

SRI LANKA, MOMENT WITH FAMILY 12 NIGHTS / 13 DAYS

**COLOMBO – NEGOMBO – DAMBULLA – SIGIRIYA – POLONNARUWA – MINNERIYA –
KANDY- MANDARAM NUWARA – ELLA – WELIGAMA BEACH – AIRPORT**



Welcome to Eco Island... during this tour you will experience the colonial cities of Kandy, the beautiful interior of Sri Lanka and the impressive lion rock "Sigirock." You will visit the beautiful botanical gardens in Peradeniya, meet the elephants at the Pinnawala Orphanage. We have given you a relaxing break to enjoy at the Pasikudah beach

Chill out at one of Sri Lanka's best golden beaches on the east coast. you can enjoy Snorkeling and fishing excursions and explore local area on bicycle.

Travel Period > 1 November – 30 April



ITINERARY

Day 01 Arrive Colombo Airport – Negombo

Upon arrival at Colombo Airport, you will be met by your car with chauffeur for the short transfer to your hotel in Negombo. (approx. 40 min drive.)

Check in to the hotel. Rest of the day free. Night in Negombo. **Note >** Early check in Not included. Standard hotel check in time 14h.

Day 02 Negombo – Dambulla - Sigiriya

(Approx. 3h30min drive from Negombo to Sigiriya)

After early breakfast, visit Negombo fishing village. Afterwards transfer to Dambulla (Approx. 3 Hour drive)

The Dambulla temple, also know as the Golden Temple, was founded in the 1st century AD by King Valagamba who is said to have fled to the caves during an invasion from South India. This UNESCO World Heritage site is filled with various sculptures and paintings of Lord Buddha and his devotees, various Hindu divinities, and gods as well as Sri Lankan Kings. Spread out over 5 caves, each cave depicts statues and paintings from a different period of Sri Lanka's rich history thus showcasing the evolution of Sri Lankan artistic style.

Proceed to Sigiriya and check into the hotel. (Approx. 30 min drive)

In the evening engage in a relaxing bike tour in the village, while witnessing the nature and exploring the local village lifestyle. Night at Sigiriya.

Day 03 Sigiriya – Polonnaruwa – Minneriya - Sigiriya

After Breakfast proceed to Polonnaruwa, visit Polonnaruwa medieval capital.

(approx. 1h15 drive)

Polonnaruwa was established as the capital city after the fall of Anuradhapura and is known as the mediaeval capital of Sri Lanka. Polonnaruwa contains the ruins of some of the masterpieces of Buddhist sculpture and remarkable feats of engineering that were well ahead of their time. Most outstanding amongst these is the Gal Vihara temple with its famous rock carvings of the Buddha and Parakrama Samudra, a vast manmade reservoir covering an area of over 23 kilometers.

Evening proceeds to visit Minneriya national park by safari jeep. It will be either Minneriya / Eco Park or Kaudulla National Park.**

** The park will be decided by the elephant movements on the day.

(Approx. 45 mins drive from Polonnaruwa to Minneriya National Park)

Note > The Jeeps or double cabs used for Safari are not 4x4 vehicles

Minneriya National Park is one of the best places in the country to see wild elephants, which are often present in huge numbers, and wading birds. Dominated by the ancient Minneriya Tank, 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 dry season, from May to September, is reckoned to be the best time to Elephants, which can number 200 or more, come to feed and bathe during what is known as 'the Gathering'. However, it is also possible to see large numbers of elephants here at other times of year too.

Return back to the hotel for overnight stay.

Day 04 In Sigiriya

After breakfast you will engage with a Pottery demonstration at the hotel on how to manufacture the earthen pottery used in traditional Sri Lankan cooking.

After that Enjoy a wood fire cooking demonstration on a traditional wood fire stove using clay pots and spice remedies followed by a vegetarian lunch.

Optional and Not Included >

- If you wish a cooking demo and the lunch with a local family in Sigiriya would be a good addition to the program. You can participate in preparing your own traditional Sri Lankan meal or simply enjoy a meal with a local family. The rice and curry meal are prepared with local produce sourced by the family from local markets and gardens. A traditional meal is full of flavor and spice, but the family tries to prepare the meal to western palates. However, be ready expect some spice and heat.

In the evening engage in a relaxing nature trail to spot the endemic and avifauna in the region. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 05 Sigiriya –Kandy

After Breakfast check out from the hotel and proceed to Kandy for overnight stay.

(Approx. 02h40 drive from Hotel to Kandy)

In the evening proceed to visit Traditional dancing school in Kandy along with the Sacred Temple of Tooth Relic.

[Visit a Traditional Dancing School](#) > Learn about the traditional art form and experience the drums of Sri Lanka. Complete with an optional workshop at the end

[Visit the Temple of Tooth Relic](#) > The Kandy Temple, which houses the famous tooth relic of the Buddha is the star attraction of the city. Puja ceremonies (Thevava) are held every morning noon and evening to honor the relic and visitors may view the casket where the sacred tooth relic is held within the chamber during these times. Observing these ritualistic proceedings to the accompaniment of traditional drums is a must for any traveler to the sacred city of Kandy.

Day 06 Kandy – Pinnawala – Kandy

After Breakfast proceed to visit Millennium Elephant foundation.

(Approx. 01h30 drive from Hotel to Pinnawala)

The foundation is located near Pinnawala and aims to help in the conservation of Elephants, a species threatened with extinction. The elephants on site are well fed, nursed, and washed regularly by the team of veterinarians. They are brought to the foundation in order to cure them from certain diseases free of charge.

One can visit a small museum which hosts several photos, stories and articles of elephants as well the elephant poo paper factory. You can help the team wash and scrub the elephants by joining them in a stream, so please do not forget to bring a change of clothes. Return to Kandy for night stay.

Day 07 Kandy – Mandaram Nuwara

After breakfast proceed to Mandaram Nuwara for night stay at the beautiful tea factory hotel

(Approx. 02h30 drive)

Lost in the hills of Kabaragalla in Mandaramnuwara, an old tea estate established in the late 1800s sits amidst misty hills away from the hustle and bustle of city life. Abandoned for 28 years, this little gem hide –out was tenderly restored to its original glory as, "Tea & Experience Factory". What is unique about this factory is that the tea pledged the best price at the first ever tea auction held in Sri Lanka on 30 July 1883.

Day 08 In Mandaram Nuwara

After breakfast proceed to exploring the "Leaf to Cup" Unique Experience.

"People for the first time in Sri Lanka will be able to assist in all stages of the tea production process. If clients participate in the tea production process, they will go home with tea that they have produced from scratch individual packed for them."

[Later in the afternoon proceed to do a waterfall trek](#) > To reach the waterfall you need to hike through the tea estate around 1hrs to reach a mini hydro project. From there you need to walk up the stream for a short distance to reach the waterfall. Night stay at the Tea Factory hotel

Day 09 Mandaram Nuwara – Nuwara Eliya - Ella

After breakfast and transfer to Nanuoya railway station, via Nuwara Eliya. ([Approx. 2h drive](#)).

Proceed to Nuwara Eliya Town. Enjoy a city walk in Nuwara Eliya and a pony ride.

Nuwara Eliya is the highest town in Sri Lanka (1,868) and was designed to resemble a typical English village. Used as a retreat by British colonialist to remind them of home, the town is home to an 18-hole golf course, racecourse and various buildings that are reminiscent of British country houses. With their brick facades, the post office and hill club are two striking examples of such architecture that transports you to the setting of an Agatha Christie mystery: with all the charm and cosiness of old England.

At Nuwara Eliya you have the opportunity to enjoy a pony ride (approx. 10 minutes duration).

Afterwards take the train from Nano Oya station to Ella.

[Please Note > the train tickets are strictly subject to availability.](#)

The train ride to Nanu Oya will allow you the best view of the hill country from a perfect vantage. As the train winds its way round the sloping hills you will witness the many wonders of this unique locale, the valleys, meadows, mountains, and greenery with the occasional flash of a distant waterfall.

Arrive at Ella station, collect and transfer to your hotel for night stay en Ella.

Day 10 Ella – Weligama

After breakfast check out hotel and and visit 9 arch bridge. Situated close to the town of Ella, “little Adams Peak” is a mountain of 1141 meters above sea level. The hike takes you through lush tea plantations and vegetation until you arrive at the summit which offers panoramic views of the south of Sri Lanka, perfect for a photo opportunity.

Optional > you can experience an adventurous session of zip lining in Ella.

Afterwards transfer to Weligama for night stay. ([Approx. 03h15 drive from Hotel to Weligama](#))

Weligama is a unique Bay and Beach with a wide and long sandy beach located in Mathara district of Southern province close to Mathara town. The tiny island once owned by Frenchman Count de Maunay has built a beautiful house on it. The Bay is famous for its remarkable fishermen doing stilt fishing and handmade lase, Devil Dance Shows and its seafood. Weligama is also a wonderful Scuba Diving and Surfing Location. Overnight stay at the hotel

Day 11 Weligama

Transfer to Mirissa Harbor early morning to enjoy a whale watching tour (in a shared boat).

([Boats will leave the Mirissa Jetty at 06.30 am](#))

Whale watching in Mirissa > Few miles off the coast, the waters are often visited with Whales and Dolphins that can be seen through organized whale watching tours that depart from Marissa’s port. Leave early during the season to have the best chance of seeing the giants of the sea and beat the heat.

Optional - Whale watching in a luxury cruise (shared cruise)

- (Experience the world's largest Mammal, the Blue Whale, along with many other species of whales and dolphins in a luxury cruise. Possible for snorkeling during the tour in deep sea. The price will include snacks on board / snorkeling gear / paddle boarding)

Rest of the day stay relax at the beach. Over night Stay at the hotel

Day 12 Weligama

Full day leisure at the beach.

Weligama surf has gained a reputation for being perfect for beginner surfers. ([Chauffeur and vehicle will not be available during the beach stay](#))

Day 13 Drop at Colombo Airport (official hotel check out 11h)

Your amazing holiday in Sri Lanka has reached to the final day.

After Breakfast proceed to the Airport for the final departure.

(Approx. 2Hrs30 drive from Weligama to the Airport)

We wish you a safe flight back home....

Ayubowan!

----- **END OF OUR SERVICES** -----

SUGGESTIONS FOR OPTIONAL USE:

- The following are some optional suggestions and are always subject to change and availability. Advance reservations are 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 add / remove days at the beach stay.
 3. If you wish you can enjoy dinner with local family.
 4. You can have a local cooking demonstration.
 5. You can enjoy whale watching in a luxury cruise.
 6. Chauffeur and vehicle will not be available during the beach stay)