



Program 03 - Discover Sri Lanka – 14 NTS/ 15 DYS – Meet the aborigines

Day 01 AIRPORT – NEGOMBO

Ayubowan – Welcome to Sri Lanka

Meet & greet by Diethelm Travel Representative at the airport and transfer to Negombo.

On your way to Hotel, you will learn few Sinhala words such as “Ayubowan” (means long life) “Isthuti” (Thank you)

Overnight at Club Hotel Dolphin Negombo

Day 02 COLOMBO – YAPAHUWA – HABARANA

After Breakfast transfer to Cultural Triangle.

Optional visits: Clients who interested can visit Negombo fish market early in the morning. Your guide will be happy to accompany you in this event.

Stop at a Pineapple-Plantation and have your first experience with this delicious tropical fruit. Sri Lanka is well known for its sweet pineapples. Taste & size is probably different than its native Latin American countries.

Visit Yapahuwa - one of the great architectural sites of the island. It is worthy of a visit as it is relatively quick to see, interesting and beautiful. Although not as significant as other Cultural Triangle sites it does have a special individual charm.

Its most remarkable masterwork remains an ornamental stairway that conducted the royal palace. Surrounding vistas of breathtaking beauty enriches the climb to the top; rambling jungle, rolling hills and sunbathed rocks combine to create a picture-perfect tableau.

A cave temple was built for monks at the apex. It still contains statues of the Buddha and paintings of the Kandyan period.

Continue to Habarana.

Late after-noon, you can enjoy the one of the swimming pool available in the hotel or have little walk around the Hotel.

People who really tired, can select one of the exclusive massage suggest by Ayurvedic centre/Spa of the Hotel. Price list is available in rooms.

Overnight stay at Chaaya Village ,Habarana

Day 03 HABARANA – SIGIRIYA – HABARANA

Breakfast at Hotel & commence an **Elephant back ride** & visit the **Rock Fortress Sigiriya**

Elephant Back Ride - Experience the thrill of an elephant back safari in Habarana. Once you mount the Elephant, you will be taken deep in to the jungle, accompanied by a Mahout. During the journey, you will be able to spot occasionally a herd of wild elephants. A truly adventurous journey!

Visiting Sigiriya - -the “Fortress in the Sky” and see the remains of the Palace on the summit, Lion-staircase, Sigiri Graffiti- the verses written on the Mirror Wall, Paintings of the Damsels-Light coloured (Vijulatha) and Dark coloured (Megalatha) in “fresco-en-secco” and the beautifully designed Pleasure Garden (Water garden, boulder garden), the caves with pre-Christian inscriptions, remains of inner & outer fortifications.

Overnight stay at Chaaya Village, Habarana

Day 04 HABARANA – ANURADHAPURA- HABARANA

Breakfast at hotel & leave for Anuradhapura

Founded in the 6th century BC, it was the capital of the Sri Lanka from 4th century BC to beginning of 11th century AD. Today this ancient capital of Sri Lanka has become sacred to the whole Buddhist world, with its surrounding monasteries covering a area of 40 sq kilometers and one of the world's major archaeological sites.

According to Mahavamsa, the great chronicle of the Sinhalese, the city of Anuradhapura was named after a Minister called Anuradha who founded this area as a village settlement. He was one of the ministers who accompanied king Vijaya from India, who according to the tradition founded the Sinhalese Race in Sri Lanka.

Visit Anuradhapura. It was the first capital and undoubtedly the grandest city of the ancient Sri Lanka. It is the home of two World Heritage sites. Many places of historical and archaeological interest could be visited. Sri Maha Bodhi (Sacred Bo-Tree) was brought as a sampling of the tree under which prince Siddhartha attained to enlightenment and it is over 2,200 years old and is the oldest historically documented tree in the world. At Brazen Palace (2nd century B.C), the 1600 stone columns you see are all that is left of a magnificent multi-storied residence for monks. Ruwanwelisaya (2nd century B.C) is the most famous of all the Dagobas. It originally depicted the perfect "bubble shape" that modern restoration has not been able to accurately reproduce. ‘Samadhi’ Buddha statue (4th century AD) is one of the most famous statues, depicting the Buddha in a state of ‘Samadhi’ or deep meditation Isurumuniya rock temple (3rd century B.C) is well known for its rock carvings of ‘The Lovers’. Kuttam Pokuna - twin ponds (6th century AD) was used by the Buddhist monks as a bathing pool. Thuparama Dagoba (3rd century B.C) is the oldest Dagoba in the island, which enshrines the right collarbone of the Buddha. Continue with the city tour.

The Ravana Falls (popularly known as Ravana Ella in Sinhala) is a popular sightseeing attraction in Sri Lanka. It currently ranks as one of the widest falls in the country. This waterfall measures approximately 25 m (82 ft) in high and cascade from an oval-shaped concave rock outcrop. During the local wet season, the waterfall turns into what is said to resemble an areca flower with withering petals. But this is not the case in the dry season, where the flow of water reduces dramatically. The falls form part of the Ravana Ella wildlife Sanctuary and is located 2 km (1 mi) away from the local railway station.

Overnight stay at Chaaya Village, Habarana

Day 05 HABARANA – POLONNARUWA- HABARANA

Breakfast at hotel & leave for **Polonnaruwa**

The history Polonnaruwa goes as far as 6th century BC when a minister of the king Vijaya (From whom the Sinhalese race was born) established a town called “Vijitha Grama” on the area now called Kaduruwela. This is also the place for the famous “Battle of Vijithapura” between the Great King Dutugamunu (161-131 BC) and the Tamil invader Elara in his effort to reunite the country under one Sinhalese King. This area was gradually developed as an influential agricultural town with large irrigation tanks and complex waterways built by various kings who ruled from Anuradhapura.

Here you can see the ruins of the Royal Palace, the Gal Vihara -where 4 splendid statues of the Buddha in ‘Upright’, ‘Sedentary’ and ‘Reclining’ postures carved out of rock, the Audience Hall, the Lotus Bath, king Parakramabahu's statue, and the Parakrama Samudraya lake built by King Parakramabahu the great. There are also monuments of famous places of worship such as the Shiva Temple, the Lankathilake, the Watadage, the Galpotha, the Kiri Vehera and the remains of a former Temple of the Tooth Relic.

You will drive through the **Parakrama samudraya Tank**, one of the biggest manmade water reservoirs.

Overnight stay at Chaaya Village, Habarana

Day 06 HABARANA - KANDY

After Breakfast proceed to **Kandy**. En route visit **Dambulla Rock cave temple**

Dambulla caves considered as best preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka. Major Attractions are spread over 5 caves. Painting and statues are related to Lord Buddha and his life. Temple was built as a gratitude to the Monks in Dambulla as they provided the protection from the enemies to the exiled king Valagambahu. Dambulla has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO.

En route visit an exotic Spice Garden in Matale where you can be treated to a garden tour and cooking demonstration to understand the taste and aroma of the world famous spices. It is quite touristy however everyone learns something and most love it.

Proceed to **Kandy**.

Kandy was the last stronghold of the Buddhist political power against colonial powers. It is also the home of the Temple of the Tooth relic. Its architectural monuments date mainly from the 19th century, when Vikrama Rajasingha went on a building spree, the cost of which hastened the downfall and eventual surrender to the British forces.

Visit Dalada Maligawa: The Temple of the Tooth or Dalada Maligawa dates from the 16th century, though most of the present buildings were built in the 19th century. Entering the shrine over a moonstone step, you pass a stone depicting the Indian goddess Lakshmi and a wall with frescoes illustrating the Buddhist conception of hell. The upper stories house the relic of the tooth, caged behind the gilded iron bars. Behind the tooth relic sanctuary is a hall with a number of golden Buddha statues and modern paintings, showing Buddha's life and the arrival of Buddhism in the land. We end our tour just before the evening drumming begins, which precedes the ceremonial opening of the window for the public viewing of the casket with the tooth. Also visit a gem lapidary and museum and thereafter witness a traditional cultural show in Kandy at one of the performance centers.

Overnight stay at Amaya Hills, Kandy

Day 07 KANDY

Breakfast at Hotel

Morning visit Peradeniya Botanical Garden.

The Royal Botanical Gardens, the magnificent river girdled 57 hectare laid out in 1832 are among the finest in the world. Its treasures of tropical flora include fine collections of orchids, aromatic spices, medicinal herbs, palms and rare endangered plant species. These gardens were the naturally camouflaged operations headquarters of SEAC Supreme Allied Commander, Lord Louis Mountbatten during the 2nd World War. Afternoon free for shopping/Leisure

Also visit a gem lapidary and museum and thereafter witness a traditional cultural show in Kandy at one of the performance centers.

Overnight stay at Amaya Hills ,Kandy

Day 08 KANDY /DAMBANA / KANDY

Breakfast at Hotel

Leave for Dambana

Dambana is the place where the Veddah (Sri Lankan aborigine people) live. Sri Lanka's aboriginal inhabitants, the Veddhas, are truly a fascinating people. Descended from the country's Stone Age inhabitants, these primitive folk cling tenaciously to their age-old life-style by living off the hunt and gathering the fruit of the land, despite the ongoing process of industrialization and modernization. The Veddhas are proud of their distinct sylvan heritage and call themselves Vanniyalette, Those of the forest.

The term Veddah by which their Sinhalese neighbors denote them, comes from the Sanskrit Veda meaning hunter with bow and arrow. Whole day to have an unforgettable experience, to live with the rhythm of this community of hunters, to participate in their traditional activities such as “Bow and arrow competition” and to discover their culture. Have lunch with them.

Visit the village and meet the chief of the community “Wanniyalettho”, and witness the famous dance “Kiri Koraha” to gain blessings from the God.

Return to Kandy

Overnight stay at Amaya Hills, Kandy

Day 09 KANDY / NUWARA ELIYA

After breakfast scenic drive to the hill country

Proceed to **Nuwara Eliya** - also known as the “City of Lights” and “Little England”. Nuwara Eliya was the favorite hill station of the British and the old brick Post office, country houses like hill club, with its hunting trophies and fish, and its strict formal dinner attire; the 18 hole golf course, race course etc., all reminds one of ‘England’. Yellow-eared Bulbul, Blackbird, in winter Pied Thrush and Kashmir Flycatcher are very common.

En-route visit tea plantation and a tea factory, where the best Tea in the world is produced. Here you could observe all about the process of manufacturing tea. You can also see how tea is graded. Taste a cup of pure Ceylon tea in the factory. Clients will accompany by one of the staff member and walk through the plantation and they will explain the entire process of making tea, from cultivation to harvest and then the procedures in house until it labeled and send to the market. Experience a tea plucking event.

Overnight stay at Heritance Tea Factory Hotel ,Nuwara Eliya

Day 10 NUWARA ELIYA / YALA

Breakfast at Hotel. Transfer to **Yala** via Ella.

stop off at the spectacular waterfall **Ravana Ella** which according to the great epic ‘Ramayana’ the mythical King Ravana of Lanka kidnapped Princess Seetha of India and kept her hidden somewhere close to this waterfall. It really is a site to see. Continue to **Yala**

Overnight stay at Chaaya Wild ,Yala

Day 11 YALA

Full day safari at **Yala National Park**

The park consists of 97,878ha. The altitude is 90m from sea level. The vegetation in this park comprises secondary forest, possibly a few hundred years old at the most. It is predominantly semi-arid thorny-scrub, interspersed with pockets of fairly dense forest. Small patches of mangrove vegetation occur along the coastal lagoons. Yala is renowned for the variety of its wildlife and its fine coastline and associated coral reefs. A large number of important cultural ruins bear testimony to earlier civilizations and indicate that, much of the area was populated and well developed

Your best chance to see a leopard is generally first thing in the morning and then again at dusk. The male leopards in Yala are very confident animals and they are often seen walking the tracks during the day. Young males in particular seem to have no fear of the jeep, which can lead to some excellent photographic opportunities.

As well as leopards there is a large number of elephants living inside the park and these can be seen bathing in the numerous lakes within the park. You can also see spotted deer, sambar, wild boar, wild buffaloes, sloth bear, jackal and mongoose. The bird life is also fantastic and it is amazing how close you can get to them from the confines of the jeep, you can see Rosy Starlings, Paradise Flycatchers, Crested Hawk Eagles, Blue-Tailed Bee-Eaters and Common lora's.

Overnight stay at Chaaya Wild, Yala

Day 12 YALA / GALLE/ BENTOTA

After Breakfast proceed to beach resort.

Stop at Dikwella, where there is one of the most amazing Buddhist temples in Sri Lanka. The Wewurukannala Vihara temple is dominated by an image of a seated Buddha. It is 160ft high, the largest statue in all of Sri Lanka and dates back to the time of King Rajadhi (1782 - 1798).

Visit a Lace Making place – A sustainable tourism project initiated by the Responsible Tourism Partnership. The project has secured the livelihoods of traditional lace makers (lace making is a dying art), inspired new lace designs, assisted market the lace products and trained unemployed young women in the art of lace making.

Visit the Galle city; this is one of the ancient cities in Sri Lanka. It was known as Gimhathiththa before the arrival of the Portuguese in the 16th century, when it became the country's main port. Arabs, Greeks, Persians, Romans and Indians conducted business through Galle.

The modern history of Galle started in 1505, when the first Portuguese ship, under Lourenco de Almeida, was driven there by a storm. Early in November 1505 the Viceroy's son Dom Lourenco was sent by his father with a fleet of nine vessels to attack the Moorish 1 spice ships which were reported to be making for the Red Sea by way of the Maldives, when adverse winds drove him to the coast of Ceylon in the neighborhood of Galle

Continue to your beach Hotel

Overnight stay at Avani Resort & Spa ,Bentota

Day 13 BENTOTA

Leisure on the beach

Overnight stay at Avani Resort & Spa ,Bentota

Day 14 BENTOTA / COLOMBO

Breakfast at Hotel & proceed to Colombo & commence a **city tour**.

Colombo, Sri Lanka's chief city and sea-port and until recently its capital, is a blend of old and new, east and west. It is a modern city, which has many reminders of its European colonial past.

Overnight stay at Gawadari Hotel ,Colombo

Day 15 COLOMBO / AIRPORT

After breakfast leave for airport in time for the departure flight