Colombo, Caves & Kandy **8 days**

Spend a week exploring Sri Lanka's famous cultural triangle, visiting the rock fortress of Sigiriya, the exquisite Dambulla cave temple, the historic Temple of the Tooth in Kandy, meeting Sri Lanka's orphaned elephants at Pinnawala and more.

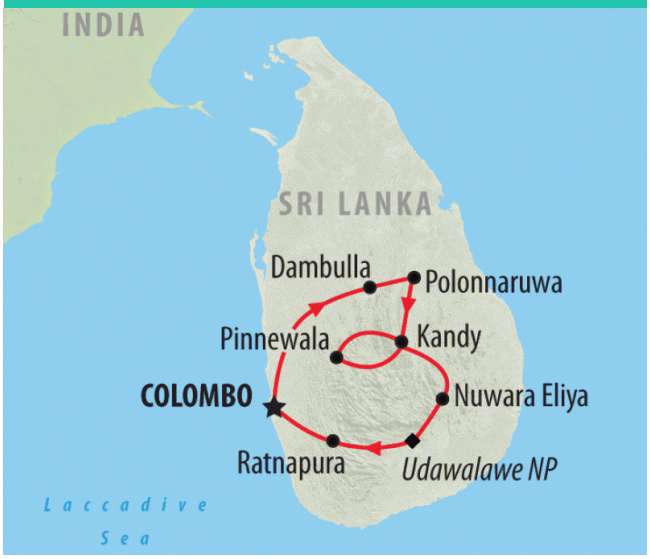
TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Colombo / Ends in: Colombo
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:7, Lunch: 0, Dinner: 0
- Hotel Rating: 3 - 4 star
- Tour Guide: Yes

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - click here
- To book this trip - click here
- To enquire about this trip - click here

TOUR MAP:



QUICK WEB LINKS

Sri Lanka Prices ::: Sri Lanka - Why Us? ::: Best Places to Visit ::: Best Time to Visit ::: Hotels in Sri Lanka ::: Useful Info ::: FAQs on Sri Lanka ::: Sri Lanka Visas ::: Sri Lanka Gallery

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Day 1: Colombo

Saturday. Welcome to Sri Lanka! You will be met at Colombo airport and transferred to our beachfront hotel in Wattala, a small town just north of Colombo. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight - Wattala

Day 2:

Wattala - Polonnaruwa - Giritale. Today we head inland to Polonnaruwa. On the way we stop by one of Sri Lanka's most impressive cave temples, the Dambulla Rock Temple. This stunning complex of 5 caves contains over 150 images of Buddha including an impressive 14 metre statue carved out of the cave rock. After exploring this ancient site we continue on to Polonnaruwa. This fascinating 11th century city is home to many interesting ruins and famous monuments including the Royal Palace and the Gal Vihara. Polonnaruwa was once the capital and is also the second most ancient city in Sri Lanka. It is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Overnight - Giritale

Day 3:

Giritale - Sigiriya – Kandy. This morning we head to Sigiriya and the famous 'Lion Rock' fortress. Built over 1500 years ago, this beautiful citadel stands 200 meters high in the middle of verdant jungle and was an important stronghold of the 70 hectare fortified town. It can be viewed from miles around and is definitely one of Sri Lanka's most iconic and famous sites. You'll be able to view the world famous paintings of the Heavenly Maidens which stand in a sheltered pocket of the rock approached by a spiral stairway.

Once we've fully explored the rock we continue on to a spice garden. Here we learn about some of Sri Lanka's famous spices, how they are grown and what they are used in. You'll also have the opportunity to buy some. Later on we drive further south to Kandy for the evening. Overnight - Kandy

Day 4: Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

This morning we visit an elephant orphanage where we meet some of the 89 abandoned elephants, many of which are babies. On the way back to Kandy we stop by the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens home to an amazing variety of plants, flowers and trees. Once back in Kandy itself we take a city tour, drive around the lake and visit local bazaars and a gem museum. Later on this evening we visit the world famous Temple of the Tooth Relic, home to one of Buddha's teeth before attending a traditional cultural evening complete with fire walkers! Overnight - Kandy

Day 5:

Kandy - Nuwera Eliya. After breakfast we visit a tea plantation. Tea is one of Sri Lanka's biggest exports and they are very proud of it. Learn about the manufacturing process and how they grade it before enjoying a delicious cup of pure Ceylon tea in the factory. Next we drive to Nuwara Eliya, the heart of Sri Lanka's tea country and home to the country's highest mountain, Pidurutalagala. Later on we embark on a sightseeing tour of the area including a drive through 'Little England'. Overnight - Nuwara Eliya

Day 6:

Nuwara Eliya - Embilipitiya. Today we head south to Embilipitiya, our base for exploring Udawalawe National Park. This national park is probably one of the best places to spot the famous Sri Lankan Elephant, the biggest of all the Asian Elephants. It is thought that there are around 400 elephants here. The park is also home to the elusive leopard, the Sri Lankan Sloth Bear and lots of types of deer. We take an afternoon game drive here before returning to the hotel for the night. Overnight - Udawalawe N.P. and Embilipitiya

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Day 7: Gem Mine & Colombo City Tour

Embilipitiya - Wattala. We begin our final journey back to Colombo this morning with a visit to the Gem Mine and Museum at Ratnapura. Sri Lanka is famous for its gem industry and is home to 40 out of the 85 types of gems in the world.

After we check in to the hotel in Wattala we head into the bustling city of Colombo for an informative city tour. Explore the Fort area in the north of the city, famous for its government buildings and interesting shops. Take a stroll along Galle Face Green and watch locals play cricket plus head over to stunning Gangarama Temple
Overnight - Wattala

Day 8: Colombo

Saturday. Our tour comes to an end this morning, with a transfer back to Colombo airport for your flight home.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- Colombo - The Fort, Gamgarama Temple
- Polonnaruwa - the ancient capital city of Ceylon
- Sigiriya - 5th century fortress ruins
- Dambulla - Rock Temple
- Matale - spice gardens
- Kandy - the legendary Temple of the Tooth, picturesque Royal Botanical Gardens and a cultural show.
- Pinnawala - Elephant Orphanage
- Nuwara Eliya - tea plantation, Hakgala Gardens
- Udawalawe National Park
- Ratnapura - gem capital

What's Included

- 7 breakfasts
- 7 nights - 3-4 star and heritage hotels
- Touring of Dambulla, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, Pinnawala, Nuwara Eliya, Udawalawe, Gem Mine, Colombo
- Escorted by an English speaking national guide for group 6 or more (professional chauffeur guide for groups of 5 or less)
- All relevant transfers and transportation

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow $3 - 5 USD per day per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture
- Entrance Fees: USD $170-$180
- Tipping Kitty: USD $15-$20

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $1,799

Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged (if another solo traveller of the same sex is already booked upon the tour), thus avoiding the single person supplement.

2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
28 DEC - 04 JAN	USD $1,959	USD $699

2014

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
25 JAN - 01 FEB	USD $1,799	USD $699
22 FEB - 01 MAR	USD $1,799	USD $699
22 MAR - 29 MAR	USD $1,799	USD $699

19 APR - 26 APR	USD $1,799	USD $699
31 MAY - 07 JUN	USD $1,799	USD $699
02 AUG - 09 AUG	USD $2,099	USD $699
20 SEP - 27 SEP	USD $1,799	USD $699
04 OCT - 11 OCT	USD $1,799	USD $699
01 NOV - 08 NOV	USD $1,799	USD $699
29 NOV - 06 DEC	USD $1,799	USD $699
27 DEC - 03 JAN	USD $1,959	USD $699

2015

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
10 JAN - 17 JAN	USD $1,799	USD $699
07 FEB - 14 FEB	USD $1,799	USD $699
07 MAR - 14 MAR	USD $1,799	USD $699
04 APR - 11 APR	USD $1,799	USD $699
02 MAY - 09 MAY	USD $1,799	USD $699
30 MAY - 06 JUN	USD $1,799	USD $699
20 JUN - 27 JUN	USD $1,799	USD $699
08 AUG - 15 AUG	USD $1,799	USD $699
19 SEP - 26 SEP	USD $1,799	USD $699
17 OCT - 24 OCT	USD $1,799	USD $699
14 NOV - 21 NOV	USD $1,799	USD $699
26 DEC - 02 JAN	USD $1,959	USD $699

Supplementary Prices

	Price/Person	Single Supp.
Private Tour Supplement - Colombo, Caves & Kandy	USD $600	USD $0

HOTELS:

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

Pegasus Reef Hotel - Colombo

The Pegasus Reef hotel is both comfortable and modern with spacious rooms and excellent amenities. It has an Ayurvedic spa on site and is a great choice for a city hotel.

The Royal Lotus - Giritale

Fully refurbished in 2005, the Royal Lotus expertly combines modern comfort and facilities with hints of the the ancient past times that the location is famous for. The cosy rooms all boast private balconies and stunning views across the lake. An visit to the hotel's Ayurvedic spa is highly recommended and a great way to start the day. Perfectly located on the banks of the Giritale River and in the heart of the Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle.

Hotel Topaz - Kandy

Hotel Topaz is a charming hotel with a stunning roof top view. The elegant rooms are spacious with private balconies and good facilities.

Galway Forest Lodge - Nuwara Eliya

The Galway Forest is a simple lodge with beautiful views of the nature reserve. The rooms are brightly furnished and are well equipped.

The Grand Udawalawe Safari Resort - Udawalawe N.P. and Embilipitiya

Situated on 7 acres of land, the Grand Udawalawe Safari Resort is the only hotel of it's class in the area. Rooms are spacious with beautiful hard wood flooring and artwork depicting the wildlife of Udawalawe. Food here is delicious and plentiful with an extensive breakfast menu. The outdoor pool is a great place to relax by and enjoy a refreshing splash in after a good day on safari. Well located just a few minutes drive from Udawalawe National Park.