

Exotic Sri Lanka (7N/8D)

Day 01 –

Arrival Transfer to Negombo

Meet and assist on Colombo Bandaranayake International Airport and transfer to Negombo

Check in at Hotel - **Overnight Stay at The Gateway Airport Garden**

Approximately 05 Km



Day 02 –

Negombo to Sigiriya & Dambulla (UNESCO heritage sight)

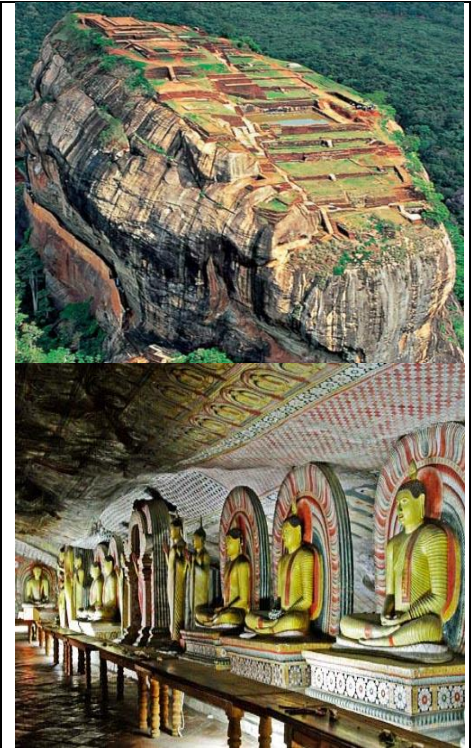
Morning Proceeds to Sigiriya rock fortress, built by King Kashyapa (477-495 AD). The 'Lion Rock' is a citadel of unusual beauty rising 200 meters from the scrub jungle. The rock was the innermost stronghold of the 70 hectare fortified town. About halfway up the rock is a sheltered gallery of frescos painted on the sheer rock face. The 'Heavenly Maidens' are similar in style to the paintings of Ajantha in India

Lunch at Tropical Village restaurant

After Visit Dambulla rock cave temple. The name Dambulla derives from Damba (rock) and Ulla (fountain). This is one of the most impressive Buddhist Temples in the world, showing the evolution of the Sinhalese Buddhist art. Afternoon excursion to Anuradhapura located in the northern central part of the island, Anuradhapura was the first capital and undoubtedly the grandest city of ancient Sri Lanka. It is the home of two UNESCO world heritage sites. Areas of interest include Sri Maha Bodhi (sacred Bo Tree) under which the Buddha attained enlightenment, it is over 2,200 years old and is the oldest historically documented tree in the world

Check in at Hotel - **Dinner & Overnight stay at Cinnamon Lodge**

Approximately 195 Km

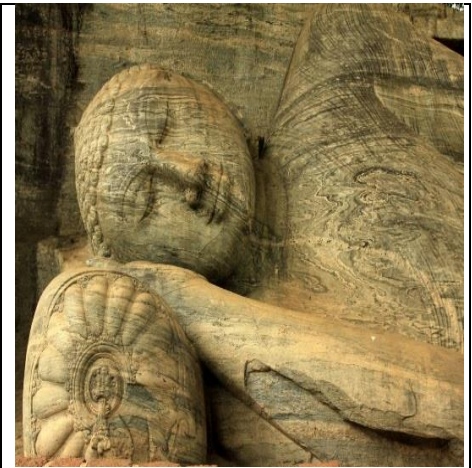


Day 03 –

Sigiriya to Polonnaruwa (UNESCO heritage sight) to Kandy

Morning Transfer to Polonnaruwa Heritage site. King Parakramabahu (1153-86) raised Polonnaruwa to its heights erecting huge buildings draining swamps and planting vast areas with crops. He planned beautiful parks, created wildlife sanctuaries and restored earlier monuments. The crowning achievement was the unification of the three orders of monks, the Mahavihara, Jetavana and Abhayagiri into on Sangha or 'Supreme Order of Monks'. This achievement ensured the survival of Buddhism in the dark centuries ahead - Return to Dambulla

Lunch at Tidas Arana Restaurant



Departure for Kandy

En-route visit a spice garden in Matale to see the different spices for which Sri Lanka is famous. During Past history Sri Lanka known as Taprobane, was world renowned for its Quality Spices. During ancient times the Greeks, Romans and the Arabic maintained their links with Sri Lanka through the spice trade. In the 16th century Ceylon, as it was then known, was discovered by Portuguese who soon began trading in cinnamon and other spices. The Dutch and British followed bringing with them their own history and influences, forming a strong Western presence which created a history of food expressed with spices which can be tasted in the dishes today.

Afternoon leave on a sightseeing tour of Kandy; The last capital of the Sri Lankan kings, is now a World Heritage Site, visit the lake built by the last Sinhala King in 1798, the bazaar, the arts & crafts center and a gem museum. Evening visit to the 'Temple of the Sacred Tooth' containing the tooth of Buddha followed by a cultural show featuring traditional Sri Lankan dancing –

Check in at hotel – **Dinner & Overnight stay at Cinnamon Citadel**

Approximately 180 Km



Day 04 –

Kandy to Nuwara Eliya (En-route Royal Botanical garden & Tea Factory)

Morning departure for Nuwara Eliya

En-route visit As Sri Lanka's largest garden an elegant and spacious 147-acres (60-hectares) plenty of time is needed to stroll Peradeniya's imposing Avenue of Royal Palms. There are some 4,000 different species of plants at Peradeniya Gardens. The 10,000 or so trees, which are the stars, are mature, lofty giants, many of them tropical timber trees. Highlights of the collection include the Giant Bamboo of Burma, capable of growing to 40 meters height (130 feet) with a 25-centimetre (10-inch) stem diameter. And it can grow by a rapid 30 centimeters a day (12 inches). The gardens showcase all of Sri Lanka's flora and representative species from around the tropical world. Luminaries as varied as Queen Elizabeth II, Marshal Tito and Yuri Gagarin have planted trees to mark their visits to the garden.

Lunch at Nishantha restaurant

Afternoon leave to Visit Tea factory and tea boutique. Formerly known as Ceylon, Sri Lanka stands as the world's fourth largest producer of tea. The tea drinking culture within this island country is strong, with Sri Lankans drinking on average three cups per day. In an attempt to compete with China's tea production, the British introduced tea plantations to Sri Lanka in 1867 and since, the country has become the producer of some of the world's finest teas, from single origins to mixed fruit blends.

After Transfer to Nuwara Eliya By Hill country Train

Check in at hotel – **Dinner & Overnight stay at Hill Club**

Approximately 90 Km



Day 05 –

Nuwara Eliya To Yala

Morning Proceeds on a Nuwara Eliya city tour

Nuwara Eliya, otherwise known as "Little England," is an old-world town located in Sri Lanka's beautifully lush hill country. Nuwara Eliya region was "discovered" by a hunting party led by the colonial administrator, legendary Dr. Major John Davy in 1819. During the British Colonial Period, Nuwara Eliya was a favorite holiday retreat for the crème de la crème of British society on the island. They turned this town, with its ideal cool temperature and rich foliage, into a beautiful little town strongly reminiscent of England, from the architecture of the houses to the flowers that still peep out of every corner. To this day, Sri Lanka's "Little England" remains almost completely untouched and you feel like you've skipped continents as you enter its city limits.

Departure for Yala

From the hills of Nuwara Eliya descend to the jungles of Yala. One of the foremost places to visit in Sri Lanka, the Yala National Park is famous for the elusive leopard and has one of the highest densities of leopards in the world. The sloth bear and Asian elephant that are also part of Sri Lanka's Big Five can be spotted. With some good luck you will witness all these creatures and more over an evening jeep safari accompanied by a naturalist guide.

Check in at hotel – **Dinner & Overnight stay at Mandara Rosen**

Approximately 170 Km



Day 06 –

Yala to South Beach (En-route Visit Galle fort and Still Fishing)

Morning Proceeds to Galle

En-route visit a Stilt Fishing is one of the most interesting traditional fishing methods of Sri Lanka. Records indicate that it came into being just after World War II. This mode of fishing was more widely used all along the coast until the tsunami in 2004 which caused such activities to cease temporarily until recent years. The beautiful sight of fishermen perched branched poles as they fish skillfully during dawn, noon and dusk; can now be commonly along the southern coast in towns such as Koggala, Kaththaluwa and Ahangama.

Lunch at Rampart restaurant

The Galle Fort, or Dutch Fort as it is also known, is a fortification first built by the Portuguese on the Southwestern coast of Sri Lanka. The initial fortifications, which were built in the late 16th century, were quite basic. However the fort underwent extensive modifications in the 17th century by the Dutch, making it one of the most important archeological, architectural and historic monuments to illustrate the European influence in South East Asia between the 16th and 19th centuries. According to a statement by UNESCO the site was recognized as a World Heritage Site for its unique exposition of an urban ensemble which illustrates the interaction of European architecture and South Asian traditions from the 16th to the 19th centuries which is the criterion number four for such recognition.

After Transfer to South beach

Check in at hotel – **Dinner & Overnight stay at RIU Resort**

Approximately 225 Km



Day 07 –

Mirissa Whale Watching to Colombo (En-route Still Fishing)

Early Morning Transfer to Mirissa for Whale watching

Whale and dolphin watching in Mirissa is one of the most exciting water activities you can do in Sri Lanka during your holiday. Mirissa is the best place to start your whale and dolphin watching tour in Sri Lanka.

In warm Indian ocean you can see Blue whales, Bryde ´s whales, Sperm whales, Fin whales, sometimes Killer whales, *and* Common dolphins, Bottlenose dolphins, Spinner dolphins, Risso's dolphins and Striped dolphins. Sometimes you can see turtles and various fish species, for example Bluefin tuna and flying fish.

Proceeds to Colombo

En-route visit Turtle farm

The Turtle Care Centre at Kosgoda beach is one of 18 turtle hatcheries along the southern coast of Sri Lanka. The centre is located in the South Western coastal village of Kosgoda and was established in 1981. It is also very popular as all five species of turtles that visit Sri Lanka nest in Kosgoda. This is not so with many of the other hatcheries around the island whose beaches host only some of the species.

Dinner at Authentic Japanese restaurant

Check in at hotel – **Overnight stay at Cinnamon Lake side**

Approximately 135 Km



Day 08 –

Proceeds on a Colombo city tour

Visit Gangarama temple and Independent square

The 120-year-old Gangaramaya is not the typical Sri Lankan temple. Situated in the bustling inner-city Colombo, nearby the scenic Beira Lake, this intriguing temple complex is simultaneously a hugely popular tourist attraction, a place of worship and a learning and vocational training center.

Sri Lanka's Capital Colombo, a port city, with a rich colonial heritage, on the Western coast is a potpourri of races, religions and cultures. Colombo displays the best and worst the country has to offer. The city is a contrast itself, with mansions, lush gardens, fine dining options, shopping malls packed with expensive designer brands standing next to urban slums; diesel fumed congested roads and street markets.

Crab Dinner at Chinese Restaurant Xilaton

Connect to Departure flight

Approximately 60 Km





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