



Sri Lanka

EXPLORER

12 NIGHTS / 13 DAYS



ITINERARY SUMMARY

Day	Overnight	Summary
Day 01	Colombo	Arrive in Sri Lanka and transfer to Colombo. Enjoy an authentic Sri Lankan lunch at a specially selected local restaurant, followed by hotel check-in and leisure time.
Day 02	Colombo	Experience Banana Airlines – Colombo by Tuk-Tuk , exploring Colombo Fort, Pettah, Red Mosque, Old Town Hall, local markets, St. Peter's Church, Gangaramaya Temple and Seema Malakaya. Visit Colombo Lotus Tower with lunch at the tower. Optional evening Colombooze experience exploring Colombo's local bar culture.
Day 03	Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla	Transfer to the Cultural Triangle , with lunch at a local restaurant. Enjoy a 3-hour Minneriya National Park jeep safari , with opportunities to see wild elephants and birdlife .
Day 04	Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla	Early morning visit to the UNESCO-listed Sigiriya Rock Fortress , including its historic surroundings and panoramic views. Return to the hotel for breakfast, lunch and a relaxed afternoon.
Day 05	Kandy	Travel to Kandy via the UNESCO-listed Dambulla Cave Temple and a traditional spice garden . Enjoy a Sri Lankan curry cooking demonstration followed by an authentic local lunch before continuing to Kandy.
Day 06	Kandy	Visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic and Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya . In the afternoon, enjoy a Kandy Walking & Tuk-Tuk Experience , exploring historic landmarks, local markets, traditional Walawe mansions, Arthur's Seat Viewpoint and Helga's Folly .
Day 07	Nuwara Eliya	Travel through scenic highlands to Nuwara Eliya. Enjoy a tea factory and plantation experience , including tea plucking, factory visit and tea tasting . Continue to Nuwara Eliya and relax at the hotel.
Day 08	Nuwara Eliya	Full-day excursion to Ella , visiting the iconic Nine Arch Bridge and Little Adam's Peak . Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and free time to explore Ella's cafés, shops and relaxed atmosphere before returning to Nuwara Eliya.
Day 09	Yala	Transfer to Nanu Oya and enjoy the scenic Nanu Oya to Ella train journey , passing through tea-covered mountains, valleys and countryside. Continue by road to Yala after lunch and free time in Ella.

Day	Overnight	Summary
Day 10	Yala	Early morning 3-hour Yala National Park jeep safari , with opportunities to spot leopards, elephants, sloth bears, crocodiles and birdlife . Return to the hotel for lunch and leisure. Optional Bundala National Park safari available.
Day 11	Weligama	Travel from Yala to Weligama via Mirissa, stopping at Coconut Tree Hill for spectacular coastal views and photographs. Continue to Weligama for hotel check-in, lunch and a relaxed afternoon by the beach.
Day 12	Weligama	Full day at leisure in Weligama. Optional early morning whale-watching cruise from Mirissa , with a 4–5 hour boat excursion and light breakfast on board. Guests not participating can enjoy a relaxed day at the hotel or explore Weligama independently.
Day 13	Departure / Optional Extension	Breakfast and check-out before transferring to Bandaranaike International Airport . Alternatively, continue with an optional Bentota beach extension or onward journey to the Maldives. End of Tour.



Day 01 – Arrival in Sri Lanka → Colombo

Location: Colombo

Arrival – Bandaranaike International Airport

Welcome to Sri Lanka.

Upon arrival at **Bandaranaike International Airport**, you will be warmly welcomed by your local representative and guide, who will assist you with your arrival arrangements before you begin your journey towards Colombo.

Your first impressions of Sri Lanka begin as you leave the airport and travel towards the island's vibrant commercial capital. The journey offers an early glimpse of everyday Sri Lankan life, with tropical vegetation, roadside communities, local shops and bustling neighbourhoods gradually replacing the airport surroundings.

Transfer – Bandaranaike International Airport → Colombo

Drive Time

- Approx. **1 hour**

Road Conditions

- Well-maintained main roads providing a comfortable connection between the airport and Colombo.

Terrain

- Predominantly **urban and suburban landscapes**, with tropical vegetation, residential areas, commercial districts and local communities along the route.

The drive towards Colombo provides a gentle introduction to the island after your international journey. As you approach the city, the surroundings become increasingly urban, reflecting Colombo's role as Sri Lanka's principal commercial and business centre.

En Route – Authentic Sri Lankan Lunch

Before continuing to your hotel, stop at a **specially selected local restaurant** for lunch.

This first meal in Sri Lanka offers an opportunity to discover some of the island's distinctive culinary traditions. Sri Lankan cuisine is renowned for its aromatic spices, coconut-based flavours, fresh herbs, rice, curries and a wonderful variety of locally inspired dishes.

Depending on the restaurant selection, guests may have the opportunity to sample several traditional preparations and begin discovering the diverse flavours that form an important part of Sri Lankan culture.

Lunch provides a relaxed first experience of local hospitality before continuing towards Colombo.

Continue to Colombo

After lunch, continue your journey towards **Colombo**, Sri Lanka's lively commercial capital and a fascinating meeting point of historic influences and modern urban life.

Colombo has developed over centuries as an important trading port, shaped by successive interactions with Arab, Portuguese, Dutch and British traders and colonial powers. Today, the city combines historic architecture and cultural landmarks with modern hotels, restaurants, shopping districts and a vibrant coastal atmosphere.

Upon arrival, proceed to your hotel and complete the check-in formalities.

Settle into your room and take some time to rest after your international journey.

Afternoon – At Leisure

The remainder of the afternoon is intentionally left free.

After your arrival, guests can relax at the hotel, enjoy the available facilities or simply take some quiet time to recover from the journey.

For those who prefer to explore independently, Colombo offers a variety of experiences within the city, from atmospheric neighbourhoods and historic buildings to cafés, restaurants and the seafront.

However, there is no scheduled sightseeing today, allowing you to ease comfortably into your Sri Lankan holiday.

Evening – At Leisure

Enjoy a relaxed evening at the hotel.

Take the opportunity to unwind, enjoy the surroundings and prepare for the exciting experiences ahead as your journey through Sri Lanka begins.

Meals

- **Lunch:** At a specially selected local restaurant
 - **Dinner:** At the hotel
 - **Hotel:** Half Board basis
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Overnight

Overnight: Colombo



Day 02 – Colombo City Discovery & Lotus Tower

Location: Colombo

Morning – Breakfast at the Hotel

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before setting out to discover Colombo through one of the city's most engaging local experiences.

Today combines **historic Colombo, neighbourhood life, local street food, religious landmarks and contemporary city views**, offering a more intimate perspective of the capital beyond conventional sightseeing.

Banana Airlines – Colombo by Tuk-Tuk

- **Departure:** Approximately **09:00 hrs**
- **Duration:** Approx. **3 hours**

After breakfast, proceed for the **“Banana Airlines – Colombo by Tuk-Tuk”** experience, an immersive way to explore the city from the back of one of Sri Lanka's most recognisable forms of transport.

Meet your local host at either **Galle Face Roundabout or the Dutch Hospital**, before setting off by traditional tuk-tuk into the heart of Colombo.

Rather than simply passing through the city, the experience provides an opportunity to discover Colombo through its neighbourhoods, historic streets, markets, places of worship and everyday local life, accompanied by a host who can bring the city's stories and character to life.

Colombo Fort – Colonial Heritage & Historic Landmarks

Begin by exploring the historic **Colombo Fort** area, one of the most significant parts of the city's commercial and colonial heritage.

Originally developed around Colombo's historic port, Fort has evolved over centuries and today combines grand colonial-era architecture with modern commercial buildings, hotels, offices and bustling city life.

As you travel through the area by tuk-tuk, discover historic buildings and landmarks that reflect the influences of the Portuguese, Dutch and British periods, while seeing how this historic district has developed into the modern heart of Colombo.

Pettah – Markets, Street Life & Local Character

Continue into **Pettah**, one of Colombo's most vibrant and colourful neighbourhoods.

The character changes noticeably as you enter its busy streets, where wholesale markets, small shops, traders, pedestrians and tuk-tuks create a lively atmosphere.

Pettah is one of the best places to experience the everyday energy of Colombo. Its narrow streets and bustling markets offer a fascinating contrast to the more formal architecture and commercial districts of Fort.

Red Mosque, Old Town Hall & Wholesale Markets

Along the route, see several of Pettah's distinctive landmarks and lively market areas.

Red Mosque

Pass by the striking **Red Mosque**, also known as Jami Ul-Alfar Mosque, recognised for its distinctive red-and-white patterned architecture.

The mosque is one of the most visually memorable landmarks in the Pettah area and reflects the long-standing multicultural character of Colombo.

Old Town Hall

Continue past the historic **Old Town Hall**, an important reminder of Colombo's earlier civic and administrative heritage.

Wholesale Markets

Experience the energy of Colombo's wholesale market district, where traders and suppliers continue to form an important part of the city's daily commercial rhythm.

Local Wayside Snack Stop

Along the journey, make a short stop at a **local wayside snack bar** to experience a taste of Colombo's street-food culture.

This informal stop provides an opportunity to sample a local snack while observing the everyday rhythm of the neighbourhood.

It is a simple but authentic part of the experience, offering a glimpse into how locals enjoy quick refreshments during their daily routines.

Colombo's Diverse Neighbourhoods

Continue through the city's varied neighbourhoods, experiencing the changing character of Colombo as the tuk-tuk moves away from the busy commercial streets.

The route provides an opportunity to observe the city's diverse communities, architecture and everyday life, with the local host sharing stories and insights along the way.

Visit – St. Peter's Church

Continue to **St. Peter's Church**, one of Colombo's historic places of Christian worship.

The church forms part of the city's diverse religious and cultural landscape, reflecting the many communities and traditions that have shaped Colombo over the centuries.

Its presence alongside Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic places of worship highlights the multicultural character that remains an important part of the capital.

Visit – Gangaramaya Temple & Seema Malakaya

Continue to two of Colombo's most distinctive Buddhist landmarks, **Gangaramaya Temple** and **Seema Malakaya**.

Gangaramaya Temple

Gangaramaya is one of Colombo's best-known Buddhist temples and combines religious traditions with an eclectic collection of artefacts, artwork and objects reflecting Sri Lanka's Buddhist heritage and wider cultural influences.

The temple offers an interesting insight into the role of Buddhism in contemporary Colombo and the way religious institutions continue to form part of everyday city life.

Seema Malakaya

Continue to **Seema Malakaya**, a peaceful meditation space situated on Beira Lake.

Surrounded by water, the setting provides a striking contrast to the busy streets of Colombo and creates a tranquil environment for reflection.

Experience Conclusion – Nippon Hotel

The tuk-tuk experience concludes at the historic **Nippon Hotel**, where guests can enjoy a traditional **mutton roll accompanied by iced coffee**.

This final stop provides a relaxed opportunity to reflect on the morning's discoveries while enjoying a familiar local combination that forms part of Colombo's distinctive food culture.

Visit – Colombo Lotus Tower

Continue to the spectacular **Colombo Lotus Tower**, one of the most recognisable landmarks on the modern Colombo skyline.

Rising prominently above the city, the tower represents Colombo's contemporary development and provides a striking contrast to the historic districts explored during the morning.

During the visit, enjoy the opportunity to take in **panoramic views across Colombo**, with the city, coastline and surrounding urban landscape stretching out below.

The elevated viewpoint offers a different perspective of the capital and allows guests to appreciate the scale and diversity of Colombo from above.

Lunch – Colombo Lotus Tower

Enjoy lunch at the **Colombo Lotus Tower**, combining a relaxed meal with the distinctive setting of one of the city's newest landmarks.

After lunch and the tower visit, return to the hotel.

Afternoon – At Leisure

The remainder of the afternoon is free to relax at the hotel after the morning's exploration.

Guests may enjoy the hotel facilities, rest in their rooms or simply take some time to unwind before the evening.

Optional Evening – Colombooze Experience

- **Departure:** Approximately **17:00 hrs**
- **Duration:** Approx. **3.5 hours**

For guests who wish to experience another side of Colombo, an optional **"Colombooze"** evening experience can be arranged.

Beginning at approximately **17:00 hrs**, this experience explores the city's lively evening atmosphere through visits to **three distinctive local bars**, before concluding at a historic pub in the Colombo Fort area.

Discover Colombo After Dark

Accompanied by a **local host**, guests can experience Colombo's evolving nightlife scene while discovering the stories, character and traditions associated with the city's drinking culture.

The experience is designed to introduce guests to different local establishments and atmospheres rather than simply visiting conventional tourist venues.

Along the way, enjoy **tastings and local bar bites**, while learning more about the social and cultural traditions surrounding Colombo's contemporary bar scene.

The evening offers a relaxed and sociable way to experience a different side of the capital, particularly for guests interested in local food, drinks and city life.

Following the experience, return to the hotel.

Meals

- **Lunch:** At Colombo Lotus Tower
- **Dinner:** At the hotel
- **Hotel:** Half Board basis

Overnight

Overnight: Colombo



Day 03 – Colombo → Cultural Triangle & Minneriya Safari

Location: Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla

Morning – Breakfast & Departure from Colombo

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out and beginning the journey north-east towards Sri Lanka's **Cultural Triangle**.

Today marks a change of scenery as the urban energy of Colombo gradually gives way to the quieter countryside and dry-zone landscapes of central Sri Lanka. The Cultural Triangle is home to some of the island's most important ancient cities, sacred sites, archaeological treasures and wildlife-rich national parks.

As you leave Colombo behind, the landscape slowly becomes more rural, offering glimpses of village life, cultivated land, tropical vegetation and traditional communities along the route.

Transfer – Colombo → Cultural Triangle

Drive Time

- Approx. **4 hours**

Road Conditions

- Well-maintained main roads and highways, providing a comfortable connection towards the Cultural Triangle.

Terrain

- Urban and suburban surroundings gradually transition into **rural landscapes and the drier countryside of Sri Lanka's interior**.

The journey provides an interesting visual transition across the island. The dense development surrounding Colombo gradually gives way to open countryside, agricultural areas, village settlements and the characteristic vegetation of the dry zone.

This changing landscape also provides an early introduction to the environment in which many of Sri Lanka's ancient kingdoms developed and where wildlife continues to thrive today.

En Route – Lunch at a Local Restaurant

Along the journey, stop at a **specially selected local restaurant** for lunch.

This provides another opportunity to experience the flavours of Sri Lankan cuisine in a relaxed setting before continuing towards the Cultural Triangle.

Sri Lankan meals are known for their generous variety, often bringing together fragrant rice, vegetable curries, sambols, spices and other regional specialities. The meal provides a welcome break during the transfer and a chance to enjoy more of the island's culinary traditions.

After lunch, continue towards your hotel in the **Sigiriya, Habarana or Dambulla** area.

Arrival – Cultural Triangle

Upon arrival, proceed to the hotel and complete the check-in formalities.

The Cultural Triangle forms one of the most historically significant regions of Sri Lanka, encompassing the ancient capitals and sacred centres that shaped the island's civilisation over many centuries.

Once settled into your accommodation, take some time to relax and refresh before the afternoon's wildlife experience.

Afternoon – Minneriya National Park Safari

Jeep Safari Experience

Duration: Approx. 3 hours

Later in the afternoon, proceed for an exciting **jeep safari at Minneriya National Park**, one of Sri Lanka's renowned wildlife destinations.

The park is centred around the historic **Minneriya Tank**, an ancient reservoir that has become an important source of water for wildlife, particularly during the drier months.

As the jeep moves through the park, the landscape changes between open grasslands, scrub, woodland and wetland areas, creating a variety of habitats for Sri Lanka's wildlife.

Wildlife Experience



The safari provides opportunities to observe **wild Asian elephants** in their natural environment.

Minneriya is particularly well known for its elephant gatherings, when herds can congregate around the reservoir and surrounding grasslands. Seeing these magnificent animals moving freely through their natural habitat is one of the memorable wildlife experiences of the Cultural Triangle.

Depending on seasonal conditions and the animals' movements, guests may also have opportunities to observe:

- Wild Asian Elephants
- Spotted Deer
- Wild Buffalo
- Macaques and other Monkeys
- Crocodiles
- Peacocks and Other Bird Species
- A Variety of Wetland and Forest Birds

Wildlife sightings are naturally dependent on the season, weather and animal movements, making every safari experience different.

Exploring the Park

Continue deeper into the park by open-sided safari jeep, accompanied by an experienced safari driver who will help identify wildlife and explain the surrounding environment.

The combination of open grasslands, woodland and the expansive reservoir creates a particularly scenic setting for wildlife viewing. Keep watch along the tracks and around water sources, where animals often gather, while enjoying the changing light and peaceful atmosphere of the park.

As the afternoon progresses, the softer light creates a beautiful setting across the dry-zone landscape, adding to the atmosphere of the safari.

Return to the Hotel

After approximately three hours exploring Minneriya National Park, leave the park and return to the hotel.

The remainder of the evening is free to relax and unwind following the day's journey and wildlife experience.

Evening – At Leisure

Enjoy a peaceful evening at the hotel.

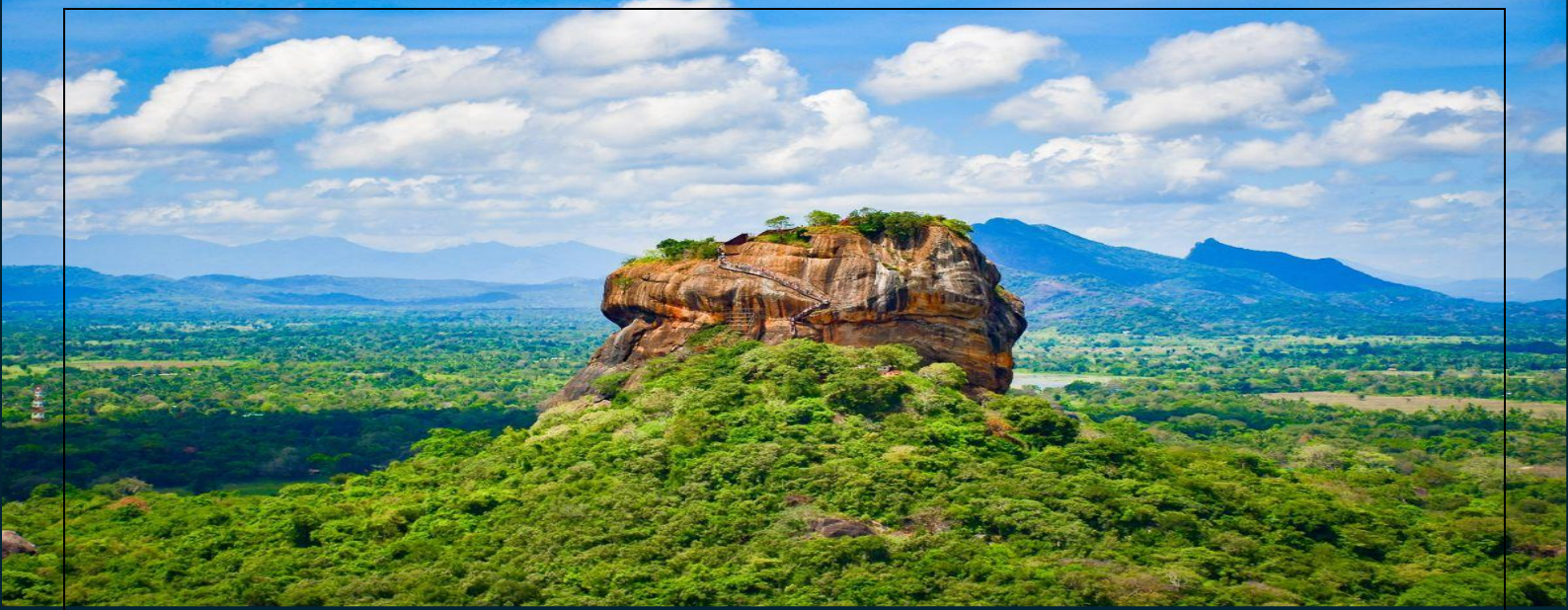
Take time to rest, enjoy the hotel facilities or simply reflect on the day's first encounter with Sri Lanka's wildlife before the cultural and archaeological discoveries of the following days.

Meals

- **Lunch:** At a specially selected local restaurant
 - **Dinner:** At the hotel
 - **Hotel:** Half Board basis
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Overnight

Overnight: Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla



Day 04 – Sigiriya Rock Fortress & Leisure

Location: Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla

Early Morning – Sigiriya Rock Fortress

- **Departure:** Approximately **05:30 hrs**
- **Excursion Duration:** Approx. **2.5 – 3 hours**

Rise early and depart the hotel at approximately **05:30 hrs** for one of Sri Lanka's most extraordinary archaeological landmarks, the magnificent **Sigiriya Rock Fortress**.

Often referred to as “**Lion Rock**,” Sigiriya rises dramatically above the surrounding forests and plains and is one of the most recognisable landmarks in Sri Lanka. The ancient rock citadel is a remarkable combination of royal history, architecture, engineering, art and landscaped gardens.

The fortress was developed during the reign of **King Kashyapa I in the 5th century** and served as a fortified royal residence. Today, the surviving ruins and archaeological features provide an extraordinary insight into the sophistication of Sri Lanka's ancient civilisation.

Visit – Sigiriya Rock Fortress

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Allow approximately **2.5 – 3 hours** for the excursion, including time to explore the historic surroundings and ascend the rock.

The experience begins through the extensive **water gardens**, where ancient pools, channels and symmetrical landscaping demonstrate the sophisticated hydraulic and landscape engineering of the period.

Continue towards the impressive **Lion's Paw Terrace**, the dramatic gateway to the upper fortress. The enormous stone paws are the surviving remains of the monumental lion structure that once formed part of the entrance.

As you climb higher, discover the celebrated **Sigiriya Frescoes**, remarkable paintings preserved on the sheltered rock face, followed by the historic **Mirror Wall**, which bears evidence of inscriptions left by visitors over centuries.

At the summit, explore the remains of the ancient **royal palace complex**, while taking in sweeping panoramic views across the surrounding forests, villages and plains.

Highlights Include

- Ancient Water Gardens
- Lion's Paw Terrace
- Sigiriya Frescoes
- Mirror Wall
- Royal Palace Ruins
- Panoramic Views of the Cultural Triangle

The early start allows guests to experience the site during the cooler part of the morning and provides a more comfortable setting for the climb.

Practical Note: The visit involves a substantial climb with numerous steps and some uneven sections. Comfortable walking shoes, drinking water and sun protection are recommended. Modest clothing is advisable when visiting the surrounding cultural and religious areas.

Morning – Return to the Hotel

Following the Sigiriya excursion, return to the hotel and enjoy a well-earned **breakfast**.

The remainder of the morning is free to relax and recover after the early start and climb.

Guests may enjoy the comfort of their room, take a refreshing swim or simply spend some quiet time appreciating the peaceful surroundings of the Cultural Triangle.

Lunch – At the Hotel

Lunch: At the hotel.

Enjoy a relaxed lunch at the property before settling into an unhurried afternoon.

Afternoon – At Leisure

The entire afternoon is intentionally kept free, providing a welcome contrast to the early-morning exploration of Sigiriya.

Guests may choose to:

- Relax beside the hotel swimming pool
- Enjoy the hotel's facilities and services
- Rest in the comfort of their room
- Read or unwind in the surrounding gardens
- Enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of the Cultural Triangle
- Explore the nearby surroundings independently

This slower pace allows guests to enjoy the destination without feeling rushed and provides valuable time to recharge after the morning's active excursion.

Evening – At Leisure

As the afternoon gives way to evening, continue to enjoy the hotel at your own pace.

Take time to relax, enjoy the surrounding landscape and reflect on the remarkable history of Sigiriya before enjoying a comfortable evening at the property.

With no further scheduled activities, guests are free to enjoy the evening entirely as they wish.

Dinner

Dinner: At the hotel.

Meals

- **Breakfast:** At the hotel
 - **Lunch:** At the hotel
 - **Dinner:** At the hotel
 - **Hotel:** Full Board basis
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Overnight

Overnight: Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla



Day 05 – Cultural Triangle → Kandy via Dambulla & Spice Garden

Location: Kandy

Morning – Breakfast & Departure

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out and beginning the journey towards **Kandy**, Sri Lanka's historic hill capital and cultural heartland.

Today's route combines two distinctive experiences before reaching Kandy: the extraordinary **Dambulla Cave Temple**, with its centuries-old Buddhist art, and a traditional **Sri Lankan Spice Garden**, where guests can discover the ingredients, aromas and culinary traditions that form an important part of the island's cuisine.

As the journey progresses, the dry-zone landscapes of the Cultural Triangle gradually give way to greener foothills and the lush scenery of Sri Lanka's central highlands.

Visit – Dambulla Cave Temple

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Duration: Approx. 1.5 hours

En route to Kandy, visit the magnificent **Dambulla Cave Temple**, one of Sri Lanka's most important religious and artistic landmarks.

Set within a dramatic rocky outcrop, the temple complex consists of a series of ancient caves containing an extraordinary collection of **Buddhist statues, murals and religious artwork**.

The caves have served as a place of Buddhist worship for centuries, with successive generations contributing to the paintings, statues and decorative details that can be seen today.

As you explore the complex, discover richly painted ceilings and walls alongside numerous Buddha images, creating an atmospheric setting that reflects the depth of Sri Lanka's Buddhist heritage.

The temple is particularly renowned for the scale and preservation of its murals, which depict Buddhist stories, religious figures and scenes connected with Sri Lanka's spiritual traditions.

Highlights Include

- Ancient Buddhist cave sanctuaries
- Intricately painted ceilings and walls
- Historic Buddha statues and religious imagery
- Traditional Buddhist artistic traditions
- Panoramic views from the temple surroundings

Practical Note: The visit involves walking and climbing steps, and footwear must be removed before entering the sacred areas. Comfortable footwear and modest clothing covering the shoulders and knees are recommended.

Visit – Traditional Sri Lankan Spice Garden

Duration: Approx. 1 – 1.5 hours

Continue the journey with a visit to a traditional **Sri Lankan Spice Garden**, introducing guests to the fragrant world of the island's indigenous spices, herbs and medicinal plants.

Sri Lanka has been renowned for its spices for centuries. Cinnamon, pepper, cardamom, cloves, nutmeg and other aromatic ingredients have played an important role in the island's culinary traditions and historic trade connections.

During the visit, discover how different plants are cultivated and learn about their traditional uses in **Sri Lankan cooking, Ayurveda and everyday life**.

The experience provides a closer look at ingredients that may otherwise be familiar only in their dried or processed form, allowing guests to understand where many of Sri Lanka's distinctive flavours originate.

Sri Lankan Curry Cooking Demonstration

As part of the spice garden experience, enjoy a **traditional Sri Lankan curry cooking demonstration**.

Learn how locally grown spices, herbs, coconut and fresh ingredients are combined to create the complex flavours associated with Sri Lankan cuisine.

The demonstration provides insight into traditional preparation techniques and the importance of balancing spices, aromas and textures when creating a Sri Lankan curry.

Guests can observe the process while learning about the ingredients and culinary traditions passed down through generations.

Lunch – Sri Lankan Spice Garden Experience

Following the cooking demonstration, enjoy an **authentic Sri Lankan lunch prepared as part of the spice garden experience**.

This is an opportunity to taste the flavours and ingredients introduced during the visit, with a selection of traditional dishes prepared using locally sourced produce and aromatic spices.

A Sri Lankan meal is often enjoyed as a varied spread, bringing together rice, vegetable curries, sambols and other accompaniments, allowing guests to experience several flavours in one sitting.

The relaxed setting of the spice garden adds to the experience, creating a memorable culinary introduction to the island's food traditions.

Transfer – Spice Garden → Kandy

After lunch, continue towards **Kandy**, travelling from the lower countryside into the scenic foothills and central highlands.

Drive Time

- Approx. **1.5 – 2 hours**, depending on the location of the spice garden and prevailing traffic conditions.

Road Conditions

- Generally well-maintained roads, with sections becoming more winding as the route approaches the central highlands.

Terrain

- Scenic foothill and **central highland landscapes**, with increasingly lush vegetation, forested slopes, valleys and village settlements.

The changing scenery makes this an enjoyable part of the journey, as the warmer dry-zone environment gradually gives way to the greener, more mountainous surroundings associated with Kandy.

Arrival – Kandy

Upon arrival in **Kandy**, proceed to your hotel and complete the check-in formalities.

Kandy is the historic final royal capital of Sri Lanka and remains one of the island's most important centres of culture, religion and tradition. Set among forested hills around the tranquil Kandy Lake,

the city offers a distinctly different atmosphere from the ancient dry-zone landscapes explored earlier in the journey.

Settle into your room and enjoy the remainder of the day at your own pace.

Afternoon & Evening – At Leisure

The remainder of the afternoon and evening is free for relaxation.

After the day's cultural and culinary experiences, guests may enjoy the hotel facilities, rest in their rooms or simply appreciate the peaceful surroundings of Kandy.

There are no further scheduled activities today, allowing you to recharge before discovering more of Kandy's cultural heritage on the following day.

Meals

- **Breakfast:** At the hotel
 - **Lunch:** At the Spice Garden
 - **Dinner:** At the hotel
 - **Hotel:** Half Board basis
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Overnight

Overnight: Kandy



Day 06 – Kandy Heritage, Walking & Tuk-Tuk Experience

Location: Kandy

Morning – Breakfast at the Hotel

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before setting out to discover the spiritual, botanical and architectural heritage of **Kandy**, Sri Lanka's historic hill capital.

Surrounded by forested hills and centred around the tranquil waters of Kandy Lake, the city was the final royal capital of the island's ancient kingdoms. Its religious traditions, colonial architecture, historic streets and distinctive cultural character remain an important part of Sri Lanka's heritage.

Today's experiences offer several different perspectives of Kandy, beginning with one of the island's most sacred Buddhist sites before continuing through its celebrated botanical gardens and historic city centre.

Visit – Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic

Duration: Approx. 1 – 1.5 hours

Begin the morning with a visit to the **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic**, one of Sri Lanka's most important religious and cultural landmarks.

Located within the former royal palace complex beside Kandy Lake, the temple is believed to house a sacred relic of a tooth of the Buddha. For centuries, the relic has held immense religious and historical importance, and possession of the relic was traditionally associated with the legitimacy of Sri Lanka's rulers.

Explore the temple complex and its richly decorated interiors while learning about the traditions and ceremonies that continue to make the site an important place of pilgrimage for Buddhists from Sri Lanka and around the world.

The temple's traditional architecture, intricate decorative details and deeply devotional atmosphere provide a fascinating introduction to the spiritual identity of Kandy.

Practical Note

The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic remains an active place of worship. Visitors should dress modestly, covering the shoulders and knees, and footwear must be removed before entering the sacred areas.

Visit – Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya

Duration: Approx. 1.5 – 2 hours

Continue to the **Royal Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya**, one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated botanical attractions.

Located beside the Mahaweli River, the gardens cover extensive landscaped grounds and are renowned for their impressive collection of tropical and subtropical plants.

Enjoy a leisurely exploration through beautifully maintained avenues, open lawns and gardens filled with palms, orchids, flowering plants and mature tropical trees.

The gardens offer a peaceful contrast to the historic city centre, with shaded pathways and expansive green spaces creating an ideal environment for a relaxed walk.

As you explore, discover the remarkable diversity of Sri Lanka's plant life and appreciate the importance of the island's tropical environment.

Return to the Hotel – Lunch & Relaxation

Following the morning's visits, return to the hotel.

Enjoy **lunch at the hotel** before taking some time to relax and refresh.

The break provides a comfortable pause before the afternoon's more immersive exploration of Kandy on foot and by traditional tuk-tuk.

Afternoon – Kandy Walking & Tuk-Tuk Experience

Duration: Approx. 2.5 – 3 hours

In the afternoon, embark on a **Kandy Walking & Tuk-Tuk Experience**, designed to introduce guests to the city beyond its major monuments and conventional sightseeing routes.

The experience combines walking through historic streets with travel by traditional tuk-tuk, allowing guests to experience Kandy at a more local and personal level.

Walking Through Historic Kandy

Begin with a walk through **Kandy's historic centre**, discovering some of the buildings, streets and landmarks that reflect the city's complex architectural heritage.

Along the way, visit or pass by:

Queen's Hotel

Discover the historic **Queen's Hotel**, one of Kandy's best-known colonial-era buildings.

Its architecture and long history reflect the transformation of Kandy from the final royal capital into an important destination during the colonial period.

Coffee Fountain

Continue to the **Coffee Fountain**, an opportunity to learn more about the history of coffee in the central highlands.

Coffee was once an important plantation crop in Sri Lanka before the industry was devastated by coffee leaf rust in the 19th century, after which tea gradually became the dominant plantation crop.

Dutch-Era Buildings

Continue through areas where remnants of **Dutch-era architecture** can still be found.

These historic structures provide glimpses into the successive European influences that shaped Kandy and other parts of Sri Lanka over several centuries.

St. Paul's Church

Visit **St. Paul's Church**, another important landmark within Kandy's historic landscape.

The church reflects the city's layered colonial history and forms part of the diverse architectural and religious heritage found within the historic centre.

Throughout the walk, discover the stories, traditions and architectural details behind these landmarks while seeing how historic Kandy continues to function as a living city.

Explore Kandy's Local Markets

Continue into the **local markets**, where the atmosphere becomes increasingly lively and distinctly local.

Walk among stalls selling fresh vegetables, herbs, spices and other everyday produce while interacting with local vendors and observing the daily rhythm of market life.

The markets provide a particularly authentic perspective of Kandy, moving away from formal monuments and into the everyday spaces used by local communities.

Along the way, there may also be opportunities to sample **seasonal Sri Lankan fruits**, offering a simple and delicious introduction to the variety of tropical produce available across the island.

Visit – Historic Walawe Mansions

The experience also includes an opportunity to discover **five remaining historic Walawe mansions**, offering a fascinating glimpse into the architectural and social heritage of Kandy's historic families.

These traditional residences provide an insight into the lifestyles, craftsmanship and architectural traditions associated with an earlier period of the city's history.

Access Note: Visits to selected properties are subject to availability.

Where access is possible, the experience offers a rare opportunity to step beyond the city's public landmarks and discover aspects of Kandy's private architectural heritage.

Traditional Tuk-Tuk Journey – Arthur's Seat Viewpoint

Continue the experience by traditional **Sri Lankan tuk-tuk**, one of the most recognisable forms of transport on the island.

Travel towards **Arthur's Seat Viewpoint**, one of Kandy's celebrated elevated viewpoints.

From here, enjoy panoramic views across the city, including Kandy Lake, the surrounding hills and the densely green landscape that characterises the central highlands.

The viewpoint also provides an opportunity to learn more about **Kandy's coffee-growing heritage** and the important role that plantation agriculture once played in shaping the region.

The combination of the elevated scenery and historical context offers a deeper understanding of how Kandy developed within its distinctive mountainous setting.

Visit – Helga's Folly

Continue to the extraordinary **Helga's Folly**, one of Kandy's most unusual and visually distinctive heritage properties.

Part residence, part artistic expression and part heritage experience, Helga's Folly is renowned for its eclectic interiors, unusual decorative details and extensive collection of modern and contemporary art.

The property provides a fascinating contrast to the formal colonial architecture and religious monuments encountered earlier in the day.

Explore its distinctive atmosphere and discover the artistic collection that has made the property one of Kandy's most unconventional cultural landmarks.

Farewell Drink at Helga's Folly

Conclude the afternoon experience with a **farewell drink at Helga's Folly**.

Take some time to appreciate the extraordinary surroundings and reflect on the day's discoveries before returning to the hotel.

The relaxed conclusion provides an elegant finish to an experience that has moved through Kandy's historic streets, markets, architecture, viewpoints and artistic heritage.

Return to the Hotel

After completing the walking and tuk-tuk experience, return to the hotel.

The remainder of the evening is free to relax following a full day of cultural discovery.

Dinner

Dinner: At the hotel.

Meals

- **Breakfast:** At the hotel
 - **Lunch:** At the hotel
 - **Dinner:** At the hotel
 - **Hotel:** Full Board basis
-

Overnight

Overnight: Kandy



Day 07 – Kandy → Nuwara Eliya & Tea Country Experience

Location: Nuwara Eliya

Morning – Breakfast & Departure

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out and departing **Kandy** for the cool, scenic landscapes of **Nuwara Eliya**.

Today's journey takes you deeper into Sri Lanka's central highlands, where the landscape gradually changes from the lush hills surrounding Kandy to dramatic mountain scenery covered in carefully cultivated tea estates.

Nuwara Eliya is one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated hill-country destinations, renowned for its cool climate, rolling green hills, colonial-era character and extensive tea plantations. The journey itself is an important part of the experience, with winding mountain roads revealing increasingly scenic views as you climb higher into the highlands.

Transfer – Kandy → Nuwara Eliya

Drive Time

- Approx. **2.5 – 3 hours**

Road Conditions

- Mountain roads with winding sections and gradual climbs through the central highlands.

Terrain

- Lush hills, tea-covered slopes, forested valleys and scenic highland landscapes.

As the road climbs away from Kandy, the temperature gradually becomes cooler and the vegetation changes. Hillsides increasingly become covered with neatly planted tea bushes, while mist and clouds often gather around the higher elevations.

The changing landscape provides an introduction to the **tea country of Sri Lanka**, one of the most recognisable and beautiful regions of the island.

En Route – Tea Factory & Plantation Experience

Duration: Approx. 2 – 2.5 hours

En route to Nuwara Eliya, enjoy an immersive **tea factory and plantation experience**, offering an opportunity to discover the story behind one of Sri Lanka's most famous exports: **Ceylon Tea**.

Sri Lanka's tea industry transformed the central highlands and became deeply connected with the development of the hill country. Today, the extensive plantations covering the mountain slopes form an integral part of the landscape and remain an important part of the island's agricultural heritage.

Tea Plucking Experience

Begin with an introduction to the traditional art of **tea plucking**.

Depending on the conditions and plantation operations on the day, guests can observe tea pickers at work among the neatly maintained rows of tea bushes and gain an appreciation of the skill and precision involved in harvesting the tender leaves.

Learn about the importance of selecting the appropriate leaves and how the quality of the freshly harvested tea contributes to the character of the finished product.

Surrounded by rolling plantations and highland scenery, the experience also provides an opportunity to appreciate the landscapes that have become synonymous with Sri Lanka's tea country.

Guided Tea Factory Tour

Continue to the tea factory for a guided introduction to the journey from **fresh tea leaf to finished Ceylon Tea**.

Discover the different stages involved in production and learn how the freshly harvested leaves are carefully processed before being graded and prepared for the market.

The tour provides insight into traditional tea manufacturing techniques and the importance of each stage in developing the flavour, aroma and character of the finished tea.

Guests can also gain a greater understanding of how the cool climate and elevation of Sri Lanka's central highlands contribute to the distinctive qualities associated with high-grown Ceylon Tea.

Tea Tasting

Complete the experience with a **guided tea tasting**.

Sample locally produced teas while discovering differences in aroma, flavour, strength and character. The tasting provides a relaxed conclusion to the factory visit and allows guests to appreciate the craftsmanship behind a simple cup of tea.

The combination of plantation, factory and tasting offers a complete perspective, from the tea bush growing on the mountainside to the finished tea enjoyed around the world.

Continue to Nuwara Eliya

Following the tea experience, continue towards **Nuwara Eliya**.

As the journey continues through the highlands, the surrounding scenery becomes increasingly cool and atmospheric, with tea estates, mountain slopes and mist-covered valleys creating a distinctive sense of place.

Upon arrival, proceed to the hotel and complete the check-in formalities.

Lunch – At the Hotel

Lunch: At the hotel.

Enjoy lunch at the hotel after checking in, followed by time to settle into your room and appreciate the cool mountain surroundings.

Afternoon – At Leisure

The remainder of the afternoon is free to enjoy at your own pace.

After the morning transfer and tea experience, guests may choose to relax at the hotel, enjoy its facilities or simply unwind in the refreshing highland climate.

For those wishing to explore independently, Nuwara Eliya offers a charming mix of colonial-era buildings, gardens, local streets and scenic viewpoints.

Guests may also simply enjoy the tranquillity of the surrounding tea country, with the cooler temperatures providing a welcome change from the warmer regions visited earlier in the journey.

Evening – At Leisure

Continue to enjoy a relaxed evening at the hotel.

As temperatures fall in the highlands, Nuwara Eliya takes on a particularly atmospheric character, making the evening ideal for resting and enjoying the comfort of the property.

There are no scheduled activities, allowing guests to recharge before the next stage of the journey.

Dinner

Dinner: At the hotel.

Meals

- **Breakfast:** At the hotel
 - **Lunch:** At the hotel
 - **Dinner:** At the hotel
 - **Hotel:** Full Board basis
-

Overnight

Overnight: Nuwara Eliya



Day 08 – Nuwara Eliya → Ella Excursion

Location: Nuwara Eliya

Morning – Breakfast & Full-Day Excursion to Ella

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before setting out on a full-day excursion to **Ella**, one of Sri Lanka's most scenic destinations in the central highlands.

Nestled among dramatic mountains, lush tea plantations and forested valleys, Ella has become renowned for its spectacular landscapes and relaxed atmosphere. The journey from Nuwara Eliya to Ella is itself an important part of the experience, with winding mountain roads passing through some of the most beautiful scenery in Sri Lanka's tea country.

Transfer – Nuwara Eliya → Ella

Drive Time

- Approx. **2 hours each way**

Road Conditions

- Winding mountain roads with scenic sections through the central highlands.

Terrain

- Dramatic highland landscapes, tea-covered slopes, forested valleys and mountainous countryside.

As you travel towards Ella, the landscape changes gradually, with expansive tea estates giving way to steeper mountain slopes, deep valleys and spectacular viewpoints.

The journey provides numerous glimpses of traditional hill-country life, with small settlements and tea-growing communities appearing among the surrounding greenery.

Visit – Nine Arch Bridge

Duration: Approx. **1 hour**

Upon arrival in Ella, visit the iconic **Nine Arch Bridge**, one of the most photographed landmarks in Sri Lanka's hill country.

Located between Ella and Demodara, the bridge is an impressive example of early railway-era engineering and is surrounded by dense tropical vegetation and tea-covered hills.

Constructed during the British colonial period, the bridge is notable for its graceful series of nine stone arches and its setting within a lush valley. The absence of steel in its principal construction is often highlighted as part of its distinctive engineering character.

Take time to walk towards the viewpoint and appreciate the bridge from different angles, surrounded by the peaceful greenery of the Ella countryside.

The setting provides excellent opportunities for photography and a chance to observe the famous railway line as it winds through the surrounding hills.

Visit – Little Adam's Peak

Duration: Approx. **1.5 – 2 hours**

Continue to **Little Adam's Peak**, one of Ella's most accessible highland viewpoints.

Named for its resemblance to the much larger Adam's Peak, the trail climbs gradually through the surrounding landscape and leads to a series of elevated viewpoints overlooking Ella's dramatic mountain scenery.

The hike is rewarding without requiring a highly technical climb, making it an enjoyable way to experience the surrounding countryside on foot.

As you ascend, enjoy views across:

- Lush green valleys
- Tea-covered mountain slopes
- Forested hills
- Rural settlements
- Dramatic highland ridges
- The surrounding Ella countryside

At the viewpoints, take time to appreciate the expansive scenery and the distinctive layered landscape of Sri Lanka's central highlands.

Practical Note: Comfortable walking shoes, drinking water and sun protection are recommended. The trail includes uneven and inclined sections, so guests should allow sufficient time to complete the walk comfortably.

Lunch – Ella

Enjoy lunch at a **specially selected local restaurant in Ella.**

The relaxed atmosphere of Ella makes it an ideal place to pause after the morning's sightseeing and enjoy a meal surrounded by the character of this popular hill-country town.

The restaurant experience provides another opportunity to sample Sri Lankan flavours while taking a break before exploring Ella independently.

Afternoon – Explore Ella at Leisure

After lunch, enjoy some **free time in Ella.**

This relaxed period allows guests to experience the town at their own pace rather than following a fixed sightseeing schedule.

Browse the local cafés and small shops, enjoy a freshly prepared drink, take a leisurely walk through the town or simply find a comfortable spot from which to appreciate Ella's laid-back mountain atmosphere.

Ella has developed a distinctive character that combines its spectacular natural surroundings with a relaxed café culture and a strong connection to the surrounding tea country.

Take time to enjoy the atmosphere before beginning the return journey to Nuwara Eliya.

Return – Ella → Nuwara Eliya

Later in the afternoon, depart Ella and retrace the scenic mountain route towards **Nuwara Eliya.**

The return journey offers another opportunity to enjoy the changing highland landscapes as the road climbs back towards the cooler elevations of Nuwara Eliya.

Upon arrival, return to the hotel and settle in for a relaxed evening.

Evening – At Leisure

The remainder of the evening is free to rest at the hotel following the full-day excursion.

Enjoy the cool climate of Nuwara Eliya, relax in the comfort of your room or make use of the hotel facilities.

Dinner

Dinner: At the hotel.

Meals

- **Breakfast:** At the hotel
- **Lunch:** At a specially selected local restaurant in Ella
- **Dinner:** At the hotel
- **Hotel:** Half Board basis

Overnight

Overnight: Nuwara Eliya



Day 09 – Nuwara Eliya → Ella by Scenic Train → Yala

Location: Yala

Morning – Breakfast & Departure from Nuwara Eliya

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out and beginning the journey towards **Yala**, travelling first through Sri Lanka's spectacular hill country before descending towards the southern dry zone.

Today combines one of the island's most scenic railway journeys with a gradual change of landscape from cool, tea-covered mountains to the warmer and more rugged surroundings of southern Sri Lanka.

Transfer – Nuwara Eliya → Nanu Oya Railway Station

Drive Time

- Approx. **15 – 30 minutes**

After breakfast, depart for **Nanu Oya Railway Station**, the principal railway station serving Nuwara Eliya.

The short transfer takes you through the cool highland surroundings before reaching the railway station, where you will board the train for the scenic journey towards Ella.

Scenic Train Journey – Nanu Oya → Ella

Journey Duration: Approx. **2 – 3 hours**

Board the scenic train from **Nanu Oya to Ella**, one of the most memorable railway journeys in Sri Lanka.

The train winds its way through the central highlands, passing through some of the island's most spectacular tea-growing landscapes. As the journey progresses, the scenery continually changes, revealing dramatic mountain slopes, deep valleys, tea plantations, forests and rural settlements.

From the carriage windows, enjoy panoramic views of:

- Tea-covered mountain slopes
- Misty highland valleys
- Lush forests and vegetation
- Rural villages and settlements
- Terraced and cultivated landscapes
- Dramatic mountain scenery

The slower pace of rail travel allows guests to appreciate the landscape in a way that is very different from travelling by road. The route passes through tunnels, curves around mountainsides and gradually descends towards the warmer surroundings of Ella.

The journey itself becomes an experience, offering an authentic glimpse into Sri Lanka's hill-country railway heritage and everyday life along the route.

Important Train Availability Note

Train tickets are strictly subject to availability.

If the required train tickets are unavailable, the journey from Nanu Oya to Ella will instead be undertaken **by road**, following a scenic mountain route.

Arrival in Ella

Upon arrival at **Ella Railway Station**, meet your guide and continue with the day's arrangements.

Ella is surrounded by dramatic mountain scenery, tea-covered slopes and deep green valleys, and its relaxed atmosphere makes it a popular stop within Sri Lanka's hill-country circuit.

Lunch – Ella

Enjoy lunch at a **specially selected local restaurant in Ella.**

This provides a comfortable opportunity to relax after the train journey and enjoy another taste of Sri Lankan cuisine.

The meal also creates a natural pause before spending some free time exploring Ella.

Afternoon – Free Time in Ella

After lunch, enjoy some **free time in Ella at your own pace.**

Guests may take a relaxed walk through the town, browse local cafés and shops, enjoy a refreshing drink or simply appreciate the surrounding mountain scenery.

The free time is intentionally unstructured, allowing guests to experience Ella according to their own interests before continuing towards Yala.

Transfer – Ella → Yala

Later, depart Ella and begin the journey south towards **Yala**.

Drive Time

- Approx. **2.5 – 3 hours**

Road Conditions

- Generally well-maintained roads, with some winding sections as the route leaves the highlands.

Terrain

- Mountain landscapes gradually transition into the warmer **southern dry zone**, with the scenery becoming more open and increasingly tropical.

The change in landscape is particularly noticeable during this journey. The cool, green mountains around Ella gradually give way to lower elevations, drier countryside, open vegetation and the distinctive environment surrounding southern Sri Lanka's wildlife regions.

As you approach Yala, the surroundings become increasingly wild and rural, providing a fitting introduction to the next stage of the journey.

Arrival – Yala

Upon arrival in **Yala**, proceed to the hotel and complete the check-in formalities.

Yala is one of Sri Lanka's best-known wildlife destinations, surrounded by protected wilderness, dry-zone forests, scrubland, lagoons and open grasslands.

Settle into your accommodation and enjoy some time to relax following the day's journey.

Evening – At Leisure

The remainder of the afternoon and evening is free to unwind at the hotel.

Take time to enjoy the peaceful surroundings and prepare for the wildlife experiences that await in the Yala region.

Dinner

Dinner: At the hotel.

Meals

- **Breakfast:** At the hotel
 - **Lunch:** At a specially selected local restaurant in Ella
 - **Dinner:** At the hotel
 - **Hotel:** Half Board basis
-

Overnight

Overnight: Yala



Day 10 – Yala National Park Safari & Leisure

Location: Yala

Early Morning – Yala National Park Safari

- **Departure:** Approximately **05:30 hrs**
- **Safari Duration:** Approx. **3 hours**

Rise early and depart the hotel at approximately **05:30 hrs** for an exciting **jeep safari in Yala National Park**, one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated wildlife destinations.

The early morning is an ideal time to enter the park, when the temperatures are cooler and the wilderness is beginning to come alive. As the first light spreads across the landscape, wildlife activity can be particularly rewarding, while the changing colours of the dry-zone scenery create a beautiful setting for the safari.

Yala is renowned for its varied habitats, including dry forests, open scrubland, grasslands, rocky outcrops, lagoons and wetlands. These diverse environments support an impressive range of wildlife and make every safari a unique experience.

Exploring Yala National Park

Travel through the park in an open-sided **4WD safari jeep**, following designated tracks through the different habitats.

The safari provides opportunities to search for some of Sri Lanka's most iconic wildlife, including:

Leopards

Yala is particularly well known for its **Sri Lankan leopard population**. Spotting one of these elusive big cats is never guaranteed, as sightings depend entirely on animal movements and

natural conditions, but the possibility of encountering a leopard adds an exciting element to the safari.

Keep watch around rocky areas, forest edges and open clearings where these solitary predators may occasionally be seen.

Asian Elephants

Look out for **wild Asian elephants** moving through the park, often near water sources, open grasslands or areas of vegetation.

Observing elephants in their natural surroundings offers an opportunity to appreciate their size, social behaviour and importance within Sri Lanka's wildlife ecosystem.

Sloth Bears

Yala is also home to the **Sri Lankan sloth bear**, a much more elusive species that can occasionally be encountered within the park.

Sightings are relatively unpredictable, making an encounter particularly special for wildlife enthusiasts.

Crocodiles

Waterholes, lagoons and other wetland areas provide habitat for **crocodiles**, which may sometimes be seen resting along the water's edge or partially submerged.

Birdlife

Yala also supports an impressive variety of **bird species**, ranging from colourful resident birds to waterbirds found around its lagoons and wetlands.

Depending on the season and conditions, guests may encounter peacocks, eagles, herons, storks and many other species during the safari.

Wildlife & Landscape Experience

Beyond the wildlife itself, the safari provides an opportunity to appreciate the varied landscapes of southern Sri Lanka.

Travel through changing environments of dry forest, thorny scrub, open plains, rocky formations and water bodies, with each habitat offering different possibilities for wildlife observation.

The safari is accompanied by the sounds of the wilderness and the changing light of the early morning, creating an immersive experience far removed from the more populated areas of the island.

Packed Breakfast During the Safari

A **packed breakfast** will be provided to enjoy during the excursion.

Depending on the safari route and the arrangements on the day, enjoy your breakfast during a suitable break while surrounded by the natural environment of the park.

This allows guests to make the most of the early-morning safari without needing to return to the hotel for breakfast.

Return to the Hotel

After approximately three hours exploring Yala National Park, leave the park and return to the hotel.

The remainder of the day is deliberately kept relaxed, providing time to rest following the early start and wildlife adventure.

Lunch – At the Hotel

Lunch: At the hotel.

Enjoy a relaxed lunch at the property before settling into a leisurely afternoon.

Afternoon – At Leisure

Spend the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

Following the early-morning safari, guests may relax by the pool, enjoy the hotel's facilities, retreat to their rooms or simply appreciate the peaceful surroundings of the Yala region.

The unhurried afternoon provides a welcome opportunity to recharge after the morning's wildlife experience.

Optional – Bundala National Park Safari

For guests who wish to continue exploring Sri Lanka's wildlife and natural landscapes, an **optional afternoon safari at Bundala National Park** can be arranged.

Located along the southern coast, Bundala is particularly renowned for its **wetlands, lagoons, salt marshes and rich birdlife**.

The park provides a very different wildlife environment from Yala, with its network of wetlands supporting a remarkable variety of resident and migratory birds.

An optional Bundala safari is therefore particularly appealing to guests interested in **birdwatching, wetland ecosystems and quieter wildlife experiences**.

Guests choosing this option can spend the afternoon exploring the park by safari jeep before returning to the hotel.

Evening – At Leisure

Whether enjoying a completely relaxed afternoon or choosing the optional Bundala excursion, return to the hotel and spend the evening at leisure.

Take time to unwind after a full day of wildlife experiences and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of the property.

Dinner

Dinner: At the hotel.

Meals

- **Breakfast:** Packed breakfast during the safari
- **Lunch:** At the hotel
- **Dinner:** At the hotel
- **Hotel:** Full Board basis

Overnight

Overnight: Yala



Day 11 – Yala → Weligama via Mirissa

Location: Weligama

Morning – Breakfast & Departure from Yala

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out and departing **Yala** for the southern coastal town of **Weligama**.

Today marks another striking change of scenery as the journey leaves behind the dry-zone wilderness and wildlife landscapes of Yala and heads towards the lush tropical coastline of southern Sri Lanka.

The route combines a comfortable coastal transfer with a scenic stop in **Mirissa**, one of the most picturesque destinations along Sri Lanka's south coast, before continuing to Weligama for a relaxed beach stay.

Transfer – Yala → Weligama

Drive Time

- Approx. **2.5 hours**

Road Conditions

- Well-maintained southern roads, offering a comfortable connection towards the coast.

Terrain

- Dry-zone landscapes gradually transition into **lush tropical vegetation, coastal settlements and increasingly scenic seaside landscapes**.

As the journey progresses towards the coast, the surroundings become greener and more densely vegetated. Coconut palms, tropical gardens, village communities and glimpses of the Indian Ocean gradually replace the drier landscapes surrounding Yala.

The changing scenery provides a natural transition from the wilderness of southern Sri Lanka to the relaxed atmosphere of the island's celebrated south coast.

Visit – Coconut Tree Hill, Mirissa

Duration: Approx. **45 minutes – 1 hour**

En route, stop at the iconic **Coconut Tree Hill in Mirissa**, one of the most recognisable coastal viewpoints in southern Sri Lanka.

Set above the shoreline and surrounded by tall, swaying coconut palms, the viewpoint offers spectacular views across the **Indian Ocean and the sweeping coastline of Mirissa**.

The combination of the curved shoreline, deep blue sea and distinctive coconut palms has made this one of the south coast's most photographed locations.

Take time to walk around the viewpoint, enjoy the sea breeze and capture photographs of the surrounding coastal scenery.

Coastal Views & Photography

The elevated position provides an excellent perspective over Mirissa's coastline, with the ocean stretching towards the horizon and the tropical shoreline curving away into the distance.

The stop is intentionally relaxed, allowing guests to enjoy the setting rather than rushing through it.

After approximately 45 minutes to an hour, continue towards Weligama.

Continue to Weligama

Depart Mirissa and continue along the scenic southern coastline towards **Weligama**.

Weligama, meaning **"Sandy Village,"** is known for its broad crescent-shaped bay, tropical surroundings and relaxed coastal atmosphere. The town has long been associated with fishing and coastal life and is now also recognised as one of Sri Lanka's popular beach destinations.

Upon arrival, proceed to the hotel and complete the check-in formalities.

Settle into your room and enjoy the beginning of your beach stay.

Lunch – At the Hotel

Lunch: At the hotel.

Enjoy lunch at the property before taking time to settle into the relaxed rhythm of the coast.

Afternoon – At Leisure

The remainder of the afternoon is free to enjoy at your own pace.

After several days of cultural exploration and wildlife experiences, this slower coastal afternoon provides a welcome opportunity to simply relax.

Guests may choose to:

- Enjoy the hotel swimming pool
- Relax in the gardens or surrounding areas
- Spend time by the beach
- Enjoy the hotel's facilities and services
- Take a leisurely walk along the coast
- Simply unwind in the comfort of the hotel

For those who wish to explore independently, Weligama's broad bay and surrounding coastal areas provide a pleasant setting for a relaxed afternoon.

Evening – At Leisure

Continue to enjoy the peaceful coastal atmosphere into the evening.

Take time to watch the changing colours over the Indian Ocean, enjoy the hotel facilities or simply relax after the journey from Yala.

With no scheduled evening activities, guests are free to enjoy Weligama entirely at their own pace.

Dinner

Dinner: At the hotel.

Meals

- **Breakfast:** At the hotel
 - **Lunch:** At the hotel
 - **Dinner:** At the hotel
 - **Hotel:** Full Board basis
-

Overnight

Overnight: Weligama



Day 12 – Weligama Leisure / Optional Whale Watching

Location: Weligama

Optional Early Morning – Whale-Watching Experience

For guests who wish to make the most of Sri Lanka's southern coastline, an **optional early-morning whale-watching excursion** can be arranged.

The waters off the southern coast are known for encounters with a variety of marine life, and a morning at sea provides a wonderful opportunity to experience the Indian Ocean from a completely different perspective.

Early Morning Departure

Hotel Departure: Approximately **05:30 hrs**

Rise early and depart the hotel for **Mirissa Fisheries Harbour**, located approximately 15 minutes from Weligama.

Transfer – Weligama → Mirissa Fisheries Harbour

Transfer Time: Approx. **15 minutes**

Arrive at the harbour at approximately **06:00 hrs**.

Before boarding, enjoy a **morning tea or coffee** at the harbour while preparing for the cruise.

Whale-Watching Cruise – Mirissa

- **Departure:** Approximately **06:00 hrs**
- **Duration:** Approx. **4 – 5 hours**

Board the whale-watching vessel and set sail from **Mirissa Fisheries Harbour** into the open waters of the Indian Ocean.

The cruise provides an opportunity to experience the southern coastline from offshore while searching for whales and other marine life in their natural environment.

The waters around the southern coast are known for seasonal sightings of **blue whales and other cetaceans**, as well as dolphins and a variety of marine life.

Marine Wildlife Experience

As the boat moves further offshore, keep watch across the open water for signs of marine activity.

Depending on the season, sea conditions and natural movements of the animals, guests may have opportunities to observe:

- Blue Whales
- Sperm Whales
- Dolphins
- Other Cetaceans
- Seabirds and Marine Birdlife

Wildlife encounters are naturally unpredictable and cannot be guaranteed. The experience is focused on observing marine animals responsibly in their natural environment rather than approaching or disturbing them.

Light Breakfast on Board

A **light breakfast** will be served on board during the cruise.

Enjoy the meal while surrounded by the vast Indian Ocean, with the changing coastal horizon providing a memorable backdrop to the morning.

The relaxed pace of the cruise allows guests to spend several hours enjoying the ocean environment while continuing to search for marine wildlife.

Return to Mirissa Fisheries Harbour

After approximately **4 – 5 hours at sea**, sail back towards **Mirissa Fisheries Harbour**.

Upon arrival, meet your waiting driver and transfer back to the hotel in Weligama.

For Guests Not Participating

Guests who prefer not to take part in the optional whale-watching excursion can enjoy a more relaxed morning at the hotel.

Breakfast at the Hotel

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel at your leisure, followed by a completely free morning.

Guests may relax by the pool, enjoy the hotel facilities, spend time by the beach or simply appreciate the peaceful surroundings of Weligama.

The flexibility allows guests to enjoy the day according to their preferred pace, without requiring an early start.

Lunch – At the Hotel

Lunch: At the hotel.

Following the morning's activities or leisure time, enjoy lunch at the hotel.

For whale-watching participants, this provides a relaxed opportunity to settle back into the hotel after the early start and several hours at sea.

Afternoon – At Leisure

Spend the afternoon at leisure.

Guests may choose to continue relaxing at the hotel, enjoy the beach, take a refreshing swim or explore **Weligama** independently.

The town and surrounding coastline offer a relaxed atmosphere, with opportunities for leisurely walks, local cafés and scenic coastal views.

After several active days of cultural exploration and wildlife experiences, the open afternoon provides valuable time to slow down and enjoy the southern coast without a fixed schedule.

Evening – At Leisure

Enjoy a final relaxed evening in **Weligama**.

Take time to appreciate the tropical coastal atmosphere, enjoy the hotel facilities or simply unwind beside the Indian Ocean.

Whether you spent the morning at sea searching for whales or enjoyed a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, the evening remains completely free to enjoy at your own pace.

Dinner

Dinner: At the hotel.

Meals

- **Breakfast:** At the hotel / Light breakfast on board for whale-watching participants
- **Lunch:** At the hotel

- **Dinner:** At the hotel
 - **Hotel:** Full Board basis
-

Overnight

Overnight: Weligama



Day 13 – Departure / Optional Bentota Beach or Maldives Extension

Location: Departure / Optional Bentota Beach Extension

Morning – Breakfast & Check-out

Enjoy your final breakfast at the hotel in Weligama, taking some time to savour your last moments on Sri Lanka's beautiful southern coast.

After breakfast, complete your check-out and prepare for your onward journey. Depending on your departure arrangements, you may have some final time to relax at the hotel or enjoy the surroundings before beginning the journey towards the airport.

Transfer – Weligama → Bandaranaike International Airport

After check-out, meet your guide and begin your transfer from **Weligama to Bandaranaike International Airport**.

Drive Time

- **Approx. 2.5 hours**, depending on traffic and the final airport departure arrangements.

Road Conditions

- Travel via **well-maintained southern roads and expressway sections where applicable**, providing a comfortable connection towards Colombo and the airport.

Terrain & Scenery

- The journey gradually transitions from the **lush coastal landscapes of the south** towards the more urban surroundings of Colombo and the wider airport area.

- Along the way, enjoy a final glimpse of Sri Lanka's changing landscapes as the relaxed atmosphere of the southern coast gives way to the busier western region.

Upon arrival at **Bandaranaike International Airport**, proceed with the necessary check-in and departure formalities for your onward flight.

Optional – Bentota Beach Extension

For guests wishing to extend their time in Sri Lanka rather than departing immediately, the journey may alternatively continue with an **optional beach extension in Bentota**.

Located along Sri Lanka's western coast, Bentota is renowned for its palm-fringed beaches, warm tropical waters and relaxed coastal atmosphere. An extension here provides an opportunity to slow down after the touring portion of the journey, with time to enjoy the beach, resort facilities and optional experiences at leisure.

Guests may also choose to **continue onwards to the Maldives**, creating a seamless combination of Sri Lanka's cultural, scenic and wildlife experiences with a relaxing tropical island stay.

Meals

- **Breakfast:** At the hotel
- **Lunch:** Not included
- **Dinner:** Not included



End of Tour



Your Sri Lankan journey comes to an end as you depart for your onward destination from **Bandaranaike International Airport**, or continue your holiday with an optional **Bentota beach extension** or onward journey to the **Maldives**.



Take a final moment to reflect on the experiences gathered throughout your journey, from the vibrant streets and historic character of **Colombo**, through the ancient heritage of the **Cultural Triangle**, to the cultural heart of **Kandy** and the misty, tea-covered landscapes of **Nuwara Eliya**.



Continue your memories through the dramatic mountain scenery surrounding **Ella**, the wildlife-rich wilderness of **Yala National Park**, and finally the relaxed tropical atmosphere of **Weligama** and Sri Lanka's southern coast.



From ancient temples and UNESCO heritage sites to wildlife encounters, scenic highland journeys, tea plantations, coastal landscapes and authentic local experiences, this journey offers a varied introduction to the many sides of Sri Lanka.



We wish you a **pleasant onward journey** and hope that the memories created during your time in Sri Lanka will remain with you long after you leave the island. We look forward to welcoming you back to Sri Lanka for another unforgettable journey in the future.

