



Quick Flavours of Sri Lanka
6 Days / 5 Nights



Day 1 - AIRPORT – NEGOMBO

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. Meet your driver and he will transfer you to Negombo. (20 minutes drive)

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



In the afternoon, do a city tour of Negombo

Negombo is in the heart of Sri Lanka's fishing industry. The sea and catamarans is the Backdrop of the Negombo scenery. Visit the Negombo lagoon and a fish auction. Also visit the Dutch Fort and a Catholic Church. The Portuguese and Dutch settlers in the 17th/18th centuries were intent on introducing Christianity to these coastal villages. As a result, the coast is scattered with several colonial period churches. An old network of canals covering about 130 kilometers developed by the Dutch, linking Colombo's seaport to the North Western coastal towns for transporting cinnamon and spices, still function as active waterways full of life. These canal paths winding through the villages.

Overnight Stay at Hotel (Select as per your budget)

Day 2 - NEGOMBO – PINNAWALA – DAMBULLA – CULTURAL TRIANGLE

Breakfast at the hotel

Leave to explore the culture & nature inland. Transfer to Pinnawala. (2 hours drive)

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 have 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.



Transfer from Pinnawala to Dambulla (2 hours drive)

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 Anuradhapura 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 Anuradhapura 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.



Transfer to the selected hotel

Check in at the hotel

Overnight Stay at Hotel (Select as per your budget)

Day 3 - CULTURAL TRIANGLE – SIGIRIYA – 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 the famous Sri Lankan Batiks Factory (optional) and thereafter explore the Sri Lankan way of living (village life) by bicycle

In the afternoon, **do an elephant back safari in Surrounding jungle (1 hour)**

This excursion will take you along one of the most picturesque sites through the jungle and could observe bird life as well as during the trek to the surrounding forest and foothills. In addition, a variety of large and small animal's lives in the surrounding forest could be seen.



Return to the hotel

Overnight Stay at Hotel (Select as per your budget)

Day 4 - CULTURAL TRIANGLE – MATALE – KANDY

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to 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 is 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 – TEA PLANTATIONS – KANDY

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.

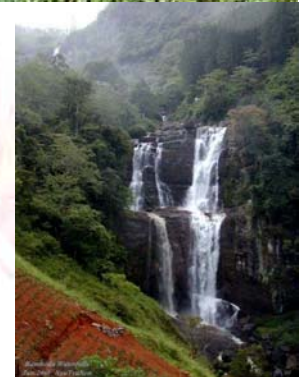
Visit a tea plantation and a tea factory, where the best tea in the World is produced. Here you could observe all about the process of Manufacturing tea. You can also see how tea is graded. Taste a cup of Pure Ceylon tea in the factory.



View the famous Ramboda Water falls
In the afternoon, 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 – 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

Note – Visit of Colombo could be arranged, depending on the interest.

**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!

Drop a mail to colombo@srilanka-express.com

Let Sri Lanka Express surprise you!
In Sri Lanka you ain't seen anything yet!