



SRI LANKA: A FAMILY ADVENTURE

Culture and history, beaches and mountains,
jungle and wildlife, Sri Lanka is a holiday
destination for the whole family.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries, Families & Multi-Generational Travel



Indian Subcontinent, Sri Lanka



14 days from AU\$12,465 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Culture and history, beaches and mountains, jungle and wildlife, Sri Lanka is a holiday destination for the whole family. Move at a leisurely pace and take the time to absorb everything this enchanting country has to offer. Climb past frescoes and through ruined palaces for panoramic vistas at Sigiriya. Delve into the cultural traditions of Kandy, and step back in time among the ancient city and temples of Anuradhapura. Head out on safari in search of the elusive leopard and see great herds of elephants. Take a Ceylon tea journey from plantation to pour and balance this cultural immersion with hikes to waterfalls, zip-lining, abseiling and quad bike adventures. Conclude your journey in Galle and unwind on the tropical beaches of the south coast.

Journey Highlights

- Climb through the Lion's Paws to the summit of the Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Explore the ruined temples and giant shrines of Anuradhapura
- Witness an auspicious offering to the Sacred Tooth Relic
- Go in search of leopard on game drives through Yala National Park
- Escape to your own exclusive tea plantation bungalow and coastal villa
- Spend time at leisure relaxing on the pristine southern coast



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Colombo - Negombo

Ayubowan and welcome to Sri Lanka. Transfer to your luxury manor house hotel at Negombo, Uga Riva, a restored 180-year-old manor house set on a five-acre coconut plantation. Enjoy time at leisure to settle in and relax.

Uga Riva / Meals: D

Day 2: Negombo - Dambulla

This morning you are driven north into the heart of the Cultural Triangle. Your first stop is Dambulla where you'll find Sri Lanka's greatest cave-temple complex — just one of Sri Lanka's eight UNESCO World Heritage sites. Marvel at the walls and ceiling of this important Buddhist site, resplendent with frescoes and seek out some of the hundreds of statues of Buddha, Hindu kings and deities housed within.

Ulagalla / Meals: BD

Day 3: Sigiriya and Minneriya

Rise early for your visit to the magnificent rock fortress of Sigiriya, another UNESCO World Heritage site. Wander through picturesque water gardens, past boulders, pools and fountains and climb past the ancient and colossal Lion's Paws to a steep winding 200-metre-high staircase. From the summit, take in the breathtaking 360-degree views of the surrounding jungle and hills. Pause during your descent to admire the mirror wall and the famous Sigiriya frescoes.

Later swap ancient history for wildlife inside the forests and grasslands of Minneriya National Park where you get up close to Asian elephants. The park is particularly impressive when the herds come together near the ancient reservoir during the migration known as 'the Gathering' (June - September). Keep your camera handy as you spot chattering macaque monkeys, deer, water buffalo and abundant birdlife.

Ulagalla / Meals: BD

Day 4: Anuradhapura

Drive to Anuradhapura and explore the ancient ruins by bicycle. Anuradhapura is Sri Lanka's first Capital Kingdom dating back to the 4th-century BC. For a thousand years it lay in ruins, covered by a thick blanket of jungle and wildlife; today it is a UNESCO site, unfolding fascinating truths about Sinhalese history and the spread of Buddhism through South Asia. The giant white domed dagobas and the Buddha tell of the extraordinary skill of ancient engineers and stonemasons. Ride along the streets, byways and green lawns of Anuradhapura, and imagine what this city would have been like during its glory days. Finish with a holy blessing at the sacred Sri Maha Bodhi tree, the oldest recorded tree planted by man.

Ulagalla / Meals: BD

Day 5: Thirappane - Kandy

Drive into the highlands to Kandy, the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings and the southern point of the Cultural Triangle. Having resisted colonial forces for longer than other parts of the country, Kandy retains its unique customs and artistic traditions. Today it is considered the country's most significant cultural and religious centre.

Arrive in Kandy and check into your boutique accommodation. Later, 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, you may choose to be entertained by traditional music and dance at a Kandyan Cultural Show, after which you can meet the dancers for a photo.

Kings Pavilion / Meals: BD

Day 6: Kandy - Ella

Take to the rails today on a train trip to the hill station of Ella. This journey is considered one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world. Roll past the emerald-green tea estates that blanket the mountains and breathe in the unmistakable aroma of pure Ceylon tea. The train's sedate pace allows you to really appreciate the passing scenery with each twist and turn, revealing yet another panoramic vista. On arrival into Ella you'll be met at the station by your chauffeur and driven to Nine Skies, a refurbished tea bungalow hotel.

Nine Skies / Meals: BLD

Day 7: Ella

Lace up your hiking boots and hit the trail on an ascent of Little Adam's Peak. The summit affords spectacular views of the surrounding landscape. Afterwards visit the Nine Arches Bridge. This impressive viaduct which extends 24 metres from the valley floor is also known as the Bridge in the Sky, and is one of the best examples of colonial-era railway construction in Sri Lanka.

This afternoon, learn the secrets of the famed Ceylon tea, following the process from plant to cup on a tour of a local tea factory.

Nine Skies | Meals: BLD

Day 8: Ella

Today is a full day at leisure enjoying the property, or exploring the surrounding countryside. There are numerous hiking trails which lead to impressive waterfalls and scenic viewpoints, while thrill seekers can experience the rush of zip-lining, abseiling or a quad bike adventure.

Nine Skies | Meals: BLD

Day 9: Ella - Yala National Park

Today you'll travel southeast to your wilderness lodge located on the border of Yala National Park. Fronting Sri Lanka's southeastern coastline, Yala spans some 1,300 square kilometres of beach, forest, bushland, savannah and lagoon, affording a wealth of ecosystems and diverse wildlife.

After lunch, head out on a late afternoon game drive and discover why this national park is a haven for nature lovers. Led by your expert tracker, keep your eyes open to see magnificent animals, including leopard, sloth bear and elephant in their natural habitat. Return to your accommodation, relax and enjoy dinner.

Chena Huts | Meals: BLD

Day 10: Yala National Park

Rise early for a morning game drive, and see the park come to life. As well as the thriving leopard and elephant populations, keep your eyes open for herds of spotted deer, wild boar, wild buffalo, langur, crocodile, peacock, and over 200 bird species. Return to the lodge for breakfast and a day at leisure. As the day moves towards dusk head back out for another thrilling safari drive.

Chena Huts | Meals: BLD

Day 11: Yala National Park - Midigama

Leaving the park behind, transfer west along the southern coast towards Galle. On the way you'll stop at a village house to meet a local who will share with you the secret to making the area's traditional, creamy dessert — curd and treacle. Continue to your seaside villa, featuring spacious rooms and water views.

The Six | Meals: B

Day 12: Galle

Take the short drive to nearby Galle and discover a unique blend of the exotic and colonial in this UNESCO World Heritage-listed city. Uncover the fascinating architectural legacies of the 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.

The Six | Meals: B

Day 13: Southern Coast

Today is at leisure. Relax by the pool or on the beach. Alternatively, you could choose to explore the south coast, head out to catch sight of whale and dolphin, discover how cinnamon is farmed or explore some of the coastal temples.

The Six | Meals: B

Day 14: Depart Colombo

Take a private transfer to the airport for your onward journey.

Meals: B

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

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

Uga Chena Huts, Yala



Nestled between the sea and dunes is Uga Chena Huts a boutique style lodge offering a unique experience in this wildlife haven. The "huts" are luxury pavilions, modern in design and positioned perfectly for privacy. There is a large main swimming pool and a cocktail bar a great place to spend some time in this tranquil spot.

On your game drives you will have the opportunity to spot leopard, elephant, wild boar, flamingos and painted storks to name a few. The beach is within walking distance from your room and is home to where the sea turtles come to lay their eggs every year, an incredible spectacle. Stay at Uga Chena Huts for a tranquil stay and to experience the best of Sri Lankan wildlife.

Why we like it

- A small and intimate lodge with just 18 cabins
- Each cabin has its own private deck complete with plunge pool
- Enjoy a game drive each day in search of the elusive leopard
- The beachside restaurant is the perfect place to treat your taste buds to traditional Sri Lankan cuisine

Dates & Pricing

14 days from \$12,465 per person based on 2 adults + 2 children travelling.

As this Private Journey can be personalised to your specific requirements, it is not available for online booking.

Depending on your preferred dates and arrangements, final pricing will vary from low season to peak season travel.

Please call A&K on 1300 851 800 or send us a **booking enquiry** to book this journey

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