

# Sri Lanka Panorama

## 14 Days Tour to Colombo, Pinnawala, Sigiriya, Dambulla, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Yala & Bentota

Sri Lanka is a scenic and culturally rich island country which will surprise you for its diversified and intriguing sightseeing: from timeless UNESCO sites like Sigiriya rock fortress, a taste of the pure Ceylon tea at an idyllic tea plantation, beautiful wild life in Yala National Park, to the up-close interaction with oodles of elephants at Pinnawala, all are indispensable elements for an unforgettable Sri Lanka travel experience, not to mention the alluring beaches, colonial-style ports, delicious food and welcoming people you will find there. This splendid itinerary includes some easy trekking, nature safaris and excellent all-round introduction to Sri Lanka.

### 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 for 2 nights.

### Day 2 Colombo

**Meal: B/D**

Enjoy sightseeing of Colombo and visit the residential areas where you find the stately homes of the affluent families, the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, the New Parliament in Sri Jayewardenepura, the Folk Art Centre, Art Galleries, Parks, Independence Square, the Ceramic Corporation famous for its well-known brand "Noritake" and ODEL the renowned shopping centre.

### Day 3 Colombo – Pinnawala – Habarana (205 Kms / 4 Hrs)

**Meal: B/D**

After breakfast drive to Habarana in north central Sri Lanka en route visiting Pinnawala Elephant orphanage. **Pinnawala Elephant orphanage**, a conversation breeding centre for Elephants and one of the largest elephant breeding centres in the world with 80 elephants. Continue drive to Habarana, upon arrival check into your hotel for 03 nights stay.

### Day 4 Excursion to Sigiriya – Minneriya National Park

**Meal: B/D**

In the morning we drive to visit the 5th century old Sigiriya Rock Fortress. The palace still has remains of four indoor swimming pools where the King's 500 concubines bathed. The mirrors walls of the Sigiriya rock still retain the world famous frescoes of the king's concubines, who originated from all parts of the world. Afternoon enjoy wildlife Safari at Minneriya National Park, it famous for Sri Lanka's large elephant population. Besides elephants, Minneriya is also home to many species of mammals; like the deer, sambur and sloth bear. Return to your hotel and overnight stay in Habarana

### Day 5 Excursion to Polonnaruwa

**Meal: B/D**

After breakfast enjoy a visit to Polonnaruwa, the ancient capital of Sri Lanka. The city remains as one of the best planned archaeological relic sites in the country. It is now declared a World Heritage site by the UNESCO. In the afternoon you will visit the local village on bullock cart with cooking demonstration followed by lunch.

### Day 6 Habarana – Dambulla – Matale – Kandy (94 Kms / 3 Hrs)

**Meal: B/D**

After breakfast we visit the World Heritage site of **Dambulla Caves**, the largest and best preserved cave complex in Sri Lanka with over 80 documented caves in the surrounding areas. However the major attractions are spread over 5 caves which contain statues and paintings related to Lord Buddha's life. Later visit the Spice Garden at Matale to see varieties of spice plantation and purchase as a locally grown souvenir. On arrival check in at hotel in Kandy and stay two nights.

**Day 7 Kandy****Meal: B/D**

In the morning 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. Visit the Gem museum in the afternoon. Evening enjoy upper Lake drive and watch a cultural show before finishing your day.

**Day 8 Kandy – Nuwara Eliya (76 Kms / 03 Hrs)****Meal: B/D**

After breakfast, travel to Nuwara Eliya. On arrival, visit a Tea Plantation. 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. These tea leaves are then taken into the factories. Witness the entire process of tea making, the rolling, withering, and packaging. You will also get the chance to taste a fresh cup of tea straight from the factory. Check-in to the hotel and stay overnight.

**Day 9 Nuwara Eliya – Yala (171 Kms / 05 Hrs)****Meal: B/D**

After breakfast travel to Yala. Yala National Park is a huge area of forest, grassland and lagoons bordering the Indian Ocean, in southeast Sri Lanka. Upon arrival check in at hotel and stay for 2 nights.

**Day 10 Yala****Meal: B/D**

Early enjoy an early morning and afternoon Safari into Yala National Park. Yala is famous for its big herds and large number of Elephants, Leopards, Spotted Deer, Sambar, Crocodiles, Mongoose, Wild Boar, Wild Buffalo, and many other animals. More than 130 bird species are recorded which includes the resident and winter visitors. Yala is also the most famous in Asia with the highest concentration of Leopards per square kilometer.

**Day 11 Yala – Galle - Bentota (159 Kms / 03 Hrs)****Meal: B/D**

After breakfast travel to Bentota for the beach stay. En-route visit Galle Fort. Galle - 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. Most of the existing buildings dated back to Dutch period. The Bastians are still using Dutch names such as Zwart, Akesloot, Aeloes etc. they are famous for lace making, Ebony carving, Gem cutting & polishing. Also explore the Bazaar for local hand-crafted souvenirs. Check-in to the hotel and stay for 02 nights

**Day 12 Bentota****Meal: B/D**

Today is at leisure.

**Day 13 Bentota – Colombo Airport (110 Kms / 2.5 Hrs)****Meal: B**

This morning is at leisure until in time transfer to Colombo Airport for your flight bound for Australia.

**Day 14 Australia**

Arrive in Australia this morning.