

Highlights of Sri Lanka

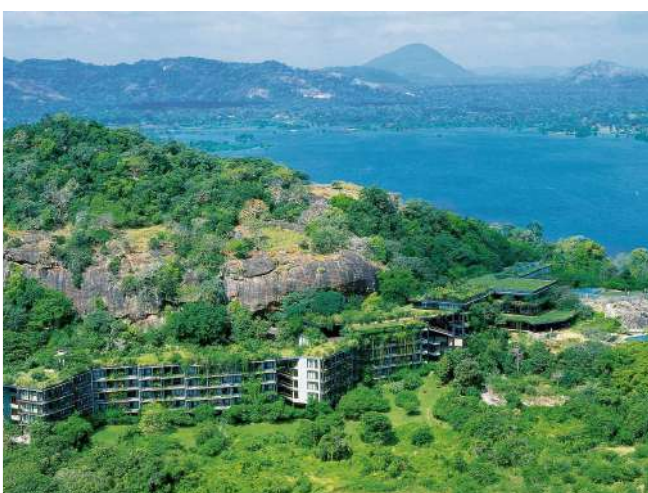
21 Days/20 Nights



Mannar



Anuradhapura



Kandalama



Haputale



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AIRPORT – NEGOMBO, 30MINS

(-/-/-)

Day: 01

- ◆ Ayubowan! Once your Sri Lanka Representative meets you personally at Colombo airport. you will be introduced to your chauffeur guide and then begin your journey to uncover the wonders of this island. Visit, feel and discover. Feel the vivacity of this island nation, bask in this emerald isle's intoxicating beauty and enjoy an extraordinary travel experience. Explore Sri Lanka's golden beaches, the glorious history, the rich wilderness and the bustling cosmopolitans and be amazed!

Today you arrive on our Paradise isle and proceed to Negombo.

- ◆
- ◆ On arrival check in at the hotel, Stay at leisure after long flight.
- ◆
- ◆ Negombo, a perfect choice to spend a few days in the company of the sun and sand. The diverse array of restaurants, pubs and accommodation choices this metropolis offer is a perfect reflection of this beach-town's exultant vibe.

Overnight at Jetwing Blue.

◆

NEGOMBO –MANNAR, 5HRS

(B/-/-)

Day: 02

- ◆ Breakfast at the hotel.
- ◆ After breakfast you will be driving to Mannar.
- ◆ On arrival check in at the hotel, rest of the day at leisure for your own activities.
- ◆ Mannar is a district located in the far north-west of Sri Lanka. Steeped in history, nature and culture, its amazing offerings can now be truly explored in the post-war era. Located in Sri Lanka's Dry Zone, Mannar receives plenty of sun, as well as a healthy breeze blowing throughout the land, particularly on Mannar Island. Found at the border of two seas, the waters are abundant with life; whilst on land, the district neighbors a vibrant national park.
- ◆ Mannar was a center of maritime trade since ancient times and is influenced by over four centuries of colonial influence. Mannar is famed for the migratory birds which fly south during the Northern Hemisphere's winter season and is a fantastic location for some of the island's best seafood.

Overnight at Palmyrah House.

◆

MANNAR

(B/-/-)

Day: 03

- ◆ Breakfast at the hotel.
- ◆ Today you will see some important places in Mannar city

Continue...

- ◆ First visit to Doric House, built two centuries ago by Ceylon's first governor, Sir Fredrick North, then visit Arippu fort an antient fort build by Portuguese in 17th Century.
- ◆ On completion you will visit Mannar Dutch Fort
Built over 450 years ago, Mannar Fort was built to monitor the Talaimannar Strait, one of the few places where large ships could safely pass through. It was a vital area for the ancient maritime Silk and Spice routes.
- ◆ After you will visit local Palmyrah weaving center in Mannar to get firsthand experience.
- ◆ On completion transfer back to hotel.
- ◆ Overnight at Palmyrah House.

MANNAR - JAFFNA, 2HRS 30MINS

(B/-/-)

Day: 04

- ◆ Breakfast at the hotel.
- ◆ Drive to Jaffna, on arrival check in at the hotel.
- ◆ Afternoon visit to Jaffna City and Jaffna fort.
Jaffna, a recent addition to the tourist itinerary, this once war-torn city has rapidly. One can never run out of things-to-do in this charming city located in the isolation of the Northern peninsula midst the lush foliage and palms.
- ◆ Having withstood centuries, the Jaffna Fort remains one of our island's wellpreserved colonial ramparts. Although originally built by the colonial Portuguese in the 17th century, the fortifications which line the southeastern edge of the city were transformed into the landmark it is today by the Dutch. The British later continued to use the Jaffna Fort as a garrison until Sri Lanka's independence in 1948, while today, it is one of the northern capital's most popular attractions with old walls and open grounds that treat you to panoramic views of Jaffna and its peninsular waters.
- ◆ Overnight at North Gate by Jetwing

JAFFNA

(B/-/-)

Day: 05

- ◆ Today after breakfast visit to Jaffna port and take the local ferry to Nagadeepa Island to visit Nagadeepa Rajamaha Viharaya.
- ◆ Naagadeepa Rajamaha Vihara, reach the island where the temple is located, by a brief boat/ferry ride from the Jaffna peninsula. White washed walls, the giant Bo-tree and stupa, which majestically stand on the white, sandy beach are a glorious sight.further uplifted by the river that flows through its fringes.

Continue...

- ◆ On completion transfer back to hotel
Rest of the day at leisure or you are free to explore the city on your own. Don't forget to taste world famous RIO Ice cream as well.
- ◆ Overnight at North Gate by Jetwing.

JAFFNA

(B/-/-)

Day: 06

- ◆ Breakfast at the hotel.
- ◆ Drive to see Kanthiradai Ruins.
- ◆ As one of the few remaining legacies of Buddhism in the northern province, the Kadurugoda Temple and Ruins is a protected archaeological site maintained by the Sri Lankan Army. In 1917, Paul E. Peiris, the Jaffna Magistrate at the time, documented nearly 60 gray coral-stone stupas that once stood in the place of the ruins you see today. Unfortunately, only 20 stupas remain in sight today, under the shadow of palmyrah trees spread across less than an acre of open land.
- ◆ Then drive to Dambkola Patuna.
- ◆ Dambakola Patuna refers to the ancient port of the northern peninsula where Sanghamitta, the daughter of the historical Indian emperor Ashoka, landed following the arrival of Buddhism to Sri Lanka over two thousand years ago. With her, Sanghamitta brought a sacred sapling from the Bodhi Tree under which the Buddha gained enlightenment. This very sapling was then used to plant by King Devanampiyatissa to plant the Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi in Anuradhapura – currently the oldest surviving human-planted tree in the world. Today, no remnants of the ancient port exist, nor do ruins of a temple that was built to commemorate the arrival of the sapling. However, the Sri Lankan Navy has since built a new temple in modern times named the Sri Sanghamitta Viharaya – which serves as one of the key Buddhist landmarks of Sri Lanka's northern province.
- ◆ On completion transfer back to hotel and rest.
- ◆ Overnight at North Gate by Jetwing.

JAFFNA - ANURAHAPURA, 4HRS

(B/-/-)

Day: 07

- ◆ Today after breakfast transfer to Anuradhapura (Thirippane).
- ◆ En route visit to Mihinthale.
- ◆ Mihintale, is an important religious site as it marks the site of the birth of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. Although there are several locations in the area of religious and archaeological value, the Mihintale rock is the most significant of all.
- ◆ On arrival check in at the hotel.

Continue...

- ◆ Free to do some activities provided by the hotel including Archery, Horse ride or Village excursion by Bicycle.
- ◆ Overnight at Ulagalla by Uga Escapes.

ANURADHAPURA

(B/-/-)

Day: 08

- ◆ Today after breakfast Drive to sacred City Anuradhapura and explore including Sri Maha Bodhiya, Isurumuni Viharaya and Ruwanweli Maha Seya.
- ◆ Anuradhapura, although limited to picturesque ruins today this sacred city was the epicentre of the country's civilization during the medieval era. The city is renowned for the multiplicity of religious and archaeological sites.
- ◆ On completion transfer back to hotel.
- ◆ If time permits go for Jungle Kayaking.
- ◆ Take to the waters of the Wannemaduwa Tank in a kayak at dawn or dusk, to experience the breathtaking wildlife at a time when it's most active. Paddle quietly with your friendly staff guide through floating islands of lotus, strands of water reeds, and overhanging boughs. The soft light of the rising or setting sun makes for a picturesque setting for this excursion.
- ◆ Overnight at Ulagalla by Uga Escapes.

ANURADHAPURA - KANDALAMA, 1HR 30MINS

(B/-/-)

Day: 09

- ◆ Today after breakfast Drive to Kandalama.
- ◆ En route visit Dambulla Cave temple.
- ◆ Dambulla Cave temple, a complex that lies atop a massive hill on the edge of the town is one of the eight UNESCO world heritage sites in the country and is renowned for its unique sculptures and the largest mural paintings.
- ◆ On arrival check in at the hotel, Spend some leisure time at this amazing hotel.
- ◆ Overnight at Heritage Kandalama.

KANDALAMA

(B/L/-)

Day: 10

- ◆ Early breakfast at the hotel.
- ◆ Then visit to Sigiriya Rock Fortress.

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- ◆ Sigiriya Rock Fortress, an 8th wonder of the world is a rare jewel among the many treasures in Sri Lanka. The famous Sigiriya frescoes of the buxom, waspwaisted maidens bearing flowers, amidst the wilderness and ancient ruins.
- ◆ On completion drive to Hiriwaduna for Village experience including Cottage lunch.
- ◆ Habarana, a village in the backwoods of the dry zone, is the heart of the cultural triangle. It provides visitors the convenience of reaching all the historically significant sites with ease as well as some of the major wildlife sanctuaries in the country.
- ◆ Overnight at Heritage Kandalama.

KANDALAMA - KANDY, 2HRS 30MINS

(B/-/-)

Day: 11

- ◆ Today after breakfast Drive to Kandy.
- ◆ En route visit Spice Garden in Matale.
- ◆ Spice Gardens, located in Matale offer wonderful opportunities to view the spices that stirred the interests of many nations, since time immemorial, in this emerald isle for its exotic spices, world over.
- ◆ On arrival check in at the hotel, afternoon Explore Kandy city including Temple of tooth followed by Cultural Dance show.
- ◆ Kandy, referred as the hill capital, Sri Dalada Maligawa that houses the sacred tooth relic of Buddha remains the prime landmark. Apart from the ancient monuments, the delightful jumble of antique shops and the bustling market are places to visit.
- ◆ Temple of the tooth relic of Lord Buddha, is the pride of Buddhists in Sri Lanka and world-over. The palace temple stands surrounded by a moat, its golden roof gleaming in the sunlight as white-clad pilgrims bearing lotus blossoms throng to worship.
- ◆ Overnight at The Golden Crown.

KANDY - GAL OYA, 3HRS 30MINS

(B/-/D)

Day: 12

- ◆ Breakfast at the hotel.
- ◆ Drive to Gal Oya and check in at the hotel.
- ◆ Afternoon Jeep Safari at Gal Oya National Park.

Continue...

- ◆ Jeep ride into the forgotten Nilgala section of Gal Oya National Park. Once protected by ancient royalty for the abundant medicinal plants and endemic birdlife, the park's unique ecosystem is home to herds of elephants, wild boar, four species of deer, jackals, sloth bears, marsh mugger crocodiles and an array of rare exotic birds. Our more intrepid guests can couple the drive with a safari on foot. Hike through the park with our expert naturalists and see wildlife up close while exploring hidden corners of the park.
- ◆ Return to Hotel.
- ◆ Dinner & Overnight at Gal Oya Lodge.

GAL OYA

(B/L/D)

Day: 13

- ◆ Breakfast at the hotel.
- ◆ Walk with chief Vadda.
You may not be familiar with the word Vedda, but it's an ancient word evocative with Sri Lanka culture and tradition. The Vedda are the forestdwelling, indigenous people of central Sri Lanka. They have inhabited the island for hundreds of years, living off the land and being at one with nature. Our Gal Oya Lodge neighbours are one of the last remaining communities of the Vedda people. We can invite the village chief to take you on a walk through. The forest comes alive as he explains his tribe's use of medicinal plants, the location of their ancient hunting grounds and cave dwellings, as well as how hunter-gatherers sustained themselves in the ancient jungles of Gal Oya.
- Lunch at Hotel.
- ◆ Boat Safari on Sri Lanka's Largest Lake (5 hours)
◆ Enjoy the only experience in Sri Lanka that allows you to spot wildlife from the water. It's a unique way to immerse Yourself in the animals' habitats. With a little luck you could spot elephants swimming between islands or bathing at the lake's edge. A 2-3-hour safari by boat, and a scenic 40-minute drive from the lodge to the lake is perfect.
To explore the national park and surrounding villages.
- Return to Hotel.
- ◆ Lunch, Dinner & Overnight at Gal Oya Lodge.
- ◆

GAL OYA - HAPUTHALE, 4HRS

(B/-/-)

Day: 14

- ◆ Today after breakfast Drive to Haputhale.
- ◆ En route visit Ella city and visit 9 Arch Bridge.

Continue...

- ◆ Ella, which translates into 'waterfall' is a name fit for this little town located in a hilly nook, owing to its stunning vistas richly adorned with cascades that trickle down its rugged terrains offers some of the most scenic sights in Sri Lanka.
- ◆ Then Drive to Haputale and check in at the hotel.
- ◆ Overnight at Dream Cliff Mountain Resort.

HAPUTHALE

(B/-/-)

Day: 15

- ◆ Breakfast at the hotel.
- ◆ Visit to Lipton Seat.
- ◆ Lipton Seat, one of the highest look-out points of Sri Lanka, it is named after Sir Thomas Lipton, the Scottish tea-baron. Walk up is pleasant owing to the mild up-country climate, through paved road adjoining a tea factory, across lush tea plantations.
- ◆ Then visit to Adisham Bungalow.
- ◆ On Completion drive back hotel.
- ◆ Overnight at Dream Cliff Mountain Resort.

HAPUTHALE – YALA, 3HRS 30MINS

(B/-/-)

Day: 16

- ◆ Today after breakfast Drive to Yala and check in at the hotel.
- ◆ Afternoon Jeep Safari at Yala National Park for evening safari.
- ◆ Yala National Park, its magnificent sights of majestic elephants, fine-feathered peacocks, great black bears and agile leopards that steal away into the shadows of the thick foliage are unparalleled to any of the national parks in the country.
- ◆ Overnight at Cinnamon Wild.

YALA

(B/-/-)

Day: 17

- ◆ Early morning drive to Yala National park for morning safari (Packed breakfast can provide).
- ◆ On completion transfer back to hotel for breakfast.
- ◆ Rest of the day at leisure.

Continue...

- ◆ If required, you are free to take evening safari at extra cost.
- ◆ Overnight at Cinnamon Wild.

YALA - KOSGODA, 4HRS 30MINS

(B/-/-)

Day: 18

- ◆ Breakfast at the hotel.
- ◆ Drive to Kosgoda along the coastal area.
- ◆ Witness stilt fishermen on your way.
- ◆ Then stop in Galle and explore the area including famous Dutch fort Galle, a living time capsule home to the largest occupied Fort in Asia. Its quaint beauty extends beyond its golden beaches, cerulean waters, the picturesque views and the rich history while walking through the narrow, cobbled streets within the Fort.
- ◆ Visit to Turtle Hatchery in Kosgoda.
Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery, in the south, established in 1981, was one of the earliest attempts to safeguard local turtles from extinction. Managed by the Sri Lanka Wildlife Protection Society, the hatchery offers a wildlife experience of a different sort.
- ◆ Continue to Kosgoda and check in at the hotel.
- ◆ Overnight at Sheraton Kosgoda Turtle Beach Resort.

KOSGODA

(B/-/-)

Day: 19 20

- ◆ Breakfast at the hotel.
- ◆ Two days at leisure by the beach.
- ◆ Your guide and vehicle available for 60 km par day.
- ◆ Overnight at Sheraton Kosgoda Turtle Beach Resort.

KOSGODA- AIRPORT , 2HRS

(B/-/-)

Day: 21

- ◆ Today after breakfast transfer to airport in time for the departure flight.