

INDEPENDENT TRIPS

Full Sri Lanka Adventure 14D/13N

Nature & Adventure

14 Days / 1 Country

Sri Lanka

Departure city: **Colombo, Sri Lanka**

End city: **Colombo, Sri Lanka**

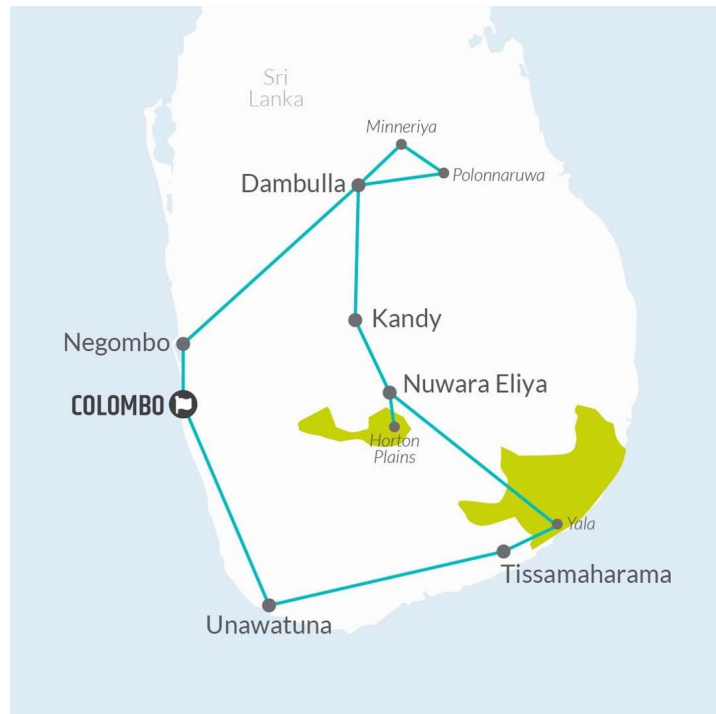


HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the famous coastal town of Unawatuna
- See frescoes at Dambulla & Sigiriya Temples
- Take a jeep safari in Yala National Park

Embrace the rich cultural heritage and history of Sri Lanka by visiting its national parks, botanical gardens and awesome temples on this unforgettable 14-day adventure.

MAP



What is included



Independent Trips

Include all of your accommodation, transport and experiences on a pre-set trip that you can customize to perfectly suit your travel needs.



Accommodation: 13

- 13 nights in 2-star or 3-star hotels
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Transport: 2

- Airport transfers, A/C private vehicle
 - Bandaranaike international airport transfers
- Transportation by A/C private vehicle throughout tour (not valid during Unawatuna free days)
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Meals: 14

- 13 Breakfast(s), 1 Lunch(es),
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Guides:

- English-speaking chauffeur/guide
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What is not included

- *Other meals/drinks
- *Optional activities
- *Flight tickets
- *Visa fees
- *Personal expenses
- *Tips
- *Video and camera permits for Kandy temple
- *Travel insurance
- *Holiday Single Supplement for 24&31Dec depending on the hotel category

*Prices for optional activities are subject to change at any time without prior notice. Please confirm these prices before departing on your trip.

Itinerary

Day 1: Negombo, Sri Lanka

Airport Pick-Up - Transfer to Negombo

On arrival at the Bandaranayaka International Airport, meet a representative and transfer to your Negombo accommodation for check-in.

Negombo is situated on the shores of the Negombo lagoon, which was once a trading port for Portuguese and Dutch. Attractions in the city are the old Dutch fort gate built in 1672 now a part of the prison, the Dutch Canal which was then a supply route to the Dutch administration, old churches and fishing villagers. The 100km long canal running through the town is still being used and is an attraction for those who want to see the country from a different perspective. Spend the rest of the day at leisure to relax and settle-in.

Overnight in Negombo.

Day 2: Negombo - Sigiriya - Dambulla, Sri Lanka

Negombo - Sigiriya Rock Fortress - Dambulla (B)

After enjoying breakfast at your accommodation, transfer towards Dambulla. Along the way, stop at Sigiriya to visit its Rock Fortress. Rising 200 meters vertically from the flat plains, Sigiriya Rock provides one of the most dramatic sites in Sri Lanka. The top of this rock is home to ruins of an ancient palace complex, built during the reign of King Kasyapa (477AD - 495 AD) and surrounding the rock is the Royal Garden. It is one of the 7 world heritage sites in Sri Lanka and is one of its most popular tourist destinations.

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 and would have covered most of the western face of the rock, covering an area 140 meters long and 40 meters high.

After Sigiriya, continue to your new accommodation in Dambulla for check-in and overnight.

Day 3: Dambulla, Sri Lanka

Dambulla - Habarana - Polonnaruwa - Dambulla (B/L)

Have breakfast and transfer to Habarana village. Go on a fun bike tour, riding through the back roads. Get a glimpse of the local life, spot endemic birds and wildlife, and share a cup of tea with a villager. At the end of the ride, enjoy a delicious Sri Lankan rice & curry lunch in a mud hut.

Continue your journey toward Polonnaruwa for a city tour. Polonnaruwa, a World Heritage Site, was the second capital city of Sri Lanka built in the 11th and 12th centuries AD.

The main highlights of the World Heritage Site are the Royal Palace, the Gal Viharaya, with the 4 splendid statues of the Buddha in 'Upright', 'Sedentary' and 'Recumbent' postures carved out of rock, 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 several 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.

Return to your accommodation in Dambulla and on the way, stop to visit a wood carving shop to learn about the different types of timber and hardwood available in Sri Lanka and the creative furniture made by its master craftsmen.

Day 4: Dambulla - Kandy, Sri Lanka

Dambulla Rock Temple - Matale Spice Garden - Kandy City Tour, Temple of the Tooth Relic and Cultural Show (B)

After breakfast at your accommodation begin the trip towards Kandy. Along the way, make a stop at Dambulla Rock Temple. Built in 1st century B.C. by King Walagambahu, Dambulla Rock Temple is the largest and best-preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka and a World Heritage Site. The complex has five caves with over 2000 sq. metres of painted walls and ceilings is the largest area of paintings found in the world. It contains over 150 images of the Buddha of which the largest is the colossal figure of the Buddha carved out of rock and spanning 14 metres.

Continue towards the Spice Garden in Matale. Learn about fragrant clove, cinnamon, cardamom, nutmeg, mace and pepper, and many other favourites such as chocolate and vanilla.

Then you are off to the sacred city of Kandy, popularly known as the city of Senkadagalapura. This was the last capital of the Sinhala kings whose patronage enabled the Dinahala culture to flourish for more than 2,500 years until the occupation of Sri Lanka by the British in 1815. During your afternoon tour of the city you will explore Kandy Lake, built by the last Sinhala king, Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe, in 1798.

Visit the Kandy town and Bazaar, the arts & crafts centre, a gem museum and a lapidary. You can also visit the famous gem museum shops in the area (not included).

In the evening visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic (the sacred tooth of the Buddha), a famous pilgrimage site, before attending the Kandy Cultural Show, where as many as 12 different folk and traditional dances are performed. One of the most interesting shows would be the Fire Walking Show where the dances walk through prepared fire pit, roughly 8 feet by 3 feet covered with red-hot charcoal, completely barefoot.

After the show return to your Kandy accommodation for overnight.

Day 5: Kandy, Sri Lanka

Kandy - Peradeniya Royal Botanical Garden - Kandy (B)

After breakfast you will head towards the Peradeniya Royal Botanical Garden. The garden was first built as a pleasure garden by a Sinhala king and was expanded by the British during the colonial times. It is home to an amazing variety of trees, plants and flowers.

Following the Botanical Gardens you will be transferred back to your Kandy accommodation. Spend the afternoon exploring the city or take a short trek in the Udawattekale Forest Reserve bordering the city.

Day 6: Kandy - Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka

Kandy - Nuwara Eliya (B)

After enjoying breakfast at your accommodation, continue your adventure to Nuwara Eliya. On arrival check in your new accommodation and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure to relax and venture in Sri Lanka's most popular hill resort.

In earlier times, Nuwara Eliya, meaning 'City of Light', was the favoured cool-climate escape for the hard-working and hard-drinking British pioneers of Sri Lanka's tea industry. A rainy-day, misty-mountain atmosphere blankets the town from November to February so don't come expecting tropical climes. But during April's spring release, the town is crowded with domestic holidaymakers enjoying horse racing and sports-car hill climbs, and celebrating the Sri Lankan New Year.

Sri Lanka's highest mountain Pidurutalagala (8282 feet) is located here, and it is home to one of the finest 18-hole golf courses in South Asia.

Day 7: Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka

Nuwara Eliya - Horton Plains National Park - Nuwara Eliya (B)

After breakfast at your accommodation, venture towards Horton Plains National Park, 32 km from the city. Located in the central highlands of Sri Lanka, Horton Plains National Park is a protected area covered by montane grassland and cloud forest.

The Horton Plains are the headwaters of three major Sri Lankan rivers, the Mahaweli, Kelani, and Walawe. The plateau has an altitude of 2,100–2,300 metres (6,900–7,500 ft) and is home to many endemic plants and animals, such as the Sri Lankan Sambar Deer and several unique birds.

After this extraordinary visit, return to your accommodation for overnight.

Day 8: Nuwara Eliya - Yala National Park – Tissamaharama, Sri Lanka

Nuwara Eliya - Yala National Park Jeep Safari - Tissamaharama (B)

After enjoying breakfast at your accommodation, begin your trip towards Yala National Park. In the afternoon embark on a Jeep Safari and discover a variety of indigenous animals, large herds of roaming elephants and the ever-elusive leopard. The park is filled with dry thorny bush, similar to Africa's plains, providing the perfect habitat for wild animals and a great opportunity for safaris.

After the safari you will be dropped-off at your new accommodation in Tissamaharama for check-in and overnight.

Day 9: Tissamaharama - Unawatuna, Sri Lanka

Tissamaharama - Galle - Unawatuna (B)

After breakfast at the hotel drive towards Galle. The walled city of Galle was once the chief port of Sri Lanka and endured through the Portuguese, Dutch and British Colonial periods.

Today it is an archaeological reserve and has been identified as a living World Heritage Site. It is known for its home-made lace.

Next, continue your drive towards Unawatuna. Check-in to your accommodation, relax and overnight.

Day 10: Unawatuna, Sri Lanka

Unawatuna Free Day (B)

Today is the first of the four days you will have to explore the coastal town of Unawatuna. Unawatuna is a coastal town in Galle district of Sri Lanka. Unawatuna is a major tourist attraction in Sri Lanka and famous for its beautiful beach and corals. It is a suburb of Galle, about 5 kilometres (3.1 mi) southeast to the city centre and approximately 108 kilometres (67 mi) south of Colombo. Unawatuna is situated at an elevation of 5 metres (16 ft) above the sea level. Overnight in Unawatuna.

*There will be no guides available during these days

Day 11: Unawatuna, Sri Lanka

Unawatuna Free Day (B)

Spend the day visiting the city's highlights, such as the Japanese Peace Pagoda or the many nearby beaches.

Day 12: Unawatuna, Sri Lanka

Unawatuna Free Day (B)

Today you have another free day to spend at leisure. Relax on the beach or explore the town.

Day 13: Unawatuna, Sri Lanka

Unawatuna Free Day (B)

Day 13 is your last chance to enjoy and get to know the beautiful town.

Day 14: Unawatuna - Bandaranaike International Airport, Sri Lanka

Unawatuna Free Day (B)

After enjoying breakfast at your accommodation, your trip will come to an end as you are transferred to Bandaranaike International Airport for your departure flight. We wish you safe travels for your onwards journey.

