

5 Days Negombo-Sigiriya-  
Matale-Kandy-Colombo



# 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](http://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

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### Day 01

### Airport – Negombo

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

Check-in to the hotel and relax.

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### Day 02

### Negombo – Galle - Tissamaharama

## Meals

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today after breakfast you will proceed to Tissamaharama via Galle.



Galle is a historical jewel to Sri Lanka wonderful to explore on foot. Among the endlessly exotic old trading port blessed with imposing Dutch-colonial buildings, ancient mosques and churches, grand mansions and museums the ancient Dutch fort which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site attracts the hearts of tourists. Stroll around the ancient city

where you will find a gourmet of fancy restaurants and coffee shop to chill and relax. The beach side is surely a bliss which will make you want to lock yourself up in this sun kissed island and indulge in the sea breeze and endless blue waters.

Lunch at a Restaurant

After lunch continue to Tissamaharama.



Visit \*Kataragama a popular pilgrimage destination frequented by adherents of all religions in Sri Lanka. The main shrine devoted to Skanda popularly described in eulogies as God having six faces and twelve arms whose assistance is sought for worldly gain. The history of the shrine dates back to 2 century BC. The annual procession held in July or August is the

main event of the shrine with fire walkers and Kawadi dancers. Offering to the got are made at 4.30am 10.30am and 6.30pm daily.

On completion check into the hotel and relax

## Day 03

### Meals

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

## Tissamaharama – Ella - Nuwara Eliya

Today after breakfast you will proceed to Nuwara Eliya via Ella. En route visit The Nine Arch Bridge.



Optional Visit – **[USD 40 Per Person]** Yala is Sri Lanka's most famous national park. Forming a total area of 1268 sq. km of scrub, light forest, grassy plains and brackish lagoons, it's very rich in wildlife and you're virtually certain to encounter elephants, crocodiles, buffaloes and monkeys. The highlight of a successful safari in Yala is the sight of the Sri Lankan Leopard: very elusive yet such a majestic sight.

Morning safari goers have a better chance in getting a glimpse of the leopards as they come out to go in search of water and food. (Please keep in mind the safety guidelines provided by Esna Holidays before the safari).



**Nine Arch Bridge** is one of the best examples of colonial-era railway construction in the country. The construction of the bridge is generally attributed to a local Ceylonese builder, P. K. Appuhami, in consultation with British engineers. The chief designer and project manager of the 'upcountry railway line of Ceylon' project was D. J. Wimalasurendra, a distinguished Ceylonese engineer and inventor. The designer of the viaduct was

Harold Cuthbert Marwood of Railway Construction Department of Ceylon

Government Railway. The 1923 report titled "Construction of a Concrete Railway Viaduct in Ceylon" published by the Engineering Association of Ceylon has details of all the records including the plans and drawings. Then Visit Gayathri Peedam.



Gayathri Pitam, also spelled as Gayaththri Peedam, is within the Nuwara-eliya town, the first and most significant temple built for Gayathri Amman in Sri Lanka. Gayathri being an aspect of Saraswati and the Universal Mother. The temple was founded by the Gayathri Siddhar Swami Murusegu. The Shiva Lingam for this Tamil temple was brought from the Holy River

Narmada. Gayathri Pitam is said to be the place from where King Ravana's son Meghanath propitiated Lord Shiva with penance and worship and in turn was granted super natural powers by the mighty god.

Lunch at a Restaurant

Visit Seetha Amman Temple



Seetha Amman Temple is located approximately 1km from Hakgala Botanical Garden and 5km from Nuwara Eliya. The temple is in the village of Seetha Eliya also known as Sita Eliya. This place is believed to be the site where Sita was held captive by King Ravana, and where she prayed daily for Rama to come and rescue her in the Hindu epic, Ramanayana. On

the rock face across the stream are circular depressions said to be the footprints of Lord Hanuman.

Afterwards check into the hotel and relax.

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## Day 04

## Nuwara Eliya – Kandy

### Meals

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today after breakfast you will proceed to Kandy. En route visit Sri Bhaktha Hanuman Temple.



Sri Bhaktha Hanuman Temple: According to the legend, this is where Hanuman searched for Sita in the jungles above and behind the temple. There is also said to be a pond - the 'Sita Tear Pond' - here, which was formed from Sita's tears. The temple itself is one of the more 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.



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.

Lunch at a Restaurant

Afterwards visit Kandy Temple 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 Temple of the tooth relic.

Later evening you will see a unique cultural dance act.



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.

Check into the hotel and relax

## Day 05

### Meals

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

## Kandy – Colombo – Airport

Today after breakfast you will proceed to Colombo.

Lunch at a Local Restaurant

After Lunch you will visit go for a City Tour in Colombo and do some shopping.



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 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.

Later evening **Crab Dinner at a Local 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 Used:		
Location	4 Star	No of Nights
Wattala	<a href="#">Pegasus Reef</a>	1 Night

Tissamaharama	<a href="#">Oak Ray Wild Yala</a>	1 Night
Nuwara Eliya	<a href="#">The Queensbury</a>	1 Night
Kandy	<a href="#">Oak Ray Regency</a>	1 Night

Valid Till 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 *(Except August 2019)*

Category	12 Pax	8 Pax	6 Pax	2 Pax
Deluxe	US\$ 239	US\$ 254	US\$ 267	US\$ 337

**PRICE INCLUSIONS:**

- Accommodation in hotels specified or similar.
- Meals on Full Board Basis, commencing with **Breakfast on Day 02** & ending with **Dinner on Last Day**.
- Transportation in **PRIVATE A/C Vehicle** as specified
- Service of English-Speaking National Guide.
- Entrance fees to Temple of the Tooth Relic.
- All the government taxes.

**COMPLIMENTS**

- 02 Mineral water bottles per person, per day
- Discounted Shopping Vouchers
- 1 SIM Card with International calling facilities – (On Request)

[Click here to Submit Enquiry](#)

(EH-28/06/2019)