

Wild About Sri Lanka

10 days | Starts/Ends: Colombo



Go wild in Sri Lanka visiting Yala, Udawalawe and Bandula National Parks. Add to this Whale Watching in Mirissa and most of the country's famed cultural triangle and you've got the best of Sri Lanka in 10 days!

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Galle - visit this former fortified dutch settlement. From 1st of May to 31st of October.
- Colombo - The Fort and Gangaramaya Temple
- Polonnaruwa - the ancient capital city of Ceylon
- Sigiriya - 5th century fortress ruins
- Dambulla - Rock Temple
- Matale - spice gardens
- Kandy - city tour including Tuk Tuk ride, the legendary Temple of the Tooth and cultural show
- Giragama Tea Factory - a working tea factory with a long history
- Nuwara Eliya - drive through Little England
- Scenic train ride through waterfalls and tea plantations from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya
- Udawalawe National Park - home to the nation's largest herd of Asian Elephants

- Yala National Park - Asian Elephants, Sri Lankan krait, crocodiles and leopard
- Bundala National Park - coastal national park with 200 species of bird
- Mirissa and Weligama - Whale Watching off the coast from 1st of November to the 30th of April.
- Kayanwala village visit & cookery demonstration

What's Included

- 9 breakfasts and 1 lunch
- 9 nights 4 - 5 star and heritage properties
- Touring of Dambulla, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, Nuwara Eliya, Udawalawe, Kandy, Yala, Bandula and Colombo
- 3 Jeep safari/ game drives - in Udawalawe NP, Yala NP and Bandula NP
- Scenic train trip Kandy - Nuwara Eliya, canoe and Tuk Tuk trips
- Whale & Dolphin Watching Boat Cruise in Mirissa from 01 Nov - 30 April. (Cruise cost excluded approx \$35). 01 May - 31 Oct - visit to the Dutch Fort at Galle
- 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 in private air-conditioned vehicles
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 10

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$60-\$80pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$160-\$190pp, 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

Saturday. Welcome to Sri Lanka! Airport arrival transfer and remainder of the day at leisure. Our start 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



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updated on 16-06-2019

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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 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 & Spice Garden



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 : Kandy & Tuk Tuks

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 a working tea factory at Geragama. Geragama Tea Factory is located in close proximity to the city of Kandy was established in the year 1903, manufacturing 'Low Grown' and 'Long Leaf' tea. This evening, we watch a cultural performance of traditional Sri Lankan music and dance this evening. **Overnight - Kandy (B)**

Day 5 : Nuwara Eliya & Tea Plantations

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.

This afternoon we take a sightseeing tour of Nuwara Eliya on a beautiful drive through '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. 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 National Park (B)**

Day 7 : Yala NP - Elephant spotting



Udawalawe National Park - Yala National Park. This morning we depart for Yala National Park - the second largest national park in Sri Lanka. This afternoon we take a jeep safari of the park. The park also has one of the highest concentrations of Asian elephants in the world - and about 350 live here. Also present are sloth bears, golden palm civets, Sri Lankan krait, crocodiles and some of the biggest numbers of leopards. The coastline around the park is visited by leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles. **Overnight - Yala National Park (B)**

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Day 8 : Bundala National Park



Yala National Park - Bundala National Park - Mirissa. This morning we depart Yala for coastal Bundala National Park. This fantastic labyrinth of waterways, dunes and lagoons is the home to thousands of brightly coloured birds from over 200 species. It is also home to the magnificent greater flamingo and has a decent amount of Asian elephants that call the park home. We take a jeep safari here before transferring later on to the coastal town of Mirissa for the night. **Overnight - Mirissa (B)**

Day 9 : Mirissa



Mirissa - Colombo. This morning, if travelling between 01 Nov - 30 April, its an early start as we transfer to the boat pier for our Whale and Dolphin Watching boat cruise (cost approx \$35). During this time of year Fin Whales, Bryde's Whales, Sperm Whales, Blue Whales - the largest creatures on earth, Whale Sharks, Orcas and dolphins are very often seen just a few kilometres off Sri Lanka's southern coast. The round trip may last anywhere between 2 - 6 hours with an average of 4 hours depending on how far out at sea the mammals are located.

If travelling between 01 May - 31 Oct the morning is spent visiting UNESCO World Heritage Listed Galle fortress - first constructed by the Portuguese in 1588, then expanded and extensively fortified by the

Dutch during the 17th century. Next stop, is Colombo and the bustling city centre for a guided tour. We explore the Fort area in the north of the city, famous for its government buildings and interesting shops. Taking a stroll along Galle Face Green and watching locals play cricket before heading over to stunning Gangarama Temple. **Overnight - Colombo (B)**

Day 10 : Goodbye Sri Lanka



Monday. Our tour concludes today with an onward departure transfer to the airport. (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

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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.



Jetwing Yala

Right next to Yala National Park, Jetwing Yala offers superb accommodation in a spectacular location. Guest rooms are beautifully decorated and all come with private balconies and contemporary en suites. The hotel also benefits from a stunning out door pool, a desirable beachside location and a number of excellent restaurants. Choose from elegant dining at the Dining Room or tapas at the Lounge. Perfectly located on the outskirts of Yala National Park.



Mandara Resort

Overlooking the famous Red Cliff Mountains, Mandara Resort is one of Sri Lanka's newest boutique hotels. Guest rooms are spacious and well presented with beautiful wooden flooring and idyllic seaside views. Guests can take advantage of a stunning out door pool, full gym facilities and an on site ayurveda spa. Meals are served at the main restaurant, which dishes up a fantastic array of local and international cuisine. The resort is well located on the beach front of Mirissa and Weligama.



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 1,945	USD 3,055
01 Jun	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
15 Jun	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
13 Jul	USD 2,095	USD 3,205
03 Aug	USD 2,095	USD 3,205
10 Aug	USD 2,195	USD 3,305
31 Aug	USD 2,095	USD 3,205
14 Sep	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
21 Sep	USD 1,945	USD 3,055

PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
28 Sep	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
12 Oct	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
19 Oct	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
26 Oct	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
02 Nov	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
09 Nov	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
16 Nov	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
23 Nov	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
07 Dec	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
21 Dec	USD 2,195	USD 3,305
28 Dec	USD 2,195	USD 3,305

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
04 Jan	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
11 Jan	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
25 Jan	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
08 Feb	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
22 Feb	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
07 Mar	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
14 Mar	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
28 Mar	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
04 Apr	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
11 Apr	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
02 May	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
16 May	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
13 Jun	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
04 Jul	USD 2,095	USD 3,205
18 Jul	USD 2,095	USD 3,205
01 Aug	USD 2,195	USD 3,305
29 Aug	USD 2,095	USD 3,205
12 Sep	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
26 Sep	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
10 Oct	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
17 Oct	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
24 Oct	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
07 Nov	USD 1,945	USD 3,055
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