



An island of national parks, venerated temples, tea plantations and rose-gold beaches: Sri Lanka packs in plenty of experiences. The Cultural Triangle is Sri Lanka's historic heartland, a concentration of extravagant ancient cities, life in the most endearing ways, waves that takes the hot sunny beaches a notch up, hikes that takes you to pretty views. From here you can head into the cooler climes of the central highlands, where neatly tended tea estates sit between colonial cottages and swathes of forest. The hills drop sharply down to the national parks and rainforest below, which shelter elephants, sloth bears and, more elusively, leopards. Along the coast you find the Dutch fortress of Galle and palm-fringed coves.

This tour covers some of Sri Lanka's popular attractions available to visit at the time of travel and at the same time offers you space to relax and have your own time while you enjoy your Sri Lanka tour. There's a bit of magic we have sprinkled in terms of giving the best curated experiences to bring out the best of destinations.

As always, we are able to tinker with this itinerary if you wish and add an extra night here and there. We can also discuss other hotel or villa options.

Itinerary highlights

- Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle. Architectural relics from the ancient kingdom Anuradhapura, where we can see Hindu and Buddhist shrines.
- Tea plantations and cities from the colonial era in the Southern Highlands.
- The enchanting, sacred city of Kataragama
- Yala National park famous for it's leopards, wild elephants and crocks
- Dutch fort from the 17th century.
- Sri Lanka's vibrant traditionnel dance.
- Southern Coast's beautiful beaches and stunning sunsets.

Itinerary

Day 1: AIRPORT | ANURADHAPURA [Approx. travel time 3.5 hrs]

On arrival meet Tripavi ground representative who will introduce you to your local national guide and the coach crew with warm welcome in the Sri Lankan way. Your local guide and the coach team will stay with you for the duration of your trip. Your Sri Lankan experience begins with a journey to Pineapple or Coconut farm in en-route to Anuradhapura. Here you will be explaining the daily way of life by the locals and their experiences. You will also be offered a comfort stop during the journey to the ancient capital which is 4 hours away from the Airport.



Day 2: ANURADHAPURA | MIHINTALE [Approx. travel time 30 minutes]

We recommend an early start after breakfast to visit Mihintale Buddhist Temple. Mihintale is a mountain peak near Anuradhapura approx. 12.5 km away from the main city is believed by Sri Lankans to be the site of a meeting between the Buddhist monk Mahinda and King Devanampiyatissa which inaugurated the presence of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. It is now a pilgrimage site, and the site of several religious monuments and abandoned structures. Its various shrines connected by a total of some 1,840 steps that ultimately lead to the summit – steep enough to require deep breaths and a meditative pace. They were built in the reign of Bhatika Abhaya (22 BC–AD 7), although a later paved road provides a short cut up to the first level.



Your guides will plan for some authentic experience this afternoon depending on your interest and budgets)

Evening you will explore the Anuradhapura cultural site including Sri Mahabodhiya, Ruwanwelisaya. Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi is a Sacred Fig tree in the Mahamewna Gardens, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. It is said to be the right-wing branch (southern branch) from the historical Sri Maha Bodhi at Buddha Gaya in India under which Lord Buddha attained Enlightenment. It was planted in 288 BC, and is the oldest living human-planted tree in the world with a known planting date. Today it is one of the most sacred relics of the Buddhists in Sri Lanka and respected by Buddhists all over the world.

Day 3: SIGIRIYA | POLONNARUWA | SIGIRIYA [Approx. travel time 1.5 hrs to Polonnaruwa]

After breakfast drive to the Ritigala Buddhist Monastery, hidden deep inside the Ritigala Strict Nature Reserve, can be easily accessed from Anuradhapura, found just off the Anuradhapura-Habarana road. Dating back to the time of the ancient Sinhalese Kingdom of Anuradhapura, Ritigala was once a sprawling monastic complex, abandoned in the 10th and 11th centuries following a series of invasions from India. Today, some ruins of the monastery still stand – wander through the forest along old paths, painstakingly made using large stone slabs, and lose yourself in the tranquil atmosphere of this beautiful environment as you explore the various relics which remain. Nature-enthusiasts will be fascinated by the diverse range of flora and fauna here, some of which is completely unique to this area.



once was – a place for teaching, meditation and a home for a large monastic community who chose to give up worldly pleasures and devote themselves to a simple way of life. You can explore the site from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Optional lunch in Habarana at own expenses. Later you will check in to your hotel for two nights stay. Late in the afternoon (4.00pm to 06.30pm) you will visit the Dambulla rock cave temple a UNESCO World heritage site. Dambulla Cave Temple first came to be of great significance when it was used as a refuge for King Valagambahu in 1st century BC. Concealed here by the local monks upon returning from exile to his throne at Anuradhapura, Valagambahu showed his gratitude by building a magnificent cave temple for them, which consists of a complex of Buddhist image houses. Its rock ceiling is one large sweep of colourful frescoes, some of which date back over 2,000 years, which depict Buddhist mythology, and the tales of the Buddha's previous births. This cave temple has the largest number of Buddha statues all housed in one place, including a colossal, 14-metre-long figure of the recumbent Buddha carved out of the rock. Dambulla Cave Temple is now one of the most popular religious cultural sites in Sri Lanka, attracting tourists from across the globe.

Approx. from Anuradhapura to Ritigala 1hr without stops

Approx. from Ritigala to Sigiriya 1hr without stops

Day 4: SIGIRIYA



Early in the morning visit the Sigiriya Rock fortress, (Lion Rock) a formidable rock formation which rises vertically up the landscape with lion feet and ruins of an ancient fortress palace on top. At the foot are the remains of an extensive symmetrical network of reservoirs and gardens. We head up the old stairs, which first brings us to the more than 1500-year-old frescos where lovely sky princess's challenge with bared breasts. From two enormous lion feet walk the stairs the last stretch up to the plateau with the remains and ruins of what once was. The view is still here and is sumptuous, as a center for almost eroded giant volcano.

Later in the day experience a village tour in Habarana. The trek begins with a Tuk tuk ride from Habarana and then walk along the chena and paddy cultivations. You will also experience rural vegetable cultivation, paddy fields and enjoy an authentic Sri Lankan lunch at a Village house. In the afternoon, continue your exploration in the rural village travel into the lush Sri Lankan countryside, alongside paddy fields and rural vegetable plantations. Evening visit Heritage Kandalama Hotel (**Optional high tea at own cost**) if the group is interested on some wild life and exited in getting a glimpse of the famous wild elephants of Sri Lanka the late afternoon will be good opportunity. This Park is located half an hour from Dambulla. (Extra cost USD 35 per person)

Day 5: SIGIRIYA | KANDY [Travel time 3 hours from Sigiriya to Kandy without stops]

After breakfast, checkout and travel to Kandy, en-route stop at Spice plantation try different spices and herbs at this spice garden, helping you gain an insight into the long spice history of the island. Step into the unpolluted, green garden, where you can see how herbs are grown in their natural environment, then learn how you can use them to enhance the taste of specialty meals. These spices will reveal to you the secret of traditional Sri Lankan dishes, which have great nutritional value as well as being delicious. Visit the peaceful garden to see and learn all about aloe vera, cloves, vanilla, cinnamon, cocoa, turmeric, pepper corns, and other important spices. Find various products made from the garden's herbs and spices at the onsite shop if you wish to stop by.



Arrive in Kandy in the late afternoon to explore the Kandy temple of the tooth. For two centuries Kandy's monarchs, protected by Kandy's rivers, mountains and jungle, proudly withstood the onslaught of three European forces: the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British. To this day it remains proud of its cultural heritage and regards itself as a bastion of Buddhist philosophy. The sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha is enshrined here within the Temple of the Tooth, which dates back to the 16C. The Kandyan culture is distinct from the island's coastal areas, with differences in family names, rituals, cuisine, and even the way a sari is draped. Visit the temple in the evening for the mesmerizing pooja ceremony.

The bustling hill-country capital of Kandy lies on a plain amidst towering hills and looped by Sri Lanka's largest river: the Mahaweli. The town's pleasant temperate climate, its scenic location and its rich history has made it a favourite haunt for travelers.



Day 6: KANDY

Today morning after breakfast you will take drive to Peradeniya Botanical Gardens. Peradeniya is famous for its magnificent botanic gardens which were conceived originally as Queen's pleasure garden. It was converted to a 60ha botanical garden in 1821 and contains well-kept lawns, an orchid house with an extensive/ rare collection, octagon conservatory, fernery, banks of bamboo and various floras inclusive of canas, hibiscus, chrysanthemums, croton and bougainvillea. Avenue of palms, and colorful lawn are not amiss. The palm avenue meets the river drive at the end of it which has a suspension bridge across the river which now is being rarely used. In the evening you will go for a colorful cultural event and the rest of the day is at leisure



Day 7: HAPUTALE | NUWARA ELIYA



After breakfast transfer to Nuwara Eliya. Explore the Nuwara Eliya before you take the train to Haputale. Nuwara Eliya is an idyllic mountain village in 1868 meters altitude with houses and hotels in a relic from an English time. Climate in Nuwara Eliya is wonderfully cool and comfortable. You will pass this hill station town and take the late afternoon train to Ella deep in to the hill country where you will stay for 2 nights.

Approx. travel time to Nuwara Eliya 2 ½ hours without stops / train trip will take 1 ½ hours to Haputale

Day 8: HAPUTALE

After early breakfast travel to Haputale to visit the famous view point. **Lipton's Seat** is considered the number 1 attraction in Haputale is a viewpoint on the Poonagala Mountain on Dambethanne Tea Estate. The view and the impressive landscape follow us all the way down. The Scottish tea baron Sir Thomas Lipton used to survey his burgeoning empire from here. Lipton's seat by tuk tuk which is great experience on the tour.



Spend the afternoon in Ella with optional lunch at your own expenses and return back to the resort for dinner and overnight stay.

Day 9: HAPUTALE | KATARAGAMA



After two days in the heights we move on mountain roads towards the lowlands en-route visit Buduruwagala. Buduruwagala is an ancient buddhist temple in Sri Lanka. The complex consists of seven statues and belongs to the Mahayana school of thought. The statues date back to the 10th century. 16-meter-high Buddha statue Buduruwagala that are carved directly into the rock. PM arrive in Kataragama for 2 nights' stay. Check in and refresh before your head to Kataragama religious site for visit from 05.00pm to 07.00pm in the evening. The jungle shrine of Kataragama, located an hour's drive away from

Tissamaharama, has great religious and historical significance that cuts across race and religion. Ancient Kataragama brings together Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and Christians, all of which worship each day at its numerous temples which are dedicated to the various faiths. It is believed that King Dutugemunu, the warrior king



and Sinhala folk hero, built a shrine here for the worship of the

Kataragama God in the 2nd century BC. There is also a first century BC Buddhist Dagoba, Kirivehera, at this site. The 'Maha Devala', the main shrine of God Skanda, the Hindu war God, and several other adjoining Hindu shrines, conduct daily religious rituals. Each day, at specific times the Hindu shrines come alive when poojas (devotions) are presented to the Gods; baskets filled with fruit and flowers, burning incense and oil lamps, dashing of coconuts, clanging of bells, and the continuous chanting, truly a mesmerizing experience. (approx. travel time 03.00 hours without stops from Haputale to Katharagama)

Day 10: YALA NATIONAL PARK

After an early breakfast travel to Yala National Park with eyes looking for Elephants, deer, porcupines, crocodiles, warthogs, water buffalo, lip bears and peacocks and kingfishers and leopard, monkeys. In the evening relax by the pool side or take visit a nearby village as an optional activity. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay.



Depending on your interest your tour guide will suggest a visit to learn and experience one of Sri Lankas rural traditions the pottery industry this afternoon (01.30 pm 03.30pm)

Glazed pottery was introduced to Sri Lanka during the 7th and 8th Century AD. Glazed pottery technology is very special, high temperatures are required to produce glazed vessels. This technology was practiced mainly in the urban centers, especially Anuradhapura and Tissamaharama. It was not widespread at that time and there were only a few who specialized in the technology. Glazed pottery is where the exterior has a finish of almost porcelain like texture.

Day 11: YALA | INDURUWA [Approx. 1 ½ hours without stops from Galle to Induruwa]

After early breakfast checkout by 08.00am and leave to South coast. En-route visit Galle Fort and Tsunami Museum.

This ramshackle, private museum 3.5km north of Hikkaduwa tells the story through photographs and newspaper features of that



dreadful day in 2004 when the Indian Ocean tsunami struck Hikkaduwa and Sri Lanka.

Galle Fort, in the Bay of Galle on the southwest coast of Sri Lanka, was built first in 1588 by the Portuguese, then extensively fortified by the Dutch during the 17th century from 1649 onwards. It is a historical, archaeological and architectural heritage monument, which even after more than 423 years maintains a polished appearance, due to extensive reconstruction work done by Archaeological Department of Sri Lanka

Day 12: MADU RIVER BOAR SAFARI | TURTLE HATCHERY

The estuary of the Madu River is a complex coastal ecosystem of mangroves and islands. It may be one of the last remaining tracts of pristine mangrove forest in Sri Lanka. A boat trip is wonderful way of seeing some of the hundreds of species of plants and animals –monkeys eat fruit in the trees, a water monitor lizard glides slowly through the water and cormorants, egrets and kingfisher wait patiently on the banks, eying the water for prey. There are around 65 islands in the river and lagoon, from tiny speck housing a deserted shrine to one housing 250 families connected to the mainland with a very long footbridge. You can visit an island with a Buddhist monastery, where the friendly young monks will show you a 150-year-old book made of palms leaves and how they cook on cinnamon wood on an open fire. After Madu River boat ride visit turtle conservation and research center in Kosgoda.

Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.



Day 13: DEPARTURE [Approx. Travel time 1 hrs to Airport]

City tour enroute to Negombo. Check in to Arie Lagoon hotel to refresh and dinner prior to your flight. (Three changing rooms are included).

Approx. travel time from Induruwa to Arie Lagoon 02 hours without stops

Approx. travel time from Arie Lagoon to Airport 45 mins without stops

***** End of the Tour*****

END OF TOUR ARRANGEMENTS

As always, we are able to tinker with this itinerary if you wish and add an extra night here and there. Our Travel consultants can help you plan the holiday as per your budget and interest along the way.

Tour inclusions

Includes;

- The given prices are valid for the contracted periods.
- All rates are in US\$ per person sharing DBL room
- 12 nights' Accommodation on HB basis in hotels specified or similar commencing with dinner on day 01 and ending with breakfast on last day
- Private transportation with an English-speaking national guide
- Expressway and parking charges
- All applicable local taxes
- Jeep safari at Minneriya NP + Yala NP
- Entrance fee during the tour
 - Temple of Tooth Relic, Kandy
 - Royal Botanical Garden, Peradeniya
 - Sigiriya
 - Elephant Orphanage, Pinnawala
 - Anuradhpura
 - Cave Temple, Dambulla
 - Polonnaruwa

Value added services on complimentary basis:

- 02 mineral water bottles per person per day during the tour
- Free Mobile SIM card on arrival (Passport details to be given for ownership transaction)
- 24/7 assistance of English-speaking representative
- Special gift on the departure
- Assistance of applying Sri Lankan visa (Visa chargers of US\$ 35.00 per person will be applied)
- Personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease – Face Masks, Gloves, Sanitisers

Excludes;

- Exit PCR test as per the requirement of the final destination/returning country or the airline
- Optional sightseeing (Other than mentioned in the itinerary)
- Expenses of a personal nature/Incidental expenses
- Lunch & beverages throughout the tour
- Visa charges – US\$ 35.00 per person (www.eta.gov.lk)
- Early check-in / Late check-out
- Air tickets
- Overseas accommodation
- Any other services not specified above

