

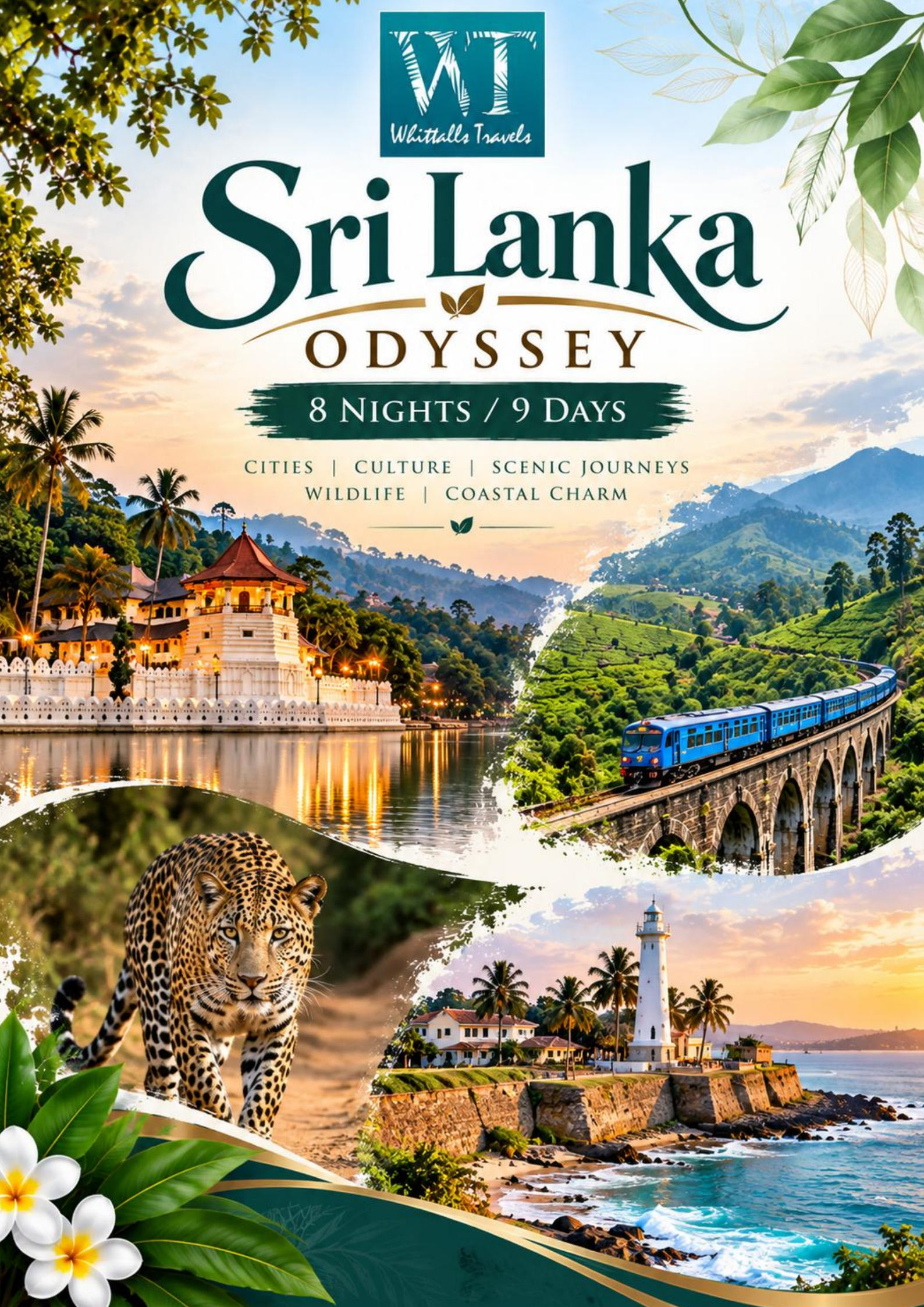


Sri Lanka

ODYSSEY

8 NIGHTS / 9 DAYS

CITIES | CULTURE | SCENIC JOURNEYS
WILDLIFE | COASTAL CHARM



ITINERARY SUMMARY

Day	Overnight	Summary
Day 01	Colombo	Arrive at Bandaranaike International Airport (CMB) and transfer to Colombo , Sri Lanka's vibrant commercial capital. Enjoy your first authentic Sri Lankan lunch at a local restaurant before checking in and spending the remainder of the day at leisure.
Day 02	Kandy	Travel from Colombo to Kandy , the historic capital of the Kandyan Kingdom. After checking in and enjoying lunch at the hotel , relax before visiting a Gem Factory & Showroom to discover Sri Lanka's famous Ceylon Sapphires and traditional jewellery craftsmanship. Conclude the day with a vibrant Kandy Cultural Fire Dance Show featuring traditional music, drumming, dancing and fire performances .
Day 03	Kandy	Discover the spiritual and botanical heritage of Kandy with visits to the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic and Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya . In the afternoon, enjoy an immersive Kandy Walking & Tuk-Tuk Experience , exploring historic streets, local markets, Walawe mansions and Arthur's Seat viewpoint , before concluding at the distinctive Helga's Folly with a farewell drink.
Day 04	Nuwara Eliya	Journey through the spectacular central highlands from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya , surrounded by tea plantations, mist-covered mountains, valleys and waterfalls . Enjoy an immersive Ceylon Tea Plantation & Factory Experience , including tea cultivation, seasonal tea plucking , the traditional tea manufacturing process and a Ceylon Tea tasting before arriving in the cool hill country of Nuwara Eliya.
Day 05	Yala	Travel from Nuwara Eliya to Ella by the scenic Nanu Oya → Ella train journey , one of Sri Lanka's most memorable railway experiences, passing tea-covered mountains, lush valleys, forests, waterfalls and rural communities . Continue by road from Ella to Yala , with lunch in Ella, before relaxing at your wildlife destination. Train tickets are subject to availability; road transfer will be provided if tickets cannot be secured.
Day 06	Yala	Rise early for a 3-hour Yala National Park Jeep Safari , exploring forests, grasslands, lagoons and scrubland in search of remarkable wildlife. Possible sightings include the Sri Lankan Leopard, Asian Elephants, Sloth Bears, Crocodiles, Spotted Deer, Peacocks and diverse birdlife . Enjoy a packed breakfast during the safari , followed by lunch and a relaxed afternoon at the hotel. An optional afternoon safari can also be arranged.

Day	Overnight	Summary
Day 07	Galle	Travel from Yala to historic Galle , stopping en route to witness the distinctive traditional practice of stilt fishing along Sri Lanka's southern coast. After lunch and time to relax, experience the atmospheric Afterdark Tales of Galle Fort , a 2-hour evening walking experience with a local host exploring historic fortifications, forgotten graveyards, old quarries, abandoned gunpowder mills, historic dungeons and colonial heritage , concluding at the Dutch Hospital .
Day 08	Galle	Enjoy a full day at leisure in Galle following the previous evening's immersive Fort experience. Relax at the hotel or independently explore Galle Fort , its historic ramparts, colonial architecture, boutiques, galleries and cafés. Guests may also discover the surrounding coastal area or simply enjoy the hotel's pool and facilities.
Day 09	Departure / Optional Bentota / Maldives	After breakfast, check out and transfer from Galle to Bandaranaike International Airport via the Southern Expressway for your onward flight. Alternatively, extend your holiday in Bentota for a relaxing beach escape or continue to the Maldives for a tropical island experience.



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 dedicated guide, who will assist you as you begin your Sri Lankan journey.

After completing the arrival formalities, meet your guide and proceed towards **Colombo**, Sri Lanka's vibrant commercial capital and largest city.

Transfer – Airport → Colombo

Distance & Drive Time

- Approx. **35 km | 1 hour**, depending on traffic

Road Conditions

- Well-maintained airport access roads and main highways

Terrain

- Predominantly flat coastal landscape

As you leave the airport, the journey takes you through the tropical lowlands towards Colombo. The scenery gradually changes from suburban communities and roadside markets to the more urban character of the capital.

Colombo offers a fascinating blend of modern city life, colonial heritage, religious landmarks, shopping, dining, and a lively coastal atmosphere.

En Route – Authentic Sri Lankan Lunch

Pause at a **specially selected local restaurant** to enjoy your first taste of authentic Sri Lankan cuisine.

Discover the island's distinctive flavours through a selection of freshly prepared dishes, fragrant rice, aromatic curries, vegetables, sambols, and local accompaniments.

This first culinary experience provides a relaxed introduction to Sri Lanka's diverse food traditions and the generous hospitality for which the island is known.

Arrival in Colombo – Hotel Check-in

Continue to your hotel in Colombo and complete the check-in formalities.

Settle into your accommodation and take some time to refresh after your journey.

Afternoon & Evening – At Leisure

The remainder of the day is intentionally kept free.

Relax at the hotel, make use of the available facilities, or simply unwind in the comfort of your accommodation after your international journey.

Depending on your arrival time and energy levels, you may also enjoy a quiet introduction to Colombo at your own pace, with the city's restaurants, cafés, shopping areas, and coastal surroundings available to explore independently.

As evening approaches, enjoy dinner at the hotel and settle into your first night in Sri Lanka.

Meals

Lunch: Local restaurant

Dinner: At the hotel

Hotel: Half Board basis

Overnight

Overnight: Colombo



Day 02 – Colombo → Kandy

Location: Kandy

Morning – Breakfast & Check-out

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out and departing Colombo for **Kandy**, the cultural heart of Sri Lanka and the historic capital of the island's Kandyan Kingdom.

Today's journey takes you away from the busy coastal plains and gradually into the greener, more dramatic landscapes of the central highlands.

Transfer – Colombo → Kandy

Distance & Drive Time

- Approx. **115 km | 3 – 3.5 hours**, depending on traffic and road conditions

Road Conditions

- Well-maintained highways and scenic roads
- Winding sections as the route approaches the central highlands

Terrain

- Lowland countryside gradually rising into the lush central highlands

As you travel inland, the landscape begins to change from Colombo's urban environment to quieter towns, tropical vegetation, cultivated areas, and increasingly hilly terrain.

The approach to Kandy is particularly scenic, with forested hills and rolling landscapes signalling your arrival into Sri Lanka's atmospheric hill country.

Arrival in Kandy – Hotel Check-in & Lunch

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

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

Kandy, surrounded by green hills and centred around the tranquil Kandy Lake, was the last royal capital of Sri Lanka. Its historic importance, Buddhist heritage, traditional arts, and distinctive hill-country setting make it one of the island's most culturally significant destinations.

Afternoon – Leisure

Take some time to relax at the hotel after the journey.

Enjoy the hotel's facilities, take in the surrounding hill-country atmosphere, or simply unwind before the afternoon's cultural experience.

Keeping this period free provides a comfortable transition into the programme and allows you to enjoy Kandy at a relaxed pace.

Afternoon – Gem Factory & Showroom

Visit Duration

- Approx. **1 hour**

Discover one of Sri Lanka's most distinctive traditional industries with a visit to a **gem factory and showroom**.

Sri Lanka has a long-standing reputation for its gemstones, particularly the celebrated **Ceylon Sapphire**. The island's gem industry has developed over centuries, with traditional knowledge and craftsmanship passed through generations.

During the visit, learn about the journey of a gemstone from its discovery and assessment through to cutting, polishing, grading, and jewellery creation.

Explore the traditional techniques used by skilled craftsmen and discover how Sri Lankan gemstones are transformed into finely finished jewellery.

The showroom also provides an opportunity to view examples of locally crafted pieces and appreciate the artistry associated with Sri Lanka's jewellery traditions.

Evening – Kandy Cultural Fire Dance Show

Performance Duration

- Approx. **1 hour**

As evening approaches, experience one of Kandy's most vibrant cultural performances.

The **Kandy Cultural Fire Dance Show** brings together traditional music, powerful drumming, energetic dancing, and dramatic fire performances, offering an entertaining introduction to the performing arts traditions of the central highlands.

Highlights of the Performance

Traditional Kandyan Music

Experience the distinctive rhythms and sounds of traditional Kandyan musical instruments accompanying the performers.

Traditional Drumming

Powerful drum rhythms create the energetic foundation of the performance and form an important part of Sri Lanka's traditional ceremonial arts.

Kandyan Dancing

Watch performers demonstrate expressive movements, elaborate costumes, and traditional choreography rooted in the artistic heritage of the Kandyan region.

Fire Performances

The programme traditionally concludes with spectacular fire-based displays, creating a dramatic and memorable finale to the evening.

Return to Hotel

Following the cultural performance, return to your hotel.

Enjoy dinner and a relaxing evening after your first full day in the central highlands.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: At the hotel

Dinner: At the hotel

Hotel: Full Board basis

Overnight

Overnight: Kandy



Day 03 – 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, architectural, and everyday heritage of **Kandy**.

Today's programme offers a more immersive perspective of the city, moving beyond its major landmarks to explore historic streets, traditional markets, local life, and some of Kandy's distinctive heritage properties.

Morning – Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic

Visit Duration

- Approx. 1 – 1.5 hours

Begin your morning at the revered **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic**, one of Sri Lanka's most important religious and cultural landmarks and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Located beside the tranquil waters of Kandy Lake within the former Royal Palace complex, the temple is believed to house the sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha.

Explore the temple's shrines, ceremonial spaces, traditional Kandyan architecture, and richly decorated interiors while learning about the profound role the relic has played in Sri Lanka's Buddhist traditions and royal history.

The visit provides an important introduction to Kandy's identity as the historic centre of the Kandyan Kingdom and one of the island's most significant Buddhist destinations.

Late Morning – Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya

Visit Duration

- Approx. 1– 1.5 hours

Continue to the magnificent **Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya**, where landscaped avenues, mature tropical trees, ornamental gardens, and extensive plant collections create a peaceful setting along the Mahaweli River.

Originally connected with the Kandyan royal tradition, the gardens were later developed into one of Sri Lanka's most important botanical collections.

Take a leisurely walk through the grounds and discover the extraordinary diversity of Sri Lanka's tropical flora.

Highlights of the Royal Botanic Gardens

Orchid Collections

Admire an extensive selection of orchids, displaying the delicate forms and striking colours of tropical species.

Giant Bamboo

Walk among impressive bamboo specimens that rise dramatically above the surrounding landscape.

Royal Palm Avenues

Stroll beneath the iconic rows of royal palms, one of the gardens' most recognisable features.

Tropical Plants

Discover an extensive variety of tropical trees, flowering plants, medicinal species, and other botanical treasures.

Landscaped Gardens

Enjoy the carefully designed lawns, pathways, mature trees, and ornamental planting that make the gardens ideal for a relaxed morning walk.

Return to Hotel – Lunch & Relaxation

Return to the hotel after the morning's sightseeing.

Enjoy **lunch at the hotel** before taking some time to relax and refresh ahead of the afternoon's immersive exploration of Kandy.

Afternoon – Kandy Walking & Tuk-Tuk Experience

Experience Duration

- Approx. **2.5 – 3 hours**

This afternoon offers a more personal introduction to Kandy, combining a **guided heritage walk, local market exploration, traditional tuk-tuk travel, panoramic viewpoints, and distinctive heritage properties.**

Rather than simply viewing Kandy's famous landmarks, the experience provides an opportunity to observe the rhythm of everyday life and discover the stories hidden within the city's historic streets.

Historic Kandy Walking Tour

Begin with a leisurely walk through the historic heart of Kandy.

Along the way, discover the city's architectural legacy and learn how different periods of Sri Lankan history have shaped its streets and buildings.

Queen's Hotel

Pass the historic **Queen's Hotel**, one of Kandy's best-known colonial-era landmarks, situated close to the former royal precinct.

Historic Coffee Fountain

Discover the historic coffee fountain and learn about the role of coffee in Sri Lanka's colonial-era economy and social history before tea became the island's dominant plantation crop.

Dutch-era Buildings

See surviving examples of historic architecture reflecting the layers of European influence that became part of Kandy's urban heritage.

St. Paul's Church

Pass **St. Paul's Church**, an important historic Anglican landmark located close to the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic.

Historic Architecture

Throughout the walk, observe a fascinating mixture of colonial-era buildings, traditional structures, commercial premises, and modern Kandy, illustrating the evolution of the city over time.

Kandy Local Markets – A Taste of Everyday Life

Continue through Kandy's lively local markets, where the atmosphere becomes increasingly colourful and energetic.

Explore traditional **herbal, vegetable, fruit, and food markets**, observing local vendors preparing and displaying the ingredients that form an important part of everyday Sri Lankan cooking.

Interact with friendly street vendors and gain a more authentic impression of daily life in Kandy.

Depending on seasonal availability, guests may also have the opportunity to **sample fresh Sri Lankan fruits**, discovering some of the island's distinctive tropical flavours along the way.

Walawe Mansions

Continue to discover the remaining historic **Walawe mansions**, traditional residences associated with Sri Lanka's historic landed families.

Visit up to five surviving properties, with access to individual mansions subject to availability.

These historic homes provide a fascinating glimpse into the architectural traditions, social history, and lifestyles of prominent families who played a role in the development of the region.

Traditional Tuk-Tuk Ride

Continue the experience aboard a traditional **Sri Lankan tuk-tuk**, one of the most recognisable forms of local transport.

The journey offers a fun and authentic way to experience Kandy's streets before ascending towards **Arthur's Seat Viewpoint**.

Along the way, learn more about the region's historic connection with coffee cultivation and the transformation of Sri Lanka's plantation economy over time.

Arthur's Seat Viewpoint

Pause at **Arthur's Seat**, one of Kandy's most celebrated viewpoints.

From this elevated position, enjoy panoramic views across the city, including **Kandy Lake, the surrounding hills, and the dense urban landscape nestled within the central highlands**.

The viewpoint provides a wonderful opportunity to appreciate Kandy's unique setting and the way the historic city has developed within its mountainous surroundings.

Helga's Folly

Conclude the afternoon at the extraordinary **Helga's Folly**, an eclectic heritage property renowned for its highly individual artistic character and unconventional interiors.

Step inside to discover an intriguing collection of decorative objects, artworks, antiques, and modern and contemporary pieces arranged throughout the property.

The unusual character of the house offers a fascinating contrast to Kandy's more traditional heritage sites.

Enjoy a **farewell drink** while taking time to appreciate the property's distinctive artistic atmosphere and views.

Return to Hotel

Following this immersive exploration of Kandy, return to the hotel by private transfer.

The remainder of the evening is free to relax after a day of walking, local encounters, heritage discovery, and panoramic sightseeing.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: At the hotel

Dinner: At the hotel

Hotel: Full Board basis

Overnight

Overnight: Kandy



Day 04 – Kandy → Nuwara Eliya | Tea Country Experience

Location: Nuwara Eliya

Morning – Breakfast & Check-out

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out and departing **Kandy** for the spectacular landscapes of Sri Lanka's central tea country.

Today's journey takes you deeper into the highlands, where the tropical scenery gives way to rolling mountains, cool mist, cascading streams, and seemingly endless carpets of tea.

Transfer – Kandy → Nuwara Eliya

Distance & Drive Time

- Approx. **80 km | 2.5 – 3 hours**, depending on traffic and road conditions

Road Conditions

- Scenic winding mountain roads
- Sections with bends and gradual climbs through the highlands

Terrain

- Lush forested hills
- Rolling tea plantations
- Mist-covered mountains
- Mountain valleys and waterfalls

As you climb away from Kandy, the temperature gradually becomes cooler and the scenery increasingly dramatic.

The journey winds through the central highlands, passing green valleys and steep hillsides covered with carefully cultivated tea bushes. Small villages, mountain streams, roadside fruit stalls, and occasional waterfalls add character to the journey.

The changing landscape provides a beautiful introduction to **Sri Lanka's tea country**, one of the island's most distinctive regions.

Tea Plantation & Tea Factory Experience

Experience Duration

- Approx. **2 – 2.5 hours**

Arrive at a traditional **tea plantation and factory** for an immersive introduction to the world of **Ceylon Tea**.

Sri Lanka's tea industry transformed the central highlands during the colonial era and remains an important part of the country's agricultural and cultural identity.

The experience takes you from the tea fields to the factory floor, allowing you to understand how delicate tea leaves are transformed into the fragrant teas enjoyed around the world.

Tea Plantation Visit

Begin with a walk through the surrounding tea estate.

Learn how tea bushes are cultivated across the cool, elevated landscapes of Sri Lanka and how altitude, climate, rainfall, and soil influence the characteristics of the finished tea.

The neatly planted rows of tea bushes create one of the defining landscapes of the central highlands.

Tea Plucking Experience

Depending on seasonal conditions and estate operations, observe or participate in the traditional **tea-plucking process**.

Learn how skilled tea pluckers carefully select the tender young leaves and buds, traditionally focusing on the finest growth for high-quality tea production.

This hands-on introduction provides an appreciation of the skill, speed, and experience required to harvest tea leaves correctly.

Guided Tea Factory Tour

Continue into the tea factory to discover the fascinating journey from freshly harvested leaf to finished Ceylon Tea.

Your guided visit introduces the principal stages of production.

Withering

Freshly harvested leaves are spread out to reduce their moisture content and prepare them for processing.

Rolling

The leaves are rolled to break down their cellular structure and release the compounds that contribute to the tea's eventual character.

Oxidation

The prepared leaves undergo controlled oxidation, a crucial stage in developing the colour, aroma, and flavour associated with black tea.

Drying

The leaves are heated to stop the oxidation process and reduce moisture, helping to preserve the finished tea.

Grading & Sorting

The processed tea is graded and sorted according to characteristics such as leaf size and appearance before being prepared for packaging and distribution.

Tea Tasting

Conclude the experience with a **Ceylon Tea tasting**, sampling locally produced teas and discovering the differences in aroma, strength, colour, and flavour.

Enjoy a relaxed tasting while taking in views of the surrounding tea country and learning more about the characteristics that have made Ceylon Tea famous internationally.

Continue to Nuwara Eliya

After the tea experience, continue through the highlands towards **Nuwara Eliya**, one of Sri Lanka's most distinctive hill-country destinations.

Often associated with its colonial heritage and cool climate, Nuwara Eliya sits at a high elevation amid some of the island's most spectacular tea-growing landscapes.

As you approach the town, the cooler air, misty hills, traditional colonial architecture, and manicured gardens create an atmosphere quite different from the tropical lowlands.

Arrival – Hotel Check-in & Lunch

Upon arrival in Nuwara Eliya, check in to your hotel and settle into your accommodation.

Enjoy **lunch at the hotel** before taking time to relax after the scenic mountain journey.

Afternoon & Evening – At Leisure

The remainder of the day is deliberately kept free.

Relax at the hotel, enjoy the surrounding gardens and facilities, or venture out independently to experience Nuwara Eliya at your own pace.

You may simply enjoy the cool mountain air and peaceful surroundings or take a gentle walk through the town and discover its distinctive “**Little England**” character.

As evening approaches, return to the hotel for a relaxing dinner.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: At the hotel

Dinner: At the hotel

Hotel: Half Board basis

Overnight

Overnight: Nuwara Eliya



Day 05 – Nuwara Eliya → Ella → Yala

Location: Yala

Morning – Breakfast & Check-out

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out and preparing for a memorable journey through Sri Lanka's spectacular hill country.

Today's route combines one of the island's most scenic railway experiences with a beautiful overland journey from the mountains towards the southern wilderness of **Yala**.

Transfer – Hotel → Nanu Oya Railway Station

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

Distance & Drive Time

- Approx. **15 – 30 minutes**

Terrain

- Scenic hill-country landscape
- Tea plantations, rolling slopes, and mist-covered mountains

The short drive takes you through the atmospheric landscapes surrounding Nuwara Eliya before arriving at the historic railway station.

Scenic Train Journey – Nanu Oya → Ella

Journey Duration

- **Approx. 2 – 3 hours**

Board the train for one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated railway journeys, travelling through the heart of the central highlands towards **Ella**.

The railway winds through some of the island's most spectacular mountain scenery, passing deep valleys, tea estates, forested slopes, waterfalls, and remote rural communities.

Rather than simply being a transfer, the journey itself becomes part of the experience, offering a wonderful opportunity to slow down and appreciate the landscape from a different perspective.

Highlights Along the Journey

Tea-covered Mountains

Watch endless rows of neatly cultivated tea bushes spread across the steep mountain slopes.

Lush Valleys

The railway passes through deep green valleys and dramatic highland landscapes, often surrounded by mist and low cloud.

Forests

Sections of the route pass through dense vegetation and forested mountain areas, creating a constantly changing landscape.

Waterfalls

Depending on seasonal rainfall and visibility, several waterfalls and cascading streams may be visible along the route.

Picturesque Countryside

Look out for small villages, railway bridges, cultivated fields, distant mountain peaks, and everyday scenes of rural Sri Lankan life.

Please Note – Train Journey

Train tickets are strictly subject to availability.

Railway schedules and seat availability can vary, particularly during busy travel periods. Every effort will be made to secure the requested journey.

If train tickets cannot be secured, the journey will be undertaken by road, following a scenic route through the hill country towards Ella.

Arrival in Ella – Lunch

Upon arrival at **Ella Railway Station**, meet your guide and continue to a specially selected local restaurant.

Enjoy lunch in **Ella**, one of Sri Lanka's most popular hill-country destinations, surrounded by dramatic mountains, tea plantations, forested valleys, and spectacular viewpoints.

The relaxed lunch provides an opportunity to refresh before continuing towards Yala.

Transfer – Ella → Yala

Distance & Drive Time

- Approx. **100 km | 2.5 – 3 hours**, depending on traffic and road conditions

Road Conditions

- Scenic roads descending from the hill country
- Rural roads and sections of main highway

Terrain

- Mountain landscapes gradually transitioning into southern dry-zone countryside

Leave the cool highlands of Ella and begin the descent towards the south.

The landscape changes dramatically during the journey. The steep green mountains gradually give way to lower elevations, warmer temperatures, open countryside, forests, and the characteristic dry-zone landscapes surrounding Yala.

This transition offers a fascinating glimpse of Sri Lanka's geographical diversity within a relatively short journey.

Arrival in Yala – Hotel Check-in

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

Yala lies on the edge of one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated wildlife regions, where dry forests, grasslands, lagoons, scrubland, and coastal habitats provide shelter for a remarkable variety of wildlife.

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

Afternoon & Evening – At Leisure

The remainder of the afternoon and evening is intentionally free.

Relax at the hotel, enjoy the surrounding natural environment, or make use of the property's facilities.

The peaceful setting provides the perfect opportunity to unwind before your upcoming wildlife experiences in the Yala region.

Evening – Dinner at the Hotel

Enjoy dinner at the hotel and settle into a restful evening surrounded by the atmosphere of Sri Lanka's southern wilderness.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: Local restaurant in Ella

Dinner: At the hotel

Overnight

Overnight: Yala



Day 06 – Yala National Park Safari

Location: Yala

Early Morning – Yala National Park Jeep Safari

Rise early and depart your hotel at approximately **5:30 AM** for an exciting wildlife adventure into **Yala National Park**, one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated protected areas.

The early morning is an especially rewarding time to explore the park, as temperatures are cooler and wildlife is often more active around the beginning of the day.

Board your safari jeep and enter the wilderness as the landscape begins to awaken, with golden morning light gradually illuminating the park's forests, grasslands, lagoons, rocky outcrops, and scrubland.

Yala National Park Wildlife Safari

Safari Duration

- Approx. **3 hours**

Your experienced safari driver will follow suitable park tracks and observe signs of wildlife activity, adapting the route according to conditions and sightings on the day.

Yala's diverse habitats support an impressive range of mammals, reptiles, and birdlife, making every safari a unique experience.

Wildlife You May Encounter

Sri Lankan Leopard

Yala is particularly renowned for its **Sri Lankan leopard population**.

With patience and a little luck, you may have the opportunity to observe these elusive big cats moving through the forest, resting on rocky outcrops, or crossing open areas.

Leopard sightings are never guaranteed, as these are wild animals moving freely through a vast natural environment, which makes any encounter especially memorable.

Asian Elephants

Look out for Sri Lanka's magnificent Asian elephants as they move through grasslands, woodland, and areas surrounding the park's water sources.

Depending on the season, elephants may be encountered individually or in family groups.

Sloth Bears

Yala is also home to the elusive **Sri Lankan sloth bear**.

These shy animals can occasionally be seen foraging in the forest and grasslands, making an encounter a particularly special wildlife moment.

Crocodiles

Keep watch around lagoons, waterholes, and other wetlands, where crocodiles may be seen resting near the water's edge.

Spotted Deer

Herds of spotted deer are frequently encountered in open areas and provide an important part of the park's wildlife landscape.

Peacocks

Sri Lanka's spectacular peacocks are often visible in open grasslands and around forest edges, adding colour and movement to the safari.

Birdlife

Yala's varied habitats support a rich diversity of resident and migratory bird species.

Keep your eyes open for colourful birds, waterbirds, raptors, and other species throughout the safari.

Safari Breakfast

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

Enjoy your morning refreshments during a suitable break while remaining surrounded by the sights and sounds of the national park.

Return to Hotel

Following approximately three hours of wildlife exploration, leave the national park and return to your hotel.

After an early start and an exciting morning in the wilderness, enjoy some time to refresh and relax.

Lunch – At the Hotel

Return to the comfort of your hotel and enjoy **lunch at the property**.

The relaxed midday break provides an opportunity to recharge after the safari.

Afternoon – At Leisure

Spend the afternoon at your own pace.

Relax beside the swimming pool, enjoy the hotel's facilities, read a book, or simply appreciate the peaceful natural surroundings of the Yala region.

After the early morning safari, keeping the afternoon free allows the day to remain comfortable and unhurried.

Optional – Afternoon Yala Safari

For guests wishing to experience Yala at a different time of day, an **additional afternoon safari** can be arranged at an extra cost.

An afternoon drive offers a different perspective of the park as the changing light transforms the landscape and wildlife activity develops towards the later hours of the day.

This optional experience is particularly suitable for wildlife enthusiasts who would like additional time in the park and further opportunities to encounter its diverse wildlife.

Evening – Dinner at the Hotel

Return to the hotel and enjoy dinner.

Spend a peaceful evening reflecting on the day's wildlife encounters and the extraordinary natural environment surrounding Yala.

Meals

Breakfast: Packed breakfast during safari

Lunch: At the hotel



Dinner: At the hotel

Overnight

Overnight: Yala



Day 07 – Yala → Galle | Stilt Fishermen & Afterdark Tales

Location: Galle

Morning – Breakfast & Check-out

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out and departing **Yala** for the historic southern coastal city of **Galle**.

Today's journey takes you from Sri Lanka's dry-zone wilderness towards the Indian Ocean, combining a scenic coastal transfer with an encounter with one of the island's most distinctive traditional fishing practices before an atmospheric evening exploration of Galle Fort.

Transfer – Yala → Galle

Distance & Drive Time

- Approx. **180 km | 3 – 3.5 hours**, depending on traffic and road conditions

Road Conditions

- Well-maintained southern roads
- Main highways and coastal routes

Terrain

- Dry-zone countryside gradually transitioning into the tropical coastal landscape

As you leave Yala, the scenery initially reflects the warmer, drier landscapes of southern Sri Lanka.

Gradually, the environment becomes greener and more tropical as you approach the coast, with villages, coconut palms, cultivated land, waterways, and glimpses of the Indian Ocean becoming increasingly prominent.

En Route – Traditional Stilt Fishermen

Pause along the southern coast to witness one of Sri Lanka's most distinctive traditional fishing practices: **stilt fishing**.

The fishermen sit on narrow crossbars attached to wooden poles positioned in shallow coastal waters, using traditional techniques to catch fish from the sea.

The practice has become an iconic image of Sri Lanka's southern coastline and provides an opportunity to learn about the relationship between coastal communities and the ocean.

Please note that stilt fishing is a traditional practice and activity levels may vary depending on weather, tides, season, and local conditions.

Continue to Galle

Continue along Sri Lanka's scenic southern route towards **Galle**, one of the island's most atmospheric historic cities.

As you approach Galle, the landscape becomes distinctly coastal, with dense tropical vegetation, coconut palms, traditional homes, and glimpses of the Indian Ocean.

Arrival in Galle – Hotel Check-in & Lunch

Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and settle into your accommodation.

Enjoy **lunch at the hotel** before taking some time to relax and refresh ahead of your evening experience.

Afternoon – At Leisure

Spend the afternoon at leisure.

Relax at the hotel, enjoy the swimming pool or other facilities, or simply take some time to unwind before heading out to explore Galle Fort after dark.

Keeping the afternoon free provides a comfortable pause between the morning transfer and the evening's immersive walking experience.

Evening – Afterdark Tales of the Galle Fort

Start

- Approximately **5:30 PM**

Experience Duration

- Approx. **2 hours**

As the afternoon light begins to fade, meet your **resident local host** at the designated meeting point and begin an atmospheric exploration of the historic **Galle Fort**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Founded by the Portuguese and substantially fortified by the Dutch, Galle Fort preserves an extraordinary collection of ramparts, streets, colonial buildings, churches, warehouses, residences, and public spaces.

After sunset, the fort takes on an entirely different character.

With the crowds and daytime activity beginning to fade, your local host will lead you through the historic streets while revealing stories connected with the people, buildings, and forgotten corners of this remarkable fortified city.

Highlights of the Afterdark Experience

Historic Fortifications

Walk along sections of the ancient ramparts and learn about the strategic importance of Galle as a major maritime trading centre.

The massive walls and bastions were designed to protect the harbour and settlement from attack while controlling one of the important maritime routes through the Indian Ocean.

Forgotten Graveyards

Discover lesser-known burial sites and hear stories connected with the communities who lived and worked within the historic fort.

These places provide a more personal perspective on the generations who shaped Galle's multicultural identity.

Old Quarries

Explore stories surrounding the stone and construction materials used in the development of the fortifications and historic buildings.

Abandoned Gunpowder Mills

Learn about the military infrastructure that once supported the defensive system of the fort and the strategic importance of storing and manufacturing materials for its protection.

Historic Dungeons

Hear the darker stories associated with the fort's former defensive and colonial functions as you explore areas connected with its past.

Colonial Heritage

Discover how Portuguese and Dutch influence shaped the architecture, urban planning, trading networks, and cultural landscape of Galle.

The fort's narrow streets, courtyards, churches, warehouses, and residences reveal layers of history that remain visible throughout the old city.

Stories of Galle's Diverse Communities

One of the most fascinating aspects of Galle is its multicultural heritage.

Hear stories about the different communities that lived, traded, worshipped, and worked within the fort, helping create the distinctive cultural character that continues to define Galle today.

Conclude at the Dutch Hospital

The experience concludes at the historic **Dutch Hospital**, one of the fort's best-known surviving colonial buildings.

Originally constructed during the Dutch period, the building has been carefully restored and today forms part of the lively social landscape of the fort, with restaurants, cafés, and other spaces occupying the historic complex.

The conclusion here provides a fitting transition from the atmospheric stories of the old fort to the contemporary life of Galle.

Return to Hotel

Following the approximately two-hour experience, return to your hotel.

Take time to relax after the evening walking tour before enjoying dinner.

Evening – Dinner at the Hotel

Enjoy dinner at the hotel and spend a peaceful evening in Galle.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: At the hotel

Dinner: At the hotel

Overnight

Overnight: Galle



Day 08 – Leisure in Galle

Location: Galle

Morning – Breakfast at the Hotel

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel before settling into a relaxed day in **Galle**.

After the previous day's journey from Yala and atmospheric exploration of Galle Fort after dark, today is intentionally kept free, allowing you to experience the southern coast at your own pace.

Full Day – At Leisure

Enjoy a peaceful day at the hotel or choose to explore more of Galle independently.

With its tropical coastal setting, historic fortifications, colonial architecture, cafés, galleries, boutiques, and relaxed atmosphere, Galle offers plenty of possibilities for an unhurried day.

Relax by the Pool

Spend time beside the swimming pool and enjoy the comfort of your hotel.

Take a refreshing swim, relax with a book, or simply enjoy the warm tropical surroundings without the need to follow a fixed schedule.

Enjoy the Hotel Facilities

Make full use of the facilities available at your property.

Depending on the hotel, you may choose to enjoy the spa, gardens, fitness facilities, pool, lounge areas, or other leisure experiences available during your stay.

Explore Galle Independently

For those wishing to venture out, take the opportunity to discover more of Galle at your own pace.

Wander through the historic streets, observe local life, discover small shops, or simply enjoy the atmosphere of this fascinating coastal city.

Revisit Galle Fort

Return to **Galle Fort** and experience it during daylight after discovering its atmospheric stories the previous evening.

Walk along the historic ramparts, explore its narrow streets, admire the colonial architecture, and discover additional corners that may have been missed during the guided evening experience.

The fort's compact layout makes it particularly enjoyable to explore on foot at a leisurely pace.

Local Boutiques & Cafés

Browse the independent boutiques, galleries, craft shops, and lifestyle stores found within and around the fort.

Pause at one of the charming cafés for a coffee or refreshing drink while watching the relaxed rhythm of life unfold around you.

The combination of historic architecture and contemporary creative spaces gives Galle a distinctive character that blends its past with modern Sri Lankan life.

Explore the Surrounding Area

Guests who prefer a little more exploration can venture beyond the fort and discover the surrounding coastal area.

Enjoy a scenic drive, visit nearby beaches, or simply explore the tropical landscapes surrounding Galle at your own pace.

Any additional excursions or activities can be arranged according to preference and availability.

Lunch – At the Hotel

Return to the hotel for a relaxed **lunch**.

Enjoy a leisurely midday break before continuing with the afternoon at your own pace.

Afternoon – Leisure

Continue to relax at the hotel or explore more of Galle independently.

The unstructured afternoon provides another opportunity to enjoy the slower rhythm of the southern coast.

Spend time by the pool, enjoy the hotel facilities, revisit your favourite part of the fort, or simply take in the tropical surroundings.

Evening – Dinner at the Hotel

Return to the hotel for dinner and enjoy a peaceful evening in Galle.

With no scheduled sightseeing, the evening can be spent entirely at leisure, allowing you to rest and recharge for the remainder of your Sri Lankan journey.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: At the hotel

Dinner: At the hotel

Overnight

Overnight: Galle



Day 09 – Departure / Optional Bentota Beach or Maldives Extension

Location: Galle → Bandaranaike International Airport / Bentota / Maldives

Morning – Breakfast & Check-out

Enjoy your final breakfast at the hotel before checking out and preparing for your onward journey.

Take a final moment to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of Galle and the tropical surroundings before beginning the journey towards **Bandaranaike International Airport**.

Transfer – Galle → Bandaranaike International Airport

Distance & Drive Time

- Approx. **165 km | 2.5 hours**, depending on traffic and road conditions

Road Conditions

- Southern Expressway
- Well-maintained main roads and airport access roads

Terrain

- Predominantly flat coastal landscape
- Tropical countryside and suburban areas approaching Colombo and the airport

Depart Galle and travel northwards along the southern route towards the airport.

The journey provides a final glimpse of Sri Lanka's tropical coastal landscape, with coconut palms, villages, waterways, cultivated areas, and bustling communities forming part of the scenery.

As you approach the airport, the landscape gradually becomes more urbanised before reaching **Bandaranaike International Airport**.

Airport Arrival & Departure

Upon arrival at the airport, proceed with check-in and the necessary departure formalities for your onward international flight.

We recommend allowing sufficient time for check-in, security, and other airport procedures, particularly for international departures.

Alternative – Optional Bentota Beach Extension

Guests wishing to extend their Sri Lankan holiday may instead continue south along the coast to **Bentota**, a popular beach destination known for its golden sands, tropical scenery, calm coastal atmosphere, and range of leisure experiences.

A Bentota extension provides the perfect opportunity to slow the pace after an itinerary filled with cultural discovery, wildlife, scenic mountain journeys, and historic exploration.

Spend your additional days relaxing beside the Indian Ocean, enjoying resort facilities, taking leisurely beach walks, or choosing from optional activities such as river excursions, water sports, wellness treatments, and other coastal experiences.

The extension can be tailored according to the preferred length of stay.

Alternative – Continue to the Maldives

Guests may also continue their holiday with an onward journey to the **Maldives**.

This creates a natural combination of Sri Lanka's diverse cultural and wildlife experiences with a peaceful tropical island escape.

After exploring ancient temples, misty tea plantations, Yala's wildlife, and the historic streets of Galle, continue to the Maldives to unwind among turquoise waters, white-sand beaches, and the tranquil surroundings of a private island resort.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: Own arrangements / depending on onward travel

Dinner: Own arrangements / depending on onward travel

End of Tour

Your Sri Lankan journey comes to an end
as you depart for your onward destination.

From the vibrant streets of Colombo and the cultural heritage of Kandy to the emerald tea country of Nuwara Eliya, the wildlife of Yala, and the historic fortifications of Galle, this journey has brought together some of the island's most distinctive experiences.

Along the way, you have encountered sacred Buddhist traditions, local markets, traditional craftsmanship, scenic railway landscapes, Sri Lankan cuisine, wildlife in its natural habitat, and the warmth of the island's people.

