

Destinations: Colombo / Anuradhapura / Mihintale / Aukana / Sigiriya / Polonnaruwa / Dambulla / Kandy / Pinnawela / Nuwara Eliya / Horton Plains / Yala / Bentota

Duration: 09 Nights / 10 Days

Day 01 – Colombo

Arrive at the Bandaranaike International airport, Katunayake. You will be met and assisted on arrival our staff and transferred to Colombo, the commercial capital of the country. (30km – approx. 1 hour drive)

Commence a sightseeing tour in city of Colombo. Drive through the commercial and city centre area known as the “Fort”, built by the Portuguese in the 16th century where grand colonial era buildings stand alongside modern office structures. See the busy markets and noisy bazaars of Pettah, the National Museum with its fine collection of lovely antiques and art of Sri Lanka. Drive past the Town hall, Independence Square, the B.M.I.C.H (International Convention Centre) and Cinnamon gardens residential area and visit a Buddhist temple and a Hindu Kovil to experience the diversity of religion, ethnicity and customs of the people.

Return to your hotel on completion.

Dinner and overnight stay at a hotel in Colombo.

Day 02 – Anuradhapura

After breakfast at the hotel leave for Anuradhapura. (206 km, approx. 5 hours drive). On arrival in Anuradhapura, check in at the hotel.

After a short break, visit the sacred ancient city 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 dagobas of Sri Lanka, Ruwanweliseya dagoba, 2nd century BC with its famous elephant walls and the 3rd century BC Thuparama dagoba. Ruins of ancient royal palaces specially the pillars of the Brazen Palace, which once had nine storey's, temples, the image of the Samadhi Buddha one of the finest pieces of Buddhist sculpture, monasteries, the twin ponds, guard stones and the moonstone. The ‘Sri Maha Bodhi’ or the sacred Bo tree 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.

Dinner and overnight stay at a hotel in Anuradhapura.

Day 03 – Mihintale / Aukana

After breakfast at the hotel leave for Mihintale (12 km – approx. ½ hours drive).

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.

Afterwards proceed to Aukana (59 km, approx. 1 ½ hours drive) to see the statue of the Aukana Buddha, 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. Aukana means 'sun eating' and is best viewed when the sun rises.

After sightseeing leave for Habarana, a small village with excellent hotel accommodation, a central location for all the ancient city sites. (55km – approx. 1½ hours drive).
On arrival in Habarana, check in at hotel.

Dinner and overnight stay at a hotel in Habarana.

Day 04 – Sigiriya / Polonnaruwa

After breakfast at the hotel leave for Sigiriya (25 km – approx. ½ hours drive) and climb the Rock Fortress (a UNESCO World Heritage site) built by King Kassapa in the 5th century A.D. which was a Royal Citadel for more than 18 years. The lion rock 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.

On completion, leave for Polonnaruwa (67 km, approx. 1½ hours drive), (UNESCO World Heritage Site) 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. Of these the 'Vatadage' and the 'Thuparama Image house' are the most spectacular. 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. Return to your hotel on completion.

Dinner and overnight stay at a hotel in Habarana.

Day 05 – Dambulla / Kandy

After breakfast at the hotel, leave for Dambulla (25 km, approx. ½ hours drive) and visit the famous Golden Rock cave temple which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Centre. 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. The ceiling of one cavern is fully illustrated with paintings that follow the natural folds of the rock so closely that it appears to be made of cloth. The complex of caves is one of the most impressive Buddhist Temples in the world.

Thereafter leave for Kandy (72 km – approx. 3 hours drive). En route visit a Spice garden in Matale.

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 and the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens.

Kandy is also popular because of the annual festival known as the Esala Perahera where the inner casket covering the tooth relic of the Buddha is taken in a grand procession through the streets of the city held annually in the month of July or August. On arrival in Kandy, check in at the hotel.

In the Evening visit the sacred Temple of 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.

[Dinner and overnight stay at a hotel in Kandy.](#)

Day 06 – Pinnawela

After breakfast leave for Pinnawala and visit the Elephant orphanage ([50 km, 2 hours drive](#)). 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. The baby elephants being bottle fed with milk is a heartwarming sight. 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. The young elephants are protected and cared for, by the older ones in the group and the leader of the group is respected by all. (Open from 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Daily feeding times- 9.15 a.m., 1.15 p.m. 5.00 p.m. Bathing times – 10.00 a.m., 2.00 p.m., 4.00 p.m.).

Leave for Nuwara Eliya ([130km, approx. 4 ½ hours drive](#)). 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.

This 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 with well kept lawns with hedges.

On arrival, check in at the hotel.

[Dinner and overnight stay at a hotel in Nuwara Eliya.](#)

Day 07 – Nuwara Eliya / Horton Plains

After an early breakfast at the hotel, leave for Horton plains ([40 km, approx. 1 ½ hours drive](#)), 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. Dawn or early morning is the best time for observing it.

Return to Nuwara Eliya upon completion. In the afternoon 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.

[Dinner and overnight stay at a hotel in Nuwara Eliya.](#)

Day 08 – Yala National Park

After breakfast proceed to Yala (197 km, approx. 4 ½ drive). 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.

Dinner and overnight stay at a hotel in Yala.

Day 09 – Bentota

After breakfast at the hotel leave for Bentota (52 km, approx. 1 ½ hour drive) a tourist resort in the south with the most beautiful, wide and sandy beaches. Spend the rest of your day relaxing on the beach.

Dinner and overnight stay at a hotel in Bentota.

Day 10 – Departure

Breakfast at the hotel. Leave for the Airport for your departure flight. (96 km, 2 ½ hours drive)

Cost of the Tour

Using the 4 star Hotels mentioned below.

City	Hotel	Room Category	Meal Plan	Nights
Colombo	Ramada Colombo	Standard	HB	01
Anuradhapura	Palm Garden Village	Standard	HB	01
Habarana	Chaaya Village	Superior	HB	02
Kandy	Cinnamon Citadel	Superior	HB	01
Nuwara Eliya	Grand Hotel	Deluxe	HB	02
Yala	Chaaya Wild	Superior	HB	01
Bentota	Bentota Beach Hotel	Standard	HB	01

Validity Period	01 pax	02 pax	03 pax	04 pax	05 pax	06 pax	SS	TR
01.11.12 – 21.12.12	2460	1510	1410	1330	1300	1270	581	58
22.12.12 – 15.01.13	2760	1670	1570	1510	1460	1440	717	65
16.01.13 – 31.01.13	2560	1560	1460	1390	1350	1320	625	61
02.01.13 – 31.03.13	2580	1570	1470	1410	1360	1335	634	61
01.04.13 – 30.04.13	2595	1580	1480	1410	1370	1340	643	67

Using the 5 star Hotels mentioned below.

City	Hotel	Room Category	Meal Plan	Nights
Colombo	Galadari Hotel	Standard	HB	01
Anuradhapura	Palm Garden Village	Standard	HB	01
Habarana	Cinnamon Lodge	Superior	HB	02
Kandy	Mahaweli Reach Hotel	Standard	HB	01
Nuwara Eliya	Tea Factory Hotel	Standard	HB	02
Yala	Chaaya Wild	Superior	HB	01
Ahungalla	Heritance Ahungalla	Standard	HB	01

Validity Period	01 pax	02 pax	03 pax	04 pax	05 pax	06 pax	SS	TR
01.11.12 – 19.12.12	2670	1650	1560	1480	1440	1410	647	93
20.12.12 – 15.01.13	2990	1820	1720	1650	1610	1585	792	109
16.01.13 – 31.03.13	2720	1680	1580	1515	1470	1445	668	95
01.04.13 – 30.04.13	2710	1675	1575	1510	1465	1440	664	94

Rates are given in US dollars per person occupying single (for 01 pax) and per person sharing double for 02-06 pax.

Palm Garden hotel is the best available hotel in Anuradhapura while Chaaya Wild is a 4* + and the best available hotel in Yala.

Above rates include:

- Meet and assist on arrival & assist on departure.
- Accommodation on half board basis at the mentioned hotels or hotels with similar standards.
- Transportation
01 – 02 pax – A/C car (English speaking chauffeur driven)
03 – 06 pax – A/C micro van (English speaking chauffeur driven)
- Entrance fees at all visiting sites as per the given itinerary.
- Porterage at the airport and at all hotels.

Not included:

- Lunch on tour.
- Alcoholic and non alcoholic beverages at all hotels.
- Gratuities.
- Items of personal nature such as, laundry, telephone calls, tipping etc.
- Any kind of special supplement to be added by the government or Hotel due to seasonal events.
- Any Airfares.
- Other services that are not mentioned in the itinerary.

The rates given herein include currently applicable service charges & government taxes. Without prior notice it is possible that there could be further levies, fuel surcharges, changes in the government tax structure or any new supplements introduced by hotels in which situation the rates given herein will be subject to change. This will also be applicable to all supplements mentioned herein.

Note: Driving times mentioned are an approximate measure of the time taken to travel between destinations. Please note that these times are subject to change depending on road traffic on the particular day, weather conditions as well as conditions of the particular road, all of which are beyond our control.