

INDEPENDENT TRIPS

## Highlights of Sri Lanka 7D/6N

Nature & Adventure

7 Days / 1 Country

**Sri Lanka**

Departure city: **Negombo, Sri Lanka**

End city: **Colombo, Sri Lanka**

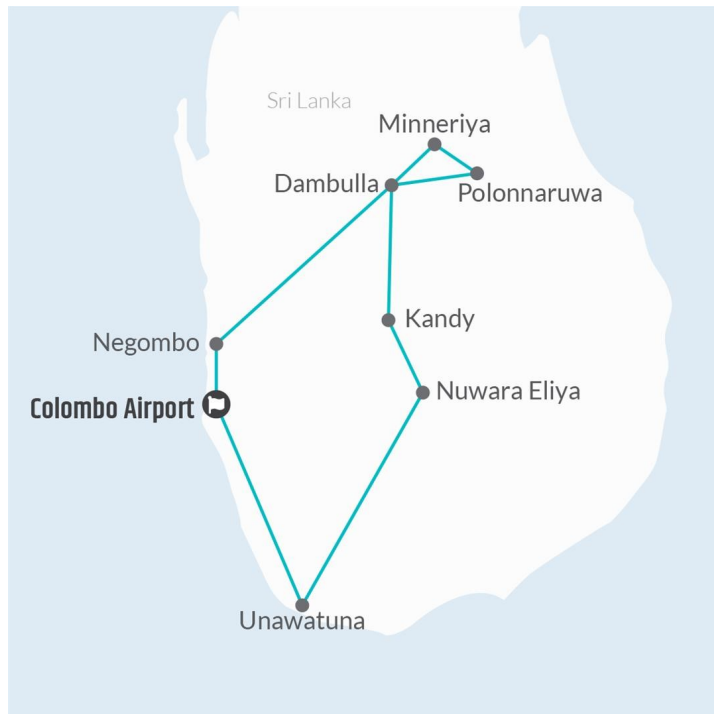


### HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the 5th century Sigiriya Fortress & its frescoes
- Marvel at cave paintings at Dambulla Rock Temple
- See elephants in the wild at Minneriya National Park
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See the best of Sri Lanka on this 7-day adventure to Negombo, Polonnaruwa, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Unawatuna. Visit ancient fortresses, see extraordinary wildlife, taste the local cuisine, and have some free time to explore on your own.,

### 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: 6

- 6 Nights accommodation in 2 or 3-star hotels depending on package



### Transport: 2

- Airport Transfers & Van Transportation by A/C private vehicle throughout tour
- Bandaranaike international airport transfers



### Meals: 6

- 6 Breakfast(s),



### Guides:

- Day tours with an English-speaking chauffeur/guide

## What is not included

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

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

## Additional information

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### Accommodation Note

Accommodation is based on availability if fully booked similar accommodation will be provided in the same vicinity or nearest location.

# Itinerary

## Day 1: Colombo - Negombo, Sri Lanka

Airport Pick-up - Transfer to Negombo

On arrival at the Bandaranaike International Airport, you will be met and transferred 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. Optionally you can go on a Boat Tour to make the most of this old port (not included). Overnight in Negombo.

Airport transfer to Negombo, Approx. 20min

## Day 2: Negombo - Dambulla, Sri Lanka

Negombo - Sigiriya Rock Fortress - Dambulla (B)

After enjoying breakfast at your accommodation, you will begin the day with a visit to the Badagamuwa Forest Reserve, where you will enjoy a hot cup of tea with a local snack called "roti" or freshly made corn by the roadside, a true Sri Lankan experience! Refresh and enjoy a small traditional snack on your way towards the famous cultural triangle.

Next we'll continue our trip to towards Sigiriya to visit its famous 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 it's most popular tourist destinations. You will also 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, you will be transferred to your new accommodation in Dambulla for check-in and overnight.

Negombo to Sigiriya, Approx. 3hrs.

## Day 3: Dambulla, Sri Lanka

Dambulla - Polonnaruwa City Tour - Minneriya National Park Safari - Dambulla (B)

Today after breakfast, you will be transferred to Polonnaruwa for your city tour. Polonnaruwa, a World Heritage Site, was the 2nd capital city of Sri Lanka built in the 11th and 12th centuries AD. Here you can see the ruins of 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 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. You will also have the opportunity to visit a wood carving shop where you can learn about the different types of timber and hardwood available in Sri Lanka, and about the creative furniture made by its master craftsmen.

In the afternoon enjoy a jeep safari of the Minneriya National Park. The National Park includes a 249 square km reservoir, built by King Mahasen about 15 centuries ago. In the dry months from August to October, more than 300 wild elephants gather on the shores of the reservoir. This gathering is the highlight of the National Park and is one the largest gathering seen anywhere in the world. Throughout the year you may also see spotted deer, sambur, and dozens of species of birds.

After the safari, return to your accommodation in Dambulla to relax and overnight.

Dambulla to Polonnaruwa, Approx. 2hrs; Polonnaruwa to Minneriya, Approx. 45min; Minneriya to Dambulla, Approx. 1hr 30min.

## Day 4: Dambulla - Kand, 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 you will begin the trip towards Kandy. Along the way the first stopover will be 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.

Next we will stop at the Spice Garden in Matale. Here you will 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. If you are interested in gems & jewellery you could 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.

Later, witness 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.

Dambulla to Matale, Approx. 1hr 40min; Matale to Kandy, Approx. 40min.

## Day 5: 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. Overnight in Nuwara Eliya.

Kandy to Nuwara Eliya, Approx. 2hrs.

## Day 6: Nuwara Eliya - Unawatuna, Sri Lanka

Nuwara Eliya - Unawatuna (B)

Today, after having breakfast at your accommodation you will continue your journey towards the seaside town of Unawatuna. Check-in your new accommodation and enjoy the rest of the day to discover this beautiful town on your own.

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 Gale, about 5 kilometres (3.1 mi) southeast to the city center and approximately 108 kilometres (67mi) south of Colombo. Unawatuna is situated at an elevation of 5 metres (16 ft) above the sea level. Overnight in Unawatuna.

Nuwara Eliya to Unawatuna, Approx. 5hrs 40min.

## **Day 7: Unawatuna - Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Airport Drop-off (B)

After enjoying breakfast at your accommodation, your trip will come to an end as you are transferred to the Bandaranaike International Airport for your departure flight.

Airport transfer, Approx. 2hr 30min.

