

DISCOVER SRI LANKA

13 DAYS / 12NIGHTS



Enjoy a private guided tour of this magnificent island paradise. Sri Lanka has an enthralling recorded history of civilization which spans over 25 chronicled centuries. History, tea plantations, wildlife, breathtaking scenery and magnificent beaches await you!

ITINERARY

Day 01 Colombo Airport / Negombo (35 mins)

Arrive at the airport & meet English speaking driver guide at the Airport Lobby, there after proceed to Negombo. Rest, relax, unwind & spend the rest of the day at leisure by the pool side.

Day 02 Negombo/Dambulla/ Habarana (4 Hrs)

After breakfast proceed to Dambulla Cave Temple.

Passing Matale as one reaches the city of Dambulla lays 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. Thereafter proceed to Habarana.

Accommodation: 3 nights in Habarana

Day 03 Habarana/ Sigiriya / Polonnaruwa/ Habarana (2 Hrs)

After breakfast proceed to Sigiriya Rock Fortress.

The 5th century rock citadel of King Kasyapa and World Heritage Site - Sigiriya - doesn't only boast of ancient Sri Lankan engineering & urban planning supremacy but also acclaims to be one of the finest monuments of art & culture. Proceed to Polonnaruwa.

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.

Day 04 Habarana / Hiriwadunna / Minneriya / Habarana (1 hr)

After breakfast proceed to Hiriwadunna Village for a 03 hour tour through this archetypal Sri Lankan Village. The tour begins with a scenic walk along a bund of Wewa (man-made reservoir). The amazing birdlife, butterflies and possible sightings of crocodile only add to the charm of the trek. Sight the villagers as they go about their early morning tasks of fishing or washing clothes at the periphery of the lake.

Enjoy the farmers' humble hospitality. With the guidance of the farmer, pick some fresh vegetables from the plot and join in the preparation of a simple meal prepared in the traditional method using earthenware pots and firewood as fuel. **Afternoon Jeep Safari at Minneriya National park.** If you're 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 700 at a time - which has garnished the park to become a magnet for wildlife enthusiasts across the globe.

Day 05 Habarana / Matale/ Kandy (4 hrs)

After early breakfast proceed to Matale Royal Spice Garden.

An agricultural zone in the Central Province, Matale seldom drops off the map due to its remarkable contribution through flagship crops extending from tea, rubber & vegetables to 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! Or spend some time idling on the hardened streets if you mean a real town adventure filled with voices and colors. Thereafter proceed 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. Experience an ancient Kandyan legacy engraved around its crown jewel, the temple of the sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha. 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. Drive towards Victoria Golf Course, undoubtedly one of the best golf courses in the world for a sweep blended with class and style. Or walk in color as you glide through fresh fruits and vegetables in the Kandy market. Fine tune your 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. Transfer to Hotel.

Accommodation: 2 nights in Kandy

Day 06 Kandy /Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage/Peradeniya/Kandy (2 ½ hrs)

After an early breakfast proceed to Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage.

As you enter the 25 acre coconut property, do not be surprised to witness baby elephants being bottle fed or moving around freely causing absolutely no harm to anyone. It is rightly a sincere sight to observe how these gentle giants - orphaned and sometimes three-legged - are taken care of since 1975 at Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage. Up to date, over 20 calves have been born here, and it is surprising to hear that some of its inmates have even seen their grand children during the past few decades! Watch as they feed at 09:15 am, 12 0:15 pm & 5:00 pm and take a river bath twice a day at 10:00 am & 02:00 pm respectively for an experience that could never be felt anywhere else on earth! Thereafter proceed to Peradeniya Botanical garden.

First developed as a pleasure garden under royalty and later harmonized by the British, the Royal Botanical Gardens of Peradeniya - today bundled with the most welcoming facilities located just 4 miles off Kandy - is a flourishing national asset in the Wonder of Asia. Walk into this 147 acre bliss of an experience, passing well tended lawns, pavilions & an octagon conservatory.

Day 07 Kandy / Tea plantation / Nuwara Eliya (3 hrs)

After breakfast proceed to the tea plantations at Nuwara Eliya

Visit a tea plantation and a tea factory, where the best tea in the world is produced. Here you could observe all about the process of manufacturing tea. You can also see how tea is graded. Taste a cup of pure Ceylon tea in the factory. Thereafter proceed to Nuwara Eliya. 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. Transfer to your hotel.

Accommodation: 1 night in Nuwara Eliya.



Day 08 Nuwara Eliya / Horton Plains / Ella / Yala (5 hrs)

After an early breakfast proceed to Horton Plains. **Optional**

Horton Plains, UNESCO World Heritage Site & Eco-tourism hideout in the heart of the isle, painted with unending stretches of green pastures marks one of the healthiest wet evergreen forests in Sri Lanka. With an altitude above 7000ft, the plateau sweeps to a robust 3169 hectares sheltering flora and fauna varieties that

may be found nowhere else on earth. As the tributary of Belihul Oya - Bakers Falls - thunders down rocks head off the beaten track - across frost-covered grass - to feel the icy-cold wind against your face. You may even gaze down World's End, a head-spinning 3700ft drop towards the southern end or drive carefully through herds of sambar deer, & birdlife chirping across the plains. If you're cautious enough you may be greeted by the sights of a grunting wild boar, a pouncing fishing cat, otters or even the 'Spotted-Ghost that haunts the plains', the Sri Lankan Leopard!

Thereafter proceed to Ella.

Ella is known as everyone's favorite hill country village and the place to ease off the travel accelerator. Only 8Kms from Bandarawela, this small town is used as a base for plenty of trekking expeditions to the surrounding country side. A taste of the breathtaking scenery of Ella could be had if you just walk into the Garden of the Grand Ella Motel (Formerly Ella Rest House), where you seem to be standing at the edge of the world, and everything around you seems to disappear at your feet. Some of the places you could see in Ella are the Ella Gap, Ravana Ella Falls, Little Adam's Peak and Bambaragala Peak among the other many varied pleasant walks with stunning scenery. Thereafter proceed to Yala.

Accommodation: 2 nights in Yala



Day 09 Yala / Yala National Park / Katharagama/Yala (2 hrs)

After breakfast proceed to Yala National Park for a jeep safari. Spreading a vast 1259 Km² Yala rightfully is the heartland of wildlife in Sri Lanka. You name it, and Yala has it! Its usual inmates cover herds of elephant, sloth bear, spotted deer, jackal, extensively populated birdlife as well as the highest density of leopards in the world that garnish the park to be one of the finest destinations in the country. Feel the rough track as your jeep thunders over rocks and swish passing narrow bends for an exhilarating experience blended with the cries of wilderness under the tropical sun. Thereafter proceed to Katharagama.

Walking on blazing fire, drums clattering away flanking the whistling music of brass flutes and men with their cheeks, arms and chest covered in ash, chanting 'Haro-Hara' echoing the sky are common sights at the holy land of God Skanda, Katharagama. As the mysteries that surround this 'land of vows' float in clouds of incense,

people irrespective of their religion flock together to venerate this pilgrimage site. However, the town becomes busiest during the months of July-August as the Kataragama Festival begins flashing the streets with swiftly moving fire dancers, exotic 'Kawadi' dancers as well as majestically caparisoned elephants swaying their heads from side to side.

Day 10 Yala / Galle / Kosgoda / Beach (5 hrs)

After breakfast proceed to Galle for a city tour.

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. Thereafter proceed to Kosgoda. This vibrant tourist destination sitting calm along the Southern coast of Sri Lanka - apart from its traditional industries of fisheries and cinnamon cultivation - was later recognized by the Wildlife Protection Society who studded the region with a Sea Turtle Conservation Project which operates on a formidable scale today. Indirectly, this has become a watering hole of flipper & shell enthusiasts! Thereafter precede Waskaduwa or Beruwela for a beach Stay.

Accommodation: 42 nights in Waskaduwa or Beruwela

Days 11-12 Waskaduwa or Beruwela (Beach Stay)

Days at leisure.

Day 13 Waskaduwa or Beruwela /Airport (2hrs)

After breakfast, proceed to Colombo Airport. End of services.

This is a private tour with a private driver-guide (the driver is the guide as well) and car. Minimum 2 passengers required to guarantee the tour.

INCLUSIONS

12 nights accommodation in double occupancy · Sightseeing with a driver-guide · Breakfast daily from Days 02-13 · Air conditioned vehicle · English speaking driver guide · Transfers to/from airport

Not included · International airfare and airport taxes · Visa for Sri Lanka (approx. USD20) · Gratuities · Beverages · Optional excursions. **Note: A visa is required for Sri Lanka**

Minimum 2 passengers required

Price in CAD\$, per person starting from, double occupancy	Land package	Land package	Land package
Daily departures	3*	4*	Superior 4*
October 01 – November 10, 2018	2349	3099	4199
January 10 – April 30, 2019	2599	3449	4649
May 01 – June 30, 2019	2549	3399	4599
September 01 – November 30, 2019	2549	3399	4599
Single supplement (min. 2 passengers required)	On request		

Hotel Options			
City	3 *	4*	4* Superior
Negombo	Catamaran Beach	Goldi Sands	Jetwing Blue
Habarana	Camelia resort & Spa	Paradise resort & Spa	Cinnamon Lodge
Kandy	Hilltop Hotel	Randholee resort	Grand Kandyan
Nuwara Eliya	Summer Hill Breeze	St Andrews hotel	Grand Hotel
Yala	Hotel Chandrika	Thaulle resort	Cinnamon Wild
Waskaduwa	Coco Royal Waskaduwa	The Palm	Cinnamon Bay