



## SRI LANKA BY AIR

Venture deep into the heart of Sri Lanka on this phenomenal journey which conveniently links key sites and attractions by air, avoiding long drives.

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Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Sri Lanka, Indian Subcontinent



11 days from AU\$13,440 pp



Private

## Journey Overview

Venture deep into the heart of Sri Lanka on this phenomenal journey which conveniently links key sites and attractions by air, avoiding long drives. Explore the monkey-filled ruins of Polonnaruwa and climb to the ancient citadel of Sigiriya. Be astounded by Kandy's Temple of the Sacred Tooth. Trace a fascinating history from the 1st-century BC Dambulla Cave Temple to the colonial streets of Galle. Head out on safari in search of leopard and elephant, and experience the life of a tea planter as you train through the Central Highlands to a traditional planter's bungalow. At the end of each day, find sanctuary in the most wondrous accommodation, whether inside the walls of an historic fort or the wilds of Yala National Park.

### Journey Highlights

- Climb to the ancient citadel of Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Marvel at the spiritual temple caves of Dambulla
- Explore the ruined temples and palaces of Polonnaruwa
- Step inside the Temple of the Sacred Tooth
- Escape to your own exclusive tea planter's bungalow, via a scenic train in the Central Highlands
- Search for Sri Lankan leopards on safari
- Stay in a lux hotel within the walls of the historic Galle fort



# Itinerary

## **Day 1: Arrive Colombo**

Ayubowan and welcome to Sri Lanka. Enjoy a private transfer to your luxury boutique accommodation, a 200-year-old restored manor house. Take time at leisure to settle in and relax.

### ***The Wallawwa***

## **Day 2: Negombo - Sigiriya - Polonnaruwa - Sigiriya**

After breakfast, fly to Sigiriya and drive to your luxury hotel. Spend time enjoying a soak in your private plunge pool or taking advantage of the property's many other facilities.

This afternoon, journey to the well-preserved ruins of Sri Lanka's medieval capital and UNESCO World Heritage site, Polonnaruwa. The past is brought vividly to life as you explore the tombs, temples, stupas and immense reclining Buddha carved into the rock. Polonnaruwa also boasts ruins of ancient palaces, intricately carved moon stones and royal baths. For a different perspective you can opt to explore the city by bicycle.

### ***Water Garden Sigiriya | Meals: B***

## **Day 3: Sigiriya**

Early this morning journey to the magnificent rock-top fortress of Sigiriya, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Wander through picturesque water gardens and climb past the ancient and colossal Lion's Paws to a steep winding 200-metre staircase. Legend has it that the entry to the fortress was through the mouth of the lion, however over time this collapsed leaving only the paws. Upon reaching the summit admire 360-degree breathtaking views of the surrounding jungle and hills. Descend slowly admiring the mirror wall and famous Sigiriya frescoes and return to the hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

### ***Water Garden Sigiriya | Meals: B***

**Day 4: Sigiriya - Dambulla - Kandy**

Rise early for a hot air balloon ride (additional charge Nov - April only). Witness the sun rise over Kandalama, Dambulla Cave Temple and the Sigiriya Rock Fortress, spotting wild elephant and water buffalo in the untouched wilderness. Indulge in a champagne toast before returning to your hotel for breakfast.

Continue to Kandy, last capital of the Sri Lankan kings. Along the way, pause at Dambulla, Sri Lanka's greatest cave-temple complex and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Marvel at the rock walls and ceilings covered in extraordinary artworks and frescoes, and seek out some of the hundreds of statues of Buddha, Hindu kings and deities within.

Arrive in Kandy and check in to your boutique accommodation. This afternoon, visit the famous Temple of the Sacred Tooth, said to house one of Buddha's teeth. Stay to witness an auspicious offering to the Sacred Tooth Relic — an unforgettable ritual of drums, incense and chanting. Or, choose to be entertained by traditional music and dance at a Kandyan Cultural Show, after which you may meet the dancers for a photo.

***Kings Pavilion | Meals: B***

**Day 5: Kandy - Central Highlands**

Today, you'll ride one of the most scenic railways in the world through the Central Highlands to the hill station of Hatton. Roll past the emerald tea estates that blanket the mountains and breathe in the unmistakable aroma of pure Ceylon tea. Find your home at Ceylon Tea Trails, a cluster of colonial-era planters' bungalows beautifully restored with period furnishings. With your own housekeeper, chef and butlers, you'll certainly feel like an honoured guest.

***Ceylon Tea Trails | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 6: Central Highlands**

Enter the wonderful world of tea country on a morning tour. Learn all about the tea-making process from the fields to the factory, and sample prized beverages during a special high tea. Your host will take you through the entire process: from drying to segmenting, all the way to packing and distributing.

Spend the rest of the day at leisure wandering the scenic trails between bungalows. This is the ideal setting for trekking and biking against the breathtaking backdrop of mountains, lakes and waterfalls (additional charge). Make sure you spend some time at Tea Trails as well: lounge in the garden, kayak on the lake, play a game of croquet, take a dip in the pool or simply curl up beside the fireplace in the panelled library with a good book.

***Ceylon Tea Trails | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 7: Central Highlands - Yala National Park**

Take off from Castlereagh Reservoir and fly to Hambantota. Continue overland to your camp located on the border of Yala National Park, on the southern coast of Sri Lanka. Embark on an evening safari drive and discover why this wildlife park is a haven for nature lovers. Led by your expert tracker snap memorable photos of magnificent animals, including leopard, sloth bear and elephant, in their natural habitat.

Return to the camp for sundowners followed by dinner.

***Wild Coast Tented Lodge | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 8: Yala National Park**

Rise early for a morning game drive, and see the park come to life with animals and birdlife. As well as the thriving leopard and elephant populations, keep your eyes open for herds of spotted deer, wild boar, wild buffalo, langur, crocodile and peacock, and over 200 bird species.

Return to camp for breakfast and a day at leisure, before another thrilling safari drive at dusk.

***Wild Coast Tented Lodge | Meals: BLD***

**Day 9: Yala National Park - Galle**

Experience a glimpse into local life on a visit to a nearby cattle farm and rice paddy fields. Then, leave the wilds behind and head along the southern coast to Galle.

Settle into your hotel before a tour of the historic city. Discover a unique blend of Lankan and colonial influences in this UNESCO-listed city; uncover the fascinating architectural legacies of Portuguese and Dutch settlers alongside traditional Sri Lankan structures. Stroll through the Galle Fort and learn about the Dutch East India Company, which operated from within. Visit the Maritime Museum, the Old Dutch Reformed Church, Sun and Moon bastions, and more. As sunset approaches, climb the ramparts and sip a refreshing cup of Ceylon tea — or something stronger — with magnificent views.

Return to your hotel within the walls of the famous historic fort and enjoy a sundowner.

***Amangalla / Meals: B***

**Day 10: Galle**

Spend your day exploring at your own pace. Let your guide show you the sights. Perhaps go whale and dolphin watching on a private speed boat; explore the fascinating villages surrounding Galle on a guided bicycle tour; or relax on the beach at Unawatuna (additional charges).

***Amangalla / Meals: B***

**Day 11: Galle - Depart Colombo**

With your Sri Lankan adventure at an end, take a private transfer to the airport for your onward journey.

***Meals: B***



# Map



## Accommodation

### The Wallawwa



Conveniently located just 15 minutes from Colombo airport, the Wallawwa is the ideal property to start or finish your Sri Lankan journey. Set amidst lovingly tended tropical gardens, the award-winning 18-bedroom country house hotel converted from a 200-year-old manor house is small and stylish, with beamed ceilings, colonnaded porches and traditional Sri Lankan furnishings.

The jungle pool is surrounded by tropical trees and shrubs and the Z Spa is a heavenly retreat for travel-weary bodies, with a particular focus on pre- and post-flight rest and relaxation. Therapists plan treatments to fit each guest's schedule.

The convivial open-sided restaurant, The Verandah, serves exquisite a la carte Asian Fusion cuisine throughout the day to tables overlooking the gardens. Innovative menus incorporate the finest local ingredients, and many of the fruits, vegetables and herbs used are plucked daily from the extensive kitchen garden.

Established over 200 years, The Wallawwa has one of the finest private gardens in Sri Lanka. The garden is a tranquil oasis and has a lovely swimming pool. Sample a rice body polish or a Balinese deep tissue massage in the Z Spa. Enjoy Asian Fusion cuisine on the restaurant



verandah, overlooking the beautiful gardens.

### **Why we like it**

- Serene and stylish bolthole close by the airport
- A team of butlers ensure service is of the highest standard
- The Z Spa team are flexible and cater to your specific arrival and departure times
- All rooms have four-poster beds and large rain showers
- Fresh and flavoursome Asian fusion cuisine

## Water Garden Sigiriya



Surrounded by lakes, water streams and abundant flora sits Water Garden Sigiriya. This luxury hotel is situated 6 km away from the 2,000-year-old historic water garden on the Sigiriya Rock.

Water Garden Sigiriya feature 30 luxurious villas with exclusive private pools, secret gardens and offers a dedicated butler service. This watery wonderland has array of dining options and settings, with a master chef that prepares cuisine from around the world with a new twist on traditional local fare.

Indulge in the relaxing spa, the well-equipped fitness centre, or the many activities such as billiards, cycling and archery or a helicopter tour.

## Kings Pavilion Kandy



Set within a tropical haven, Kings Pavilion Kandy offers ultimate relaxation. Explore great stretches of scenery on gentle afternoon hikes or sit back and enjoy them from the spectacular infinity pool. You can also find inner harmony at the private spa and sauna.

Enchanting views abound throughout the hotel. All bedrooms showcase traditional styles combined with modern luxuries. Many even have 360-degree vistas and private Jacuzzis. Spacious balconies and teak interiors exude style and tranquillity, and your butler ensures round-the-clock pampering. Inviting designs, great flavours and mountain views accompany your dining experiences here. Taste traditional dishes like kollu and navaratne curry and enjoy international favourites too.

Despite your location in the heart of nature, you're close to the historic city of Kandy. Here, you can enjoy an incredible range of exciting activities. Check out local markets and eateries to experience Kandyan culture like a local. Discover the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, a nearby UNESCO World Heritage Site not to be missed. Budding naturalist will flock to see Peradeniya Botanical Gardens' 4,000 plant species. Meanwhile, nearby Udawatta Kele Sanctuary houses abundant rainforest mammals and many endemic birds.

### Why we like it

- Located on a hillside, overlooking the misty Hunnasgiriya Mountains
- Unwind at the spa and sauna with an array of soothing treatments
- Close to Sri Lanka's best natural and city-based attractions
- Enjoy authentic Sri Lankan dishes at the hotel restaurant, as well as international favourites



## Ceylon Tea Trails, Hatton



Ceylon Tea Trails comprises of five restored colonial era tea planter residences, perched at an altitude of 1250 metres in Sri Lanka's panoramic Ceylon tea region. Combining classical and contemporary style and a taste of gracious living, each residence is unique and offers guests the non-hotel, private house ambiance that is the hallmark of the award-winning Tea Trails experience. Features including period furnishings, gracious butler service, and gourmet cuisine create an ambiance that has made Tea Trails the gold standard for luxury in Sri Lanka.

Summerville has the air of a country cottage, Castlereagh boasts an eclectic style of its own, the high colonial Tientsin was one of the first planter's residences to be built in Ceylon and there is the more modern Norwood and Dunkeld.

Each bungalow comes with its own manager, chef, butler and house staff with between four and six rooms each, a separate sitting room, sweeping lawns, swimming pools and English gardens. Rooms are named after past tea planter occupants. It is possible to walk between each bungalow to appreciate the beautiful scenery.

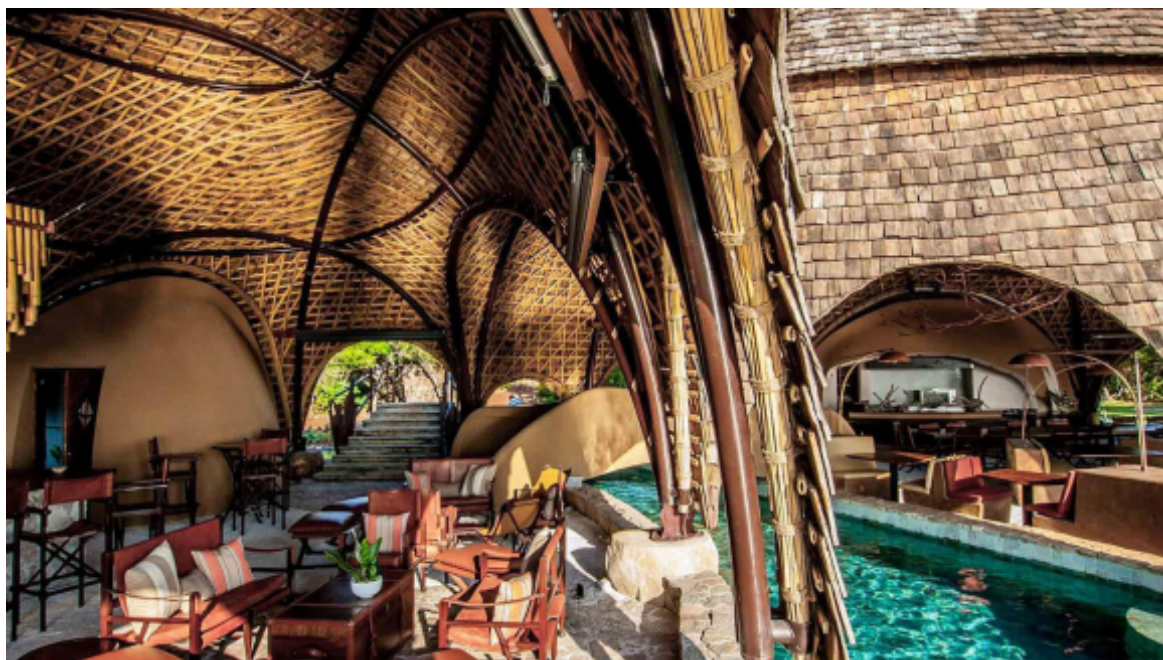
This is the ideal setting for trekking and biking against the breathtaking backdrop of mountains, lakes, winding roads and waterfalls. If you prefer to unwind, observe life on a working tea estate while being pampered by your butler, enjoy a spa treatment, croquet on the lawn or sunbathe alongside the pool. Or explore the lush tea fields & visit a century old factory for a gentle education in the art of Ceylon Tea.

### **Why we like it**

- Butler service and authentic period furnishings in a private house ambience
- Sri Lanka's first Relais & Châteaux resort
- Delight in time-honoured planters' traditions
- Experience tea-based spa treatments
- Learn from the resident tea planter of the journey from two leaves and a bud to cup



## Wild Coast Tented Lodge



Wild Coast Tented Lodge is a stylish hotel set beside the beach within Yala National Park. This is an incredible opportunity to experience one of Sri Lanka's best wildlife-viewing destinations in ultimate luxury.

Choose from 28 spacious accommodation options, including poolside and family suites. There are two superb restaurants located on site, which serve delightful gourmet cuisine. The daily changing menus use local ingredients and culinary traditions. Visit the fantastic Sanctuary Spa where the breaking waves and salty breeze provide an idyllic atmosphere. The spa ingredients include native ingredients such as Ceylon tea and cinnamon.

Other facilities include an enormous free-form swimming pool. You also have access to a library and education centre where you can witness insightful talks focused on the local wildlife. Throughout your stay, you will have incredible opportunities observing magnificent creatures on guided nature walks and daily game drives. Look out for elephant, sloth bear and graceful leopard.

### Why we like it

- The hotel is laid out in the shape of a leopard's paw print
- Choose from two restaurants
- Amenities include a library and a large swimming pool
- Family suites offer extra space and privacy
- Experience wildlife talks and daily game drives

## 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



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