

SRI LANKA HERITAGE & WILDLIFE

10 Nights / 11 Days

Colombo – Pinnawala – Habarana - Anuradhapura – Aukana - Sigiriya Rock – Polonnaruwa - Dambulla
– Minneriya Safari - Matale Spice Garden – Kandy Temple – Nuwaraeliya – Ella - Buduruwagala –
Tissamaharama – Yala National Park – Weligama Fisherman’s – Galle – Beruwala – Airport



Known by such names as Taprobane, Serendib and Ceylon in times past, Sri Lanka lays claim to a fascinating history. It's a land rich with culture, nature, adventure, wellness, and wildlife. Cultural tours in Sri Lanka offer a glimpse of the rich heritage and help find the meaning behind local traditions and folklore from ancient ruins to UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Travel around Sri Lanka to be mesmerised by the endless miles of golden sandy beaches and warm blue waters to either catch a wave or bask in the sun, Enjoy the diverse spices and the rice and curry with coconut or sip a warm cup of Ceylon Tea. Sri Lanka is a country that has diversity from its people from different ethnicities.

ITINERARY

Day 01 ARRIVE COLOMBO AIRPORT

Upon arrival at Colombo Airport, you will be met by your car with chauffeur for the short transfer to your hotel for night stay. **Note >** Early hotel check in NOT included. General check in time 14h. Neither any meal included today.

After check in visit Colombo.

Colombo City Tour

The largest city and the 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 has been a key connection for the routes between the eastern and western hemispheres, which made it known to traders 2000 years ago. Historical, religious and commercial attractions include the Old Dutch Hospital, Independence Square, the bustling Pettah Harbor, Gangarama Temple, Galle Face Green and Viharamahadevi Park. Overnight stay Hotel at Colombo

Day 02 Colombo – Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage - Silver Temple – Habarana

After breakfast at hotel visit the following sites: -

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

We head to Pinnawala to visit the country 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 and observe the whole herd taking a bath in the river.

RIDI HIVARAYA (SILVER TEMPLE)

The Ridi Viharaya sanctuary has its beginnings in a series of cave dwellings on the rocky slope. In the early days of Buddhism, these were inhabited by monks to meditate. Numerous Brahmi inscriptions record the donation of caves for the use of monks and at one time it was thought that there were approximately 500 of them residing in the caves on the hillside. Overnight stay Hotel at Habarana

Day 03 Habarana – Anuradhapura – Aukana - Habarana

After breakfast at hotel visit the following sites: -

ANURADHAPURA ANCIENT TOUR

Anuradhapura has a rich cultural heritage of Sri Lanka, having been its first capital under the rule of 113 kings for 1300 years since the 4th century BC. In addition to the archaeological remains of the sacred city, including the stupa of Ruwanwelisaya and the dagaba of Thuparamaya, the city also has one of the most complex and ancient irrigation systems in the ancient world. Anuradhapura was one of the first places of Buddhist pilgrimage on the island and is still venerated because it is the Sri Maha Bodhi, the sacred Bo tree that was planted with a branch of the tree under which Buddha reached enlightenment 2200 years ago.

AUKANA

We will find a solid statue of 40 feet high; Buddha Aukana happens to be one of the most important cultural and religious attractions in Sri Lanka leading a fantastic test of carvings dating from the fifth century under King Datusena: king still revered by the local population. Overnight stay Hotel at Habarana

Day 04 Sigiriya Rock – Polonnaruwa – Habarana

After breakfast at hotel visit the following sites: -

Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Sigiriya Fortress one of Sri Lanka's most mythical sights. 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 back to the 5th century. The access will be through a large gate in the form of a lion carved from the rock, and from there comes the name Of Sigiriya, which means 'the lion's rock' in Sinhalese. It has been neglected over time until British soldier found the rock in 19th Century and its summit had already been devoured by the undergrowth. Admire frescoes like 'heavenly maidens', which are painted with earth pigments on the plaster.

POLONARUWA

The city of Polonnaruwa, medieval capital of Sri Lanka from the ninth to the thirteenth century A.D. considered the "Renaissance jewel" of Sinhala architecture and declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. A vast citadel with archeological and historical monuments such as the royal palace, audience halls, temples, the colossal rock-carved figure of King Parakramabahu, and its artificial lake built since then to generate an efficient irrigation system. There are also the

statues of Gal Vihara, three immense Buddhas carved into a wall of limestone: the first sitting in meditation, the second standing with his arms crossed on his chest representing the lighting and the third fifteen meters long lying on nirvana. The latter is considered the most perfect and mysterious statue in Sri Lanka. Overnight stay Hotel at Habarana

Day 5 Habarana – Dambulla – Minneriya Evening Safari - Habarana

After breakfast at hotel visit the following sites: -

DAMBULLA CAVE TEMPLE

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. 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

Evening Safari at Minneriya Park

This 800 hectare National Park houses the largest concentration of elephants in the world, more than 300 free elephants that can be seen alone or in a herd in their daily life, bathing and feeding. On the jeep safari you can also see deer, a variety of birds and buffaloes in the middle of a vegetation of evergreen forest and grasslands. This natural park is a magnet for nature lovers around the world. Overnight stay Hotel at Habarana

Day 6 Habarana – Matale Spice Garden – Kandy Temple

After breakfast at hotel visit the following sites: -

Transfer to Matale

We will continue to Matale, a beautiful agricultural area in the Central Province of the island that was the spearhead of the rebellion in 1848 and today stands out for its contribution through emblematic crops that range from tea, rubber and vegetables to the variety of spices. We will visit a spice garden to learn about the wide variety that the island houses, as well as its properties.

Transfer to Kandy, the last capital of the Sinhalese monarchy...

Kandy Temple

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. Overnight stay Hotel at Kandy

Day 7 Kandy – Gadaladeniya – Lankathilaka – Embekke – Kandy

After breakfast at hotel visit the following sites: -

GADALADENIYA TEMPLE

Visit the Gadaladeniya temple, an ancient monastery that is situated on a small hill in Diggala. According to the inscription, Gadaladeniya reveals that the temple was built by King Buwanekabahu 4 in the year 1344.

EMBEKKE DEVALAYA TEMPLE

The Devalaya in Embekke is dedicated to the cult of Mahasen, popularly known as Katharagama Deviyo. A local deity named Devatha Bandara is also worshiped at this site. The shrine consists of three sections, the "Sanctum de Garagha", the "Digge" or "Dance Hall" and the "Hevisi Mandapaya" or the "Hall of the Drummers", "Hall of the Drums" which has attracted attention of visitors to the site, owing to the splendid carvings of wood from its ornate columns and its high gabled roof.

Proceed to Lankathilaka

This ancient temple was built during the rule of King Prarakramabahu in 14 AD and later King Vijayabahu. The temple is a marvelous creation of the Sinhalese Chitectonic tradition, it has been built with clay bricks, it is believed that it had been built in five storeys building and this temple has been embellished with flowers, animals, birds and statues of gods. There are two mammoth pillars at the entrance of the temple which are believed to be over 100ft tall. This is an image house containing meditation halls (Devalaya) for the four guardian gods of the island and the exterior artwork of the image house is very attractive as it is decorated with statues of elephants, which has been able to carry to this a proud look.

Cultural Dance Show at Evening

A parade of traditional Sri Lankan dance that flourished in the hill country during ancient times, the dancers dress in costumes with shimmering hair and breastplates. They jump and twirl to the beat of the drums performing amazing stunts in the air. The highlight of the performance is the fire. Overnight Stay at Kandy

Day 8 Kandy – Tea Factory – Nuwaraeliya City Tour – Nuwaraeliya

After breakfast at hotel visit the following sites: -

Tea Factory

We will enter a tea factory of the prestigious Ceylon tea brand, to observe a rich tradition that is kept alive to this day in the process and manufacture of tea. As you gaze at the hissing machines, inhaling the divine scent that emerges from these facilities.

Transfer to Nuwaraeliya and Nuwaraeliya City Tour

Drive around the City, you will explore "the city of dawn". The city established by the British in the nineteenth century, known as "Little England" and is a popular holiday resort for Sri Lankans & tourists due to its cool climate and quaint colonial feel with its little bungalows surrounded by hedgerows. Overnight Stay at Nuwaraeliya

Day 9 Nuwaraeliya – Ella Ravana Waterfall - Buduruwagala - Tissamaharama

After breakfast at hotel visit the following sites: -

ELLA

A small town in the middle of the mountains that offers a 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

BUDURUWAGALA

In Buduruwagala there is an old Buddhist temple where you can see 7 statues carved into the same rock, among which is the tallest Buddha statue on the island, with 16 meters, along with Boddhissatvas. These 10th century statues belong to the Mahayana Buddhist school of thought. Overnight Stay and Dinner at hotel at Tissamaharama / Yala

Day 10 Tissamaharama – Yala N.P. – Weligama Fisherman's - Galle – Beruwala

After breakfast at hotel visit the following sites: -

Yala National Park – Morning Safari

On nearly 130,000 hectares Yala National Park spreads its glory around vast grasslands, shrubs, tanks, and dunes: it is the heart of Sri Lanka's wildlife and the lands of a civilization that flourished during the reign of Sri Lankan kings. We will take a Jeep, to enter the most

visited park in the country. Among its usual interns are herds of elephants, sloths, jackals, herds of birds, as well as the highest density of leopards in the world making Yala one of the best destinations in the country. The jeep tires will pass rocks, potholes, and make tight curves making this safari an exhilarating experience under the tropical sun.

[WELIGAMA \(FISHERMANS ARE ON AVAILABILITY AT THAT TIME\)](#)

Observe carefully how fishermen with their traditional way of fishing on stilts that protrude from 2-5 meters out of the sea have stood out for their patience in this photographic paradise that immerses the toes in soft waves that caress the gold-colored coasts, an experience that never ages under the bright sun.

[GALLE CITY TOUR](#)

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, this historic city is a delight to explore on foot, an endlessly exotic old trading port blessed with imposing Dutch-colonial buildings, ancient mosques and churches, grand mansions, and museums. Wandering its rambling lanes you will pass stylish cafes, quirky boutiques and impeccably restored hotels owned by local and foreign artists, writers, photographers, and designers. Built by the Dutch, beginning in 1663, Galle's core is the Fort, a walled enclave surrounded on three sides by the ocean. A key part of the Fort's appeal is that it is not just a pretty place. Sure, tourism now dominates the local economy, but this unique city remains a working community: there are administrative offices and courts, export companies, schools, and colleges. Overnight stay Hotel at Colombo

Day 11 Beruwala - Airport – Departure

In time transfer to the airport.

Transfer to the Airport at the corresponding time. The check in time for international flights is 3 hours before the flight.

[End of our services....](#)

MAIN ATTRACTIONS & INCLUSIONS

1. Gangarama Temple
2. Colombo City tour
3. Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage
4. Anuradhapura Ancient Tour
5. Dambulla Cave Temple
6. Aukana
7. Isurumuniya
8. Sri Maha Bodiya
9. Sigirya Rock
10. Polonnaruwa Ancient Tour
11. Matale Spice Garden
12. Minneriya Safari
13. Kandy Temple
14. Kandy City Tour
15. Gadaladeniya Temple
16. Lankathilaka Temple
17. Embekke Temple
18. Cultural Dance Show
19. Tea Factory/Tea
20. Plantation
21. Nuwaraeliya City Tour
22. Buduruwagala
23. Weligama Fisherman
24. Yala Safari
25. Galle City tour

SOME OPTIONAL SUGGESTIONS.

These are some optional suggestions and are always subject to change. Advance booking required at most of the places. Not included.

1. If required, the itinerary can be modified as per your wish.
2. If you wish you can enjoy dinner with local family.
3. You can have a local cooking demonstration.