

Expedition

De Ceylon

Travel and Lifestyle



SRI LANKA

Small yet mighty – discover the best of Sri Lanka, a true hidden gem of Asia

Where wildlife, World Heritage wonders and gastronomic delights meet.

AN ABUNDANCE OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES From sacred temples to ancient ruins, fortified palaces and colonial fortresses, this tiny nation boasts an impressive eight World Heritage-listed sites tracing back more than 2,000 years of history. Be sure to visit the iconic Temple of the Tooth in Kandy, as well as Sigiriya Rock fortress and the incredible Dambulla Cave Temple. Get lost in the wonders of Sri Lanka.

PARADISE BEACHES

Sri Lanka is a delightfully unexpected island paradise, where the jewel-bright Indian Ocean laps at white sand beaches, fringed by swaying palm trees.

Enjoy a relaxing stay right on the beach front at the Heritage Ahungalla.

TEA COUNTRY BY TRAIN

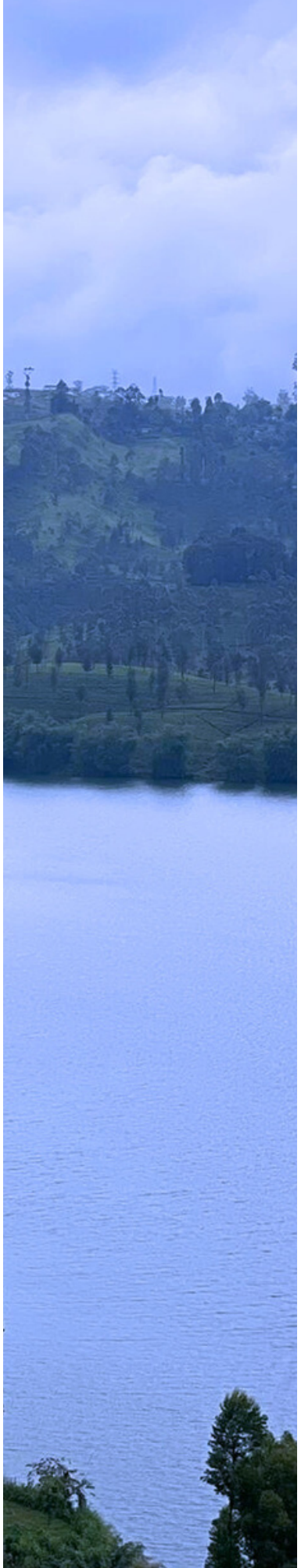
All aboard an enchanting rail journey from Nanu Oya to Ella through the lush heart of Sri Lanka. Pass rolling green hills, waving to the occasional local tea picker dressed in a colourful sari. Enjoy stunning, unobstructed views from your window as you travel past the leafy tea plantations.

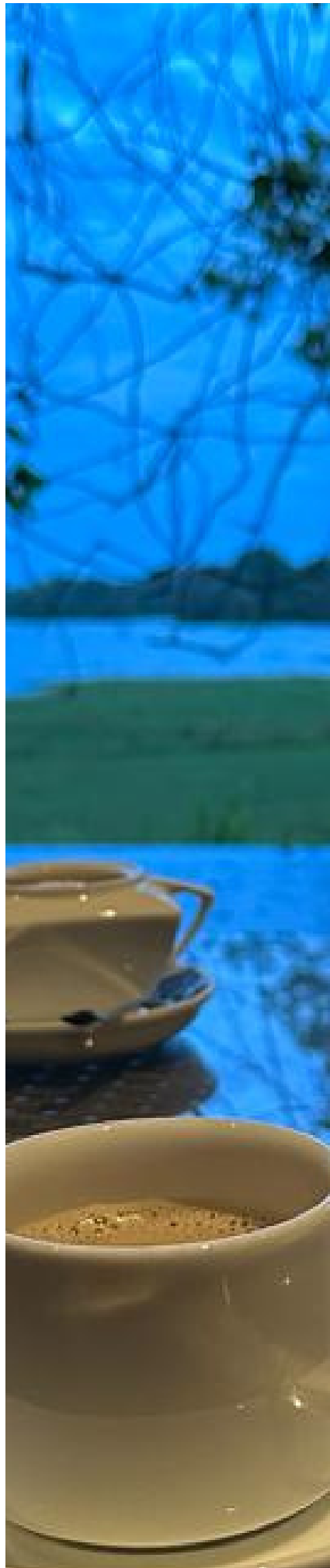
ABUNDANT WILDLIFE

Explore the wilderness of the country in Yala National Park, home to an abundance of remarkable wildlife. From majestic, trunk-swinging elephants and stalking Sri Lankan leopards, to spectacular wild peacocks and fascinating sloth bears, there are plenty of reasons to keep your camera nearby.

A TASTE OF WHAT'S TO COME

Craving a rich, simmering curry? Maybe you'd like to take a bite of some string hoppers? Or are you dreaming of scooping up some freshly grated sambol with a warm slice of roti bread? Be sure to wash it down with a cup of the world's freshest and finest Ceylon tea. Sri Lanka does cuisine right, with meals bursting at the seams with flavour.





Sri Lanka is a land of myth, legend, history and one of the richest cultures. It has 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites that must be visited as well as religious sites, numerous national parks, verdant tea estates and, of course, beaches. Take a scenic train ride past plantations and hills and try your hand at blackjack and poker at one of the many casinos. Tickle your taste buds with local favourites like rich curries, fragrant polos and the odd-smelling wood apple.

COLOMBO, Is characterized by beaches, Buddhist temples, sprawling gardens, and historical landmarks. Colombo is the capital of Sri Lanka which is a very beautiful place. The city is a mixture of modern life and colonial buildings and ruins of it. Sri Lanka was colonised by Portuguese and Britishers. The architecture here is reflective of its rich heritage.

SIGIRIYA, Famous for its palace ruins on top of a massive 200 meter high rock surrounded by the remains of an extensive network of gardens, reservoirs and other structures. The rock itself is a lava plug left over from an ancient long extinct volcano. It is also renowned for its ancient paintings (frescoes), which are similar to those found at Ajanta Caves in India. It was used as a rock-shelter mountain monastery from about the 5th century BC, with caves prepared and donated by devotees of the Buddhist Sangha.

KANDY, Has a rich historical background covering the major events of the medieval era and colonial era. Every square inch of this nicely planned town has a piece of Sri Lankan history. Feel the pulse of royalty in some colonial architecture and feel the divine blessings while visiting a large temple where science meets religion and together they try to explain the complexity of life. The town of Kandy added a value to its legacy and never changed its roots for the sake of development. This one virtue makes this town worth a visit.

NUWARA ELIYA, Is Sri Lanka's hill station famed for its tea production. With a multitude of gorgeous attractions ranging from waterfalls and tea plantations to gardens and lakes, Nuwara Eliya is the epitome of scenic beauty. Besides, being the most important site for tea production also happens to be overlooked by the Pidurutalagala. This is the tallest mountain in Sri Lanka. This city enjoys an extremely temperate climate. Indeed this place happens to be the coolest part of Sri Lanka.

GALLE, Is situated in the southwestern tip of Sri Lanka; it is one of the country's integral cities. Galle has a colorful history and beauty that renders many speechless. The city is filled with Dutch-colonial buildings people come from faraway places to see. Galle is filled with art that's rare, the streets are filled with people who are ambitious and hardworking, showcasing their efforts in one the best displays that please the eye immensely. Unawatuna, Is the ideal location for snorkeling and swimming. It is one of the most popular beach towns on Sri Lanka's south coast.

MIRISSA, A beach town on Sri Lanka's southern shores, Mirissa is renowned for its namesake Mirissa Beach, nightlife, and whale and dolphin watching. The stunning Mirissa Beach is a popular site for water sports, such as surfing and snorkeling, which are always on demand.





ANURADHAPURA, Is one of the ancient cities in Sri Lanka, well known for its ruins depicting early Sri Lankan civilization. It is very famous among Buddhists pilgrims. Anuradhapura was earlier the capital of the Island (in ancient times) and most of the Kings who ruled Sri Lanka resided in this vast city. The city is now named as a world heritage site by UNESCO.

ELLA, Tucked away in the misty Sri Lankan high country, amongst idyllic green hills and gushing waterfalls lies Ella: one of this tear-shaped island's most appealing destinations. From scaling the heady heights of Ella Rock to laying eyes on the mystical Nine Arch Bridge for the very first time; standing on the edge of the roaring Diyaluma Falls (the second tallest in the country), and winding through the tea plantations and mountains passes on the famous Kandy to Ella train; many of our favourite Sri Lankan adventures can be found right there.

JAFFNA, The Jaffna kingdom, also known as Kingdom of Aryachakravarti, was a historical kingdom of what today is northern Sri Lanka. Nallur Kandaswamy is a huge Hindu temple with golden arches and an ornate gopuram tower. By the coast, star-shaped Jaffna Fort was built by the Portuguese in the 17th century and later occupied by the Dutch and British. Jaffna Public Library is a symbol of the city's post-war regeneration.

KATARAGAMA, Kataragama Temple, Kiriwehera and Sella kataragama are famous attractions in Kataragama city. The temple of Kataragama is an important sanctuary for Hindus and Buddhists. The temple of Kataragama is dedicated to the divinity with six faces and twelve hands, which is known as Skanda-Murukan or Subrahmanya among the Hindus. Sinhalese Buddhists believe that Kataragama Deviyo is a Buddhist Guradish deity who helps his disciples who are in need.

PASSIKUDAH, It is famous for its golden bay and clear, shallow waters in which you can wade 50 metres out to sea. The bay of Passikudah is truly scenic and is protected by a reef that runs across the bay making it one of the safest and calmest stretches of coastline in the east.

HAMBANTOTA, Is famous for the Yala National Park, which happens to be the largest national park in Sri Lanka. It is also popular for the many heritage sites like Buddhist temples and stupas that it is home to.

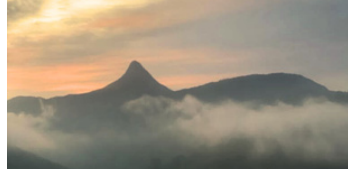
POLONNARUWA, One of the best planned Archeological relic sites in the country, standing testimony to the discipline and greatness of the Kingdom's first rulers. Its beauty and serenity was captured in the Duran Duran music video Save a Prayer in 1982. The ancient city of Polonnaruwa has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO.

ARUGAMBAY, Arugam Bay is the most popular surf spot and is also the only international surf competition venue in Sri Lanka. It is also rated as one of the top ten surf destinations in the world. It also includes beautiful Pottuvil lagoon, wild animal habitat areas like Kumana National Parks and the first monastery in Sri Lanka Kidumbigala Monastery





ADAM'S PEAK, Adam's Peak is a 2,243 m tall conical sacred mountain located in central Sri Lanka. It is well known for the Sri Pada, a 1.8 m rock formation near the summit whose name is also used for the mountain itself.



HORTON PLAINS, a scenic plateau in Sri Lanka, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Situated at an elevation of about 2,100 meters, it features unique landscapes, including grasslands and cloud forests.



PIGEON ISLAND, off the coast of Trincomalee in Sri Lanka, is a marine national park known for its vibrant coral reefs and diverse marine life. Snorkelers and divers flock to its crystal-clear waters to explore the colorful underwater ecosystem, home to numerous species of fish and coral formations, making it a paradise for underwater enthusiasts.

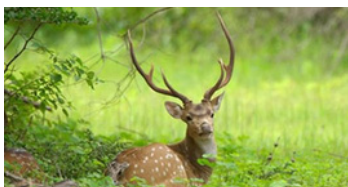


UMANDAWA, is a Buddhist village in Sri Lanka that allows you to break free from worldly life and engage in the basic philosophy of Buddhism to explore life with spiritual insight. Umandawa is the only global Buddhist village in the world built on a large plot of land in the Kurunegala District on a concept of Venn. Samantha Badra Himi.

Umandawa organic farms: Adopting a non-toxic diet in Sri Lanka, organic fertilizer users have created lucrative organic farms producing a variety of vegetables and fruits, setting an example for the great Sri Lanka itself.



MINNERIYA NATIONAL PARK, in Sri Lanka is famed for its captivating wildlife and the annual gathering of elephants known as "The Gathering." The park's ancient tank, Minneriya Tank, attracts a variety of wildlife, including elephants, leopards, and diverse bird species, offering an extraordinary safari experience amidst natural beauty.



COLOMBO, KANDY & CAVES

8 day tour package



Day 1 Colombo

Day 1 Saturday. Welcome to Sri Lanka! On arrival, transfer to our hotel in Colombo for a free afternoon. Overnight - Colombo.

Day 2 Dambulla - Polonnaruwa Travelling on to Dambulla we visit the Dambulla Rock Temple - an ancient complex of caves which contain over 150 images of Buddha. Then we explore ancient Polonnaruwa including the Royal Palace and Gal Vihara. Overnight - Dambulla.

Day 3 Sigiriya

This morning we visit the striking Sigiriya rock fortress, surrounded by lush jungle. The fortress can be seen for miles around. Then we take a bullock cart ride and short canoe ride to Kayanwala village for a cookery demonstration and stop at a spice garden in Matale en route to Kandy. Overnight - Kandy.



Day 4 Kandy

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Kandy including the Temple of the Tooth and Geragama tea factory. We also visit a gem museum and enjoy a tuk-tuk ride in the surrounding hills. Overnight - Kandy.

Day 5 Nuwara Eliya

This morning is free before we take a scenic train journey to Nuwara Eliya, famous

for its tea plantations. We drive through the picturesque region, known as 'Little England'. Overnight - Nuwara Eliya.

Day 6 Udawalawe National Park Today we drive to Udawalawe National Park and enjoy a game drive in the reserve. Look out for wild animals including elephants, leopards and sloth bears as we explore. Overnight - Udawalawe NP.

Days 7 & 8 Ratnapura - Colombo

On day 7 we visit a gem mine at Ratnapura en route back to Colombo and enjoy a tour of the capital including Gangaramaya Temple and Galle Face Green. Our tour ends on day 8 (Saturday) with an airport transfer. Overnight - Colombo (1).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the famous Dambulla cave temple
- Climb up the iconic 'Lion Rock' fortress known as Sigiriya and see the Heavenly Maidens
- Look out for elephants on safari in Udawalawe NP
- Visit the ancient city of Polonnaruwa to see the 12th century City Palace and Gal Vihara
- Tour Kandy and ride on a tuk-tuk in the hills
- Take a scenic train journey to Nuwara Eliya
- Visit the Fort Area and Galle Face Green on tour of Colombo
- Sail in a canoe and help cook lunch in Kayanwala



LEASURE & SRI LANKA

10 day tour package



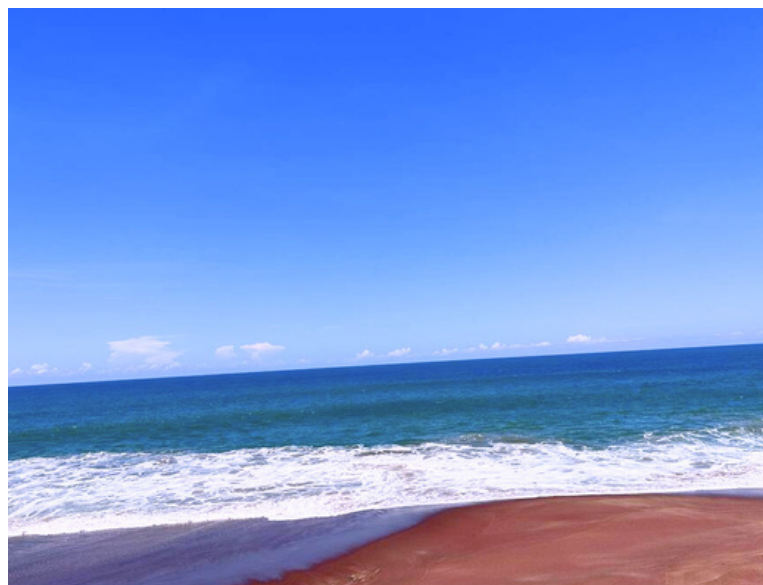
Days 1 & 2 Colombo - Dambulla Saturday. Welcome to Sri Lanka! On arrival, transfer to our hotel in Colombo. On day 2 we visit the remarkable Dambulla cave temple and see the Royal Palace and Gal Vihara on a tour of ancient Polonnaruwa. Overnight - Colombo (1), Dambulla (1).

Days 3 & 4 Sigiriya - Kandy

Next stop is the impressive Sigiriya rock fortress. We then take a bullock cart ride and canoe trip to Kayanwala for a cooking demonstration before visiting a spice garden in Matale en route to Kandy. We enjoy a tour of Kandy on day 4 including the Temple of the Tooth, Geragama tea factory and a tuk-tuk ride in the surrounding hills. Overnight - Kandy (2).

Day 5 Nuwara Eliya

Take a scenic train journey to Nuwara Eliya and enjoy a drive through the countryside, past sprawling tea plantations. Overnight - Nuwara Eliya.



Days 6 - 8 Udawalawe - Yolo - Bundala Over the next three days we explore three of Sri Lanka's excellent national parks. Enjoy safaris in Udawalawe, Yala and Bundala national parks and look out for rare wildlife including elephants, leopards, sloth bears, crocodiles and flamingos. After exploring Bundala on day 8, we travel to Mirissa. Overnight - Udawalawe NP (1), Yala NP (1), Mirissa (1).

Days 9 & 10 Mirissa - Colombo

On day 9 enjoy a whale watching cruise off the coast of Sri Lanka (01 Nov - 31 April) and look out for species including Fin Whales, Blue Whales and Orcas. (If travelling between 01 May - 31 Oct then we visit Galle Fort this morning). Later, we explore Colombo including Gangaramaya Temple and Galle Face Green.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy a game drive in Yala National Park and spot elephants, leopards and sloth bears
- Spot more wildlife in Udawalawe National Park
- Go whale watching off the coast of Mirissa
- Visit the famous rock fortress of Sigiriya
- Discover the iconic Dambulla cave temple
- Ride on a tuk-tuk and take a tour of Kandy
- Explore Gal Vihara Temple in Polonnaruwa
- Tour Colombo and see Gangaramaya Temple



NORTH EAST EXPLORER

12 day tour package



Day 1 Negombo

Tuesday. Welcome to Sri Lanka! On arrival at Colombo airport, transfer to our hotel in nearby Negombo. Overnight - Negombo.

Days 2 & 3 Anuradhapura - Jaffna On day 2 we travel to ancient Anuradhapura where we take in the sacred bo-tree and the 1,600 columns of Brazen Palace. On day 3 we arrive in Jaffna for a tour of impressive Jaffna Fort. We also discover Nallur Temple and enjoy a boat ride to Nagadeepa Temple. Overnight - Anuradhapura (1), Jaffna (1).

Days 4 & 5 Trincomalee

On day 4 we travel to coastal Trincomalee and tour sites including the Temple of the Thousand Pillars. The next day is free to relax on the beach. Overnight - Trincomalee (2).



Day 6 Dambulla - Polonnaruwa

Visit two of Sri Lanka's famous sites today as we discover the incredible Dambulla cave temple and see the Royal Palace at Polonnaruwa. Overnight - Dambulla.

Days 7 & 8 Sigiriya - Kandy

On day 7 we discover the famous Sigiriya rock fortress, then take a jeep ride and canoe to Kayanwala for a cooking demonstration. Visit a spice garden and arrive in Kandy before we explore the Temple of the Tooth, a gem museum and Geragama tea factory on day 8. Enjoy a tuk-tuk ride in the hills. Overnight - Kandy (2).

Days 9 & 10 Nuwara Eliya - Udawalawe Take a scenic train journey to Nuwara Eliya on day 9. We enjoy a game drive in Udawalawe National Park on day 10 in search of species such as elephants and leopards. Overnight - Nuwara Eliya (1), Udawalawe (1).

Days 11 & 12 Ratnapura - Colombo Visit a gem mine on day 11 and take in the sights of Colombo including Galle Face Green and Gangaramaya Temple. Our tour ends on day 12 (Saturday) with an airport transfer. Overnight - Colombo (1).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore ancient Anuradhapura including the sacred bo-tree and the Brazen Palace
- Take a tour of Jaffna Fort and enjoy a boat ride
- Marvel at the impressive temples in Trincomalee and soak up the sunshine on the beach
- Admire the ancient Dambulla cave temple
- Look out for elephants in Udawalawe NP
- Climb the UNESCO-listed Sigiriya rock fortress
- See Gangaramaya Temple on a tour of Colombo
- Discover the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy



WILD SRI LANKA

13 day tour package



Day 1 Negombo

Saturday. On arrival at Colombo airport your family will be transferred to our hotel by the beach. Overnight - Negombo.

Days 2 & 3 Dambulla - Sigiriya

We travel to Dambulla on day 2 for a free afternoon. Explore Sigiriya fortress on day 3 then enjoy a canoe trip to a local farm where we taste Sri Lankan cuisine. Overnight - Dambulla (2).

Day 4 Polonnaruwa - Minneriya Today we see the Royal Palace and Gal Vihara in Polonnaruwa. Continue to Minneriya National Park where we search for elephants, sambar and leopards on safari. Overnight - Dambulla.

Days 5 & 6 Dambulla - Kandy

See the remarkable Dambulla cave temple on day 5 and explore a spice garden in Matale before we arrive in Kandy. Take a tuk-tuk tour of the city on day 6 and visit the Temple of the Tooth for an evening of entertainment. Overnight - Kandy (2).



Day 7 Haputale

Today we enjoy a scenic train journey to Haputale in the Hill Country, passing lush tea plantations en route. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight - Haputale.

Day 8 Ella - Vala

Explore Ella village and the cascading Ravena Ella Falls this morning before we enjoy a jeep safari in Yala National Park in search of elephants, leopards and bears. Overnight - Tissamaharama

Days 9 - 11 Hambantota - Beruwela On day 9 we visit Hambantota to try traditional tea and play games with the villagers. Enjoy a tractor ride then transfer to Beruwela for two free days to relax on the beach, try water sports or visit a nearby turtle hatchery. Overnight - Beruwela (3).

Days 12 & 13 Colombo

Travelling on to Colombo we enjoy a tour of the capital. Our family holiday ends on day 13 (Thursday) with an airport transfer. Overnight - Colombo (1).



HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the famous Dambulla cave temple and see the mighty Sigiriya rock fortress
- Enjoy two days by the beach in Beruwela
- Spot leopards and elephants in Yala National Park
- Discover Kandy by tuk-tuk and swim in the lake
- Visit Gangaramaya Temple on a tour of Colombo
- Marvel at Gal Vihara in ancient Polonnaruwa
- Play games with the Hambantota villagers
- Enjoy a game drive in Minneriya National Park

