



Wonders of Sri Lanka

An Unspoilt Land of Culture and Natural Beauty

14 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER • 20 DAYS



From **golden beaches** to **misty tea-clad hills**, our journey through Sri Lanka unveils a land steeped in history and natural beauty. Discover **UNESCO World Heritage** sites such as the iconic **Lion Rock fortress** of **Sigiriya**, the ancient **Dambulla Caves**, and the last royal capital of the Sinhalese Kings, **Kandy**. Wander through fragrant spice gardens and vibrant local markets. From Nuwara Eliya ride one of the world's most scenic train journeys through lush highlands and tea plantations and enjoy a hands-on cooking class in Ella. In **Yala National Park**, set out on exhilarating safaris in search of **elephants, leopards**, and other wildlife. See the **stilt fishermen** of Koggala Beach, visit a **turtle hatchery** working to protect four endangered species, and explore the colonial charm of **Galle Fort**. Conclude our adventure in **Colombo**, where colonial elegance meets modern vibrancy, the perfect finale to a journey rich in culture, colour, and unforgettable moments.





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from **\$14,656** per person share twin

INCLUDED

- Economy class airfares ex AKL or CHC
- Quality 4 & 5 star hotels throughout
- All meals included in Sri Lanka
- All transfers, sightseeing and entrance fees as specified
- Local English speaking guides
- Private air conditioned touring coach
- All tips and gratuities
- Sri Lanka visa fee (based on NZ passport)
- Services of a Travel 2U tour leader
- Travel 2U tour kit

NOT INCLUDED

- Items of a personal nature
- Meals and drinks other than mentioned
- Fuel surcharges **\$300**

OPTIONAL p/p subject to availability

- Single supplement **+ \$3,494**
- Upgrade to business class **POA**
- Upgrade to premium economy **POA**



NEW ZEALAND – SINGAPORE – COLOMBO – NEGOMBO **two nights Negombo**

Day 1 We depart New Zealand for the exotic isle of Sri Lanka. Once known as Ceylon, this is a land shaped by ancient kingdoms and later touched by Portuguese, Dutch, and British rule, each leaving their indelible mark on its cultural tapestry. Arriving Colombo, we transfer to the golden shores of **Negombo Beach**, where the tropical air whispers the promise of adventure.

Day 2 This morning, we venture to the **bustling fish market**, where local fishermen haul in the day's catch at sunrise. Set near the harbour, the air is rich with salt and sea stories as stalls overflow with tuna, prawns, and exotic treasures from the deep. The afternoon is yours to unwind, explore the beachside town, or simply enjoy the facilities on offer at our beautiful hotel.

NEGOMBO – KANDALAMA **three nights Kandalama**

Days 3 Today we journey north, winding through lush, emerald countryside toward **Kandalama**, a beautiful region steeped in mystery and ancient history. This land carries tales of early civilisations. Scattered across the jungle-clad landscape, stone caves and rock shelters once cradled meditating Buddhist monks as far back as the 3rd century BC.

KANDALAMA

Days 4-5 Over the next two days, we journey deep into Sri Lanka's storied past. Rising from the jungle stands the sentinel **rock fortress of Sigiriya**, or **Lion Rock**. Its summit bears the ruins of a formidable palace, offering breathtaking views and a chance to admire the haunting beauty of the **Sigiriya Frescoes**. We also explore the ancient capital of **Polonnaruwa** dating back to the 9th-century. See incredible palaces, monuments, temples and an epic irrigation system that transformed the region into what became known as the 'Granary of the Orient'.

KANDALAMA – DAMBULLA – KANDY **three nights Kandy**

Day 6 We depart Kandalama and pause at the magnificent **Royal Rock Temple of Dambulla**, Sri Lanka's largest and best-preserved cave temple complex, adorned with vibrant paintings and 150 golden statues of Buddha dating back to the 1st century BC. Journeying south, we stop at a fragrant spice garden in **Matale**, where the secrets of cinnamon, nutmeg, and other spicy treasures unfold. Our path leads to Kandy, the last royal capital nestled among lush, forested hills and rolling plantations.

KANDY

Days 7-8 The centre of Kandy is best explored on foot starting with an easy walk around picturesque Kandy Lake, a chance to stretch our legs, take in the views of the forested hills and colourful local life. We visit Sri Lanka's most sacred Buddhist shrine, the Temple of the Sacred Tooth relic, a place of reverence and ritual where the revered relic of the Buddha rests in a golden casket. Dive into Kandy's lively street markets where the aroma of spices permeates the air or take a quiet wander through British Garrison Cemetery Gardens, a beautifully preserved colonial resting place that offers a glimpse into Kandy's 19th-century past. We meander Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, bordered by the slow curve of the Mahaweli River, once the command post of Lord Mountbatten during World War II.

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KANDY – NUWARA ELIYA

two nights Nuwara Eliya

Day 9 We journey into Sri Lanka's central highlands, bound for the cooler climbs of **Nuwara Eliya**. Along the way, tea pickers move gracefully across the slopes, baskets in hand, deftly plucking the tips of the freshest leaves. A visit to a working tea plantation reveals the journey of Ceylon tea, from tender leaf to aromatic brew.

NUWARA ELIYA

Day 10 Today is yours to leisurely explore Nuwara Eliya, the picturesque hill station perched 1,900 metres above sea level. Once a retreat for British colonials, the town still whispers of a bygone era. Surrounded by tea-draped hills, cascading waterfalls, and cool mountain air, wander the lively marketplace and **Bale Bazaar**, serene **Lake Gregory**, **Holy Trinity Church** and the historic **Hill Club**.

NUWARA ELIYA – ELLA

two nights Ella

Day 11 Today sit back and admire picture perfect scenery travelling one of the **most scenic train journeys in the world**. Travelling through tea estates framed against a backdrop of lush, forested mountains and plateaus we wind our way to Ella.

ELLA

Day 12 We step into a local kitchen for a hands-on cooking experience, where rich aromas permeate the air and we discover the harmonious use of spices and preparation methods of Sri Lanka cuisine. After our self-prepared feast, those wanting to walk-off lunch can take an optional hike through the lush hills to the Nine Arches Rail Bridge.

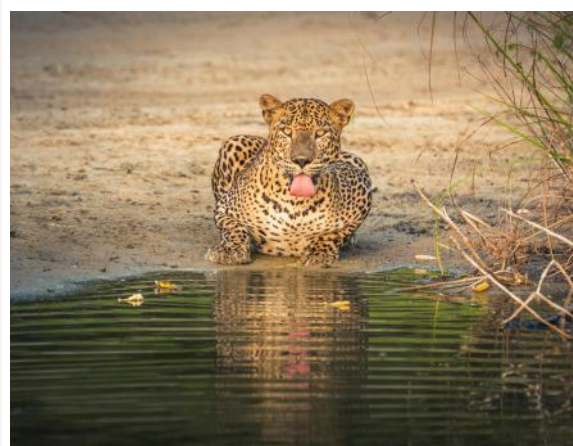
ELLA – YALA NATIONAL PARK

two nights Yala National Park

Day 13 Today we journey to Yala National Park, our wilderness home for the next two nights. This untamed sanctuary is home to the majestic Asian elephant, elusive leopards, deer, jungle cats, sloth bear, crocodile and a plethora of bird species, six of which are endemic to Sri Lanka.

ON SAFARI IN YALA

Day 14 We rise with the dawn, setting out on an exhilarating jeep safari through the wild heart of Yala National Park in search of the elusive leopard, graceful elephants, and a host of flora and fauna whose refuge is in the sanctuary. After a restful midday pause, we return to the bush in the golden glow of afternoon, when the wildlife stirs anew and every rustle and shadow holds the promise of discovery.



"Once the travel bug bites there is no known antidote, and I know that I shall be happily infected until the end of my life." - Michael Palin

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YALA NATIONAL PARK – GALLE

two nights Galle

Day 15 We bid farewell to the wilds of Yala and follow the island's southern coast to the historic walled town of **Galle**. Along the way, we stop at an **environmental restoration project**, where local students are planting trees to stabilise the fragile ecosystem. Further along the coast the **iconic still fishermen** of Weligama offer a glimpse into a centuries-old tradition, balancing on poles above the surging sea. We continue to a nearby **turtle hatchery in Koogala**, to see the conservation efforts put in to saving four critically endangered turtle species.

GALLE

Day 16 This morning we take a guided walk to explore Galle's historic charm found within the walls of the 300-year-old **Dutch Fort**. Walk the cobbled streets lined with heritage buildings, and hidden gems alongside well-known landmarks. Stroll the forts ramparts past the old lighthouse for sweeping views of the Indian Ocean, the city, and the famous **Galle Cricket Ground**. After lunch explore the many nooks and crannies at your leisure.

GALLE – COLOMBO

two nights Colombo

Day 17 Following a leisurely breakfast, we journey to Colombo, Sri Lanka's vibrant capital, where colonial elegance meets modern bustle. Check-in to our wonderful 'Old World Hotel' before we embark on an afternoon orientation to reveal the city's many faces from the colourful chaos of **Pettah Market** to the stately calm of **Independence Square**. We pass by grand landmarks including the Town Hall, Cinnamon Gardens, and the sweeping oceanfront of **Galle Face Green**. A visit to the **Gangaramaya Temple** offers a glimpse into the island's spiritual heart, its eclectic architecture reflected in the still waters of nearby Beira Lake.

EXPLORE COLOMBO

Day 18 Our final day is yours to enjoy at leisure. Spend the morning wandering through Colombo's colourful streets, indulge in some last-minute shopping, or simply unwind by the pool, savouring the warmth of the tropics and the memories made. As evening falls, we'll reflect on our time exploring this island of ancient wonders and heartfelt hospitality, before transferring to the airport.

COLOMBO – SINGAPORE – NEW ZEALAND

Days 19-20 With fond farewells to Sri Lanka, we begin our journey back to New Zealand. Though our travels end here, the laughter, discoveries, and moments we've shared will linger, ensuring this adventure remains with us always.



Put yourself in the picture with **Travel 2U!**



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