

Best of Ceylon

11 Days / 10 Nights

Colombo - Dambulla - Anuradhapura - Polonnaruwa - Kandy - Nuwara Eliya – Bentota - Galle

Inclusions

- 10 nights accommodation in luxurious 4- and 5-star hotels
- Travel & transfers by private air-conditioned vehicle with English-speaking chauffeur-guide
- Sightseeing & activity fees (UNESCO heritage sites, national parks, tea plantation, local crafts, & more)
- Meals as specified (B&D every day, excluding arrival (none) and departure day (only B))
- Garlands on arrival
- Bottled water during transfer & sightseeing
- Return airport transfers
- Assistance & transfers



Itinerary summary

Day 1: Arrival in Colombo

Arrive at Colombo International Airport. Travellers are assisted with a transfer to the hotel and check-in, and stay overnight in Negombo.

Day 2: Dambulla Exploration

Breakfast, followed by a trip to Dambulla/Habarana, the hub of the cultural triangle. Afternoon visit to the 2nd century cave temple of Dambulla. Stay for three nights.

Day 3: Anuradhapura and Catamaran Ride

After breakfast, guests head out for an excursion to Anuradhapura – a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the island's first capital (5th century BC - 9th century AD), and the centre of the island's Buddhist civilization. After exploring Anuradhapura, travellers continue to what is known as the birthplace of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, Mihintale. Evening ends with a catamaran ride on the Habarana Lake with a local fisherman. Stay overnight in Dambulla.

Day 4: Polonnaruwa and Minneriya Jeep Safari

After breakfast, excursion to the UNESCO-listed ancient city of Polonnaruwa, which remains one of the best planned archaeological relic sites in the country. Afternoon jeep safari to witness a herd of wild elephants and various other wildlife species in Minneriya National Park.

Day 5: Kandy and Spice Garden

After breakfast guests travel to Kandy, visiting the impressive 5th century Sigiriya rock fortress enroute. Later, the journey continues towards Kandy, with a stop at a spice garden in Matale. Stay for 2 nights in Kandy.

Day 6: Kandy Historic Sites and Kandyan Dance

Guided tour for guests to explore Kandy at their own leisure. Kandy was the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Travellers visit the famed Temple of the Tooth, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Gem Museum, and in the evening witness a traditional Kandyan dance accompanied by live music.

Day 7: Kandy to Nuwara Eliya

Discovering Nuwara Eliya – the 'Little England' of Sri Lanka, a small city set against beautiful backdrops of mountains, valleys, waterfalls and tea plantations. Guests visit a tea plantation and factory to witness the complete process of turning the raw green leaf into the finished product.

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Day 8: Horton Plains National Park

Morning discovery of Horton Plains National Park. Known to Sri Lankans as Mahaeliya, the park harbours 52 species of resident birds and 11 species of migrant birds, and 2,000 to 3,000 sambhur, bear monkey, leopard, barking deer, giant squirrel, fishing cat, wild boar and hares roam in the forests and grasslands. The afternoon is free to relax or explore the small town of the area.

Day 9: Nuwara Eliya – Bentota/Beruwala

Travel by road to Bentota/Beruwela, a small resort town in the southwestern coastal belt where the beaches boast a dazzling combination of sun, sea and sand. Guests spend two serene nights in the coastal paradise. The afternoon is free to relax and enjoy at leisure.

Day 10: Galle Excursion

Excursion to Galle. This was the most ancient and important harbour of the country until the Colombo harbour was established. Travellers learn about its famed lace-making, ebony carving, gem cutting and polishing industries, and explore the bazaar for local hand-crafted souvenirs.

Day 11: Departure

A leisurely breakfast before travelling back to Colombo. The tour finishes by late afternoon with a direct transfer to the international airport.