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14 D Sri Lanka explorer - 13 Nights / 14 Days

Cities Covered: >> Colombo >> Sigiriya >> Kandy >> Nuwara Eliya >> Ella >> Tangalle >> Mirissa



For curious travellers, nature lovers and beach devotees get closer to the heart and soul of Sri Lanka in less than 2 weeks. Be hypnotized as the train pushes through the mist and suddenly crispy green tea plantations greet you well before the train reaches the cultural capital of Kandy. You proceed to Worlds End by foot, and off it goes through narrow mountain roads. To Ella, high above the valleys where you do some fine Sri Lankan cooking. Then down through the gap to Udawalawe, with the highest concentration of wild elephants in Asia, and then to the sea. Hang out at the beach in hammocks; look for traces from turtles in the early mornings, and fragile purple sea shells. Then you are off to a colonial place, to see the mighty blue whales before you head back to Colombo. On your journey, stay in places with personality. Explore with drivers that are proud, yet easy going from mountains high to the bluest sea.

Day 1: Colombo:

Arrive in Colombo

Welcome to Sri Lanka and 14 days of explorations giving you the best of the ancient cultural cities, the lush green tea estates in the hill country, the wildlife and the beautiful soft sandy and remote beaches.

Upon arrival in the airport you will be met by our representative and transferred to Negombo. Negombo is approx. 20 minute drive from the airport embracing slow life and beachfront location. For newly arrived travellers it is often a welcomed alternative to the hectic and happening Colombo.

Check-in to your hotel and rest for a few hours before capturing the streets of Negombo. You may visit the colonial remains of the Dutch period, a Buddhist temple and a catholic church. Get close to slow life in the local fishing village; walk the lively fishmarket, and the bustling bazaar. Overnight at a small boutique hotel.

Overnight at Negombo.

Optional: Do a Boat trip through the Dutch canal, lagoon and sea.

Please note: If you arrive late in the night on day 01 you may go around to see Negombo next morning on day 02, before departing to Sigiriya.

Day 2: Colombo:

Sigiriya (Approx. 200 km / 4-5 hours.)

Having acclimatized to a new country and new customs, you are ready to venture in lands to the ancient scape of Sri Lanka.

Start with a slow breakfast and enjoy a cup of hot Sri Lankan tea. Then transfer to Sigiriya where you will check in to your next hotel which is a little hidden gem, where you can relax and be in touch with nature, but with all of the modern conveniences you need.

Late in the afternoon/early evening when the sun cools down a bit, start your excursion to Sigiriya. Climb the 5th century Sigiriya Rock Fortress—an UNESCO world heritage site, built by King Kashyapa (477-495 AD). The 'Lion Rock' is a citadel of unusual beauty rising 200 metre from the scrub jungle. The rock was the innermost stronghold of the 70 hectare fortified town. A moat, rampart, and extensive gardens including the renowned water gardens ring the base of the rock.

Day 3: Colombo:

Sigiriya (150 KM - 4 hrs approx)

From a rock fortress to a rock temple—another day of cultural explorations in striking landscapes awaits you.

Have your breakfast and transfer to Dambulla, which is about an hour's drive from Sigiriya. Here you will find the World Heritage Site of Dambulla Rock Temple—the most impressive of Sri Lanka's cave temples. Built by King Walagambahu in the 1st century B.C. the complex of five caves holds over 2000 sq. metre of painted wall and ceilings. This makes it the largest area of paintings found in the world. It contains over 150 images of Buddha of which the largest is spanning 14 metre and is a colossal figure of Buddha carved out of rock.

Stop for lunch in town and late in the afternoon you will visit Minneriya National Park. Covering 8890 hectare, the park consists of mixed evergreen forest and scrub areas and is home to Sri Lanka's favourites such as sambar deer, leopards and elephants. However the central feature of the park is the ancient Minneriya Tank (built in 3rd century AD by King Mahasena). During the dry season (June to September), this tank is an incredible place to observe the elephants that come to bathe and graze on the grasses as well as the huge flocks of birds (cormorants and painted storks to name but a few) that come to fish in the shallow waters. Overnight at Sigiriya

Day 4: Sigiriya:

Kandy (Approx. 100 KM / 2-3 hours)

Leave the ancient inland behind and head for lush hill country with Kandy as your destination. Have your breakfast and steaming hot Sri Lankan coffee before you check out from your hotel. Your onwards transport will be an exploration in its own right with magnificent views beyond your windows, just as you may visit the Spice Garden in Matale on your journey to Kandy.

Upon arrival check into the hotel, where you feel a sense of peace, a bit away from the busy town

of Kandy. Relax so you are ready for your afternoon city tour. Kandy was the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings and now an UNESCO World Heritage Site. The name "Kandy" conjures visions of splendor and magnificence. Many of the legends, traditions and folklore are still lovingly kept alive. Drive around the Kandy Lake built by the last Sinhala king, Sri WickramaRajasinghe in 1798—a tranquil place in the heart of the city.

In the evening visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic—a golden roofed Buddhist temple that houses Sri Lanka's most sacred Buddhist relic—a tooth of the Buddha. And though it is not possible to see the actual tooth as it is kept in a gold casket shaped like a stupa, you will feel the sacred ambience and take in the colours, the gilded gifts and the shrines that comprise the temple complex. Late in the evening you will experience a Cultural Show. Some find this funny, while others find it spectacular. You will see the traditional Sri Lankan drummers stirring up a rhythm and decoratively dressed dancers showing their amazing moves. You will see fireworks and fire stunts in a show that truly has something for all.

Overnight at spacious, colonial stay, overlooking greenery all around.

Day 5: Sigiriya:

Nuwara Eliya (80 KM / 3-4 hours approx)

Sleep in or rise early to make the most of your time. Have breakfast at your convenience and sip steaming hot Sri Lankan tea as the morning turns into day.

After check-out you will be taken to Kandy railway station and by 12:00 noon you will board the train bound for Nuwara Eliya. It may not be the fastest of transport but it certainly is the most beautiful. And as the train slowly climbs through the pine and eucalyptus forest, into a landscape of perfectly manicured tea plantations you almost wish the ride was longer. Seated by the open windows, wind in your hair, you will have occasional views through the hills, to local villages and waving school children. And as the train pushes into the Nanu Oya railway station, you will be picked up and transferred the last bit to Nuwara Eliya.

The evening is free for you to relax and enjoy the slow life in the hill country. Overnight at Nuwara Eliya.

Day 6: Kandy:

Ella (75 kms 02 hrs approx)

It will be an early start before sun has the grip. At this time it will be cold and crisp. And you should bring a sweater, and breakfast pack. First you drive out to the Horton plains, wild moorland where you go for a trek. Suddenly you will be at the world's end and it seems like all Sri Lanka lies for your feet. It is truly breath taking and beautiful on a clear day, making the trek to here more than worth it. Back down, drive back to your hotel. Later you proceed with your driver through stunning mountain scape to Ella, the slow mountain village most people come to love. Check- in, at a place overlooking the mountains and if you are still curious and legs still fresh you can visit the waterfall and the ridge nearby for a fine sunset. If you stay back, the view is just as rewarding.

Overnight at the exclusive hotel with the panoramic view.

Day 7: Nuwara Eliya:

-Ella

Start your day slow with a small Sri Lankan breakfast and get ready for a simple though inspiring cooking class. Try your hands in preparing some delicious Sri Lankan delicacies, and the spicy, fresh treat will be served to you for lunch. Later in the day you may just relax for a lazy afternoon or go to the beautiful Ravana falls and enjoy scenery along the road with colourful food stalls, large rain forest trees, slow market towns and a flow of tuk-tuks. There are also old temples and

a cave nearby for a perfect evening.
Overnight at the exclusive hotel with panoramic view.

Day 8: Ella:

Tangalle (150 km / 3-4hours)

Early morning leave for Uda-walwe National park. Enjoy a jeep ride through the National Park's grassland, which is the home of hundreds of Elephants and the best place in Asia to see elephants up close. Most likely you will also spot wild buffalos, crocodiles, deer and a variety of bird species. Peacocks are easily sighted inside the park. After lunch drive to Tangalle. On the way you may stop by an elephant orphanage. Before evening you will check in at a remote beach near Tangalle for a relaxing evening. After dinner get barefooted, and stroll the beach, have a night dip and if it is close to full moon you could be lucky to see a turtle come to shore to lay eggs.

Overnight at boutique hotel.

Day 9: Ella:

Tangalle

Start late and enjoy a free day. Relax for the whole day or you may visit the nearby Turtle breeding farms if you want to know about the process from the different breeds to the process of laying eggs and the full life cycle of turtles.

Overnight at boutique hotel.

Day 10: Tangalle:

Tangalle

Free day on the beach. Hang out in the hammocks. Swim. Explore the stunning remote beach.

Overnight at boutique hotel.

Day 11: Tangalle:

- Mirrisa (60 km / 2hours)

Start easy and drive to Mirrisa. You will stopover in Tangalle town where you might get your early lunch if you choose not to have lunch at the resort. Later drive to the Buddha temple Wewurukannala Vihara for a magnificent description of the consequences of the good or bad deeds. A corny, unique though also beautiful slow and laid back Buddhist temple. Here sits a 50 meters high Buddha figure—the largest in Sri Lanka. Later reach Mirrisa at around 16:00. After check in relax in the garden or go to the beach to enjoy a magnificent sunset.

Overnight at boutique hotel.

Day 12: Tangalle:

Mirrisa

Free day in Mirrisa to enjoy another relaxing day on a beautiful beach. Same, same but different as it gets a little more happening during the evenings with the Mirrisa beach side cafes.

Overnight at boutique hotel.

Day 13: Mirrisa:

Colombo (150 km / 4-5hours)

Get up early morning to be picked up for a whale-watching safari, starting already at 05:30. The captain will take the boat to the deep blue sea to search for the grand blue whales. Very few places in the world can get you this close to the biggest creature living in the world today. A blue whale needs 8 ton so food everyday to maintain its beauty and shape. Breakfast to whale watchers is served on board. When back on shore, check out and continue to Colombo. On the way there will be a few hours break in Galle a former Dutch town. There is a fine colonial ambience here, with old brick houses, crisp cafes, restored hotels, deep inner yards, and the wall around the center, with easy going Sri Lankan life. You have an option to get our evening cuppa tea or coffee at one of the high-end restaurants in Galle. Later drive to Colombo for a late arrival. Overnight at boutique hotel.

Day 14: Mirrisa:

Colombo

Start your day easy and relax, as it is the last day of your tour. To make it more relaxing you will get a body massage with acupressure technique. Visually disabled people trained in the techniques will do the massage. They will not talk a lot. But their hands perform the magic on one's body to give that perfect freshness after a long journey. Later, hopefully still light in mind and body after the treat, get dropped to the airport.

Round Tour Package Includes:

Meals: 13 x Breakfast.

Accommodation: Comfort class hotels (small boutique hotels) on bed and breakfast basis.

Transport: Private car according to itinerary.

Train from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya.

Assistance: Driver, who speaks basic English.

Others/Activities: Minneriya national park with safari and entrance fee.

Trip to Horton's plain/World's end.

Cooking class in Ella with lunch.

Ride inside the national park in Udawalwe.

Whale watching trip (Aug 15 to March 15 only – Rest of the year is subject to weather conditions).

Acupressure massage by blind people.

There is no overall guide on the tour, but a driver who speaks basic English. There may be English Speaking tour guides on the pre-organized day tours (only) according to itinerary.

Round Tour Packages Excludes:

- Meals not stated as included in the above
- Entrance fee to the monuments
- Tips and Donations
- Any items of personal nature e.g. cold or soft drink / mineral water
- Any additional cost incurred due to matters beyond our control

- Personal comprehensive travel insurance (compulsory)
- All other expenses not stated as included in the above.

Sri Lanka has now become a round the year destination, however the climate varies from city to city. Expect rain in Colombo and the Hill country (Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Ella) from April to December.

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Terms & Conditions

Go Beyond reserves the right to change, update and/or alter these terms and conditions at any time and without prior notice.

Age Policy : Adults: 06 and above years of age; Children: 0 to 05 years of age

In case of Cancellations of tours or a particular service

Here are the general conditions and guidelines if you are traveling with us OR doing business with us at any destination where we offer our experiences.

Cancellation Policy -

Travelers/Guests/Customers OR booking Agents must notify Go Beyond Tours in writing on mail@gobeyondtours.in for any cancellation. We will NOT provide partial or full refunds for missed or unused services. Our cancellation policies and related fees are mentioned as a percent of the total booking price based on the booking's start date i.e. first day of service.

The following cancellation policy is applicable and applicable fees is mentioned as a percentage of total booking price for Standard Tours booked directly on our website -

- 100% refund of the total booking price IF the cancellation request is received more than 30 days prior to the travel date / first day of service.
- 50% refund of the total booking price IF the cancellation request is received between 15 and 29 days prior to the travel date i.e. first day of service.
- No refund of the total booking amount IF the cancellation is received less than 15 days prior to the travel date / first day of service.
- Compulsory cancellation fee applicable once you get the confirmation for trips with non-refundable services like train or air tickets, rides, jungle safari etc.
- Compulsory Service charge / cancellation fee applicable for customized trips / group tours as mentioned at the time of specific offers

Fixed Departures and shared services

Tours that are operated as "Go Together" / shared services, that is on a "join-in" basis, there is generally a minimum number of passengers that must be booked on the tour in order to assure that the tour departs. IF the number of customers on a particular join-in departure change after our customer books but before the tour departs, we reserve the right, at any time, to offer an alternative price for that departure and / or an alternative departure date notwithstanding the cancellation policy detailed above.

Specially for you Tours / Custom-Made Tours / Private Tours

Customized / Tailor-Made tours might have different cancellation policies at our discretion. The cancellation policy for tailor-made tours are always more stringent and is disclosed to the customer at the time of offer / prior to booking.

Cancellations By Go Beyond Tours

Go Beyond Tours reserve the right to cancel any trip for any reason that may occur due to circumstances that can make it unrealistic to run/continue a tour or service. Tour are **ONLY** canceled for unusual or unforeseen circumstances that are outside of our control or, in the case of shared / fixed tours, if there are too few people confirmed for us to operate the trip.

At a stage, when we cancel a tour, you may choose between a full refund of the amount paid or credit in that amount for any alternative trip. If the alternative trip is of lesser cost than the canceled trip, we might offer a partial refund, and pay you the difference. If the alternative trip is more costly than the canceled trip, we might ask you to pay the difference amount.

Please note we are not responsible for any incidental expenses or consequential losses that you incur as a result of the booking, such as, but not limited to, visas, vaccinations and non-refundable flights, missed connections, road blocks, adverse weather conditions, medical reasons and situations beyond control.

Customer Liability & Insurance

Guests traveling with us must be protected by their own travel insurance that covers accidents, medical expenses, emergency evacuation and loss or damage to personal effects. By participating in a product, package tour or activity with us, you agree to be responsible for all costs related to the above and exempt and fully release our company, our employees and our local partners from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions or causes of action whatsoever arising out of any damage, loss or injury to yourself, to your property, or death, which may occur as a result of or in the context of participation in a tour or activity, whether such loss, damage, injury or death results from the negligence and/or other fault, either active or passive, of any of the parties described, or from any other cause.

Travelers and participants must be able to provide proof of insurance. All customers traveling with us and our suppliers / service partners do acknowledge that no refunds will be provided for any reason if the customer cannot furnish and we are unable to verify the proof of insurance purchase prior to your trip with us. In all cases, customers should seek refunds from their insurance provider prior to requesting a refund from Go Beyond.

Also note that coverage, such as insurance for trip cancellation or the loss of luggage and personal effects is not required, but strongly encouraged. We are not liable for lost or stolen luggage.

Disputes and applicable law

Please note that any and all Terms and Conditions that you abide by in traveling with us, including all matters arising from these Terms and Conditions, are subject to the law and the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts exclusively in the destination in which we have provided services to you.