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GEOFFREY BAWA ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN TOUR 7 DAYS

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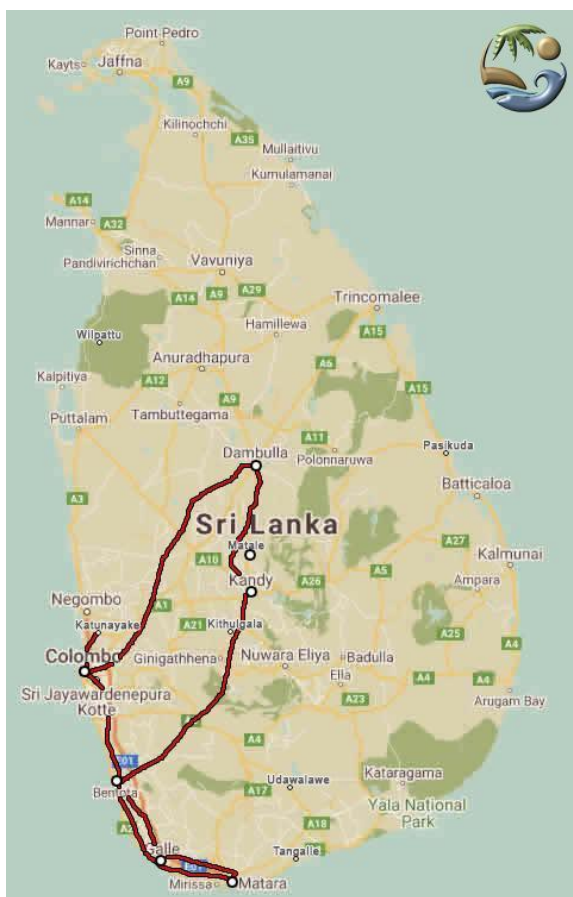
b2b@sri-holidays.com

Overview:

- A 7-day tour focusing on the iconic masterpieces designed by Geoffrey Bawa
- 5 UNESCO Heritage Sites - Dambulla, Sigiriya, Kandy, Galle and Colombo
- For all Age Groups - For all Group Sizes
- Special Packages for Solo Travelers available
- Private Transportation with an experienced chauffeur guide
- Fully Customizable
- 24/7 Customer Hotline

Geoffrey Bawa was regarded as the most prolific and respected architect Sri Lanka has ever produced. Bawa's work is characterized by a sensitivity to site and context. He produced 'sustainable architecture' long before the term was coined, and had developed his own 'regional modernist' stance well in advance of the theoreticians. His designs broke down the barriers between inside and outside, between interior design and landscape architecture, and reduced buildings to a series of stenographically conceived spaces separated by courtyards and gardens.

SAFE & SECURE! We provide you with a safe, but non-intrusive travel environment, implementing strict protection measures for all our staff, vehicles, and partner hotels. You will be traveling with your partner, friends, and/or family only, no sharing!



We are known for consistent high-quality service, the best tour arrangements, and unmatched safety standards. Sri Holidays is the first choice as a Sri Lanka Travel Partner who discreetly takes care of all your needs and well-being

Over 20 years of professional experience
24/7 Customer Hotline
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as contract partner for most hotels and service providers in Sri Lanka

Tour Itinerary:

DAY 01:

Colombo / Gangaramaya Temple by Bawa / Old Parliament Building by Bawa

Arrive at Bandaranayake International Airport or be picked up at any destination on Sri Lanka's West Coast. Proceed to your hotel in Colombo. Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, has a long history as a port on ancient east-west trade routes, ruled successively by the Portuguese, Dutch and British. That heritage is reflected in its architecture, mixing colonial buildings with high-rises and shopping malls. Afterward, you will visit the Gangaramaya Temple and Seema Malaka Buddhist monastery designed by Geoffrey Bawa. Whereas most Buddhist temples in the country follow the strict traditional design, Gangaramaya temples floating in the middle of Beira Lake is one of Sri Lanka's unusual temples. The design is inspired by the ancient forest monasteries such as those of Anuradhapura and Ritigala, which feature similar raised platforms linked by walkways.

Then again the temple building is in the Kandyan style: with overhanging blue-tiled roofs held up by walls apparently made from collected spindles & banisters. It is intended for meditation & inaugurations of Buddhist Bhikkus. The Seema Malaka is part of an ever-expanding complex of lavishly decorated Gangaramaya temple, a couple of hundred meters to the east. Gangaramaya sits behind an unusually elaborate perimeter wall faced with polished brass panels decorated with dwarfs (symbols of prosperity) & topped with Buddha statues. The complex has a library, a museum & an extraordinarily eclectic array of bejeweled & gilt gifts presented by devotees & well-wishers over the years.

In the evening the possibility of viewing the magnificent Parliament complex designed by Geoffrey Bawa. In 1979 Bawa was invited to design Sri Lanka's new parliament. He transformed a swampy site to create an island at the center of a vast artificial lake, with the parliament building appearing as an asymmetric composition of copper roofs floating above a series of terraces rising out of the water. The parliament building incorporates abstract references to traditional Sri Lankan and South Indian architecture within a Modernist framework to create, in the words of the Aga Khan awards jury, "a powerful image of democracy, cultural harmony, continuity and progress, and a sense of gentle monumentality."

DAY 02:

Colombo / Kandalama by Bawa / Sigiriya

After breakfast at your hotel, leave for Sigiriya. First, you will visit the Sigiriya fortress. Sigiriya is an archeological site in North Central Sri Lanka. It contains the ruins of an ancient palace complex, built during the reign of King Kasyapa (477AD - 495 AD). It is one of the 7 world heritage sites in Sri Lanka and is one of its most popular tourist destinations. The Sigiriya site consists of a 180m tall granite rock,

whose sides are so steep that at some points the top overhangs the base. At the top of the site, there is a palace complex. The ruins of various chambers, stairways, and pools can be seen at the top. There is a stone stairway leading from the base to the top of the mountain. About halfway to the top, there is a pair of giant pairs of lions paws which is in fact the ruin of a huge head of a lion whose open mouth served as the entrance to the royal palace. Surrounding the palace complex are the ruins of a garden complex consisting of two moats, various pools.

Later proceed to Heritance Kandalama. At Heritance Kandalama Bawa created an austere building that derives its beauty from the surrounding landscape. The simple geometry and lack of decoration help to highlight the natural environment. Bawa's buildings are not just bricks and mortar, but the expression of intangible emotions. Heritance Kandalama is the living embodiment of Geoffrey Bawa's architectural vision.

DAY 03:

Sigiriya / Dambulla Cave Temple / Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic / Kandy

After breakfast at your hotel and leave for Kandy. En-route visit the Dambulla Cave Temple. These 2,000-year-old caves sit on a massive rock overlooking the city and are a UNESCO World Heritage site, containing ancient Buddhist paintings which have attracted visitors and pilgrims from all over the world. Hidden among the frescoes you will find a colossal figure of the recumbent Buddha carved out of the rock. At some 14 meters long this really is an impressive sight to see. Whilst ascending the steps that lead to the caves, make sure you take some time to appreciate the beautiful surroundings, where dense forest rears up into the distance and an abundance of friendly monkeys patrol the steps, waiting for food handouts.

In the afternoon visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy. Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy is the most prominent and sacred Buddhist shrine in Sri Lanka, even in the world. The relic of the tooth is kept in a two-story inner shrine fronted by two large elephant tusks. The relic rests on a solid gold lotus flower, encased in jeweled caskets that sit on a throne. The temple is joined to the Pattiripuwa (Octagon) tower, built-in 1803, that was originally a prison but now houses a collection of palm-leaf manuscripts. The king's palace is also in the temple compound. In the evening an optional cultural dance show of fire dancers and Kandyan Dancers. Kandy Sri Lanka's 'Cultural Capital'. It's set on a plateau surrounded by mountains, which are home to tea plantations and biodiverse rainforest. The city's heart is scenic Kandy Lake (Bogambara Lake), which is popular for strolling. Kandy is famed for sacred Buddhist sites, including the Temple of the Tooth (Sri Dalada Maligawa) shrine, celebrated with the grand Esala Perahera annual procession.

DAY 04:

Kandy / Gadaladeniya Maha Vidyalaya / Bentota / Bawa Hotel

You will have breakfast at your hotel and leave for Bentota. En-route you can visit the Gadaladeniya & Lankathilaka Temples. Usually, it is visited by devotees, pilgrims, history enthusiasts, and nature lovers. The ancient monastery is located on a small hilltop at Diggala. The Gadaladeniya inscription reveals that the temple was built by King Buwanekabahu 4 in the year 1344. South Indian architect 'Ganesvachari' designed the temple site considering characteristically South Indian architectural features. The hilltop gives you a panoramic view of the entire site. You will find a dagoba to the right side from the entrance and four other small dagobas. Some say that the stupa was constructed by King Parakramabahu V. There is a roof covering the dagoba standing on four pillars. This structure is called Vijayothpaya or Vijayantha Prasada. The seated Buddha statue with four other standing Buddha statues can be worshiped in the main vihara geya (image house) of the temple. The frescoes and interior sculptures belonging to the Kandyan period depicting Jataka stories of Lord Buddha seem to be fading. The Makara thorana (dragon arch) is embellished with gods like Brahma, Sathusta, Suyama, and Natha mentioning South Indian architecture. Close to the image house is a shrine room dedicated to God Vishnu. The great chronicle of ancient Sri Lanka, 'Mahavansa' proclaims that 'Upulwan deviyo' was appointed to save Buddhism in Sri Lanka. As a result of that, it is believed God Vishnu awakened the Buddhism of Sri Lanka. Beside the Bo tree, you can see the Gadaladeniya inscription carved into the rock.

Lankathilaka Viharaya, Kandy is a dramatic building made out of clay brick. At one time it was a five-storied building. Lankathilaka Viharaya in Kandy was decorated with flowers, creepers, birds, animals, and statues of gods. At the entrance of the building, there are two huge pillars. Presently the pillars have broken down and reduced to a height of 58 ft. Initially, the height of these pillars was almost twice the existing ones.

Visit the Serendib Hotel Bentota, another Bawa masterpiece. His sensitivity to the environment is reflected here in his careful attention to the sequencing of space, the creation of vistas, courtyards, and walkways, the use of materials, and the treatment of details.

DAY 05:

Bentota / Ruhuna University by Bawa / Galle I Unawatuna / Lighthouse Hotel by Bawa / Bentota

After breakfast at the hotel, you will visit the "Ruhunu University complex". During the 1980s Bawa also designed the new Ruhuna University near Matara. An inspiring creation by Bawa for the younger generation of Sri Lanka, the Ruhuna University enabled Bawa to explore his style of integrating workspaces into the natural landscape.

Built between two hills, this university campus consists of pavilions and courtyards with breathtaking ocean views. If you fancy a break from the hustle and bustle of city life, however, you can make your way down to Galle's beautiful Unawatuna Bay, one of Sri Lanka's finest beaches, where the crystal-clear sea laps the white sand, and wilting palm trees frame the picturesque coastline.

After that, you will visit SOS Village, a village designed for orphans by Architect Anjalandran. SOS Children's third village in Sri Lanka opened in Galle in 1990. Galle, a former Dutch fortress, is the largest city in southern Sri Lanka and is an important tourist center. The community, which is on the outskirts of the city, has 12 family houses built in natural pink stone, an SOS Nursery for 130 children, and three SOS Youth Homes.

In the afternoon you can do the city tour of Galle city & end up with a visit to the Galle maritime museum. Galle is a bustling provincial capital and administrative center for the South. Once a port, Galle was Sri Lanka's first international commerce and trade center, and these days the streets are still awash with a cosmopolitan range of goods available to buy in exotic markets and quirky art galleries. The Dutch presence is still visible in Galle, and should you want to retrace the footsteps of the Dutch rule, let our guide give you the tour of the Old Dutch Fort (a UNESCO World Heritage site), the Dutch Government House, the former New Oriental Hotel (built-in 1684), the old bell tower, and the Dutch tide-based sewage system. Later visit the LightHouse Hotel designed by Bawa. This magnificent boutique hotel conveys an immediate sense of Galle's history. The Portuguese landing at Galle is re-enacted in brass and bronze on the impressive main staircase and an ambitious batik of ancient coats of arms fills the ceiling of the restful main bar. The hotel design demonstrates Bawa's skill at integrating architecture and landscape.

DAY 06:

Bentota / Bentota Beach Hotel by Bawa / Lunuganga by Bawa / Colombo

After breakfast and before you leave for Colombo, you will visit the Bawa-designed Bentota Beach Hotel. Bentota Beach Hotel at Bentota Beach is one of the very first beach resort hotels of Sri Lanka. Nestled in a narrow strip of land between the Bentota Beach and Bentota River, the luxury hotel with its expansive gardens of groves of Coconut palm trees spreading over 30 acres are built in the traditions of Colonial Dutch Architecture. The hotel is set up in such a way as to bring about grand views of the surrounding scenery of the beach, river, and verdant green land of Bentota. The combination of unrivaled location and Geoffrey Bawa's concepts of architecture of the hotel has made it one of the most popular and most sought-after beach resort hotels among the Sri Lanka Hotels. Next, you will visit Lunuganga, the country home of master Architect Geoffrey Bawa.

Lunuganga was Geoffrey Bawa's own estate, where he experimented with his

ideas about space, light, and scale for nearly 50 years. When he bought the land in 1948 it was a rubber plantation on a peninsula jutting out into a lake. Over the years, Bawa painstakingly reshaped the land and the vegetation to fulfill his vision, in one case slicing off the top of a hill to improve his view of the lake. Lunuganga consists of the Entrance Court, Glass House, Garden room, Gallery, Main house, Small House, Cinnamon Hill House, Middle Walk, Broad Walk, Plain of Jars, and Cinnamon Hill.

Later in the afternoon time at leisure for shopping at the famous Colombo markets.

DAY 07:

Transfer back to the airport or your next destination on Sri Lanka's West Coast
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Tour Includes:

- Accommodation at selected Hotels in double room (sharing)
- Meal Plan: Breakfast and dinner (half-board)
- Experienced, English-speaking driver/guide with required guiding permit.
- French, German, Russian, Italian, Japanese speaking guides can be booked for a small surcharge.
- Private transportation by a/c luxury limousine or Japanese Mini Van with driver/guide
- Full vehicle/passenger insurance by Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd.
- Driver Accommodation & Meals
- 24/7 Customer Hotline

Optional

- Wi-Fi
- Free Baby Seat
- Free Wheelchair
- Free Baby Cot (below 3 years)

Tour Does Not Include:

Client(s) Medical / Travel

Insurance Meals not mentioned

above Applicable Entrance Fees

International/Domestic Flights

Personal Expenses

Tips/Porterage

Excursions not mentioned in the Tour Itinerary

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: 0094 773 866 315
b2b@sri-holidays.com**







