



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 Sri Lanka's popular tea gardens in the hill country while you enjoy your stay at some the luxury renovated Estate Bungalows. The tour also takes you to the dry south east of the country to experiences some of Sri Lankas wildlife and the last rain forest in Sri Lanka. You also able to enjoy the azure baches of the Indian ocean at the end of the holiday with the option to extend your stay further depending on your budgets.

Itinerary highlights

- Hatton, tea plantations and Victorian era to life
- Ella
- Wildlife at Yala
- Dine the very Sri Lankan way
- Nature walks to Sinharaja rain forest
- Visit Galle Fort
- Turtle conservation project in Kosgoda

Itinerary

Day 1: AIRPORT | NEGOMBO [Approx. travel time 20 min]

You will arrive at the Bandaranaike International Airport and upon welcoming you to the country our airport manager will meet you, address any last-minute questions about currency changing, getting your local sim or any questions for the day and will introduce you to your guide, who will be your travel companion as you explore around Sri Lanka then you will be transferred to Negombo. Depending on the time of your flight, you will have the rest of the day at your own leisure.



Day 2: NEGOMBO | HATTON [Approx. travel time 4 hrs without stops]

Today you head to the central hills of Sri Lanka, Hatton, the foothills of the up climb towards Nuwara Eliya, where time had stopped in the planter's era, you also have the option to take a private helicopter transfer to avoid the long-distance travel. You will stay overnight at a tea plantation bungalow.



Day 3: HATTON

After breakfast, we embark on the essential tea experience. A Resident Tea Planter from around will demonstrate the age-old tea making process. First, follow the trail of the planters of old Ceylon, as they trekked through the dense jungle looking for the best slopes on which to plant tea. Then on to watch the tea pluckers pick two leaves and a bud with deft hands. Then to the factory where the all-important conversion to "made" black tea happens. The machinery used is of very traditional British design, some as old as 100 years. The tour ends with a tasting of different grades of this great brew. Together with the tea-infused cuisine, tea-based spa treatments and trekking trails that traverse tea-blanketed hills, you can literally lose yourself in tea.



Day 4: HATTON | NUWARA ELIYA | ELLA [Approx. travel time 2.5 hrs by train]

After breakfast, we leave the bungalow for a pleasant drive to Nanu Oya train station to embark on Sri Lanka's most scenic train journey to Ella passing through tea plantations, rice fields and rustic towns (2.5hrs train journey). Arriving at Ella, you will be warmly-greeted and transfer to your resort. This evening you may return to Ella town to enjoy the vibes of this popular touristic hill country town busy with pubs and some night life ideal of that younger explorers. Following day morning plan for early hike before heading to your wilderness escape in to the deep south of Sri Lanka, adjacent to the world famous Yala National Park, renowned for its dense leopard population.



Day 5: ELLA | YALA [Approx. travel time 2 hrs without stops]

Today jump of your comfort to explore, a hike to little Adam's peak, it's is a fairly easy hike and the path is marked by signs so it's easy to find and you could spend 2-3 hours in total (including picture taking), it's also very popular among tourist! So, expect to meet many other people from all over the world on this trip! Once you return enjoy a nice breakfast at the hotel. You also could hop on to that thrill seeking zip line experience before you say goodbye to Ella. The journey out of the hills will notice the change in climate in a very short time as you head to the dry south east of Sri Lanka. Late afternoon arrive, in Yala to relax and enjoy the comforts of your resort with a dip in the pool to relax those muscles after enjoy the night skies of the deep south.



Day 6: YALA

Coffee in bed early this morning at 0530hrs and thereafter, embark on an inspirational morning game drive to Yala National Park, Sri Lanka's most renowned known national park popular for its high-density population of elephants, leopards, bears, crocodiles and wild boars. 97,800 hectares in extent, this is the second largest of Sri Lanka's National Parks. Its open undulating terrain made it famous for elephants for many years, but recently the park has also received much fame through publicity by National Geographic and the Discovery TV channels, which focused on a leopard research/conservation and identification project. Claims have subsequently been made that Yala National Park has the world's highest concentration of leopard per square kilometre. Vegetation is primarily grassland and shrub jungle with patches of dense growth while several salts and freshwater lagoons are a haven for a large variety of resident and migrant birds. Areas popular with leopard are rock strewn hillocks with a dense shrub in which the animals hide. After the morning game drive, we return to your luxury wilderness resort for lunch and siesta. Later in the afternoon after snacks, you have the option to return for a late afternoon to evening game drive for another chance to spot the incredible wildlife.



Day 7: YALA | WELIGAMA [Approx. Travel time 3 hrs without any stops]

After breakfast, we check-out from the adobe in Yala with full of memories of the wild as we embark on a transfer to Weligama. In the late afternoon, we drive about 50 minutes to the city of Galle, an ancient trading port said to be the famous Tarshish of the Bible. Historically, this award winning World Heritage fortified township was an essential port of call for Chinese, Persian, Arab and Indian traders. Javanese and Sumatrans came later followed by Marco Polo in 1299 AD. The Portuguese arrived in the 1500's and built a settlement with a fort of palm trees and mud. This was captured by the Dutch (and finally the British) who built the 400 year old fort with great ramparts and bastions to protect their presence. Narrow streets are lined with old houses displaying Dutch heritage, with their pillared verandahs. Government offices remain in use and the community within the fort is a bustle with daily life – a living-breathing town, hidden within fortified walls of this ancient, maritime citadel. Laughter, chatter, gossip and smiles abound within the rampart walls. We explore the fort, overflowing with landmarks, strolling past the Dutch church, the governor's house, the spice warehouses, court square, the Kacheri or Town Hall, the lighthouse and ramparts. Near the old Arab mosque are streets leading to cricket fields and the district Judge's house, surrounded by ancient frangipani trees. Thereafter, return to your hotel.



Day 8: WELIGAMA | MIRRISA [Approx. 20 min drive]

Today you have an early breakfast and drive to Mirrisa where you board your boat and set off on a private whale watching excursion. Just off the coast of Sri Lanka swims the majestic blue whale, the largest creature on earth. Nowhere in the world is it possible to see these ocean giants as close to shore as in Weligama. Here you have the opportunity to see blue whales along with sperm whales, false orcas, orcas, playful spinner and bottlenose dolphins, and turtles in their natural environment. Lunch is back at the hotel. Then, when it cools off you can explore the beach or take surfing session with a local.



Day 9: WELIGAMA | SINHARAJA [Approx. Travel time 2.5 hrs]

Checking out from the beach adobe today, we take on the winding roads up hill to the boards of the rain forest Sinharaja where, in a land before time, lions roamed the vast jungle. Although long extinct, rhinos and hippos have left traces in the jungles of Sinharaja. You check in at the Rainforest Eco Lodge, which is your home for the next two nights. The Rainforest Ecolodge is situated in the Sinharaja Division of the Enselwatte Estate in Deniyaya. This plot of previously cultivated tea land borders the southwestern fringe of the Sinharaja forest reserve. Sinharaja rainforest is a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site inscribed in 1988, as well as a Biodiversity Hotspot as designated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). All these titles highlight the importance of the forest reserve and hence the location of the Ecolodge in terms of its biodiversity as well as its fragility. This evening, you can take a hike around the buffer zone of the jungle.



Day 10: SINHARAJA TREK

Leaving the hotel about 8AM with a picnic lunch, you will spend a full day exploring the rainforest. The physical walk is not long, about 3 hours, but there is much to see and discuss. The timing and walk can also be adjusted to suit your needs. You will likely need rubber boots as the paths can be quite muddy and slippery and weather conditions can also be erratic in the off season. The last major undisturbed area of rainforest in Sri Lanka, this forest reserve occupies a broad ridge at the heart of the island's wet zone. On most days the forest is shrouded by copious rainclouds that replenish its deep soils and balance water resources for much of southwestern Sri Lanka. Sinharaja (Lion King) is bordered by rivers: the Koskulana Ganga in the north and the Gin Ganga in the south. An old foot track that goes past the Beverley Estate marks the eastern border, close to the highest peak in the forest, Hinipitigala (3842'). Towards the west the land decreases in elevation. It may have been the last redoubt of the Sri Lankan lion. In 1840 the forest became British crown land, and from that time some efforts were made toward its preservation. However, in 1971 loggers moved in and began selective logging. The logged native hardwoods were replaced with mahogany (which does not occur naturally here), logging roads and trails snaked

into the forest and a woodchip mill was built. Following intense lobbying by conservationists, the government called a halt to all logging in 1977. Machinery was dismantled and removed, the roads gradually grew over and Sinharaja was saved. Much of the rest of Sri Lanka's rainforest stands on mountain ridges within a 12 ½ mile radius of the forest. There are 22 villages around the forest, and locals are permitted to enter the area to tap palms to make jaggery (a hard brown sweet) and treacle, and to collect dead wood and leaves for fuel and construction. Medicinal plants are collected during specific seasons. Rattan collection is of more concern, as the demand for cane is high. Sinharaja attracts illegal gem miners, too, and abandoned open pits pose a danger to humans and animals and cause erosion. Dinner is back at the lodge.



Day 11: SINHARAJA | BENTOTA [Approx. Travel time 3.5 hrs without stops]

Today your journey on to the western coastal belt of Sri Lanka is going to be interesting one passing through local villages, small towns, agriculture and the local way of life is for you to see in these remote areas of the island. You arrive at the hotel for lunch and with a much-needed break by the pool side. At around 4.30 PM we drive to Kosgoda for a private baby turtle releasing session followed by cocktails. Kosgoda is famous for its sea turtle conservation project operated by the Wild Life Protection Society of Sri Lanka. It was established in 1988 to protect Sri Lanka's turtles from extinction. Since then, it has released about 3.5 million baby turtles into the wild. The hatchery pays fishermen for eggs that they collect at night along the long sandy beach. Although October to April is the main laying season, some eggs (mostly green turtles) can be found at Kosgoda throughout the year. The hatchery buries the eggs in sand, and when they hatch around 50 days later the baby turtles are released into the sea at night. Only about one in 1,000 turtles survives to maturity. Kosgoda turtle hatchery also has tanks for injured or disabled turtles, including albino turtles that would not survive in the wild.



Day 12: BENTOTA

At leisure, enjoy the luxury of the hotels while you pamper yourself at one of the signature spas.



Day 13: DEPARTURE

Catch the flight at the Bandaranaike International Airport to head home.

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.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- 12 nights' accommodation on half board basis.
- In-destination transfers with and English-Speaking chauffeur driver (vehicle available for all excursions on the tour)
- Health and safety certified English-Speaking chauffeur driver for the full tour
- Expressway tickets and parking charges
- Meet and greet by company representative on arrival
- Special curated guided experiences
- All taxes and services charges
- Visit to the turtle conservation project in Kosgoda and releasing of baby turtles to the sea
- Jeep safari to Yala national park
- Train tickets from Hatton to Ella (01st class or 02nd class)
- Zip line experience in Ella
- Guided walks with trackers for the Sinharaja rain forest treks (two walks)
- Guided tea garden visits and tea tasting

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Entrance fees to any other place
- Sea plan transfer from the hill country to the south coast
- Expenses of personal nature
- Tipping and baggage handling
- Visa charges – apply online – www.eta.gov.lk
- Any other service which is not specified above
- Departure PCR test if required
- Air tickets

VALUE ADDED SERVICES ON COMPLIMENTARY BASIS:

- WIFI in the vehicle
- 02 mineral water bottles on all transfer days for each person
- Sanitization of the main touch points in the vehicle on a daily basis
- Gift from the company at the end of the tour
- Bottle of wine on the last day of the tour
- Free Mobile SIM card on arrival (Passport details to be given for ownership transaction)

Special notes:

- Rooms are subject to availability at the time of confirmation (alternative hotels will be offered for your preference)
- Above prices are inclusive of all service charges and Government taxes
- Normal hotel check-in 13 hours & check out is 12 noon
- All prices are quoted in USD inclusive of all taxes.
- Meal times at hotels - Breakfast 07.00am to 10.00am / Lunch 12.45pm to 2.30pm at hotel / Dinner 7.30pm to 10pm
- Rates are subject to change in the event of any charges to statutory government taxes.

Cancellation & refund policy:

- 10% of the total value of the booking will be charge if canceled 31 days prior to arrival.
- 50% of the total value of the booking will be charge if canceled 7 days prior to arrival.
- 100% of the total value of the booking will be charge if canceled less than 7days prior to arrival.
- If any lockdown measures are introduced by your country government of restricting international travel, customer has the right to request for full refund or postponed the holiday for further 6 months without cancelling the holiday, rates are subject to change if the new dates fall during peak season or winter period dates.
- Cancellation polices are subject to change as some villa and luxury properties will have 30day 100% cancellation. Please check prior to finalizing the holiday with your travel consultants.

Accommodation options in Negombo

Jetwing Lagoon (deluxe)	https://www.jetwinghotels.com/jetwinglagoon/#gref
Heritance Negombo (deluxe)	https://www.heritancehotels.com/negombo/
The Wallawwa (boutique)	https://www.teardrop-hotels.com/wallawwa/

Accommodation options in Hatton & Dikoya

Ceylon Tea Trails (Luxury bungalow)	https://www.resplendentceylon.com/teatrails/
Camellia Hills (Boutique)	https://www.teardrop-hotels.com/camellia-hills/
The Argyll (Superior)	https://www.theargyle.lk/

Accommodation options in Ella

98 Acres Resort (Boutique)	https://www.resort98acres.com/
Nine Skies (Luxury Bungalow)	https://www.teardrop-hotels.com/nine-skies/
The Secret Ella (Deluxe)	https://www.thesecretella.com/
Mountain Heaven (Superior)	https://www.mountainheavensella.com/
Eko Ella (Superior)	https://www.ekhohotels.com/ekhoella/

Accommodation options in Yala

Wild Coast Tented Lodge (Boutique)	https://www.resplendentceylon.com/wildcoastlodge-yala/
Uga Chena Huts (Boutique)	https://www.ugaescapes.com/chenahuts/
Cinnamon Wild (Deluxe)	https://www.cinnamonhotels.com/cinnamonwildyala
Jetwing Yala (Deluxe)	https://www.jetwinghotels.com/jetwingyala/
Leopard Trails (luxury Camping)	https://www.leopardtrails.com/
Ceylon Wild Safaris (Luxury camping)	https://www.ceylonwildsafaris.com/

Accommodation options in Weligama or Mirissa

Sri Sharavi Beach (Boutique)	https://www.srisharavibeachvillas.com/
Cape Weligama (Boutique Luxury)	https://www.resplendentceylon.com/capeweligama/
Marriott Resort Weligama (Deluxe)	https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/cmbmc-weligama-bay-marriott-resort-and-spa/
Lantern Boutique, Mirissa (Boutique)	https://www.revealthecollection.com/lantern-boutique-hotel/
w15 Weligama (Deluxe)	https://w15weligama.lk/

Accommodation options in Sinharaja

Rain Forest Eco Lodge (Luxury cabins)	https://www.rainforest-ecolodge.com/

Accommodation options in Bentota

Siri Vilas Bentota (boutique)	https://srivillas.com/
Avani Bentota (deluxe)	https://www.avanihotels.com/en/bentota
Bentota Beach (deluxe)	https://www.cinnamonhotels.com/cinnamonbentotabeach
Taj Exotica Bentota (deluxe)	https://www.tajhotels.com/en-in/taj/taj-bentota-sri-lanka/
Rock Villa (boutique)	https://www.taruvillas.com/rock-villa/
Saman Villas Bentota (boutique)	https://www.samanvilla.com/
Haritha Villas (deluxe)	https://www.harithavillas.com/

