

SENSATIONAL SRI LANKA TOUR

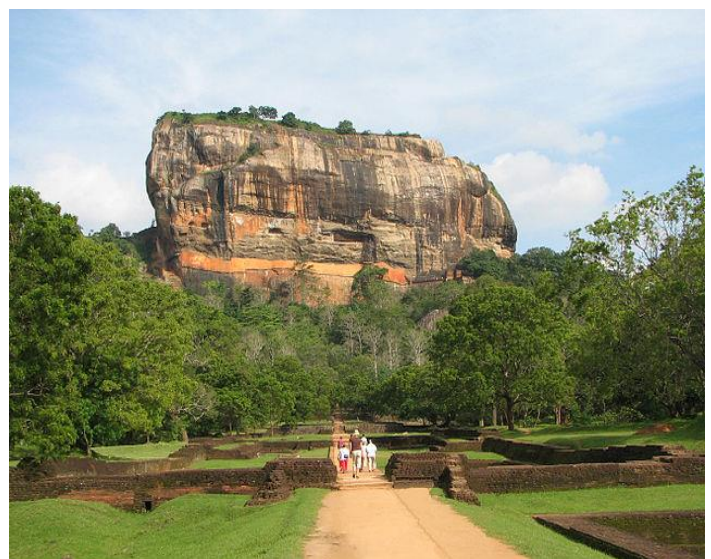


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1300 168 910



Sri Lanka Escorted Tour with Flights

Duration: 12 days

Stay: 11 nights in hotels

Travel style: Escorted tour with flights from Australia

Booking code: SRLIV12M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

12 days Sri Lanka Escorted Tour & Flights

About the holiday

Sri Lanka is a spectacular, culturally-rich island paradise and you'll experience it all on this special journey.

This small group tour combines unmissable highlights with stunning landscapes and immersive travel moments. Incredible sightseeing includes Galle Fort, Yala National Park safari, Nine Arch Bridge, a tea experience in Nuwara Eliya, elephants of Minneriya National Park, Sigiriya Lion Rock fortress and more.

Take an iconic train ride from Nuwara Eliya to Kandy, enjoy central accommodation, including two nights in 5-star luxury at the Sigiriya Jungle, and venture on thrilling wildlife safari drives. Marvel at UNESCO World Heritage Sites and learn about the legends and folklore that's still lovingly kept alive.

This tour has been deliberately designed to offer you an authentic Sri Lankan experience that features the colourful culture, along with the breathtaking sights!

What you'll love about this tour...

- With a maximum of 26 passengers, the tour is fully escorted by a professional guide with local knowledge
- Visit Minneriya National Park to see elephants & enjoy safari drives
- Enjoy a cooking demonstration and Sri Lankan cultural performance
- Includes sightseeing with no hidden costs and flights from Australia!

Travel dates

Departs on select dates from August 2024 to November 2025 *

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

Email hello@mytravelxp.com for more information or call 1300 168 910



Escorted tour package includes:

- Small group of 26 travellers maximum
- Return international economy airfares to Colombo
 - Fly from Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane, including checked baggage
- 11 nights accommodation in centrally located 3-star to 5-star hotels
 - Including 2 nights at 5-star Sigiriya Jungles hotel
- 11 Breakfasts, 1 cooking demonstration with lunch & 1 group dinner
- Sri Lankan Cultural Performance
- Ride the iconic train from Nuwara Eliya to Kandy
- Safari drives in Yala & Minneriya National Parks
- Escorted by an English-speaking guide throughout
- Sightseeing as per the itinerary
- National Park & site entrance fees
- Dedicated private transportation throughout

Package excludes:

Visa fees

Airport transfers

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional sightseeing or activities

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

Camera & video permits

Gratuities for tour manager & drivers

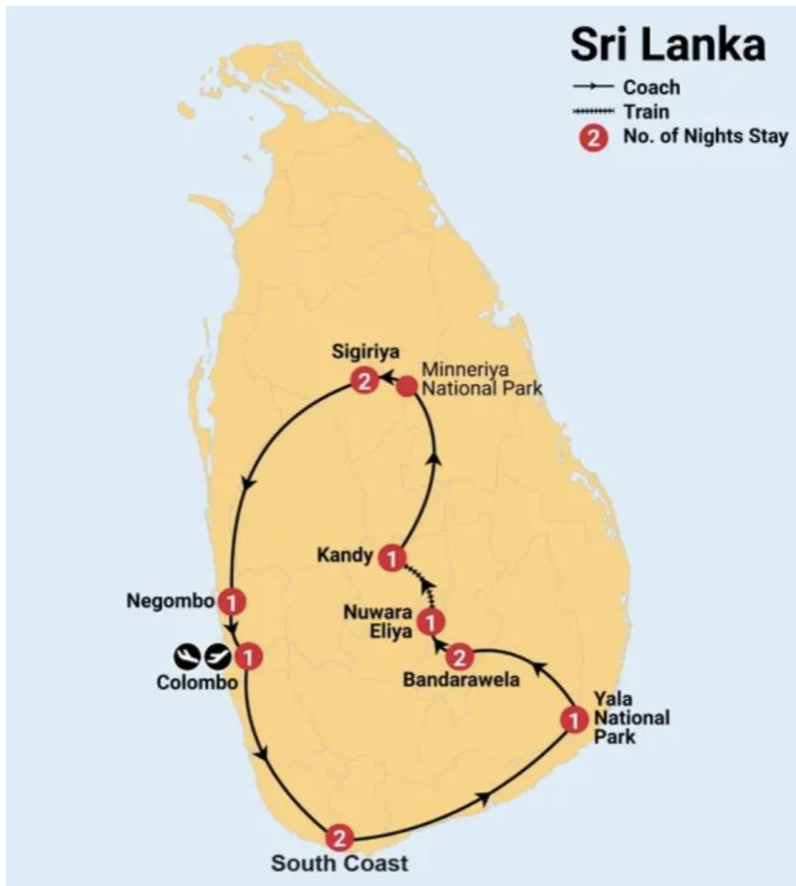
Travel insurance is essential

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

Subject to confirmation by airlines, tour company & local operators.

Cancellation fees & booking conditions apply.

For more info, call 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com



Itinerary:

Day 1 - Fly from Australia - Colombo

Welcome to Sri Lanka!

Arrive at Bandaranaike International Airport (CMB) and make your way to the arrival lounge, where you'll find many transfer options to make your own way to the hotel. Taxis are readily available and must be paid locally. Alternatively, we also offer our clients hassle-free arrival transfers that can be pre-purchased at your time of booking.

Check in to the hotel and relax after your international flight. As most flights arrive late in the evening, we recommend booking a night prior to your tour commencing to ensure you are well rested.

Hotel - 4-star Pegasus Reef Hotel or Similar

Day 2 - Colombo - South Coast

After breakfast, your guide will give you a brief introduction before we make the drive along the South Coast. Before departing, we explore the capital of Colombo. Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, has a long history as a port on ancient east-west trade routes, ruled successively by the Portuguese, Dutch and the British. This heritage is reflected in its architecture, mixing colonial buildings with high-rises and shopping malls.

We will also visit the Colombo National Museum. This charming museum takes visitors on a fascinating journey through Sri Lankan history. Housed in a stunning neo-Baroque building, which was specifically constructed by William Henry Gregory, Governor of Ceylon, in 1877, the museum boasts a gleaming white façade. As you make your way through the various rooms, you'll encounter exhibits dedicated to each of Sri Lanka's historical kingdoms. Informational display boards provide intriguing insights, such as the meaning behind the mudras (gestures and poses) depicted in Sri Lanka's Buddha statues.

On arrival, we check in to our hotel before we set out on a tour of the Galle Fort and its fortifications (may occur on day 3). This is a city that exudes an essence with a perfect blend of past and present. Declared as a UNESCO heritage site in 1988, the presence of Portuguese, Dutch and English is very evident in the fascinating architectural styles of the Galle Fort

Hotel - 4-star Mandara Resort or Similar

Meals - Breakfast

Day 3 - South Coast

Today is a full day to enjoy the beauty of Sri Lanka's coastline. These areas are renowned for their sandy beaches, palm tree-lined points with a cool coastal vibe.

Hotel - 4-star Mandara Resort or Similar

Meals - Breakfast

Day 4 - South Coast to Yala National Park

We enjoy breakfast at the hotel before making the drive to Yala National Park. Here, spend your afternoon on a guided game drive exploring the dynamic wildlife and the most luxuriant plant life in Yala National Park. Being one of the largest parks in Sri Lanka, it is the ideal place to sight the rare leopard!

Note: Yala National Park is closed for routine maintenance in September/October under direction of the local government. The exact dates will not be advised until 1-2 months prior to departure. During this time Udawalawe National Park Or Yala National Park (Block 5) will be visited and offers equal animal sighting opportunities.

Hotel - Magampura Eco Village Resort or Similar

Meals - Breakfast

Day 5 - Yala National Park - Nine Arch Bridge - Bandarawela

Today we leave for Bandarawela close to Ella. On route we witness the picturesque waterfall, Rawana Waterfall before checking into our hotel. This afternoon we visit Nine Arch Bridge. The Nine Arches Bridge also called the Bridge in the Sky 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, in consultation with British engineers. It is located in Demodara, between Ella and Demodara railway stations. The surrounding area has seen a steady increase of tourism due to the bridge's architectural ingenuity and the profuse greenery in the nearby hillsides.

OPTIONAL TOUR - MORNING SAFARI YALA NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy a morning Safari in Yala National Park. Departing around sunrise, it allows you to witness animals greeting the morning light and affords you extra time in the safari park to spot its elusive species.

Hotel - Bandarawela Hotel (until 29 May 2024), Olympus Plaza Hotel, Haputale (from 30 May 2024), or Similar

Meals - Breakfast

Day 6 - Bandarawela

Enjoy a full day to relax in the hilly surrounds of Bandarawela.

Note: From the 30 May 2024; this itinerary will stay at the Olympus Plaza Hotel in Haputale. On this itinerary day, there will be an included, group transfer into Ella - further details will be disclosed whilst on tour.

OPTIONAL TOUR - HORTON PLAINS & WORLD'S END

At approximately 5:30am, leave for Horton Plains National Park. This park holds great importance due to the rich and unique biodiversity and being a catchment area feeding some of the main rivers of Sri Lanka. It is also known to be a 'super biodiversity hotspot' and thus declared a UNESCO site in 2010. The national park is most famous for the vista - World's End.

You will be accompanied by a private escort the entire duration of the hike - from the Horton Plains Park Office, to World's End (via Mini World's End) and back. Wear strong and comfortable walking shoes, a hat and sunglasses. Bring sunscreen, food and water. The weather can change very quickly on the plains - one minute it can be sunny and clear, the next chilly and misty. Bring a few extra layers of warm clothing.

Start time: 5:30am departure from hotel

End time: 12:30pm return to hotel

Distance: 7.5km round trip - 150m elevation gain

Inclusions: return transfers, entrance into Horton Plains National Park, packed breakfast, private escort

There are no safety rails available so we recommend this activity for those who are physically fit and go on long walks often. We do not recommend this if you have a difficult time walking along uneven, potentially wet, and rocky terrain.

Hotel - Bandarawela Hotel (until 29 May 2024), Olympus Plaza Hotel, Haputale (from 30 May 2024), or Similar

Meals - Breakfast

Day 7 - Bandarawela - Nuwara Eliya (Ramboda)

Enjoy a leisurely departure from Bandarawela as we make our way to Nuwara Eliya. On arrival we visit a tea plantation and factory. Here you will enjoy the absolute tea experience, taking you to the moment the young tea leaves are plucked from the plantation to being processed in the factory to make a steamy cup of tea. If you are interested, the tea factory is the best place to purchase good quality tea.

Hotel - 3-star Ramboda Falls Hotel or Similar

Meals - Breakfast

Day 8 - Nuwara Eliya (Ramboda) - Kandy

Today we leave for Kandy. The train journey is truly a rare experience and is an adventure itself! Apart from the breathtaking sceneries of the tea country and picturesque waterfalls, it is a chance for you to mingle with the local people.

Kandy, the Hill Capital (1514 - 1815 AD). Originally known as Senkadagala, the city eventually came to be known as Kandy. Kandy was declared as an UNESCO heritage site in 1988. The style and character of the Sri Lankan civilization at the time is well articulated in the heart of the city itself, with its lake, the temples including the Temple of the Tooth Relic and the well-preserved ruins of the royal palaces.

On arrival, we check in to our hotel, allowing you time to explore the town.

This evening, enjoy a typical Sri Lankan Cultural Performance with Kandy Market & Bazaar tour.

Note: It is not possible to confirm the train ticket reservation due to the fact that Sri Lanka Railway has a manual system for reservations. Tickets can only be booked 30 days prior to departure. The 1st and 2nd class is basic but has air-conditioning. The non-air conditioned 3rd class sometimes is the only option based availability. On the rare occasion the train is fully booked we'll conduct the route by road.

Hotel - 4-star Topaz Hotel Kandy or Similar

Meals - Breakfast

Day 9 - Kandy - Dambulla Cave - Minneriya National Park - Sigiriya

After breakfast we proceed to Sigiriya, stopping on route to visit Dambulla cave temple. Built in the first century BC, it is recognized to be the largest cave sanctuaries in the world with its 2000 m² of walls and ceilings painted more than 150 Buddha images whose largest engraved in the rock reaches 14 metres high.

En route to Sigiriya, stop at a local spice garden. Sri Lanka has a very proud history of its spices, which have unique flavours, colours and aromas.

During the 1500s, Portuguese, Dutch and British took these local spices to the world and thus, Sri Lanka became famous for such spices as cinnamon, black pepper, clove, cumin, cardamom, turmeric and ginger. These spices are continually used in homes throughout the world today.

Arrive at your Inspiring Stay - the 5-star Sigiriya Jungles hotel overlooking an iconic rock fortress. This afternoon, set out on an exclusively private jeep safari at the Minneriya National Park to witness the unique phenomenon of elephant gathering. During the dry season, from June to September, hundreds of elephants gather around the Minneriya Tank for water. Such a large number of elephants could not be sighted at one place, anywhere else in the world!

Tonight, enjoy a group dinner and celebrate your new friendships.

Note: since elephants are migratory animals, we may visit Wasgamuwa National Park on this day instead, pending elephant locations.

Hotel - 5-star Sigiriya Jungles or Similar

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10 - Sigiriya - Lion Rock Fortress - Polonnaruwa - Sigiriya

Following breakfast, we proceed to Sigiriya Rock Fortress and climb the Sigiriya Rock, one of the most extraordinary artistic complexes of its time (477 - 498 AD).

Declared as an UNESCO heritage site in 1982, this magnificent citadel allures artistic and architectural curiosity from around the globe.

Return to the hotel to relax before taking part in an Inspiring Taste cooking demonstration of Sri Lankan rice and curry preparation (5-6 curries including a specialty crab dish) and enjoy the typical Sri Lankan lunch overlooking the paddy fields.

This afternoon, enjoy a sightseeing tour of the medieval capital city of Polonnaruwa. This was declared as an UNESCO heritage site in 1982. After the demise of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa became the middle historic capital of Sri Lanka (1017 - 1235 AD). Enjoy a 2nd night in your Inspiring Stay and its surroundings.

Hotel - 5-star Sigiriya Jungles or Similar

Meals - Breakfast, Lunch

Day 11 - Sigiriya - Negombo

Today, depart the beauty of Sigiriya as we make the drive back to Negombo. On arrival, enjoy the afternoon free at leisure to explore the coast and the local activity or simply relax by the pool.

Hotel - 4-star Goldi Sands Hotel or Similar

Meals - Breakfast

Day 12 - Negombo - Fly Home

This morning, enjoy a visit to the Fish Market. Negombo is home for the Island's second largest fish market, as locals call - "Lellama"

At an appropriate time, make your own way to the airport in time for your onward flight - you will have access to your room until 8pm this evening, should your flight be later in the evening.

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.

Important notes:

- To obtain a visa to Sri Lanka, log in to www.eta.gov.lk, and please don't forget to bring the reference number of the Visa, if you get it through the ETA link.
- Rooms will be subject to availability & if the listed hotels are unavailable for any reason, similar hotels will be provided in the same vicinity or nearest location.
- Standard check-in & check-out times are 2pm/1400 Hrs - 12 noon/1200 Hrs (this may subject to change based on selected properties).
- Optional excursions and additional services can be provided at an additional charge.
- Visits to wildlife parks will be at client's own risk. Safari vehicles (none air-conditioned) are very basic with basic insurance cover (not comprehensive as in the case of vehicles used for tours).

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1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
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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).
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents via email.

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If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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