

6 Days in Sri Lanka

Negombo-Dambulla-Sigiriya-Matale-Kandy-Nuwara Eliya-Colombo



Esna Holidays

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.

Today it's famous for its delicious tea, turquoise beaches, exotic wildlife, ancient monuments, and many more. An island so small, yet so unexpectedly diverse from every point of view.



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

Arrive at Colombo International Airport. Here, you will be met by a designated guide from Esna Holidays. After the formalities at the airport you will be escorted to your air-conditioned vehicle and proceed to Negombo.

Check-in to the hotel and relax.

Day 02

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Negombo – Dambulla – Sigiriya

Today after breakfast you will proceed to Sigiriya via Dambulla.

On completion visit Dambulla Cave Temple.

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.

Photo Stop at Sigiriya Rock Fortress, in Sigiriya



rock nearly 200m high. It was a royal citadel for 18 years (477-495) when it was fortified by King Kasyapa. The

climb up steep steps of metal with railings passes a wall decorated with frescoes of bare-breasted women. Art experts consider them unique.

On completion check into the hotel and relax

Day 03

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Sigiriya – Matale – Kandy

Today after breakfast you will proceed to Kandy via Matale. In route visit the Spice Garden.

Spice Garden:

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.

Sightseeing in *Kandy, including Upper Lake Drive, Market Crafts Centre, Gem Museum. Kandy the hill capital, venue of the annual Perahera the last stronghold of the Sinhala Kings was finally ceded to the British in 1815.



Temple of the tooth relic.

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

Later evening you will see a unique cultural dance act



Later check into the hotel and relax.

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.

Day 04

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Kandy – Nuwara Eliya

Today, after breakfast you will visit Sri Bhaktha Hanuman Temple.

Thereafter, Proceed to Nuwara Eliya. En route visit the Ramboda Falls.



pond - the 'Sita Tear Pond' - here, which was formed from enterprising establishments devoted to this legend and contains a granite statue of Lord Hanuman that is said to be over 40 feet tall. It is believed that Lord Hanuman was searching for Sitadevi from these hills of Ramboda. The Ramboda area is believed to be an area where Rama's forces were gathered against Ravana.

Then have a Tea Experience

plucking, withering, rolling, oxidizing and drying – a

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.



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 or on the shores of Lake Gregory.

After finishing the tour in Nuwara Eliya check into the hotel and relax.

Day 05

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Nuwara Eliya – Colombo

Today after the breakfast you will proceed to Colombo. En route visit Seetha Amman Temple.



*Seetha Amman Temple the stream that runs from the hill, catered to the needs of Sitadevi during her stay at Ashok Vatika. She is said to have bathed in this stream. About a century ago of three idols was discovered in the stream, one of which was that of Sita. It is believed that the idols have been worshipped at this spot for centuries. Now there is temple for Lord Rama, Sitadevi, Luxshmana, and Hanuman by the side of this stream. It is interesting to note that

footprints akin to Lord Hanuman's are found by this river and some are of small size and some are of large size, which tells us of the immense powers of hanuman transforming himself into any size.

Then proceed to Colombo, check into the hotel & relax.

Day 06

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Colombo – Airport

Today after breakfast go for a city tour and for some shopping in Colombo.



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.

Have Lunch and continue shopping

Then have dinner at a Restaurant

After dinner drive to the Airport for your departure flight back home with all the memories you had in this beautiful island

Tour Ends...

Hotels

Location	Hotels	No of Nights
Negombo	The Covanzo	1 Night
Dambulla	Sigiriana Resort & Spa	1 Night
Kandy	Hotel Topaz	1 Night
Nuwara Eliya	Alpine Hotel	1 Night
Colombo	Hotel Sapphire	1 Night

Cost

2 Pax	4 Pax	6 Pax	8 Pax	Single Supplement	
USD 429	USD 379	USD 359	USD 331	USD 140	

Tour Includes

- Accommodation in hotels specified or similar.
- Meals on Full Board Basis.
- Transportation in **PRIVATE A/C Vehicle** as specified
- Service of English-Speaking Chauffeur or National Guide.
- Entrance fees to Dambulla Cave Temple & The Temple Tooth Relic.
- All the government taxes.

Tour Excludes

- International Flights & VISA (Visit www.eta.gov.lk for VISA)
- Tips and Porterage.
- Any and 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.

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(EH-23/07/2019)