



YOUR TRAVEL ITINERARY...

The Essence of Sri Lanka

09 Nights / 10 Days

Day 01:

Arrive at Colombo International Airport, where our representative will meet and assist you. You will then be introduced to your chauffeur/guide who will take care of you for the duration of your tour.

Leave directly for your beach hotel in Negombo.

Check-in at the hotel, and in the afternoon commence a boat cruise in the Negombo lagoon to observe the interesting flora and fauna of the mangroves.



Dinner, and overnight stay at hotel in Negombo

Day 02:

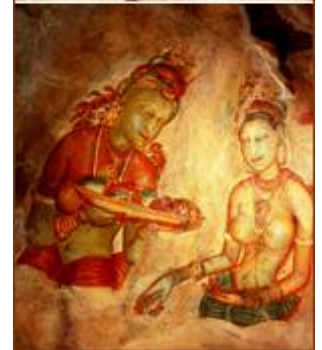
After breakfast at the hotel, leave for Polonnaruwa. En route, visit the Elephant Orphanage at Pinnawela.

The Pinnawela elephant orphanage was set up to care for elephants, lost, abandoned or hurt in the wild. Arrive around the feeding time of the elephants for great photo opportunities, such as baby elephants being bottle-fed with milk. Afterwards you could also observe and photograph the herd having their daily bath in the nearby river. Thereafter visit for Sigiriya, to climb the 5th century AD rock fortress.

The rock fortress built by king Kassapa, which has been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The lion shaped rock rises 200 meters from the scrub jungle below, and is ringed by moat and ramparts and was beautified in its day by landscaped gardens, the best preserved in Asia of the first millennium.

A sheltered pocket in the rock holds the world famous frescoes of the heavenly maidens of Sigiriya. View the frescoes and the mirror wall, a polished surface, where ancient travelers recorded their impressions in prose and verse, an early form of graffiti inspired by the beauties of Sigiriya. Steps guarded by the remains of a pair of giant carved lion's paws lead to the ruins of the palace complex at the summit. The view from here is magnificent.

Afterwards continue to Polonnaruwa and check-in at hotel.



Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel in Giritale/Polonnaruwa

Visiting address

Travelways AB
Kungsgatan 57 C
753 21 Uppsala, Sweden

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Box 1724
751 47 Uppsala, Sweden

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Day 03:

After breakfast, visit the ancient city of Polonnaruwa.

Polonnaruwa, another UNESCO designated World Heritage Site, was the second great capital of the island, from the 11th to 13th century A.D. with some well preserved ruins within the walled city. The ruins of the royal palace, the king's council chamber and audience hall, many temples and image houses showcase some fine examples of sculpture and carving from the era, especially at Gal Vihara, where images of the Buddha have been carved out of the living rock. In the environs of Polonnaruwa you may also view some of the finest man-made lakes built by kings of yore, an important feature of the glorious hydraulic civilization of Sri Lanka.

In the afternoon leave for Minneriya, for a wildlife safari in the National park. Minneriya is famous for large herds of wild elephants. It's also home to deer and sambhur and various birds and reptiles.

Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel in Giritale/Polonnaruwa



Day 04:

Breakfast at your hotel, and leave for Kandy. En route, visit the ancient cave temple of Dambulla. This is a series of caves donated to Buddhist monks by King Valagamba in the 1st century A.D., containing pre-Christian rock inscriptions and many images and frescoes depicting the life and teachings of the Buddha. The vividly coloured frescoes make up the largest antique painted surface in the world.

Also visit a spice garden in Matale.

The spices produced in Sri Lanka from ancient times, mainly cinnamon, was one of the prized commodities that led to fierce competition by many western powers to colonize the island. Spend a relaxing hour getting to know the various aromatic spices and preparations produced for export as well as domestic use. Continue to Kandy, and check-in at your hotel.

In the evening view a cultural performance highlighting traditional dancing, drumming and a fire-walking display.

Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel in Kandy



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Day 05:

Breakfast at hotel and continue sightseeing in Kandy. Visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha.

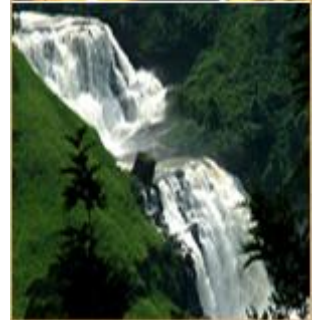
The Temple of the Tooth is a fine example of Kandyan architecture and houses the holiest relic of Buddhists of Sri Lanka. The elaborate rituals and traditions that surround this relic and the temple are colourful and interesting.

Visit the marketplace and an art and craft showroom. Drive along the Upper Lake road for a panoramic view of the city and its environs.

Also visit the Botanical Gardens of Peradeniya which boasts a large collection of rare, exotic and endemic species of flora.

Afterwards leave for Nuwara Eliya taking the scenic route passing verdant green hill country and many beautiful waterfalls. En route visit a tea plantation and factory to see the process of manufacturing tea, from plucking of the green leaves to packaging of the final product.

Drive around the quaint town of Nuwara Eliya enjoying the sites of this quaint town, reminiscent of an old English village.



Dinner /overnight stay at hotel in Nuwara Eliya

Day 06:

Breakfast at hotel. Leave for Bentota, on the beautiful southwest coast of the island, and check-in at your hotel.

Spend the rest of the day at leisure by the beach



Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel in Bentota

Day 07 - Day 09 :

Breakfast at hotel.

Spend the rest of the day at leisure by the beach.



Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel in Bentota

Day 10:

Breakfast at hotel. Leave for the airport for departure flight.



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The Essence of Sri Lanka – tour at a glance

Tour of 09 nights / 10 days

- Day 1 - Arrival
Relax at beach hotel
- Day 2 - Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage
Rock Fortress of Sigiriya
- Day 3 - Ancient city of Polonnaruwa
Safari in Minneriya National Park
- Day 4 - Cave Temple of Dambulla
Spice Garden in Matale
Cultural performance
- Day 5 - Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic
Botanical Gardens of Peradeniya
Tea factory and plantation
- Day 6 - Sightseeing in Nuwara Eliya town
- Day 7 - Beach stay in Bentota
to
Day 9
- Day 10 - Departure

Prices include:

- 01 Meeting on arrival and assistance on arrival and departure at the airport
- 02 Transportation by air-conditioned car (up to 02 persons) or micro van (3-6 persons) with services of an English speaking chauffeur/guide, and air-conditioned mini coach (7-10 persons) with separate English speaking guide
- 03 Accommodation at hotels given below or at similar properties depending on availability at the time of booking tour.

Standard category hotels:

Hotel Sudu Araliya, Polonnaruwa
Devon hotel, Kandy
Rani Beach Resort, Negombo
Leisure Village, Nuwara Eliya
Induruwa Beach Resort

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Mid range category hotels:

Giritale Hotel, Giritale

Hotel Suisse, Kandy

Goldi Sands Hotel, Negombo

Galway Forest Lodge, Nuwara Eliya

Club Bentota, Bentota

- 04 Meals on Half board basis with breakfast and dinner starting with dinner on day 1 and ending with breakfast on final day
- 05 Entrance fees to all sites mentioned in the itinerary and cost of ayurveda treatment of 1 hour
- 06 Separate private 4 WD vehicle and tracker for safari

Prices do not include lunches, beverages and items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls etc.

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