



The Pearls of Sri Lanka



★ Anglo Indiago Travels (P) Limited ★

Cultural and Historical Tour

8 days / 7 nights tour

SUMMARY OF THE TOUR

Discover the heart of Sri Lanka with this fascinating journey departing from Colombo Airport, visiting the most important historical sites, and the island's cultural and natural attractions, including five UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Enjoy its beautiful landscapes and picturesque villages, historic temples and ancient cities. Also meet the most incredible creatures on the planet in an elephant orphanage. Breathe in the aromas of Sri Lanka in its spice gardens and tea plantation. You will also enjoy cultural shows and spiritual experiences for eight unforgettable days getting to know the paradise described by Marco Polo as the most beautiful place I had ever seen.

DAY TO DAY PROGRAMME

Day 1 – ARRIVE COLOMBO AIRPORT – COLOMBO (40km – 45 mins).

Arrival at Colombo International Airport, meeting and assistance by our staff. Then, transfer to **Colombo** where we will make a pleasant tour of the city. Colombo is the largest city and current administrative capital of Sri Lanka. A hectic and vibrant city with a mix of modern life and the remnants of a bygone colonial era. Due to the expansion of its port and its strategic geographical position it is a key connection for routes between the East and West hemispheres. Colombo was known to ancient traders 2000 years ago. However, it was only the capital of Sri Lanka until it was ceded to the British Empire in 1815. The city is home to most of Sri Lanka's corporate offices, with restaurants and various entertainment pathways. On this tour you will visit several historical, religious and shopping sites of Colombo including the famous and bustling port in Pettah, also the elite residential neighborhood in Cinnamon Gardens, Galle Face Green Square, Vihara Mahadevi Park and much more. Night stay

Day 2 -COLOMBO – PINNAWALA – DAMBULLA – HABARANA or SIGIRIYA

Colombo - Pinnawela (80km– 2hrs)

Pinnawela- Habarana (136km-3 hrs)

After breakfast at the hotel, we take a head to **Pinnawala** to visit the town's famous elephant **orphanage**, where you can see a large number of elephants very closely. The orphanage was created in 1975 and began with seven orphaned elephants. It is fascinating to visit the place at lunchtime to see the baby elephants feeding with a bottle and watch in gaging the whole herd taking a dip in the river. We continue to **Dambulla**, in the center of the island, which is known for its impressive caves decorated with **frescoes and Buddhist statues**. The decoration of the five caves of this monastic complex began more than 2,000 years ago. It contains more than 150 images of Buddha, of which the largest is the **colossal figure of 14 meters of Buddha carved into the rock**. Thanks to these impressive features, the temple is one of eight sites in Sri Lanka that have been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Transfer to the hotel in Sigiriya or Habarana to enjoy the rest of the day off. Night in Sigiriya or Habarana

Day 3 –Sigiriya or HABARANA – Sigiriya – POLONNARUWA – Habarana or SIGIRIYA Sigiriya – Polonnaruwa (64km– 1 1/2hrs) one-way Dambulla – Polonnaruwa (68km – 1 1/2hrs) one way

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before heading to **Sigiriya**, one of Sri Lanka's most legendary spots. The arrival is impressive, as the rock emerges about 200 meters above the jungle to dominate the horizon. At its top hides the ruins of a royal citadel dating from the 5th century. Access will be through a large door in the form of a lion carved from the rock, and from there comes the name Sigiriya, which means 'the lion's rock' in Sinhalese. Over time, he was left in carelessness until in the 19th century a British soldier found the rock and its summit already devoured by undergrowth. Admire frescoes like 'heavenly maidens', which are painted with earth pigments on the plaster. We bid farewell to this UNESCO World Heritage Site to go to another then crossing the jungle to tour the ancient city of **Polonnaruwa**. Currently, Polonnaruwaha was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. You can observe and appreciate the **ruins of the Royal Palace** and other buildings and structures. Another interesting aspect is **Gal Viharaya** – with three magnificent Buddha statues in different positions: upright, sedentary and reclining – the Hall of Audiences, the Lotus Bath and the statue of King Para kramabahu. There are also monuments of famous places of worship. Transfer to the hotel in Sigiriya or Habarana to enjoy the rest of the day off. Night stay in Habarana or Sigiriya

Day 4 – SIGIRIYA o HABARANA – MATALE – KANDY

Sigiriya – Kandy (96km– 2 1/4hrs) one way

Dambulla – Kandy (72km– 1 3/4 hrs) one-way Kandalama –

Kandy (85 km– 2 hrs) one way

Breakfast at the hotel before heading to Matale. **Mutale's spice garden.** This small town is known for its welcoming climate and fragrant spices. In the garden, we know about the intricate processes that make Sri Lanka produce some of the best spices in the world. In addition, you can witness a local cooking **demonstration** that allows you to learn how to make curry using native spices. Enjoy **Ayurvedic massage** 10 minutes in Matale Gardens before eating. We stopped for lunch at a local restaurant before continuing to Kandy. Tonight, we're witnessing a Sintoese dance show in Kandy. Hotel accommodation in Kandy.

Day 5 – KANDY – YOU PLANTATION –NUWARAELIYA (80km – 2 hrs)

Breakfast at the hotel followed by a tour of the biggest attractions of the beautiful city of Kandy, on the shore of the lake of the same name. This world heritage city was the capital of the last Sinhalese state on the island to fall under foreign domination. We visited the **Temple of the Buddha Tooth.** We can also appreciate the palace and gardens that share the complex with the temple and the beautiful artificial lake that is surrounded by much of the city. Transfer from Kandy to a **plantation and tea factory**, stopping en route for lunch. On the plantation, we observe the entire process and manufacture of tea. Afterwards, we enjoyed a tasting of authentic Ceylon tea, considered one of the best blends in the world. We cross green rolling fields filled with tea plantations on the way to **Nuwara Eliya** (meaning 'City of Light' in Sinhalese), a picturesque village on the shores of a lake. The district of Nuwara Eliya is known as 'Little England' for its Lozano atmosphere and colonial appearance. Night in Nuwara Eliya.

Day 06 – Nuwaraeliya – Ella – Yala - Tissamaharam (160 kms – 4hrs)

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to **Ella** circulating through the green and beautiful landscapes of the Central Highlands, enjoying views such as the wild waterfall of **Ravana.** From Ella, we continue to **Buduruwagala**, an ancient Buddhist temple dating from the 4th or 5th centuries. Transfer to **Yala National Park** with a stop for lunch at a local restaurant. Upon arrival at the park, we perform a safari of about two to three hours in a rustic Jeep without air conditioning. In this national park are elephants, wild boars, leopards, bears and crocodiles as well as large flocks of native birds and migration. Night at Tissamaharama or Yala.

Day 7 –TISSAMAHARAMA – WELIGAMA – GALLE -KOGGALA

Yala – Tissamaharama (20km - 20 mins)

Tissamaharama- Koggala (136 kms- 3h 15 mins)

Breakfast will take place at the hotel and road along the Indian coast, heading towards **Weligama.** We stop in this coastal city to observe the **fishermen practice their exceptional way of fishing**, which involves joining their nets with a stake that protrudes from 20-50 meters out of the sea. We continue to Galle, stopping for lunch at a local restaurant. The historic city of **Galle** is in the south of Sri Lanka and is the best example of a fortress built by the Portuguese during its 153 years of domination over the country, which they called Ceiloo. We visited the **fortress of Galle**, which occupies an entire peninsula and was built by the Portuguese. It is currently a UNESCO World Heritage Site and within its walls we find a number of buildings from the 140 years of Dutch colonization – which re-opened to the Portuguese domain – including a beautiful church with a typical Dutch facade, the old hospital, the governor's residence and more. After the Dutch, the British came and from his time there is the Anglican church and the mosque of Meera.

Transfer from Galle to Koggala in the southeast of the country on the shores of the Indian Ocean. Night at Koggala area

Day 8 -KOGGALA - COLOMBO AIRPORT (176kms- 2 hrs)

Breakfast at the hotel and in time transfer to Colombo Airport. **Breakfast included.**

END OF SERVICES*****