

Sri Holidays



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SRI LANKA ISLAND TOUR 16 DAYS

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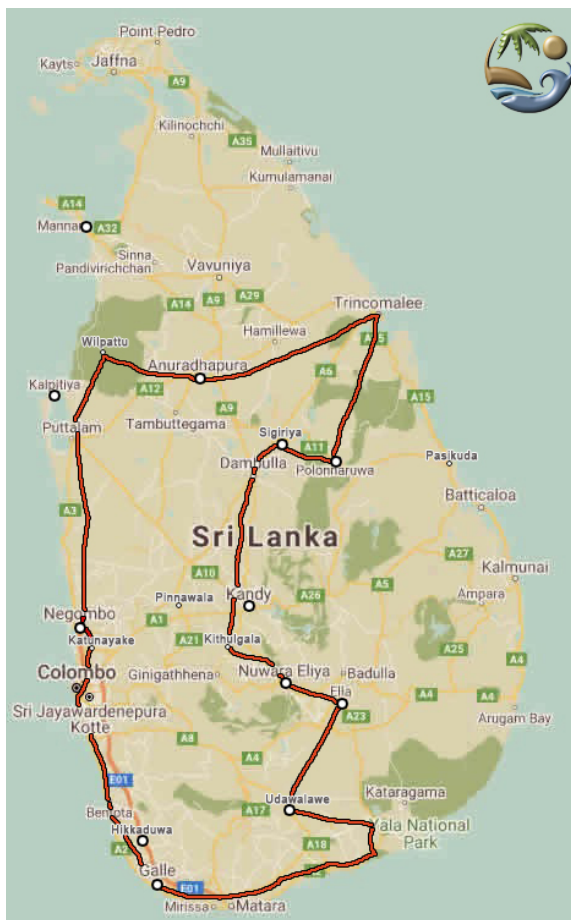
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Overview:

- A 16-day Sri Lanka Island Tour
- 5 UNESCO Heritage Sites - Anuradhapura, Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa, Dambulla and Kandy
- top beaches
- 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

This outstanding Sri Lanka Island Tour was designed with the help of many customer feedbacks - allowing us to pick the most convenient route, choice accommodation, and, most importantly, the best sights and beaches Sri Lanka has to offer.

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
- Own fleet of new a/c limousines & mini-vans
- Best Rates Guarantee as contract partner for most hotels and service providers in Sri Lanka
- All health & safety

Tour Itinerary:

DAY 01:

Airport - Negombo

Arrival at the Bandaranayake International Airport, meet and transfer to the first hotel in Negombo. Relax and enjoy your stay at the hotel.

Overnight in Negombo

DAY 02:

Negombo

After breakfast visit go on a Dutch canal boat ride. The boat ride/safari that takes you along the old Dutch canal which runs through Waikkal, gives you snap shots of bird life, essentially comprising waders, stunning kingfishers, rare pied kingfishers, bee-eaters, Brahminy kites, etc. Water monitors, bearing an uncanny resemblance to crocodiles, are also bound to make an appearance, so keep your eye out for a glimpse! You can prolong your boat journey by following the canal onto the sea, where you can continue onwards to Negombo lagoon for fishing

Next you will be visiting the 2nd biggest Fish Market in Sri Lanka. Negombo Fishing Village also known as the Lellama by the locals is located across the lagoon bridge, near the Old Dutch Gate. The large open air fish market is the second largest in the country. It gives you an unpretentious insight into the local fisher community. The market is loud, vibrant and smells like fish! You will be able to witness the fishermen in hundreds of boats bringing in their days catch. See how the wholesalers and restaurateurs trade and watch the packing and loading of fish for distribution across the country as well as for export – worldwide. The retail area is a bustling hive of activity – with customers negotiating prices with mom and pop fish vendors.

Overnight in Negombo

DAY 03:

Negombo - Anuradhapura

After breakfast leave for Anuradhapura. On the way visit Wilpattu National Park. Wilpattu National Park (Willu-pattu; Land of Lakes) is a park located on the island of Sri Lanka. The unique feature of this park is the existence of "Willus" (Natural lakes) - Natural, sand-rimmed water basins or depressions that fill with rainwater. Located in the Northwest coast lowland dry zone of Sri Lanka. The park is located 30 km west Anuradhapura and located 26 km north of Puttalam (approximately 180 km north of Colombo). The park is 1,317 square kilometers (131, 693 hectares) and ranges from 0 to 152 meters above sea level. Nearly sixty lakes (Willu) and tanks are found spread throughout Wilpattu. Wilpattu is the largest and one of the oldest National Parks in Sri Lanka. Wilpattu is among the top national

parks world-renowned for its leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*) population. A remote camera survey was conducted in Wilpattu from July to October 2015 by the Wilderness & Wildlife Conservation Trust. A sample of forty nine individual leopards were photo-captured in the surveyed area and the core area density was between that of Yala National Park's Block I and Horton Plains National Park. Proceed to Anuradhapura.

Overnight in Anuradhapura.

DAY 04:

Anuradhapura

After breakfast visit the Anuradhapura Heritage City. Anuradhapura was built in the 3rd century BC and capital of the Sinhalese people for 1000 years from the 4th century BC, despite frequent invasions from southern India. Today it is the largest and most important ancient site in Sri Lanka and there are a wealth of old palaces, temples, 'dagobas' (Buddhist monument) and Buddha statues to explore over a large area. The most visited part is the sacred Bodhi tree which is said to have been planted from a sapling from the tree under which Buddha gained enlightenment. This was brought from India by Sangamitta, the daughter of the great Indian emperor, Ashoka, who had sent his own son, Arahath Mahinda, to spread Buddhism in Sri Lanka. It is one of the most important pilgrimage places in the country.

Visit to Mihintale. Mihintale is a mountain peak near Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka. It is believed by Sri Lankans to be the site of a meeting between the Buddhist monk Mahinda and King Devanampiyatissa which inaugurated the presence of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. It is now a pilgrimage site, and the site of several religious monuments and abandoned structures.

Overnight in Anuradhapura

DAY 05:

Anuradhapura - Trincomalee

After breakfast leave for Trincomalee. Visit the Trinco Fort. Fort Fredrick, also known as Trincomalee Fort or Fort of Triquillimale, is a fort built by Portuguese colonials at Trincomalee, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka, completed in 1624 CE, built on Swami Rock-Konamamalai from the debris of the world famous ancient Hindu Koneswaram temple (Temple of a Thousand Pillars). The temple was destroyed by the Portuguese colonial Constantino de Sá de Noronha under Phillip III, occupier of the Jaffna kingdom and Malabar country on the island. On the Konamalai cape was also built a new village of Portuguese and Tamil people, 50 Portuguese soldiers and inside the fort, a church named after "Nossa Senhora de Guadalupe". The Fort of Triquillimale was dismantled and rebuilt by the Dutch in 1665, renamed Fort Fredrick. In the afternoon you will visit Koneshwaram Temple.

The famous Koneswaram temple is located inside this fort. This Hindu temple was earlier known as the temple of thousand Pillars. According to historical information, the Portuguese had demolished the old Koneswaram temple and they built this fort with the parts of that.

Overnight in Trincomalee

DAY 06:

Trincomalee

After breakfast visit Pigeon Island National Park. Pigeon Island National Park is one of the two marine national parks of Sri Lanka. The national park is situated 1 km off the coast of Nilaveli, a coastal town in Eastern Province, encompassing a total area of 471.429 hectares. The island's name derives from the rock pigeon which has colonized it. The national park contains some of the best remaining coral reefs of Sri Lanka. Pigeon Island was designated as a sanctuary in 1963. In 2003 it was redesignated as a national park. This national park is the 17th in Sri Lanka. The island was used as a shooting range during the colonial era. Pigeon Island is one of the several protected areas affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004.

Overnight in Trincomalee

DAY 07:

Trincomalee - Polonnaruwa - Sigiriya

After breakfast leave for Sigiriya On the way visit the Polonnaruwa Heritage City. The second most ancient of Sri Lanka's kingdoms, Polonnaruwa was first declared the capital city by King Vijayabahu I, who defeated Chola invaders in 1070 to reunite the country once more under a local leader. In Polonnaruwa you can see traces of a great kingdom that once existed and was historically valuable in Sri Lanka. Today the ancient city of Polonnaruwa remains one of the best planned archaeological relic cities in the country, standing testimony to the discipline and greatness of the Kingdom's first rulers. Its beauty was also used as a backdrop to filmed scenes for the Duran Duran music video Save a Prayer in 1982. The ancient city of Polonnaruwa has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO.

In the afternoon visit the Minneriya National Park. Minneriya National Park was designated as a national park on 12 August 1997, having been originally declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 1938. The reason for declaring the area as protected is to protect the catchment of Minneriya tank and the wildlife of the surrounding area. The park is a dry season feeding ground for the elephant population dwelling in forests of Matale, Polonnaruwa, and Trincomalee districts. Along with Kaudulla and Girithale, Minneriya forms one of the 70 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of Sri Lanka. Large numbers of Sri Lankan elephants are attracted to grass fields on the

edges of the reservoir during the dry season. The Minneriya tank contributes to sustaining a large herd. Elephants gathered here number around 150-200. Some reports account the number of elephants to as high as 700. They migrate here from Wasgamuwa National Park and benefit from food and shelter of the park's forest. Tourists visit Minneriya largely because of elephants, especially in the dry season.

Overnight in Sigiriya.

DAY 08:

Sigiriya - Hiriwaduna - Sigiriya

In the morning climb the UNESCO World Heritage site Sigiriya Rock, part of Sri Lanka's 'Cultural Triangle', where you will have a chance to gaze over the stunning views of Central Sri Lanka. Sigiriya (sometimes called Lion's Rock) is the ruins of an ancient palace in a 200m high rock fortress, overlooking the beautiful plains of North-Central Sri Lanka. Built for an exiled Indian prince, the breathtaking ruins are one of Sri Lanka's main tourist attractions and date back to AD 477. Despite its age, Sigiriya still retains much of its former beauty and features some of the finest examples of ancient art in the form of wall paintings, as well as a network of attractive gardens and reservoirs, and Sigiriya's namesake – a gigantic pair of lion's paws cut into the rock. With its fascinating history and unerring beauty, Sigiriya is often referred to as the 8th wonder of the world and the UNESCO-sponsored Central Cultural Fund has even restored Sigiriya's 5th century Water Gardens, so that you can get a glimpse of what Sigiriya might have been like thousands of years ago.

Next you will get to experience a traditional local village. Hiriwaduna is just 02 Km (05 minutes - drive from Sigiriya, Trek through the archetypal Sri Lankan Typical village. The trek begins with an awesome walk along a bund of a Wewa or manmade reservoir. The reservoir itself, the surrounding scrub jungle, marshland and village are a hive of early morning or an evening activity. The amazing birdlife, butterflies and possible sightings of crocodiles only add to the charm of seeing the villagers as they go about their early morning tasks of fishing, or washing clothes at the periphery of the lake. Initially one wades through a shallow stream and thereafter crosses a wider tributary in a catamaran of an obliging farmer to inspect Chena cultivation (slash and burn agriculture). Enjoy the farmer's humble hospitality. With the guidance of the farmer, pick some fresh vegetables from the plot and join in the preparation of a simple meal prepared in the traditional method using earthenware pots and firewood as fuel. This is a great opportunity to sample authentic local cuisine. The journey continues through dense shrub forests, home to many forest birds and other wildlife including monkeys, bears, python and even elephants. In Hiriwaduna you can do bicycle trips, oxcart trips or boat trips.

Overnight in Sigiriya

DAY 09:

Sigiriya - Dambulla - Kithulgala

After breakfast leave for Kithulgala. On the way visit the Dambulla Cave Temple. Dambulla Cave Temple located at an elevation of 1118 feet from the sea level raises a massive rock from the surrounding plains of Dambulla of 600 feet high and over 2000 feet in length. It is home to the world's most acclaimed Cave complex of magnificent Buddha Images and Rock Paintings of vivid colors and shapes constructed and painted from around 2nd Century BC (Anuradhapura era) and continued up to the Kandyan era of the 18th Century. The five main temple caves cover over 1000 square meters, these were formed out of a deep cavern, part natural and part excavated. One cave consists of a reclining Buddha over 15 meters in length and another holds 50 statues in a variety of positions and is decorated in glowing colors. The ceiling of this ancient monastery is covered with the colorful frescoes. Long strips of narrative paintings depict episodes of a story such as the life of Buddha or the coming of Buddhism to Sri Lanka.

Overnight in Kithulgala.

DAY 10:

Kithulgala - Nanu Oya - Ella

After breakfast, experience White Water Rafting in the picturesque Kelani River, covering 5 major rapids and 4 minor rapids. This activity is for anyone above the age of 10 years with safety gear, modern rafts, and a comprehensive safety briefing will be given by our white water rafting instructors beforehand. The distance covered is around 5 KMs. The river and its surrounding will make you feel enchanted, with a memorable Experience during your White Water Rafting Tour in Kithulgala.

Leave for Nanu Oya & In the afternoon take the train from Nanu Oya to Ella.

Overnight in Ella.

DAY 11:

Ella

After breakfast, visit. Little Adams Peak, Nine Arch Bridge and Ravana Waterfall. Considering the word 'Little', it is named after the sacred Adams Peak (Sri Pada –where the foot print of Lord Buddha is preserved) regarding the similarity between the two mountains. Therefore the mountain was called Little Adams Peak. It is 1141 m in height. Little Adam's Peak attracts many travelers who come to Sri Lanka. Gradually with an easy hike up to the mountain of Little Adams Peak you can consummate a worthwhile panoramic view. You have to walk through lush green tea plantations, waterfalls and paddy fields while enjoying the scenery.

It will be priceless if you could visit the place in the morning when the clouds roll in. Further places like Little Adams Peak deliberates 'How far Sri Lanka is worth and rich with beautiful natural destinations of Sri Lanka tourism'. It will feel like a neck exercise for the visitors as you have to rotate your body to seek the views outstanding for 360 degrees.

The Nine Arches Bridge also called The Bridge in the sky is one of the most iconic bridges in Sri Lanka and is one of the best examples of British railway constructions when Ceylon was still a colony of the British Empire. It is located in Demodara, between Ella and Demodara railway stations. As of the past decade the surrounding area has seen a steady increase of tourism due to the bridge's architectural ingenuity and the profuse greenery in the nearby hillsides. Loosely founded, albeit popular rumors suggest that when construction work commenced on the bridge, the Great War began between the empires of Europe and the steel consignment assigned for this site was reallocated to Britain's War related projects at the battlefield. As a result when the work came to a standstill the locals came forward and built the bridge with solid stone bricks and cement without steel.

The Ravana Falls popularly known as Ravana Ella is a popular sightseeing attraction in Sri Lanka. It currently ranks as one of the widest falls in the country. This waterfall measures approximately 25 m (82 ft) in height and cascades from an oval-shaped concave rock outcrop. During the local wet season, the waterfall turns into what is said to resemble an areca flower with withering petals. But this is not the case in the dry season, where the flow of water reduces dramatically

Overnight in Ella

DAY 12:

Ella - Udawalawe - Yala

After breakfast visit the Elephant Transit Home. The Udawalawe Elephant Transfer Home is a facility within Udawalawe National Park in Sri Lanka that was established in 1995 by the Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife Conservation. Its primary objective is to rehabilitate orphaned elephant calves for ultimate release back into the wild.

Overnight in Yala

DAY 13:

Yala - Weligama - Galle - Beruwela

After breakfast, visit the Bundala National Park. Bundala National Park is an internationally important wintering ground for migratory water birds in Sri Lanka. Bundala harbors 197 species of birds, the highlight being the greater flamingo, which migrate in large flocks. Bundala was designated a wildlife sanctuary in

1969 and redesigned to a national park on 4 January 1993. In 1991 Bundala became the first wetland to be declared as a Ramsar site in Sri Lanka. In 2005 the national park was designated as a biosphere reserve by UNESCO, the fourth biosphere reserve in Sri Lanka.

Then leave for Beruwela. On the way, stop by Weligama. Located on Sri Lanka's picturesque South Coast, Weligama still offers the charm of an idyllic fishing village. Enjoy walks along uncrowded beaches, still untouched by mass tourism and be fascinated by the famous stilt fishing men. Weligama is more than beach life. Much more. Surrounded by rubber and coconut plantations, ancient temples and spice gardens, natural sanctuaries and exotic wildlife, Weligama offers something for everybody.

Next you will be visiting the Dutch Fort in Galle (UNESCO HERITAGE Site). 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 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.

Overnight in Beruwala

DAY 14:

Beruwela

Breakfast at the hotel. Relax and enjoy your stay at the beach. Overnight in Beruwala

DAY 15:

Beruwela

Breakfast at the hotel. Relax and enjoy your stay at the beach. Overnight in Beruwala

DAY 16:

Beruwela - Airport

After breakfast leave for airport

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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& ALL AVAILABLE OPTIONS

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