

ABOUT SRI LANKA

Tour Itinerary

Sri Lanka is a lush, tropical island paradise, known to Arab traders as Serendib – hence "serendipity", meaning discovery by happy accident. Set in the Indian Ocean in South Asia, the tropical island nation of Sri Lanka has a history dating back to the birth of time. It is a place where the original soul of Buddhism still flourishes and where nature's beauty remains abundant and un-spoilt. There are 8 world Heritage sites in Sri Lanka. The 3 ancient and magnificent cities of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Sigiriya were inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1982 followed by Galle, Kandy, and the Sinharaja Forest Reserve in 1988. The Golden Temple of Dambulla in 1991 and finally the Central highlands were added in 2010. These places of historical and natural significance are not to be missed for any visitor to Sri Lanka. Being an ancient kingdom, Sri Lanka has preserved its most precious treasures, its culture and tradition. An integral part of this is its cuisine. Sri Lankan cuisine has many influences from varied destinations such as North and South India, Persia, Malaysia, Holland, and Portugal. Rice, which is usually consumed daily, can be

found at any special occasion, while spicy curries are a favorite dish for lunch and dinner. Fish curry is a particular specialty. Having a history marked by four centuries of colonial rule, all three in such proximity. Sri Lanka is ranked amongst the world's best biodiversity hot spots. As a country with a high rate of endemism, it has many groups of animals including birds, mammal, reptiles, and amphibians which cannot be found anywhere in the world. With over 12 per cent of the country designated for wildlife country still manages to safeguard remnants from the past in their original grandeur. Some of the more renowned historic sites are the Galle Fort built originally by the Portuguese, Colombo Harbor, and the ancient city of Polonnaruwa all confirm Sri Lanka's ancient and colorful past. The rock temple of the Buddha, Gal Vihara is one of the finest examples of the religious heritage. Temples play an important part in everyday life and a visit to one should be a must for all visitors. Sri Lanka's wildlife is as varied as the island itself, ranging from elephants and leopards to Whales – it is the only place in the world to find.



18 NIGHTS /19 DAYS

15/12/21 - COLOMBO / PINNAWALA / ANURADHAPURA

Breakfast at the hotel.

After proceeding to Anuradhapura via Pinnawala

(Approximately 5 hrs. journey (220 km) from Negombo to Anuradhapura via Pinnawala)

Stop at Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage – set amongst the verdant hills of Kegalle is a unique orphanage, where the tiny tots weigh 60 kg or more. This is the Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage, the world's first and only elephant orphanage established to feed, nurse and house young elephants lost or abandoned by their mothers. Other occupants are elephants displaced from their natural environs by development projects or those found wounded.

Visitors could see the baby elephants being fed milk from gigantic feeding bottles or bathed in the river which flows nearby – an unforgettable sight! Established in 1975, by the Wildlife Department and National Zoological gardens which subsequently led to a breeding programme through which more than twenty-five elephants have been born since 1984.

Proceed to Anuradhapura

Evening relaxes.

Dinner and overnight stay at Anuradhapura.



16/12/21 – ANURADHAPURA

Breakfast at the hotel.

City tour at Anuradhapura.

Anuradhapura is a great monastic city of ancient world. From 5th Century BC till 1st Century AD it was capital of the Kingdom of Sri Lanka. Today Anuradhapura, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is replete with renovated monuments, restored edifices, preserved ruins and historical sites. Visit to the following tourist attraction are included in this tour: the Ruwanveliseya, Thuparamaya, Abhayagiriya Monastery, Samadhi Buddha Statue, Kuttam Pokuna, Jethawanaramaya Dagaba, Isurumuniya and Sri Maha Bodhiya.



Evening at relax

Dinner and overnight stay at Anuradhapura.

17/12/21 – ANURADHAPURA / JAFFNA

Breakfast at the hotel.

After proceeding to Jaffna

(Approximately 4 hrs. journey (200 km) from Anuradhapura to Jaffna)

Proceed to visit Nallur Kovil.

From within the town of Jaffna emerges the hallowed Nallur Kovil that traces its roots back to the 13th century. A beautiful expression of Dravidian architecture, the Nallur Kovil boasts a five-storied golden *gopuram* that reigns high. In the southern part of the Kovil is a massive holy pool and on the northern side is a large garden. The Nallur Kovil upholds strict religious rituals, and thus before entering the Kovil you should remove your shoes; women should be conservatively dressed, and every man must remove his shirt. Taking photographs inside the Kovil is also not allowed.



After city tour at Jaffna.

Jaffna town- After the independence from Britain in 1948, Jaffna town was ranked as the second largest town next to Colombo. Due to the three decades old civil war, the town was torn apart and now in the process of emerging as phoenix. Jaffna is the cultural capital of Tamils in Sri Lanka and the unique features are needed to be witnessed. Visit **Famous Library, Fishing hubs, Old park, 15th century relics, Museum, Point Pedro & etc..**



Dinner and overnight stay Jaffna.

18/12/21 – JAFFNA

Breakfast at the hotel.

Then proceed to Nagadeepa by a boat

Nagadeepa or Nainativu is one of the smallest islands in the Gulf of Mannar. The only way to the island is via a boat. It is both a place of religious significance and beauty. The island is sandy and flat and is home to a lot of palm trees. The island is located abt 30 km away from Jaffna. There are two main jetties in order to enter the island , one leads to a Hindu temple and the other to the Nagadeepa Vihara. Transfer from Jaffna to Kurikattuwan Jetty for ferry to Nagadeepa Island (Nainativu). Arrive at Nagadeepa Island after a 15-minute boat trip. Visit the Nagadeepa Viharaya. Also, visit the Buddha Walawwa Raja Maha Viharaya by a short walk from the Nagadeepa Viharaya. Thereafter visit the Nagapooshani Amman Kovil.



Visit Jaffna Fort.

A Lasting legacy of the country's colonial past, and today a maritime heritage, the famous Dutch Fort in Jaffna, was the innovation of the Portuguese who built it in 1618. It was re-built by Dutch colonisers who took over the Fort in 1680. The 400-year-old edifice, designed in the shape of a pentagon, is a symbol of Dutch architecture. Its five bastions were named, after provinces of the Netherlands – Zeeland, Holland, Gelderland, Utrecht and Friesland.



Evening at relax

Dinner and overnight stay at Jaffna.

19/12/21 – JAFFNA

Breakfast at the hotel
At leisure at the hotel

Dinner and overnight stay at Jaffna.

20/12/21 – JAFFNA / TRINCOMALEE

Breakfast at the hotel.

Proceed to Trincomalee

(Approximately 5 hrs. journey (240 km) from Jaffna to Trincomalee)

Relax at the beach

Dinner and overnight stay at Trincomalee

21/12/21 – TRINCOMALEE

Breakfast at the hotel.

City tour at Trincomalee

Trincomalee (Trinco) is situated in one of the finest natural harbors in the country. Trincomalee is a nice little beach town on the Eastern coast of Sri Lanka. Trincomalee provides stunning white sand, which is one of the best beaches in Sri Lanka. The East coast is arriving and is even cooler than the south, which is a great excuse to schedule a holiday. Trincomalee is surrounded by nature, hills, and rock formations.

The Trinco City Tour visits the **ancient harbor town of Koneswaram Temple, Lover's Leap, Pigeon Island the War Cemetery, Fort Frederick, and the hot spring wells of Kinniya, Maritime and Naval History Museum, St Mary's Cathedral, Seruwila Mangala Raja Maha Vihara, Pathirakali Amman Temple & etc.**

Optional Activities : Thrilling dolphin and whale viewing trips off the coast of Trincomalee are also accessible with scuba



diving and snorkeling throughout the day on Pigeon Island.

Dinner and overnight stay at Trincomalee.

22/12/21 – TRINCOMALEE / SIGIRIYA

Breakfast at the hotel

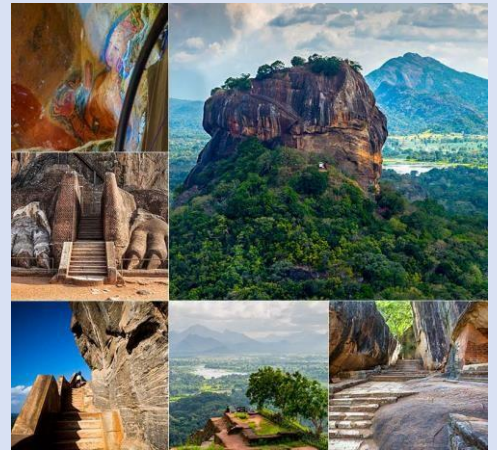
Then proceed to Sigiriya

(Approximately 02 hrs journey (100 km) from Trincomalee to Sigiriya)

Proceed to Sigiriya

Later afternoon starts the journey to climb the Sigiriya “Lion Rock”

Climb the 5th century Sigiriya rock fortress, which is a world heritage site, built by King Kashyapa (477-495 AD). The 'Lion Rock' is a citadel of unusual beauty rising 200 meters from the scrub jungle. The rock was the innermost stronghold of the 70-hectare fortified town and the wonderful panoramic view of the jungle. A moat, rampart, and extensive gardens including the renowned water gardens ring the base of the rock. Visit the world-renowned frescoes of the 'Heavenly Maidens' of Sigiriya, which are in a sheltered pocket of the rock approached by a spiral stairway.



Evening at relax

Dinner and overnight stay at Sigiriya

23/12/21 – SIGIRIYA / POLONNARUWA / KAUDULLA / SIGIRIYA

Breakfast at the hotel

Proceed to Polonnaruwa.

(Approximately 1 ½ hrs. journey (70 km) from Sigiriya to Polonnaruwa)

Visit Polonnaruwa ancient city

Polonnaruwa is another “World Heritage Site” was the Capital of Sri Lanka from 11th - 13th Centuries, contains some splendid and spectacular statues. Lankatilake, Tivanka and Thuparama are the most beautiful and largest Image Houses and Tivanka has the best examples of frescoes of the Polonnaruwa period. RankothVehera and Kirivehera are well preserved large stupas, and Gal Vihare - a rock shrine, has four Buddha statues, two seated, one standing and one



reclining and Parakrama Bahu statue are examples of Sinhalese stone carver. The Vata-da-ge is a unique creation of the Sri Lankan artists. The medieval capital, Polonnaruwa was fortified with inner & outer moats and inner & outer walls. The Parakrama Samudra is on the western side of the city. The Royal Palace, Audience Hall and other buildings in the inner city were enclosed by another tall wall.

Later afternoons proceed for a jeep safari at Kaudulla National Park

Kaudulla National Park is a national park on the island of Sri Lanka located 197 kilometres (240 mi) away from the largest city, Colombo. It was designated a national park on April 1, 2002 becoming the 15th such area on the island. In the 2004–2005 season more than 10,000 people visited the National Park, generating an income of Rs.100,000 from entrance fees. Along with Minneriya and Girithale BirdLife International have identified Kaudulla as an Important Bird Area. Historically Kaudulla was one of the 16 irrigation tanks built by King Mahasen. Following a period of abandonment, it was reconstructed in 1959. It now attracts and supports a variety of plant and animal life, including large mammals, fish, and reptiles.



Proceed to the hotel again.

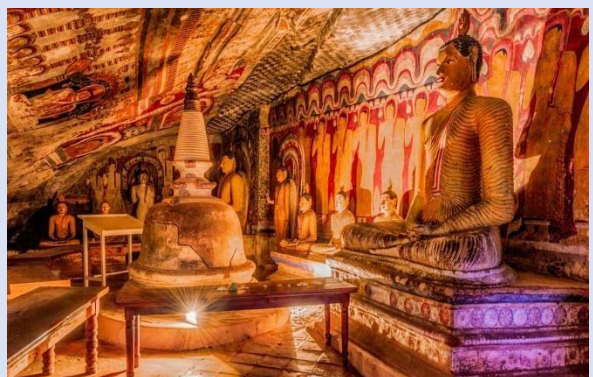
Dinner and overnight stay at Sigiriya

24/12/21 – SIGIRIYA

Breakfast at the hotel

After proceed to visit Dambulla Cave Temple

Located at an elevation of 1118 feet from the sea level raises a massive rock from the surrounding plains of Dambulla of 600 feet high and over 2000 feet in length It is home to the World's most acclaimed Cave complex of magnificent Buddha Images and Rock Paintings of vivid colours and shapes constructed and painted from around 2nd Century BC (Anuradhapura era) and continued up to the Kandyan era of the 18th Century. Sinhalese people call



it as ' Dambulu Gala' (Dambulla Rock) and the Temple is called as the 'Rangiri Dambulu Viharaya' (Golden Rock Dambulla Temple).

After proceed to do Hiriwaduna Village Trekking (Tour) **(This site is still not opened for tourists – subject to change and charge)**

A tour to Hiriwadunna - a beautiful village shaded on either side by a dry zone shrub forest, with unpaved gravel paths and humble village folk - will give you a chance to witness the environment of a typical Sri Lankan village life. A ride on a bullock cart along a dirt track and through rice paddies down to the picturesque Hiriwaduna Lake will leave you with a sense of peacefulness. A catamaran ride on the lake with its large variety of dry zone bird life and views of the surrounding forest, marshland and vegetable plots of local farmers, will be an unforgettable experience for visitors and will most definitely be one of the places they feel most at peace, during the time spent in Sri Lanka.

Apart from a catamaran ride you can take rides on a tractor or hop on one of the much-loved tuk tuks to a local home where you can interact with the family, witnessing and even assisting the women in the preparation of a typical Sri Lankan lunch using traditional Sri Lankan methods of cooking.

The adventure continues with viewing vegetable plots of local farmers who produce all their own food.

Dinner and overnight stay at Sigiriya



25/12/21 – SIGIRIYA / KANDY

Breakfast at the hotel.

Proceed to Kandy via Matale.

(Approximately 3 hrs. journey (80 km) from Sigiriya to Kandy)

On the way visit a Spice Garden at Matale

During ancient times the Greeks, Romans and the Arabic maintained their links with Sri Lanka through the spice trade. In the 16th century Ceylon, as it was then known, was discovered by Portuguese who soon began trading in cinnamon and other spices. The Dutch and British followed bringing with them their own history and influences, forming a strong Western presence which created a history of food expressed with spices which can be tasted in the dishes today. Spices are an essential element of the cuisine of Sri Lanka and the Ayurvedic tradition and a visit to a garden specializes in the cultivation of these substances and an excellent way for purposes of new uses of certain ingredients that perhaps though they knew well. Find cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, vanilla, cardamom, and black pepper, to name a few.



Later proceed to Kandy.

Later afternoons visit Kandy Temple of the Tooth Relic

DALADA MALIGAWA or the Temple of the sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy is the most venerated place of worship for Buddhists throughout the world. Built in the 16th century this temple houses the sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha brought to Sri Lanka from the Kalinga province in ancient India in the 4th century AD. Several buildings have been added to the temple complex by successive rulers, the latest being the Golden Canopy over the inner shrine where the Tooth Relic is placed. Originally the Temple was within the King's palace complex as it was the symbol of Royal Authority.



Evening witnesses a cultural dance performance at Kandy.

Dinner and overnight stay at Kandy.

26/12/21 – KANDY

Breakfast at the hotel.

Proceed to Nuwara Eliya

(Approximately 3 hrs. journey (80 km) from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya)

ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS - at Peradeniya (109 km. from Colombo) near Kandy was laid out in 1821 by the British colonial rulers. Prior to that it was the Royal Pleasure Garden of the Kandyan Kings. It is in a beautiful setting with the longest river of Sri Lanka, Mahaveli bordering on one side. This attractively laid out garden displays many varieties of floral and green plants. Special features are the Orchid House which displays a fine collection of Sri Lankan orchids, the fernery, spice garden, and the trees planted by distinguished visitors to the Island



27/12/21– KANDY / NUWARA ELIYA

Breakfast at the hotel.

Proceed to Nuwara Eliya

(Approximately 3 hrs. journey (80 km) from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya)

On the way visit Ramboda waterfalls

The "Puna Ela" is one of the principal branches of the mighty Mahaweli River. The Water leap of the Puna Ela is referred to as the Ramboda waterfall. The Ramboda falls is a gigantic waterfall, which is divided into 03 parts. Ramboda Falls is 109 m high and 11th highest waterfall in Sri Lanka and 729th highest waterfall in the world. Altitude of the falls is 945 m above sea level.

Proceed to Nuwara Eliya.

Evening at relax

Dinner and overnight stay at Nuwara Eliya.

28/12/21– NUWARA ELIYA

Breakfast at the hotel.

Full day free at the hotel and enjoy nature.

Optional Activities to do at Nuwara Eliya:

- Nuwara Eliya city tour
- Gregory Lake visit
- Sita Amman Temple
- Hakgala Botanical Garden

- Tea Factory visits

Dinner and overnight stay at Nuwara Eliya.

29/12/21 – NUWARA ELIYA / YALA

Breakfast at the hotel.

Proceed to Yala.

(Approximately 3 ½ hrs. journey (140 km) from Nuwara Eliya to Yala)

Evening at relax

Dinner and overnight stay at Yala

30/12/21 – YALA

Early morning Safari at Yala National Park

Also known as Ruhuna is an important national park on the south east coast of Sri Lanka. The reserve covers 979 km², although only the original 141 km² are open to the public. Much of the reserve is parkland, but it also contains jungle, beaches, freshwater lakes and rivers and scrubland. The latter zone is punctuated with enormous rocky outcrops. The range of habitats gives rise to a good range of wildlife.

Yala has the world's highest concentration of Leopards, although seeing this largely nocturnal carnivore still requires some luck. There are good numbers of Asian Elephants, crocodile, Wild Boar, Water Buffalo and Grey langurs amongst other large animals. The open parkland attracts birds of prey such as White-bellied Sea Eagle and the wetlands have waders, Painted Storks, and the rare Black-necked Stork.

Having a high concentration of leopards, Yala National Park in Sri Lanka is one of the best places in the world to spot them. This is the best place to catch leopards and other animals.

Evening at relax

Dinner and overnight stay at Yala



31/12/21 – YALA / GALLE / AHUNGALLA

Breakfast at the hotel.

Proceed to Ahungalla via Galle.

(Approximately 04 hrs. journey (230 km) from Yala to Ahungalla via Galle)

City tour at Galle

Galle - Sri Lanka's most historically interesting town is Galle. It was a major port until about 100 years, but today still handles shipping and sailing boats in the natural harbour.

Stroll around the lighthouse and harbour or visit the old town where you can see the traditional lace makers and wood carvers and purchase some the finest souvenirs.

The Dutch Fort - Galle - The South Coast's major city is Galle, whose oldest landmark is the massive Portuguese and Dutch Fort which is a "World Heritage Site" in which the central city is contained. But the city may be much older. Some scholars believe it to be the "Tarshish" of the Old Testament, to which King Solomon sent his merchant vessels, and to which Jonah fled from the Lord.



Proceed to Ahungalla

Dinner and overnight stay at Ahungalla

01/1/22 - AHUNGALLA

Breakfast at the hotel.

Full day relax at the hotel

Dinner and overnight stay at Ahungalla

02/1/22 – AHUNGALLA/ COLOMBO

Breakfast at the hotel

Clients proceed to the Colombo

-----End of tour-----

Hotel Used:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Hotels</u>	<u>Nights</u>
Anuradhapura	Heritage	02 Nights
Jaffna	Fox Jaffna	03 Nights
Trincomalee	Pigeon Island	02 Nights
Sigiriya	Camelia	03 Nights
Kandy	Thilanka	02 Nights
Nuwara Eliya	Araliya Red	02 Nights
Yala	Oakray Wild	02 Nights
Bentota	RIU	02 Nights

Rates: Sharing TRIPLE room

Total Cost
USD 3,025 /-

Tour Price Inclusive of

- Accommodation in shared Triple room with private bathrooms
- Meals are as stated in the program inclusive of Half Board (HB) except RIU on All-inclusive basis