

# The wonderland Sri Lanka

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Sri Lanka is an island nation in the Indian Ocean, separated from India by the Palk Strait. It is -almost linked to India by a mostly underwater atoll called Adam's Bridge. It is a very lush, tropical island setting just north of the equator. For over 2,000 years the island was ruled by a monarchy, which only ceased in 1972 with the appointment of a president. Sri Lanka's population of around 21 million - similar to our own - is a multi ethnic with four main groups. Singhalese (mostly Buddhist) is the largest, followed by Tamils (mostly Hindu), Moors (with Arab origins) and Burghers - a mixed group of Portuguese and Dutch origin who are mainly Christians. Generally speaking, it is a poor country with around 25% of the population living below the poverty line. Its core source of income comes from tea exportations, spices, rubber textiles and petroleum refining. About 30% of the island is covered by forest and about 10% of this is a national park.

There are so many reasons to visit this country - there is so much to see and do. Even though it is a relatively small country, each region is quite different. The indigenous and colonial history is fascinating. The food is fabulous. The scenery is spectacular. Plus, the abundance of wildlife - one of the draw cards for travelers - will take you by surprise. Visiting the national parks - and sometimes in the wild - you can spot sambar deer, Sri Lankan elephants, leopards, sloth bears, crocodiles, water buffalo and hundreds of bird species.

It's no wonder that in 2013, Lonely Planet rated this wonderful country as the hottest travel destination on the planet, and they didn't mean the weather. Join us on this in-depth tour which will provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the Cultural Sri Lanka.

ENDLESS BEACHES, TIMELESS RUINS, WELCOMING PEOPLE, OODLES OF ELEPHANTS, ROLLING SURF, CHEAP PRICES, FUN TRAINS, FAMOUS TEA AND FLAVORFUL FOOD DESCRIBE SRI LANKA.

A Travel Passion Inc Representative will welcome you at the Colombo Airport & proceed to Dambulla.

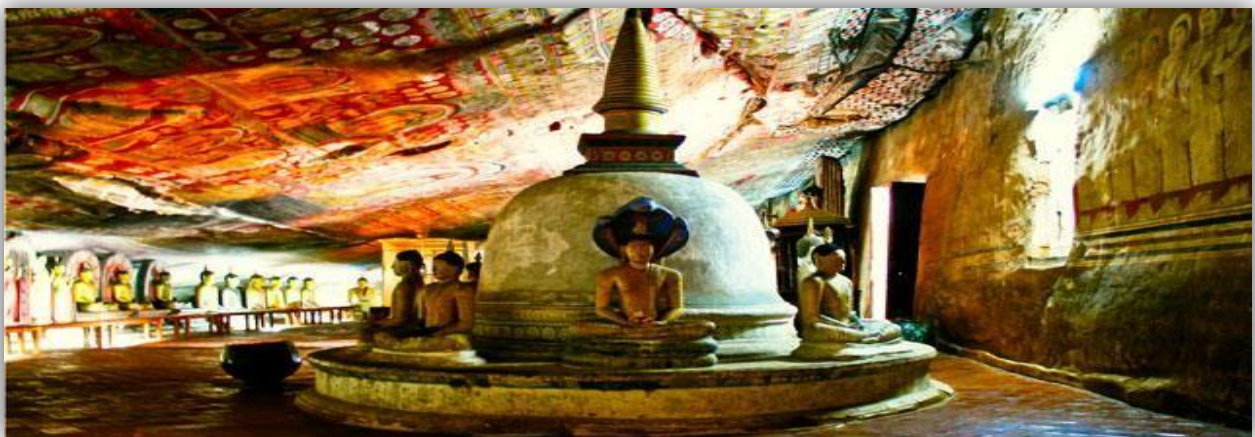
Day 01

## COLOMBO AIRPORT – DAMBULLA

**Transfer to Dambulla**

**Proceed to Dambulla**

Dambulla is a large city, situated in the Matale District, Central Province of Sri Lanka, situated 148 km north-east of Colombo and 72 km north of Kandy. A service-oriented town at the junction of highways A6 and A9, Dambulla is most well known for the impressive cave temples (officially known as the Royal Rock Temple) atop a massive hill on the edge of town.



**Visit Dambulla cave temple (Optional- Entrance Fee direct by Client)**

The beautiful Royal Rock Temple complex sits about 160m above the road in the southern part of Dambulla. Five separate caves contain about 150 absolutely stunning Buddha statues and paintings, some of Sri Lanka's most important and evocative religious art. Buddha images were first created here over 2000 years ago, and over the centuries subsequent kings added to and embellished the cave art. From the caves there are superb views over the surrounding countryside; Sigiriya is clearly visible some 20km distant.



## Overnight stay at Dambulla

### Day 02

#### *Breakfast at the Hotel*

## DAMBULLA – KANDY

### **AM Climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress (Optional- Entrance Fee direct by Client)**

Rising 200m straight up over the dusty plains of north central Sri Lanka, the flat-topped rock formation of Sigiriya is not only one of the island's most impressive geological formations but also one of its greatest archaeological legacies. The leafy village that has grown up near its base serves the comings and goings of tourists and pilgrims and is of relatively recent origin.



### **Proceed to Kandy**

### **Kandy**

The hill capital of Kandy, the last stronghold of Sinhala kings against the British Empire, lies picturesquely surrounded by mountains and rivers just 120 km away from Colombo. Kandy features the most sacred of all Buddhist shrines - the temple of the tooth or The Dalada Maligawa, which holds the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha. The temple is surrounded by the charming Bogambara Lake, adding tranquility into the hearts and souls of the thousands of devotees that flock the city of Kandy each day. This is also the location in which the annual Esala Perahera, one of the most sought after events in the country takes place.



### **Visit Cultural show in the evening (Optional- Entrance Fee direct by Client)**

Kandy cultural show – Sri Lanka, a country rich with culture & tradition offers a very vibrant and unique show of Sri Lankan traditional dances, in the form of Kandy cultural show. The beat a dancing from "Salupliya" depicting several demons, "Thelme" vibrant expression of low country rhythm, Fire and Harvest dances accompanied by Ceremonial Drums and the Drum Orchestra rising and falling to the lively tempo. As many as 12 different folks and traditional dances are performed by Kandy lake club dance troop within the span of one hour. The Kandy cultural show is a great way to spend the evening in Kandy, arrive a little early to secure the front row center seats.



### **Thereafter visit the Temple of Sacred Tooth Relic (Optional- Entrance Fee direct by Client)**

Sri Dalada Maligawa or the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is a Buddhist temple in the city of Kandy, Sri Lanka. It is located in the royal palace complex of the former Kingdom of Kandy, which houses the relic of the tooth of the Buddha



## **Overnight Stay at Kandy**

### **Day 03**

#### ***Breakfast at the Hotel***

### **KANDY – NUWARA ELIYA**

**You may take a Train Journey from Kandy to Nanu Oya to see the Beautiful scenic (On availability)**

**OR**

**On route visit Tea Plantations and join tea plucking sessions**

Tea production is one of the main sources of foreign exchange for Sri Lanka (formerly called Ceylon), and accounts for 2% of GDP, contributing over US \$1.5 billion in 2013 to the economy of Sri Lanka. The humidity, cool temperatures, and rainfall of the country's central highlands provide a climate that favors the production of high-quality tea.



### **Proceed to Nuwara Eliya**

Nuwara Eliya is a city in the tea country hills of central Sri Lanka. The naturally landscaped Hakgala Botanical Gardens displays roses and tree ferns, and shelters monkeys and blue magpies. Nearby Seetha Amman Temple, a colorful Hindu shrine, is decorated with religious figures. Densely forested Galway's Land National Park is a sanctuary for endemic and migratory bird species, including bulbuls and flycatchers.



## **Overnight stay at Nuwara Eliya**

### **Day 04**

#### ***Breakfast at the Hotel***

#### **NUWARA ELIYA - TISSAMAHARAMA**

#### **Proceed to Tissamaharama**

Tissamaharama is located 270km south of Colombo. Tissamaharama can be reached by the A2 Southern main road travelling via Galle and Hambantota. You can also take the Southern Expressway up to Galle and then travel further South to reach the town. Though Tissamaharama is visited mainly in view of it being the gateway to the Yala National Park, “Tissa” as it is affectionately called, in its own right, is a major cultural and nature attraction. Three ancient stupas and two ancient irrigation reservoirs make Tissamaharama worth touring. On the northern side, the town is bounded by lovely expanses of paddy fields. In the middle of the paddy fields is the Santagiri or Sandagiri dagoba, the largest stupa in Tissamaharama.



## **Overnight stay at Tissamaharama**

## Day 05

### *Breakfast at the Hotel*

#### YALA NATIONAL PARK JEEP SAFARI

**You may take a jeep safari at Yala National Park (Optional- Entrance Fee direct by Client)**

Yala National Park is located in the south eastern region of Sri Lanka and extends over two provinces of Hambantota district of southern province and Monaragala district in Uva province. The entrance to the park is at Palatupana, 12km from Kirinda. The distance from Colombo to the entry point of Palatupana is 305 km.



### **Overnight stay at Tissamaharama**

## Day 06

### *Breakfast at the Hotel*

#### TISSAMAHARAMA – GALLE

**Proceed to Galle & do a city tour**

The seaside town of Galle is 116 Km away from Colombo by road or rail, down the south coast of Sri Lanka. Both routes are picturesque, following the coastline closely for much of the way. You can also take the Southern Expressway if you need to reach the city by half the time but there is not much scenery to admire.



## Overnight stay at Galle

Day 07

*Breakfast at the Hotel*

## GALLE – COLOMBO

### Transfer to Colombo

Although reclaiming its 19th-century moniker 'the garden city of the East' is unlikely, Colombo is rapidly emerging as a must-see stop in Sri Lanka. No longer just the sprawling city you have to endure on your way to the southern beaches, it has become a worthy destination in its own right. The legacies of colonial Colombo's garden roots are still very much intact along its often shady boulevards. Fort is in the midst of widespread historic restoration of its landmark colonial architecture, while Pettah brims with markets and rampant commerce. Even traffic-clogged Galle Rd is getting spiffier with glossy new hotel complexes, while the seafront benefits from new roads that are spurring hotel construction.



### Proceeding with the Colombo City Tour





## **Old Parliament Building**

The Old Parliament Building is the building that houses the Presidential Secretariat of Sri Lanka. Situated in the Colombo fort facing the sea, it is in close proximity to the President's House, Colombo.

## **Independence Square**

Independence Memorial Hall (also an Independence Commemoration Hall) is a national monument in Sri Lanka built in commemoration of the independence of Sri Lanka from the British rule with the establishment of the Dominion of Ceylon on February 4, 1948. It is located on the Independence Square (formally Torrington Square) in the Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo. It also houses the Independence Memorial Museum.

## **Gangaramaya Temple (Optional- Entrance Fee direct by Client)**

The temple's architecture demonstrates an eclectic mix of Sri Lankan, Thai, Indian, and Chinese architecture. This Buddhist temple includes several imposing buildings and is situated not far from the placid waters of Beira Lake on a plot of land that was originally a small hermitage on a piece of marshy land. It has the main features of a Vihara (temple), the Cetiya (Pagoda) the Bodhitree, the Vihara Mandiraya, the Seema Malaka (assembly hall for the monks) and the Relic Chamber. In addition, a museum, a library, a residence hall, a three storied Pirivena, educational halls and an alms hall are also on the premises.

## **Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall**

The **Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH)**, is a convention center located in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Built between 1970 and 1973 the convention center was a gift from the People's Republic of China in memory of Solomon Ridgeway Dias Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka (Ceylon) from 1956 to 1959. The construction of the Hall was carried out by a joint Sri Lankan and Chinese workforce with a considerable portion of the exquisite building materials being imported from China. In 1998 a small Exhibition Centre was built on the grounds, once again a gift from the People's Republic of China it is named the **Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Centre**.

## **Overnight stay at Colombo**

### **Day 08**

#### ***Breakfast at the Hotel***

## **COLOMBO – AIRPORT**

### **Proceed to Airport**

TBN: YOU SHOULD BE AT THE AIRPORT **3 HOURS PRIOR** TO THE TIME OF DEPARTURE.

## Hotel Web Links for easy reference

Heritance Kandalama -	<a href="http://www.heritancehotels.com/kandalama/">http://www.heritancehotels.com/kandalama/</a>
Cinnamon Citadel -	<a href="http://www.cinnamonhotels.com/en/cinnamoncitadelkandy/">http://www.cinnamonhotels.com/en/cinnamoncitadelkandy/</a>
Heritance Tea Factory-	<a href="http://www.heritancehotels.com/teafactory/">http://www.heritancehotels.com/teafactory/</a>
Jetwing Yala -	<a href="http://www.jetwinghotels.com/jetwingyala/">http://www.jetwinghotels.com/jetwingyala/</a>
Fortress Resort & Spa -	<a href="http://www.thefortress.lk/">http://www.thefortress.lk/</a>
Taj Samudra -	<a href="https://taj.tajhotels.com/en-in/taj-samudra-colombo/">https://taj.tajhotels.com/en-in/taj-samudra-colombo/</a>

## Accommodation Package - 02

<u>Hotel</u>	<u>Basis</u>	<u>No of Nights</u>
Signature by Amaya	Bed & Breakfast Basis	01
Earl's Regency Hotel Kandy	Bed & Breakfast Basis	01
Araliya Green Hills	Bed & Breakfast Basis	01
EKHO Safari Hotel Tissamaharama	Bed & Breakfast Basis	02
Amari Galle	Bed & Breakfast Basis	01
Cinnamon Grand Hotel Colombo	Bed & Breakfast Basis	01

## Hotel Web Links for easy reference

Signature by Amaya -	<a href="https://www.amayaresorts.com/amayasignature/en/">https://www.amayaresorts.com/amayasignature/en/</a>
Earl's Regency Hotel -	<a href="http://www.aitkenspencehotels.com/earlsregency/">http://www.aitkenspencehotels.com/earlsregency/</a>
Araliya Green Hills -	<a href="https://www.araliyagreenhills.com/">https://www.araliyagreenhills.com/</a>
EKHO Safari Hotel -	<a href="http://www.thesafarihotel.lk/">http://www.thesafarihotel.lk/</a>
Amari Galle -	<a href="https://www.amari.com/galle-srilanka/">https://www.amari.com/galle-srilanka/</a>
Cinnamon Grand -	<a href="http://www.cinnamonhotels.com/en/cinnamongrandcolombo/">http://www.cinnamonhotels.com/en/cinnamongrandcolombo/</a>

## Price Includes

- ☒ **Accommodation at the Hotels mentioned above**
- ☒ **Transport in an A/C Vehicle with the service of an English-speaking chauffeur**
- ☒ **City tours and Shopping as mentioned in the itinerary.**

## Price does not Includes

- ☒ Airfare
- ☒ Soft drinks, tea/coffee, alcohol or any other beverages
- ☒ Departure transfers for extensions of stay
- ☒ Telephone, laundry or any other services offered at the hotels
- ☒ Video / photo permits on any of the sites
- ☒ Expenses of any personal nature.
- ☒ Services other than those specified.
- ☒ Early check in / Late Check out
- ☒ **Entrance fees**