

Hidden Treasures 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 Nights in Negombo / 3 Nights in Sigiriya / 2 Nights in Kandy / 3 Nights in Galle*





Day 01 – Airport / Negombo

Highlights

- Arrival in Sri Lanka / meet and greet
- Proceed to Negombo (Approx. 30 Min)
- Check in at the Hotel and Spend the day on leisure

---Overnight stay in Negombo ---

Day 02 – Negombo / Sigiriya

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Proceed to Sigiriya (Approx. 3 hrs)
- Climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Check in at the hotel and spend the 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.

---Overnight stay in Sigiriya---

Day 03 – Sigiriya / Polonnaruwa / Sigiriya

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Proceed to Polonnaruwa (Approx. 1.5 hrs)
- Visit Polonnaruwa Ancient City
- Return back to the Hotel and spend the rest of the day at 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. **Royal Palace:** The Polonnaruwa Royal Palace complex

includes the ruins of the king's palace, council chamber, and other administrative buildings. The Royal Palace provides insights into the architectural and administrative practices of the period.

Ancient Reservoirs: Polonnaruwa is known for its impressive reservoirs, which were essential for agriculture and irrigation during ancient times. The Parakrama Samudra, an extensive reservoir, is a prime example of the engineering skills of the period.

---Overnight stay in Sigiriya---

Day 04 – Sigiriya / Anuradhapura / Sigiriya

Highlights



- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Proceed to Anuradhapura (Approx. 1.5 hrs)
- Visit Anuradhapura Ancient City
- Return back to the Hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure

Ruwanwelisaya Stupa was built by King Dutugemunu and is considered one of the holiest sites for Buddhists. It is an impressive architectural marvel and an important place of worship. Ruwanwelisaya is known for its large white dome, which is surrounded by a circular terrace and a rail. The stupa is adorned with intricate carvings and decorative elements. It is an important symbol of Buddhism in Sri Lanka and a place of reverence for Buddhists from around the world.

This stupa is also significant because it houses a relic of Lord Buddha, which is believed to be one of his collarbones. This relic is enshrined within the stupa, making it a sacred and spiritually significant site for Buddhist

---Overnight stay in Sigiriya--

Day 05 – Sigiriya / Kandy

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Proceed to Kandy via Matale (Approx. 1.5 hrs)
- Visit a Sri Lankan Garden and enjoy a Garden Lunch
- Check in at the hotel and spend on day leisure

In a rural village in Matale, your planter host will teach you about the trees, crops and local-style of cooking as you journey around the farm.

The Sri Lankan Garden is actually a particularly picturesque farm spread over 15 and a half acres towards the top of a mountain so that it boasts incredible views of the Aluvihare Mountains. You are greeted by



your host with farm sourced fresh juice and taken on a guided walk where you can learn about the garden's collection of Sri Lankan produce, from pepper to papaya, cocoa to coconut and mango to mahogany. After observing these crops growing, enjoy the fruits of the planters' labour with a traditionally prepared rice and curry lunch.

Details about your Host: Your host has had a colourful life in Sri Lanka over the last 40 years and is well-informed on the central hills, its geography and farming. His home is the Matale area, where he used to work as a planter, apart from during the war when he was a liaison officer in Trincomalee. This was predominantly due to his racial impartiality as he is originally from Germany, but speaks Sinhala fluently and has even acted in a few local movies!

---Overnight stay in Kandy---

Day 06 – Kandy

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Trek to Knuckles Mountain Range with Lunch
- Return back to the Hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure

Named after the range's resemblance to the knuckles of a hand, an adventure on foot here, is an invigorating way to explore the tranquillity of Hill Country.

Hiking in the Knuckles with our trekker, an outdoors enthusiast and knowledgeable naturalist, you are unlikely to see another soul along the way. This part of Sri Lanka is valued by scientists and anthropologists alike for its biodiversity and native people. The rugged and often mist shrouded area is home to 40 hidden villages and a plethora of endemic wildlife. The best months are March – April and June – August and there is the choice of a half day (8km) or full day (18km) trek. This is one of those mystical regions of the island, still off-the-beaten track, with views and remote scenery that make a hike extremely rewarding.



Your local guide has a vast knowledge of the Knuckles Mountain Range but his English is not perfect. Please be patient when asking him questions and listening to his explanations.

---Overnight stay in Kandy---

Day 07 – Kandy / Galle

Highlights

- Breakfast at the hotel



- Proceed to Galle (Approx. 5 hrs)
- A guided walk of History & Architecture around the Galle Fort
- Check in at the hotel and spend the day on leisure

Travel the fort with your well-informed host from its striking bastions and grass-covered ramparts to small cobbled streets lined with intriguing buildings.

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 08 – Galle

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Enjoy a Full Tour of Yatagala Rock Temple
- Return at the hotel and spend the evening at leisure

Led by your host, explore one of the ancient rock temples on the island, which was built in the Anuradhapura era.

Just inland from Unawatuna is Yatagala Temple, a quaint Buddhist temple built around and within giant boulder-like rock formations. The temple is believed to have established during the first kingdom of Sri



Lanka. Secluded and majorly visited by locals, the temple looks out over lush paddy fields and small villages. Explore the calm environs of the Yatagala temple which once received the royal patronage.

Inside the Image House of the temple is a reclining Buddha image, which is nine meters in length. The ceiling of the Image House is adorned with intricate paintings depicting significant events of the Buddha's life and floral motifs from Kandyan era.

---Overnight stay in Galle---



Day 09 – Galle

Highlights

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Visit a Cinnamon Estate and get to listen to the story of Cinnamon followed by a lunch
- Return at the hotel and spend the evening at leisure

A private tour of a beautiful 25-acre working cinnamon plantation, led by the English owner who has restored the plantation. This experience is for travelers who want to learn about growing cinnamon, preparing quills and making artisan cinnamon oil. It is designed for couples, families and small groups of friends with plenty of opportunities to try things out for yourself. The tour takes you by foot from the Cinnamon Hut to the Oil Shed and then 50 metres up the hill by cart to the plantation house where the owners offer refreshments and spectacular views over Weligama bay to the south and rolling jungle to the north. If requested, the owners will host a private lunch for you, with many of the ingredients grown on the land and all of them home-cooked.



After a conventional career and family life in London, Rupert and Charlotta left England a few years ago to spend the next phase in Sri Lanka, making the most of the beautiful country and its people. Here they have learnt how to farm cinnamon and are building a series of new businesses around this.

---Overnight stay in Galle---

Day 10 – Galle / Airport

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Proceed to Airport for Departure (Approx. 2 hrs)

---End of Tour---

Tour Details (09 Nights / 10 Days)

Destinations & Hotels – Premium Hotels

- 1 Nights in Negombo at Heritance Negombo | Deluxe Room | HB
- 3 Nights in Sigiriya at Heritance Kandalama | Deluxe Room| HB
- 2 Nights in Kandy at Grand Kandyan | Deluxe Room | HB
- 3 Nights in Galle at Jetwing Lighthouse | Luxury Room | HB

Package Starting from USD 2100 per person

Value Additions

- Water bottles will be provided during the tour
- Special welcome on arrival with flower garlands
- A special Spa Ceylon Wellness Pack

Package Inclusions:

- 09 nights accommodation at above mentioned Hotels
- Breakfast and dinner at the Hotels
- Entrance fees for Sigiriya Rock Fortress, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa
- Visit a Sri Lankan Garden and enjoy a Garden Lunch
- Trek to Knuckles Mountain Range with Lunch
- A guided walk of History & Architecture around the Galle Fort
- Enjoy a Full Tour of Yatagala Rock Temple



- Visit a Cinnamon Estate and get to listen to the story of Cinnamon followed by a lunch
- All transfers on private basis with services of an English- Speaking Chauffeur Guide
- All taxes and service charges Included

Package Exclusions:

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

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%