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## Sri Lanka's 'Cultural Triangle' Tour

11 Nights/12 Days

- Explore the first kingdom of Sri Lanka- Anuradhapura
- Experience the famous Kanniya Hot Water Springs
- Enjoy scuba diving and snorkelling at the Pigeon Island National Park
- Visit the breath-taking Nilaveli Beach
- Spot wild elephants at Minneriya National Park
- Gaze in awe at the iconic Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Marvel at the famous Dambulla Cave Temple
- Visit the spice garden in Matale
- Explore Colombo and Kandy on exciting city tours

**From £1554 Price per person**

### Overview:

Look forward to the ultimate cultural tour of Sri Lanka and prepare to be introduced to the country's ancient civilisation as well as Ceylon's first, second and last kingdoms. Take in some rich and interesting history as well as Sri Lanka's fascinating culture. Visit the country's magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Sites and take a step back in time here on this once-in-a-lifetime tour. You'll also be venturing through Sri Lanka's lush countryside and eastern coast, witnessing natural beauty as well as encountering unique wildlife. Make sure you bring your camera to take some excellent photos! Look forward to exploring some of the country's famous national parks and archaeological sites; there are hundreds of temples and stupas to marvel at - each telling a unique historical story. You'll arrive at home feeling culturally and historically enriched after this fantastic tour.

### Itinerary:

Explore Colombo and Kandy on exciting city tours

#### **Day 1: Negombo**

Upon your arrival at Bandaranaike International airport, you will be met by a personal chauffeur & be transferred to Negombo (approx. 30 mins drive). When you arrive at the hotel you'll have the day at leisure to take advantage of the hotel facilities and relax.

(Overnight stay in Negombo and breakfast)

#### **Day 2: Negombo / Anuradhapura**

After your breakfast you'll be taken to Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka's first kingdom (approx. 3 hrs & 30 mins drive). En route there's an opportunity for a game drive at Wilpattu National Park which is an unforgettable experience. Wilpattu is one of Sri Lanka's largest national parks, renowned for its leopards and other wildlife including sloth bears, crocodiles and wild pigs.



When you reach Anuradhapura you can enjoy an exciting sightseeing tour and explore some well-preserved ancient ruins. Visits include the Sacred Bodhi Tree, the Ruwanwelisaya, Abhayagiriya and Jetavanaramaya stupas, the Twin Ponds, the Brazen Palace and the Samadhi Buddha. Other visits on the tour include the Isurumuniya Rock Temple, Muragala, Moon-stone, Thuparama Dagoba and the Lankaramaya stupa. (Overnight stay in Anuradhapura and breakfast)

### **Day 3: Anuradhapura /Trincomalee**

After some breakfast you will be driven to the charming city of Trincomalee (approx. 2 hrs & 30 mins), one of the world's finest natural deep-water harbours. En route you'll be visiting the Kanniya Hot Springs, a famous hot well from the past with many fascinating legends.

When you arrive in Trincomalee, you'll embark on a sightseeing tour which includes visits to Fort Frederick, an important historical site and the Koneswaram Temple, an ancient Hindu temple surrounded by some breath-taking scenery. Before you step into the temple you'll see the stunning Lover's Leap Waterfall. (Overnight stay in Anuradhapura and breakfast)

### **Day 4: Trincomalee**

After enjoying some breakfast you will be taken to Pigeon Island National Park (approx. 1 hr drive). The underwater coral reef here has some excellent scuba diving and snorkelling opportunities as its home to turtles, corals and lots of reef fish. Within the island's rocks live the endangered Blue Rock pigeons; if you climb the rocks through the park's nature trail you may be able to spot them. Other opportunities here include swimming, bathing, fish watching and fantastic photo opportunities. (Overnight stay in Trincomalee & breakfast)

### **Days 5 & 6: Trincomalee**

These two days are entirely at your leisure to explore Nilaveli Beach, one of Southeast Asia's finest beaches. You'll feel like you're in paradise at this remote island; it's absolutely stunning with its fine white sands, lush palm trees and shallow crystal-clear waters. This time is the perfect chance for you to completely relax and take in some stunning sights. Nilaveli Beach is a local beach rather than a tourist site, so you can get a real glimpse into the local culture here. There are plenty of water sports and adventure opportunities including wind-surfing, scuba diving and snorkelling. Along the beach lies many hotels and resorts with excellent local seafood restaurants. (Overnight stay in Trincomalee and breakfast included both days)

### **Day 7: Trincomalee/Polonnaruwa /Sigiriya**

After some breakfast you'll be taken to Polonnaruwa (approx. 1 hr & 30 mins drive), the second ancient kingdom of Sri Lanka. En route you'll be visiting Medirigiriya Vatadage, one of South Asia's oldest ruins. It's a beautiful and a well-preserved Buddhist structure.

In the afternoon you'll be exploring Polonnaruwa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with many magnificent ancient monuments, moonstones, statues and parks. Some of the city's best historical attractions include the Royal Palace ruins, the Lotus Bath, King's Council Chamber, the Gal Vihara and the Parakramabahu Statue.

Afterwards you'll be taken to Sigiriya (approx. 1 hr & 30 mins drive) for an overnight stay

(Overnight stay in Sigiriya and breakfast)

### **Day 8: Sigiriya/Minneriya/Sigiriya**

This day will include a trekking tour of the Hiriwadunna village. The tour begins with a stroll to a man-made reservoir home to beautiful birds, butterflies and crocodiles as well as local villagers who you'll witness going about their daily lives. You'll be exploring the Sri Lanka countryside by jeep and other exciting experiences include a bullock cart ride, boat ride, a visit to paddy fields and a delicious Sri Lankan lunch in a village house.

After this tour ends you'll be driven to Minneriya National Park for an evening game drive. This wildlife sanctuary is one of the best places to spot wild elephants. The park is also home to Ceylon spotted deer, purple-faced langur monkeys, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and butterflies.

(Overnight stay in Sigiriya and breakfast)

### **Day 9: Sigiriya**

After breakfast, you'll be taken to visit the astounding Sigiriya Rock Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which is often considered as the 8th wonder of the world. This ancient rock fortress is an architectural masterpiece featuring wall paintings and a mirror wall with ancient inscriptions.

Afterwards there is a visit to the Dambulla Rock Cave Temple which is one of the country's most impressive cave temples. The sacred complex features five caves with ancient paintings as well as over 150 Buddha statues. Visitors can climb the steps of this temple and the view from the top is truly incredible.

(Overnight stay in Sigiriya and breakfast)

### **Day 10: Sigiriya/Kandy**

After your breakfast you'll head to Kandy, (approx. 3hrs drive) Sri Lanka's cultural capital. En route you'll visit a spice garden in Matale for an excellent cultural experience – during your walk through the garden you can look forward to a famous Ayurveda massage and there's also an option to buy some herbs and spices at a stall. Afterwards you can enjoy a local cooking demonstration with some lunch.

Upon arrival in Kandy you'll embark on an excellent city tour, covering attractions including Kandy Upper Lake Drive, Batik Factory and the famous Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic. At the end of this tour you have the opportunity to visit a gem museum as well as a wood carving centre. You'll also enjoy a cultural music and dance performance.

(Overnight stay in Sigiriya and breakfast)

### **Day 11: Kandy/Colombo**

After breakfast you will be taken to Colombo (approx. 4 hrs drive), Sri Lanka's capital city. En route you will stop off to visit Pinnawala elephant orphanage. This makes a moving experience as you can witness the elephants roam freely and watch them take a bath in the river.

In the evening you have a tour exploring what Colombo has to offer including attractions such as Fort, Sea Street, the Pettah District, Kayman's Gate, Wolvendaal Church, Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Independence Memorial Hall, Gangarama Temple and the replica of the Aukana Buddha Statue. Afterwards you can enjoy browsing in some of the city's many shopping centres including Majestic City, Liberty Plaza and ODEL.



(Overnight stay in Colombo and breakfast)

### **Day 12: Colombo/ Airport- End of Tour**

After your final breakfast in Colombo, you will be taken to the airport (approx. 1hr drive) for your flight home.

### **Inclusions:**

- Accommodation on Bed & Breakfasts basis in above hotels
- Transport is based on 01 Air-conditioned Luxury private vehicle
- 500ml Mineral Water Bottle per day per person will be given during sightseeing tours
- Entrance fees to Wilpattu National park, Anuradhapura, Kenniya Hot water Springs, Polonnaruwa, Maderigiriya, Minneriya National Park, Sigiriya, Dambulla cave temple, Kandy temple, Cultural show, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Colombo Museum, Gangarama Temple
- Cost of Game drives
- Cost of Boat ride to Pigeon Island
- Cost of Hiriwadunna trekking with Lunch
- Service of an English-speaking Chauffeur during sightseeing tours
- All current taxes as on date
- Parking and highway tickets

### **Exclusions:**

- Sri Lanka Visa
- Lunch & dinner during the tour
- Any International Airfare / Airport taxes
- Any change in tax structure resulting from the hike in published tariff.
- Items of personal nature like tips, laundry, phone calls etc.
- Any video / still camera fee to the monuments and places of visit
- Any other item not explicitly mentioned under price includes.
- Bar, telephone and laundry bills
- Tips to guides, restaurants, and hotel lobby. Tipping is expected.
- Any others expense

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