

# ***TREASURES OF SRI LANKA TOUR***



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**1300 168 910**



## **13 Days Sri Lanka Treasures Small Group Tour**

**Duration:** 13 days

**Departs:** Colombo, select Thursdays in 2022 & 2023

**Stay:** 12 nights 4 & 5-star accommodation

**Travel style:** Escorted small group coach tour

**Booking code:** SRLSG13M

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# 13 days Sri Lanka Treasures Small Group Coach Tour

## About the holiday

Spectacular Sri Lanka is culturally rich and visually captivating. Explore the ‘jewel of the Indian Ocean’ and discover its many treasures on this special small group tour!

From the delightful trading port of Negombo and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Polonnaruwa, to Sigiriya Rock Fortress that dates back 1500 years and decorated cave temples that are over 2000 years old, Sri Lanka is a wealth of historical sights. There are also amazing wildlife viewing opportunities and this tour includes a jeep safari in Yala National Park where you’ll hopefully see the famous flamingos or catch a glimpse of the distinct Sri Lankan leopard!

## Why you’ll Love this trip...

- Visit a National Park in the Cultural Triangle, one of the best places in Sri Lanka to view wild elephants
- Glimpse into village life in Hiriwadunna including hosted lunch
- Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Polonnaruwa, where kings ruled Sri Lanka over 800 years ago
- Tour the iconic Sigiriya Rock Fortress dating back over 1500 years, rising from the central plains
- Inspirational cave temples of Dambulla, view golden Buddha statues and murals
- Tour the gold-roofed Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, one of Sri Lanka’s most sacred sites
- In Kandy, dinner at the home of a local family with specially prepared Sri Lankan dishes
- Travel to Nuwara Eliya in the centre of Sri Lanka’s magnificent tea country
- Learn about the growing, harvesting and processing of “Ceylon” tea at a tea estate factory
- A Jeep Safari at Yala National Park highlights Sri Lanka’s astonishing wildlife and stunning landscapes
- Tour the colonial town of Galle, with its historic fort built in the 1500s by the Portuguese
- Visit a turtle hatchery, to learn about the rescue and protection of turtle eggs

## Travel dates

### Departs Colombo\*

2022 - 15, 22, 29 September; 06, 13, 20, 27 October; 17, 24 November

2023 - 12, 19, 26 January; 02, 09, 16, 23 February; 02, 23 March

*\*Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date, please contact us for details.*

## Holiday Inclusions

### Escorted small group tour package includes:

- Small groups of maximum 22 travellers guaranteed
- 12 nights First Class accommodations
  - 2 nights Negombo
  - 2 nights Habarana
  - 2 nights Kandy
  - 1 night Nuwara Eliya
  - 2 nights Yala National Park
  - 2 nights Weligama Bay
  - 1 night Colombo
- Hotel taxes, fees & service charges
- Hotel portorage
- Train from Nuwara Eliya to Ella Gap\*
- 24 meals: 12 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 8 dinners (including welcome and farewell dinners)
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Comprehensive, guided sightseeing and entrance fees per itinerary
- Active itinerary with unique cultural features
- National Park Fees

\*Some departures will travel to Ella by train, others will take a scenic road by coach

***Subject to confirmation by tour company, hotels & local operators.  
Cancellation fees & booking conditions apply.***

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### Package excludes:

Flights to / from Sri Lanka - please contact us for an airfare quote

Visa fees (where applicable)

Airport transfers

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry etc.

Camera & video permits

Gratuities for tour manager & drivers

Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

### Is this trip right for me?

This is an active trip featuring touring days that require walking for extended periods of time over uneven, moderate to difficult terrain. There are a few early wake-ups to cover the territory. The pace is fast. The climb to the top of Sigiriya Rock involves over 1200 steps. The visit to Dambulla is an approximately 10-minute climb up a steep hill. Safari activities will be conducted in small safari vehicles on roads that are often rough and bumpy, and wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed. This tour is not recommended for people who have difficulty walking. During this tour, you may come into proximity of wild animals whose actions can be unpredictable. Certain inherent risks are involved which should be considered at your own discretion.

**Want to add flights or extend your stay?**

**Call our office on 1300 168 910 for current rates & travel deals.**

## Itinerary:

### **DAY 1 - Arrive in Colombo, Travel to Negombo**

Welcome to Sri Lanka, an enchanting island with a fascinating heritage known as the “jewel” of the Indian Ocean. Upon arrival at the airport in Colombo, make your way to the palm-fringed beach town of Negombo. The rest of the day is yours to acclimate to your new time zone and enjoy the relaxing setting and gentle sea breezes.

**Overnight:** Negombo

### **DAY 2 - Negombo City Tour, Beach Walk, Welcome Dinner**

Begin the day with a city tour of delightful Negombo, once the most important source of cinnamon during the Dutch era. Visit the port, which was once a major trading port for the Portuguese and later for the Dutch after they took over during the middle of the 17th century. Due to the settlers’ cultural, religious and architectural influences, you will view many colonial style buildings and a large number of elaborate Roman Catholic churches and statues of saints, the reason why Negombo has been nicknamed “Little Rome”. Proceed to the ruins of a Dutch fort dating back to 1678. Nearby, on the green lawn of the Esplanade, perhaps watch children playing cricket - a big favourite in Sri Lanka! Afterwards, return to the hotel. Late in the afternoon, share coffee, tea and local snacks before a delightful walk together on the nearby beach. Tonight, attend an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager on the memorable journey that lies ahead, followed by a Welcome Dinner. Try favourite dishes created from a delectable blend of Portuguese, Dutch, Malay and Indian influences accented by fragrant curries.

**Overnight:** Negombo

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 3 - Habarana, Ancient Polonnaruwa**

This morning, travel to Habarana, centre of the Cultural Triangle of Sri Lanka and check in to your hotel. In the afternoon, drive to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Polonnaruwa, where kings ruled the central plains of Sri Lanka over 800 years ago. The glories of that era can be found in the archaeological park, with hundreds of massive ancient structures. Return to the hotel for dinner.

**Overnight:** Habarana

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 4, Sunday - Sigiriya Rock Fortress, Hiriwadunna Village, Safari**

Today will be a long and rewarding day. Early departure from the hotel to visit Sigiriya, where thriving ancient cities once existed. At the Sigiriya Rock Fortress, dating back 1500 years, delight in exhilarating views over the surrounding area of covered moats, lily-ponds nestled in water gardens and quiet shrines. Rising from the central plains, this iconic rocky outcrop is surely Sri Lanka's most dramatic sight!

Near vertical walls soar to a flat-topped summit that contains the ruins of an ancient civilization, thought to be once the epicentre of the short-lived Kingdom of Kassapa. Head back towards your hotel to discover what life is like in an authentic Sri Lankan village! Wander down a dirt lane off the main road to Hiriwadunna, a tiny settlement of less than 2,500 people where they grow their own food and raise cattle. During your walk, keep an eye out for colourful butterflies, birds and native plants. See how coconuts are harvested and try a drink from a freshly cut coconut! Visit a local house for a demonstration on how local products are processed followed by a typical Sri Lankan lunch with rice & curry. In the afternoon, a great experience lies ahead with a visit to a National Park\*, one of the best places in the country to view wild elephants. The parks are a mixed forest and wetlands that provide shelter for sambar deer, buffalo, and crocodiles. Return in the evening to your hotel in Habarana with time to freshen up before dinner.

*\*Visit will be at either Minneriya, Kaudulla or Eco Park depending on seasonal elephant migration patterns*

**Overnight:** Habarana

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **DAY 5, Monday - Temples of Dambulla, Cooking Demo, Kandy**

This morning, depart for the UNESCO World Heritage site of Dambulla to visit the cave temples, filled with Buddha statues and huge wall paintings. This extraordinary rock sanctuary dating back over 2,000 years, serves as inspiration for Buddhist pilgrims. Depart and stop at one of many roadside stands to buy fresh vegetables for the chef-led cooking demonstration at a spice garden. You'll learn some of the secrets of typical and unique Sri Lankan cooking methods using coconut milk, curry and spices, followed by a delicious lunch of regional favourites. Afterward, tour the Euphoria spice garden which displays most of the spices Sri Lanka is famous for and find out the various uses of each plant. Then proceed to Kandy, the last capital of Sri Lankan kings. Tonight is yours to explore the variety of restaurants that Kandy has to offer on your own.

**Overnight:** Kandy

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

#### **DAY 6, Tuesday - Royal Botanical Gardens, Temple of the Tooth Relic, Home Hosted Dinner**

Morning visit to the Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens, renowned for its collection of orchids. Take a stroll along the imposing Avenue of Royal Palms, before a visit to a family-owned gem lapidary where you learn about the different types of gemstones and how they are mined. Later, visit the gold-roofed Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Considered one of Sri Lanka's most sacred sites, this Buddhist temple is believed to house a tooth of Buddha. Explore the temple housed in the royal palace complex of the former Kingdom of Kandy visited by both locals and tourists bearing flowers and incense throughout the day in this genuine place of worship.



Tonight, you're invited to the home of a local family for a specially prepared dinner of local favourites. Attend a performance by a Kandayan dancer and drummer before you're welcomed into the home with typical warm Sri Lankan hospitality. Enjoy a cup of tea and learn how to prepare a typical dish before sitting down to savour your meal.

**Overnight:** Kandy

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 7, Wednesday - The Tea Experience in Nuwara Eliya**

Today, travel to Nuwara Eliya via Ramboda with a stop at a tea estate and factory. Learn about the growing and harvesting of tea as you walk through the working factory to observe the processing of the leaves as well as how they are graded and packed. See how tea is traditionally picked and perhaps climb up into the steep terraced fields to try your hand at plucking tea leaves! End your visit with a sampling of different varieties of "Ceylon" teas. After lunch, proceed to Nuwara Eliya, nestled in the heart of Sri Lanka's tea country, surrounded by breathtaking views of bright green rolling hills, meadows, mountains and rushing waterfalls. This hill town was a popular 19th century resort and escape for the hard-working English and Scottish pioneers of Sri Lanka's tea industry. Check in to the hotel before a late afternoon walk through the charming centre of the city with its old brick Post Office and country houses that evoke nostalgia of Colonial British Ceylon. A "tuk tuk" ride takes you to the Old Church with its pretty rose garden. After a visit to the church, complete your exploration of Sri Lanka's tea country with a proper cup of evening tea! Tonight is at leisure to explore the restaurants in Nuwara Eliya on your own.

**Overnight:** Nuwara Eliya

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

### **DAY 8, Thursday - Ella, Yala National Park**

Time at leisure this morning before departing for your journey through mountains and valleys covered with velvet green tea plantations to the hill town of Ella\*. View the stunning Ravana Falls, the widest waterfall in the country. Arrive this evening at Yala National Park, a nature reserve that encompasses a vast wilderness of grassy plains, scrub jungle, lakes, and wetlands with the highest density of leopards in Asia. Dinner tonight at the lodge in Yala National Park.

*\*Some departures will travel to Ella by train while others will take a scenic road by coach*

**Overnight:** Yala National Park

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 9, Friday - Jeep Safari in Yala National Park**

Linger this morning and savour your leisure time in this wildlife paradise. In the afternoon, get ready for the sights and sounds of a Jeep Safari -- you'll experience the best of the country's native wildlife and natural landscape. Set out in a 4x4 with an expert guide that will share facts about the endemic wildlife.

If you're lucky, you may catch sight of the distinct Sri Lankan leopards. See crocodiles by the water and spot a variety of birdlife at many of the watering holes. Around the lagoons, perhaps see flamingos, pelicans, spoonbills, rare black-necked storks, grey herons, and darters. An astonishing day! At tonight's dinner at the hotel, compare stories of today's adventure.

**Overnight:** Yala National Park

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

#### **DAY 10, Saturday - Coastal Road to Weligama Bay, Discussion with Buddhist Monks**

A gorgeous drive along the winding coastal road takes you to Weligama Bay, whose name means, "sandy village," after its soft pristine sand, rolling surf and endless sunshine. In the afternoon, visit a nearby meditation centre to participate in a discussion with a Buddhist Monk on meditation. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and learn how to apply these principles and teachings. Return to the hotel for dinner.

**Overnight:** Weligama Bay

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

#### **DAY 11, Sunday - Galle Fort and City Tour**

Morning drive to the pretty colonial town of Galle, the "jewel of the south", bursting with exotic scents of spices and sea air. En route, see the famous stilted fishermen that perch on handmade structures of wood and twine to catch their fish. Arrive at the historic Galle Fort, built in the 1500s by the Portuguese and extensively restored after the 2004 tsunami. Admire the sights in town including St. Mary's Cathedral, the picturesque natural harbour and the Galle International Stadium. Return to the hotel after lunch to spend the remainder of the day at leisure in Weligama Bay.

**Overnight:** Weligama Bay

**Meals:** Breakfast

#### **DAY 12, Monday - Turtle Hatchery, Cricket Club, Colombo**

Depart Weligama this morning and drive to Kosgoda, a prime turtle nesting site. Here, visit a turtle hatchery where you learn about the rescue and protection of turtle eggs while seeing newly hatched turtles. On to the capital city of Colombo for a panoramic tour of the city. A late afternoon visit to a cricket club where you may get a glimpse of a cricket match or a practice session. At tonight's Farewell Dinner, share wonderful memories with your newfound friends.

**Overnight:** Colombo

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

#### **DAY 13, Tuesday - Depart Sri Lanka**

Your tour ends after breakfast. Make your way to the airport for your departure flight.

**Meals:** Breakfast



**Please note: The day by day tour descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and a multitude of other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible and open minded in this regard.**

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2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a 50% deposit.
3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (you will be notified if your supplier requires earlier payment).
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