

Buddha and Beach

12 days | Starts/Ends: Colombo



Explore Dambulla Rock Temple and ancient Polonnaruwa and visit iconic Sigiriya Rock. Sip on refreshing Ceylon tea and take a jeep ride into Udawalawe National Park before heading to the idyllic beaches of Bentota for some sun, sea, rest and relaxation.

- Ratnapura - heart of the nation's gem mining industry
- Bentota Beach - Palm fringed beaches and golden sand.

What's Included

- 11 breakfasts and 1 lunch
- 11 nights 4 - 5 star and heritage properties
- Guided touring of Dambulla, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, Nuwara Eliya, Udawalawe NP and Colombo
- Jeep safari/ game drive in Udawalawe National park
- Scenic train trip Kandy - Nuwara Eliya, canoe and Tuk Tuk trips
- Escorted by an English speaking national guide for group 6 or more (professional chauffeur guide for groups of 5 or less)
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 12
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned tourism vehicles

What's Not Included

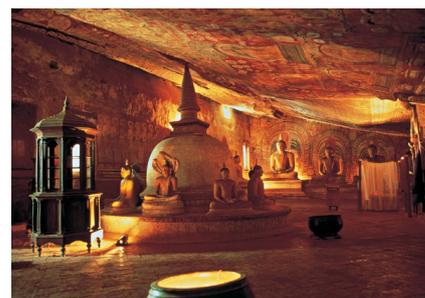
- Tipping Kitty: USD\$50-\$60pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$120-\$140pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visas.
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow \$3 - 6 USD per day per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Colombo - your way

Saturday. Welcome to Sri Lanka! Airport arrival transfer and remainder of the day at leisure. Our hotel located on the seafront is a short walk from Galle Road and many of the city highlights. Choose to head out and explore, take a dip in the pool or enjoy a cocktail whilst you watch the perfect sunset over the Laccodive Sea. **Overnight - Colombo**

Day 2 : Dambulla & Polonnaruwa



Colombo - Dambulla - Polonnaruwa - Dambulla. Bidding farewell to Colombo this morning we drive inland to Dambulla, stopping en route at a fruit and vegetable market in Naramwela Town. Dambulla Rock Temple is an incredible ancient complex of caves which date back to the 1st Century BC. The five caves contain over 150 images

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Colombo - The Fort area, Galle Face Green and Gangaramaya Temple
- Polonnaruwa - the ancient capital city of Ceylon
- Sigiriya - 5th century fortress ruins
- Dambulla - Rock Temple
- Kayanwala village visit & cookery demonstration
- Matale - spice gardens
- Kandy - city tour including Tuk Tuk ride, Temple of the Tooth and cultural performance
- Giragama Tea Factory - a working tea factory with a long history
- Scenic train ride through waterfalls and tea plantations from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya and drive through Nuwara Eliya's 'Little England'
- Udawalawe National Park - home to the nation's largest herd of Asian Elephants

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of Buddha including an impressive 14 metre carved statue.

After exploring this ancient site we continue 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. This evening return to Dambulla for an evening at leisure.

Overnight - Dambulla (B)

Day 3 : Sigiriya



Dambulla - Sigiriya - Kandy. This morning we explore 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.

From Sigiriya we take a bullock cart ride and short canoe trip to the village of Kayanwala. Here, at Kayanwala village we take part in a cookery demonstration in the mud brick home of a local woman and enjoy a freshly prepared lunch of curry, dahl, spiced rice, pickle and more. En route to Kandy we stop off a spice garden in Matale, to see the different herbs and spices, which Sri Lanka is famous for. You will be introduced to different spices and shown how some of these spices are grown and processed.

Overnight - Kandy (B, L)

Day 4 : Temple of the Tooth

This morning we take a sightseeing tour of Kandy - the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings. Our first stop will be the Temple of the Tooth Relic. Legend has it that one of Buddha's teeth was taken from him as he lay on his funeral pyre. It was then smuggled into Sri Lanka in 313AD. It now attracts daily pilgrims who come bearing lotus flowers and frangipani. After driving around the Kandy Lake - built by the last Sinhala king, visiting the local bazaar and a gem museum we take Tuk Tuk ride up into the surrounding hills. This afternoon we stop at the Geragama Tea Factory manufacturing 'Low Grown' and 'Long Leaf' tea. This evening, we watch a cultural performance of traditional Sri Lankan music and dance. **Overnight - Kandy (B)**

Day 5 : Nuwara Eliya & Tea Plantation



Kandy - Nuwara Eliya. This morning offers free time before transferring to the railway station for a scenic train trip. Passing kilometre upon kilometre of verdant tea plantations that hug the winding mountain passes, we'll see waterfalls, suspension bridges and tea pickers on our journey up to Nuwara Eliya - Sri Lanka's most popular hill resort. Nuwara Eliya is also the heart of Sri Lanka's tea country producing a significant share of the world's best tea.

Upon arrival we embark on a sightseeing tour of Nuwara Eliya - an area known locally as 'Little England'. **Overnight - Nuwara Eliya (B)**

Day 6 : Udawalawe NP Jeep Safari

Nuwara Eliya - Udawalawe National Park. Today we head south to Embilipitiya, our base for exploring Udawalawe National Park.

Udawalawe is probably one of the best places to spot the famous Sri Lankan Elephant, the biggest of all the Asian Elephants in the wild. It is thought that there are around 400 elephants here. The park is also home to the elusive leopard, the Sri Lankan Sloth Bear, the cheeky Langur monkey and lots of types of deer. We take an afternoon game drive here before returning to the hotel for the night.

Overnight - Udawalawe National Park (B)

Day 7 : Gem Mine & Colombo City Tour



Udawalawe National Park - Colombo. We travel 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 that exist in the world.

Arriving to Colombo, we commence a city tour seeing the Fort area in the north of the city, famous for its government buildings and interesting shops. We explore the Fort area in the north of the city, famous for its government buildings and interesting shops. We'll see the somewhat unusual Gangarama Temple and take a stroll along Galle Face Green, a popular spot for kite flying and games of cricket.

Overnight - Colombo (B)

Day 8 : Lazy days by the beach in Bentota

Colombo - Bentota. After breakfast we head south to the beautiful beach resort of Bentota. Transfer to your accommodation with the rest of the day at leisure. **Overnight - Bentota and Beruwala (B)**

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Days 9-11 : Beach, pool & sunset cocktails



The beautiful palm fringed beaches of Bentota are without a doubt its biggest draw card, and once you set eyes on them you'll understand why. Nestled on the Indian Ocean coast with warm crystal clear waters, Bentota offers travellers a whole host of watersports from snorkelling and scuba diving, to waterskiing and surfing – the choice if yours. Indulge in a glass of Toddy – a local coconut flavoured tippie, head to the spa and opt for an Ayurveda treatment the area is famous for, or simply while away the days on the beach cocktail in hand. **Overnight - Bentota and Beruwala (B:3)**

Day 12 : Colombo

Wednesday. Bentota - Colombo. Today our tropical island adventure comes to an end. Departure transfer to Colombo airport for your onward international flight. (B)

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.

OZO Colombo

OZO Colombo is a modern and stylish hotel, with sweeping Indian Ocean views from its rooftop infinity pool and many of its rooms. There's free WIFI access throughout the hotel and the guestrooms are bright and airy with all modern amenities. To top it off, there's also a fantastic fitness center and a restaurant serving delicious, authentic Sri Lankan cuisine. OZO is centrally located on Marine Drive, near Galle Road and just a 10 minute drive from the city centre.



Jetwing Lake

The Jetwing Lake hotel is a brand new property with spacious and comfortable rooms that enjoy a contemporary design blended with splashes of Eastern influenced decor. The ensuite facilities are magnificent and in keeping with the luxurious feel of the property as a whole. Each room also comes with a balcony, from which guests can get some fresh air and enjoy the spectacular views. Within the complex there is a pool, spa and fitness centre, where guests can while away their free time. There is also a restaurant, which serves sumptuous meals.



OZO Kandy Hotel

The stylish OZO Kandy prides itself on its smart facilities and stunning mountain surrounds. Its highlight being the rooftop pool and BOMMU Bar where you can soak up panoramic views over Kandy whilst enjoying a cocktail or two. The hotel's all-day dining restaurant serves a tasty array of Asian and international cuisine using only fresh and handpicked produce. Other amenities include a fitness centre and complimentary WiFi, with guestrooms boasting signature soft beds and rain showers.



Jetwing St Andrew's

Jetwing St. Andrew's is a unique colonial retreat set in a former country house and surrounded by landscaped gardens. All the spacious rooms are classically furnished with elegant wood and offer free WiFi and flat-screen TVs. The grounds of the hotel give a great feel of colonial splendour and guests can wake up to a typical English breakfast and enjoy a stiff brandy at the bar later in the day. Fine dining is offered at the Old Course Restaurant and the hotel also boasts an antique snooker table, which is the oldest in Sri Lanka.



Grand Udawalawe Safari Resort

Situated on 7 acres of land, the Grand Udawalawe Safari Resort is the only hotel of its 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.



Eden Resort & Spa - Beruwala

The Eden Resort and Spa is a relaxing hotel that combines elegance and charm. The selection of rooms are spacious and well equipped with lovely timber flooring and air conditioning. The hotel itself also offers a plethora of restaurants plus an onsite spa.

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PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. 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, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

PRICES / DATES 2019

| Date | Twin Share | Single |
|--------|------------|-----------|
| 18 May | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 01 Jun | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 15 Jun | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 13 Jul | USD 2,445 | USD 4,135 |
| 03 Aug | USD 2,445 | USD 4,135 |
| 10 Aug | USD 2,445 | USD 4,135 |
| 31 Aug | USD 2,445 | USD 4,135 |
| 14 Sep | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 21 Sep | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 28 Sep | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 12 Oct | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 19 Oct | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 26 Oct | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 02 Nov | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 09 Nov | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 16 Nov | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 23 Nov | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 07 Dec | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 21 Dec | USD 3,495 | USD 5,185 |
| 28 Dec | USD 3,495 | USD 5,185 |

PRICES / DATES 2020

| Date | Twin Share | Single |
|--------|------------|-----------|
| 04 Jan | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 11 Jan | USD 2,795 | USD 4,485 |
| 25 Jan | USD 2,795 | USD 4,485 |
| 08 Feb | USD 2,795 | USD 4,485 |
| 22 Feb | USD 2,795 | USD 4,485 |
| 07 Mar | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 14 Mar | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 28 Mar | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 04 Apr | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 11 Apr | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 02 May | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 16 May | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 13 Jun | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 04 Jul | USD 2,445 | USD 4,135 |
| 18 Jul | USD 2,445 | USD 4,135 |
| 01 Aug | USD 2,445 | USD 4,135 |
| 29 Aug | USD 2,445 | USD 4,135 |
| 12 Sep | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 26 Sep | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 10 Oct | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 17 Oct | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 24 Oct | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 07 Nov | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 14 Nov | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 21 Nov | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 05 Dec | USD 2,195 | USD 3,885 |
| 19 Dec | USD 3,495 | USD 5,185 |

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