

8 Days Sri Lanka & Wildlife



Sri Lanka

In the Indian ocean, south of India lies Sri Lanka. Perhaps the slightly less travelled roots of Southern Asia.

This idyllic Buddhist island resembles a place time forgot where cows roam the lands, ancient monuments and temples are to be found almost everywhere, and rugged landscapes is home to a wonderfully diverse range of animals, especially the elephants.

Great explorers were enticed by the lush greenery, the fragrant spices and its tropical lifestyle. Some wrote chapters about it, some wrote books, and some never left after falling in love with the island and its many hidden treasures. 2000 years of cultural history is recorded at ancient sites and temples some of which are now listed UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The recent past includes the rule of the Dutch and British over this sovereign island later gaining independence in 1948.



EXPLORE

Sri Lanka is an out of this world tropical island which is blessed with an exciting piece of everything possible on earth. Escape to a paradise on earth where you can trot along the golden sands sipping a fresh king-coconut, safari through the lush jungle to see mighty elephants and elusive leopards and perfect your golf swing on a stunning green golf course.

This is an outdoor paradise somewhere to totally escape and fall completely off the grid. Buses, tuk-tuks and mopeds all noisily hurtling along the busy streets. Once known as Ceylon, Sri Lanka was a country that

Sri Lanka is a country whose Buddhist past is as prevalent today as it was thousands of years ago. So, with such a lengthy heritage there's a great array of temples, ancient monasteries and monuments to explore, both in the town and hidden away in the islands' dense forests.

Here you'll find local artists taking their inspiration from Sri Lanka's wildlife. Sri Lankan craftsmanship has a long and vibrant history. Over the centuries the islanders have produced everything from lace work, elaborate metal works & carvings in wood. Buddha's Hindu Gods, traditional Sri Lankan masks and elephants are among the most popular carvings.

The people in Sri Lanka are what makes this wonderful island what it is. The smiles, the ever-so-helpful attitude, the laid-back lifestyle and the rustic architecture all tastefully lingers in your mind every step of the way.

WEATHER & BEST TIME TO VISIT

The weather in Sri Lanka is dictated by two monsoon seasons which bring rain to the west and south-west coasts from May to September; and the east coast and northern region between October and February. The rest of the year is sunny and dry. Temperatures are constant year-round, with coastal regions enjoying average temperatures of 25-30C and the highlands 15-18C on average.

Sri Lanka is a year-round destination since there is something for every discerning traveler. From pilgrim experiences to adventure, culture, honeymoon, or even special interest experiences, there is something you can do in Sri Lanka anytime of the year. With recent weather pattern changes, it is hard to predict when it would rain and when the sun is out, however, making a note that Sri

Lanka is a tropical destination and rain is to be expected anytime of the day, any time of the year; always helps.

Our recommended best time of the year to travel is between November to April. However, its best to keep in mind that this period is also quite expensive to travel as the European winters and the festive year end generally attracts a lot of travelers to Sri Lanka.

VISA

VISA can be obtained online via the government e-visa website – www.eta.gov.lk. If you are a citizen of Singapore, Maldives or Seychelles, you are exempt from the requirement of obtaining visa for 1 month. It could take up to 5 working days for a VISA to process depending on where you are from.

Day 01

Airport - Negombo

Meals

Open

Arrive at Colombo International Airport. Here, you will be met by a designated chauffer guide from Esna Holidays. After the formalities at the airport you will be escorted to your air-conditioned vehicle and proceed to Negombo for check-in. (Travel Time: 20 to 30 mins)

Day 02

Negombo - Kandy

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

After breakfast, check-out and proceed to Kandy. En-route to Kandy, visit the spice gardens at Matale. (Travel Time: 4½ to 5 hours)

Spice Garden: See why Sri Lanka became a globally popular country for its herbs and spices. The environment possesses excellent conditions for growing cinnamon, vanilla, nutmeg, peppercorn, and other flavorful delights. Learn about the process of growing these natural products using ecologically friendly methods. At the end of your visit, stop in the souvenir shop to purchase some exotic spices from the source. The attraction offers

free transport wherever needed between the city and the estate. Note that the law strictly forbids harming cinnamon trees.

After lunch at a local restaurant, check-in at the hotel in Kandy.

Later that evening, visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic followed by a Kandy City tour

The Temple of the Sacred Tooth (Sri Dalada Maligawa) was originally built by the Kandyan Kings in 1595, to house and honor the sacred tooth relic of the Buddha. Attracting crowds of white-clad pilgrims bearing lotus flowers for means of worship, the Maligawa features a myriad of intricate carvings that speak volumes of the architectural values of Kandy. Today the City of Kandy is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in part

because of the Temple of the tooth relic.

Then go on technical tours related to the arts such as gem crafting, woodcarving and batiks. And watch the Kandyan Cultural Show with its colorful traditional dances and delightful music.



The Kandy Cultural Show gives an opportunity to experience some of the traditions of Sri Lanka. Enjoy this hour-long extravaganza as some of the most popular art forms of the island take to the stage. Be wowed by fire dancers and sword dancers. Watch the colorful Kandyan dancers take to the air to the thrumming primal beat of the drums.

Return to the hotel and relax.

Day 03

Kandy – Nuwara Eliya

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

Early that morning after breakfast, check-out and board the train at Kandy Peradeniya railway station and enjoy the train ride to Nuwara Eliya. (Travel Time: 3½ to 4 hours)

The train trip to Nuwara Eliya is not only taken by tourists but by locals themselves. This isn't just a tourist attraction, it's life for the people of Sri Lanka. The lush green hills are purely breathtaking. The train takes you high into the mountains, through dense forest & vibrant green tea fields, through tunnels, local villages and beside smiling faces. If you look closely every so often, you'll notice the colorfully dressed ladies pop their heads up

amongst the tea fields as they carry on with their work. The stations are old & the trains are even older, but this adds to the journey. It adds so much character.

On arrival to Nuwara Eliya, your chauffer will pick you up and then transfer to the hotel for check-in.

Later that day, after lunch at a local restaurant and explore the city of the Nuwara Eliya.

Visit the highland city that was the premium holiday resort town of the British in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Enjoy walking through the streets with their pretty little cottages, quaint villas and beautiful mansions. Make a memory in the old red-bricked post office as you purchase a postcard to take home or send to your friends. Relax at Queen Victoria Park and on the shores of Lake Gregory.

After finishing the tour in Nuwara Eliya, return to the hotel and relax.

Day 04

Nuwara Eliya – Horton Plains

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

Today at 05.30 hours, with a packed breakfast but after a quick tea/coffee, get on a jeep to arrive at Horton Plains. (Travel Time: 2 to 2½ Hours)

Horton Plains is an undulating 2,000m-high plateau just 28km south of Nuwara Eliya. The grassy plains, which are interspersed with small patches of forest, are home to leopards, sambur, deer, bear, monkeys and a rich array of birds, including some endemic species. The most dramatic feature of the national park is 'World's End', where the plateau comes to an abrupt halt and drops nearly 1000m straight down. The park is frequented by Sambar

Deer and due to their large numbers, the population of the Leopard also has increased. Wild Boar, the endemic Bear Monkey and Toque Monkey, Slender Loris, Fishing cat, Otter, barking deer, Strip-necked Mongoose, Long-tailed Giant Squirrel are some of the other mammals found here.

On completion, lunch at a local restaurant. Later that noon, visit to a Tea factory and plantation.

Learn about the Productions of Tea in Sri Lanka: The production of tea involves a tedious procedure of plucking, withering, rolling, oxidizing and drying – a process that requires heavy machines and plenty of manpower. Once in the tea factory, you would generally start out in the plantation itself to learn about how tea is cultivated, then visit the factory where ancient machines pre-dating the industrial revolution wither, roll and dry the tea. There is

normally a little time at the end of the tour for a tea tasting, either of one specific type of tea or occasionally of the various specialties of that factory.

Return to the hotel and relax.

Day 05

Nuwara Eliya – Yala

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

After an early breakfast, check-out and proceed to Yala. Enroute to Yala, visit to the Hakgala botanical garden. (Travel Time: 2½ to 6 hours)

Hakgala Botanical Garden is one of the five botanical gardens in Sri Lanka. It is the second largest garden in Sri Lanka. The garden is contiguous to Hakgala Strict Nature Reserve. The garden was established in 1861, under George Henry Kendrick Thwaites as an experimental cultivation of Cinchona. In 1884 it transformed to a garden. There are over 10,000 species of flora planted here and during the Spring season in

Nuwara Eliya thousands of visitors come to see the blooms here. The garden is famous for number of species of Orchids and Roses are planted there.

Lunch at a local restaurant and proceed to Yala National park.

Yala is Sri Lanka's most famous national park. Forming a total area of 1268 sq. km of scrub, light forest, grassy plains and brackish lagoons, it's very rich in wildlife and you're virtually certain to encounter elephants, crocodiles, buffaloes and monkeys. The highlight of a successful safari in Yala is the sight of the Sri Lankan Leopard: very elusive yet such a majestic sight. Morning safari goes have a better chance in getting a glimpse of the leopards as they come out to go in search of water

and food. (Please keep in mind the safety guidelines provided by Esna Holidays before the safari)

On completion, transfer to the hotel for check-in.

Day 06

Yala – Galle - Beach

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

After breakfast, check-out and proceed to Galle. En-route to Galle, visit the stilt fishermen in action. (Travel Time: 4½ to 5 hours)

Stilt Fishing is one of the most interesting traditional fishing methods of Sri Lanka. Records indicate that it came into being just after World War II. The beautiful sight of fishermen perched branched poles as they fish skillfully during dawn, noon and dusk; can now be commonly seen along the southern coast in towns such as Koggala, Kaththaluwa and Ahangama. You will be able to see them fishing and learn how they do it by

speaking to one of the fishermen.

On arriving Galle, lunch at a local restaurant and later explore the Galle Fort.



Galle is a historical jewel to Sri Lanka wonderful to explore on foot. Among the endlessly exotic old trading port blessed with imposing Dutch-colonial buildings, ancient mosques and churches, grand mansions and museums the ancient Dutch fort which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site attracts the hearts of tourists. Stroll around the ancient city where you will find a gourmet of fancy restaurants and coffee shop to chill and relax. The beach side is surely a bliss which will make you want to lock yourself up in this sun kissed island and indulge in the sea breeze and endless blue waters.

On completion, transfer to the hotel for check-in.

Day 07

Beach – Mirissa - Beach

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &
Dinner

Today early morning, with a packed breakfast but after a quick tea/coffee, proceed on a whale watching expedition to get a glimpse of the Blue Whale and the Sperm Whale. (Travel Time: 1½ to 2 hours)

Just off the coast of south Sri Lanka, the jewel in the Indian Ocean, swims the majestic blue whale, the largest creature on earth. Nowhere in the world is it possible to see these ocean giants so close to shore. Your whale watching guide will talk to you about the whale experience in Sri Lanka, the marine lifestyle, the conservation of the same and help you see these creatures in the wild as they are meant to be seen. Keep in mind that you are not

allowed to snorkel or swim with the whales without prior permission. Such can be obtained only on special requests. We are unable to guarantee the approval for this.

On completion, lunch at a local restaurant in Mirissa.

Return to the hotel and spend the rest of the evening at ease.

Day 08

Beach - Colombo - Airport

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &
Dinner

After a relaxed morning breakfast, check-out and proceed to Colombo. (Travel Time: 1½ to 2 hours)

On arriving Colombo, lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, take a fascinating journey in the capital of the isle paradise, Colombo.

Colombo City & Shopping Tour: Take a fascinating journey in the capital of the isle paradise to taste its cultural texture, witness its bustling streets, visit bargain markets, and relax while watching the uprising urban lifestyle of the capital. This commercial and administrative hub of the country proves to be a blend of cultures, religions, and socioeconomic classes. Your city tour will cover the

following: Gangarama Seema Malakaya, National Museum, Old Parliament, Independence Memorial Arcade & Independence Square, Beire Lake, Odel shopping, Cinnamon gardens, Shopping at Laksala state owned Handicrafts emporium, Lighthouse and Clock tower & Colombo Harbor.

Enjoy the colonial architecture and buildings of significant importance to the development of Colombo to what it is today. The city tour will your open you up to the Independence Square, the Galle Face Green (Haven for street food), the Pettah Market, The Gangarama Temple and the Seemamalakaya. You can stop for coffee at a place recommended by our guide.

After dinner at a local restaurant, depending on your departure flight time, transfer to the Airport for departure. (Travel Time: 40 mins to 1 hour)

Don't forget to recollect the memories of your trip with your chauffer and write your feedback.

End of tour

Hotels

Location	3 Star Hotel	4 Star Hotel	5 Star Hotel	No. of Nights
Negombo	Full Moon Garden Hotel	Amora Lagoon	The Gateway Airport Garden	1 Night
Kandy	Thilanka Hotel	Earl's Regent Hotel	Mahaweli Reach Hotel	1 Night
Nuwara Eliya	Alpine Hotel	Araliya Green Hills Hotel	Araliya Green City	2 Nights
Yala	Rain Tree Hotel	Oak Ray Wild	Mandara Kataragama Rosen	1 Night
Beach	The Palms Hotel - Beruwala	Surf Hotel - Bentota	The Habitat - Kosgodra	2 Nights

Cost of tour in USD Per Person

3 Star Hotel

Period from 1st September to 31st October 2019

Pax	1	2	4	6	8
Standard Room per Person Rate in USD	1,203.00	785.00	694.00	654.00	643.00
Single Supplement (USD)		263.00	263.00	263.00	263.00

4 Star Hotel

Period from 1st September to 31st October 2019

Pax	1	2	4	6	8
Standard Room per Person Rate in USD	1,427.00	918.00	827.00	787.00	776.00
Single Supplement (USD)		412.00	412.00	412.00	412.00

5 Star Hotel

Period from 1st September to 31st October 2019

Pax	1	2	4	6	8
Standard Room per Person Rate in USD	1,197.00	938.00	847.00	807.00	796.00
Single Supplement (USD)		437.00	437.00	437.00	437.00

Supplements

Peak Season

3 Star Hotel - 01st July to 31st August 2019

- USD 60.00 Per Person

4 Star Hotel - 01st July to 31st August 2019

- USD 70.00 Per Person

5 Star Hotel - 01st July to 31st August 2019

- USD 100.00 Per Person

Compulsory

Kandy Perahera Supplement (5th August to 15th August)

- USD 80.00 Per Room

Tour Includes

- Accommodation in hotels as per the itinerary (Subject to availability)
- Meal plan on full board basis - Starting from breakfast on Day 02 and ending with Dinner on Day 08.
- Transport in an Air-Conditioned well-maintained vehicle with the service of an English-Speaking Chauffeur Guide at your disposal always.
- Entrance Fees to: Temple of the Tooth Relic, Victoria Park, Horton Plains National Park, Hakgala Gardens, Yala National Park and Safari, Whale Watching, Colombo National Museum and Gangarama Temple.
- Train Ride – Kandy to Nuwara Eliya.
- Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Galle & Colombo City Tours.
- All Paging, Parking, Fuel Costs & Highway Tolls.
- Guided Visits to all entrance sights.
- All Taxes and Service Charges.

Tour Excludes

- International Flights & VISA (Visit www.eta.gov.lk for VISA)
- Tips and Porterage.
- All beverages.
- Camera & Video Permit Charges if applicable.
- Any other expense not mentioned in the includes section.

Complimentary

- 1 Liter Bottle of Water Per Person Per Day
- Local SIM Card (On Request)

[Click here to Submit Enquiry](#)

(EH-23/03/2019)