

### Day 1

Arrive in Negombo, a coastal fishing village and spend the remainder of the day at leisure.



A traditional fishing boat on the beach at Negombo

#### Day 2

Visit the elephant orphanage and sanctuary at Pinnawala, where you can get up-close and personal with the elephants.



Elephants bathing at the Pinnawala sanctuary

Visit the Dambulla Cave temple.



Buddha statues inside the Dambulla Rock Temple

## Day 2 (cont.)

The Dambulla Rock Temple is a vast isolated rock mass 500 feet high and a mile around the base. The sacred rock temple (World Heritage listed site) is the largest and best preserved cave temple site in Sri Lanka, containing over a 150 Buddha statues and statues of Hindu deities such as Vishnu and Ganesh, spread across 5 magnificent caves. The famous Rock Temple dates back to the First Century B.C.

# Day 3

Proceed to Sigiriya, where ruins of an ancient Sri Lankan fortress remain atop a massive column of rock nearly 200 m (660 ft.) high. Sigiriya is considered to be one of the most important urban planning sites of the first millennium. The plan combined concepts of symmetry and asymmetry to intentionally interlock the manmade geometrical and natural forms of the surroundings.



The rock fortress of Sigiriya

Experience the authentic Sri Lankan village life at Hiriwadunna village. Tour of Hiriwadunna includes wading through a shallow stream and crossing a wider tributary in a catamaran of an obliging farmer to inspect Chena cultivation (slash and burn agriculture).

# Day 3 (cont.)



Ride on a traditional catamaran at Hiriwadunna village

On the way to Kandy, visit some of the many Spice Gardens in Matale and Mawanella where cinnamon, cardamom, pepper creepers and several other spice trees, plants and creepers are found.

# Day 4

Minneriya National Park is located between Habarana and Polonnaruwa. The 8890 hectares of the park consists of mixed evergreen forest and scrub areas and is home to Sri Lanka's favourites such as sambar deer, leopards and elephants.



Wild elephants at Minneriya National Park

Polonnaruwa is the second most ancient Sri Lankan kingdom (Built around 1070 AD). Polonnaruwa was once enclosed by three concentric walls.

# Day 4 (cont.)

The ruins at Polonnaruwa are some of the best preserved in Sri Lanka and include incredible Buddha statues, shrines, council chambers, lotus bath, and a giant statue of perhaps the greatest king of Polonnaruwa – Parakramabahu.



Ruins of a bygone civilisation at Polonnaruwa

Transfer to Trincomalee in the evening

### Day 5

Relax on a whale and dolphin watching tour at Trincomalee The giant blue whales, sperm whales, Bryde's whales and even the occasional killer whale are common in these waters, predominantly between May and september.



Whale watching off the waters of Trincomalee

On the way to Kandy, visit some of the many Spice Gardens in Matale and Mawanella where cinnamon, cardamom, pepper creepers and several other spice trees, plants and creepers are found.

# Day 5 (cont.)

Transfer to Bentota and engage in White Water Rafting on a 5 km stretch of the picturesque Kelani River encountering 5 major rapids and 4 minor ones at Kitulgala.



An assortment of spices

# Day 6

Visit the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kandy.



Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya, Kandy

Visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic.



Temple of the Tooth Relic, Kandy

# Day 6 (cont.)

The Temple of the Tooth Relic was the last stronghold of the Sinhalese Kings during the Portuguese, Dutch and British rule and finally ceded to the British in 1815.

# Day 7

Transfer to Nuwera Eliya. It is the 'Little England' of Sri Lanka and is set against a beautiful backdrop of mountains, valleys, waterfalls and tea plantations. It is supposed to be one of the coolest places in the Island, but it is really just like an English spring day, although the temperature does drop at night.



Ramboda Falls

# Day 8

Transfer to Bentota and spend the day at leisure



A sweeping view of the Bentota beach

### Day 9

Visit the Sinharaja forest. Stretch your legs on a trek through this majestic evergreen rain forest.

## Day 9 (cont.)

The Sinharaja rain forest is a UNESCO World Heritage listed site. It is one of the last undisturbed major rainforest areas left in Sri Lanka.



A pristine stream flowing through Sinharaja

# Day 10

Enjoy a leasurly boat ride along the Madu River. The 915 hectare Madu Ganga Estuary is connected by two narrow channels to the Randombe Lake, forming a complex wetland system encompassing 64 mangrove islets.

Visit the Turtle Hatchery at Kosgoda. Operated by the Wild Life Protection Society of Sri Lanka this hatchery was established in 1981 to protect Sri Lanka's turtles from extinction.



Hatchling turtles at Kosgoda

### **Day 11**

Transfer to Colombo and spend the day at leisure. Enjoy a brief tour by TUK TUK (three-wheelers), showcasing the combination of Portuguese, Dutch, British and of course modern architecture dotted throughout the capital city. There will be opportunities for souvenir shopping.



Skyline of Colombo

## Day 11

Depart for home with fond memories of Sri Lanka, an island paradise in the Indian Ocean.

## **Package Inclusions:**

Price includes the following:

- 11 nights / 12 days in Sri Lanka
- 5-star accommodation
- Meals on a Bed and breakfast basis
- Tour representative meeting and assisting you at the airport
- Transportation in an air-conditioned Micro Van or Mini Coach with the services of an English speaking chauffeurguide.
- All applicable taxes and service charges
- Return airport transfers on a private basis

