

Sri Lanka in Style Tour

3 nights - The Beach & Spa, Negombo – to relax and enjoy

5 nights – The Deer Park, Giritale – includes a Mahout safari on elephant back, a bush walk, a wildlife park safari, and a night safari, as well as visiting the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, the rock fortress of Sigiriya and Dambulla rock caves.

2 nights – Mahaweli Reach, Kandy – includes visiting the temple of the tooth, Pinnawala Elephant orphanage and the botanical gardens.

1 night – The Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya – visit a tea plantation and factory

3 nights – Taj Exotica, Beruwala – to relax and enjoy

Day 1 Airport / Sri Lanka

Day 2 Airport / Negombo – The Beach Hotel & Spa

Day of leisure & relaxation

Day 3 The Beach Hotel & Spa

Day of leisure & relaxation

Day 4 The Beach Hotel & Spa

Day of leisure & relaxation

Day 5 Negombo / Anuradhapura / Giritale

After breakfast sightseeing Anuradhapura. Excavation at Anuradhapura confirms that human settlements began here before 500 BC. It remained the capital of Sri Lanka for 1400 years until the 10th century AD while most of the western countries except for the Mediterranean countries were emerging from the last stone age. Its ruins are second to only the mighty pyramids of Egypt.

Also Anuradhapura boasts of the oldest historically documented tree on earth, the sacred “Sri Maha Bodhiya” which has been worshipped by devotees for no less than twenty centuries. This was brought to the island from India by the daughter of Emperor Ashoka as a token of goodwill from the very tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment. Visit the ruins of this ancient city, which is the 1st capital of, the Sinhala kings date back over 2,000 years. It was once the greatest monastic city of the world. Archaeologists in the 18th century felt they were discovering a lost city, and you will understand why as you gaze upon the remains of the palace, statues and pleasure gardens.

Thereafter proceed to Giritale to the Deer Park Hotel for an over night stay.

Day 6 Sigiriya

After breakfast Climb the 5th century Sigiriya Rock fortress that is a world heritage site, built by King Kashyapa (473-491AD), in fear of his brother after committing patricide. Sigiriya is presently

known as the eighth world wonder. The 'Lion Rock' is a citadel of unusual beauty rising 200 meters from the

scrub jungle. The rock was the innermost stronghold of the 70 hectare fortified town. A moat, rampart, & extensive gardens including the renowned water gardens ring at the base of the rock.

Visit the world-renowned frescoes of the 'Heavenly Maidens' of Sigiriya, which are in a sheltered pocket of the rock approached by a spiral stairway. These frescoes are painted in earth pigments on plaster. The graphite written on the wall highly polished to a mirrored surface with egg white & lime still gleams even after 1500 years. Sigiriya means lion's throat because the original stairway to the top of the rock was through the gaping jaws of a sculptured lion, which is now partly ruined. Having climbed the rock you will encounter the remains of the Palace and its environs.

Late afternoon there will be a bush walk, where you will be going into the Jungle. Over night stay at the Deer Park Hotel.

Day 7 Polonnaruwa

Depart to Polonnaruwa & visit the ruins of this ancient city, which is the 2nd capital of the Sinhalese kings dating back to the 11th & 12th century AD. The entire landscape of the region is punctuated by huge man made reservoirs, the most famous is the "Parakrama Samudra" - 5,940 acres of irrigation tank. Visit the ruins of the Royal Palace, Lankathilleke Vihare, Thuparama Image House, Gal Vihare & the Lotus Ponds. The most impressive sculptures are the colossal Buddha images carved on the face of granite boulder at the Gal Vihare. The recumbent Buddha measures 46ft. & the standing figure is 23ft. in height. Return to hotel.

This evening there will be a night safari – a great time to spot leopards out hunting and elephants as they blunder into the paddy fields for a feast.

Day 8 Jungle Safari

Late morning there will be a Mahout safari where you journey through the jungle on elephant back, ending up at a picturesque location where you will enjoy complimentary snacks. Overnight stay at the Deer Park Hotel.

Day 9 The Deer Park Hotel

Full day at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities

Day 10 Giritale / Dambulla / Kandy

After breakfast leave for Kandy. En-route visit the Dambulla Rock Cave Temple, which was donated by King Walagambahu in the 1st century A. D. The King was sheltered by a monk living in the caves during the time when this King was exiled by the Indian Armies.

Climb up a huge sloping rock face that rises more than 350 feet (over 100 meters) above the village & admire the view across the plain to Sigiriya rock. The complex of five caves with over 2000sq. meters of painted walls & the ceiling is the largest area of paintings found. These caves

contain over 150 images of the Buddha of which the largest is the colossal figure of the Buddha carved out of rock spanning 14 meters. Visit an exotic Spice Garden in Matale, where you will be able to see all the plants, seeds, fruits etc., which produce the various spices, medicines, beauty and health products and a specialist guide will conduct you through the gardens explaining to you all the plants etc.

Over night stay at the Mahaweli Reach.

Day 11 Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

After breakfast leave for Pinnawala. Visit the Elephant Orphanage at Pinnawala, home for about 60 elephants, which some are baby elephants abandoned or orphaned in the wild. They are cared for, fed & trained by the Wild Life Authorities. The best time to visit is during feeding times when one can witness the baby elephants being bottle-fed. It is also possible to accompany the elephants to a river nearby to see them having a bath.

Proceed back to Kandy & visit the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya to see its magnificent Orchid House, vast variety of exotic flora from all over the world & the grove of splendid trees, planted by eminent world figures. This Botanical Garden is considered to be one of the best in the South East Asian Region. Return to hotel.

Evening tour of Kandy city, the hill capital of Sri Lanka from 1590 for 225 years. Visit the Dalada Maligawa – the Temple of the Tooth Relic of the Lord Buddha, rescued from the cremation flames. In addition to this, a treasure trove of priceless ola leaf manuscripts & other treasures such as the miniature Buddha carved out of a single emerald & a Buddha cut out of a single block of rock crystal is preserved. Thereafter witness a cultural show featuring traditional kandyan & Sri Lankan dance performance. Return to hotel. Overnight Mahaweli Reach Hotel.

Day 12 Kandy / Nuwara Eliya

After breakfast leave for Nuwara Eliya. Because of its invigorating mountain cool climate & scenery, this was a favourite retreat during the colonial days. Its buildings & gardens can be compared to a little village in England. It is 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. Sri Lanka's highest mountain Pidurutalagala (8282 feet) is located here.

Proceed to Nuwara Eliya. En-route visit a Tea Plantation & a Tea Factory, where the best tea in the world is produced. You will be told all about the process of manufacturing Tea. You can also see how Tea is graded. Proceed to Nuwara Eliya, legacy of the British domination. Sightseeing tour of Nuwara Eliya – Drive through "Little England". Nuwara Eliya also has one of the finest golf courses in South Asia. Overnight stay at the Grand Hotel.

Day 13 Nuwara Eliya / Bentota

After breakfast depart for Bentota and the Taj Exotica Hotel. The rest of the day at leisure

Day 14 Taj Exotica

Day of leisure and relaxation

Day 15

Taj Exotica

Day of leisure & relaxation

Day 16

Bentota / Airport

Transfer to the airport for your return flights to the UK