



## SRI LANKA: SPLENDOURS OF THE SPICE ISLAND - A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2025)

Experience Sri Lanka's vibrant cultural heritage,  
historic sites and scenic vistas with VIP entry to  
the Buddhist Temple of the Tooth's sacred  
Shrine Room.

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Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys



Indian Subcontinent, Sri Lanka



10 days from AU\$9,940 pp



18 Guests

## Journey Overview

Experience Sri Lanka’s vibrant cultural heritage, historic sites and scenic vistas with VIP entry to the Buddhist Temple of the Tooth’s sacred Shrine Room, a private gem-cutting experience in a Kandy workshop, a sunset stroll of Galle Fort’s ramparts, a private visit to Geoffrey Bawa’s former country estate and an immersive cinnamon experience at a local plantation.

### Journey Highlights

- Visit several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Anuradhapura, Sigiriya Rock Fortress and Galle Fort
- Climb to Sigiriya Rock Fortress for a sunrise view
- Enjoy a private performance of a traditional Kandyan cultural show
- Gain insider access to the Temple of the Tooth’s sacred Shrine Room
- Stroll the ramparts of colonial Galle accompanied by a local archaeologist and heritage expert
- Visit Geoffrey Bawa’s iconic country estate for a private garden tour



## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrive Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Upon arrival in Colombo, you are escorted to a private lounge for expedited customs clearance. From there, you are met by an A&K representative and transferred to your hotel.

***Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo***

### **Day 2: Colombo | A Colonial Legacy Revealed**

After a morning at leisure, start your day with insider access to the office of a tea broker to learn about the art of tea identification and enjoy a tasting. Later, join your local guide for a walking tour of Colombo, Sri Lanka's vibrant and energetic commercial and financial capital. Visit the Old Dutch Hospital, a colonial treasure dating to the 17th century; and the commercial hub of Colombo Fort, home to a host of charming colonial mansions. Back at the hotel, reconvene for a welcome dinner.

***Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo | Meals: BD***

### **Day 3: Cultural Triangle | Sacred City**

After breakfast, drive to Thirappane, the heart of Sri Lanka's monument-rich Cultural Triangle region. After checking in and freshening up at your resort, explore the sacred city of Anuradhapura by bicycle. This ancient city is believed to have sprouted from a cutting of the Buddha's tree of enlightenment brought here in the third century BC by Sanghamitta, founder of an order of Buddhist nuns. The Ceylonese political and religious capital, which flourished for 1,300 years, was abandoned after it was invaded in 993. Hidden in dense jungle for many years, the site's palaces, monasteries and monuments are revealed to you today. Conclude your excursion with a blessing near the Sri Maha Bodhi, a sacred tree believed by many to be the oldest in the world.

***Ulagalla | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 4: Cultural Triangle | Lion’s Rock**

This morning, discover Sigiriya Rock Fortress (or Lion’s Rock), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built in the fifth century, this imposing citadel sits atop a 200-metre-high granite formation known as Lion’s Rock. Set out on a hike up winding cliffside staircases, summiting to reveal the ancient secrets of the short-lived kingdom of Kassapa. Explore the ruins of palaces, moats, shrines, frescoes and water gardens as the sun dawns over commanding vistas of the misty forests beyond. Return to the resort for some time at leisure. Later, embark on a game drive in Nachchaduwa Nature Park, rolling through lush countryside and rice paddies harbouring elephants, buffalo and exotic birdlife. Cap your excursion off with a Scenic Sundowner cocktail.

***Ulagalla | Meals: B***

### **Day 5: Cultural Triangle | Design Your Day**

Begin with a visit to the resort’s organic garden to pick fresh produce for a Chef’s Table cooking demonstration hosted at the on-site traditional hearth kitchen. Watch as your fresh herbs and vegetables are transformed into Sri Lankan delicacies that you’ll savour over lunch. This afternoon, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities.

- **Venture by Tuk-Tuk** through village streets and along country roads to get a relaxing, intimate view of daily life.
- **Kayak a Jungle Reservoir**, paddling past water lilies and lotus blossoms to view egrets, herons, storks and far more.
- **Bike Through Rural Landscapes**, past tropical timber and rich fields, stopping to explore intricate Buddhist temples.

Return to your hotel with the rest of your day at leisure.

***Ulagalla | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 6: Kandy | Hands-On Gem-Cutting Workshop**

Get an early start to visit the extraordinary Dambulla Cave Temples, with statues and murals dating back to the third century BC representing Sinhalese Buddhist art at its best. Continue south to Kandy, a vibrant city that mixes past and present amid the mist-hung hills, tropical tea plantations and lush mountains of Sri Lanka's Central Province. Here, delve into the legacy that earned Sri Lanka the moniker "Gem Island" with a visit to a local gem cutters' workshop. After watching the artisans ply their time-honoured trade, try your hand at cutting and polishing your own beautiful stone. Then, gain insight into the hard work that goes into gem mining. Continue to your hotel for dinner and a private performance of traditional Kandyan song and dance.

***Jetwing Kandy Gallery | Meals: BD***

### **Day 7: Kandy | Temple of the Tooth**

Join a botany professor at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya for a guided walk through the extraordinary botanical collection, comprising over 4,000 plant species, including a priceless collection of 300 varieties of orchids. Afterward, visit a local art and cultural centre located in a 300-year-old "heritage house," locally known as "walawwa," that was once a residence of a village chief. View its carefully preserved colonial-style architecture dating from the 18th century, and then head inside to see a rich collection of artifacts that reflects the passion of its founders, the late Rohan de Silva and Dr. Jacques Soulié, which includes traditional furniture, art objects, old books including precious first editions, photographs, and postcards, reflecting two civilisations: the East and the West. There is a wonderful collection of close to 200 photographs of old Ceylon dating from the 19th century. With his gentle hospitality and enthusiasm, Dr. Soulié unearths for you a virtual time capsule. Enjoy a traditional Sri Lankan lunch in the company of your host. Later this evening, attend a pooja ceremony at the Temple of the Tooth. Built during the 17th century, the UNESCO World Heritage Site overlooks picturesque Kandy Lake. Revered for generations, the tooth relic housed in the temple is believed to have granted ultimate authority to each ruler who possessed it. Here, amid scents of lotus and jasmine, join monks and pilgrims who gather to make offerings to the Buddha. Enjoy VIP entry to the inner Shrine Room where the Sacred Tooth Relic of Buddha is kept. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

***Jetwing Kandy Gallery | Meals: BL***

### **Day 8: Galle | Bawa's Sanctuary**

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and proceed to Bentota, where you gain special insider access to the home of the late Geoffrey Bawa, one of Asia's most prolific and influential architects. Here, learn how Bawa spent 40 years transforming this former abandoned rubber estate into a tropical paradise of elegant gardens and lily ponds set against the backdrop of scenic Dedduwa Lake. Enjoy lunch at the estate before continuing on to Galle for an evening at leisure.

***Amangalla | Meals: BL***

### **Day 9: Galle | Cinnamon Experience**

Head out to nearby Villa Mayurana, stopping en route to view traditional stilt fisherman along the coast. Upon arrival, enjoy lunch and a cinnamon experience on the lush grounds of your hotel property's fragrant spice plantation. Learn how this versatile spice is processed and packaged, and why Sri Lanka produces the best cinnamon in the world. Later, join a local archaeologist and heritage expert for an absorbing sunset walking tour of Galle Fort, built by the Dutch in 1663, and seek out local arts, crafts and delicacies as you wander the cobbled streets. Reconvene this evening for a farewell dinner.

***Amangalla | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 10: Depart Colombo**

Transfer to the airport in Colombo and board your departure flight.

***Meals: B***

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## Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years.

This journey entails extended scenic drives on unpaved roads.

First group event: welcome briefing at 12:30 p.m. on Day 2.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:30 p.m. on Day 9.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

## Included with every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director® and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy® Luggage Handling
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Traveller's Valet® Laundry Service
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

## Customise this Journey

**Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers** or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke tailor-made journey based on this itinerary.

# Map





## Accommodation

### Ulagalla Resort



Set within 58 acres of private grounds, Ulagalla Resort promises tranquillity, luxury and wilderness within easy reach of the many attractions of Sri Lanka’s Cultural Triangle. Expect to see monkeys, peacocks and elephants roaming around the superb eco-friendly hotel, as you enjoy the open-air spa, ravishing dining and serene villas.

The chalets are all built from local materials to harmonise with their surroundings. Comfort is maximised with air-conditioning, four-poster king-sized beds, en suite bathrooms with shower, and a separate lounge with a TV and dining table. All rooms come with a private plunge pool, except for two which have an in-room Jacuzzi.

At the heart of the resort is a century-old manor house, once the most important noble seat of the region. Home to the lobby, restaurant and bar, the beautifully renovated building overlooks the large pool and gardens. The grounds feature an organic garden, manicured beds and lawn and reclaimed paddy fields, which border two reservoirs dotted with lotus flowers and kumbuk trees – the hotel provides each villa with bicycles making it easy to explore. There’s also an open-air day spa, riding stables with resident horses, and an archery field.

### Why we like it

- 20 chalets - all but two have private plunge pools
- Immersed in a private 58-acre estate
- Explore the grounds on bicycles, which are provided in each villa
- Restored century-old manor house houses the restaurant and bar
- Serene open-air spa, riding stables and outdoor pool

## Amanagalla, Galle



Amangalla is set within the walls of the famous historic fort in Galle. The hotel is full of antiques, old prints, rich mahogany, wood and rattan planters and a warm and welcoming team of staff who are attentive and unobtrusive. The accommodation is gracious. It's full of antiques and shows off the heritage that is Amangalla. The suites are decorated in tasteful colonial style with glorious antiques, from Para Mara four-poster beds to pettagama chests, and high-quality reproductions finished with polished Burma teak floorboards that shine on after 300 years.

The bedrooms, chambers and suites offer a variety of views from Galle Fort itself to the hotel's mature gardens. The bathrooms are genteel and comfortable, with a free-standing bathtub and shower room. There is also a two storey Garden House, for those seeking a more private stay, set in the beautiful gardens. A large swimming pool, surrounded by palms, is centred within the resort's established gardens. This classical hotel also offers remedial pleasures from 'The Baths', the resort's relaxing, holistic, and traditionally inspired Spa complete with hydrotherapy pools, saunas, steam rooms and a cold plunge pool.

### Why we like it

- The oldest hotel in Sri Lanka now part of the Amanresorts collection
- An integral part of the UNESCO World Heritage listed Galle Fort
- Colonial in style – teeming with fine antiques from its Dutch heritage
- Gracious, welcoming and warm staff
- The Dining Room offers a choice of traditional Sri Lankan curry and home-cooked dishes
- Afternoon tea at Amangalla is a Galle institution



## Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

### Mar 19, 2025 - Mar 28, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$9,940 pp</b>	AU\$3,820	AU\$0	Call for Availability

### Oct 15, 2025 - Oct 24, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$9,940 pp</b>	AU\$3,820	AU\$0	Call for Availability

### Nov 5, 2025 - Nov 14, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$9,940 pp</b>	AU\$3,820	AU\$0	Call for Availability

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