

# WILDLIFE, SRI LANKA

## 11 nights hotel stay



★ Anglo Indiago Travels (P) Limited ★

The Pearl of The Indian Ocean....

Sri Lanka provide a perfect escape, with a combination of exploring the rich culture, wildlife safaris, UNESCO world heritage sites, scenic hill country, whales watching and of course a wonderful relaxing holidays on tropical beach holiday



### ITINERARY>

#### Day 01: ARRIVE COLOMBO AIRPORT – NEGOMBO

AYUBOWAN!

Welcome to Sri Lanka! Meeting and assistance by our local representative and transfer to Negombo for night stay.

NEGOMBO - This expanding town is a historically interesting place strongly influenced by the Catholic Church and is often referred to as "Little Rome". The town has several buildings dating back to the Dutch and Portuguese Colonial days. The lagoon at Negombo is famous for its harvest of lobsters, crabs and prawns. Fish auctions regularly take place on the beach and are worth a look, as are the many canals which meander through the area.

## **DAY 02: NEGOMBO - WILPATTU - ANURADHAPURA**

After breakfast, have a quick visit in Negombo. Located within a fairly close range to Bandaranaike International Airport, Negombo - the cinnamon hub of the Colonization of Dutch - offers some of the most exiting diving stretches in the country. With quite a pleasant beach and lagoon, Negombo dishes out some of the best lobsters, prawns and crabs found in the country, right on to your table. Today Negombo also represents an ultimate nightlife featuring bars, disco bars, and clubs.



Transfer to Wilpattu and visit the National Park

Wilpattu sanctuary was declared as a National Park in 1938 and Wilpattu National Park is located on the west coast close to the historical city of Anuradhapura. The unique feature of this park is the existence of "Willus" (natural lakes) - natural, sand-rimmed water basins or depressions that fill with rainwater. There are approximately 30 species of mammals in the Wilpattu National Park which include the Sri Lankan Elephant, Sri Lankan Leopard, Lankan Sloth Bear, Sri, Spotted Deer, Buffalo, Sambar and Mongoose.

Transfer to Anuradhapura for night stay.

## **DAY 03: ANURADHAPURA - MIHINTALE - ANURADHAPURA**

Breakfast at the Hotel

Visit Mihintale in the morning

Just 16km off the sacred city of Anuradhapura lies the cradle of Buddhism in Sri Lanka as the stone carvings and unending stairways proclaim a legacy which hinges the philosophy sermoned by Buddha - 'The Awakened One'. This is the holy land which sheltered the first Buddhist sermon by Arahath Mahinda to King Devanampiya Thissa, when the Posen full moon brightened a forest used by the king himself for hunting. Walk passing a massive cooling fountain and head towards the renowned staircase of the temple. Feel the coolness of granite slabs as you shift from the ruins of a hospital to Kantaka Stupa built in 1st century B.C. enriched with magical hands of the Sri Lankan stone carver. Step into the courtyard and towards its left sitting calm, is the refractory. However, the highlights of the sacred land are Maha Seya - the main dagoba - and Aradana Gala, the peak of the rock assuring breathtaking viewpoints of the Kingdom of Lakes, Anuradhapura.

Visit Anuradhapura in the afternoon. Commanding a rich Sri Lankan heritage, Anuradhapura - one of the greatest and oldest civilizations in the world starring 113 kings & spanning over 1300

years in its peak - avows of being the greatest city of ancient Sri Lanka following its reign as the first capital. The sapphire of its crown is certainly the Sri Maha Bodhi - the sacred Bo sapling extracted from the tree under which Lord Buddha attained enlightenment - standing more than 2200 years in its pride. Stroll through the sacred trails of the venerated city to adore the legacy that interweaves Ruwanweliseya - the gigantic dagoba resting alongside the Basawakkulama Tank - shading the Samadhi Buddha Statue & Isurumuniya Rock Temple that empower the culture, heritage, and supremacy of arguably the strongest kingdom in Sri Lankan history. Night stay at Anuradhapura.

#### **DAY 04: ANURADHAPURA - POLONNARUWA - MINNERIYA - POLONNARUWA**

After breakfast, visit Polonnaruwa in the morning

Rising with the decline of Anuradhapura, the city of Polonnaruwa - medieval capital & crown jewel of King Parakramabahu I - remains superior proof of ancient culture & heritage blended with religious beliefs. Walk across its scattered walls of the World Heritage Site - blessed by stupas, resting Buddha statues, irrigation canals and fantastically carved Hindu sculptures - while observing the relic house - Watadage - which boasts of beautiful stone carvings. Take a close glance and you will realize a subtle Hindu influence on architecture and statues found in Polonnaruwa. Or sit by the side of Galviharaya and observe the absolute beauty gushing out of every bend of its huge Buddhist statues. Nissan Kamalla Council Chamber is, however, a head-spinning beauty to just sit back and observe with its swaying pillars reminding the aesthetics of a powerful kingdom which rests beside Parakrama Samudraya - sea of Parakramabahu & masterpiece of irrigation!

Visit to the Minneriya Park in the afternoon.

If you are up for a serious rumble in the jungle, then Minneriya is your Colosseum! Spreading over 8800 hectares, this is a sanctuary for elephants. Minneriya is home to



herds of deer and ample birdlife, but its spotlight remains between swaying trunks & flapping ears. Park your jeep on the bank of the reservoir and switch off its engine. Watch carefully as herds of elephants - one by one - roll on to the grass-covered banks, to feed on tender shoots. In fact, this is the largest elephant gathering in the world - over 300 at a time - which has garnished the park to become a magnet for wildlife enthusiasts across the globe.

Transfer to Polonnaruwa / Habarana or Sigiriya for night stay.



**DAY 05: POLONNARUWA - SIGIRIYA - POLONNARUWA**

Breakfast at the Hotel

Visit Sigiriya Rock Fortress in the morning

The 5th century rock citadel of King Kashyapa and World Heritage Site - Sigiriya - does not only boasts of ancient Sri Lankan engineering & urban planning supremacy but also acclaims to be one of the finest monuments of art & culture. Step through the gigantic 'Lion Paws' - overlooking the symmetrical royal gardens below - to comprehend the absolute splendor that once dominated this rock fortress. Surrounded by ramparts & moats the Lion Rock - resembling the mythological 'City of Gods' - is coated by frescoes that relate to Gupta style paintings found in Ajanta caves of India. Walk in the shade of an eminent 'mirror wall' embracing the Western face of Sigiriya representing an artistic hundred meters laminated with graffiti. Wander into the well-fabricated museum downstairs for an epic journey of yesteryears to realize how the citadel floated above citizens with the castle, ponds and irrigation systems that pumped water right onto its summit with an ingenious hydraulic system describing a colossal masterpiece of the great king which remained a wonder in Asia for centuries

Transfer to the Hotel for night stay. Rest of the day at leisure.



**DAY 06: POLONNARUWA - DAMBULLA - MATALE - KANDY**

Breakfast at the Hotel

In the city of Dambulla lies a hub which has been treasured by many kings since the 1st century B.C. Today, an icon in the face of Sri Lanka, Dambulla Rock Temple houses some of the most unique drawings in magnificently constructed 5 cave temples flanking the golden temple of Dambulla. Observe how exquisitely cave paintings are done along walls that shelter 150 statues of Lord Buddha. As you enter the retreat, look straight up to the gigantic Buddha statue glittering in gold over a land, which today houses an important junction in the country's economic and cultural uplifting.

Transfer to Kandy with a stop in Matale

An agricultural zone in the Central Province, Matale seldom drops off the maps due to its remarkable contribution through flagship crops of the island extending from tea, rubber & vegetables to spices. Spearheading the Rebellion back in 1848, Matale today takes immense pride in its story woven around spices. Stop by the side of a spice garden - into which you will be most welcome - and observe the therapeutic values of spices & processes over a refreshing cup of herbal tea! Enjoy a 5minutes head and shoulder massage and witness a Cookery Demonstration.

Transfer from Matale to 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.

Later in the afternoon, experience an ancient Kandyan legacy engraved around its crown jewel, the temple of the sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha. Fine tune you are evening by stepping to the beat of traditional music & drumming amplified by a cultural show enhancing the rich and vibrant culture of the Wonder of Asia, Sri Lanka.

Overnight stay in Kandy

**DAY 07: KANDY - UDAWATTA KELE - KANDY**  
Breakfast at the Hotel

Visit Udawatte Kele in the morning



Udawattakele's location itself highlights this destination as 'unique'. Expanding within the heart of Kandy, the sanctuary brags history blended with ecological treasures. Take a walk along the beaten track and you will not even know until you are wrapped in the chirps of birds.

In the afternoon, a stroll across this small lakeside town - cradled among the misty hills - will feature the Kandy City Centre - bundled with latest and world class brands, bazaar, an arts & crafts centre, as well as a gem museum & lapidary. Walk in color as you glide through fresh fruits and vegetables in the Kandy market.

Rest of the day at leisure for personal activities, enjoy the hotel, shopping, etc.

Overnight stay in Kandy.

**DAY 08: KANDY - TEA PLANTATION - NUWARA ELIYA**

After a breakfast, transfer from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya with a visit to a Tea Plantation on the way

**Optional (Not Included)** - Visit to Peradeniya Botanical Gardens

Sri Lanka, Tea and Tourism are words which cannot be separated. Take a tour to the cold & misty hills that take pride of an ultimate tea tour, covering lush green blankets of tea plantations. Or just step into a tea factory processing the prestigious brand of Ceylon Tea, to observe a rich tradition kept alive up to date. As you observe the hissing and swishing of machines, inhaling the heavenly scent arising from these facilities, make sure to end your day in style over a perfectly blended cup of pure Ceylon Tea.



Continue to Nuwara Eliya and upon arrival, do a City Tour.

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.

Overnight stay in Nuwara Eliya



**DAY 09: NUWARA ELIYA - UDAWALAWE - YALA**

After breakfast, transfer Udawalawe via Ella

✚ **The Ravana Ella or the Ravana falls is one of the widest falls in Sri Lanka and is one of the most popular attractions. The falls is said to have been named after the famous king, King Ravana. The story goes that King Ravana kidnapped Princess Sita from India and hid her in the caves behind the waterfall. It is also said the Sita bathed in a pool of water that was collected with the water that fell from the fall.**

Continue to Udawalawe

For over four decades since its inception, the Udawalawe National Park has successfully attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors, including both local and foreign tourists, while prolifically contributing to the development of the entire tourism sector of Sri Lanka. The number one and predominant factor that has attached a high degree of prestige to the National Park of Udawalawe is the high probability of sighting Sri Lankan elephants. Tourists will most certainly catch a glimpse or even get within several meters of one or multiple elephants at Udawalawe during each safari tour. Furthermore, other exotic creatures, such as the Sri Lankan leopard and endemic species of birds, can also be witnessed at Udawalawe.



Meanwhile, Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home bears a different story. Established in 1995, it caters to all injured elephants found in the area before releasing them into their natural habitat. So, make sure to just watch - rather than touch - these gentle giants as they feed, play, and mingle with each other, before heading into the wild with one another.

Transfer to the Hotel in Udawalawe / Tissamaharama or Yala for night stay.

**DAY 10: UDAWALAWE / TISSAMAHARAMA OR YALA**

Breakfast at the Hotel

Visit Yala park during the day (morning or evening)

The second largest and most visited national park in Sri Lanka. It is home of 215 species of birds and around 46 species of mammals. However, the park has one of the highest concentrations of leopard in the world and around 350 resident Asian elephants including some sloth bears, golden palm civets and crocodiles. Night stay.

**DAY 11: YALA - GALLE - BALAPITIYA - COLOMBO**

After breakfast, transfer to Galle with a stop at Weligama to witness world famous "Stilt Fishermen"

Upon arrival, do a city tour in Galle, the epic Southern capital, is the intersection where classic Dutch architecture meets a tropical setting creating a vivid atmosphere in beauty. Walk the Dutch-haunted streets listening to the creaks of wooden saloon doors and observe how European architecture mingles with South Asian traditions today flooding cultural enthusiasts on a



global scale. Its original ramparts and bastions preserved up to date showcase evidence of a heritage preserved for more than 3 1/2 centuries. Walk clockwise within the fort to observe the 'old gate' carrying the British coat of arms. Flanking the old gate is the Zwart bastion - the oldest of all - and the lighthouse standing 18 feet in its glory next to the Point Utrecht Bastion. This Dutch bliss is painted with streets that spread in a rectangular grid pattern pierced with houses carrying Dutch colonial style verandas. Hop into the Dutch Hospital Shopping Complex to be mesmerized by an array of souvenir selections. However, its hallmark stands a reality where the Dutch fort remains a working community with its usual buzz of administrative offices, court complex, commercial buildings, churches, and Southern folks frequenting its streets bracing the air of the Elysium of architecture, Galle!

**Optional.** Possibility to do an Optional excursion to Balapitiya, with a River safari in Madu River.

Continue to Colombo for night stay

**DAY 12: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at the Hotel. In time transfer to Colombo airport for onward destination.

♥ Thank you for travelling with us....