



Sri Lanka

UNVEILED



10 NIGHTS / 11 DAYS



ITINERARY SUMMARY

Day	Overnight	Summary
Day 01	Galle	Arrive at Bandaranaike International Airport (CMB) and travel south to Galle via the Southern Expressway. Enjoy your first authentic Sri Lankan lunch at a local restaurant before checking in and relaxing for the remainder of the day.
Day 02	Galle	Discover Sri Lanka's traditional craftsmanship with a hands-on Mask-Making & Painting Experience in Ambalangoda. Learn about Vel Kaduru wood, traditional carving techniques, mask painting , and the heritage of local mask-making families before enjoying lunch at the hotel. In the afternoon, explore Galle's historic landmarks, colonial architecture, local markets and streets on a guided city tour.
Day 03	Udawalawe	Leave Galle and travel towards Udawalawe , transitioning from the southern coastal landscape into Sri Lanka's dry-zone countryside. After checking in and enjoying lunch, spend the afternoon and evening at leisure, relaxing amidst the peaceful natural surroundings of Udawalawe.
Day 04	Udawalawe	Enjoy an immersive Ceylon 1850 Curry Cookery Experience , learning traditional Sri Lankan cooking techniques before enjoying a freshly prepared Sri Lankan lunch . Visit the Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home to learn about elephant rehabilitation and observe feeding from the designated viewing area. Later, embark on a 3-hour Udawalawe National Park Jeep Safari , with opportunities to see Asian Elephants, deer, wild buffalo, crocodiles, monkeys and birdlife .
Day 05	Nuwara Eliya	Travel from Udawalawe to Ella , stopping at the spectacular Ravana Falls and iconic Nine Arch Bridge before enjoying lunch in Ella. Continue with a scenic Ella → Nanu Oya train journey through mist-covered mountains, tea plantations, deep valleys and picturesque villages . Continue by road to Nuwara Eliya and relax at your hotel. <i>Train journey subject to availability; road transfer will be provided if tickets cannot be secured.</i>
Day 06	Nuwara Eliya	Enjoy a full day at leisure in the cool and scenic surroundings of Nuwara Eliya. Relax at the hotel, explore the charming town, or make use of the hotel's facilities. For active travellers, an optional Horton Plains Trek can be arranged, including an early-morning departure and packed breakfast .
Day 07	Kandy	Journey from Nuwara Eliya to Kandy through spectacular tea country. Visit a Tea Plantation & Factory to discover the history and production of Ceylon Tea , followed by a Tea Tasting & Traditional High Tea experience in a scenic setting. Continue to Kandy, check in, and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

Day	Overnight	Summary
Day 08	Kandy	Explore Kandy's cultural treasures with visits to the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic and Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya . Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before discovering Sri Lanka's famous gemstones at a Gem Factory & Showroom . In the evening, experience a vibrant Kandy Cultural Fire Dance Show featuring traditional music, Kandyan dancing, drumming and fire performances .
Day 09	Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla	Travel from Kandy to Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle , stopping at a traditional Spice Garden to discover local spices and herbs and their traditional uses. Continue to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Dambulla Cave Temple , renowned for its ancient Buddhist murals and statues, before enjoying lunch and checking in to your Cultural Triangle hotel.
Day 10	Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla	Begin early with a visit to the UNESCO-listed Sigiriya Rock Fortress , exploring the Lion's Paw Terrace, ancient frescoes, Mirror Wall, Royal Water Gardens and panoramic summit views . After lunch and time to relax, enjoy a guided cycling experience through the Sigiriya Domain , travelling through rural villages, paddy fields, quiet back roads and the Pidurangala area , with refreshments at a scenic viewpoint.
Day 11	Departure / Optional Extension	After breakfast, check out and transfer from the Cultural Triangle to Bandaranaike International Airport (CMB) . Alternatively, extend your holiday with an optional Negombo beach stay or continue onwards to the Maldives , bringing your Sri Lankan journey to a memorable conclusion.



Day 01 – Arrival in Sri Lanka → Galle

Location: Galle

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 with the beginning of your Sri Lankan journey.

After completing the arrival formalities, meet your guide and begin the scenic journey towards the island's southern coast and the historic city of **Galle**.

Transfer – Airport → Galle

Distance & Drive Time

- Approx. **160 km | 2.5 hours**, depending on traffic and road conditions

Road Conditions

- Southern Expressway
- Well-maintained coastal and connecting roads

Terrain

- Predominantly flat coastal plains
- Tropical countryside and lowland landscapes

Leave the airport behind and travel south towards Galle, passing through Sri Lanka's lush western and southern lowlands.

The landscape gradually changes from suburban communities around the airport to quieter countryside, tropical vegetation, coconut palms, villages, and cultivated areas as you approach the southern coast.

En Route – Authentic Sri Lankan Lunch

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

Enjoy a selection of freshly prepared local dishes, fragrant rice, aromatic curries, seasonal vegetables, sambols, and traditional accompaniments.

This relaxed first meal offers an introduction to the distinctive flavours of Sri Lanka while providing a welcome break during the journey south.

Continue to Galle

After lunch, continue towards **Galle**, one of Sri Lanka's most atmospheric coastal cities.

Situated along the southern coastline, Galle is best known for its magnificent historic fort, colonial architecture, tropical surroundings, and fascinating multicultural heritage.

The city has developed over centuries as an important maritime trading centre, leaving behind a remarkable blend of European and South Asian influences.

Arrival in Galle – Hotel Check-in

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

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

Afternoon & Evening – At Leisure

The remainder of the day is intentionally kept free.

Relax at the hotel, enjoy the swimming pool or other facilities, or simply unwind in the comfort of your accommodation after your international journey.

If energy and arrival time permit, guests may also choose to take a gentle stroll around the surrounding area or enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of Sri Lanka's southern coast.

As evening approaches, return to the hotel for dinner and a peaceful first night in Galle.

Meals

Lunch: Local restaurant

Dinner: At the hotel



Hotel: Half Board basis

Overnight

Overnight: Galle



Day 02 – Traditional Mask-Making Experience & Galle City Tour

Location: Galle

Morning – Breakfast at the Hotel

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before beginning a fascinating cultural experience that introduces you to one of Sri Lanka's most distinctive traditional crafts.

At approximately **9:30 AM**, depart for a hands-on **traditional Sri Lankan mask-making and painting experience**, offering an opportunity to meet a local craftsman and discover the stories, techniques, and traditions behind this centuries-old art form.

Traditional Mask-Making & Painting Experience

Experience Duration

- Approx. **2.5 hours**

Travel towards the Ambalangoda area, widely associated with Sri Lanka's traditional mask-making heritage.

Meet a local craftsman and step into the world of **traditional wooden mask carving**, where knowledge and techniques have been passed down through generations of artisan families.

The experience goes beyond simply observing the craft. Guests are invited to participate in selected stages of the carving and painting process under the guidance of the craftsman, creating a more personal connection with this important aspect of Sri Lankan cultural heritage.

Discover the Heritage of Traditional Masks

Traditional Sri Lankan masks are closely associated with the island's historic folk performance traditions, ritual practices, storytelling, and dance.

Different masks represent distinctive characters, spirits, animals, and figures, each with their own visual identity and cultural meaning.

Your local craftsman will introduce you to the stories and traditions behind these remarkable works of art and explain how mask-making knowledge has been preserved within artisan families.

Locally Sourced Vel Kaduru Wood

Learn about **Vel Kaduru wood**, traditionally used by Sri Lankan mask carvers because of its suitability for detailed carving.

Discover how the wood is selected and prepared before the carving process begins.

Traditional Carving Techniques

Observe the craftsman's skilled use of traditional tools to shape the wood into recognisable facial features and expressive forms.

The carving process requires considerable patience and precision, with the character of each mask gradually emerging from the natural piece of wood.

Guests will have the opportunity to participate in the carving process under the guidance of the craftsman, creating a memorable hands-on connection with the tradition.

Mask Painting

Once the carving is prepared, discover how traditional colours and painting techniques bring the masks to life.

Learn how colour, facial expression, patterns, and decorative details help communicate the identity and character represented by each mask.

Guests can also participate in the painting process, adding their own creative touch to this traditional art form.

Stories of Mask-Making Families

Hear personal stories about the artisan families who have preserved the craft across generations.

Learn how traditional knowledge has been passed from one generation to the next and how contemporary craftspeople continue to keep this distinctive Sri Lankan heritage alive.

The experience provides a meaningful insight into the connection between craftsmanship, community, storytelling, and cultural identity.

Return to Hotel – Lunch & Relaxation

Following the approximately 2.5-hour experience, return to your hotel.

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

The break provides a comfortable pause before the afternoon's exploration of Galle.

Afternoon – Galle City Tour

In the late afternoon, proceed into **Galle** for a guided city tour.

The historic city offers a fascinating combination of maritime heritage, colonial architecture, local commerce, and contemporary Sri Lankan life.

Your guided exploration will introduce you to the city's historic landmarks and everyday character.

Historic Landmarks

Discover important landmarks that reflect Galle's long history as a major trading and maritime centre.

Learn how the city developed through centuries of commercial exchange and successive periods of Portuguese, Dutch, and British influence.

Colonial Architecture

Admire the distinctive architectural character of Galle, where European planning and building styles have been adapted to Sri Lanka's tropical environment.

Historic façades, courtyards, verandas, churches, commercial buildings, and residential properties reveal the layers of history that continue to shape the city.

Local Markets

Explore the lively atmosphere of Galle's local markets, where vendors display fresh produce, spices, seafood, fruit, vegetables, and everyday essentials.

The markets offer a more authentic glimpse into daily life and provide an opportunity to observe the rhythm of local commerce.

Historic Streets

Wander through Galle's atmospheric streets and discover the contrasts between historic buildings and modern Sri Lankan life.

The combination of old architecture, small shops, cafés, local businesses, and passing residents gives Galle a distinctive character that is both historic and contemporary.

Vibrant Local Character

Throughout the tour, experience Galle beyond its major monuments.

Observe local life, meet people going about their daily routines, and gain a deeper appreciation for the cultural character of Sri Lanka's southern coast.

Return to Hotel

Following the city tour, return to your hotel.

Enjoy a relaxed evening after a day combining traditional craftsmanship, local culture, history, and urban exploration.

Evening – Dinner at the Hotel

Enjoy dinner at the hotel and spend the remainder of the evening at leisure.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: At the hotel

Dinner: At the hotel

Hotel: Full Board basis

Overnight

Overnight: Galle



Day 03 – Galle → Udawalawe

Location: Udawalawe

Morning – Breakfast & Check-out

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out and departing **Galle** for the wildlife-rich landscapes of **Udawalawe**.

Today's journey takes you away from the tropical southern coastline and gradually inland towards Sri Lanka's dry zone, where open grasslands, forests, reservoirs, and rural landscapes create an ideal setting for wildlife.

Transfer – Galle → Udawalawe

Distance & Drive Time

- Approx. **120 km | 2 – 2.5 hours**, depending on traffic and road conditions

Road Conditions

- Well-maintained southern roads
- Main roads and rural stretches approaching Udawalawe

Terrain

- Coastal plains gradually transitioning into dry-zone countryside

As you leave Galle, the lush coastal environment gradually gives way to more open countryside.

The scenery changes from coconut palms, tropical gardens, and densely settled coastal areas to agricultural land, forest patches, open grasslands, and the characteristic landscapes of Sri Lanka's southern dry zone.

The changing terrain provides a gentle introduction to the wildlife environment surrounding Udawalawe.

Arrival in Udawalawe – Hotel Check-in & Lunch

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

Enjoy **lunch at the hotel** before settling into your accommodation.

Udawalawe is particularly well known for its surrounding national park and large population of Asian elephants. The region's combination of grasslands, forests, wetlands, and the Udawalawe Reservoir creates an important habitat for wildlife.

Afternoon & Evening – At Leisure

The remainder of the day is intentionally kept free.

Relax at the hotel, enjoy the swimming pool and other facilities, or simply take in the peaceful natural surroundings.

After the journey from Galle, this relaxed afternoon provides time to unwind and prepare for the wildlife experiences ahead.

For nature lovers, the surrounding landscape offers a tranquil contrast to the historic atmosphere of Galle, with the sounds and sights of the dry-zone countryside creating a distinctly different sense of place.

Evening – Dinner at the Hotel

As evening falls, enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Spend a peaceful evening relaxing in the natural surroundings of Udawalawe before continuing with the next stage of your wildlife journey.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: At the hotel

Dinner: At the hotel

Overnight

Overnight: Udawalawe



Day 04 – Curry Cookery, Elephant Transit Home & Udawalawe Safari

Location: Udawalawe

Morning – Breakfast at the Hotel

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before beginning a day that combines Sri Lanka's rich culinary traditions with meaningful wildlife and conservation experiences.

Today's programme offers a wonderful balance between hands-on cultural discovery and an afternoon safari through the landscapes of **Udawalawe National Park**.

Morning – Ceylon 1850 Curry Cookery Experience

Experience Duration

- Approx. **2.5 – 3 hours**

Begin the morning with an immersive **Ceylon 1850 Curry Cookery Experience**, introducing you to the flavours, ingredients, techniques, and traditions behind authentic Sri Lankan cuisine.

Step into the world of traditional Sri Lankan cooking and discover how locally sourced ingredients, aromatic spices, coconut, herbs, vegetables, and fresh produce are transformed into the richly flavoured curries for which the island is renowned.

Discover Traditional Sri Lankan Cooking

Learn about the importance of spices and fresh ingredients in Sri Lankan cuisine and discover how different combinations create the distinctive balance of flavours found in traditional dishes.

The experience provides an opportunity to gain insight into local cooking methods while enjoying a relaxed and interactive culinary setting.

From preparing aromatic spice blends to understanding the role of coconut and herbs, discover the techniques that have been passed down through generations.

Authentic Sri Lankan Lunch

The cookery experience concludes with a **freshly prepared Sri Lankan lunch**.

Enjoy the dishes prepared during the experience, accompanied by traditional rice, curries, vegetables, sambols, and other local specialities.

This provides an authentic and memorable taste of Sri Lanka while connecting the meal directly to the ingredients and techniques explored during the morning.

Visit – Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home

Visit Duration

- Approx. **30 minutes – 1 hour**

Continue to the **Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home**, an important conservation initiative dedicated to the rehabilitation of orphaned and displaced elephant calves.

From the designated viewing platform, observe the elephants during their scheduled feeding session while maintaining a respectful distance from the animals.

Elephant Rehabilitation & Conservation

Learn about the rehabilitation process and the efforts made to prepare young elephants for eventual return to the wild.

The facility aims to provide care while limiting unnecessary human contact, helping young elephants develop the independence and natural behaviours required for life in the wild.

During the visit, your guide can explain how the calves are cared for, fed, monitored, and gradually prepared for eventual release.

The experience offers a valuable perspective on Sri Lanka's ongoing efforts to support elephant conservation.

Afternoon – Udawalawe National Park Jeep Safari

Departure

- Approximately **3:00 PM**

Safari Duration

- Approx. **3 hours**

In the afternoon, board your safari jeep and enter **Udawalawe National Park** for an approximately three-hour wildlife adventure.

Created around the Udawalawe Reservoir and its surrounding dry-zone landscapes, the park features a mixture of grasslands, forests, wetlands, scrubland, and open plains.

These varied habitats support a remarkable range of wildlife and create excellent opportunities for observing animals in their natural environment.

Wildlife You May Encounter

Asian Elephants

Udawalawe is particularly renowned for its **Asian elephants**, which can often be observed moving through the park's open grasslands and woodland areas.

The expansive landscapes and availability of water make the region an important habitat for these magnificent animals.

Spotted Deer

Look out for herds of spotted deer grazing across open areas or moving between the grasslands and forest edges.

Wild Buffalo

Wild water buffalo may be encountered around wetlands, grasslands, and water sources throughout the park.

Crocodiles

Keep watch around the reservoir and other water bodies, where crocodiles may be seen resting along the banks or partially submerged in the water.

Monkeys

Various species of monkeys inhabit the park and may be spotted moving through trees or foraging along the safari routes.

Birdlife

Udawalawe's wetlands, grasslands, forests, and reservoir support a diverse range of bird species, making the safari rewarding for both wildlife enthusiasts and bird lovers.

Explore the Udawalawe Wilderness

As the afternoon progresses, the changing light creates a beautiful atmosphere across the park.

Travel through open plains, woodland tracks, dry-zone forest, and areas surrounding the reservoir while your experienced safari driver searches for wildlife and responds to sightings along the route.

Every safari follows the natural rhythms of the park, meaning each experience is different and wildlife sightings can never be guaranteed.

Return to Hotel

Depart the national park at approximately **6:00 PM** and return to your hotel.

After an afternoon immersed in the wilderness, relax and unwind in the comfort of your accommodation.

Evening – Dinner at the Hotel

Enjoy dinner at the hotel and spend a peaceful evening reflecting on a day that has combined culinary traditions, conservation, and wildlife.

Meals

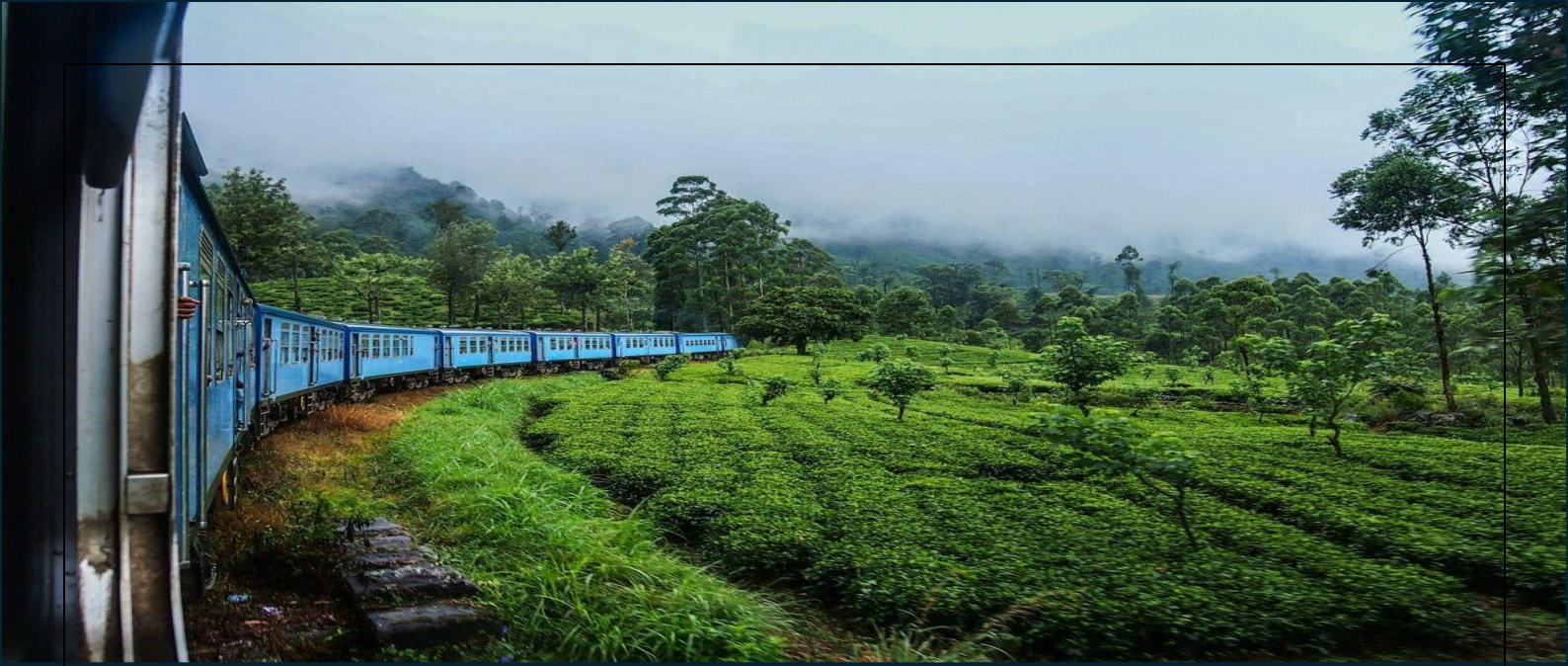
Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: Included as part of the Ceylon 1850 Curry Cookery Experience

Dinner: At the hotel

Overnight

Overnight: Udawalawe



Day 05 – Udawalawe → Ella → Nanu Oya → Nuwara Eliya

Location: Nuwara Eliya

Morning – Breakfast & Check-out

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

Today's journey combines scenic mountain roads, two of Ella's most recognisable landmarks, a relaxing lunch, and one of the island's most memorable railway experiences before arriving in the cool surroundings of **Nuwara Eliya**.

Transfer – Udawalawe → Ella

Drive Time

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

Road Conditions

- Scenic roads through the southern countryside
- Winding sections as the route approaches the highlands

Terrain

- Southern countryside gradually ascending towards the central highlands
- Forested slopes, valleys, and increasingly mountainous landscapes

Leave the dry-zone surroundings of Udawalawe and begin ascending towards **Ella**, where the landscape becomes noticeably greener and more dramatic.

The journey provides a fascinating transition from the open southern countryside into the misty mountains and tea-growing landscapes of the central highlands.

Visit – Ravana Falls

Pause at the picturesque **Ravana Falls**, one of Sri Lanka's best-known natural landmarks.

The waterfall cascades down a rocky mountainside surrounded by lush tropical vegetation, creating a particularly scenic stop along the journey.

The falls are also connected with local legends surrounding the **Ramayana**, adding a layer of cultural storytelling to this natural attraction.

Take some time to admire the scenery and capture photographs before continuing towards Ella.

Visit – Nine Arch Bridge

Continue to the iconic **Nine Arch Bridge**, one of Ella's most recognisable landmarks.

Hidden among lush vegetation and surrounded by the dramatic landscapes of Sri Lanka's hill country, the historic railway viaduct is an impressive example of early railway engineering.

The bridge is constructed almost entirely from brick, stone, and cement and is particularly striking when viewed against the surrounding tea-covered hills and dense tropical greenery.

Take time to appreciate the architecture, surrounding landscape, and atmosphere before continuing into Ella.

Lunch – Ella

Arrive in **Ella** and enjoy lunch at a specially selected local restaurant.

Surrounded by mountains, tea plantations, forested valleys, and dramatic viewpoints, Ella provides a relaxed setting for a midday break before the afternoon train journey.

Scenic Train Journey – Ella → Nanu Oya

After lunch, proceed to **Ella Railway Station** and board the scenic train towards **Nanu Oya**.

Journey Duration

- Approx. **2.5 – 3 hours**

The railway journey takes you deep into the heart of Sri Lanka's spectacular hill country.

As the train winds through the mountains, enjoy constantly changing views through the carriage windows, with steep valleys, tea plantations, forested slopes, small villages, and mist-covered peaks creating an unforgettable journey.

Rather than simply being a means of transport, this railway experience becomes one of the highlights of the day.

Highlights Along the Journey

Mist-covered Mountains

Watch the landscape rise and fall through dramatic mountain scenery, often softened by passing mist and low cloud.

Tea Plantations

Travel through some of Sri Lanka's famous tea-growing areas, where carefully cultivated tea bushes cover the slopes in neat green rows.

Deep Valleys

The railway crosses and follows dramatic valleys, revealing expansive views across the central highlands.

Lush Countryside

Enjoy a constantly changing landscape of forests, cultivated land, streams, and tropical vegetation.

Picturesque Villages

Look out for small hill-country settlements and rural communities situated among the plantations and mountain slopes.

Please Note – Train Journey

Train tickets are strictly subject to availability.

Railway schedules and seat availability may vary depending on the travel period.

Every effort will be made to secure the requested train journey. **If train tickets cannot be secured, the journey will be undertaken by road instead**, following a scenic route through the hill country.

Transfer – Nanu Oya → Nuwara Eliya

Upon arrival at **Nanu Oya Railway Station**, meet your chauffeur-guide and continue by road to your hotel in Nuwara Eliya.

The short transfer takes you through the cool, misty landscapes surrounding Sri Lanka's famous tea-growing region.

Arrival in Nuwara Eliya – Hotel Check-in

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

Nuwara Eliya is situated high in Sri Lanka's central mountains and is renowned for its cool climate, rolling tea plantations, colonial-era character, landscaped gardens, and distinctive hill-country atmosphere.

After the day's scenic journey, take time to relax and enjoy the cooler surroundings.

Evening – At Leisure

Spend the remainder of the evening at leisure.

Relax at the hotel, enjoy the surrounding gardens and facilities, or simply unwind after a full day of travelling through Sri Lanka's spectacular highlands.

Dinner

Enjoy dinner at the hotel before settling into a peaceful evening in Nuwara Eliya.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: Local restaurant in Ella

Dinner: At the hotel

Overnight

Overnight: Nuwara Eliya



Day 06 – Leisure in Nuwara Eliya

Location: Nuwara Eliya

Morning – Breakfast & Leisure

Begin the day with a relaxed breakfast at the hotel before enjoying a full day at leisure in the cool, refreshing surroundings of **Nuwara Eliya**, Sri Lanka's celebrated hill-country retreat.

Often referred to as “**Little England**,” Nuwara Eliya is renowned for its cool climate, rolling green landscapes, colonial-era architecture, flower gardens and surrounding tea country. After several days of touring, today provides a welcome opportunity to slow the pace and simply enjoy the tranquillity of the highlands.

Guests may choose to relax at the hotel, make use of its facilities, or explore the charming town at their own pace. A gentle stroll through the town, a visit to a local café, or simply enjoying the crisp mountain air can all be part of an unhurried morning.

Optional Excursion – Horton Plains Trek

For guests seeking a more active experience, an **optional early-morning excursion to Horton Plains National Park** may be arranged.

Early Morning Departure – Approximately 5:30 AM

Rise early and depart the hotel at approximately **5:30 AM**, with a **packed breakfast** provided for the excursion.

Located within Sri Lanka's central highlands, Horton Plains is a spectacular high-altitude landscape of rolling grasslands, cloud forests, streams and mist-covered valleys. The area is part of the **Central Highlands of Sri Lanka UNESCO World Heritage Site** and is renowned for its exceptional scenery and rich biodiversity.

Horton Plains Trek

The walking experience allows guests to explore the natural beauty of this elevated wilderness, with trails winding through open grasslands and forested areas surrounded by dramatic mountain scenery.

The cool early-morning atmosphere, changing mist and expansive highland views make this one of Sri Lanka's most distinctive nature experiences. Guests should allow several hours for the excursion, including travel to and from the park and the walking experience itself.

Practical Note: The Horton Plains excursion is optional and involves walking over uneven terrain. Comfortable walking shoes, a light jacket and suitable outdoor clothing are recommended. Weather conditions in the highlands can change quickly.

After completing the excursion, return to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

Lunch – At the Hotel

Lunch: Enjoy lunch at the hotel, with time to relax and unwind following the morning excursion or a leisurely morning at the property.

Afternoon & Evening – At Leisure

Spend the afternoon and evening at your own pace.

Guests who did not take the Horton Plains excursion may enjoy a particularly relaxed day at the hotel, while those returning from the trek can unwind after the morning's adventure.

Take time to appreciate the peaceful atmosphere of Nuwara Eliya, enjoy the hotel surroundings, or simply rest and recharge amid the cool mountain climate.

Dinner

Dinner: At the hotel.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: At the hotel

Dinner: At the hotel

Overnight

Overnight: Nuwara Eliya



Day 07 – Nuwara Eliya → Kandy | Tea Experience & High Tea

Location: Kandy

Morning – Breakfast & Check-out

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel before checking out and bidding farewell to the cool, mist-covered landscapes of **Nuwara Eliya**.

Today, the journey continues towards **Kandy**, the cultural heart of Sri Lanka. As the road descends from the central highlands, the scenery gradually changes from expansive tea estates and cool mountain landscapes to greener valleys and the more tropical surroundings of the Kandy region.

Transfer – Nuwara Eliya → Kandy

Distance & Drive Time

- Approx. **80 km | 2.5 – 3 hours**

Road Conditions

- Scenic and winding mountain roads with sections of gradual descent.

Terrain

- Lush tea-covered highlands gradually give way to forested slopes, valleys and the greener landscapes surrounding Kandy.

The drive itself forms part of the experience, offering changing perspectives of Sri Lanka's famous hill country. Along the way, the neatly cultivated tea estates provide a final glimpse into the landscapes that have made the central highlands synonymous with **Ceylon Tea**.

En Route – Ceylon Tea Plantation & Tea Factory Experience

Duration: Approx. **1.5 – 2 hours**

Before continuing to Kandy, enjoy an immersive visit to a traditional **tea plantation and tea factory**, introducing guests to one of Sri Lanka's most important agricultural and cultural traditions.

Sri Lanka's tea industry has played a defining role in the country's modern history, with the cool central highlands providing ideal conditions for producing high-quality tea. The neatly manicured plantations that cover the hillsides are now one of the most recognisable landscapes of Sri Lanka.

From Tea Leaf to Ceylon Tea

During the visit, discover how freshly harvested tea leaves are transformed into the finished product through a carefully controlled series of processes.

The experience introduces guests to:

- **Fresh Tea Leaf Processing** - See how freshly plucked leaves are received and prepared for production.
- **Tea Manufacturing** - Discover the traditional techniques used to transform green tea leaves into the familiar varieties of Ceylon Tea.
- **Different Production Stages** - Learn about the stages involved in tea production, from withering and rolling through to oxidation, drying and grading.
- **The History of Ceylon Tea** - Gain an insight into the development of Sri Lanka's tea industry and the important role tea has played in shaping the country's hill country communities and economy.

The visit provides an opportunity to appreciate the craftsmanship behind every cup while gaining a deeper understanding of the landscapes seen throughout the journey.

Tea Tasting & Traditional High Tea

Following the factory visit, enjoy a **guided Ceylon Tea tasting**, discovering the distinctive characteristics and aromas of different teas produced in Sri Lanka's highland regions.

The tasting is followed by a traditional **High Tea experience**, served in an elegant and scenic setting.

Relax over freshly brewed tea accompanied by a selection of light refreshments and savouries, creating a refined pause before continuing the journey towards Kandy.

This experience combines one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated traditions with the relaxed elegance of the island's colonial-era tea culture.

Continue to Kandy

After the tea experience, continue the scenic journey towards **Kandy**, travelling through the lush landscapes of Sri Lanka's central hills.

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

Kandy, situated around a tranquil lake and surrounded by forested hills, is regarded as the **cultural capital of Sri Lanka**. The city was the final royal capital of the island's ancient kingdoms and remains an important centre of Buddhist culture and heritage.

Afternoon & Evening – At Leisure

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

Relax at the hotel following the day's journey, or venture out to experience some of Kandy's atmosphere independently.

Guests may enjoy a gentle walk around the city or simply take in the peaceful surroundings of the hill capital before returning to the hotel for the evening.

Dinner

Dinner: At the hotel.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

High Tea: Tea Factory

Dinner: At the hotel

Overnight

Overnight: Kandy



Day 08 – Kandy Heritage & Cultural Experience

Location: Kandy

Morning – Breakfast at the Hotel

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

Surrounded by forested mountains and centred around the serene Kandy Lake, the city was the last royal capital of the island before British rule. Its enduring traditions, sacred sites and performing arts continue to make it one of Sri Lanka's most culturally significant destinations.

Visit – Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic

Duration: Approx. 1 – 1.5 hours

Begin the morning with a visit to the **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic**, one of Sri Lanka's most revered Buddhist sites and an important pilgrimage destination.

Located within the former royal palace complex beside Kandy Lake, the temple is believed to house the sacred relic of a tooth of the Buddha. The relic has played an important role in Sri Lanka's religious and political history, with possession of the relic historically regarded as a symbol of the right to rule the island.

Explore the richly decorated temple complex, with its traditional Kandyan architecture, intricately carved details and devotional atmosphere. During the visit, guests can gain an insight into the living traditions of Sri Lankan Buddhism and the significance of Kandy as a centre of faith and culture.

Practical Note: As this is an active place of worship, modest clothing covering the shoulders and knees is recommended. Guests will also be required to remove footwear before entering the sacred areas.

Visit – Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya

Duration: Approx. **1.5 – 2 hours**

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

Set beside the Mahaweli River, the gardens extend across beautifully landscaped grounds and offer a peaceful contrast to the energy of central Kandy. The gardens are renowned for their extensive collection of tropical and subtropical plants, majestic avenues of trees, orchids, palms and other exotic flora.

Take a leisurely walk through the gardens while discovering the remarkable diversity of Sri Lanka's plant life. The carefully designed landscapes, open lawns and mature trees also provide a relaxing setting to appreciate the natural beauty of the central highlands.

Lunch – Kandy

Enjoy lunch at a **specially selected local restaurant**, offering an opportunity to experience the flavours of Sri Lankan cuisine in a relaxed setting.

Depending on the restaurant selection, guests may enjoy a variety of traditional dishes prepared with aromatic spices, fresh herbs, coconut and locally sourced ingredients.

Visit – Gem Factory & Showroom

Duration: Approx. **1 hour**

Continue with a visit to a traditional **gem factory and showroom**, introducing guests to one of Sri Lanka's most renowned natural treasures.

Sri Lanka has been celebrated for its gemstones for centuries, with the island particularly known for **Ceylon sapphires** and a variety of other precious and semi-precious stones.

Discover the journey from rough stone to finished jewellery, including traditional cutting, polishing and setting techniques. The experience also provides an introduction to the craftsmanship involved in transforming Sri Lanka's natural gemstones into elegant pieces of jewellery.

The showroom offers an opportunity to view examples of locally crafted jewellery and learn more about the island's long-standing gem-trading tradition.

Evening – Kandy Cultural Fire Dance Show

Duration: Approx. **1 hour**

As evening approaches, experience the vibrant colours, rhythms and traditions of Sri Lanka through a **Kandyan Cultural Dance and Fire Performance**.

Kandyan dance forms an important part of the island's performing arts heritage, combining expressive movements with powerful drumming and elaborate traditional costumes.

The performance typically features:

- Traditional Sri Lankan Music
- Kandyan Dancing
- Traditional Drumming
- Colourful Cultural Performances
- Fire Performances

The energetic rhythms of the drums and graceful movements of the dancers create an atmospheric introduction to the performing traditions of the central highlands.

Following the performance, return to the hotel and enjoy a relaxed evening.

Dinner

Dinner: At the hotel.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: Local restaurant in Ella

Dinner: At the hotel

Overnight

Overnight: Kandy



Day 09 – Kandy → Cultural Triangle

Location: Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla

Morning – Breakfast & Check-out

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out and departing **Kandy** for Sri Lanka's historic **Cultural Triangle**.

Today's journey takes you from the forested hills of the central highlands into the warmer, drier landscapes of the island's ancient kingdoms. The Cultural Triangle is home to some of Sri Lanka's most important archaeological, religious and historical treasures, including ancient cities, magnificent temples and remarkable monuments dating back many centuries.

Transfer – Kandy → Cultural Triangle

Distance & Drive Time

- Approx. **100 km | 2.5 hours**

Road Conditions

- Generally well-maintained roads, with scenic sections as the route leaves the hills of Kandy.

Terrain

- The journey gradually descends from the lush central highlands towards the warmer **dry-zone countryside**, with changing vegetation, villages and agricultural landscapes along the way.

The transition is particularly striking as the cooler, mountainous environment around Kandy gives way to open countryside dotted with tropical vegetation, paddy fields and traditional villages.

En Route – Traditional Spice Garden

Duration: Approx. **1 hour**

Pause along the journey at a traditional **Sri Lankan Spice Garden**, offering an introduction to the island's aromatic herbs, spices and indigenous plants.

Sri Lanka has been renowned for its spices for centuries, with cinnamon, pepper, cardamom, cloves and nutmeg among the ingredients that helped establish the island as an important destination along historic trading routes.

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

The experience provides an opportunity to see some of these plants in their natural form while gaining a greater appreciation for the flavours and aromas that define Sri Lankan cooking.

Visit – Dambulla Cave Temple

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Duration: Approx. **1.5 hours**

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

Carved into a dramatic rocky outcrop, the temple complex consists of a series of caves containing an extraordinary collection of **Buddhist statues, paintings and murals** created and preserved over centuries.

The caves are renowned for their richly decorated interiors, where intricate paintings cover the ceilings and walls while numerous Buddha images create a deeply atmospheric setting.

As you explore the complex, discover the layers of history that have made Dambulla an enduring centre of Buddhist devotion. The combination of ancient religious art, rock architecture and living spiritual traditions makes the site one of the defining cultural experiences of Sri Lanka.

Practical Note

The temple involves a walk uphill and a number of steps, and visitors are required to remove footwear before entering the sacred areas. Modest clothing covering the shoulders and knees is recommended.

Lunch – Local Restaurant

Enjoy lunch at a **specially selected local restaurant**, taking a relaxed break before continuing towards the Cultural Triangle.

This is an ideal opportunity to experience traditional Sri Lankan flavours, with dishes often incorporating fragrant spices, fresh vegetables, coconut and locally sourced ingredients.

Continue to the Cultural Triangle

After lunch, continue the journey towards your selected accommodation in the **Sigiriya, Habarana or Dambulla** area.

The landscape becomes increasingly characteristic of Sri Lanka's dry zone, with open forests, village settlements, cultivated fields and tropical vegetation creating a distinctive backdrop to the journey.

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

Afternoon & Evening – At Leisure

The remainder of the afternoon is free to relax after the day's journey and cultural visits.

Guests may enjoy the hotel facilities, unwind in the peaceful surroundings, or simply take time to appreciate the atmosphere of the Cultural Triangle.

With the region's major archaeological and wildlife experiences still to come, the relaxed pace this afternoon provides a welcome opportunity to recharge.

Dinner

Dinner: At the hotel.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: Local restaurant

Dinner: At the hotel

Overnight

Overnight: Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla



Day 10 – Sigiriya Rock Fortress & Cycling in the Sigiriya Domain

Location: Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla

Early Morning – Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Departure: Approximately **5:30 AM**

Rise early and depart the hotel for one of Sri Lanka's most extraordinary landmarks, the iconic **Sigiriya Rock Fortress**.

Arriving in the cooler morning hours allows guests to explore the ancient site before the heat of the day, while the surrounding landscape is often at its most atmospheric in the early light.

Visit – Sigiriya Rock Fortress

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Visit Duration: Approx. **2.5 – 3 hours**

Rising dramatically from the surrounding plains, **Sigiriya** is one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated archaeological treasures and one of the defining landmarks of the Cultural Triangle.

Often referred to as the “**Lion Rock**,” the ancient rock citadel was developed during the reign of King Kashyapa I in the 5th century and served as a fortified royal residence. Today, its monumental stairways, ancient gardens, frescoes and surviving palace ruins provide a fascinating insight into the sophistication of Sri Lanka's ancient civilisation.

Highlights of Sigiriya

- **Lion's Paw Terrace** - Reach the dramatic entrance to the upper fortress, where enormous stone lion paws remain as a reminder of the monumental gateway that once welcomed visitors to the royal citadel.

- **Ancient Frescoes** - Discover the celebrated paintings located on the rock face, among the finest surviving examples of ancient Sri Lankan artistic traditions.
- **Mirror Wall** - Walk alongside the polished surface of the historic Mirror Wall, once believed to have been highly polished and later inscribed with verses by visitors to Sigiriya over many centuries.
- **Royal Water Gardens** - Explore the sophisticated gardens laid out around the base of the rock, including pools, waterways and symmetrical features demonstrating the advanced engineering and landscape design of the period.
- **Ancient Palace Ruins** - Continue towards the summit, where the remains of the ancient royal complex reveal the scale and strategic importance of the fortress.
- **Panoramic Views** - From the elevated sections of the rock, enjoy sweeping views across the surrounding forests, villages, lakes and plains of the Cultural Triangle.

The climb involves a substantial number of steps and uneven sections. Comfortable footwear, sun protection and drinking water are recommended.

After the visit, return to the hotel for breakfast and time to refresh and relax.

Breakfast & Relaxation

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Following the early start and Sigiriya visit, enjoy a well-earned breakfast before taking some time to rest.

The late morning is intentionally left free, allowing guests to make use of the hotel facilities or simply relax before the afternoon's cycling experience.

Lunch

Lunch: At the hotel.

Enjoy lunch at the hotel before preparing for the afternoon excursion.

Afternoon – Cycling in the Sigiriya Domain

Start: Approximately **2:30 PM**

Duration: Approx. **2 hours**

In the afternoon, experience a different side of Sigiriya through a **guided cycling journey** through the peaceful countryside surrounding **Sigiriya and Pidurangala**.

Moving away from the principal archaeological sites, the cycling experience offers a closer look at everyday rural life, traditional settlements and the agricultural landscapes that surround the ancient rock fortress.

Welcome & Safety Briefing

Begin with a refreshing **king coconut**, followed by a route and safety briefing with the cycling guide.

Guests will be provided with their bicycles and safety equipment before setting off at a comfortable pace.

Cycling Through the Sigiriya Countryside

Pedal along quiet country roads and scenic tracks passing through:

- **Rural Villages** - Gain glimpses of everyday life in the communities surrounding Sigiriya.
- **Lush Paddy Fields** - Cycle through cultivated landscapes where traditional agriculture remains an important part of rural life.
- **Quiet Back Roads** - Follow peaceful routes away from the main tourist areas, offering a more intimate perspective of the region.
- **Sigiriya Countryside** - Enjoy changing views of the surrounding forests, fields and ancient rock landscapes.
- **Pidurangala Area** - Continue towards the distinctive landscape around Pidurangala, with views towards the dramatic rock formations of the Cultural Triangle.

Along the route, the guide will introduce guests to the **local vegetation, wildlife and traditional way of life**, adding cultural and natural context to the experience.

The relaxed pace makes the cycling journey as much about discovering the countryside as it is about the ride itself.

Scenic Viewpoint & Refreshments

The cycling experience concludes at a **scenic viewpoint**, where guests can pause, enjoy refreshments and take in the surrounding landscape.

A refreshing **king coconut** provides a particularly authentic Sri Lankan touch after the ride.

Experience Includes

- Bicycle
- Safety helmet
- Cycling guide
- Drinking water

- King coconut

After the experience, cycle back or return by the arranged transfer to the hotel and enjoy a relaxing evening.

Dinner

Dinner: At the hotel.

Meals

Breakfast: At the hotel

Lunch: At the hotel

Dinner: At the hotel

Overnight

Overnight: Sigiriya / Habarana / Dambulla



Day 11 – Departure / Optional Negombo Beach or Maldives Extension

Location: Cultural Triangle → Bandaranaike International Airport / Negombo / 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 appreciate the peaceful surroundings of Sri Lanka's **Cultural Triangle**, a region where ancient kingdoms, sacred traditions and remarkable archaeological treasures have shaped the story of the island.

Your chauffeur-guide will assist with the departure arrangements before beginning the journey towards the west coast and **Bandaranaike International Airport**.

Transfer – Cultural Triangle → Bandaranaike International Airport

Drive Time

- Approx. **3.5 – 4 hours**

Road Conditions

- Well-maintained highways and expressways, with comfortable connections towards the western region.

Terrain

- Dry-zone countryside gradually transitioning towards the greener and more populated **western lowlands**.

As the journey progresses, the landscape changes from the open countryside of the Cultural Triangle to increasingly tropical surroundings, rural settlements and cultivated areas before reaching the western region of the island.

Upon arrival at **Bandaranaike International Airport**, complete the necessary departure formalities for your onward flight.

Alternative – Optional Negombo Beach Extension

For guests wishing to extend their Sri Lankan holiday, the journey may instead continue to **Negombo**, a relaxed coastal destination conveniently located close to the international airport.

Negombo Beach Stay

Known for its long sandy coastline, traditional fishing heritage and laid-back coastal atmosphere, Negombo provides an ideal opportunity to unwind following an extensive journey around Sri Lanka.

Guests may spend additional time relaxing at the beach, enjoying the hotel facilities, exploring the coastal town or simply soaking up the relaxed atmosphere before their onward departure.

Alternative – Maldives Extension

Guests may also choose to continue onwards to the **Maldives**, creating a seamless **Sri Lanka & Maldives combination holiday**.

After discovering Sri Lanka's ancient heritage, wildlife, tea country, culinary traditions and scenic highlands, the Maldives offers a contrasting tropical escape centred around **white-sand beaches, turquoise lagoons and tranquil island resorts**.

This extension provides an opportunity to slow the pace completely and enjoy a few days of relaxation by the Indian Ocean before continuing home.

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, or continue to your chosen beach extension.

From the coastal landscapes of the south and wildlife-rich wilderness of Udawalawe to the misty tea country of Nuwara Eliya, the cultural heritage of Kandy and the ancient wonders of the Cultural Triangle, this journey has offered a rich introduction to the many layers of Sri Lanka.



We hope you leave the island with lasting memories of its **rich culinary traditions, remarkable wildlife, scenic hill country, living cultural heritage, ancient kingdoms, authentic local experiences and warm hospitality.**

