

7 Days Classic Sri Lanka with Tea Plantation



Sri Lanka

In the Indian ocean, south of India lies Sri Lanka. Perhaps the slightly less travelled roots of Southern Asia.

This idyllic Buddhist island resembles a place time forgot where cows roam the lands, ancient monuments and temples are to be found almost everywhere, and rugged landscapes is home to a wonderfully diverse range of animals, especially the elephants.

Great explorers were enticed by the lush greenery, the fragrant spices and its tropical lifestyle. Some wrote chapters about it, some wrote books, and some never left after falling in love with the island and its many hidden treasures. 2000 years of cultural history is recorded at ancient sites and temples some of which are now listed UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The recent past includes the rule of the Dutch and British over this sovereign island later gaining independence in 1948.



EXPLORE

Sri Lanka is an out of this world tropical island which is blessed with an exciting piece of everything possible on earth. Escape to a paradise on earth where you can trot along the golden sands sipping a fresh king-coconut, safari through the lush jungle to see mighty elephants and elusive leopards and perfect your golf swing on a stunning green golf course.

This is an outdoor paradise somewhere to totally escape and fall completely off the grid. Buses, tuk-tuks and mopeds all noisily hurtling along the busy streets. Once known as Ceylon, Sri Lanka was a country that

Sri Lanka is a country whose Buddhist past is as prevalent today as it was thousands of years ago. So, with such a lengthy heritage there's a great array of temples, ancient monasteries and monuments to explore, both in the town and hidden away in the islands' dense forests.

Here you'll find local artists taking their inspiration from Sri Lanka's wildlife. Sri Lankan craftsmanship has a long and vibrant history. Over the centuries the islanders have produced everything from lace work, elaborate metal works & carvings in wood. Buddha's Hindu Gods, traditional Sri Lankan masks and elephants are among the most popular carvings.

The people in Sri Lanka are what makes this wonderful island what it is. The smiles, the ever-so-helpful attitude, the laid-back lifestyle and the rustic architecture all tastefully lingers in your mind every step of the way.

WEATHER & BEST TIME TO VISIT

The weather in Sri Lanka is dictated by two monsoon seasons which bring rain to the west and south-west coasts from May to September; and the east coast and northern region between October and February. The rest of the year is sunny and dry. Temperatures are constant year-round, with coastal regions enjoying average temperatures of 25-30C and the highlands 15-18C on average.

Sri Lanka is a year-round destination since there is something for every discerning traveler. From pilgrim experiences to adventure, culture, honeymoon, or even special interest experiences, there is something you can do in Sri Lanka anytime of the year. With recent weather pattern changes, it is hard to predict when it would rain and when the sun is out, however, making a note that Sri

Lanka is a tropical destination and rain is to be expected anytime of the day, any time of the year; always helps.

Our recommended best time of the year to travel is between November to April. However, its best to keep in mind that this period is also quite expensive to travel as the European winters and the festive year end generally attracts a lot of travelers to Sri Lanka.

VISA

VISA can be obtained online via the government e-visa website – www.eta.gov.lk. If you are a citizen of Singapore, Maldives or Seychelles, you are exempt from the requirement of obtaining visa for 1 month. It could take up to 5 working days for a VISA to process depending on where you are from.

Day 01

Airport - Negombo

Meals

Open

Arrive at Colombo International Airport. Here, you will be met by a designated chauffer guide from Esna Holidays. After the formalities at the airport you will be escorted to your air-conditioned vehicle and proceed to Negombo for check-in. (Travel Time: 20 to 30 mins)

Day 02

Negombo - Polonnaruwa

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

After breakfast, check-out and proceed to the ancient city of Polonnaruwa. (Travel Time: 6 to 6½ hours)

En-route to Polonnaruwa, visit the Elephant Orphanage at Pinnawala.

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage: About 90 KM from Colombo is the home to some 100 or more elephant orphans. A place you will really enjoy and never forget. Most orphans are accustomed to their curious human visitors and are harmless. The Orphanage is open from 8.30am to 5.45pm and visitors can interact a little with the elephants during the regulated bathing and feeding times.

You can watch them feeding at 9.15 am, 1.15 and 5.00 pm. Bath times are from 10 am until 12 noon and from 2 until 4 pm.

After lunch at a local restaurant, explore the city of Polonnaruwa.

Kings ruled the central plains of Sri Lanka from Polonnaruwa 800 years ago, when it was a thriving commercial and religious center. The glories of that age can be found in the archaeological treasures that still give a pretty good idea of how the city looked in its heyday. You'll find the archaeological park a delight to explore, with hundreds of ancient structures – tombs and temples, statues and stupas – in a compact core. The Quadrangle alone is worth the trip.

On completion, transfer to the hotel for check-in.

Day 03

Polonnaruwa – Sigiriya

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

Early that morning after breakfast, check-out and proceed to Sigiriya Rock Fortress. (Travel Time: 2½ to 3 hours)

Sigiriya Rock Fortress: Called by many names including "The Lion Rock" for its initial name of "Sinhagiri", Sigiriya is near the town of Dambulla and is a colossal column of rock nearly 200m high. It was a royal citadel for 18 years (477-495) when it was fortified by King Kasyapa. The architectural and irrigational technologies of Sigiriya, such as the Water Gardens, still baffle engineers. The climb up steep steps of metal with railings passes a wall decorated with frescoes of bare-breasted women. Art experts consider them unique

After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the famous Dambulla Cave Temple.

The Dambulla temple has five caves and 157 statues of the Lord Buddha, many paintings on the ceilings and walls that emphasize the artistic talent of ancient days. The history of the caves, rock and temple dates from the 1st century BC. The fascination of these caves is not only the statues but also the many intricate and delicate paintings that cover the ceiling and walls, created with indigenous traditional paints. Because of the history, archaeological and artistic implications, the premises were declared as one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites in 1991. The temple has been in use for over 22 centuries and still holds a sense of benevolence and spirituality.

After a guided tour of the site,

Transfer to the hotel for check-in and relax.

Day 04

Sigiriya – Kandy

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

Early that morning after breakfast, check-out and proceed to Kandy. Enroute to Kandy, visit the Spice Garden at Matale. (Travel Time: 3 to 3½ hours)

Spice Garden: See why Sri Lanka became a globally popular country for its herbs and spices. The environment possesses excellent conditions for growing cinnamon, vanilla, nutmeg, peppercorn, and other flavorful delights. Learn about the process of growing these natural products using ecologically friendly methods. At the end of your visit, stop in the souvenir shop to purchase some exotic spices from the source. The attraction offers free transport wherever needed between the city and the estate. Note that the law strictly forbids harming cinnamon trees

After lunch at a local restaurant, proceed to Kandy for check-in at the hotel.

Later that noon, visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic followed by the Kandy City tour.

The Temple of the Sacred Tooth (Sri Dalada Maligawa) was originally built by the Kandyan Kings in 1595, to house and honor the sacred tooth relic of the Buddha. Attracting crowds of white-clad pilgrims bearing lotus flowers for means of worship, the Maligawa features a myriad of intricate carvings that speak volumes of the architectural values of Kandy. Today the City of Kandy is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in part

because of the Temple of the tooth relic.

Then go on a Kandy city tour followed by a technical tour related to the arts such as gem crafting, woodcarving and batiks. And watch the Kandyan Cultural Show with its colorful traditional dances and delightful music.



The Kandy Cultural Show gives an opportunity to experience some of the traditions of Sri Lanka. Enjoy this hour-long extravaganza as some of the most popular art forms of the island take to the stage. Be wowed by fire dancers and sword dancers. Watch the colorful Kandyan dancers take to the air to the thrumming primal beat of the drums.

On completion, return to the hotel.

Day 05

Kandy - Nuwara Eliya

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

After breakfast, check-out and proceed to Nuwara Eliya. Enroute to Nuwara Eliya, visit the beautiful Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya, one of the finest of its kind anywhere in Asia, followed by a visit to tea factory. (Travel Time: 3 to 3½ hours)

Royal Botanical Garden: Home to over 4000 species of plants including an extensive collection of colorful orchids, medicinal plants, spices, palm trees and more, these gardens annually attract nearly 2 million visitors. Greatly contributing towards aspects such as floriculture, butterfly and birdlife conservation and concentrating on the sustainability and biodiversity of the island,

Peradeniya Botanical Gardens is truly a paradise of tropical greenery, with an abundance of bamboos, lianas and lofty trees to wander amongst.

Learn about the Productions of Tea in Sri Lanka: The production of tea involves a tedious procedure of plucking, withering, rolling, oxidizing and drying – a process that requires heavy machines and plenty of manpower. Once in the tea factory, you would generally start out in the plantation itself to learn about how tea is cultivated, then visit the factory where ancient machines pre-dating the industrial revolution wither, roll and dry the tea. There is

normally a little time at the end of the tour for a tea tasting, either of one specific type of tea or occasionally of the various specialties of that factory.

After lunch at a local restaurant, check-in at the hotel in Nuwara Eliya and relax.

Later that evening, explore the city of Nuwara Eliya.

Visit the highland city that was the premium holiday resort town of the British in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Enjoy walking through the streets with their pretty little cottages, quaint villas and beautiful mansions. Make a memory in the old red-bricked post office as you purchase a postcard to take home or send to your friends. Relax at Queen Victoria Park and on the shores of Lake Gregory.

After finishing the tour in Nuwara Eliya, return to the hotel and relax.

Day 06

Nuwara Eliya – Beach

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

After breakfast, check-out and proceed to the south west beach via Kitulgala City. This is small town situated on the banks of the Kelani river. En-route to Kitulgala, halt and view the beautiful Devon & St. Clair's waterfalls. (Travel Time: 5½ to 6 hours)

Devon Falls is a waterfall in Sri Lanka, situated 6 km west of Talawakele, Nuwara Eliya District. The falls is named after a pioneer English coffee planter called Devon, whose plantation is situated nearby the falls. The Waterfall is 97 metres high and ranked 19th highest in the Island. St. Clair's Falls is one of the widest waterfalls in Sri Lanka and is commonly known as the "Little Niagara of Sri Lanka". It is one of six waterfalls affected by the Upper Kotmale

Hydropower Project.

After lunch at a local restaurant, proceed to the South West Coast and check-in at the hotel.

Spend the evening relaxing by the beach and taking part in activities from your hotel.

Day 07

Beach - Colombo - Airport

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch &

Dinner

After a relaxed morning breakfast, check-out of the hotel and proceed to Colombo. (Travel Time: 1½ to 2 hours)

Lunch at a local restaurant En-route to Colombo.

On arriving Colombo, go on Colombo city tour.



Colombo City & Shopping Tour: Take a fascinating journey in the capital of the isle paradise to taste its cultural texture, witness its bustling streets, visit bargain markets, and also relax while watching the uprising urban lifestyle of the capital. This commercial and administrative hub of the country proves to be a blend of cultures, religions, and socioeconomic classes. Your city tour will cover the

following: Gangarama Seema Malakaya, National Museum, Old Parliament, Independence Memorial Arcade & Independence Square, Beire Lake, Odel shopping, Cinnamon gardens, Shopping at Laksala state owned Handicrafts emporium, Lighthouse and Clock tower & Colombo Harbor.

Enjoy the colonial architecture and buildings of significant importance to the development of Colombo to what it is today. The city tour will your open you up to the Independence Square, the Galle Face Green (Haven for street food), the Pettah

Market, The Gangarama Temple and the Seemamalakaya. You can stop for coffee at a place recommended by our guide.

After dinner at a local restaurant, depending on your departure flight time, transfer to the Airport for departure.

Don't forget to recollect the memories of your trip with your chauffer and write your feedback.

End of tour

Hotels

| Location | 3 Star Hotel | 4 Star Hotel | 5 Star Hotel | No. of Nights |
|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Negombo | Full Moon Garden Hotel | Amora Lagoon | The Gateway Airport Garden | 1 Night |
| Polonnaruwa | Hotel Sudu Araliya | The Lake Hotel | The Lake Hotel | 1 Night |
| Sigiriya | Sigiriana Resort by Thilanka | Habarana Village by Cinnamon | Cinnamon Lodge Habarana | 1 Night |
| Kandy | Thilanka Hotel | Earl's Regent Hotel | Mahaweli Reach Hotel | 1 Night |
| Nuwara Eliya | Alpine Hotel | Araliya Green Hills Hotel | Araliya Green City | 1 Night |
| Beach | The Palms Hotel - Beruwala | Surf Hotel - Bentota | The Habitat - Kosgoda | 1 Night |

Cost of tour in USD Per Person

3 Star Hotel

Period from 1st September to 31st October 2019

| Pax | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Standard Room per Person Rate in USD | 984.00 | 652.00 | 589.00 | 561.00 | 547.00 |
| Single Supplement (USD) | | 231.00 | 231.00 | 231.00 | 231.00 |

4 Star Hotel

Period from 1st September to 31st October 2019

| Pax | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Standard Room per Person Rate in USD | 1,153.00 | 755.00 | 692.00 | 663.00 | 650.00 |
| Single Supplement (USD) | | 362.00 | 362.00 | 362.00 | 362.00 |

5 Star Hotel

Period from 1st September to 31st October 2019

| Pax | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Standard Room per Person Rate in USD | 1,238.00 | 780.00 | 717.00 | 688.00 | 675.00 |
| Single Supplement (USD) | | 392.00 | 392.00 | 392.00 | 392.00 |

Supplements

Peak Season

3 Star Hotel - 01st July to 31st August 2019

- USD 48.00 Per Person

4 Star Hotel - 01st July to 31st August 2019

- USD 68.00 Per Person

5 Star Hotel - 01st July to 31st August 2019

- USD 88.00 Per Person

Compulsory

Kandy Perahera Supplement (5th August to 15th August)

- USD 80.00 Per Room

Tour Includes

- Accommodation in hotels as per the itinerary (Subject to availability).
- Full Board meal plan – Starting from Day 02 and Ending with Dinner on Day 07.
- Transport in an Air-Conditioned well-maintained vehicle with the service of an English-Speaking Chauffeur Guide at your disposal always.
- Entrance Fees to: Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Polonnaruwa, Dambulla Cave Temple, Sigiriya Rock Fortress, Temple of the Tooth Relic, Peradeniya Garden, Queen Victoria Park, Colombo National Museum & Gangarama Temple.
- Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, & Colombo City Tours
- All Paging, Parking, Fuel Costs & Highway Tolls.
- Guided Visits to all entrance sights.
- All Taxes and Service Charges.

Tour Excludes

- International Flights & VISA (Visit www.eta.gov.lk for VISA)
- Tips and Porterage.
- All beverages.
- Camera & Video Permit Charges if applicable.
- Any other expense not mentioned in the includes section.

Complimentary

- 1 Liter Bottle of Water Per Person Per Day
- Local SIM Card (On Request)

General Terms & Conditions

www.esnaholidays.com/terms-and-conditions/