

Day 01
Airport – Negombo

D

Upon arrival at Bandaranaike International Airport, Sri Lanka Airport authority staff will page you at the gate and escort you through the immigration to a private exclusive lounge as we have signed you up for the Fast Track arrival service. At the entrance of the lounge you will be met by our airport staff.

Your baggage will be picked up by our airport staff while you enjoy refreshments after the long journey in the lounge and will be escorted to your vehicle for the transfer to your overnight Hotel (Approximate Duration 20 Minutes).

Spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner by the beach entertained by a Calypso band.

Jetwing Blue
Deluxe Room

1 night

Day 02
Negombo - Wilpattu – Thirappane

B - L

After breakfast checkout from your hotel and proceed to Wilpattu (Approximate Duration 3 Hours).

Lunch en-route at a local restaurant.

Enjoy the afternoon game drive at the Wilpattu National Park which is one of the largest and also one of the oldest national parks. As you drive through you will notice many small natural lakes or 'Willu'. These are a key feature of the park, which hosts nearly sixty of them in total, peppered between low scrub vegetation and dense forests. Look out for the spotted deer, barking deer, wild boar and wild buffalo that roam through the park. If you are lucky, you may be able to spot the Sri Lankan sloth bears as they feast on the berries of the Palu (Manilkara hexandra) trees during June and July. Spotting the elusive Sri Lankan leopard is difficult, but not impossible for the beady eye. Thanks to the coastal belt along the edge of the park, as well as the natural lakes, owls, eagles, storks, ibis, Asian open bills and kingfishers can also be seen soaring through the air or wading through the waters, and the dragon-like water monitors and large crocodiles are an added bonus.



On completion proceed to Thirappane and check-in at the resort (Approximate Duration 1 Hour & 30 Minutes)

**Ulagalla Resort
Chalets**

3 Nights

Day 03

Thirappane – Polonnaruwa – Minneriya - Thirappane

B - L

After breakfast proceed to visit the ancient capital of Polonnaruwa (Approximate Duration 1 Hour & 15 minutes). An interesting blend of archaeological monuments, Polonnaruwa was the second kingdom of Sri Lanka and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The iconic man-made reservoir was appropriately named "Parakrama Samudra", or "the sea of Parakrama", due to its enormous size. Look out for the famous Gal Viharaya or "Rock Temple" where you will see four colossal statues of the Buddha cut into the stone, reflecting peace, serenity and strength. Polonnaruwa also boasts ruins of ancient palaces, intricately carved moon stones and royal baths.



Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant en-route.

Later that afternoon proceed to the Minneriya National Park for an afternoon safari.

The Minneriya National Park, located in the North Central district of Sri Lanka is a sanctuary for wildlife. Alongside the Udawalawe National Park it is one of the best places on the island to see the Sri Lankan Elephant up close, all year round. As well as elephants, you are likely to see a whole host of other mammals, birds, butterflies, reptiles and amphibians. The park is also an important habitat for the two endemic monkeys of Sri Lanka - the Purple-faced Langur and Toque Macaque.

Aside from the wildlife, the impressive Minneriya tank - a reservoir built by an ancient civilization – is undoubtedly the highlight of the park.

****Depending on the period of the year / weather we will provide the safari at different national parks with prior notice, Kaudulla National park or Eco Park which are located within the same region.***

After your game drive return to your hotel.

Ulagalla Resort Chalets

Day 04

Thirappane – Sigiriya – Dambulla - Thirappane

B - L

After breakfast proceed to Sigiriya (Approximate Duration 1 Hour).

A UNESCO World Heritage site, Sigiriya is an enormous rock boulder rising up 200 meters above the surrounding jungle. Incredibly, the rock fortress was built by King Kassapa I in the fifth Century and served as a royal citadel for more than 18 years, something that seems more astonishing with every step you climb. Pause occasionally during your ascent to admire the mirror wall, the sigiri graffiti, the famous Sigiriya frescoes (paintings) and the great lion paws. Upon reaching the summit you'll immediately see that it was worth the effort. Wander through the ruins and admire the courage and work it must have taken to build this palace all those years ago- you will even find a fully-functional swimming pool up there.

Aside from the ruins, with the unparalleled 360 degree view of the surrounding jungle and hills, it will not be just be the climb that takes your breath away.



Enjoy your lunch at a local restaurant.

Thereafter proceed to Dambulla (Approximate Duration 20 minutes) to visit the Dambulla Rock Temple. Dating back to the first Century BC, Dambulla is a vast cave complex, converted into a rock temple which is still regarded today as one of the most important Buddhist monasteries. Covering the rock ceiling is the largest collection of paintings in Sri Lanka within a cave temple, and surrounding you is the highest number of Buddha statues found in one single place. As you wander through the temple, notice the serenity and the exceedingly well-preserved nature of the place. It is no wonder the Rock Temple has become a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

On completion return to the hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at the peaceful surroundings.

Ulagalla Resort Chalets

Day 05

Thirappane – Matale – Kandy

B - L

After breakfast proceed to Kandy you will have a short visit to a Spice Gardens in Matale. A land mark destination in the ancient Spice Trails, Sri Lanka has been ever so famous for its aromatic cinnamon, cardamom, nutmeg and pepper which lured many ancient traders to the Island. Even at present, Sri Lanka produces some of the best quality cinnamon in the world.

At the spice garden you will get the opportunity to receive a relaxing shoulder massage by an experienced staff member.

Enjoy a spice infused lunch at the spice garden.



Upon your arrival in Kandy pay a visit to the Temple of the Tooth Relic - Tradition relates that a sacred tooth relic of the Lord Buddha was brought to Sri Lanka in 4th Century A.D. and was enshrined within the Dalada Maligawa or the Temple of the Tooth. This sacred relic has ever since been the symbol of sovereignty for the Sinhalese kings and always enshrined in great splendor. Prayer services are held daily at dawn, midday, and in the evening and can be viewed by visitors. After your visit drive to your hotel and check-in.

**Earls Regency Hotel
Luxury Room**

1 Night

**Day 06
Kandy - Giragama - Galle**

B - L

After breakfast proceed to Giragama (Approximate Duration 1 Hour)

You will be guided through the whole tea-making process, where you will get up close and personal with handpicked Ceylon tea.



Upon your arrival check-in at your hotel.

Thereafter proceed to Galle (Approximate Duration 5 Hours) and check-in at your hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure.

**Jetwing Lighthouse
Deluxe Room**

2 Nights

**Day 07
Galle – Mirissa – Galle**

B - L

Early morning drive to Mirissa to engage in a Whale and dolphin excursion. (Approximate Duration 1 Hour)



Whale and dolphin watching off Sri Lanka's south west coast is an exciting and unique activity and the frequent sightings all year round has put Sri Lanka and the Mirissa area on the world's top places for sperm and blue whale sightings. Whilst wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed, blue whales are frequently seen between December and March off the south and west coasts of Sri Lanka, due to their migration patterns. Whilst out on the boat it is common for you to be accompanied by pods of acrobatic spinner dolphins.

After your excursion proceed back to your hotel. En route witness the famous Stilt fisherman. Stilt fishing is an age-old method that is practiced on the southern coast of the island, mainly in areas like Weligama and Koggala, and is a tradition unique to Sri Lanka. The stilt, which is locally made by tying a small cross bar to a wooden pole, is mounted in the shallow sea while wooden rods are used to catch fish.

During your stay on the south coast, watch in awe at how carefully the fishermen have to balance on the thin stilt. The rest of the process demands much patience and requires the fishermen to wait in complete silence since the slightest disturbance will scare the fish away. Early morning and late afternoon are the best times to spot this spectacle and watch how the fishermen go on to sell the fish, mostly spotted herring or small mackerel. If you're feeling brave enough, try mounting the stilt yourself to win a catch!

Enjoy some lunch at a local restaurant en-route.

Return to the hotel and relax till late afternoon.

That afternoon commence a walking tour of Galle with your guide.

A UNESCO World Heritage site, the city of Galle mixes the exotic with the colonial. The impressive Fortress, originally built by the Portuguese and followed by the Dutch, exists still today with only a few changes and is a living example of the interaction between European architecture and South Asian traditions during the 16th to 19th Centuries. Explore the Galle Fort on foot at your own pace, perhaps paying a visit to the Maritime Museum, the Old Dutch Reformed Church, the Sun and the Moon bastions, the lighthouse and the trendy souvenir shops afterwards.

Jetwing Lighthouse Deluxe Room

**Day 08
Galle – Colombo**

B - L - D

After breakfast check-out from your hotel and drive to Colombo. (Approximate Duration 2 Hours)

Upon your arrival check-in at your hotel for lunch.

Later that afternoon proceed on a walking tour of Colombo.

Join Mark Forbes or one of his team mates (host on availability), on a gentle walking tour through his city of old Colombo. Follow him/her as he leads you through the streets and listen as he recounts stories of the island's capital. Your journey starts at the Old Dutch Hospital, a colonial treasure and former hospital from the 17th century which is now home to a number of high-end restaurants and boutiques.

Continue into the commercial hub of Colombo Fort, away from the tourist hotspots, and learn about the colonial buildings and important monuments whose stories have helped shape the Colombo of today. Perhaps stop for a refreshing cup of Ceylon tea and, if you have the energy, Mark will lead you to the bustling Pettah Bazaar. The bazaar is both a wholesale and retail market place, selling everything from trinkets to textiles, from vegetables to electronics and of course, plenty of spices.



Bid farewell to your tour by enjoying dinner at Ministry of Crab- owned and managed by Sri Lanka's very own celebrity chef Mr. Dharshan Munidasa along with legends of Sri Lankan Cricket – world hall of famers Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardena. The restaurant as the name suggests boasts of the best dish of crab anywhere in the world.

**Shangri-La Colombo
Deluxe Lake View Room**

1 night

**Day 09
Colombo – Airport**

B - L

Breakfast at the hotel.

Enjoy a gourmet set-menu lunch at the Gallery Café – which is the former office of world's renowned architect Geoffrey Bawa.

Transfer to the Airport (Approximate Duration 45 Minutes) in time to connect with the international flight for departure.