



# Sri Lanka, Wildlife & Nature 10 days / 9 nights

# ITINERARY

- DAY 01 ARRIVE COLOMBO AIRPORT. COLLECT AND TRANSFER TO NEGOMBO
- DAY 02 NEGOMBO PINNAWALA SILVER TEMPLE HABARANA
- DAY 03 HABARANA MINNERIAYA POLONNARUWA HABARANA
- DAY 04 HABARANA SIGIRIYA HIRIWADUNNA HABARANA
- DAY 05 HABARANA–DAMBULLA MATALE KANDY CULTURAL SHOW
- DAY 06 KANDY TEMPLE PERADENIYA BOTANICAL GARDEN KANDY CITY TOUR
- DAY 07 KANDY TEA PLANTATION NUWARAELIYA
- DAY 08 NUWARA ELIYA ELLA YALA
- DAY 09 YALA GALLE BALAPITIYA BOAT TRIP BERUWALA
- DAY 10 BERUWALA AIRPORT



# DAY 01 COLOMBO AIRPORT / NEGOMBO

(Approx 15 km / 30 Mins) collect upon arrival at Colombo airport and transfer to Negombo for night stay.

## DAY 02 NEGOMBO – PINNAWALA – SILVER TEMPLE – HABARANA

Negombo – PinnawalaApprox. 80 km / 2 Hrs. 20 MinsPinnawala – Silver TempleApprox. 40 km / 1 Hr. 20 Mins.Silver Temple – HabaranaAprox 85 km / 2 Hrs.

After breakfast visit Pinnawala and Silver Temple. Night stay at Habarana.

## PINNAWALA

The Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage is situated northwest of the town of Kegalle, halfway between the present capital Colombo and the ancient royal residence Kandy.

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage is an orphanage, nursery and captive breeding ground for wild Asian elephants located at Pinnawala village, 13 km northeast of Kegalle town in Sabaragamuwa Province of Sri Lanka.

## SILVER TEMPLE

Tucked away in beautiful rolling countryside, in a small village called Ridigama (Silver village) 15 km west of the Kandy -Dambulla highway, roughly equidistant between Matale and Kurunegala, hidden away behind is a small monastery cave temple of Ridi Vihara. The huge boulder that looms over the whole temple complex is home to the local wild bee population. Their nests bulge below the overhang. You wouldn't dare to disturb the folks, would you? No, we wouldn't dream of it. They are the ones with sting.

DAY 03HABARANA – MINNERIAYA – POLONNARUWA - HABARANAHabarana – MinneriyaApprox 15 km / 30 MinsMinneriya – PolonnaruwaApprox 50 km / 1 Hr

Breakfast at Hotel. Later visit Minneriya and Polonnaruwa. Night stay at Habarana.

# MINNERIYA

This national park is one of the best places in the country to see wild elephants, which are often present in huge numbers. Dominated by the ancient Minneriya Wewa, the park has plenty of scrub, forest and wetlands in its 88.9 sq km to also provide shelter for toque macaques, sambar deer, buffalo, crocodiles and leopards (the latter are very rarely seen, however).

## POLONNARUWA

Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka's splendid medieval capital was established as the first city of the land in the 11th Century, A.D. It replaced Anuradhapura, which was plundered, made desolate and laid hopelessly bare to the invading armies from South India. Three Kings dominate the chronicles of the city and the period. The city reached a dazzling but pitifully brief zenith in the 12th century and though ravaged by invasion in the centuries that followed, much evidence remains of the old grandeur and glory. The ruins of the ancient city stand on the east shore of a large artificial lake, the Topa Wewa Lake, or Parakrama Samudraya (the Sea of Parakrama), built by King Parakramabahu I (1153-86), whose reign was Polonnaruwa 's golden age.



#### DAY 04 HABARANA – SIGIRIYA – HIRIWADUNNA - HABARANA

Habarana – Sigiriya Approx 20 km / 30 Mins Sigiriya – Hiriwadunna Approx 18 km / 25 Mins

After breakfast visit Sigiriya and Hiriwadunna. Night at Habarana.

## SIGIRIYA

The impressive fortress of Lion's Rock in Sigiriya is one of the most important archaeological sites in Asia. It is a 70-hectare citadel with its palace on the top of a 200-meter high rock on the forest plains and which is entered between two huge lion's legs carved in stone to protect the fortress. Built in the fifth century by King Kasyaapa, this citadel also has gardens, terraces, an ingenious irrigation system that still feeds the garden of fountains, a "mirror wall" hand-carved with graffiti of the seventh century to the XIII, in addition to the frescoes of the "divine ladies" under the Gupta style of India that are the only surviving sample of non-religious art of the ancient Sri Lanka. It was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1982.

## HIRIWADUNNA

Visit Hiriwadunna, a catamaran boat trip and a bullock cart ride.

The tour begins with a beautiful trek to a manmade reservoir. After a boat ride, hop into a bullock cart alongside paddy fields and rural vegetable plantations

# DAY 05 HABARANA–DAMBULLA – MATALE – KANDY CULTURAL SHOW

Habarana – Dambulla	Approx 25 km / 30 Mins
Dambulla – Matale	Approx 55 km / 1 Hr. 30 Mins
Matale – Kandy	Approx 25 km / 1 Hr.

After breakfast visit Dambulla, Matale and enjoy cultural show at Kandy in the evening. Night stay in Kandy.

# DAMBULLA

The Rock Temple of Dambulla, called Jumbukola Vihara (Dambulla Cave Temple) in the (Mahavamsa)-the principal Pali Chronicle of Sri Lanka, is situated about forty seven miles north west of Kandy, the last capital of the Sinhalese kings, on the main road to Anuradhapura. One of the capitals of the medieval Sinhalese kings. The other rock temple of equal fame, Aluvihare, where, according to tradition, the Buddhist scriptures were first committed to writing about the first century B.C., Dambulla is a scent of unique interest. Its rock temples are the most extensive in the Island, and one of the most ancient, and in the highest state of preservation and order. Dambulla (the rock of Dambulla), in which these temples are situated, is almost insulated and of a vast size. Its perpendicular height above the plain is about six hundred feet. Very few parts of it are covered with wood, and in general its surface is bare and black

## MATALE

Continue towards Kandy and en route in Matale visit a spice garden to see how the island's many spices are grown

#### KANDY CULTURAL SHOW

Tonight, we will enjoy a cultural dance show typical of Sri Lanka.



# DAY 06 KANDY TEMPLE - PERADENIYA BOTANICAL GARDEN – KANDY CITY TOUR

Kandy – Peradeniya Approx5 km / 15 mns.

After breakfast visit Peradeniya Botanical garden and Kandy. Night in Kandy

## PERADENIYA BOTANICAL GARDEN

Peradeniya Botanic Gardens, botanical garden in Peradeniya, near Kandy, Sri Lanka, noted for its rich and varied collections of tropical woody plants. Occupying 59 hectares (146 acres), it has about 4,000 species of plants. The most important specimens of the garden include palms, some of which are planted in impressive avenues. Significant, too, are the collections of orchids, gymnosperms, and flowering trees.

## KANDY

Last ruled by King Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe - before it was brought under the British rule in 1815, Kandy - the World Heritage Site & last royal capital of Sri Lankan kings - crafts an array of culture, history and heritage in the minds of visitors across the globe. Experience an ancient Kandyan legacy engraved around its crown jewel, the temple of the sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha.

DAY 07KANDY – TEA PLANTATION – NUWARAELIYAKandy – Tea PlantationApprox70 km / 2 hrs.Tea Plantation – Nuwara EliyaApprox10 km / 30 mns

After breakfast visit tea plantation and Nuwara Eliya. Night stay at Nuwara Eliya.

## **TEA PLANTATION**

Tour a tea factory to learn how tea is grown and produced and make a custom blend to take home. Ceylon Tea, perhaps the most well-known and famous tea in the world. As the most important export of Sri Lanka, we'll take you behind the scenes of this world-renowned product. You'll meet the people who pick it, learn about their lives, walk through the tea plantations. With your guide as a translator feel free to ask them questions about their lives and what it's like to work in a tea plantation.

#### **NUWARA ELIYA**

A picturesque village on the shores of Lake Gregory surrounded by mountains with beautiful landscapes also known as "Little England" for its colonial architecture or "the city of light" for its meaning in Sinhalese. Misty steep roads, twisting through lush green blankets of tea bushes in a cool climate, remind visitors that they are within the range of the renowned British colonial retreat, Nuwara Eliya. Augmented by an English countryside atmosphere, the city of light - once governed by English & Scottish planters - is still studded with colonial bungalows, hedgerows & one of the finest 18-hole golf courses in the world. A hike through the green grass and red-brick walls should present breathtaking views of a buzzing countryside hamlet. Drive through green valleys of the hill country pierced by endless waterfalls & dotted by tea pluckers draped in bright-colored saris. Or rent a bike for a gentle ride along the banks splashed by the waters of Lake Gregory.



## DAY 08 NUWARA ELIYA – ELLA – YALA

Nuwara Eliya – EllaApprox 58 km / 2.3 hrs.Ella – YalaApprox 115 km / 3 hrs.

After breakfast visit Yala National Park and Ella. Night stay in Yala.

## ELLA

A small town in the middle of the mountains that offers a very kind hospitality, spectacular views and leisurely walks in the middle of nature, tea plantations, temples and waterfalls. Arrival at night and with clear skies you can see the twinkling stars and a distant glow of the houses. The passage through this area allows you to enjoy the green and beautiful landscapes of the central highlands

## YALA NATIONAL PARK

Of all the National Parks in Sri Lanka, Yala National Park gives the best opportunity to witness Sri Lanka's broad variety of wildlife: colorful painted stork in troops are seen perched at the shores of lagoon where the crocodiles too have chosen to doze off; lovely fantailed peacocks in their resplendent blues and greens parade about amidst the woods where monkeys hang, leap and chatter; in the bush jungle are the Elephants; crossing the tracks and wandering off into the thorny scrub jungle is the star attraction of the park: the leopard.

## DAY 09 YALA – GALLE – BALAPITIYA BOAT TRIP – BERUWALA

Yala – Galle	Approx 175 km / 3 hrs.
Galle – Balapitiya Boat Trip	Approx 55 km / 1.3 hrs.
Balapitiya – Beruwala	Approx 30 km / 1 hrs.

After breakfast drive to Beruwala. Enroute visit Galle and enjoy a boat ride at Balapitiya. Night in Beruwala.

#### GALLE (Approx30 km / 1 hrs.)

Galle, the epic capital of the south, is where the classic Dutch architecture meets a tropical environment creating a vivid environment in beauty. Galle was one of the main ports of Ceylon, a city rich in history, since it was the center of the Dutch regime in the seventeenth century and the majestic fort of Galle, which covers 90 acres, testifies to that. Its original walls and bastions preserved to date show a heritage preserved for more than three and a half centuries. The Dutch museum and the Dutch church are two tourist attractions in Galle, and it is also known for its decorative objects made by hand. As one of the best preserved cities in Southeast Asia, it has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

#### **BALAPITIYA BOAT SAFARI**

Madu River is a wetland, near the Small town "Balapitiya" along the Colombo Galle highway. This is the point where the Estuary of the Madu river. The river flows through a terrain where it creates a large number of islands, and the eco system creates a beautiful wetland. The hotels around provide boat rids through the canals created at a good cost. And there are loads of places to stay, dine and wine.

# DAY 10 BERUWALA – COLOMBO AIRPORT

Beruwala – Airport Approx 100 km / 1 hrs. 50 Mins

After breakfast, transfer to the Colombo Airport to connect to the departure flight for onward destination....

