

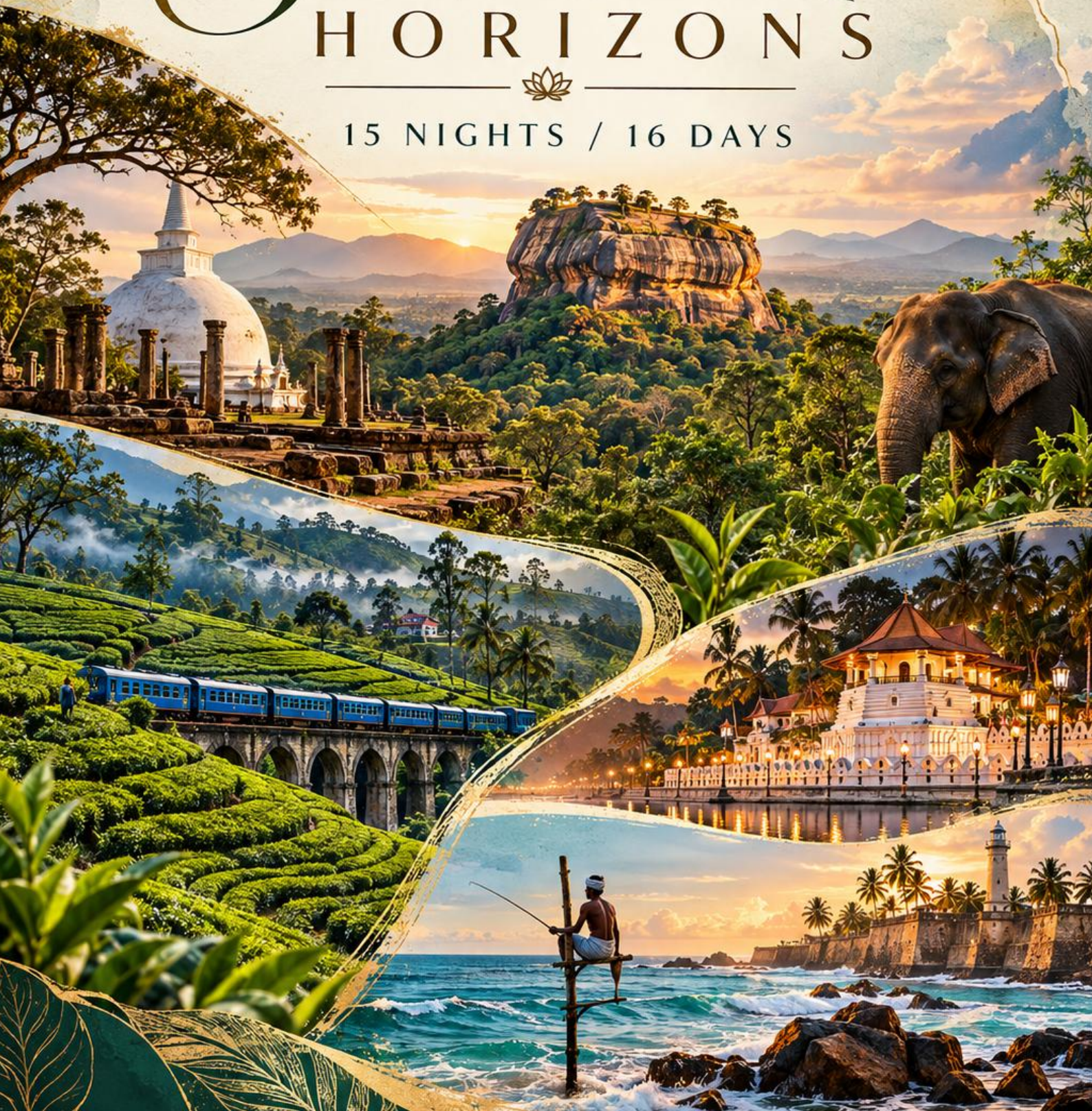


Sri Lanka

HORIZONS



15 NIGHTS / 16 DAYS



ITINERARY SUMMARY

Day	Overnight	Summary
Day 01	Negombo	Arrive in Sri Lanka and transfer to Negombo. Enjoy lunch at the hotel followed by a relaxed afternoon and evening at leisure.
Day 02	Anuradhapura	Travel to Anuradhapura with lunch at a local restaurant. In the late afternoon, enjoy a guided tour of the ancient city of Anuradhapura , exploring its ancient stupas, sacred sites, monasteries and historic monuments .
Day 03	Anuradhapura	Early morning Wilpattu National Park jeep safari , approximately 3–3.5 hours, with opportunities to see leopards, elephants, sloth bears, deer, crocodiles and birdlife . Return to the hotel for lunch and a relaxed afternoon.
Day 04	Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla	Transfer from Anuradhapura to the Cultural Triangle , followed by hotel check-in, lunch and a relaxed afternoon at leisure.
Day 05	Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla	Early morning visit to Sigiriya Rock Fortress , followed by breakfast and transfer to Polonnaruwa. Enjoy an authentic Sri Lankan curry lunch before a guided tour of the ancient city of Polonnaruwa , exploring its archaeological ruins, temples and royal monuments.
Day 06	Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla	Enjoy a leisurely morning before an authentic Traditional Sri Lankan Village Experience , including a tractor ride through the countryside , traditional catamaran ride and a village lunch prepared with local ingredients and traditional cooking methods .
Day 07	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 Sri Lankan lunch before continuing to Kandy.
Day 08	Kandy	Visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic and Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya . After lunch, visit a local gem factory and showroom before experiencing the vibrant Kandy Cultural Fire Dance Show in the evening.
Day 09	Nuwara Eliya	Travel through the scenic central highlands to Nuwara Eliya. Enjoy an immersive tea plantation and factory experience , including tea plucking, tea production and tea tasting . Continue with a Nuwara Eliya city tour , including the historic Old Post Office, followed by a visit to Gregory Lake and Gregory Park .

Day	Overnight	Summary
Day 10	Yala	Transfer to Nanu Oya and board the scenic Nanu Oya to Ella train , travelling through tea-covered mountains, valleys and countryside . After lunch in Ella, continue by road to Yala and relax at the hotel.
Day 11	Yala	Early morning 3-hour Yala National Park jeep safari , with opportunities to spot leopards, elephants, sloth bears, crocodiles and birdlife . Return for lunch and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. Optional Bundala National Park safari available.
Day 12	Bentota	Travel from Yala towards Bentota, stopping to see the traditional stilt fishermen along the southern coast. Continue to Galle for a guided Galle City Tour , exploring its historic streets, colonial architecture and cultural landmarks, followed by lunch before continuing to Bentota.
Day 13	Bentota	Enjoy a full day of beach leisure in Bentota , with time to relax by the pool, unwind on the beach or enjoy the hotel's facilities.
Day 14	Bentota	Another relaxed day in Bentota. Optional Madu River Boat Safari through tranquil mangrove-lined waterways , offering an insight into the area's natural environment and local way of life.
Day 15	Bentota	Full day at leisure in Bentota , with time to enjoy the beach, pool and hotel facilities at your own pace.
Day 16	Departure / Maldives Extension	Breakfast and check-out before transferring to Bandaranaike International Airport . Alternatively, continue your holiday with an onward journey to the Maldives for an extended beach escape.



Day 01 – Arrival in Sri Lanka → Negombo

Location: Negombo

Arrival – Bandaranaike International Airport

Welcome to **Sri Lanka**, an island of tropical landscapes, centuries-old traditions, vibrant culture and warm hospitality.

Upon arrival at **Bandaranaike International Airport**, you will be warmly welcomed by your local representative, who will assist you with your arrival arrangements before you begin your journey towards the nearby coastal town of **Negombo**.

As you leave the airport, your Sri Lankan adventure begins with an easy introduction to the island. The short journey towards Negombo takes you through the surroundings of Sri Lanka's western coastal region, where everyday life, tropical vegetation and glimpses of the local community provide your first impressions of the country.

Transfer – Bandaranaike International Airport → Negombo

Your guide will accompany you on the short transfer from the airport to your hotel in Negombo.

Drive Time

- **Approx. 30 minutes**, depending on traffic and the exact location of the hotel.

Road Conditions

- **Well-maintained roads** provide a comfortable and straightforward journey from the airport towards Negombo.

Terrain & Scenery

- The route passes through **urban and coastal surroundings**, gradually introducing you to the tropical character of Sri Lanka's western coast.
- You may notice coconut palms, local neighbourhoods, small businesses and the lively rhythm of everyday life as you approach Negombo.

The short transfer makes Negombo an ideal first stop after an international flight, allowing you to reach your hotel without a lengthy road journey immediately after arrival.

Arrival in Negombo – Hotel Check-in & Lunch

Upon arrival at the hotel, complete your **check-in formalities** and settle into your accommodation.

Enjoy **lunch at the hotel**, providing an opportunity to refresh and relax after your journey before taking some time to settle into your room.

With the remainder of the day intentionally kept free, there is no need to rush into sightseeing. Instead, the afternoon provides a gentle introduction to the relaxed atmosphere of Sri Lanka's western coast.

Afternoon – At Leisure

Spend the remainder of the **afternoon and evening at leisure**, allowing yourself time to recover from your journey and settle comfortably into the Sri Lankan pace of life.

Depending on your preference, you may choose to relax at the hotel, enjoy the available facilities, take some time by the pool or simply unwind in the comfort of your room.

For guests staying close to the coast, this can also be an opportunity to experience the relaxed atmosphere of **Negombo**, a historic fishing and coastal town known for its long sandy shoreline, traditional fishing culture and strong connections to Sri Lanka's maritime heritage.

The evening remains completely at leisure, creating a calm and unhurried beginning to the journey.

Meals

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

Overnight: Negombo



Day 02 – Negombo → Anuradhapura & Ancient City Tour

Location: Anuradhapura

Morning – Breakfast & Departure

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and begin your journey north-east towards **Anuradhapura**, one of Sri Lanka's most important ancient cities and the first great capital of the island's historic kingdoms.

Today's journey marks the transition from the relaxed coastal surroundings of Negombo into the more rural landscapes of Sri Lanka's interior. As you travel inland, the scenery gradually changes, with cultivated areas, village communities and open countryside becoming more prominent as you approach the island's **dry zone**.

Transfer – Negombo → Anuradhapura

The journey from Negombo to Anuradhapura takes approximately **4 hours**, depending on traffic, road conditions and any comfort stops along the way.

Drive Time

- **Approx. 4 hours**

Road Conditions

- Travel along **well-maintained main roads**, providing a comfortable connection between the western coastal region and the North Central Province.

Terrain & Scenery

- The journey begins amid the more populated surroundings of the western region before gradually moving into **rural landscapes and Sri Lanka's dry zone**.

- Along the route, you may encounter traditional villages, agricultural land, coconut plantations and increasingly open landscapes characteristic of the island's north-central region.

The drive provides an opportunity to observe how dramatically Sri Lanka's landscape can change within a single journey, from the tropical coastal environment around Negombo to the drier, more expansive scenery surrounding the ancient kingdoms.

En Route – Local Lunch

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

This provides an opportunity to pause during the transfer and enjoy a freshly prepared meal in a more local setting. It also offers a first taste of the flavours and culinary traditions associated with Sri Lanka's interior regions before continuing towards Anuradhapura.

After lunch, continue the journey towards the ancient city.

Arrival in Anuradhapura – Hotel Check-in

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

Take some time to settle into your room and relax before the afternoon's exploration. The break between the journey and sightseeing allows you to refresh before discovering the extraordinary archaeological landscape of one of Sri Lanka's most historically significant destinations.

Late Afternoon – Guided Anuradhapura Ancient City Tour

Later in the afternoon, set out with your guide for a **guided half-day tour of the ancient city of Anuradhapura**, allowing approximately **2.5 to 3 hours**.

Anuradhapura was the **first great capital of ancient Sri Lanka** and remained an important political and religious centre for centuries. Today, its extensive archaeological landscape provides an extraordinary insight into the sophistication of Sri Lanka's early civilisation, with monumental stupas, ancient monasteries, sacred trees, reservoirs and stone structures spread across a vast area.

During the tour, discover the remarkable **archaeological and religious heritage of Anuradhapura**, exploring a selection of its most significant ancient monuments and sacred sites.

Ancient Stupas & Sacred Monuments

The ancient city is renowned for its enormous stupas, many of which were constructed on a monumental scale and remain important places of Buddhist devotion.

As you explore the complex, your guide will introduce you to the history and significance of the ancient structures, explaining how Anuradhapura developed into one of the most important centres of Buddhism in the region.

Sacred Sites & Religious Heritage

The city remains a major pilgrimage destination, and its archaeological sites continue to have deep religious importance.

Among the most revered features of Anuradhapura is the **Sri Maha Bodhi**, a sacred fig tree traditionally regarded as having grown from a sapling brought from the original Bodhi tree in India under which the Buddha attained enlightenment.

The sacred precincts provide an opportunity to observe both the ancient heritage of the city and the continuing religious traditions that have shaped Sri Lankan culture for more than two millennia.

Ancient Monasteries & Historic Remains

The tour also introduces the remains of the great monastic complexes that once supported thousands of monks and formed important centres of learning, religious practice and scholarship.

Throughout the ancient city, archaeological remains reveal the remarkable engineering, architecture and craftsmanship of the civilisation that flourished here.

The extensive ruins, ancient stone carvings and monumental structures create a fascinating contrast between the peaceful natural surroundings and the enormous scale of the ancient kingdom.

Allow approximately **2.5 to 3 hours** for the guided exploration, with the exact sequence of sites adapted according to the day's conditions and the pace of the visit.

Return to the Hotel

Following the ancient city tour, return to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening at leisure.

After a day combining a scenic inland journey with an introduction to one of Sri Lanka's most important historical destinations, the evening provides time to relax and enjoy the hotel's facilities before dinner.

Meals

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

Overnight

Overnight: Anuradhapura



Day 03 – Wilpattu National Park Safari

Location: Anuradhapura

Early Morning – Departure for Wilpattu National Park

Rise early this morning for one of the journey's most exciting wildlife experiences.

At approximately **05:00 hrs**, depart from your hotel in Anuradhapura and travel towards **Wilpattu National Park**, Sri Lanka's largest national park and one of the island's most important wilderness areas.

The early start is an essential part of the experience, as the cooler morning hours offer excellent conditions for wildlife activity and provide a peaceful atmosphere as you enter the park.

Transfer – Anuradhapura → Wilpattu National Park

Travel by road from Anuradhapura towards the entrance of Wilpattu National Park.

Drive Time

- **Approx. 1 hour**

Road Conditions

- The journey takes place mainly along **rural roads**, passing through quieter areas away from the busier urban centres.

Terrain & Scenery

- The landscape gradually transitions into the characteristic **dry-zone environment**, with open countryside, scrubland and forest surroundings becoming increasingly prominent as you approach the national park.

As the morning light begins to appear, the surroundings take on a distinctly wild character, creating an atmospheric introduction to the day's safari.

Packed Breakfast – During the Safari

A **packed breakfast** will be provided for the safari.

This allows you to make the most of your early morning in the park without having to return to the hotel for breakfast. Depending on the safari arrangements, there may be an appropriate opportunity to enjoy your breakfast during a suitable break within the safari experience.

Wilpattu National Park Jeep Safari

Enjoy an approximately **3 to 3.5-hour jeep safari** through **Wilpattu National Park**, travelling in a specially adapted safari vehicle accompanied by an experienced driver.

Covering an extensive wilderness landscape, Wilpattu is characterised by a mixture of dense forest, open areas, scrubland and numerous natural **villus**, or shallow water-filled depressions. These distinctive wetlands are one of the features that give the park its name and provide important sources of water for wildlife.

The changing landscapes create opportunities to observe animals in different habitats as the jeep moves through the park.

Wildlife Encounters

During the safari, keep watch for some of Sri Lanka's most fascinating wildlife, including:

- **Leopards**, one of the park's most sought-after sightings
- **Asian elephants**, often encountered in open areas or around water sources
- **Sloth bears**, an exciting but less frequently encountered resident of the park
- **Spotted deer and other deer species**, which may be seen moving through open areas or woodland
- **Crocodiles**, particularly around suitable water bodies
- A diverse range of **birdlife**, including colourful forest birds, waterbirds and birds of prey

Every safari is different, and wildlife sightings naturally depend on animal movements, weather, water availability and other conditions on the day. The experience is therefore as much about exploring the wilderness and observing animal behaviour as it is about particular sightings.

The early morning atmosphere, quiet forest tracks and gradual emergence of the day's wildlife make this a memorable way to experience Sri Lanka's natural environment.

Return to Anuradhapura



Following the safari, leave Wilpattu National Park and return to your hotel in Anuradhapura.

The return journey provides time to relax after the early start and reflect on the wildlife experiences of the morning.

Afternoon – At Leisure

Upon returning to the hotel, enjoy **lunch at the hotel** before spending the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

After the early morning safari, the afternoon is intentionally unhurried. Take time to relax in your room, enjoy the hotel's facilities or simply rest after the morning's adventure.

The remainder of the day is free, allowing you to enjoy a slower pace before continuing your Sri Lankan journey.

Meals

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

Overnight: Anuradhapura



Day 04 – Anuradhapura → Cultural Triangle

Location: Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla

Morning – Breakfast & Departure

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and begin your journey towards Sri Lanka's renowned **Cultural Triangle**, a region at the heart of the island's ancient civilisation and home to some of the country's most significant archaeological, religious and cultural treasures.

Leaving Anuradhapura behind, the journey takes you deeper into Sri Lanka's historic north-central region. The landscape remains distinctly rural and dry, with open countryside, forested areas and traditional villages forming the backdrop as you travel towards **Sigiriya, Habarana or Dambulla**.

Transfer – Anuradhapura → Cultural Triangle

The journey from Anuradhapura to your hotel in the Cultural Triangle takes approximately **1.5 to 2 hours**, depending on the exact location of your accommodation and traffic conditions.

Drive Time

- **Approx. 1.5–2 hours**

Road Conditions

- Travel along **well-maintained roads**, providing a comfortable connection between the ancient city of Anuradhapura and the Cultural Triangle.

Terrain & Scenery

- The route passes predominantly through **rural dry-zone landscapes**, with stretches of woodland, open countryside, agricultural areas and traditional village settlements.

- The dry-zone scenery provides a striking contrast to the lush coastal landscapes encountered earlier in the journey.

As you approach the Cultural Triangle, the surroundings become increasingly associated with Sri Lanka's ancient kingdoms, with historic sites and archaeological treasures spread throughout the region.

Arrival – Hotel Check-in & Lunch

Upon arrival at your selected hotel in **Sigiriya, Habarana or Dambulla**, complete the check-in formalities.

Enjoy **lunch at the hotel** before settling into your room and taking some time to refresh after the journey.

The day's schedule is intentionally relaxed, allowing you to enjoy the surroundings and the facilities of your accommodation without immediately moving into another sightseeing experience.

Afternoon – At Leisure

Spend the remainder of the **afternoon at leisure**, with no scheduled sightseeing planned.

After the cultural and wildlife experiences of the previous days, this free time provides an opportunity to slow the pace and enjoy your surroundings.

Depending on your hotel, you may choose to relax by the pool, enjoy the property's gardens and natural setting, make use of the available leisure facilities or simply spend some quiet time in your room.

The afternoon also provides a comfortable pause before the upcoming exploration of the Cultural Triangle, where ancient fortresses, temples, cave monasteries and archaeological sites reveal some of Sri Lanka's most fascinating history.

As evening approaches, enjoy dinner at the hotel and settle into a peaceful night in the Cultural Triangle.

Meals

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

Overnight

Overnight: Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla



Day 05 – Sigiriya Rock Fortress & Polonnaruwa

Location: Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla

Early Morning – Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Begin the day early, departing at approximately **05:30 hrs** for one of Sri Lanka's most iconic landmarks, the magnificent **Sigiriya Rock Fortress**.

The early start allows you to approach the site during the cooler hours of the morning, when the atmosphere is generally more comfortable for exploration and the surrounding landscape begins to emerge in the soft early light.

Sigiriya Rock Fortress

- **Excursion Duration:** Approx. **2.5–3 hours**

Rising dramatically above the surrounding plains, **Sigiriya** is one of Sri Lanka's most remarkable archaeological sites and a defining symbol of the island's ancient civilisation.

The fortress was developed during the reign of **King Kashyapa I**, who established his royal residence on and around the great rock in the 5th century. The site demonstrates an extraordinary combination of ancient engineering, architecture, landscape design and artistic achievement.

Your exploration takes you through the historic surroundings of the fortress, where carefully planned gardens, ancient water features, monumental entrances and archaeological remains reveal the sophistication of the royal complex.

As you explore, discover the famous **water gardens**, landscaped pathways and remains of the ancient palace complex before approaching the monumental rock itself.

The climb and exploration reveal features including the celebrated **Lion's Paw Terrace**, where the enormous carved lion paws mark the approach towards the summit, as well as the renowned **Sigiriya frescoes** and the historic **Mirror Wall**.

From the higher levels, the surrounding landscape opens into spectacular views across the dry-zone plains, forests and distant countryside.

The experience combines history, archaeology and dramatic scenery, making Sigiriya one of the most memorable highlights of the Cultural Triangle.

Practical Note: The Sigiriya experience involves walking and climbing steps. Comfortable footwear, sun protection and sufficient drinking water are recommended. Guests should also dress respectfully when visiting the site's historic and culturally significant areas.

Return to the Hotel – Breakfast & Relaxation

Following the **2.5 to 3-hour Sigiriya excursion**, return to your hotel.

Enjoy **breakfast at the hotel**, followed by some time to relax and refresh after the early morning exploration.

This break provides an opportunity to take a shower, rest in your room and prepare comfortably for the second major historical experience of the day.

Late Morning – Transfer to Polonnaruwa

Later in the morning, depart for **Polonnaruwa**, another of Sri Lanka's great ancient capitals.

Drive Time

- **Approx. 1–1.25 hours**

The journey continues through the rural landscapes of Sri Lanka's **dry zone**, passing through areas of forest, agricultural land and traditional village communities.

Polonnaruwa represents another important chapter in Sri Lanka's history, following Anuradhapura as the island's medieval capital and becoming a powerful centre of administration, religion and culture.

En Route – Authentic Sri Lankan Curry Lunch

During the journey, stop at a **specially selected local restaurant** for an authentic **Sri Lankan curry lunch**.

Sri Lankan cuisine is renowned for its aromatic spices, coconut-based preparations, sambols, rice and wide variety of vegetable, seafood and meat dishes. A traditional curry meal provides an opportunity to experience these flavours in a more authentic local setting.

The meal also creates a natural break between the morning's exploration of Sigiriya and the afternoon visit to Polonnaruwa.

After lunch, continue towards the ancient city.

Afternoon – Polonnaruwa Ancient City

Continue to **Polonnaruwa** for a guided exploration of the ancient city.

- **Tour Duration:** Approx. **2.5–3 hours**

Polonnaruwa flourished as the capital of Sri Lanka during the medieval period and today forms one of the island's most important archaeological landscapes.

The ancient city is characterised by an impressive collection of **archaeological ruins, temples, royal monuments and religious structures**, offering an insight into the scale and sophistication of the kingdom that once flourished here.

Ancient Royal Capital

Explore the remains of the historic royal centre, where ancient structures provide glimpses into the organisation and architectural achievements of the medieval kingdom.

Your guide will introduce you to the history of Polonnaruwa and explain the significance of the monuments encountered throughout the ancient city.

Ancient Temples & Religious Monuments

The city contains numerous Buddhist monuments and temples, reflecting the important role of Buddhism within the ancient kingdom.

Among the archaeological highlights are beautifully preserved stone structures, religious buildings and intricately carved monuments that demonstrate the craftsmanship of the period.

Royal Monuments & Archaeological Ruins

Continue through the wider archaeological complex, where ruined structures, stone pillars, ancient walls and monumental remains reveal the extent of the former capital.

One of the most striking features of Polonnaruwa is the quality of its stone craftsmanship, with detailed carvings and monumental Buddhist imagery providing an enduring record of the artistic traditions of medieval Sri Lanka.

Allow approximately **2.5 to 3 hours** for the guided tour, with the exact sequence of sites adapted according to the conditions of the day and the pace of the visit.

Return to the Hotel – Evening at Leisure

Following the exploration of Polonnaruwa, return to your hotel in **Sigiriya, Habarana or Dambulla**.

The remainder of the evening is free to relax and enjoy the hotel's facilities after a full day of exploring two of Sri Lanka's most important ancient heritage sites.

Enjoy dinner at the hotel and take time to unwind, reflect on the day's experiences and prepare for the next stage of your journey.

Meals

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

Overnight

Overnight: Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla



Day 06 – Traditional Sri Lankan Village Experience

Location: Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla

Morning – At Leisure

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a **leisurely morning** at your accommodation.

Following the previous day's full programme of exploring **Sigiriya Rock Fortress and the ancient city of Polonnaruwa**, this morning is intentionally kept free, allowing you to enjoy a slower pace.

Take time to relax in your room, enjoy the hotel's facilities, spend some time by the pool or simply appreciate the peaceful surroundings of the Cultural Triangle.

The unhurried morning also allows you to prepare comfortably for the more immersive local experience planned later in the day.

Late Morning – Traditional Sri Lankan Village Experience

In the late morning, leave the hotel and proceed for a **traditional Sri Lankan village experience**, lasting approximately **2.5 to 3 hours**.

This experience offers an opportunity to move beyond Sri Lanka's major archaeological attractions and gain a more personal insight into **rural life, traditional customs and the everyday rhythms of village communities** in the Cultural Triangle.

Rather than simply observing the countryside from the road, the experience allows you to become part of the landscape, travelling through the surrounding rural environment and experiencing some of the traditional ways in which local communities have interacted with their natural surroundings for generations.

Scenic Tractor Ride Through the Countryside

Begin the village experience with a **scenic tractor ride through the surrounding countryside**.

The journey provides a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the rural character of the Cultural Triangle, passing through agricultural areas, village landscapes and open countryside.

Away from the main tourist routes, the scenery offers a glimpse into everyday rural Sri Lanka, where farming, cultivation and close connections with the surrounding environment continue to play an important role in local life.

The slower pace of the tractor ride allows you to appreciate the landscape rather than simply passing through it, with opportunities to observe traditional homes, cultivated areas and the peaceful atmosphere of the surrounding villages.

Traditional Catamaran Ride

Continue the experience with a traditional **catamaran ride**, travelling across the tranquil waters of the local countryside.

Water has always played an important role in life within Sri Lanka's dry zone. Ancient irrigation systems, village tanks and natural waterways have supported agriculture and communities across this region for centuries.

The catamaran experience offers a peaceful perspective of the surrounding landscape and provides an opportunity to appreciate the close relationship between rural communities and the water sources that sustain them.

Surrounded by the quiet countryside, this part of the experience offers a particularly relaxed contrast to the monumental archaeological sites visited during the previous days.

Lunch – Authentic Village Experience

A highlight of the experience is an **authentic Sri Lankan village lunch**, prepared using **local ingredients and traditional cooking methods**.

The meal provides a genuine introduction to the flavours of rural Sri Lankan cuisine, with traditional preparation methods and locally sourced ingredients forming an important part of the experience.

Sri Lankan village cooking is closely connected to the ingredients available in the surrounding area, with rice, vegetables, herbs, spices, coconut and a variety of traditional curries commonly forming part of the meal.

Rather than being simply a scheduled lunch stop, the meal forms an integral part of the village experience, allowing you to appreciate Sri Lankan food within the context of local culture and everyday life.

Enjoy the meal in a relaxed rural setting before continuing the experience.

Return to the Hotel

Following the village excursion and lunch, return to the hotel in the **late afternoon**.

The journey back provides a final opportunity to enjoy the peaceful rural scenery before returning to the comfort of your accommodation.

Afternoon – At Leisure

Spend the remainder of the day **at leisure at the hotel**.

After the immersive village experience, enjoy a relaxed afternoon with time to make use of the hotel's facilities, unwind by the pool, relax in your room or simply enjoy the surrounding environment.

With no further scheduled sightseeing, the evening can be enjoyed at your own pace before dinner at the hotel.

Meals

- **Breakfast:** At the hotel
 - **Lunch:** During the Village Tour
 - **Dinner:** At the hotel
 - **Hotel:** Half Board basis
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Overnight

Overnight: Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla



Day 07 – Cultural Triangle → Kandy via Dambulla & Spice Garden

Location: Kandy

Morning – Breakfast & Departure

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and depart the **Cultural Triangle** for the scenic journey towards **Kandy**, Sri Lanka's historic hill capital and one of the island's most culturally significant destinations.

Today's journey takes you from the dry-zone landscapes surrounding Sigiriya, Habarana and Dambulla towards the greener and more mountainous scenery of Sri Lanka's **central highlands**. Along the way, the landscape gradually changes as the flat plains give way to rolling countryside, forested hills and winding roads.

Transfer – Cultural Triangle → Kandy

The journey from the Cultural Triangle to Kandy takes approximately **2.5 to 3 hours**, including the scheduled visits and depending on traffic and the exact location of your hotel.

Drive Time

- **Approx. 2.5–3 hours**

Road Conditions

- Travel along **well-maintained roads**, with some winding sections as the route approaches the central highlands.

Terrain & Scenery

- The journey begins through the **rural landscapes of Sri Lanka's dry zone** before gradually transitioning into the greener surroundings and elevated terrain of the **central highlands**.

- As you approach Kandy, expect more rolling hills, lush vegetation and increasingly scenic mountain surroundings.

The changing landscape makes the journey itself part of the experience, offering a visual transition between two very different geographical regions of Sri Lanka.

Visit – Dambulla Cave Temple

En route to Kandy, visit the remarkable **Dambulla Cave Temple**, allowing approximately **1.5 hours** to explore this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Located within a dramatic rocky outcrop, the temple complex is one of Sri Lanka's most important Buddhist pilgrimage sites and contains an extraordinary collection of **ancient Buddhist murals, paintings and statues**.

The cave complex developed over centuries, with successive rulers contributing to its religious and artistic heritage. Inside the caves, richly decorated surfaces and numerous Buddha images create an atmospheric setting that reflects the importance of Buddhist art and devotion in Sri Lankan history.

As you explore the temple, discover the intricate murals covering sections of the cave interiors, together with statues and religious imagery representing different periods of Sri Lankan Buddhist history.

The combination of natural cave formations, ancient artwork and religious significance makes Dambulla an important cultural experience before continuing into the central highlands.

Practical Note: Dambulla is an active religious site. Comfortable footwear is recommended, and visitors should dress respectfully with shoulders and knees appropriately covered.

Visit – Traditional Spice Garden

Continue your journey towards Kandy with a visit to a **traditional Sri Lankan spice garden**.

Sri Lanka has long been associated with the cultivation and trade of aromatic spices, and the island's tropical climate provides ideal conditions for growing a wide range of herbs and spices used in traditional cuisine and local preparations.

During the visit, learn about **Sri Lanka's indigenous spices and their uses in local cuisine**, discovering how ingredients such as cinnamon, cardamom, cloves, pepper and other aromatic plants contribute to the distinctive flavours of Sri Lankan cooking.

The garden experience provides an opportunity to see some of these plants growing in their natural environment while learning about traditional uses and preparation methods.

Sri Lankan Curry Cooking Demonstration

Before lunch, enjoy a **Sri Lankan curry cooking demonstration**, offering an introduction to some of the traditional techniques and ingredients used to create the island's distinctive cuisine.

Discover how freshly prepared ingredients, aromatic spices, herbs and coconut are combined to create the layered flavours characteristic of Sri Lankan curries.

The demonstration provides a more hands-on cultural connection to the food you have encountered throughout your journey, showing how local ingredients move from the garden into the kitchen and ultimately onto the dining table.

Lunch – Authentic Sri Lankan Lunch at the Spice Garden

Following the cooking demonstration, sit down to a **freshly prepared Sri Lankan lunch at the spice garden**.

Enjoy the flavours of traditional Sri Lankan cuisine in a setting surrounded by the very plants and ingredients that form an important part of the country's culinary heritage.

The meal creates a natural conclusion to the spice garden experience before continuing towards Kandy.

Transfer – Spice Garden → Kandy

After lunch, continue the journey towards **Kandy**.

As the road climbs towards the central highlands, the scenery becomes increasingly green and mountainous, providing a marked contrast to the dry-zone environment of the Cultural Triangle.

Approaching Kandy, the landscape becomes more densely vegetated, with hills, valleys and tropical foliage surrounding the road.

Arrival in Kandy – Hotel Check-in

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

Settle into your room and take some time to relax after the day's journey and sightseeing.

Kandy offers a very different atmosphere from the ancient cities of the Cultural Triangle. Set among hills and centred around the historic **Kandy Lake**, the city was the final royal capital of Sri Lanka and remains an important centre of culture, religion, arts and traditional heritage.

Afternoon & Evening – At Leisure

Spend the remainder of the **afternoon and evening at leisure**.

After a day combining heritage, cuisine and scenic travel, enjoy some quiet time at the hotel or make use of the available facilities.

The free evening also allows you to settle into Kandy before the more detailed exploration of the city's cultural and historic attractions in the following days.

Enjoy dinner at the hotel and relax in the peaceful surroundings of the central highlands.

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 08 – Kandy Heritage & Cultural Experience

Location: Kandy

Morning – Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic

After breakfast at the hotel, begin your exploration of **Kandy** with a visit to the **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic**, one of Sri Lanka's most important religious, cultural and historic sites.

- **Visit Duration:** Approx. 1–1.5 hours

Located within the historic royal complex beside Kandy Lake, the temple is revered by Buddhists around the world as the home of the sacred tooth relic of the Buddha.

The temple's significance extends beyond its religious importance. The sacred relic has played an important role in Sri Lanka's history and was traditionally associated with the legitimacy of the island's kings, making Kandy an important political and spiritual centre during the period of the Kandyan Kingdom.

Explore the temple complex with your guide, taking in its richly decorated interiors, traditional architecture, shrines and areas of worship. The atmosphere is particularly distinctive as devotees and visitors gather within the complex, reflecting the temple's continuing importance as a living place of pilgrimage rather than simply an archaeological monument.

The visit offers an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of **Sri Lankan Buddhism, Kandyan history and the cultural traditions** that continue to shape the city today.

Practical Note: The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is an active religious site. Visitors should dress respectfully, with shoulders and knees appropriately covered, and footwear must be removed before entering designated areas.

Visit – Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya

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

- **Visit Duration:** Approx. **1.5–2 hours**

Spread across extensive landscaped grounds beside the Mahaweli River, the gardens provide a peaceful contrast to the historic and religious atmosphere of central Kandy.

Originally associated with the royal gardens of the Kandyan Kingdom and later developed as a botanical institution, Peradeniya is renowned for its impressive collection of tropical plants, mature trees, palms, orchids and other botanical specimens.

Take a leisurely walk through the beautifully maintained grounds, enjoying the variety of landscapes and the cooler atmosphere of the central highlands.

The gardens provide opportunities to admire striking tropical vegetation and mature trees while enjoying the spacious pathways and landscaped surroundings.

The visit is also a pleasant opportunity to slow the pace of the morning, with the extensive grounds allowing the experience to feel relaxed rather than rushed.

Lunch – Kandy

After exploring the Royal Botanic Gardens, continue into Kandy for **lunch at a specially selected local restaurant**.

Enjoy a freshly prepared meal in a carefully chosen local setting, providing another opportunity to experience the flavours of Sri Lankan cuisine.

The lunch break also provides time to relax before continuing with the afternoon's cultural and craft-focused experience.

Visit – Gem Factory & Showroom

Continue with a visit to a **local gem factory and showroom**, offering an insight into one of Sri Lanka's most renowned traditional industries.

- **Visit Duration:** Approx. **1 hour**

Sri Lanka has long been associated with the mining and trading of precious and semi-precious gemstones, with the island particularly recognised for stones such as **blue sapphires**, along with a wide range of other gems.

During the visit, learn about the journey of a gemstone from its extraction and selection through to cutting, polishing and final presentation.

Discover some of the traditional craftsmanship involved in creating Sri Lankan jewellery and gain an understanding of how gemstones are incorporated into finished pieces.

The showroom provides an opportunity to view examples of locally crafted jewellery and gemstones while learning more about the country's long-standing gem and jewellery traditions.

Evening – Kandy Cultural Fire Dance Show

As evening approaches, attend a vibrant **Kandy Cultural Fire Dance Show**, lasting approximately **1 hour**.

The performance provides an entertaining introduction to the traditional performing arts of the Kandyan region, combining **traditional Sri Lankan music, rhythmic drumming, dance and dramatic fire performances**.

Kandyan dance is one of Sri Lanka's most distinctive traditional art forms, characterised by energetic movements, elaborate costumes and powerful rhythms.

The fire performances add a spectacular element to the presentation, creating a memorable evening experience that brings together music, movement and traditional performance traditions.

The show offers a lively cultural contrast to the historical and botanical experiences earlier in the day, allowing you to experience another important aspect of Sri Lanka's living cultural heritage.

Return to the Hotel

Following the cultural performance, return to the hotel.

Enjoy the remainder of the evening at leisure and take time to relax after a full day exploring Kandy's religious heritage, botanical landscapes, traditional crafts and performing arts.

Meals

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

Overnight

Overnight: Kandy



Day 09 – Kandy → Nuwara Eliya & Tea Country

Location: Nuwara Eliya

Morning – Breakfast & Departure

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and depart **Kandy** for the cool, misty landscapes of **Nuwara Eliya**, travelling deeper into Sri Lanka's spectacular central highlands.

Today's journey is one of the most scenic transitions of the itinerary. As you leave Kandy behind, the landscape gradually rises into the mountains, with dense tropical vegetation giving way to rolling hills, cascading valleys and vast expanses of tea-covered slopes.

Transfer – Kandy → Nuwara Eliya

The journey from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya takes approximately **2.5 to 3 hours**, depending on traffic, road conditions and stops made along the way.

Drive Time

- **Approx. 2.5–3 hours**

Road Conditions

- The route follows **winding mountain roads**, with numerous bends and changes in elevation as you climb towards the higher reaches of the central highlands.

Terrain & Scenery

- The landscape is characterised by **lush central highlands, forested hills, deep valleys and expansive tea-covered mountain slopes**.
- As the altitude increases, the climate becomes noticeably cooler and the scenery takes on the distinctive appearance of Sri Lanka's famous tea country.

The journey itself forms an important part of the experience, providing increasingly dramatic views as the road climbs through the highlands.

Tea Factory & Plantation Experience

En route to Nuwara Eliya, enjoy an immersive **tea factory and plantation experience**, lasting approximately **1.5 to 2 hours**.

Sri Lanka's tea industry is deeply connected to the history and identity of the central highlands. The region's cool climate, high elevation and fertile mountain slopes provide ideal conditions for growing the tea that made Ceylon famous around the world.

Traditional Tea Plucking

Begin with an introduction to **traditional tea plucking**, learning about the careful process of selecting the young leaves from the tea bushes.

The tea plantations stretch across the surrounding hills in distinctive patterns, creating some of the most recognisable landscapes in the Sri Lankan highlands.

Guided Tea Factory Tour

Continue with a guided tour of the **tea production process**, discovering how freshly harvested leaves are transformed into the finished tea.

Learn about the different stages involved in processing the leaves and how traditional techniques and machinery work together to develop the characteristics, aroma and flavour of the final product.

Tea Tasting

Conclude the experience with a **tea-tasting session**, providing an opportunity to sample locally produced Ceylon tea and appreciate the differences in flavour and character associated with Sri Lanka's tea-growing regions.

The experience offers a fascinating connection between the landscape outside and the finished product in your cup, showing how the mountain environment, cultivation and craftsmanship come together to create Sri Lanka's celebrated tea.

Nuwara Eliya City Tour

Continue towards **Nuwara Eliya**, often associated with Sri Lanka's colonial-era hill-country heritage and its distinctive cool-climate atmosphere.

Upon arrival, enjoy a **city tour**, including a visit to the historic **Old Post Office** and other notable landmarks reflecting the town's colonial heritage.

The town's architecture and atmosphere provide a marked contrast to the tropical lowlands and ancient cities visited earlier in the journey. Traditional buildings, landscaped spaces and historic

landmarks reflect the influence of the British colonial period, while the surrounding hills remain dominated by tea plantations and mountain scenery.

The city tour provides an introduction to Nuwara Eliya's unique character before continuing to the hotel.

Hotel Check-in & Lunch

After the city tour, proceed to your hotel and complete the **check-in formalities**.

Enjoy **lunch at the hotel**, followed by some time to settle into your room and refresh.

The cool climate of Nuwara Eliya creates a welcome change after the warmer regions of the Cultural Triangle and Kandy, making this an ideal setting for a slower afternoon experience.

Late Afternoon – Gregory Lake & Gregory Park

In the late afternoon, proceed to **Gregory Lake and Gregory Park**.

- **Visit Duration:** Approx. **1–1.5 hours**

Located within the heart of Nuwara Eliya, **Gregory Lake** is one of the town's most recognisable landmarks and provides a scenic setting surrounded by green hills and the distinctive landscapes of the high country.

Enjoy a relaxed visit around the lake and **Gregory Park**, taking in the cool mountain air and peaceful surroundings.

The area provides a pleasant opportunity to appreciate the natural scenery of Nuwara Eliya without a demanding walking programme. Depending on the conditions and personal preference, enjoy a leisurely stroll around the surroundings or simply take time to appreciate the views.

The late-afternoon atmosphere is particularly suited to enjoying the cooler climate and tranquil character of the hill station.

Return to the Hotel

Following the visit to Gregory Lake and Gregory Park, return to the hotel.

Spend the remainder of the evening at leisure, enjoying the hotel's facilities or relaxing in the comfort of your room.

Dinner will be served at the hotel, bringing a peaceful conclusion to a day centred around Sri Lanka's spectacular tea country.

Meals



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

Overnight

Overnight: Nuwara Eliya



Day 10 – Nuwara Eliya → Ella by Scenic Train → Yala

Location: Yala

Morning – Breakfast & Transfer to Nanu Oya Railway Station

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and begin the day's journey towards **Nanu Oya Railway Station**, the gateway to one of Sri Lanka's most scenic railway journeys.

The morning begins with a short transfer from Nuwara Eliya through the surrounding highland scenery, with tea plantations, rolling hills and cool mountain landscapes accompanying the journey.

Transfer – Nuwara Eliya → Nanu Oya Railway Station

- **Drive Time:** Approx. **15–30 minutes**

The short road journey allows you to reach the railway station comfortably before boarding the train towards Ella.

Scenic Train – Nanu Oya → Ella

Board the scenic train from **Nanu Oya to Ella** for one of the most memorable journeys through Sri Lanka's central highlands.

- **Journey Time:** Approx. **2–3 hours**

Rather than travelling directly by road, this railway journey offers an opportunity to experience the landscape at a slower and more immersive pace.

As the train winds through the mountains, enjoy spectacular views of **tea-covered slopes, deep valleys, forested hills and rural countryside**.

The railway passes through some of the most visually distinctive scenery in Sri Lanka's hill country. Tea plantations spread across the mountainsides, while mist, waterfalls, valleys and small settlements appear along the route.

The changing views provide an excellent opportunity to appreciate the scale and beauty of the central highlands and to observe everyday life in the hill country from a different perspective.

The train journey itself is an important part of the experience, offering a relaxed contrast to the winding road journeys through the mountains.

Important Train Note: Train tickets are **strictly subject to availability**. If tickets are unavailable, the journey will be undertaken **by road instead**, following the same general route towards Ella.

Arrival in Ella – Lunch

Upon arrival at **Ella Railway Station**, meet your guide and continue for lunch.

Enjoy **lunch at a specially selected local restaurant in Ella**, providing an opportunity to refresh after the scenic train journey.

Ella is surrounded by dramatic mountain scenery and is one of Sri Lanka's best-known highland destinations, with its combination of tea plantations, forested slopes, valleys and relaxed atmosphere.

The lunch stop provides a natural break before continuing towards Yala in the afternoon.

Transfer – Ella → Yala

After lunch, depart Ella and continue southwards towards **Yala**, where the landscape begins another dramatic transformation.

Drive Time

- **Approx. 2.5–3 hours**

Road Conditions

- **Well-maintained roads with winding sections**, particularly while leaving the highland terrain.

Terrain & Scenery

- The journey gradually transitions from **mountain landscapes and tea country into the southern dry-zone scenery**.
- As the elevation decreases, the cool highland environment gives way to warmer, drier landscapes and increasingly open countryside.

This change in terrain is particularly striking, as the day's journey connects two very different environments of Sri Lanka: the misty mountains around Ella and the wildlife-rich dry zone surrounding Yala.

Arrival in Yala – Hotel Check-in

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

Settle into your room and take some time to relax after the day's journey.

Yala is one of Sri Lanka's most renowned wildlife destinations, and the surrounding region is characterised by dry forests, scrubland, open plains and natural water sources that provide habitats for a remarkable variety of wildlife.

With the remainder of the afternoon and evening free, you can enjoy the hotel's facilities and prepare for the wildlife experiences that await in the coming days.

Afternoon & Evening – At Leisure

Spend the remainder of the **afternoon and evening at leisure**.

After the combination of the scenic train journey, lunch in Ella and the transfer to Yala, this free time provides a welcome opportunity to slow the pace.

Relax at the hotel, enjoy the surrounding natural environment or simply unwind in preparation for your upcoming safari experience.

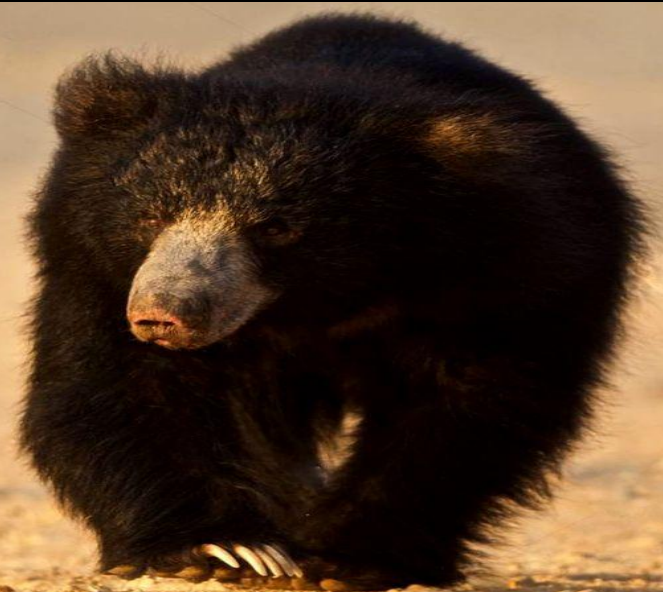
Dinner will be served at the hotel.

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 11 – Yala National Park Safari

Location: Yala

Early Morning – Yala National Park Jeep Safari

Rise early this morning for an exciting exploration of **Yala National Park**, one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated wildlife destinations.

At approximately **05:30 hrs**, depart from the hotel and proceed to the park for an approximately **3-hour jeep safari**.

The early morning departure allows you to enter the wilderness during the cooler and quieter hours of the day, when the park begins to awaken and wildlife may be active around its forests, grasslands and water sources.

Yala National Park Jeep Safari

Enjoy an approximately **3-hour safari by jeep**, travelling through the diverse landscapes of Yala in search of the park's remarkable wildlife.

Yala encompasses a varied natural environment of **dry forest, scrubland, grasslands, lagoons, rocky areas and water sources**, creating habitats for a wide range of animals and bird species.

As the jeep moves along the park's safari tracks, remain alert for movement among the vegetation and around water bodies.

Wildlife Encounters

The safari offers opportunities to search for:

- **Leopards**, one of Yala's most sought-after wildlife sightings
- **Asian elephants**, which may be encountered in open areas or close to water

- **Sloth bears**, an elusive species that can occasionally be spotted within the park
- **Crocodiles**, particularly around suitable water sources
- A wide variety of **birdlife**, ranging from colourful smaller species to larger waterbirds and birds of prey

Wildlife sightings are naturally **subject to animal movements, weather, vegetation, water availability and conditions within the park on the day**. The safari is therefore not only about specific sightings, but also about experiencing the atmosphere and diversity of the Sri Lankan wilderness.

The changing scenery, early morning light and possibility of unexpected wildlife encounters make the safari one of the key experiences of the journey.

Packed Breakfast – During the Safari

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

Having breakfast during the safari allows you to make the most of your time in the park without returning to the hotel during the morning. Depending on the safari arrangements and suitable conditions, there will be an opportunity to pause and enjoy your breakfast while surrounded by the natural environment.

Return to the Hotel

Following the approximately **3-hour safari**, leave the national park and return to your hotel.

After the early start, enjoy some time to refresh and relax before lunch.

Afternoon – At Leisure

Enjoy **lunch at the hotel** before spending the remainder of the day at leisure.

The afternoon is deliberately left free following the early morning wildlife experience, allowing you to recover from the early start and enjoy the comfort of the hotel.

Depending on the facilities available, spend your time relaxing in your room, enjoying the swimming pool, exploring the property's surroundings or simply taking in the peaceful natural environment around Yala.

The unhurried afternoon provides a welcome contrast to the excitement and concentration of the morning safari.

Optional – Bundala National Park Safari

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

Located along the southern coast, Bundala is particularly known for its **wetlands, lagoons and rich birdlife**, offering a different wildlife environment from the predominantly dry-forest and scrub landscapes experienced at Yala.

The park's network of wetlands provides important habitats for a wide range of resident and migratory birds, making it an especially rewarding destination for nature and bird enthusiasts.

An optional visit to Bundala therefore provides an opportunity to experience another side of Sri Lanka's southern wildlife landscape, with the wetlands creating a distinct contrast to the habitats explored during the morning's Yala safari.

Guests who do not wish to take the optional excursion can simply remain at the hotel and enjoy a relaxed afternoon.

Evening – At Leisure

Following either the optional Bundala experience or a relaxing afternoon at the hotel, enjoy the evening at leisure.

Dinner will be served at the hotel, providing a relaxed conclusion to a day centred around Sri Lanka's wildlife and natural landscapes.

Meals

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

Overnight

Overnight: Yala



Day 12 – Yala → Galle → Bentota

Location: Bentota

Morning – Breakfast & Departure

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and depart **Yala** for the western side of Sri Lanka's southern coastline, travelling towards **Bentota**.

Today's journey provides another dramatic change in scenery. Leaving the dry-zone wilderness around Yala, the route gradually moves towards the greener and more densely vegetated landscapes of Sri Lanka's southern and south-western coast.

Along the way, the itinerary combines a glimpse of a traditional coastal livelihood with an exploration of the historic city of **Galle**, before continuing to the relaxed beach environment of Bentota.

Transfer – Yala → Bentota

The journey from Yala towards Bentota takes approximately **3.5 hours**, depending on traffic and the stops made along the way.

Drive Time

- **Approx. 3.5 hours**

Road Conditions

- Travel along **well-maintained southern roads**, providing a comfortable connection between the southern dry zone and the coastal region.

Terrain & Scenery

- The landscape gradually transitions from the **drier, more open surroundings of Yala into increasingly lush coastal scenery.**
 - As you approach the south-western coast, tropical vegetation becomes more prominent, with coconut palms, greenery and more densely settled coastal communities appearing along the route.
-

Visit – Traditional Stilt Fishermen

En route, make a stop to witness the traditional **stilt fishermen**, one of the most recognisable cultural images associated with Sri Lanka's southern coastline.

The fishermen are traditionally positioned on narrow wooden poles or stilts set out in the shallow coastal waters, using a distinctive fishing technique that has become closely associated with this part of the island.

The experience provides an opportunity to observe a traditional aspect of Sri Lanka's coastal heritage and to appreciate the relationship between local communities and the surrounding sea.

The stilt fishermen have become an iconic feature of the southern coast, creating a memorable photographic scene against the backdrop of the Indian Ocean.

After the visit, continue along the coast towards historic Galle.

Galle City Tour

Continue to **Galle** for a guided city tour lasting approximately **2 to 2.5 hours**.

Galle is one of Sri Lanka's most atmospheric historic cities, where centuries of maritime trade and colonial influence have shaped its distinctive character.

Historic Streets & Colonial Architecture

Explore the historic streets of Galle, discovering a fascinating mixture of architectural styles and cultural influences.

The city's historic heart is centred around the famous **Galle Fort**, where fortified walls, historic buildings, narrow lanes and ocean views create a unique atmosphere.

As you walk through the old city, discover the remains of its colonial past alongside cafés, boutiques, galleries, residences and local businesses that have given the historic quarter a renewed contemporary character.

Cultural Landmarks

The guided tour introduces some of Galle's most significant **cultural and historical landmarks**, while explaining the city's importance as a major trading and maritime centre.

The fortifications and historic buildings reflect the successive European influences that shaped Galle, while the city's wider character remains distinctly Sri Lankan.

The combination of historic architecture, coastal scenery and living local culture makes Galle one of the most rewarding places to explore along the southern coast.

Allow approximately **2 to 2.5 hours** for the guided city tour.

Lunch – Galle

Following the city tour, enjoy **lunch at a specially selected local restaurant in Galle.**

The lunch provides a relaxing pause after the walking tour and an opportunity to enjoy Sri Lankan cuisine in the historic coastal surroundings of Galle.

Take some time to refresh before continuing the final stretch of today's journey towards Bentota.

Transfer – Galle → Bentota

After lunch, continue north along the south-western coastline towards **Bentota.**

The journey provides further opportunities to appreciate the lush tropical character of Sri Lanka's coastal belt, with coconut palms, villages and glimpses of the ocean accompanying the route.

As you approach Bentota, the atmosphere gradually becomes more relaxed, with the destination known for its beaches, waterways, tropical surroundings and resort environment.

Arrival in Bentota – Hotel Check-in

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

Settle into your room and take some time to relax after the day's journey and sightseeing.

Bentota provides a welcome change of pace following the wildlife and cultural experiences of the previous days, offering a more relaxed coastal setting where the remainder of the journey can be enjoyed at leisure.

Afternoon & Evening – At Leisure

Spend the remainder of the **afternoon and evening at leisure.**

Relax at the hotel, enjoy the available facilities or simply take time to unwind in the tropical surroundings of Bentota.

Depending on your preference, this is an ideal opportunity to enjoy some quiet time by the pool or make the most of the hotel's coastal setting.

After a day combining a scenic transfer, traditional coastal heritage and the historic streets of Galle, the relaxed evening provides a comfortable conclusion to the day's experiences.

Dinner will be served at the hotel.

Meals

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

Overnight

Overnight: Bentota



Day 13 – Bentota Beach Leisure

Location: Bentota

Morning – Breakfast & At Leisure

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a **full day at leisure in Bentota**, with no scheduled sightseeing or transfers planned.

Following the cultural, historical and wildlife experiences of the preceding days, today is intentionally designed as a slower and more relaxed chapter of the journey, allowing you to enjoy the tropical coastal setting at your own pace.

Bentota is one of Sri Lanka's best-known beach destinations, offering a combination of **golden sandy beaches, tropical vegetation, warm coastal waters and a relaxed resort atmosphere**.

Spend the morning however you wish. Relax beside the swimming pool, unwind on the beach, enjoy the hotel's facilities or simply take some quiet time in the comfort of your room.

For guests who prefer a more active morning, the coastal surroundings also provide a beautiful setting for a leisurely walk, while those looking to completely switch off can simply enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of the resort.

Morning – Beach & Resort Leisure

Take advantage of the hotel's facilities and enjoy the freedom to create your own pace for the day.

Spend time by the pool, relax beneath the tropical surroundings or make your way to the beach to enjoy the coastal scenery.

The combination of sea, sand and lush greenery creates a very different atmosphere from the ancient cities, mountain landscapes and wildlife parks experienced earlier in the itinerary.

With no fixed programme, the morning can be tailored entirely around relaxation and personal preference.

Afternoon – Lunch & Leisure

Enjoy **lunch at the hotel**, followed by a relaxed afternoon.

After lunch, continue to enjoy Bentota at your own pace. Make use of the hotel's facilities, spend time by the pool, relax on the beach or simply enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

The afternoon is deliberately free from scheduled activities, allowing you to fully appreciate the coastal setting without the need to travel between attractions.

Evening – At Leisure

Continue to enjoy the evening at leisure.

As the day begins to cool, the coastal surroundings offer a peaceful setting for a final relaxed evening in Bentota. Enjoy the hotel's facilities, spend time by the beach or simply unwind before dinner.

Dinner will be served at the hotel, bringing a calm conclusion to a day dedicated entirely to relaxation.

Meals

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

Overnight

Overnight: Bentota



Day 14 – Bentota Leisure & Optional Madu River Boat Safari

Location: Bentota

Morning – Breakfast & At Leisure

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy another **full day at leisure in Bentota**, with the morning free for relaxation and personal time.

Following the cultural discoveries, wildlife encounters, scenic mountain journeys and coastal experiences of the earlier days, this relaxed day provides another opportunity to enjoy the slower rhythm of Sri Lanka's tropical south-west coast.

Spend the morning at your own pace. Relax beside the swimming pool, unwind on the beach, enjoy the hotel's facilities or simply take some quiet time in the comfort of your room.

Bentota's combination of **golden beaches, tropical greenery, warm coastal waters and peaceful resort surroundings** makes it an ideal setting for an unhurried day.

Optional Excursion – Madu River Boat Safari

For guests who would like to explore beyond the beach and discover the natural environment surrounding Bentota, an optional **Madu River Boat Safari** can be arranged.

The experience takes you into the tranquil waterways of the **Madu River**, travelling by boat through a fascinating landscape of **mangrove-lined channels, small islands and lush tropical vegetation**.

Mangrove-lined Waterways

Cruise gently through the river's winding waterways, where the dense mangrove vegetation creates a peaceful and naturally sheltered environment.

The slower pace of the boat journey provides an opportunity to appreciate the area's rich biodiversity and observe the changing scenery from the water.

Mangrove ecosystems are an important part of Sri Lanka's coastal environment, providing habitats for a variety of wildlife while also forming a natural connection between inland waterways and the surrounding coastal landscape.

Local Way of Life

The boat safari also offers glimpses into the **traditional way of life of communities living around the river.**

As you travel through the waterways, observe local homes, fishing activity and the relationship between the surrounding communities and the river environment.

This creates a different perspective of the Bentota region, moving beyond the beach resorts to discover the natural landscapes and local communities that form an important part of the wider coastal area.

A Relaxed Nature Experience

The Madu River experience is particularly well suited to a leisurely day, as the boat journey allows you to explore the waterways without a demanding walking programme.

Enjoy the peaceful atmosphere, tropical surroundings and changing views as the boat moves through the mangrove channels before returning towards Bentota.

Return to the Hotel

Following the optional Madu River Boat Safari, return to the hotel.

Guests who prefer not to take the optional excursion can remain at the hotel and continue enjoying their morning at leisure.

Afternoon – Lunch & At Leisure

Enjoy **lunch at the hotel** before continuing with a relaxed afternoon.

Spend the remainder of the afternoon at your own pace, whether relaxing by the pool, enjoying the beach, making use of the hotel's facilities or simply taking time to unwind.

With no further scheduled sightseeing, the afternoon provides another opportunity to enjoy Bentota without the need to follow a fixed programme.

Evening – At Leisure

Continue to enjoy the evening at leisure.

As the day begins to cool, take time to appreciate the peaceful coastal surroundings, relax at the hotel or enjoy a final stroll along the beach.

Dinner will be served at the hotel, bringing another relaxed and unhurried day in Bentota to a close.

Meals

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

Overnight

Overnight: Bentota



Day 15 – Bentota Beach Leisure

Location: Bentota

Morning – Breakfast & At Leisure

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy another **full day at leisure in Bentota**, with no scheduled excursions or transfers planned.

After the journey through Sri Lanka's ancient cities, wildlife parks, misty mountain landscapes, tea country and historic southern coast, today provides the opportunity to simply slow down and enjoy the final days of your beach stay.

Bentota is an ideal setting for this relaxed pace, with its **tropical coastline, golden sandy beaches, lush surroundings and peaceful resort atmosphere**.

Spend the morning entirely at your own pace. Relax beside the swimming pool, unwind on the beach, enjoy the hotel's facilities or simply retreat to the comfort of your room for some uninterrupted relaxation.

Morning – Beach & Resort Leisure

Make the most of your hotel's facilities and the surrounding coastal environment.

Enjoy a quiet morning by the pool, spend time on the beach or simply take in the tropical atmosphere of Bentota.

For those who prefer a slower start, there is no requirement to follow a fixed schedule. The morning is intentionally free, allowing you to choose between complete relaxation and enjoying the hotel's surroundings at your own pace.

The beach provides an opportunity to take a leisurely walk along the coast, enjoy the sound of the Indian Ocean or simply settle into a quiet spot and appreciate the scenery.

Afternoon – Lunch & At Leisure

Enjoy **lunch at the hotel** before continuing with a relaxed afternoon.

The remainder of the afternoon is completely free, giving you further time to enjoy the resort and coastal surroundings.

Relax by the pool, unwind on the beach, make use of the hotel's leisure facilities or simply spend some quiet time in your room.

With no scheduled sightseeing or transfers, the afternoon provides the freedom to enjoy Bentota exactly as you wish.

Evening – At Leisure

Continue to enjoy the evening at leisure.

As the temperature becomes more comfortable, take a final opportunity to enjoy the tropical surroundings, relax at the hotel or take a leisurely walk along the beach.

Dinner will be served at the hotel, bringing a peaceful conclusion to another day dedicated entirely to relaxation.

Meals

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

Overnight

Overnight: Bentota



Day 16 – Departure / Maldives Extension

Location: Departure / Maldives Extension

Morning – Breakfast & Check-out

Enjoy your final breakfast at the hotel in **Bentota**, taking some time to savour the last moments of your stay along Sri Lanka's beautiful south-western coast.

After breakfast, complete your **check-out formalities** and prepare for your onward journey.

Depending on your departure arrangements, you may have some final time to relax at the hotel before meeting your guide for the transfer towards **Bandaranaike International Airport**.

Transfer – Bentota → Bandaranaike International Airport

Depart Bentota and begin the journey north towards **Bandaranaike International Airport**, travelling through the coastal landscapes of Sri Lanka's western region.

Drive Time

- **Approx. 1.5 hours**, depending on traffic and road conditions.

Road Conditions

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

Terrain & Scenery

- The journey follows **coastal landscapes**, gradually transitioning towards the more urban surroundings of Colombo and the wider airport region.
- As you travel north, the tropical scenery of Bentota gives way to increasingly populated areas before reaching the airport.

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

Optional – Maldives Extension

Alternatively, continue your holiday with an onward journey to the **Maldives** for an extended tropical beach escape.

After experiencing Sri Lanka's ancient heritage, wildlife, mountains, tea country and southern coastline, the Maldives provides a natural continuation for guests looking to conclude their holiday with time surrounded by **turquoise waters, white-sand beaches and tropical island scenery**.

The Maldives extension offers an opportunity to shift completely into relaxation, with the island-resort environment providing a peaceful finale following the varied experiences of your Sri Lankan journey.

Meals

- **Breakfast:** At the hotel
- **Lunch:** Not included
- **Dinner:** Not included
- **Hotel:** Check-out / No overnight stay



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 onward journey to the **Maldives** for an extended beach escape.



Take a final moment to reflect on your journey through Sri Lanka, from the ancient heritage of **Anuradhapura, Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa**, through the cultural heart of **Kandy** and the scenic tea country of **Nuwara Eliya**, to the wildlife experiences of **Wilpattu and Yala** and the relaxing beaches of **Bentota**.



We wish you a pleasant onward journey and hope to welcome you back to Sri Lanka in the future.

