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## Best of Sri Lanka With Beach Stay

13 Nights/14 Days

- Discover cave temples in Dambulla and enjoy jungle safari at Minneriya National Park.
- Explore world heritage sites such as Sigiriya Rock Fortress & Galle
- Experience the best of Kandy as well as tea and spice plantations around it.
- Enjoy jeep safari in Yala National Park
- Direct flights with SriLankan Airlines

**From £2359 per person**

### Overview:

This awesome 14 days' Sri Lanka tour package includes leisurely train journeys, off-road adventures, incredible wildlife watching, jeep safaris and home-cooking classes among other immersive activities. Relax on the beautiful beaches of this exotic country and take day trips to visit Buddhist and Hindu temples, forest reserves, tea estates and more.

### Itinerary:

#### Day 01: Negombo

On arrival at the airport, you will be met by our representative and directly transferred to Negombo, just 20 minutes' drive away. Check-in to hotel and spend your time at leisure.

Dinner and overnight stay at Negombo hotel.

#### Day 02: Negombo – Dambulla

After breakfast at the hotel, leave for Dambulla approx. 4hrs drive from Negombo. Enroute visit Dambulla Cave Temple. Dambulla is famous for the five cave Temples on a rock. The first three caves are better, older and larger than the other two. Some caves dates back to 1st BC. All the five cave walls and ceilings are covered with Buddhist murals and there are more than 130 Buddha statues.

Thereafter transfer to hotel. Enjoy dinner and overnight stay in Dambulla.

#### Day 03: Dambulla – Minneriya National Park – Dambulla

After breakfast at hotel, spend your time at leisure. In the afternoon, transfer to Minneriya National Park to enjoy a 4 X 4 jeep safari (04hrs).

Minneriya National Park – This National Park, spread over 8889 hectares in extent is famous for its large population of Elephants in herds of 100 to 150 roaming in the jungle and seen in the catchment area of the lake. Get ready to spot Elephants, Wild Buffaloes, Wild Boar, Spotted Deer, Sloth Bear, Sambhur, Crocodiles, Jackals, 9 kinds of amphibians, 25 kinds of reptiles and over 160 species of birds.

After a day of adventure, return back to the hotel. Dinner & Overnight stay in Dambulla.

#### Day 04: Habarana – Sigiriya – Matale – Kandy

After breakfast at the hotel visit Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Sigiriya Rock Fortress is a “World Heritage Site” and the 5th Century “Fortress in the Sky” which is a must-visit attraction in the Island. It is also known as Lion Rock because of the huge lion that used to stand at the entrance to the Palace on the summit of the 600-foot high rock. On its summit are the foundations of the Royal Palace, Water Tanks to supply water to all other buildings and at the edges the guardhouses. On one of the stairways is the only known ancient work of Sinhala secular painting survived in the form of Frescoes of 21 life sized damsels. The Water Gardens, Fountain Garden, summerhouse, Boulder Gardens and the Caves should not be missed.

Afterward, travel to Kandy en-route visiting Matale spice Garden (03hrs)

Spice Gardens at Matale – You will see many spice gardens at Matale and in Mawanella on the Colombo-Kandy road where Cinnamon, Cardamom, Pepper Creepers and all other spice trees, plants and creepers are planted for visitors to see them. Spice products are also available for those who would like to buy them. Also, enjoy an evening visit to Kandy temple of tooth relic.

Temple of the Tooth Relic, which houses the Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha, is an important landmark in Kandy. The Tooth is kept in a two- storey shrine fronted by two large elephant tusks and rests on a gold lotus flower, encased in jewelled casket that sits on a throne. The temple is decorated with beautiful local paintings and architectural features.

Check-in to your hotel, enjoy dinner and overnight stay in Kandy.

#### **Day 05: Kandy – Peradeniya – Kandy**

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a local Cooking Demonstration. The cooking class will be led by a local cooking expert that knows all the secrets to a good Sri Lankan dish. The chef will explain how the preparation of dishes in Sri Lanka work and teach us how to cook rice and curry. We will prepare a typical meal with 2/3 curries, and there are many to choose from. Some of the favorite Sri Lankan curries are: dhal curry, potato curry, chicken curry, eggplant curry, Fish Curry and so many more. After the cooking is done we will have time to enjoy our meal!

Afterward, transfer to Peradeniya to explore the Royal Botanical Gardens spread over 147 acres of land. Started in 1374 as a pleasure garden of the Kings of Gampola and Kandy, there are more than 5,000 species of trees, plants and creepers here. Some rare and endemic as well as flora from the tropical world are found in the gardens. Spice Garden and Orchid House are popular with tourists. There are 5 Palm Avenues beautifying the gardens, the earliest and tallest Palm Avenue (Royal Palm Avenue) was planted in 1905 and the Double Coconuts from the Seashells Island, with the largest seed of all plants in the world is one such avenue.

Return to hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

#### **Day 06: Kandy – Nuwara Eliya**

After breakfast at the hotel travel to Kandy Railway Station to enjoy a scenic train journey from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya.

Special Note: We generally obtain 1st class train tickets for all our clients, but first-class carriages, with air conditioning are available only a few. Trains are often cancelled and we often face challenges in obtaining the tickets due to the very high demand. Hence we cannot definite the train tickets to our clients until we get the train tickets in hand.

After reaching Nuwara Eliya check-in at the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay at Nuwara Eliya hotel.

**Day 07: Nuwara Eliya**

Enjoy a sumptuous breakfast at hotel and proceed for Nuwara Eliya City Tour.

Explore the charming city of Nuwara Eliya, also known as little England on a full day tour visiting all the main attractions which include colonial buildings,

Lake Gregory, Victoria Park, Sita Amman Temple and beautiful landscapes covered with tea, a contrasting view apart from other major cities of Sri Lanka.

Return to hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

**Day 08: Nuwara Eliya – Ella – Yala**

After breakfast at the hotel leave for Yala via Ella. Thereafter transfer to Yala National Park for an adventurous jeep safari (3hrs). Yala National Park is spread over 378 sq. miles. Established in 1938 it was originally a Sportsman's shooting reserve. This is the most famous and well developed National Park where wild animals and birds could be observed. The Wild animals include Elephants in herds of varying sizes, Leopards,

Wild Boar, Wild Buffalo, Crocodiles, Peacocks, Jackal, Sloth Bear and other animals. The bird-life comprises of about 130 species including the resident and migrants. Painted storks, Paradise Flycatcher, Grey Herons, Serpent Eagle, Sea Eagle, Black-Necked Stork, Spoonbills, Pelicans add colour to the bird-life in the park.

Later, transfer to hotel for dinner & overnight stay.

**Day 9: Yala - Udawalawa**

After breakfast at the hotel, leave for Udawalawa Visit Elephant Transit Home.

Twenty minutes' drive away from the Uda Walawe National Park is the 'Elephant Transit Home', associated with the Born Free Foundation (UK). Here, orphaned or sick elephants are fed and cared for until they are strong enough to be returned to the wild. The centre allows you to visit at the feeding times of 10.30am, 2.30pm, and 6.30pm. From behind a barrier you can watch the elephants ambling along behind a keeper, into the compound where they will be fed milk through plastic hoses with funnels attached, some stamping and trumpeting with impatience. Thereafter, transfer to Udawalawe National Park & enjoy a jeep safari. Stretching over a land of 30,821 hectares, Udawalawe National Park is famous for its large population of elephants. Hence, this national park is ideal to observe the herds of marvelous Asian elephants in their unique natural habitats. It is known that about 400 elephants in total are sustaining here while about 250 of them are considered as permanently resident.

Check in to your hotel in Udawalawa. Have dinner & stay the night.

**Day 10: Udawalawa – Galle – Bentota**

After breakfast at the hotel leave for Bentota (Beach Stay) via Galle.

Galle is Sri Lanka's most historically interesting town built on a premonitory rock in the south of the Island. It was a major port until about 100 years, but today still handles shipping and sailing boats in the natural harbor. Stroll around the Light House and harbor or visit the old town where you can see the traditional lace makers and carvers and purchase some the finest shell-craft souvenirs in the World.

Thereafter, proceed to Bentota approx. 2hrs drive away. Check-in to the hotel and spend your time at leisure. Dinner & Overnight stay at Bentota hotel.

**Day 11, 12 & 13: Bentota (Leisure)**

Enjoy breakfast at hotel and Full Day at leisure

## **Day 14: Departure**

After breakfast at hotel, depart for airport to board your flight back home.

## **Inclusions:**

- 9N Accommodation on HB basis & 4N Accommodation on AI basis
- Airfare SriLankan Airlines
- Arrival & departure transfers
- Assistance at the airport
- Transport in an A/C vehicle with the services of an English speaking chauffeur Guide
- Train ticket from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya (subject to availability)
- All entrance fees as per the above itinerary
- All applicable taxes & service charge

## **Exclusions:**

- PCR & Travel Insurance
- Compulsory Christmas Gala Dinner Supplement on 24th Dec - TBA
- Compulsory New Year Gala Dinner Supplement on 31st Dec – TBA
- Kandy Perahera Supplements (During July or August) – Dates TBC
- Entry Visa Fees, please visit [www.eta.gov.lk](http://www.eta.gov.lk) for more details / submit your individual visa application
- All Lunches & Mineral water
- Any expense of a personal nature
- Early check-in & late check-outs
- Tips & Porterage