

Buddha and Beach

12 days | Starts/Ends: Colombo



Explore Dambulla Rock Temple, discover the ancient city of Polonnaruwa and visit iconic Sigiriya Rock. Sip on refreshing Ceylon tea and see Sri Lanka's famous wildlife on a jeep safari in Udawalawe National Park before heading to the idyllic beaches of Bentota for some sun, sea and relaxation.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Beruwala/Bentota - Enjoy four days of R&R on the idyllic palm fringed beaches of Sri Lanka's West Coast
- Colombo – Enjoy a guided tour of the city including the Old Fort area and impressive Gangaramaya Temple
- Polonnaruwa - Explore the remarkable ruins of the ancient capital city of Ceylon
- Sigiriya - Climb to the top of the iconic 5th century Lion Rock fortress and see the Heavenly Maidens
- Dambulla - Discover over 150 images of Buddha in the incredible complex of caves at Dambulla Rock Temple
- Kayanwala Village - Canoe to the village and help cook a delicious traditional lunch with a Sri Lankan family

- Matale - Learn all about Sri Lanka's herbs and spices at the spice gardens in Matale
- Kandy - Take in the highlights of Kandy including the famous Temple of the Tooth, enjoy a tuk tuk ride and watch a cultural performance
- Nuwara Eliya - Spend a night in this highland community, referred to as 'Little England', surrounded by Central Sri Lanka's picturesque tea country hills
- Ratnapura - Visit the heart of the nation's gem mining industry
- Take a scenic train ride from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya, passing waterfalls and lush tea plantations en route
- Udawalawe National Park - Go in search of wildlife on a game drive in Udawalawe, home to the nation's largest herd of Asian Elephants
- Giragama Tea Factory - Take a tour of a working tea factory with a long history

What's Included

- Breakfast daily and 1 lunch
- 11 nights 4-5 star hotels and heritage properties
- Guided sightseeing - Dambulla, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, Nuwara Eliya, Udawalawe NP and Colombo
- Scenic train journey from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya, canoe and Tuk Tuk trips
- Jeep safari/game drive in Udawalawe National Park

- 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\$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 USD\$3-7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

COVID SAFE GUIDE

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Colombo - your way

Saturday. Welcome to Sri Lanka! Airport arrival transfer and the remainder of today is at leisure. Our hotel is located on the seafront and is a short walk from Galle Road and many of the city highlights. Choose to head out and independently explore, take a dip in the pool

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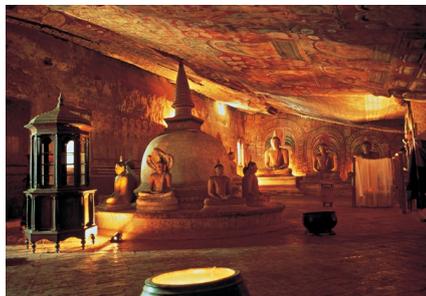
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or enjoy a cocktail whilst you watch the sunset over the Laccodive Sea. **Overnight - Colombo**

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 dates 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, we 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 a 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 at 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 and 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 Kandy Lake - built by the last Sinhala king, we visit the local bazaar and a gem museum, we then 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 National Park 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 various types of deer. We enjoy an afternoon game drive here before returning to our hotel. **Overnight - Udawalawe National Park (B)**

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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 which is famous for its government buildings and interesting shops. We'll also 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

Colombo - Beruwala/Bentota. After breakfast, we head south along Sri Lanka's idyllic West Coast to spend the final four nights relaxing by the beach in the popular holiday resort of Beruwala or neighbouring Bentota. **Overnight - Beruwala/Bentota (B)**

Days 9-11 : Beach, pool & sunset cocktails



Sri Lanka's beautiful palm fringed beaches are without a doubt its biggest draw cards, and

once you set eyes on them you'll understand why. Nestled on the Indian Ocean coast with warm crystal clear waters, Beruwala and the neighbouring town of Bentota offer travellers a whole host of water sports from snorkelling and scuba diving, to water skiing and surfing – the choice is yours. Indulge in a glass of Toddy – a local coconut flavoured tippie, head to the spa and opt for an Ayurveda treatment which the area is famous for, or simply while away the days on the beach with a cocktail in hand.

Overnight - Beruwala/Bentota (B:3)

Day 12 : Colombo

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

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.

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.



Occidental Eden Beruwala

Set along the shore of the Indian Ocean, in the popular holiday resort of Beruwala, this luxury hotel offers an oasis of tranquility. Comfort is guaranteed in the spacious, elegantly appointed rooms and the Ayurvedic Spa is the perfect place for a spot of pampering. There's also a beauty centre, hair salon and fitness centre onsite. Relax on a sun lounger beachside or by the large outdoor pool, which is surrounded by palm trees and features a hot tub and swim-up bar. Enjoy sunset walks along the long stretch of golden sandy beach, sip cocktails at 7th Heaven Lounge Bar and head out to explore Beruwala and neighbouring Bentota. When it comes to dining there's no shortage of options, with a range of eateries on site, ranging from a 24 hour cafe and buffet restaurant, to seafood restaurants and fine dining.



PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. The 'Twin Share' price is per person when there are 2 people sharing a room. The 'Solo Room' price is applicable to all solo travellers, or if your booking party cannot reach the minimum of 2 persons in a room. Solo Rooms can also be booked by any other person wanting the comfort and privacy of their own room.

PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
01 May	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
12 Jun	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
24 Jul	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
07 Aug	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
21 Aug	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
11 Sep	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
25 Sep	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
09 Oct	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
23 Oct	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
06 Nov	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
20 Nov	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
04 Dec	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
18 Dec	USD 3,295	USD 4,795

PRICES / DATES 2022

Date	Twin Share	Single
15 Jan	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
29 Jan	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
12 Feb	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
26 Feb	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
12 Mar	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
26 Mar	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
09 Apr	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
16 Apr	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
30 Apr	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
07 May	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
21 May	USD 2,095	USD 3,595

PRICES / DATES 2022

Date	Twin Share	Single
04 Jun	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
02 Jul	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
16 Jul	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
30 Jul	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
13 Aug	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
27 Aug	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
03 Sep	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
17 Sep	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
01 Oct	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
15 Oct	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
29 Oct	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
12 Nov	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
10 Dec	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
24 Dec	USD 3,295	USD 4,795

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