

# Cultural and Heritage Tours in Sri Lanka

## 4 Days Tour Itinerary

### Colombo - Sigiriya

You will be picked up from your hotel in Colombo, Negombo or Mount Lavinia and driven to Dambulla. Visit the Cave temple of Dambulla (UNESCO World Heritage). Spend overnight in Sigiriya.

### 2 Day

#### Sigiriya - Sigiriya

Get an early start to the day and proceed to The UNESCO world Heritage city of Polonnaruwa where you will take a cycling tour at one of the well-preserved city with ancient dagobas, moonstones, beautiful parks, massive buildings and stunningly beautiful statues. In the afternoon, you will be taken to the 5th century Rock fortress of Sigiriya which is regarded as one of the Wonders of world and a UNESCO world heritage site. Spend overnight in Sigiriya.

### 3 Day

#### Sigiriya - Kandy

After leisurely breakfast, you will be taken to have a memorable experience of an archetypal Sri Lankan Typical village. You will experience bullock cart ride, Chena cultivation, boat ride and authentic Sri Lankan Lunch at a village house. After Lunch, you will be driven to Kandy. En route visit a Wood carving center and a Spice garden in Matale. In the afternoon, you will take a city tour of Kandy including a visit to the temple of the sacred tooth relic, upper lake drive, market square, gem lapidary and more. Spend overnight in Kandy.

### 4 Day

#### Kandy - Colombo

Today after breakfast, you will be taken back to your hotel in Colombo, Negombo or Mount Lavinia or Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo.

# 9 Days Tour Itinerary

## 1 Day

Colombo - Colombo

You will be picked up from BIA airport or your hotel in Colombo, Negombo, Mount Lavinia and driven to Galle for the overnight stay. Overnight stay at a 4-Star hotel in Galle

## 2 Day

Colombo - Sinharaja

After breakfast, visit Galle Dutch fort. Galle Fort was built by the Portuguese in 1588, and then extensively fortified by the Dutch during the 17th century. It is a historical, archaeological and architectural heritage monument, which even after more than 423 years maintains a polished appearance, due to extensive reconstruction work was done by Archaeological Department of Sri Lanka. The heritage value of the fort has been recognized by the UNESCO and the site has been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Afterwards you will be driven to Sinharaja (approx. 3 hours' drive). In the afternoon you can proceed with a guided trekking tour in the Sinharaja Rainforest, which is a UNESCO world heritage site and major ecotourism destination in Sri Lanka. Overnight stay at a 4-Star hotel in Sinharaja

## 3 Day

Sinharaja - Nuwara Eliya

After breakfast, you will be driven to Nuwara Eliya where you can explore some of the central high land attractions. The Central Highlands of Sri Lanka were listed as a World Heritage Site in 2010 in recognition of the site's values within one of the world's richest attentions of biodiversity. In the afternoon, you will enjoy a city tour of Nuwara Eliya. Known as Little England, the town of Nuwara Eliya enjoys spring-like weather throughout the year. A favorite retreat of the British during colonial times, the town is dotted with English country style houses and half-timbered bungalows. During this tour you will visit Victoria Park, Gregory Lake, 19th century Golf Club and drive around the city. Overnight stay at a 4-Star hotel in Nuwara Eliya

## 4 Day

Nuwara Eliya - Nuwara Eliya

Make a pre-dawn start with a packed breakfast to explore the Horton Plains which is part of the UNESCO listed world heritage site. Take a guided walk along the nature trails to a viewpoint known as World's End. A variety of wildlife including endemic Rhino-horned and Hump-nosed Lizards, highland bird species including the Sri Lanka White-eye, Dull-blue Flycatcher, Sri Lanka Bush Warbler, Yellow-eared Bulbul may be encountered. Also, keep your eye out for troops of Bear Monkey, and Sambar (Sri Lanka's largest species of deer) which are regularly seen on the plains close to the entrance. In the afternoon, you will be able to enjoy a Tea Plantation and a Tea Factory tour. Barely 3.5 kilometres from Nuwara Eliya town, Pedro's Tea Factory lies nestled in the hills. You can take a half-hour guided tour of the factory, originally built in 1885 and still packed with 19th-century engineering. Step in to the Tea Plantation with a guide and start plucking tea with estate tea pluckers. This will give you an opportunity to experience the tea workers life and share their knowledge of tea plucking & and tea production. Overnight stay at a 4-Star hotel in Nuwara Eliya

## 5 Day

Nuwara Eliya - Kandy

After breakfast, you will be taken to Kandy which is also a UNESCO World Heritage site. On arrival, you will start a guided city tour. To the Buddhists of Sri Lanka and the World, Kandy is one of the most sacred sites as it is the home of the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha. The Kandy Lake that was built by king Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe in 1807 is one of the major highlights in the city. The upper lake drive is more scenic and memorable. Today Kandy is the center of Buddhism, Arts, Crafts, Dancing, Music and Culture. Visiting gem lapidary, art and craft center along with a traditional cultural show will complete the city tour in this small historical town. Overnight stay at a 4-Star hotel in Kandy

## 6 Day

Kandy - Sigiriya

After breakfast, you will be Driven to Sigiriya. En route visit Dambulla Cave Temple. Dambulla Cave temple is one of the most impressive and well-preserved cave temples in Asia. This complex contains five caves with over 2000 sq.m of painted walls and ceilings. This emphasizes the artistic talents of the people lived in this small island. Due to its artistic & archeological values, Dambulla Cave temple has been listed as a UNESCO world heritage site. Today you can see the Golden temple at the entrance of Dambulla rock that includes a Buddhist museum completed in 2000. In the afternoon, you will enjoy the

sightseeing of Sigiriya Rock fortress. The 5th century Rock fortress of Sigiriya which as built by King Kashyapa is one of the Wonders of world and a UNESCO world heritage site. The Rock itself has its unique identity due to its shape. The irrigational technologies of water gardens & archeological technologies of the large lion carved at the entrance are precious as they are still existing. Overnight stay at a 4-Star hotel in Sigiriya

## 7 Day

Sigiriya - Sigiriya

After breakfast, you will be driven to Polonnaruwa. Polonnaruwa remains as one of the best planned archeological relic sites in the country, which was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1982. This is a well-preserved city with ancient dagobas, moonstones, beautiful parks, massive buildings and stunningly beautiful statues. The Sea of Parakrama, a vast 12th-century man-made water reservoir is also one of the main highlights in this wonderful ancient city. Moreover, this is one of the best ancient cities in the country that gives a big experience within a short period of time as the monuments are in a more compact area. Overnight stay at a 4-Star hotel in Sigiriya

## 8 Day

Sigiriya - Sigiriya

After breakfast, you will be taken to Anuradhapura. Anuradhapura is the first kingdom of Sri Lanka, famous for its well-preserved ruins of an ancient Sri Lankan civilization. The city houses the oldest historically documented tree on earth, grown from a branch of the very tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment 2500 years ago. It was also the center of Theravada Buddhism for many centuries and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the afternoon, you will be able to visit Mihintale Buddhist Monastery. In the 3rd century BC, area of Mihintale was a thick jungle inhabited by wild animals and was a hunting ground reserved for the royals. This is the place where Mahinda Maha Thero, the son of the Indian Emperor Asoka, met king Devamampiyatissa in 250 BC which resulted in inauguration of Buddhism to Sri Lanka. Today it is the main center for Theravada Buddhism and the cradle of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. Overnight stay at a 4-Star hotel in Sigiriya

## 9 Day

Sigiriya - Colombo

After breakfast, you will be driven to BIA Airport for the departure or dropped off at your hotel in Colombo, Negombo or Mount Lavinia.

## 14 Days Tour Itinerary

### Day 1 Colombo

From pick up at the Bandaranaike International Airport, your two week cultural tour will begin in Colombo – the commercial capital of the island. Colombo is where you will be staying on your first night.

### Day 2 & 3 Anuradhapura

After a city tour of Colombo the next day, you will take off to the city of Anuradhapura. En route, you stop at Yapahuwa ancient city (a 300 foot fortified wonder dating back to the 13th century) and explore the area. In Anuradhapura, you will sleep over at Sigiriya.

On day three, the ancient city of Anuradhapura will be explored where you will get to observe several historical remains. Later in the day you will visit the Mihintale Buddhist Temple and head back to your hotel for the night.

### Day 4 & 5 Sigiriya

On your way to Sigiriya the next day, you will stop for a visit to the Aukana Buddha Statue and the Dambulla Cave Temple. Overnight in Sigiriya.

On day five we have a touch of adventure lined up for you where, you will be taken to visit the ancient and historical city of Polonnaruwa. Afterwards, you can have an amazing Rice & Curry experience at the Priyamali House. Later that day, you can climb and explore the “Lion’s Rock” in Sigiriya. This activity is quite doable by most people so don’t fret at the task of climbing a rock! Your overnight stay will be at Sigiriya.

## Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy

### Day 6,7 & 8 Kandy

The next morning you will begin your journey to the hill capital of Kandy. En route you will visit the Matale Alu Viharaya Buddhist Temple and the Matale Hindu Temple. In Kandy, you will be taken to enjoy an evening show of the cultural dance of Kandyans. Kandy is where you will sleep over for the night.

On day seven you will visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic and obtain blessings from the Buddhist Monks there. Next you will go on to visit the Three Temple Loop known as the Gadaladeniya, Embekke and Lankathilake Temples. These are Hindu-Buddhist Temples from the 14th Century. Towards the evening you will get back to your hotel in Kandy for your night stay.

On the final day in Kandy you get to explore the culture of the Veddas in Dambana Mahiyanganaya and visit the Mahiyanganaya Temple. Once again, Amaya Hills is where you will sleep over for the night.

### Day 9 Nuwara Eliya

Day nine is when you head towards the beautiful town of Nuwara Eliya where you will come across several water falls on the way. Ramboda Falls is one visit we have scheduled for you. Along the way you can also visit the Pedro Tea Factory and the luscious tea plantations of the country. You will also be given a tour of Nuwara Eliya, also known as "Little England". Your overnight stay will be at Nuwara Eliya.

### Day 10 Ella

From Nanu Oya, you will be taking a beautiful train journey to Ella, where a visit to Rawana Falls is a must. In Ella, you will spend the night at Ella.

### Day 11 Udawalawa

Early morning the next day you are advised to explore the breathtaking view of the sunrise from the “Ella Gap”. You will then depart to the town of Udawalawa where we will take you on a luxurious jeep safari in the Udawalawa National Park. That night you will stay at Udawalawe.

#### Day 12 Galle

On day 12 you head on to the city of Galle, en route you will visit the hot water springs in Embilipitiya as well as the fish market in Weligama. You also get a chance to observe the old and challenging tradition of stilt fishing. In Galle, your night stay will be at Galle.

#### Day 13 & 14 Colombo

On day thirteen you will explore the Galle Dutch Fort and learn about its history. A boat ride on the Madu Lake is also on the list before you begin your journey to the capital city of Colombo. Upon reaching Colombo, you will check in to Colombo hotel for your overnight stay.

On day fourteen you may take a city tour of Colombo if you have approximately 6-7 hours for your flight departure time.

The amazing cultural tour with Ajith Diamond Tours comes to an end here. This itinerary is dedicated to exploring the cultural aspects of Sri Lanka as well as touching its splendid beauty and we hope you found it attractive.