

Best of Sri Lanka

Detail itinerary

Day 01 - Destination: Colombo Drive: Approximately 1 Hour (35 km)



On arrival in Sri Lanka you will be met and assisted by our Airport

Representative, who will direct you to your very own Chauffeur who will transfer you to Colombo, the commercial capital of the country.

Once you check in at your hotel relax and recover from any jet lag. If you have spare time your chauffer will introduce you to the sights and sounds of Colombo.

Drive through the commercial and city center known as the "Fort", built by the Portuguese in the 16th century where grand colonial era buildings stand alongside modern office structures. See the vibrant markets and bazaars of Pettah, and the National Museum with its fine collection of lovely antiques and art of Sri Lanka. You could visit a Buddhist temple and a Hindu Kovil to experience the diversity of religion, ethnicity and customs of the people. Alternatively you may indulge in some shopping.

Day – 02 Destination: Anuradhapura Drive: Approximately 5 Hours (236 km)

After breakfast set off to Anuradhapura, and check in to your hotel on. After a short rest, visit the sacred ancient city of Anuradhapura founded in the 04th century B.C a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1982. It has the largest number of

ancient monuments of the great Sinhala civilization which flourished in this region.



You will see some of the most famous as well as the tallest Stupas of Sri Lanka and the Ruins of ancient royal palaces. Another amazing site would be the 'Sri Maha Bodhi' or the sacred Bo tree which is over 2200 years old grown from a branch of the very tree under which "The Buddha" attained enlightenment – the oldest historically documented tree in the world.

Day 03 - Destination: Mihintale Drive: Approximately ½ an hour (12 km)

After breakfast leave for Mihintale. Visit the ancient remains of Mihintale, a sacred place which is regarded as the cradle of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. The rock is dotted with shrines and rock dwellings. A grand stairway of 1840 steps made of granite slabs, 5 meters wide leads to the summit with its splendid views of the surrounding countryside.

Destination: Aukana Drive: Approximately 1½ hours (61 km)

Proceed to Aukana to see the statue of the Aukana Buddha. This is undoubtedly the most magnificent undamaged ancient image in the island. The 5th century

statue ascribed to King

Dhatusena is 13 meters high standing

beneath a recently constructed brick shelter.



Destination: Habarana Drive: Approximately 1 hours (36 km)

After sightseeing leave for Habarana, a small village with excellent hotel accommodation, a central location for all the ancient city sites. Check in at your hotel on arrival and spend the rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 04 - Destination: Sigiriya Drive: Approximately ½ an Hour (25 km)

After breakfast leave for Sigiriya. Begin the morning by climbing the rock fortress of Sigiriya - a 5th Century "Fortress in the Sky". Built by King Kassapa the fortress was a Royal Citadel for more than 18 years. The lion rock (A UNESCO

WORLD HERITAGE SIGHT) is a citadel of unusual beauty, rising 200 metres from the



scrub jungle. The base of the rock is ringed by a moat and rampart and extensive gardens including the renowned water gardens. The majestic Lion's Paw picturesquely guards the stairway of the palace on the summit. See the famous frescoes of the "Heavenly maidens" of Sigiriya in a sheltered pocket of the rock and the 10 foot high Mirror Wall.

Destination: Polonnaruwa Drive: Approximately 1 ½ Hours (67 km)

Then continue to one of the ruins of ancient Ceylon - the



UNESCO World Heritage City of Polonnaruwa, which was the Capital of Sri Lanka from the 11th to 13th century. A well-planned medieval city defended by enclosing walls (around 5 km. which still remain), graced by palaces, shrines, monasteries, pavilions, parks, ponds and irrigation lakes. Polonnaruwa is strewn with ruins in a resplendent state of preservation.

The 'Gal Vihara' which consists of statues of the recumbent, standing and seated Buddha have been cut from a single granite wall and rank among the true masterpieces of Sri Lankan Art.

Day 05 - Destination: Dambulla Drive: Approximately ½ Hour (25km)



After breakfast head for Dambulla and explore the famous Golden Rock cave temple which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A sacred pilgrimage site for 22 centuries, this cave monastery, a vast isolated rock mass with its five caverns is the largest best preserved cave-temple complex in Sri Lanka.

The Buddhist mural paintings (covering an area of 2,100 sq. meters) are of particular importance as are the 157 statues including a 47 foot long statue of the recumbent Buddha.

Destination: Kandy Drive: Approximately 2 1/2 Hour (72 km)



Continue on to Kandy. En route you will visit a spice garden in Matale. You will check in at your hotel on arrival and once you are rested, continue on to your tour of Kandy!

Kandy, the bustling hill country capital is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is famous for the pink painted Temple of the Tooth which houses the most sacred religious relic, the tooth of the Buddha, the Kandy Lake built in 1807 which is an attractive centerpiece to the town.

In the Evening you will visit the sacred Temple of the Tooth Relic. Thereafter enjoy the Kandyan Cultural show at the Kandyan Arts & Cultural Centre. The show features the graceful and rhythmic dancers and drummers culminating in an impressive fire walking display.

Day 06 - Destination: Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage Drive: Approximately 1 1/2 Hours (50km)



After breakfast leave for Pinnawala to visit the Elephant orphanage. This orphanage was set up by the government to take care of baby elephants lost or abandoned in the wild. Witness the feeding of the elephants. Thereafter observe them as they take their daily bath in the river nearby, which affords marvelous photo opportunities. Bath time is enjoyed by all elephants, young and old alike and it is a good time to closely observe their tightly knit family structure. Daily feeding times - 9.15 am, 1.15 pm, and 5.00 pm. bathing times – 10.00 am, 2.00 pm, and 4.00 pm.

Destination: Nuwara Eliya Drive: Approximately 4 1/2 Hours (130km)



On completion leave for Nuwara Eliya En route visit the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens where a rare collection of tropical exotic and indigenous flora including the famous Orchid House could be viewed.

The beautiful town of Nuwara Eliya, set in the heart of Tea country and situated 1890 meters above sea level, is where the British succeeded in creating an English countryside with homes in styles from Georgian to Queen Anne.

Overnight Stay: Hotel in Nuwara Eliya

Day 07 - Destination: Horton Plains / Nuwara Eliya Drive: Approximately 1 ½ Hour (30 km)



After an early breakfast at the hotel, leave for Horton plains, the highest plateau in the country. It is one of the very important National parks in Sri Lanka especially for its topographical variations. It has unique vegetation and is famous for many rare and endemic highland birds. The most awesome physical feature of the Horton Plains is the escarpment that falls 880 meters to the lowlands of the southern region of the island. Aptly known as the 'World's End' the view from the precipice of the countryside below towards the south coast is spectacular.

Return to Nuwara Eliya upon completion. After lunch and at your convenience commence a sightseeing tour of the city. Visit the Nuwara Eliya Town, Market place, Golf Course, (one of the finest 18 holes Golf courses in Asia) the Hill club, and drive around this hill station viewing Lake Gregory.

Day 08 - Destination: Yala National Park Drive: Approximately 6 Hours (197km)



After breakfast, descend from cool hills to the jungles Yala. En route visit Rawana Waterfalls, a sight to behold with a scenic backdrop of mountains and valleys. It is featured in the Rawana mythology, where Sita is said to have bathed from this waterfall while she was in captivity,

On arrival in Yala, check in at the hotel. In the afternoon commence a jeep safari in the Yala National Park by private jeep accompanied by a tracker. Yala National park one of Sri Lanka's premier eco tourist Destinations and is renowned for its variety of wildlife notably its many elephants. It is also home to the spotted deer, sambar, wild buffalo, sloth bear, jackal, mongoose and crocodiles. The peacock is easily the most famous of the birds in this park. Yala has a high concentration of Leopards although seeing these nocturnal carnivores still requires some luck.

Overnight Stay: Hotel in Yala

Day 09 - Destination: Yala National Park / Bentota Drive: Approximately 6 Hours (244 km)



(Optional) Wake just before dawn for your chance to take in a leopard safari upon four-wheel drive jeeps.

After breakfast depart for Bentota, delightfully located along one of the finest beaches on the South West coast. Spend the afternoon at leisure watching the waves as they bounce off the sun-kissed sands

.Overnight Stay: Hotel in Bentota

Day 10 - Destination: Bentota Drive: N/A

Blissfully spend your time as you wish whether it be indulging in fine spa treatment or relaxing by the beautiful Indian Ocean.

Overnight Stay: Hotel in Bentota

**Day 11 - Destination: Airport Drive:
Approximately 2 ½ Hours (99 km)**