

BACKPACKING SRI LANKA



Sri Lanka

When travelling around Sri Lanka, it is best to mark your tour map based on things to do, places to visit, area related attractions and most importantly, climate. Yes, this tiny island of ours boasts different climates in a small space.

Sri Lanka is a year round destination as the monsoon divides it into two seasons. You should choose the right corner of the island accordingly (you can contact

gayan@getawaysrilanka.travel for the information). For Backpacking in Sri Lanka, the best months are the transitional months from January to April and August to September.

You can expect a variety of things to do: Starting with wonderful beaches, amazing diving spots, national parks for elephants, leopards, monkeys and to tea plantations, huge temples, fortresses and must-see cities (such as Galle), Sri Lanka has something to offer for everyone.

Sri Lanka is a very affordable tourist destination. Even though you pay more as a tourist than the locals do, it is possible to travel on a small budget.

Costs of traveling in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is one of the most affordable countries. By planning your trip, it is possible to find a good balance and save a substantial amount, (even luxury resorts are affordable!).

To give you an idea:

- Guesthouses often offer overnight stays for around 20 \$ per person / per night
- a meal in a restaurant often is round about 5\$
- a long train trip costs around 1-2\$ (2nd class)
- long distance bus trips often cost less than 5\$

Prices in resorts and restaurants for tourists are of course substantially higher.
Cash withdrawal from Visa card is available.



09 Nights/10 Days

This tour includes 09 nights/08 days accommodation, 07 meals including daily breakfast, transport in air-conditioned vehicles, English-speaking driver guides and more.

DAY 01 | AIRPORT – COLOMBO

On Arrival at Colombo International Airport our representative/chauffer guide/national guide will welcome you. Upon completion of arrival formalities check into the hotel in Colombo.

Overnight Stay at Colombo

DAY 02 | COLOMBO - SIGIRIYA

After breakfast, proceed to Sigiriya

MEAL/S: Breakfast

ATTRACTIONS: Visit Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage, Climbing Sigiriya Rock

ACTIVITIES: Visit Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage, Climbing Sigiriya Rock

Pinnawela- Begun in 1972, the Elephant Orphanage at Pinnawela is a remarkable project created to protect abandoned or orphaned wild elephants who would not otherwise have survived in the wild. Relocated to the present size in 1975, today it has grown to become one of Sri Lanka's key attractions. The elephants roam free within the sanctuary – and the highlight of their (and the visitors') day is the feeding sessions and when they are led down to the river for a bath. From the banks of the river, you can watch these gleeful herds of elephants splashing around freely on the river.

THINGS TO NOTE: Light cotton clothes / Comfortable shoes / Sun hats / Sun lotions.

Evening, climb the sky fortress of Sri Lanka, Sigiriya

The ultimate icon of Sri Lanka's historic past, the giant rock fortress of Sigiriya arises high above the flat landscape, surrounded by jungle on all sides. A testimony to the inventiveness of the ancient civilizations of the land, the once impenetrable stronghold of King Kassapa, 'Sihagiri' or Lion's Rock as it was called then, is considered to be the 8th wonder of the world today. The feats of artistry, architecture and engineering at Sigiriya continue to impress visitors with their utter magnificence, even thousands of years on. Intricately landscaped pleasure gardens sprawl out below the rock, giant lion paws hewn in stone mark the entrance to the fortress at its foot, a highly polished mirror wall still carries the scrawled writings of ancient poets

Overnight stay in Sigiriya

DAY 03 | SIGIRIYA – POLONNARUWA - SIGIRIYA

After breakfast, proceed to Polonnaruwa

MEAL/S: Breakfast

ATTRACTIONS: Polonnaruwa, Minneriya National Park

ACTIVITIES: Visit Polonnaruwa in the morning , Visit Minneriya National Park by jeeps

THINGS TO NOTE: Light cotton clothes / Comfortable shoes / Sun hats / Sun lotions / Insect repellents are recommended.

Polonnaruwa is one of the most significant kingdoms in Sri Lankan history this medieval capital (11th - 12th Century AD) remains a well-preserved city of ancient stupas, moonstones, beautiful parks, massive buildings and imposing statues. The ruins of this ancient city stay scattered over an extensive area of woodland and can be explored within a day. The city was enclosed by three concentric protecting the royal palace complex at its center, the religious buildings - called Quadrangle, lie to the North and are very well preserved to this day. The largest monuments are found here including the buildings of the Menik Vihara, Rankot Vihara, Alahana Pirivena and Jetavana monasteries, the incredible Buddha statues of the Gal Vihara, the soaring Lankatilaka shrine, the majestic King's Council Chamber, the Lotus Bath are must see sights. And of course, the giant statue of Polonnaruwa's greatest king

- Parakramabahu, and the vast 'Sea of Parakrama' – a 12th century man-made reservoir which dominates the city are not to be missed either.

Afternoon safari in the Minneriya National Park

The Minneriya National Park encompasses the ancient Minneriya Tank which was built in the 3rd century AD by King Mahasen. Today, the ancient reservoir fills during the North Eastern monsoon, but gradually shrinks as the dry season approaches. During this time herds of majestic Asian Elephants, sometimes over 300 in number, converge onto the receding shores of the Minneriya tank to forage on the surrounding greenery. This unique phenomenon is the highest concentration of wild Asian Elephants on Earth and has come to be known as "The Gathering". This phenomenon peaks during the months of August and September which is the height of the drought and is an opportunity not to be missed by wild life enthusiasts and casual travellers alike.

Overnight Stay in Sigiriya



DAY 04 | SIGIRIYA – DAMBULLA - KANDY

After breakfast, Proceed to Kandy

MEAL/S: Breakfast

ATTRACTIONS: Dambulla Cave Temple, Temple of Tooth, Cultural Dance Performance

ACTIVITIES: Dambulla Cave Temple, Temple of the Tooth and witness a Cultural Dance Performance

THINGS TO NOTE: warm clothes / Comfortable shoes / Sun hats / Sun lotions / Insect repellents are recommended.

An icon of Sri Lanka, Dambulla Rock Cave Temple houses unique drawings in five magnificently constructed cave temples flanking the golden temple of Dambulla. See beautiful cave paintings along walls that shelter 150 statues of Lord Buddha. As you enter, look straight up to the gigantic Buddha statue glittering in gold

Kandy-The cultural epicenter and the hill capital of the island, Kandy is Sri Lanka's second city and home to the Temple of the Tooth - the country's most important religious shrine, and the traditional pageant the Esala Perahera. Although modernity and urban sprawl has changed the face of this once quaint hill station, it still carries a regal atmosphere with

graceful Kandyan style architecture mingling with colonial buildings set around a tranquil lake surrounded by green hills. The kingdom of Kandy was the last stronghold of the Sinhalese, clinging to its sovereignty long after the island had fallen to the Portuguese and Dutch and the English, preserving its own unique customs and culture until the very last. These traditions live on today in the city's unique music, dance and architecture.

Overnight Stay in Kandy

DAY 05 | KANDY

After breakfast, visit Peradeniya Botanical Garden

MEAL/S: Breakfast

ATTRACTIONS: Peradeniya Botanical Garden, Silk Factory, Gem Museum

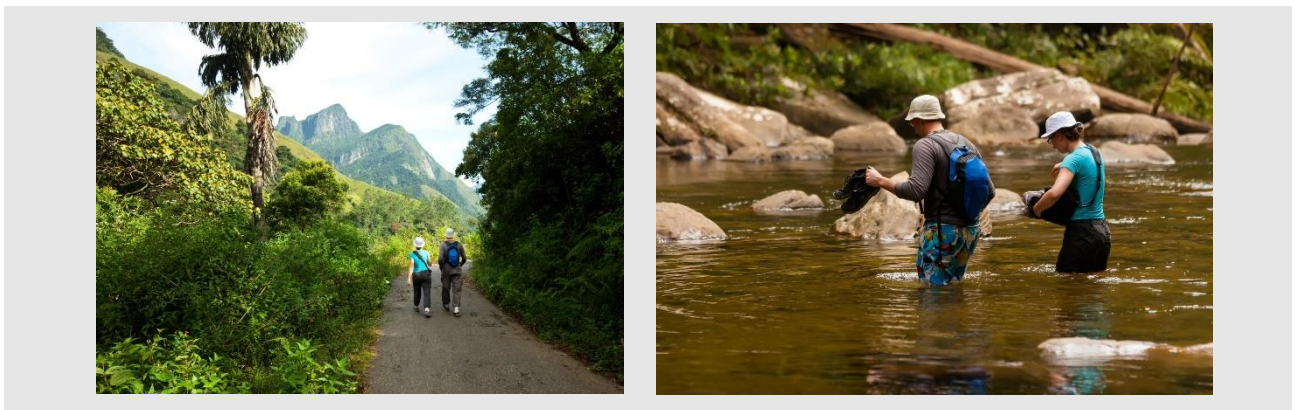
ACTIVITIES: visit Peradeniya Botanical Garden, visit to Silk Factory and the Gem Museum

THINGS TO NOTE: Light cotton clothes / Comfortable shoes / Sun hats / Sun lotions / Insect repellents are recommended.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya are about 5.5 km to the west of the city of Kandy in the Central Province of Sri Lanka. It attracts 2 million visitors annually. It is near the Mahaweli River (the longest in Sri Lanka). It is renowned for its collection of orchids. The garden includes more than 4000 species of plants, including orchids, spices, medicinal plants and palm trees.[1] Attached to it is the National Herbarium of Sri Lanka. The total area of the botanical garden is 147 acres (0.59 km²), at 460 meters above sea level, and with a 200-day annual rainfall. It is managed by the Division of National Botanic Gardens of the Department of Agriculture.

Afternoon visit to Silk Factory and the Gem Museum in Kandy

Overnight Stay in Kandy



DAY 06 | KANDY – ELLA

After breakfast, proceed to Ella.

MEAL/S: Breakfast

ATTRACTIONS: Sita Cave/ Bambarakanda Falls

ACTIVITIES: visit Sita Cave/ Bambarakanda Falls / Ella Gap

THINGS TO NOTE: Warm clothes / Comfortable shoes / Insect repellents are recommended.

The main attraction of Ella is the breath-taking view from the 'Ella Gap' – looking out between the towering bulk of Ella Rock on the right and through a gap in the hills to the plains far, far below. While the village itself may not offer much in the way of attractions the locality certainly makes up for it. The majestic Ella rock looming over the village provides an arduous but rewarding hike – and the views from the top are well worth the effort. The beautiful Ravana Ella waterfall is an impressive cascade – the widest in Sri Lanka, is also a sight not to miss. The nearby caves are steeped in legend according to which, the ancient king Ravana held the Indian princess Sita captive in them.

Overnight Stay in Ella

DAY 07 | ELLA

Full day leisure.

MEAL/S: Breakfast

ATTRACTIONS: Sita Cave/ Bambarakanda Falls

ACTIVITIES: visit Sita Cave/ Bambarakanda Falls / Ella Gap

THINGS TO NOTE: Warm clothes / Comfortable shoes / Insect repellents are recommended.

Overnight Stay in Ella

DAY 08 | ELLA - HIKKADUWA

After breakfast proceed to Hikkaduwa.

MEAL/S: Breakfast

ATTRACTIONS: Beach / Coral reef

ACTIVITIES: Glass bottom boat ride

THINGS TO NOTE: Light cotton clothes / Comfortable shoes / Sun hats / Sun lotions / Insect repellents are recommended.

Overnight Stay in Ella

Once an isolated and pristine crescent shaped bay of clear waters and exquisite coral reefs, the adverse effects of over development has changed its face forever. However, Hikkaduwa or 'Hikka' as it is known by many, still remains a highly popular hotspot with travellers who prefer a party atmosphere to their beach holiday. 'Hikka' has plenty of action to offer; snorkelling and diving (plenty of old shipwrecks to explore offshore too) amongst the corals and schools of tropical fish. Turtles can be seen during the season, both in the water and on the beach. The surf off the bay is also known as one of the better surfing spots in the island. And if seaside activity is not all you are after, there are plenty of historical sites within easy access to explore as well.

Overnight Stay in Hikkaduwa

DAY 09 | HIKKADUWA – GALLE - HIKKADUWA

After breakfast, participate sightseeing tour around Galle

MEAL/S: Breakfast

ATTRACTIONS: Dutch Fort of Galle, National Maritime Archeological Museum

THINGS TO NOTE: Light cotton clothes / Comfortable shoes / Sun hats / Sun lotions / Insect repellents are recommended.

Visit the Dutch Fort of Galle as well as the National Maritime Archeological Museum. The new hub of 'cool' and creative activity in Sri Lanka, the Southern capital of Galle is enjoying a great comeback. Galle and its outskirts have now become a favored hotspot for travellers looking for an all-round holiday. The main attraction of Galle is the 17C Dutch Fort, a UNESCO protected World Heritage site. Historically, Galle was a location of paramount importance due to its strategic location on the South coast as well as its natural harbor. The center of ancient trade in gems, pearls, spices and more, Galle was the port of call for many seekers of tropical treasure

Evening proceed to Balapaitiya

The beautiful Madu River or Madu Ganga is located in the South West coast in Balapitiya. It is considered as Sri Lanka's second largest wetland. A boat ride on this lagoon which takes about 2 hours ensures a breathtaking and fascinating experience. Madu Ganga wetlands is home to over 300 species of plants and nearly 250 species of vertebrate animals and consists of many islands of various sizes. The largest island is known as "Ma Doowa" and the smallest is called "Satha Paha Doowa" for its resemblance to a local 5 cent coin. Other places of interest are the Kothduwa Temple, a wooden bridge 300 metres long that is constructed across the river and cinnamon island. The main occupations of the local inhabitants are producing cinnamon, cinnamon oil and prawn fishing. On your journey you will also observe some traditional fisherman and traditional fishing kraals (ja-kotu) set up to trap lagoon prawns. Another recent attraction is the 'fish massage' / 'fish therapy'. Different types of fish are put into tanks, which are floating on the river and visitors can immerse their feet and

experience fish nibbling at their toes. You will pass huge mangrove forests by the riverbanks and will ride under short mangrove tunnels.

Return to hotel

Overnight Stay in Hikkaduwa



DAY 10 | HIKKADUWA – COLOMBO - AIRPORT

After breakfast, proceed to airport.

MEAL/S: Breakfast

ATTRACTIONS: Gangarama Temple, churches, mosques, Colombo Bazaar & fort area

ACTIVITIES: Visit of Kosgoda Turtle hatchery/ City Tour of Colombo/ Departure transfer to the airport.

THINGS TO NOTE: End of the tour and the services.

Visit of Kosgoda has become famous for its turtle conservation projects which attract many local and foreign visitors throughout the year. These conservation projects help to protect turtles from extinction in Sri Lanka and have seen the release of millions of baby turtles safely back into the wild. Although the main season for laying is October to April, Green turtles lay eggs almost throughout the year at Kosgoda. A total of five species of sea turtles lay eggs along the coastal belt of Sri Lanka, out of which the most common is the Green turtle. The Olive Ridley and the Hawksbill follow next on the list, while the extremely large Leatherback and Loggerhead turtles bring in the rear. The Kosgoda turtle hatcheries also look after turtles that have been injured or disabled due to becoming trapped in fishing nets or other natural calamities. Rare albino turtles can also be seen.

Proceed to Colombo

Colombo is the capital city of Sri Lanka. A race course, which was a horse racing hub in 1893 and a World War II airstrip, will be your first stop. The course is now furnished with lavish clothing, food and tea boutiques. Afterwards, head to Pettah to visit the Floating Market's architecturally designed stalls, where concrete floors and minimalist decor are designed to reflect the calm water of the lake below. Afterwards, head to Independence Square, where

the revamped shopping arcade has turned the colonial masterpiece into one of the trendiest shopping areas in Sri Lanka

We 'Thank you' for selecting GETAWAY SRI LANKA as your 'Trusted Travel Partner' and wish you a safe journey back to your destination. We hope to see you soon to discover the rest of our beautiful island



***** End of the tour *****

Cost Per person on BB Basis AU\$ 485.00

Round tour on TUK TUK AU\$ 385.00 (2 pax can share the vehicle)

PRICE INCLUSIVE OF:

- ❖ 09 nights/ 10 days Accommodation in a SGL bed on Home Stays. Similar home stay will be provided on unavailability. Cost may change.
- ❖ Meal Plan - Bed & Breakfast basis throughout the tour (except Day 1 breakfast)
- ❖ Arrival, departure transfers and the tour as per the itinerary in Three wheeler (TUK TUK)
- ❖ Fuel, Parking & fee
- ❖ All currently applicable government taxes and service charges

PRICE EXCLUSIONS:

- ❖ Cost of Entrance Tickets & Jeep hire charges to the sites visited in the itinerary.
- ❖ Lunch & Dinner cost
- ❖ Peak period supplements
- ❖ Dinner cost & Lunch cost.
- ❖ International air-fare, airport tax or any kind of insurance cover other than what is stated.
- ❖ Items of personal nature like drinks, laundry, telephone calls, tips, etc.
- ❖ Any other Sites not mentioned in the itinerary
- ❖ Visa fees to Sri Lanka.