

Colonial Tour
8 Days / 7 Nights



Day 1 - AIRPORT – CULTURAL TRIANGLE

Arrival at Bandaranaike International Airport

Pass the Immigration, duty free and then collect your baggage from the belt.
Walk through the customs passing the banks to the arrival lobby.



Sri Lanka Express Representative will meet you at the arrival lobby with a paging board
He will accompany you to your vehicle
Transfer direct to the cultural triangle by road (4 hours drive) or by air (45 minutes)

Arrive at the hotel & Check in
Check in – 12h00

Rest of the day, at leisure
Overnight Stay at Hotel (Select as per your budget)



Day 2 - CULTURAL TRIANGLE – ANURADHAPURA – MIHINTALE – CULTURAL TRIANGLE

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Anuradhapura

Do a city tour of Anuradhapura

It was the first capital and undoubtedly the grandest city of the Ancient Ceylon. It is the home of two World Heritage Sites. Many places of Historical and archaeological interest could be visited. Sri Maha Bodhi (Sacred Bo-Tree) was brought as a sapling of the tree under which Prince Siddhartha attained to enlightenment and it is over 2200 years old and is the oldest historically documented tree in the world. The Brazen Palace (2nd century B.C), the 1600 stone columns you see are all that is left of a Magnificent multi-storied residence for monks. Ruwanwelisaya (2nd century B.C) is the most famous of all the Dagobas. It originally depicted the perfect 'bubble shape' that modern restoration has not been able to accurately reproduce. Samadhi' Buddha statue (4th century AD) is one of the most famous statues, depicting the Buddha in a state of 'Samadhi' or deep meditation. Isurumuniya rock temple (3rd century B.C) is well known for its rock carvings.



In the afternoon, proceed to Mihintale for a visit

Eight miles east of Anuradhapura, close to the Anuradhapura - Trincomalee Road is situated the "Missaka Pabbata" which is 1000 feet in height and is one of the peaks of a mountainous range. Though this was called Cetiyaagiri or Sagiri, it was popularly known as Mihintale - the cradle of Buddhism in Sri Lanka.

Thera Mahinda came to Sri Lanka from India on the Full moon Day of the month, a of Poson (June) & met King Devanampiyatissa and the people, and preached the doctrine. The traditional spot where this meeting took place is revered by the Buddhists of Sri Lanka. From ancient times a large number of large steps were constructed to climb Mihintale. It is stated that King Devanampiyatissa constructed a vihara and 68 caves for the bhikkhus to reside in. At Mihintale there gradually grew a number of Buddhist viharas with all the dependent buildings characteristic of monasteries of that period.



Return to the hotel

Overnight Stay at Hotel (Select as per your budget)

Day 3 - CULTURAL TRIANGLE – SIGIRIYA – POLONNARUWA – MINNERIYA – CULTURAL TRIANGLE

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Sigiriya

Explore the Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Climb the 5th century Sigiriya rock fortress, which is a world heritage site, built by King Kashyapa (477-495 AD). The 'Lion Rock' is a citadel of unusual beauty rising 200 metres from the scrub jungle. The rock was the innermost stronghold of the 70 hectare fortified town. A moat, rampart, and extensive gardens including the renowned water gardens ring the base of the rock. Visit the world-renowned frescoes of the 'Heavenly Maidens' of Sigiriya, which are in a sheltered pocket of the rock approached by a spiral stairway. These frescoes are painted in earth pigments on plaster.



Visit a famous Sri Lankan Batiks Factory (optional)

Transfer to Polonnaruwa

Visit the Polonnaruwa ruins by bicycle

It was the 2nd capital city of Sri Lanka built in the 11th and 12th Centuries AD, and which is a world heritage site. Here you can see the ruins of the Royal Palace, the Gal Viharaya where 4 splendid Statues of the Buddha in 'Upright', 'Sedentary' and 'Recumbent' postures carved out of rock could be seen, the Audience Hall, the Lotus Bath, the statue of king Parakramabahu, and the Parakrama Samudraya - a lake built by King Parakramabahu the great. There are also monuments of famous places of worship such as the Shiva Temple, the Lankathilake, the Watadage, the Galpotha, the Kiri Vehera and the remains of a former Temple of the Tooth Relic.



In the late afternoon, transfer to Minneriya

Go wild in style – Game drive to the Minneriya National Park by safari vehicle 4x4

The extent of the Minneriya National Park is about 8,889 hectares. There are wet-lands in this National Park, which have international importance, animal and Plant species, which are plenty in dry zone, are found in this park. Wild elephants, various amphibians, local and immigrant bird species are plenty in this park. About 160 species of birds, 09 amphibians, 25 reptiles' species, 26 fish species and more than 78 butterfly species have been found in this area. There are bamboos trees which are rare in other parks and wild elephants can be seen conveniently. The significant feature is that these elephants can be seen going closer to them.



Return to the hotel

Overnight Stay at Hotel (Select as per your budget)

Day 4 - CULTURAL TRIANGLE – DAMBULLA – MATALE – KANDY

Breakfast at the hotel

Leave to Dambulla

Visit the Dambulla Rock Temple

The area is thought to be inhabited from as early as the 3rd century BC. Statues and paintings in these caves date back to the 1st century BC. But the paintings and statues were repaired and repainted in 11th, 12th, and 18th century AD. The caves in the city provided refuge to King Valagamba (also called *Vattagamini Abhaya*) in his 14 year long exile from the Anuradapura kingdom. Buddhist monks meditating in the caves of Dambulla at that time provided the exiled king protection from his enemies. When King Valagamba returned to the throne at Anuradapura kingdom in the 1st century BC, he had a magnificent rock temple built at Dambulla as a gratitude to the monks in Dambulla.

It is the largest and best preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka. The rock towers 160 m over the surrounding plains. There are more than 80 documented caves in the surrounding. Major attractions are spread over 5 caves, which contain statues and paintings. This paintings & statues are related to Lord Buddha and his life. There are a total of 153 Buddha statues, 3 statues of Sri Lankan kings and 4 statues of god and goddess. The latter 4 include two statues of Hindu gods, Vishnu and Ganesh. The murals cover an area of 2,100 m². Depictions in the walls of the caves include Buddha's temptation by demon Mara and Buddha's first sermon.



Thereafter, continue to your next destination - Kandy

En route stop (optional) at the wood carving factory and at the spice garden in Matale
Visit a spice garden in Matale to see different spices for which Sri Lanka is famous.
Here, clients could see different spices and how some of these spices are grown and processed.
Witness a Cookery demonstration.

In the afternoon, **do a city tour of Kandy** including a visit to the Temple of the Tooth. Kandy was the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings and is a World Heritage Site. The name "Kandy" conjures visions of splendor and magnificence. Many of the legends, traditions and folklore are still lovingly kept alive. Drive around the Kandy Lake built by the last Sinhalese king, Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe in 1798. Visit the Kandy town and bazaar, the arts and crafts centre, a gem museum and a lapidary.



Around 6 pm, witness a traditional Sri Lankan cultural show.

Transfer to the selected hotel in a famous tuk tuk (3 wheeler)
Check in at the hotel

Overnight Stay at Hotel (Select as per your budget)

Day 5 - KANDY – PINNAWALA – PERADENIYA – KANDY

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Pinnawala

Visit the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

The Pinnawala elephant orphanage has not only got the largest captive herd of elephants in the entire world but it also has become the most successful elephant breeding center, according to reports. The elephant orphanage was established with seven orphans today has a population of sixty three. The elephant orphanage now boasts of its sixteenth birth and the second generation of births in captivity. It has become a major tourist attraction because of its uniqueness. This is an ideal site for photography, research and education on elephants as the visitor is able to observe a large herd comprised of week old babies to sixty year olds.

At Pinnawala an attempt was made to simulate, in a limited way, the conditions in the wild. Animals are allowed to roam freely during the day and a herd structure allowed forming. 09.00 / 11.00 / 13.00 - The babies are fed on milk and allowed to range freely on the 12 acres of large grassland. 10.00 Each morning and afternoon 14.00 the animals are walked 400 meters to the river Maha Oya for a two-hour bath. Between 16.30 and 18.00 in the evening the animals are taken to their stalls and tethered for the night.



Return to Kandy

Visit the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens.

Peradeniya botanical garden was first built as a pleasure garden by a Sinhala king and was expanded by the British. It is 147 acres in extent and provides an amazing variety of trees, plants and flowers.

Free time for shopping (optional)

Overnight Stay at Hotel

(Select as per your budget)



Day 6 - KANDY – TEA PLANTATIONS – NUWARA ELIYA

Breakfast at the hotel

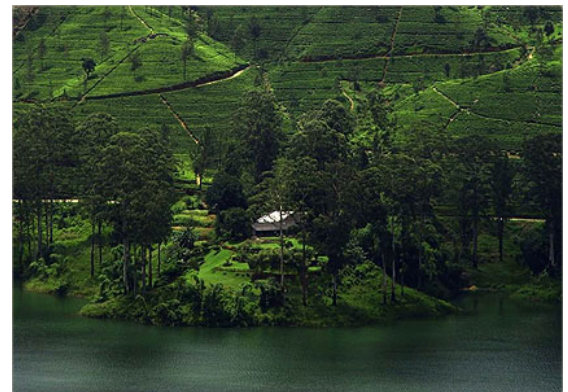
Local Train ride to the mountains

Visit a tea plantation and a factory. You will pass the excellent landscapes of Sri Lanka.

Visit a tea plantation and a tea factory, where the best tea in the World is produced. Here you could observe all about the process of Manufacturing tea. You can also see how tea is graded. Taste a cup of Pure Ceylon tea in the factory.

In the afternoon, do a city tour of Nuwara Eliya

Nuwara Eliya, because of its invigorating mountain climate and scenery, is Sri Lankas most popular hill Resort. Nuwara Eliya is also the heart of Sri Lankas tea country producing a significant share of the worlds Best tea. Sri Lanka s highest mountain Pidurutalagala (8282 feet) is located here. Nuwara Eliya also has one of the finest 18 hole golf courses in South Asia.



Transfer to the selected hotel

Check in at the hotel

Overnight Stay at Hotel (Select as per your budget)



Day 7 - NUWARA ELIYA – KITULGALA – COLOMBO

Breakfast at the hotel

Leave to Colombo via Kitulgala passing the famous water falls Kitulgala was the location where the famous film 'Bridge on the River Kwai' was filmed. Also en route observe the waterfalls St. Clare's and Devon.



In the afternoon, do a city tour of Colombo

Colombo like many capital cities in developing countries is fast changing its face. Almost overnight, skyscrapers arise from where old buildings once stood. Yet in some parts, the old world charm is retained.

For example, there is a 100-year-old clock tower and several British built colonial buildings. Other places of interests are the Pettah bazaar - where one can shop for bargain, a Hindu and a Buddhist temple, residential areas where you find the stately homes of the affluent, the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) an outright gift to Sri Lanka from the People's Republic of China.



Transfer to the selected hotel

Check in at the hotel

Overnight Stay at Hotel (Select as per your budget)

Note – If you plan to have an extension on the beach, this night could be utilized as the last night after Beach stay, without any additional charge

Day 8 - COLOMBO – AIRPORT OR SELECTED BEACH HOTEL

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Airport for departure **OR**

Transfer to the beach hotel for a couple of day's relaxation

End of Services!

"Ayubowan"

NOTE : This trip could be combined with a short stay in the Maldives

: Any programme could be tailor made to suit your requirement. We are flexible!

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