

THE BEST OF SRI LANKA



15- Day Mixed tour

Departure Date

06 September 2019

Travel Style

Group Tour – Max. 12 Passengers (Small Group)

This small group with max no. of 12 pax will give you that intimate experience to discover Sri Lanka in a more wholesome manner.

What's Included

Small Group Tour (max 12 pax) • Breakfast and dinner included. 13 breakfasts & 10 dinners • 13 nights accommodation • Journey in an air-conditioned coach with our English speaking National guide and support team • Full service of a Naturalist / Wildlife Photographer • Our experienced National guides are fully accredited

Highlights

Safaris at Wilpattu, Minneriya and Udawalawe National Parks • Wildlife photography introduction • Anuradhapura sightseeing • Sigiriya Rock Fortress • Dambulla Cave Temple • Learn to cook Sri Lankan style • Kandy Temple • Peradeniya Botanical Garden • Horton Plains National Park • Sinharaja Rain Forest Trek (UNESCO World Heritage Site) • Galle Fort walking tour

Tour Overview

Capture the best wildlife moments with our expert naturalist / wildlife photographer, safaris to see leopards, elephants, bears, crocodiles and birdlife in Sri Lanka's largest National Parks, tuck into delicious traditional Sri Lankan dishes, trek through the cloud forest at World's End at Horton Plains and the pristine Sinharaja Rain Forest. Experience the massive Dutch colonial Galle Fort with a walking tour, explore its alleyways, museums boutique shops and cafes. Meet the locals and see the best of real Sri Lanka with this lifetime experience.

Fitness level required: Medium

Day 1 Negombo

Ayubowan!- may you be blessed with long life, with this beautiful traditional greeting, we are greeted by the Travel Lanka Journeys National guide on arrival at the Bandaranaike International Airport (Colombo) and taken to our hotel in Negombo.

Overnight Negombo

Overnight stay: Arie Lagoon

Day 2 Negombo – Wilpattu National Park

After breakfast we visit the fishing village in Negombo, your first introduction to local life. The markets trade in a huge variety of seafoods and it is quite fascinating to watch and partake. Afterwards we leave for Wilpattu National Park.

In the evening our local naturalist and wildlife photographer will join you for an information talk, (wildlife, photography etc.) at the welcome dinner and drinks.

Included activities: Welcome dinner and drinks with an introduction to Sri Lanka's wildlife with our Naturalist

Overnight stay: Heritage Hotel

Meals: B,D

Day 3 Wilpattu National Park

Today is "on safari" day, with our naturalist guide in Wilpattu NP, the largest national park in Sri Lanka. The park is famous for its leopard population and bird life, where you also have the chance to see sloth bears and elephants.

There are two safaris, one in the early morning and one in the late afternoon, this gives you the best chance at seeing most of Sri Lanka wildlife in one place.

(Different animals at different times of day)

Included activities: Morning and afternoon safari with the Naturalist

Overnight stay: Heritage Hotel

Meals: B,L,D

Day 4 Wilpattu – Anuradhapura – Sigiriya

Today we visit **Anuradhapura** to explore the sites of this ancient town, on bicycles if you wish. This is Sri Lanka's first capital dating back to 500 BC and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit amazing places such as Abhayagiriya, Ruwanwelisaya Dagoba, Sri Maha Bodhi, Kuttam Pokuna and Isurumuniya. Later we visit a local temple and participate in a Buddhist ceremony, after visit a local house and enjoy the local village lifestyle.

Continue our journey for Sigiriya.

Included activities: Anuradapura ancient city tour | Receive Buddhist blessing at a local village temple

Overnight stay: Camellia Resort

Meals: B,D

Day 5 Sigiriya – Minneriya NP – Sigiriya

Early morning we visit **Sigiriya**, another World Heritage site (5th century AD).

An impressive rock fortress and royal citadel of a king for 18 years, this place is one of the main highlights of ancient Sri Lanka. For the more adventurous an exciting walk up to the summit to the site of the Sky Palace which commands a magnificent view of the royal water gardens below.

Midday, we attend a **cookery class** and learn how to cook typical Sri Lankan rice and curry. Late afternoon – **Jeep safari to Minneriya National Park** to see wild elephants. During August/September we are in for a treat! We are offered a delightful experience at Minneriya to watch **‘The Gathering’ an awesome wildlife spectacle**. Over 150 elephants, young, old and babies converge to enjoy the lake with receding water levels to play, romance and have fun!

Later we enjoy a sundowner drinks.

Included activities: Sigiriya Rock Fortress visit | Cooking class | Safari at Minneriya NP to see ‘The Gathering’ | Sundowner drinks

Overnight stay: Camellia Resort

Meals: B,D

Day 6 Sigiriya – Kandy

After breakfast leave for Kandy. Enroute visit the Dambulla Rock Cave Temple, the feeling here is absolutely amazing and makes the robust walk up well worth it.

Kandy is the picture book location, embraced by verdant hills, a lake at the centre and the golden roofed Dalada Maligawa (Temple of the sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha) hallowed by the Buddhist world. Kandy was the last stronghold of the Sinhalese kings ceding to the British in 1815.

Evening visit **Temple of Tooth Relic** and attend the evening ‘Pooja’ ceremony. Later witness a **cultural dance show**.

Included activities: Visit famous Dambulla Cave Temple | Kandy Temple visit | Cultural dance show

Overnight stay: Swiss Residence

Meals: B,D

Day 7 Kandy

Morning we visit the **Peradeniya Botanical Gardens** which has a large collection of mature flora from all over the world, a pleasant place to stroll. Later, explore Kandy markets, famous for craftworks.

Afternoon at leisure and you are free to explore Kandy town, enjoy a leisurely walk around the Kandy lake.

In the evening, we take a **local food experience** (PAYG expense) with our expert guide and after learn how to make Sri Lankan hoppers with the hotel chef.

Included activities: Peradeniya Botanical gardens | Local food experience with our guide | Learn how to make Sri Lankan Hoppers

Overnight stay: Swiss Residence

Meals: B,D

Day 8 Kandy – Nuwara Eliya (Train Journey)

Morning at 9.00am we board our train for a scenic world renowned train journey to Nanu Oya, passing waterfalls, suspension bridges and tea pickers on our journey.

Note: Train Journeys are subject to availability. In case of unavailability to book train tickets, we will be travelling by our coach to Nuwara Eliya.

Later, Explore Nuwara Eliya. The nostalgia of the British empire builders is reflected throughout Nuwara Eliya in buildings, gardens, landscaping and the terraced tea gardens. Afternoon, High Tea at Grand Hotel, feel back in time to the Victorian era. (PAYG expense)

Overnight stay: Ripon Grand Hill

Meals: B,D

Day 9 Nuwara Eliya – Horton Plains National Park

Early morning (with packed breakfast) we visit **Horton Plains National park** and trek to World's End and Baker's Falls. Please note this is about a 4 hour trek on sometimes uneven rocky ground sometimes a little bit steep. Short local trail walks for the less adventurous.. The views are just spectacular.

Horton Plains National Park is another UNESCO World (Nature) site, this expanse of misty grassland and montane forest is home to wide variety of flora (57 species, 29 endemic) and fauna with 24 species of mammals including elk, deer and leopard. For bird enthusiast, there are 87 species (14 endemic), including many migratory birds.

Today we will also be joined again by our naturalist / photographer guide who will be with us until after our Sinharaja Rain Forest visit.

Afternoon, take a tea tour and learn about the art of making tea.

Included activities: Horton Plains National Park visit with the Naturalist | Tea tour

Overnight stay: Ripon Grand Hill

Meals: B,D

Day 10 Nuwara Eliya – Udawalawe

Morning we leave for **Udawalawe National park**.

An afternoon **safari with our naturalist guide in Udawalawe National Park** which is famous for birdlife and elephants. This probably one of easiest parks to see elephants in the wild anytime. In addition 39 species of mammals and 183 species of birds have been recorded in this NP.

Also this park houses the **ETH (Elephant Transit Home)** which re-establishes orphaned baby elephants back into the wild

Included activities: Udawalawe National Park visit with the Naturalist to see elephants and birdlife

Overnight stay: Athgira River Camping

Meals: B,D

Day 11

Udawalawe – Sinharaja Rain Forest

Leave for Sinharaja, enroute visit Eth Athuru Sevana (ETH) at 09:00 a.m. to witness the feeding of the orphaned calves with milk.

Afternoon with our naturalist guide we explore **Sinharaja Rain Forest, another World Heritage site** and Sri Lanka's most beautiful and biggest rainforest. Out of total of 830 indigenous flowering plants in Sri Lanka, Sinharaja has nearly 500 plants and out of 21 native bird species in the country 17 species make Sinharaja their home. This is a bird watchers paradise, well worth the visit.

Included activities: ETH elephant orphanage visit | Sinharaja Rain Forest visit

Overnight stay: Blue Magpie Lodge

Meals: B,D

Day 12 Sinharaja – Koggala

An early morning trek in Sinharaja Rain Forest with our naturalist guide before we leave for Koggala for a relaxing beach stay.

Included activities: Sinharaja Rain Forest trek with Naturalist

Overnight stay: The Long Beach Resort

Meals: B

Day 13 Koggala – Galle – Koggala

Morning we visit the fish market and explore the surroundings of Koggala.

After, visit to The Galle Fort, 17th century Dutch fortified city with a natural harbor exudes old-world charm especially, inside the old Dutch fort – another World Heritage site.

Galle Fort walking tour starts at 3.30 p.m.

Lunch out at one of the many nice restaurants inside Fort after (PAYG expense).

Evening leisure at the beach.

Included activities: Galle Fort walking tour

Overnight stay: The Long Beach Resort

Meals: B

Day 14 Koggala – Colombo

Morning we proceed to the thriving capital, Colombo.

Late afternoon free for a short sightseeing tour of Colombo.

Included activities: Colombo city tour

Transit: Fairway

Day 15 Departure

Transfer from Colombo to Airport through the airport express way for early morning departure flight home carrying wonderful memories...

NEXT – Planning your return trip to Sri Lanka.

Tour Cost

Tour cost per person AU\$2,950.00 per person Less 10% discount \$2650

Single supplement AU\$790.00

Tour cost inclusive of entrance fees and activities mentioned under inclusions, max 12 pax, transport and accommodation as per itinerary and the service of an experienced National guide and service of an expert Naturalist / wildlife photographer.

TOUR INFO

DEPARTURE DATE

- 06 September 2019

GROUP TOUR

- Max 12 passengers (small group)

TRANSPORT

- Air conditioned coach with an English speaking National guide

PLACES OF VISIT

- Negombo | Wilpattu National Park | Anuradhapura | Sigiriya | Dambulla | Kandy | Nuwara Eliya | Horton Plains | Udawalawe National Park | Sinharaja Rain Forest | Galle | Colombo

INCLUSIONS

- 13 night accommodation sharing twin on BB (breakfast only) and HB (breakfast and dinner) as per itinerary
- Air-conditioned coach with an English speaking National guide
- Service of a Naturalist / wildlife photographer
- 13 breakfasts, 10 dinners & 2 lunches
- Safaris at Wilpattu, Minneriya and Udawalawe National Park
- Trekking and entrance fees at Horton Plains and Sinharaja Rain Forest
- Anuradhapura sightseeing, Sigiriya Rock, Dambulla cave temple, Kandy temple and Peradeniya Gardens
- Cooking class
- Government tax and service charges

EXCLUSIONS

- International airfare
- Lunch & beverages
- Optional experiences at sites and locations from the itinerary (Pay As You Go – PAYG)
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Personal travel and medical insurance
- Video camera and still camera permits at some locations

*** TERMS & CONDITIONS**

- All prices are quoted in AU\$
- All prices are based on per person sharing double or twin room and subject to change without prior notice