

07 NIGHTS / 08 DAYS TOUR – CLASSICAL TOUR SRILANKA

Day 01

AYUBOWAN!!!

Arrival at the Colombo International Airport where the Clients are met by our staff and Italian - Speaking Guide. Welcome at the Airport by our staff and then proceed to **Dambulla**.

Travel time: 160 kms - Approximately 4 ½ Hrs.

On the way to Hotel you will get Tropical refreshment with Coconut drink. Check in to the hotel.

P.M. Free at leisure.

Dinner & Overnight stay in Dambulla.

Day 02

After breakfast, proceed to Anuradhapura archeological site.

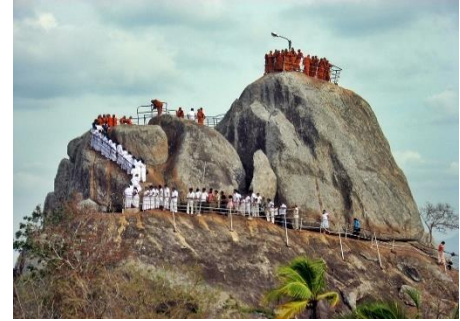
Travel time: 70 kms - Approximately 1 ½ Hrs.

Anuradhapura - A UNESCO World Heritage Site located in the north central part of the Island was the first capital (5th century BC - 9th century AD), the Centre of the island's Buddhist civilization and undoubtedly the grandest city of ancient Sri Lanka. In antiquity and the interest, it is the equal of any ancient 'buried city' in the world. The oldest historically documented tree on earth (over 2,200 years old) - The Sri Maha Bodhi, brought as a sampling of the tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment, and the island's oldest Buddhist shrines - some dating back to the 3rd century BC, impressive white 'dagabas' (relic chambers) and monuments embellished with handsome stone carvings or sculpture, pleasure gardens, beautifully executed stone baths and ponds and a superb irrigation system of reservoirs and canals are the main attractions of Anuradhapura. Specific places to visit are - the Brazen Palace (2nd century B.C.), with 1600 significant stone columns are the remains of a magnificent multi-storied residence for monks – an engineering marvel at the time, Ruwanweli Seya (2nd century B.C) the most famous of all the dagoba's, originally depicted the perfect water-bubble shape that modern restoration has not been able to accurately reproduce, Samadhi Buddha (3rd century B.C.) regarded as the finest rock sculpture in the island - depicting the Buddha in a state of deep meditation, Isurumuniya rock temple (3rd century B.C.) known for its rock carving of the "Lovers", Kuttam Pokuna, twin ponds (3rd century B.C.) which were used by monks of this glorious era as a bathing pool. Thuparama (3rd century B.C.), the oldest Dagobah in the island – enshrines the right collarbone of Buddha, Ratnaprasada with the best preserved Guard Stone, Mahasena's Palace with its renowned Moonstone, Abayagiri and Jetevanarama – a huge Dagobah said to be the largest brick built structure in the world.



Lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch proceed to Mihintale - **Travel time: 40kms - Approximately 1 hr.**

MIHINTALE – a little away from Anuradhapura, the forest clad mountain is of great spiritual significance to Buddhists because it was the place where Buddhism was introduced to Sri Lanka in the 3rd century BC. Mihintale has many different points of interest – the 1840 ancient granite steps, Dagobah's, the relic house and monk's refectory, the assembly hall, meditation rock, caves and ponds. The climb to the summit is also interesting from a scenic aspect for stunning views of the surrounding countryside.



Then proceed back to hotel in Sigiriya. **Dinner & overnight stay in Dambulla.**

Day 03

After breakfast, approx. 0800hrs leave for an excursion to the Rock Fortress of Sigiriya.

SIGIRIYA - this UNESCO World Heritage Site, a spectacular Rock Fortress, is one of Sri Lanka's major attractions. The most impressive facets of the unique complex are the Water Gardens, the Frescoes of beautiful maidens, the Mirror Wall with ancient graffiti, the Lion platform and the Summit of 1.6 hectares, which was completely covered by buildings during the period of Sigiriya's glory. Built by King Kashyapa (477-495 A.D), the "Lion Rock" is a citadel of unusual beauty rising 200m from the scrub jungle. The rock was the innermost stronghold of the 70-hectare fortified town and the base is ringed by a moat, rampart, and extensive gardens. The world-Renowned frescoes (originally 500, of which only 19 remain today) which are in a sheltered pocket of the rock approached by a spiral stairway are painted in earth pigments on plaster. The old stairway to the top led through the mouth of a crouching lion but today only the huge paws remain giving an indication of the massive proportions of the head. Remains of the handsome royal citadel are on the summit and several caves for meditation, audience platforms and baths complete the unique site.



After descending from Sigiriya, the clients will enjoy King Coconut.

Lunch will be at a traditional local restaurant. PRIYAMALI GEDARA, Lunch is cooked the old-fashioned way with firewood and eaten under sheds (with wooden tables and benches) with a view of paddy fields.) **And a cooking demonstration will be shown to the groups as a special request.**

Then visit Sri Lanka's second ancient capital Polonnaruwa.

Travel time: 56kms – Approximately 1hr 10minutes.

POLONNARUWA - this medieval city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, rose to fame as the capital (10th -12th century AD) after the decline of Anuradhapura. The entire landscape of the region is punctuated by huge man-made reservoirs, the most famous of which is the Parakrama Samudra or the Sea of Parakrama, larger in size than the Colombo harbor. The monuments are relatively well preserved and give clear evidence of the glory of Sri Lanka's past. Highlights are the Royal Palace complex including the Kings Palace and Audience Hall, the Quadrangle with its concentration of ancient heritage and the spectacular Gal Vihare complex of four massive images of the Buddha, cut from a single slab of granite - a highlight of ancient Sri Lankan rock carving. Some of the best examples of the Hindu influence - the Temples of Shiva, intricate statues of Hindu Gods, fascinating Buddhist temples, the Lankatilleka and Watadage, the Galpotha, the Lotus bath, the Kiri Vihare Dagoba and the remains of a former Temple of the Tooth are other impressive sights.



Then return to the hotel in Dambulla.

Dinner & Overnight stay in Dambulla.

Day 04

Early morning do the 4 x 4 jeep safari in **Minneriya or Kaudulla national park**.

Jeep safari in Minneriya or Kaudulla national park depends on the possibility to spot the large Sri Lankan elephant numbers on the day that the clients do the jeep safari. Kaudulla also has its own dry season Gathering at the Kaudulla Reservoir.

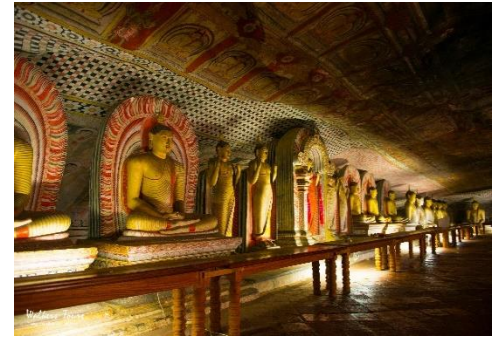
MINNERIYA- Located between Habarana and POLONNARUWA, the 8890 hectares of MINNERIYA NATIONAL PARK is an ideal eco-tourism location in Sri Lanka. The park consists of mixed evergreen forest and scrub areas and is home to Sri Lanka's favorites such as sambar deer, leopards and elephants. However, the central feature of the park is the ancient Minneriya Tank (built in 3rd century AD by King Mahasena). During the dry season (June to September), this tank is an incredible place to observe the elephants who come to bathe and graze on the grasses as well as the huge flocks of birds.



Then return to the hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast, proceed to Kandy enroute visiting Dambulla cave temple and Matale spice garden.

DAMBULLA - the greatest of Sri Lanka's cave temples, dates from the first century BC and contains over 150 Buddha images, subtly lit for maximum atmosphere. A series of five caves, the temple is called Raja Maha Vihara by locals, but known simply as Dambulla to visitors. The entrance is marked by a large white dagoba along a long sloping rock face, from where there are views of the rock fortress of Sigiriya, about 20km away. Most of the caves were carved out by hand and some of the amazing array of Buddha statues are still attached to the wall.



Then visit Matale spice garden, en route to see spices growing in their natural habitat. Learn about spices and their use in Sri Lankan cuisine.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Then continue journey towards Kandy.

Travel time: 72kms - Approximately 2 hrs. (Matale / Kandy).



KANDY - Sri Lanka's hill capital, stronghold of the Sinhala Kings, is our most beautiful town. The focal point of the town is, without doubt, the golden roofed Dalada Maligawa. The highlight of the year is the Esala Perahera, when a replica of the relic casket is taken in procession accompanied by exotically costumed dancers, drummers and elephants during ten glittering nights in July/August. Visit Kalapuraya in the beautiful Dumbara valley. There are many shrines and temples, where you will see rare paintings, frescoes, wood and stone carvings.

Dinner & overnight stay in Kandy.

Day 05

After breakfast, proceed to **PINNAWELA ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE** in time to witness the bathing and bottle feeding of the baby elephants.

Travel time: 40 kms - Approximately 1 hr (one way)

PINNAWELA ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE - Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage – set amongst the verdant hills of Kegalle is a unique orphanage, where the tiny tots weigh 60 kg or more. This is the Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage, the world's first and only elephant orphanage established to feed, nurse and house young elephants lost or abandoned by their mothers. Other occupants are elephants displaced from their natural environs by development projects or those found wounded. Visitors could see the baby elephants being fed milk from gigantic feeding bottles or bathed in the river which flows nearby – an unforgettable sight! Established in 1975, by the Wildlife Department and National Zoological gardens which subsequently led to a Breeding programme through which more than twenty-five elephants have been born since 1984.



Lunch at a local restaurant in Pinnawala.

Thereafter, visit to the **ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS**.

ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS - at Peradeniya (109 km. from Colombo) near Kandy was laid out in 1821 by the British colonial rulers. Prior to that it was the Royal Pleasure Garden of the Kandyan Kings. It is in an beautiful setting with the longest river of Sri Lanka, Mahaveli bordering on one side. This attractively laid out garden displays many varieties of floral and green plants. Special features are the Orchid House which displays a fine collection of Sri Lankan orchids, the fernery, spice garden, and the trees planted by distinguished visitors to the Island.



P.M. Approx. 16.00 hrs. Visit to the Temple of the Tooth relic by tuk-tuk's (Three-wheel scooter Taxis) driven by local drivers, in which you can take two clients each. Thereafter panoramic tour of the city followed by Traditional dance show. Free time for shopping in the city.



Dinner and overnight stay in Kandy.

Day 06

After breakfast leave for Kandy station to take the **train journey to Nanuoya**.

From nanuoya, continue the journey by car and reach Nuwaraeliya. Here, you will visit a **tea plantation and tea factory**. Here we will give a demonstration of how the tea leaves are plucked daily.

Transfer Time: Approximately 2 ½ hours – 90 Kms.

Nuwaraeliya – Sri Lanka's premier hill resort with a fine bracing mountain climate, Nuwara Eliya is also the heart of Sri Lanka's tea country, producing some of the world's best tea. The mountain slopes and valleys are a carpet of velvety green tea plantations, interspersed with gushing streams and tumbling waterfalls. Red or green roofed plantation bungalows, English country style homes and hotels with lovely flower gardens, a fine 18-hole golf course and a racecourse gives Nuwara Eliya a decidedly British character.



Lunch at a local restaurant on the way.

P.M – Sightseen in Nuwaraeliya.

Dinner & overnight stay in Nuwaraeliya.

Day 07

After breakfast leave for Colombo.

Travel time: 200 kms - Approximately 5 hours. Lunch at a local restaurant on the way.

Check-in to the hotel and relax. Evening conduct a short city tour of Colombo including with Gangarama Temple.

Colombo – the trade and commercial capital has long been the traditional gateway to the Orient. Sri Lanka's largest city, it is located on the west coast and draws together all the cultures, religions and influences of foreign lands into a pot-pourri of sounds, smells and a kaleidoscope of color. The original traders and settlers - the Arabs, Portuguese, Dutch and the British have left in their wake churches and monuments, names and religions, costumes and food and smatterings of their languages which have been absorbed into the speech of the Sri Lankan. Today, Colombo is a fascinating city - a happy blend of east & west, past & present, with a charm of its own. A less known but amazingly fact is that Colombo has a superb range of high-quality Restaurants serving food from all over the world and some of the best shopping opportunities in Asia. The main seaport of Sri Lanka is in Colombo & adjoining it, is Pettah, a local bazaar & trading area. Other places of interest are the beautiful Buddhist temples, Hindu temples, mosques, the historic Wolfe dhal church, (1749) residential Areas where you find the stately homes of the affluent, the Colombo Museum, the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, the New Parliament in Sri Jayewardenepura, the Folk-Art Centre, Art Galleries, Parks, Independence Square.



Dinner and Overnight stay in Colombo.

Day 08

After breakfast, departure transfer to the airport.

Travel time: 40 kms – Approximately 45 mins (Colombo / Katunayaka).

HOTELS : 4*

Dambulla	Jetwing Lake https://www.jetwinghotels.com/jetwinglake/ Deluxe Rooms
KANDY	Thilanka Kandy www.thilankahotels.com Deluxe Rooms
NUWARAELIYA	Galway Heights https://www.galwayheights.com/ Deluxe Rooms
COLOMBO	CINNAMON RED www.cinnamonhotels.com standard Rooms

RATES : US\$

Rates valid from 01/11/2023 – 20/12/2023	02 – 03 Pax	04 - 06 Pax	07 Pax
Cost per person sharing Double room	1175/-	1006/-	918/-
Cost per person sharing Triple room	1140/-	981/-	893/-
Single room supplement	190/-	190/-	190/-

Rates valid from 21/12/2023 – 10/01/2024	02 – 03 Pax	04 - 06 Pax	07 Pax
Cost per person sharing Double room	1239/-	1080/-	994/-
Cost per person sharing Triple room	1190/-	1032/-	944/-
Single room supplement	235/-	235/-	235/-

Rates valid from 11/01/2024 – 30/04/2024	02 – 03 Pax	04 - 06 Pax	07 Pax
Cost per person sharing Double room	1194/-	1035/-	950/-
Cost per person sharing Triple room	1140/-	981/-	894/-
Single room supplement	220/-	220/-	220/-

Cost includes: -

- * Accommodation on full board basis starting with dinner on day 01 and ending with breakfast on day 08. **(Total of 07 nights)**
- * Transport in an Air-conditioned vehicle along with an Italian-speaking chauffeur Guide
- * Entrance fees as per the program
- * All applicable entrance fees and portorage.
- * Welcome drink & refreshing towels at all hotels.
- * Tuk Tuk ride in Kandy
- * Refreshments once during the tour.
- * Village lunch in Polonnaruwa
- * All applicable government taxes
- * 01 Jeep safaris in Minneriya or Kaudulla national park
- * 01 Train ride from kandy to Nanuoya

Cost does not include:

- Tips of personal nature.
 - Drinks & additional meals.
 - Compulsory supplements at all hotels.
 - Cost of early check-ins and late check-outs.
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- The official check-in time at all hotels will be 14:00 hrs.
 - The official check-out time at all hotels will be 12:00 hrs.

All inclusions will remain the same as per the original TERMS AND CONDITIONS.