

Sri Lanka

o8 Days / o7 Nights



DAY o1

COLOMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT / ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE @ PINNAWELA / SPICE GARDEN @ MAWANELLA / KANDY / KANDYAN FOLKLODIC DANCE PERFORMANCE (CULTURAL SHOW)

- OVERNIGHT IN KANDY

Welcome and assistance at the Airport on arrival. Proceed to Kandy via Pinnewela.

Elephants young and old are given sanctuary in a natural habitat at the government run Pinnewela Elephant Orphanage. Abandoned or injured baby elephants are reared here and are trained to eventually become working animals. Bottle feeding of the baby elephants, and bathing time in the river provide the best opportunities to admire the animals' close-up.

On conclusion proceed to Kandy. En route visit a *Spice Garden* at Matale. Here you would be shown the different varieties of spices grown and demonstration of their use.

Continue to Kandy. Nestled in the foothills of the hill country at 1,600 feet elevation, on the banks of a lovely tree lined lake, The City of Kandy is the center of traditional Sri Lankan culture. Perhaps more than anywhere else in the island, this comfortably cool home to nearly 100,000 people represents the living past. A journey through spectacular scenery to this famous city of Sinhalese history, culture, religion and pageantry reaches the heart and soul of the country....

The sacred tooth of the Lord Buddha, symbolic sovereignty over the island, is preserved here in its own temple "Dalada Maligawa", which is one of the most sacred Buddhist pilgrimage sites in the island. The tooth was said to be taken from the flames of Buddha's funeral pyre in 543 BC and was smuggled into Sri Lanka during the 4th century AD, hidden in the hair of a princess.

Traditions of Sinhalese Music & Dance, Arts & Crafts flourishes in this hill city. The Kandyan kingdom, to many Sri Lankans known as "Maha Nuwara - The Great City", the last independent state in Sri Lanka, withstood the onslaught of three invading European nations for over two decades, from the year 1590 until the British once and for all subdued the Kandyans in 1815.

Arrive in Kandy. Check-in at hotel. Lunch (Optional). Leisure.

Evening view a "Kandyan Folkloric Dance" performance. (Cultural Show).

Overnight in Kandy.



DAY 02

KANDY / KANDY CITY TOUR & TEMPLE OF SACRED TOOTH RELIC / ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS @ PERADENIYA / KANDY

- OVERNIGHT IN KANDY

After breakfast tour the City of Kandy including visits to the *Art and Crafts Centre, Gem Museum and Lapidary* and the world famous “*Temple of The Sacred Tooth Relic Of Lord Buddha*”.

Later visit the century old *Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya*. The 60-hectare [147-acre] garden is the largest in Sri Lanka. Here you find a Spice Garden, a Herb Garden, an Orchid House, a Cactus House and a glass house of Anthuriums, Begonias, African Violets and other species. Enjoy the great variety of flowers, plants and mature trees, and make sure that you don't miss the giant “*Javan fig tree*” which covers an impressive 1,600 sq meters.

The gardens were the setting for the South East Asia Command Headquarters during *World War II*, when *Lord Mountbatten* was in charge of operations.

Lunch at Peradeniya (Optional). Return to hotel. Leisure.

Overnight in Kandy.

DAY 03

KANDY / HILL COUNTRY SIGHTSEEING & WATER FALLS / SRI BHAKTA HANUMAN TEMPLE @ RAMBODA / TEA PLANTATION & FACTORY / NUWARA ELIYA

- OVERNIGHT IN NUWARA ELIYA

After breakfast proceed to Nuwara Eliya. This beautiful town in the hills nestling below Pidurutalagala, Sri Lanka's highest mountain offers beauty unlimited. It is easy to see why the early British settlers fell for it. The journey will take you through some of Sri Lanka's beautiful scenic locations. Enjoy the drive through green carpeted areas of tea plantations, and beautiful waterfalls.

Often referred to as 'Little England', this genteel highland community does have a rose-tinted, vaguely British-country-village feel to it, with its colonial-era bungalows, Tudor-style hotels, well-tended hedgerows and pretty gardens. Indeed, Nuwara Eliya was once was the favored cool-climate escape for the hard-working and hard-drinking English and Scottish pioneers of Sri Lanka's tea industry.

Visit “*Sri Bhakta Hanuman Temple*” at Ramboda. Legend has it that *King Ravana* has hid *Sita* in this area at one time and *Hanuman* come to this area in search of her. There is a new idol of Lord Hanuman of black granite and it is carved beautifully and stands tall at 16 feet. There is also an ashram containing about 16 rooms, with room names based on characters on the *Ramayan; Vibheeshan, Jambavan, Sugriva*, etc.,.

View the beautiful “*Ramboda Falls*” at Ramboda.

Visit a Tea Plantation & Factory at “*Labukelle Estate*”, Labukelle. Witness how the famous “*Ceylon Tea*” is brewed. Taste a fresh cup of Ceylon Tea.

Arrive in Nuwara Eliya. Check-in at Hotel. Lunch (Optional).

Late afternoon sightseeing in Nuwara Eliya.

Overnight in Nuwara Eliya.



DAY 04

NUWARA ELIYA / HAKGALA BOTANICAL GARDENS / SEETHA AMMAN KOVIL @ SEETHA ELIYA / DIWURUMPOLA TEMPLE (CLOSE TO WELIMADA TOWN) / NUWARA ELIYA

- OVERNIGHT IN NUWARA ELIYA

After breakfast visit the delightful *Hakgala Botanical Gardens* which lie just 10km from Nuwara Eliya town. Hakgala is an essential part of any holiday in the hill resort of Nuwara Eliya. According to legend, it was once the pleasure garden of “*King Ravana*” of the “*Ramayana*” epic, and was one of the places where the beautiful *Sita* was hidden by the demon king.

Visit “*Sita Amman Kovil*” at “*Seetha Eliya*”. According to legend, there is a spot by “*Sita Amman Kovil*”, where soil is darker than elsewhere. When *Prince Rama* sent a troop of Apes in search of his beloved *Sita*, it so enraged *King Ravana* that he set fire to the tail of “*Lord Hanumann*”, angering the monkey god and causing him such discomfort, that he tore round in fierce rage setting fire to the trees of the forest.; the darkened soil bearing proof of this.

Later visit “*Divurumpola Temple*” which is directly connected with *Ramayana* trail in Sri Lanka. According to the *Ramayana* in Sri Lanka It is believed that *Divurumpola* temple is the place where *Sita* underwent the famous fire ordeal *Agni Pariksha* or “*Agni*” test in order to prove her chastity to God *Rama* after being rescued by him where she came unscathed and proved her innocence and purity.

Considering these historical factors, *Divurumpola* is one of the important *Ramayana* Historical places in Sri Lanka. In Sinhala language *Divurumpola* means a “*Place of Oath*”.

On conclusion return to Nuwara Eliya. Leisure.

Overnight in Nuwara Eliya.

DAY 05

NUWARA ELIYA / KITHULGALA / AVISSAWELLA / SOUTHERN HIGHWAY - GELANIGAMA / HIKKADUWA

- OVERNIGHT IN HIKKADUWA

After breakfast proceed to Hikkaduwa via Kithulgala, Avissawella, and Southern Highway from Gelanigama.

Drive through the beautiful hill country. The journey will take you through some of Sri Lanka's beautiful scenic locations. Enjoy the hill country of Sri Lanka set against beautiful backdrops of mountains, valleys & tea plantations. Magnificent waterfalls, similar to bridal veils on their full bloom, which when swollen by monsoon rains are spectacular!

The village of *Kitulgala* is set about halfway along the road which descends from hill country down to the lowlands towards Avissawella. The scenery is particularly dramatic hereabouts, with sheer-sided, forest-covered hills plunging down to the wild waters of the “*Kelani Ganga*” (Kelani River).

The stretch of this river around Kitulgala provides the best location for “*White Water Rafting*” in Sri Lanka, with Grade 3 (three) rapids some 5 km upriver from the village.

Kitulgala was the location for David Lean's epic war film of 1957; “*Bridge on the River Kwai*”.

Lunch en-route (Optional). Arrive in Hikkaduwa. Rest of the day at leisure on the beautiful beaches of Hikkaduwa.

Overnight in Hikkaduwa.



DAY 06

HIKKADUWA / SOUTHERN FORTRESS CITY; GALLE / HIKKADUWA

- OVERNIGHT IN HIKKADUWA

Morning at leisure. After lunch visit the “Southern Fortress City”; Galle.

Galle, is the most important town in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka. It has an old world charm. Its natural harbor was a famous fort in days gone by. In 1505 a Portuguese fleet set sail to intercept Moorish vessel carrying cargoes of spice, but it was driven off course and landed at what was to become the gateway to the south.

Galle which is believed to be the possible location of the City of Tarshish, of Biblical fame, the source of the thriving trade in “Gold, Silver, Ivory, Apes and Peacocks”.

“De Grooth Kerk” or Dutch Reformed Church situated in Gall Fort was built by the Dutch Commander “Casparus de Jong” in gratitude for the birth of a long waited daughter, in 1755.

An evening stroll around the fort walls and bastions in time for the sunset is something of a tradition, even among the locals. You can walk along the top of the walls, which are partly built of fossilized coral, nearly all the way around. Starting at the modern lighthouse at the bottom of Church Street, work your way around so that you are on one of the western bastions when the sun goes down !

On conclusion return to Hikkaduwa.

Overnight in Hikkaduwa.

DAY 07

HIKKADUWA / COLOMBO CITY TOUR & SHOPPING / COLOMBO

- OVERNIGHT IN COLOMBO

After breakfast proceed to “The Capital” of Sri Lanka; Colombo. City tour and shopping.

Colombo the spirited maritime capital, spread along the Indian Ocean for some nine miles, is where business and commerce begin and end in Sri Lanka. Most of the colonial remnants found in Colombo today are the legacy of the British. They drove the Dutch out in 1796, and held the upper hand here until Ceylon was granted its Independence in 1948.

One can commence a City Tour Of The Capital from Galle Face Green where to your left are a series of old cannons pointing their muzzles toward the open sea, a reminder of uncertain days of past. To your right are the brown stoned buildings of the former National State Assembly, better known as Parliament.

Lunch in Colombo (Optional).

Later time at your disposal for shopping etc. Visit some of the famous shopping arcades like “One Galle Face”, “Colombo City Centre”, “The Majestic City”, “Liberty Plaza”, “House of Fashions”, “Odel” etc.

Overnight in Colombo.



DAY 08

COLOMBO / AIRPORT

- DEPARTURE

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to the Airport for the Departure.