

9 Days Discover Sri Lanka



# 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](http://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 - Anuradhapura

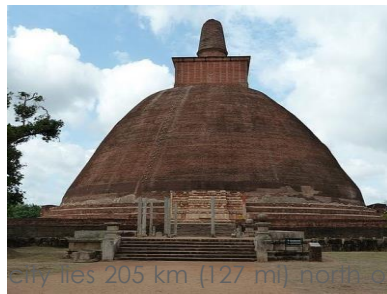
#### Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

After breakfast, check-out and proceed to Anuradhapura. (Travel Time: 4 to 4½ hours)

Visit and walk through the ruins and discover ancient Buddhist monasteries and temples of the sacred city of Anuradhapura.



It is the capital city of North Central Province, Sri Lanka and the capital of Anuradhapura District. Anuradhapura is one of the ancient capitals of Sri Lanka, famous for its well-preserved ruins of an ancient Sri Lankan civilization. It was the third capital of the kingdom of Rajarata, following the kingdoms of Tambapanni and Upatissa Nuwara.

The city, now a World Heritage site, was the center of Theravada Buddhism for many centuries. The city lies 205 km (127 mi) north of the current capital of Colombo in the North Central Province, on the banks of the historic Malvathu River. It is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and one of the eight World Heritage Sites of Sri Lanka.

Lunch at a local restaurant and transfer to the hotel for check-in.

## Day 03

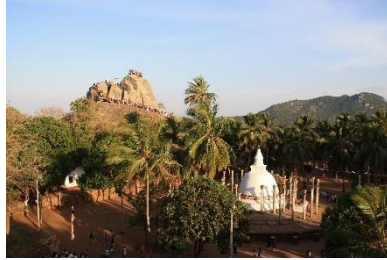
### Anuradhapura – Mihintale – Trincomalee

#### Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

After breakfast, check-out and proceed to Trincomalee. En-route to Trincomalee, a visit to Mihintale. (Travel Time: 2 to 2½ hours)



Mihintale is a mountain peak near Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka. It is believed by Sri Lankans to be the site of a meeting between the Buddhist monk Mahinda and King Devanampiyatissa which inaugurated the presence of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. It is now a pilgrimage site, and the site of several religious monuments and abandoned structures.

On completion, lunch at a local restaurant.

On arriving, check-in to the hotel and relax.

---

## Day 04

## Trincomalee

### Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

After breakfast, explore the city of Trincomalee.

Koneswaram is a classical-medieval Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva in Trincomalee, Eastern Sri Lanka. The temple is situated atop Konesar Malai, a promontory that overlooks the Indian Ocean, the nearby eastern coast (the Trincomalee District), as well as Trincomalee Harbour or Gokarna Bay. Koneswaram is revered as one of the Pancha Ishwarams, of Sri Lanka for long time. Being a major place for Hindu pilgrimage, it was labelled "Rome of the Gentiles/Pagans of the Orient" in some records. Koneswaram holds a significant role in the religious and cultural history of Sri Lanka, as it was likely built during the reign of the early Cholas and the Five Dravidians of the Early Pandyan Kingdom.

Lunch at a local restaurant and proceed to the Pigeon Island followed by visit to the famous Marble Beach.

Pigeon Island National Park is one of the two marine national parks of Sri Lanka. The national park is situated 1 km off the coast of Nilaveli, a coastal town in Eastern Province, encompassing a total area of 471.429 hectares. The island's name derives from the rock pigeon which has colonized it. The national park contains some of the best remaining coral reefs of Sri Lanka. Pigeon Island was designated as a sanctuary in 1963. In 2003 it was redesignated as a national park. This national park is the 17th in Sri Lanka. The island was used as a shooting range during the colonial era. Pigeon Island is one of the several protected areas affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004.

Marble beach is one of the most beautiful beaches in the Trincomalee area. The water is crystal blue and there are hardly any waves. Before the war the beach was mainly used by Air Force officers and even now it is under the control of Air Force. The name Marble beach comes from the Marble stones found in the area. The area is famous for bathing and swimming, owing to the relative shallowness of the sea, allowing one to walk out over a hundred meters into the sea without the water reaching the chest.

On completion, return to the hotel and relax.

---

## Day 05

## Trincomalee - Dambulla

### Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &  
Dinner

After breakfast, check-out and proceed to Dambulla. (Travel Time: 2 to 2½ hours) En-route to Dambulla, lunch at a local restaurant.

On arriving, check-in the hotel and relax.

Later that evening, visit the cave temple at Dambulla.

The Dambulla temple has five caves and 157 statues of the Lord Buddha, many paintings on the ceilings and walls that emphasize the artistic talent of ancient days. The history of the caves, rock and temple dates from the 1st century BC. The fascination of these caves is not only the statues but also the many intricate and delicate paintings that cover the ceiling and walls, created with indigenous traditional paints. Because of the history, archaeological and artistic implications,

the premises were declared as one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites in 1991. The temple has been in use for over 22 centuries and still holds a sense of benevolence and spirituality.

Return to the hotel and relax.

---

## Day 06

## Dambulla – Sigiriya – Minneriya -Dambulla

### Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &  
Dinner

After breakfast, visit the Sigiriya Rock Fortress followed by a visit to the Minneriya National park. (Travel Time: 1 to 1½ hours)

Sigiriya Rock Fortress: Called by many names including "The Lion Rock" for its initial name of "Sinhagiri", Sigiriya is near the town of Dambulla and is a colossal column of rock nearly 200m high. It was a royal citadel for 18 years (477-495) when it was fortified by King Kasyapa. The architectural and irrigational technologies of Sigiriya, such as the Water Gardens, still baffle engineers. The climb up steep steps of metal with railings passes a wall

decorated with frescoes of bare-breasted women. Art experts consider them unique.

After lunch at a local restaurant, proceed to Minneriya National park

Minneriya National Park: One of the main reasons for visiting the beautiful country of Sri Lanka was to see the Sri Lankan elephant in the wild. Minneriya National Park is one of the best national parks to spot Elephants in Sri Lanka. It is home to 200+ elephants, monkeys, crocodiles and even a handful of leopards. The Gathering around the water reservoir takes place in the dry season from July to October. Besides from elephants, there is so much more to see. Peacocks, small black bears, crocodiles, deer,

many monkeys and beautifully colored birds.

Return to the hotel and relax.

On completion, return to the hotel and relax.

## Day 07

## Dambulla – Matale - 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: 2 to 2½ 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.

On arriving Kandy, lunch at a local restaurant and transfer to the hotel for check-in.

Later that evening, visit to the famous temple in Kandy.

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.

After the visit to the temple, go on Kandy city tour 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.

Surrounded by the rolling landscape of middle Sri Lanka, Kandy, or Maha Nuwara (great city) in Sinhalese is great to explore on foot. Glide past Kandy Lake, witnessing glimpses of the Temple of the Tooth on your way to the British Garrison Cemetery, awash with intriguing stories of colonial residents. Experience the religious diversity of the island from the phenomenal temple grounds to an

elegant church, effervescent kovil and past a local mosque. Break at the Empire Café before roaming busier streets packed with vendors and historical monuments. Finish your walk at Kandy's enticing main market, brimming with native fruits and vegetables.



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.

On completion, return to the hotel.

---

## Day 08

## Kandy – Nuwara Eliya

### Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

After breakfast, check-out and proceed to Nuwara Eliya. (Travel Time: 2½ to 3 hours)

On arriving Nuwara Eliya, lunch at a local restaurant and transfer to the hotel for check-in.

Later that evening, explore the city of 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 09

## Nuwara Eliya - Colombo

### Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

After breakfast, check-out and proceed to Colombo. (Travel Time: 5 to 5½ hours)

On arriving Colombo, lunch at a local restaurant and later 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.

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.

On completion of the tour, dinner at local restaurant.

After dinner, depending on your departure flight time, transfer to the Airport for departure.

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
Anuradhapura	Heritage Hotel	Rajarata Hotel	Forest Rock Garden	1 Night
Trincomalee	Sea Lotus Park Beach Hotel	Skandig Beach Resort	Anilana Nilaveli	2 Nights
Dambulla	Sigiriana Resort by Thilanka	Habarana Village by Cinnamon	Cinnamon Lodge Habarana	2 Nights
Kandy	Thilanka Hotel	Earl's Regent Hotel	Mahaweli Reach Hotel	1 Night
Nuwara Eliya	Alpine Hotel	Araliya Green Hills Hotel	Araliya Green City	1 Night

## Cost of tour in USD Per Person

### 3 Star Hotel

Period from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019

Pax	1	2	4	6	8
Standard Room per Person Rate in USD	1,289.00	861.00	772.00	734.00	722.00
Single Supplement (USD)		279.00	279.00	279.00	279.00

### 4 Star Hotel

Period from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019

Pax	1	2	4	6	8
Standard Room per Person Rate in USD	1,487.00	968.00	879.00	841.00	829.00
Single Supplement (USD)		442.00	442.00	442.00	442.00

### 5 Star Hotel

Period from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019

Pax	1	2	4	6	8
Standard Room per Person Rate in USD	1,737.00	1,118.00	1,029.00	991.00	979.00
Single Supplement (USD)		590.00	590.00	590.00	590.00

## Supplements

### Peak Season

**3 Star Hotel** - 01<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019

- USD 59.00 Per Person

**4 Star Hotel** - 01<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019

- USD 118.00 Per Person

**5 Star Hotel** - 01<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019

- USD 185.00 Per Person

### Compulsory

## Tour Includes

- Accommodation in hotels as per the itinerary (Subject to availability)
- Meal Plan at Full Board basis. Starting from Breakfast on Day 02 and Ending with Dinner on Day 09.
- Transport in an Air-Conditioned well-maintained vehicle with the service of an English-Speaking Chauffeur Guide at your disposal always.
- Entrance Fees to Anuradhapura, Mihintale, Pigeon Island, Marble Beach, Dambulla Cave Temple, Sigiriya Rock Fortress, Minneriya National Park, Temple of the Tooth Relic, Queens Victoria park, Colombo National Museum & Gangarama.
- Minneriya National Park Safari.
- Kandy & Colombo City Tour.
- 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](http://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)