Take in the classic sights of Sri Lanka’s cultural triangle, but not before exploring ancient Anuradhapura, the northern city of Jaffna. Village visits, Elephant game viewing, scenic tea plantations and a couple days by the stunning coast in Trincomalee are all included within this incredible 12 day tour.

**HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS**

**Trip Highlights**
- Colombo - The Fort area, Galle Face Green and Gangaramaya Temple
- Polonnaruwa - The ancient capital city of Ceylon
- Sigiriya - Magnificent 5th century fortress ruins
- Dambulla - Famous cave temple dedicated to the Lord Buddha
- Kayanwala Village visit and cookery demonstration
- Matale - Spice gardens
- Trincomalee - Harbour city on the eastern coast
- Kandy - City tour including tuk tuk ride, Temple of the Tooth and cultural performance
- Jaffna - Situated on Sri Lanka’s northern most peninsula
- Anuradhapura - Grand city of ancient Sri Lanka
- Giragama Tea Factory - A working tea factory with a long history
- Scenic train ride from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya and drive though picturesque ’Little England’
- Udawalawe National Park - Home to the Sri Lankan elephant - The largest of the Asian Elephants and the elusive leopard
- Ratnapura - Heart of the nation’s gem mining industry

**What’s Included**
- Breakfast daily and 1 lunch
- 11 nights 3-5 star hotels and heritage properties
- Guided sightseeing - Anuradhapura, Jaffna, Trincomalee, Dambulla, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriyya, Nuwara Eliya, Udawalawe, Gem Mine and Colombo
- Jeep safari/game drive in Udawalawe National Park
- Scenic train journey from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya, canoe and tuk tuk trips
- Escorted by an English speaking national guide for groups of 6 or more (professional chauffeur guide for groups of 5 or less)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on days 1 and 12
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned tourism vehicles

**What’s Not Included**
- Tipping Kitty: USD$60-80pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD$150-170pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD$3-7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

**COVID SAFE GUIDE**

**ITINERARY**

**Day 1: Welcome to Sri Lanka**

Tuesday, Colombo - Negombo. Welcome to Sri Lanka! You will be met at Colombo Airport and transferred to your hotel by the beach in Negombo. Our start hotel is located on the seafront and 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 - Negombo**
Sri Lanka Northeast Explorer - 12 Days

Day 2 : Anuradhapura - UNESCO sites

Negombo - Anuradhapura. This morning we make our way to Anuradhapura, the first capital and grandest city of ancient Sri Lanka and home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Upon arrival, we embark on an afternoon sightseeing tour of the city, visiting both historical and archaeological sites of interest. Highlights include the sacred bo-tree which is the oldest documented tree in the world, the 1600 columns of Brazen Palace and Ruwanwelisaya, the most famous dagobas in Sri Lanka.

Overnight - Anuradhapura (B)

Day 3 : Jaffna Fort

Anuradhapura - Jaffna. Today we journey north to Jaffna, located on the northernmost peninsula of the island. Here, we enjoy a sightseeing tour taking in sights such as the Jaffna Fort, the second largest in Sri Lanka which was built by the Dutch in 1619. Another highlight is the Nallur Hindu Temple, the most important place of Hindu worship in Jaffna. We’ll also take a boat ride to Nagadeepa Buddhist Temple, which is said to be the site where Buddha visited during his second journey to Sri Lanka.

Overnight - Jaffna (B)

Day 4-5 : Trincomalee temples & beach time

Jaffna - Trincomalee. Departing Jaffna, we head back south to Trincomalee on the northeastern coast. A sightseeing tour here takes us to Thirukonamalai Konesar Temple, the Temple of the Thousand Pillars and Dakshinath Temple - a classical medieval Hindu temple complex. Day 5 is free to spend relaxing in Trincomalee. Enjoy this stunning location on the coast, while away the day unwinding on the beach.

Overnight - Trincomalee (B:2)

Day 6 : Dambulla & Polonnaruwa

Trincomalee - Dambulla - Polonnaruwa.

Dambulla. This morning we leave the coast and begin our journey inland to the impressive Dambulla Cave Temple. A spectacular complex of five caves dedicated to the Lord Buddha, within the caves of Dambulla you’ll find over 150 images of Buddha, including an impressive 14-metre rock cut statue.

After exploring this ancient site we continue to Polonnaruwa, an intriguing 11th century city and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here we explore many interesting and famous monuments including the Royal Palace and the Gal Vihara. We then return to Dambulla for an evening at leisure.

Overnight - Dambulla (B)

Day 7 : Sigiriya & village visit

Sigiriya - Dambulla - Kandy. This morning we make our way to the famous Sigiriya Rock Fortress. Built over 1500 years ago, this beautiful citadel stands 200 meters high in the middle of verdant jungle and is one of Sri Lanka’s most iconic sites. A steep staircase up the rock side reaches the summit and on the way up you can stop to see the world-famous paintings of the Heavenly Maidens, which are hidden in a sheltered pocket of rock.

Leaving Sigiriya behind, we take a bullock cart ride and a short canoe trip to the village of Kanayawala. Here we are welcomed into the home of a local family where we try our hand at preparing a meal of curry, dahl, spiced rice and pickle. After enjoying our homemade lunch we continue onto Kandy, stopping along the way at a spice garden in Matale. Arriving to Kandy, the evening is at leisure.

Overnight - Kandy (B)

Day 8 : Kandy & tuk tuks

This morning we embark on a sightseeing tour of Kandy, making our first stop at the Temple of the Tooth. The temple’s name derives from the legend that it houses one of Buddha’s teeth that was taken from him as he lay on his funeral pyre and then smuggled into Sri Lanka. From here we take a drive around Kandy Lake, visiting a local bazaar and gem museum along the way, before hopping on a tuk tuk for a ride up into the surrounding hills. In the afternoon we stop in at a working tea factory at Giragama, which has been manufacturing ‘Low Grown’ and ‘Long Leaf’ tea since 1903. This evening, we attend a cultural performance of traditional Sri Lankan music and dance.

Overnight - Kandy (B)
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### Day 9: Scenic train trip & tea plantations
Kandy - Nuwara Eliya. Enjoy some free time this morning before our transfer to the train station for a scenic railway journey. Our journey to Nuwara Eliya will take us past verdant tea plantations, through winding mountain passes, across suspension bridges and much more.

Arriving in the heart of Sri Lanka’s tea country in the afternoon, we’ll take a drive through an area known locally as ‘Little England’.

**Overnight - Nuwara Eliya** *(B, L)*

### Day 10: Jeep safari in Udawalawe National Park

Nuwara Eliya - Udawalawe National Park. Today we make our way south to Embilipitiya, which will be our base for exploring Udawalawe National Park. Not only is this national park renowned as one of the best places to see the famous Sri Lankan elephant, it is also home to the elusive leopard, the Sri Lankan sloth bear and varies types of deer. This afternoon we enjoy a game drive through the park before returning to our hotel for the evening.

**Overnight - Udawalawe National Park** *(B)*

### Day 11: Colombo city tour

Udawalawe National Park - Colombo. Today we make our way back to Colombo, but not before paying a visit to the Gem Mine and Museum in Ratnapura. Sri Lanka is famous for its gem industry and is home to 40 out of the 85 types of gems in the world. Arriving to Colombo later today, we embark on a city tour taking in the Fort area in the north of the city, as well as the stunning Gangarama Temple. We’ll end the tour with a stroll along Galle Face Green, a popular spot for kite flying and games of cricket amongst the locals.

**Overnight - Colombo** *(B)*

### Day 12: Goodbye Sri Lanka

Saturday. Today offers free time for you to independently explore the city, before your included departure transfer to the airport.

**Overnight - Colombo** *(B)*

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**Hotels**

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard. Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

- **Jetwing Sea**
  - Just minutes from the beach, the Jetwing Sea is a charming hotel with a modern sense of elegance. Guest rooms are elegantly appointed with a beautiful blend of white and subdued shades of brown to ensure a relaxing ambiance. The hotel is complete with a refreshing swimming pool, countless dining options and a stunning rooftop spa - perfect for a bit of pampering and indulgence! Well located in the heart of Negombo - just a short walk to the Indian Ocean.

- **Rajarata Hotel**
  - In the heart of the town of Jaffna, Jetwing Jaffna is one of the newest Jetwing properties. Hotel rooms are elegantly furnished in a contemporary yet traditional style with beautiful interiors and wonderful en suite bathrooms. After a long day of sightseeing guests can relax by the outdoor pool or dine in the Tranquil Restaurant, serving local and western dishes.

- **Pigeon Island Resort**
  - Just minutes from the beach, the Pigeon Island Resort offers guests modern rooms and suites featuring private balconies and minibars. Thanks to its seaside location there are plenty of water sports on offer, as well as whale and dolphin watching. At the on-site restaurant guests can choose from a variety of Sri Lankan and Western dishes.

- **Jetwing Lake**
  - The Jetwing Lake hotel is a brand new property with spacious and comfortable rooms that enjoy a contemporary design.

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Sri Lanka Northeast Explorer - 12 Days

www.onthegotours.com
uk: 020 7371 1113  info@onthegotours.com
AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038
USA 1 866 606 2960  SA 0800 990 311

- 3 -
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.

**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.

**PRICES / DATES INFO**

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