



The Best of Sri Lanka

12 day tour to Colombo, Habarana, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Dambulla, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Bentota and Galle

This brief tour combines culture and relaxation taking in some of Sri Lanka's finest historical, archaeological and natural treasures whilst not forgetting the pleasures of a few days by the sea. Tour the 'Cultural Triangle' visiting the ancient cities of Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura, the sacred cave temple of Dambulla and the inspiring sky citadel of Sigiriya. Travel to the bustling city of Kandy where you may explore the Temple of the Tooth Relic. Travel to Nuwara Eliya and enjoy the misty experience of the tea garden. Finish the trip with a few days at a charming boutique hotel with miles of beaches right at your doorstep.



Day 1 Australia ✈ Colombo

Fly from Australia to Colombo, Sri Lanka's capital city with a rich colonial heritage. Upon arrival at Colombo International Airport, you are met and transferred to your hotel.

Day 2 Colombo 🚗 Habarana (4hrs)

Meal: B/D

Today after your breakfast continue your trip to Habarana, the hub of Cultural Triangle. On arrival in Habarana, check in at hotel. Later afternoon visit Dambulla Cave Temple - vast isolated rock mass 500 feet high and a mile around the base. Here is found the famous Rock Temple dating to the first century B.C. The caves of Dambulla sheltered King Walagamba during his 14 years of exile from Anuradhapura. When he regained the throne he built the most magnificent Rock Temples to be found in the Island. Stay for three nights.

Day 3 Anuradhapura Excursion

Meal: B/D

After breakfast proceed for an excursion to Anuradhapura. -a UNESCO World Heritage site located in the north central part of the Island. It was the first capital (5th century B.C. - 9th century A.D.), the centre of the island's Buddhist civilization and undoubtedly the grandest city of ancient Sri Lanka. In antiquity and the interest, it is the equal of any ancient 'buried city' in the world. The oldest historically documented tree on earth (over 2,200 years old) - The Sri Maha Bodhi, brought as a sampling of the tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment, and the island's oldest Buddhist shrines - some dating back to the 3rd century B.C., impressive white 'dagabas' (relic chambers) and monuments embellished with handsome stone carvings or sculptures, pleasure gardens, beautifully executed stone

baths and ponds and a superb irrigation system of reservoirs and canals are the main attractions of Anuradhapura. Also visit Mihintale, Mihintale is a mountain peak near Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka. It is believed by Sri Lankans to be the site of a meeting between the Buddhist monk Mahinda and King Devanampiyatissa which inaugurated the presence of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. It is now a pilgrimage site, and the site of several religious monuments and abandoned structures.

Day 4 Polonnaruwa & Wildlife

Meal: B/D

Morning excursion to the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, which remains one of the best planned archeologically relic sites in the country, a standing testimony to the discipline and greatness of the Kingdom's first rulers. The ancient city of Polonnaruwa has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO. In the afternoon enjoy your jeep safari to witness herd of wild elephants and various other wildlife species in Minneriya National Park. Back to hotel and stay overnight in Habarana/ Dambulla.

Day 5 Dambulla / Habarana 🚗 Kandy (3hrs)

Meal: B/D

After breakfast travel to Kandy, en route visit impressive 5th century Sigiriya rock fortress. This World Heritage site, consists of the remains of a palace on the top of the rock, amid level terrace that includes the Lion Gate and the mirror wall with its frescoes of the 'Heavenly Maidens', the lower palace on the slopes below the rock, and the moats, walls and water gardens that extend for some hundreds of metres out from the base. Later proceed towards Kandy by enroute visiting Spice Garden in Matale. On arrival check in at hotel and rest of the day free at leisure.



Day 6 Kandy Meal: B/D

After breakfast excursion to Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, established in 1975 with seven orphan elephants. With the help of local and foreign elephant experts, it soon branched out into a captive-breeding program and conservation and educational centre. On this 25-acre coconut plantation on the Maha Oya River, the elephants are free to roam in a natural habitat. They are taken to the river to bathe daily and are fed a mix of rice bran and maize to promote strong health. The babies under three years of age are bottle-fed by mahouts and volunteers. Since 1984, over 23 elephants have been born, and the centre contains the largest herd of captive elephants in the world. Later in the afternoon explore the town and visit Temple of the Tooth Relic, which houses the Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha. The Tooth is kept in a two-story shrine fronted by two large elephant tusks and rests on a gold lotus flower, encased in jewelled casket that sits on a throne. The temple is decorated with beautiful local paintings and architectural features. Visit the Gem Museum in the afternoon. Evening enjoy Upper Lake drive and watch a cultural dance show (including fire waling) before finishing your day. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 7 Kandy ⇄ Nuwara Eliya (2hrs) Meal: B/D

Breakfast at the hotel. Thereafter leave for Nuwara Eliya, the 'Little England' of Sri Lanka, set against beautiful backdrops of mountains, valleys, waterfalls and tea plantations. It is supposed to be one of the coldest places on the island, but it is really just like an English spring day, although the temperature does drop at night. All around Nuwara Eliya you will see evidence of the British influence. Houses are like country cottages or Queen Ann style mansions. Check-in and overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 8 Tea Plantation Visit Meal: B/D

After breakfast, travel to a tea plantation at Nuwara Eliya. Tea is a huge industry in Sri Lanka. Ceylon Tea is world famous for its taste, quality and the health benefits as well. You will see how the tea pluckers with their baskets and bags pluck tea leaves from the plantations. With women of various ages engaging in this activity, seeing the tea-plucking activity is fun and exciting. The trick is to pluck the right tea leaves with the correct properties. These tea leaves are then taken into the factories where the selection process starts. The fresh and best leaves are put into the machines for the processing. The rolling, withering, processing are all done with the help of the machines and a lot of helping hands gather around to do the packaging and storing activities as well. You will also get the chance to taste a fresh cup of tea straight from the factory and you will definitely love it. Return back to the hotel and overnight stay.

Day 9 Nuwara Eliya ⇄ Bentota (5hrs) Meal: B/D

Travel by road to Bentota, a small resort town in the south western coastal belt where the beaches boast of its dazzling combination of sun, sea and sand. Soft golden sand that feel like talcum powder under the feet, giant palm fronds rustling lightly in the tropical breeze; all in a breath stopping beautiful corralled bay, make your two nights at resort

simply gorgeous! Enjoy and immerse yourself in the serenity of the area. The afternoon is free for you to relax and enjoy.

Day 10 Galle Excursion Meal: B/D

After breakfast enjoy an excursion to Galle. This was the most ancient and important harbour of the country, until the Colombo harbour was established. Galle is identified as the 'Tarshis' of the bible. This was captured by the Portuguese in 1587 A.D, Dutch in 1640 A.D, and British in 1796 A.D. Most of the existing buildings date to Dutch period. The Bastians are still using Dutch names such as Zwart, Akesloot, and Aeloes etc. Famous for lace making, ebony carving, gem cutting & polishing. Explore the Bazaare for local hand-crafted souvenirs. Overnight stay in Bentota.

Day 11 Bentota ⇄ Colombo ✈ Australia Meal: B

Today is at leisure. In time, transfer to Colombo International Airport for your overnight flight bound for Australia.

Day 12: Australia
Arrive in Australia in the morning.



The Best of Sri Lanka Dates & Prices

Tour code	Start Colombo Saturday	End Colombo Tuesday	Full package with international airfare departing from Sydney / Melbourne / Brisbane# / Adelaide# / Perth#	
				Singapore Airlines
LB170218	18-Feb-17	28-Feb-17		\$3,580
LB170318	18-Mar-17	28-Mar-17		\$3,580
LB170429	29-Apr-17	09-May-17		\$3,580
LB170527	27-May-17	06-Jun-17		\$3,480
LB170708	08-Jul-17	18-Jul-17		\$3,480
LB170902	02-Sep-17	12-Sep-17		\$3,480
LB171014	14-Oct-17	24-Oct-17		\$3,680
LB171118	18-Nov-17	28-Nov-17		\$3,680
LB180120	20-Jan-18	30-Jan-18		\$3,680
LB180224	24-Feb-18	06-Mar-18		\$3,680
LB180324	24-Mar-18	03-Apr-18		\$3,680
Land only: \$2580		Single supplement: \$940		

* This tour is a guaranteed departure based on a minimum of 2 people. Full package prices above include airport taxes and fuel surcharges.

* Please refer to Page 7 for Tour Inclusions and Extending Your Holiday details.

* Land only price: Tour starts from Arrival transfer in Colombo to Departure transfer in Colombo, excluding any International air tickets.

Package prices of Singapore Airlines are for departures from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth. Any cost including hotel or meals incurred due to the connecting flight in Hong Kong or Singapore will be at your own expenses.

Stopover in Singapore permitted if flying with Singapore Airlines. Extra airport taxes apply. Land arrangement in Singapore or Hong Kong can be arranged at additional cost.

Hotels used for this tour: 4* Colombo OZO Hotel; 4* Dambulla Sun Green Resort & Spa; * Kandy Earls Regent; 4* Nuwara Eliya Araliya Green Hills Hotel; 4* The Surf Hotel or similar.

Pre / Post Stay Hotel: \$210 (Colombo) - per room per night with breakfast