With 150 acres to explore, this tour follows a route that whets the appetite, with a comprehensive and captivating selection of facts and stories drawing from religion, history, architecture, daily life and the devastation of the 2004 Tsunami.

---Overnight stay in Galle---



Day 13 –Galle

Highlights

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Relax at the hotel and spend the day on leisure

Staying in the hotel leisurely, spend your day unwinding by sipping coffee, and enjoying the calm, quiet atmosphere. With no rush or schedule

---Overnight stay in Galle---

Day 14 –Galle / Airport

Highlights

- Enjoy breakfast at the resort
- Proceed to the airport for departure

---End of Tour---



Tour Details (13 Nights / 14 Days)

Pax Count –

Travel Date –

Destinations & Hotels

- 1 Night in Negombo at Villa Hundira | Standard Room HB
- 3 Night in Habarana at Elephas Resort | Deluxe HB
- 2 Night in Kandy at Royal Kandyan | Deluxe HB
- 2 Nights in Nuwara Eliya at Lynden Grove | Deluxe HB
- 2 Nights in Yala at Mandara Rosen | Deluxe Room HB
- 3 Nights in Galle at Owl & The Pussycat | Suite Little Treats HB

Package Starting from USD 2100 per person

Package Includes

- Accommodation at above mentioned resorts or similar
- Meals Plan as mentioned above
- All transfers on private basis with English speaking Chauffeur Guide
- All Taxes

Package included Excursions

- Dambulla Cave Temple
- Polonnaruwa ancient city
- Anuradhapura ancient city
- Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Safari at Minneriya national Park
- Cultural Show
- Temple of tooth relic



- Royal Botanical garden
- Pinnawala Elephant orphanage
- Kandy to Nuwara Eliya Train ride (Subject to Availability)
- Horton Plains National Park
- Afternoon and morning safari at Yala National Park
- Galle fort Tour

Cost Excludes

- Air fare
- Personal expenses
- Visas

Note – The mentioned travel times are approximations and many vary with the traffic, weather, etc.

Remakes:

- ***Rooms are Subject to available***

Notes

- The mentioned travel times are approximations and may vary depending on the weather, traffic conditions, etc.
- Rates are subject to change if there is any increase in Government taxes (If any changes we will inform at least 3 months before the travel date).

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%