



Sri Lankan
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Beaches, Wildlife and Ancient Cities of Sri Lanka

12 Days / 11 Nights

Negambo – Sigiriya – Minneriya – Trincomalee – Dabulla – Kandy – Nuwara Eliya – Horton Plains – Kithulgala - Hikkaduwa

If you want to relax on Sri Lanka's golden beaches and in blue warm waters and visit its magnificent ancient cities and wildlife parks, then this tour is for you. Starting from the beaches of Negombo close to the International Airport, you will travel on to visit the world famous fortress city of Sigiriya before you tour the best national parks to see wild elephant herds.

From Trincomalee, another beach paradise, you will travel across the country to the hill city of Kandy. The endless tea plantations of Nuwara Eliya and the ecological masterpiece of Horton Plains will surely take your breath away. The tour will end with white water rafting at Kithulgala before taking a rest in the Hikkaduwa beach paradise.

Itinerary

Day 1 Airport/ Negombo Beach

You will land at the Katunayake Airport situated next to the beautiful Negombo Lagoon and spend the night in Negombo. You will have the rest of the day to rest and get adjusted to the tropical climate. In the evening our company representative will come to you for a complimentary tea to discuss the program ahead. He will present you different options you can take and the complimentary offers especially designed to make your trip memorable.

Airport arrival: Welcome to Sri Lanka by our concierge and transfer to the hotel

Accommodation: Paradise Beach Hotel or similar/ Meals included: Breakfast

Transport: 15 km by special tourist coach, mini bus, van, car

Day 2 Negombo/ Sigiriya citadel

Enjoy a quick drive to the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, where you will have lunch right next to where big and small elephants take a refreshing bath in the river. Then we will proceed to Sigiriya. After checking in to the hotel, you can enjoy watching the sunset on the Sigiriya plain. Indulge yourself in the luxuries of the hotel and relax, so that you are fresh and ready for exciting visits on the following day.

Accommodation: Kassapa Lions Rock Hotel or similar/ Meals included: Breakfast

Transport: 170 km by tourist coach, mini bus, van, car.

Day 3 Sigiriya rock fortress/ Minneriya National Park

Enjoy the 8th wonder of the ancient world, Sigiriya Rock Fortress, an important UNESCO World Heritage site and testament to the sophistication of ancient construction. Be blown away by this architectural masterpiece with fountains that still work after 2500 years. Give yourself time to fully grasp the beauty of the ancient frescos of half-naked royal women on the rock face, the fortifications around the rock and the grand city built in the 5th century BC. Enjoy the breathtaking aerial view over jungles, rural villages and giant lakes and mountains after going up more than 1000 steps carved into the rock face.

After climbing down, experience the authentic life of villagers with a special lunch in the Hiriwadunna village. Walk around the village and its lake, watching birds and wildlife as well as bullock carts transporting goods to the market. Leave the quiet village life for an exciting wildlife paradise for elephants, Minneriya National Park. Enjoy the entire evening until dusk falls watching birds, saltwater crocodiles, as well as sambar deer and axis deer herds in large numbers. If you watch out it won't be impossible to spot leopards and Sri Lankan bears praying for food.

Accommodation: Kassapa Lions Rock Hotel or similar/ Meals included: Breakfast

Transport: 45 km by walking, tourist coach, mini bus, van, car and 4WD safari jeeps

Day 4 Sigiriya rock fortress/ Ancient city Trincomalee

After breakfast, we will drive to the Eastern coast of Sri Lanka, to the important port city Trincomalee. On the way we will stop at stunning hot water wells and visit the ancient Welgama Vehera Buddhist monastery from 300 BC. The temple was the target of several attacks of the Tamil Tigers, and you can still see the remnants of now harmless bombshells and craters in the temple grounds.

In Trincomalee, you can enjoy a leisurely walk along the beach in the evening, enjoying fresh seafood and delicious fruit juices with the breeze of the sea. Maybe you want to walk to the top of the natural harbour of Trincomalee and soak in the magnificent beauty of the sunset in Trincomalee.

Accommodation: Pigeon Island Beach Resort or similar/ Meals included: Breakfast

Transport: 105 km by tourist coach, mini bus, van, car.

Day 5 Trincomalee fortresses and Pigeon Island

Take time to visit and enjoy the scenery of what historically was one of the most important temples in the Buddhist world and later became a Hindu temple complex during the tense years of Sri Lankan conflict. Enjoy the colorfulness of the Hindu architecture and decorations as well as the thrilling view of the sea from the edge of the rock face. Feel free to walk under the giant colorful cart that carried magnificent statues of different gods. Feel free to walk around the road leading to the mountaintop and you will find whatever left of the ancient Buddhist temple once used to occupy the area. It is very common to meet and walk alongside wild deer roaming freely on your way back. A ruined Dutch fortress and its large buildings provide a mystic postcard view on the way. Retire to your beach hotel for a relaxing break.

In the afternoon you can enjoy the tour to one of the best attractions in Trincomalee, Pigeon Island. Explore every bit of this beautiful small island in the middle of the sea of blue water and white wave bubbles.

Accommodation: Pigeon Island Beach Resort or similar/ Meals included: Breakfast
Transport: 30 km by tourist coach, mini bus, van, car and by boat

Day 6 Ancient city of Trincomalee / Dambulla world heritage/ Kandy, city of culture

Refreshed from a good night's sleep you will leave early to the historic city of Kandy. Count the Buddha statues and explore the caves carpeted with fresco paintings at Dambulla UNESCO World Heritage cave temple. Admire the colorful wall paintings in the world's oldest cave temple. Make friends with the thousands of monkeys living in the temple mountain, but don't feed them.

Further along the way to Kandy, we can stop at a spice garden where you will learn about spices that grow in Sri Lanka, and why even the Romans came to Sri Lanka for its spices. We advise you to watch out for the cost of products in case you visit the spice shop – don't feel obliged to buy anything. On route you will also visit Nalanda Gedi-Ge, an architectural and mathematical marvel to the ability of ancient Sri Lankans in mapping, before we reach your hotel Kandy in the evening.

Accommodation: Earls Regent Hotel or similar/ Meals included: Breakfast
Transport: 220 km by walking, tourist coach, mini bus, van, car

Day 7 Kandy, the city of culture

Kandy is another ancient capital, an important Buddhist centre and UNESCO World Heritage site. Kandy was the last royal capital of Sri Lanka before the country had to hand over its administration to the British. The city is also home to the remnants of the former royal palace and lake, which sits around the magnificent Temple of the Tooth.

In the morning you will visit the Temple of the Tooth, one of the most important places in the Buddhist world. Then we will bring you to the Royal Botanical Garden of Peradeniya. Walk around one of the best and oldest botanical gardens in Asia. Learn about the plants and flowers that make this tropical paradise so unique. The garden walkways provide you a beautiful path across plant life that has existed for centuries in this place next to the majestic Mahaveli River.

As part of our efforts to give you the most for no additional costs, in the afternoon you can choose between a guided city tour in Kandy and a visit to the ancient Gadaladeniya temple and Ambekka temple. Ambekka temple is one of the best-preserved examples for ancient woodworking skills in Sri Lanka. Woodcarvings portray one of the oldest martial arts in the world, Angam Pora. Then retire to your hotel for a short break before attending the famous Kandy cultural dance show in the evening.

Accommodation: Earls Regent Hotel or similar/ Meals included: Breakfast
Transport: 30 km by walking, tourist coach, mini bus, van, car

Day 8 Kandy, city of culture / Nuwara Eliya, the colonial retreat

Enjoy the excellent road trip from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya via the Ramboda waterfalls, crisscrossing through mountains and endless tea estates. The scenic view over misty mountains is magical. You can see tea pickers during their hard work, can buy flowers from the many gardening shops in the villages and stop at the Mackwoods tea factory, where you can buy the best tea in the world. Don't forget to enjoy some old-school tea and cake as well.

Nuwara Eliya has recently gone a little haywire in urban planning. However the colonial legacy is still visible in its old 19th century buildings and architecture. In the afternoon, you can relax in the cool climate of the hill region, wander through the city park, enjoy tea in the Grand Hotel and then have an early night.

Accommodation: Silver falls Hotel or similar/ Meals included: Breakfast

Transport: 105 km by walking, tourist coach, mini bus, van, car

Day 9 Nuwara Eliya, the colonial retreat / Horton Plains, world heritage site

Get up super early to visit another marvel of nature, Horton Plains. This national park is one of the most important ecosystems in the world as well as the oldest known farmland, and as many other sites in Sri Lanka made it to the UNESCO World Heritage list. On the way to the Plains, we will stop for an incredible sunrise photo-shoot. Enjoy your jeep ride into the mysteries of mist-covered Horton Plains.

We will go for a hike of 3-4 hours, passing waterfalls, crossing forests and open plains. The path offers absolutely spectacular views from "World's End", where the plateau plunges 700 meters in a sheer drop. Be ready to be blown away by the intensity of biodiversity in the national park. It can be very cold and misty in the morning, so take a weather jacket and good walking shoes to this exciting trip.

You will return to Nuwara Eliya for lunch and a little break in your hotel. Enjoy a fun tuk-tuk ride to lovers leap, a beautiful waterfall close to the outskirts of the city. A short walk through the tea estates will get you to this beautiful waterfall, home to a tragic tale of two lovers who chose this place to end their lives. Post for photos while getting covered in tiny droplets of falling water.

Accommodation: Silver falls Hotel or similar/ Meals included: Breakfast

Transport: 80 km by walking, tourist coach, mini bus, van, car and Tuk-Tuk

Day 10 Nuwara Eliya, the colonial retreat / Kithulgala white water rafting/ Hikkaduwa beach paradise

Enjoy the best place for white water rafting in Sri Lanka, Kithulgala. Get your Go-Pro ready for an unbelievable ride on a roaring river. Listen to your expert white water rafting instructor and follow the safety instructions. Then paddle hard to enjoy the beat of the river and its roaring water currents.

After this adventure, we will continue to the West coast of Sri Lanka and visit a special turtle hatchery. Sri Lanka is home to five of the world's seven species of sea turtle and you can touch and feel the endangered Hawksbill, Leatherback and Olive Ridley Turtles as well as Loggerhead Turtle and the Green Turtle.

Then retire to the beautiful Hikkaduwa Beach hotel and relax for the rest of the day. Enjoy the amazing seafood in one of the hundreds of beach restaurants. Walk back to the hotel along the beach under colourful lights from the bars and restaurants, listening to the sounds of the waves cracking against the sandy beach.

Accommodation: Hikkaduwa Beach Hotel or similar/ Meals included: Breakfast
Transport: 260 km by walking, tourist coach, mini bus, van, car

Day 11 Hikkaduwa Beach paradise

Enjoy your day at this beach surfing paradise. Blue water, smooth sand and strong waves make it a great location to learn surfing. Or just jump in the shallow water laughing at how different types of fish run against your feet and get confused. But be careful, the currents can be very strong, so look out for where the locals go swimming.

It's all sun, sand and sea for the rest of the day. If you want, you can go out to party at night in one of the beach clubs and enjoy a drink at the beach, watching the lights from the clubs bounce back on the waves.

Accommodation: Hikkaduwa Beach Hotel or similar/ Meals included: Breakfast
Transport: 50 km by walking, tourist coach, mini bus, van, car

Day 12 Hikkaduwa Beach paradise /Airport

Enjoy your beach breakfast and even a last minute run to catch waves before you are driven to Colombo. If you want to go directly to the Airport or Negombo city we can easily drop you off directly at no extra cost.

Transport: 130 km by tourist coach, mini bus, van, car/ Meals included: Breakfast from the hotel

Complimentary offers (Depending on your location and tour package):

No hidden prices.

1. Optional tour in Kandy to famous royal temples of Gadaladeniya, Lankathilake and Ambekke Temple saving you 60 Euro per person.
2. Hiriwadunna village tour and lake safari including bullock cart tour across the village and jungle road and a tuk tuk adventure, saving you 30 Euro per person.
3. Exotic elephant safari ride tour in Pinnawala, saving you 18 Euro per person.
4. Traditional 80 minute Ayurvedic massage saving you 40 Euro per person.

Price includes:

-)] We cover all costs included in your itinerary description inside Sri Lanka (no air fare)
-)] Best reviewed and ranked boutique luxury hotels
-)] Accommodation in shared double rooms on bed and breakfast basis in specified luxury hotels (can be upgraded on customer request)
-)] Private luxury van, mini bus or car with an experienced driver and/ or guide with special tourist insurance

- J All government charges and taxes
- J Meals on bed and breakfast basis (Can be upgraded on customer request)
- J Safaris with specialist jeeps and wildlife expert drivers; meals included during safaris
- J Free complementary excursions and herbal treatments, massages and lunches
- J Extras on the way such as traditional delicacies and traditional handcraft souvenirs
- J Water and snacks on the way

Price excludes:

- J Medical/ travel insurance
- J Optional tours and activities that are not part of the complimentary offers that come with your package
- J Special permits including camera and video permits to designated sights
- J Tips and other expenses of personal nature
- J Entrance fees to national monuments, wildlife parks and other attractions that are not covered in your offer (can be upgraded on customer request)

Special notes to all travelers

1. All rates are subject to change in case of sudden government charges on fuel and transport, hotel rates, entrance fees and taxes.
2. Above rates are calculated at the latest available conversion rate. You will be informed about any major differences and the final tour price may be reduced or increased.
3. Our cancellation policy will be applicable for any reduction of rooms after the release period.
4. We keep our costs to absolute minimum by picking nonrefundable reservations. Therefore, all tour reservations are subject to a 100% non-cancellation policy. However we may help you to change the dates or change the tour program depending on costs and availability.
5. All reservations are subject to availability at time of booking.
6. Reservation confirmation shall be subject to availability after your consent to confirm the room /round tour package.
7. The official check-in time at all hotels is 14:00. The official check-out time at all hotels is 11:00.
8. Alcohol will not be served by any hotel on Poya Days (full moon) and other days prohibited by the government. Guests are advised to abide by the law at all times.
9. Optional excursions and additional services outside our large number of complimentary options can be provided at additional charge.
10. Visits to wildlife parks will be at client's own risk.
11. Safari vehicles have very basic insurance cover (not as comprehensive as in the case of vehicles used for tours).
12. By booking a tour or request a booking you agree to the following terms:
 - a. Please visit our Terms and Conditions page. [click here](#)
 - b. Please visit our Important travel information and disclaimers. [Click here](#)