



Incredible Indian Tours Incredible Sri Lanka 18 Days/Nights 16 Aug - 3 Sep 2018



Maximum Group Size 10

Escorted by Deb Kindness, who has been travelling and leading tours in the Subcontinent since 1993

Accommodation 18 nts hotels

Transport Airport Transfers, Private vehicle, Boat, Jeep

Meals 18 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 8 dinners

Entrance Fees Included for all sites visited as part of the itinerary

Starts in Negombo, Thursday 16th August 2018

Finishes in Colombo, Sunday 2nd September 2018

Cost From USD4280 per person twin share.

Sri Lanka, the 'Wonder of Asia', has something to offer everyone, and this trip has it all. Ancient ruins, tea plantations, wildlife safaris, World heritage sites, natural beauty, amazing beaches, fabulous food, spices and ayurveda, not to mention standout shopping.

We meet up at the beach resort town of Negombo before exploring the ancient capital of Anuradhapura and checking out the wildlife in Wilpathu National Park. We then head over to the east coast for 3 nights, experiencing some of the stunning coastal areas and beaches of Sri Lanka. Heading back to the ancient cities of Sigiriya and Dambulla we take a trip into the Elephant reserve of Minneriya NP before exploring the hills and tea plantations around Kandy and Nuwara Eliya. Heading south, we have a night at a beach resort on the South Coast before checking out the colonial history in charming Galle. We finish up our journey in Colombo, full of fabulous sights and amazing shopping. With many more hidden surprises, our travels around Sri Lanka will bring you face to face with fascinating culture, a beautiful people, fabulous food and an ancient and varied history just waiting to be discovered.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Negombo

Arriving at Bandaranaike International Airport, we take a short drive to Negombo and our hotel by the beach to spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 2 Negombo

Today we visit the fish markets, and some of the interesting sights around Negombo including the Dutch canals and some of the religious buildings in what is known as Little Rome.

Days 3-4 Anuradhapura

Driving north to Anuradhapura - the old capital, we spend the afternoon visiting some of the remarkable sights, including the Sri Maha Bodhi, the oldest documented tree in the world, as well as Buddhist Dagobas or stupas and crumbling temples.

Day 4 we take a morning safari in Wilpattu National Park, Sri Lanka's largest national park, home to elephants, leopards, deer, sloth bears and more. In the late afternoon we will visit the stunning Mihintale holy mountain.

Days 5-6 Trincomalee

A morning drive east to Trincomalee where we spend the afternoon relaxing. On day 6 we visit the pristine Pigeon Island sanctuary, excellent for some reef snorkeling before an afternoon exploring the sights in Trinco.

Day 7 Passikudah

Heading south along the east coast we have an afternoon to relax and chill on the stunning Passikudah Beach.

Days 8-9 Sigiriya

We head back inland to Sigiriya today and the heart of the Ancient Cities. We visit Minneriya National Park, a haven for huge herds of elephants, regularly spotted around the enormous water tank (lake) and even on the roads nearby. On day 9 we make an early morning climb up the legendary "Lion Rock", probably the most impressive sight in Sri Lanka. Half way up are the Celestial Maiden frescoes and a little more effort to get to the top is well worth it for the

views and ruins. We also take a village tour and enjoy a typical Sri Lankan lunch.

Days 10-11 Kandy

Driving today into the hills, we visit first the beautiful Dambulla Cave Temples which house hundreds of Buddha statues, many carved out of the rock itself. Continuing on we stop at a spice plantation before finishing up at beautiful Kandy where we'll catch the evening ceremony at the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic. We will take a guided tour of Kandy city, enjoying free time for exploring or shopping (Kandy is famous for its gemstones and batik) before we take in a local dance performance. On day 11 we will get to experience the annual Kandy Esala Perahera, a historical procession held to pay homage to the Sacred Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha, which is housed at the Sri Dalada Maligawa Temple in Kandy.

Days 12-13 Nuwara Eliya

We spend the day driving up further into the hills (with a short picturesque train ride en-route), through the tea plantations to Nuwara Eliya. Visiting a tea plantation we also explore the colonial hill station and have a morning trek to 'Worlds End', with some of the best panoramic views in Sri Lanka.

Day 14 Tangalle

Heading south today, we have a free afternoon to enjoy the stunning Sri Lankan south coast beaches near Tangalle.

Days 15-16 Galle

Today we drive eastwards along the South Coast to Galle, enroute passing by the Stick Fishermen around Koggala. Galle City, the major port on the south coast has the charming 17th century Fort, with Portuguese, Dutch and English heritage. You have a free day to explore the ramparts and buildings and wandering through the quaint streets steeped in history, not to mention fabulous boutiques, bars and cafes.

Day 17 Colombo

We have a leisurely drive north towards Colombo. On the way we stop off at Balapitiya and take a boat ride on the Madu Ganga river, famous for its Mangrove tunnels and birdlife. We also visit a Turtle hatchery in Kosgodia, set up to save and conserve the turtle population. Four of the five endangered species of sea turtles lay their eggs on the sandy beaches of Sri Lanka.

We then continue on to Colombo, arriving in time for an afternoon drink at our hotel by the sea.

Day 18 Colombo

We have a full day to explore the sights and the shopping in Colombo, including the Gangarama Temple and the Museum of Colombo. Sri Lanka has a large clothing export industry and many of the seconds find their way into the outlet stores in Colombo. There are also many other wonderful buys, from homewares and textiles to gems and of course, Sri Lankan souvenirs.

You can arrange for your departure flight tonight from Colombo, although rooms will be available if your flight is an early morning flight tomorrow.

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