Itinerary

11 Day 5 Star Premium Sri Lanka Tour with Flights

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

Day 1: Depart Australia ~ Arrive in Sri Lanka

Today, you'll begin your journey to the beautiful island of Sri Lanka! Upon arrival at Colombo's Bandaranaike International Airport, you will be greeted by your driver and transferred to your Hotel in Negombo. Most flights from Australia arrive late at night (from 10:30 pm onwards). After reaching your hotel, check in and head straight to bed for a good night's rest.

MEALS: Nil

OVERNIGHT: Amari Hotel, Colombo

Day 2: Colombo City tour ~ Welcome Dinner

This morning, after breakfast, meet your chauffeur/guide and fellow travellers at 10:00 am for a warm welcome and a brief introduction to the day's activities. Begin your Sri Lankan adventure with a panoramic tour of Colombo, the island's vibrant commercial and cultural capital. Discover some of the city's key landmarks and highlights, including the historic Fort and Pettah districts, Independence Square, the Old Parliament area, Galle Face Green and the scenic waterfront. The panoramic tour offers a fascinating introduction to Colombo, revealing the city's unique blend of colonial heritage, local culture, bustling commerce and modern Sri Lankan life.

Following the city tour, return to the hotel and enjoy some time at leisure to relax and settle in. This evening, gather with your fellow travellers at the hotel restaurant for a special welcome dinner. It is the perfect opportunity to get to know one another, share the excitement of the journey ahead and begin your Sri Lankan adventure together.

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Amari Hotel, Colombo

Day 3: Colombo ~ Sigiriya

After breakfast, depart Colombo and travel towards Sigiriya, journeying through Sri Lanka's scenic countryside and rural landscapes. Continue to Minneriya National Park for an exciting jeep safari. A haven

for wildlife and nature enthusiasts, the park forms part of an important elephant corridor linking Minneriya with Kaudulla and Wasgamuwa National Parks. It is renowned for its elephant sightings throughout the year.

Following your safari, continue to the renowned Aliya Resort & Spa, your home for the next two nights. Set amidst beautiful countryside with spectacular views towards the iconic Sigiriya Rock, the resort offers a tranquil setting to relax and unwind following your wildlife adventure.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Aliya Resort & Spa, Sigiriya

Day 4: Polonnaruwa City Tour

After breakfast, travel to Polonnaruwa, the medieval capital of Sri Lanka from 1017 to 1235 AD. Enjoy a fascinating sightseeing tour of this ancient city, exploring its impressive archaeological remains, historic monuments, beautifully preserved statues and ancient temples.Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982, Polonnaruwa offers a captivating insight into Sri Lanka's rich medieval history and cultural heritage.

Following your sightseeing tour, enjoy a refreshing king coconut drink before beginning your return journey to Sigiriya through the island's beautiful rural countryside. Along the way, enjoy an exclusive and authentic rural Sri Lankan experience, including lunch and an opportunity to discover the country's traditional agricultural lifestyle and local culture. Depending on your interests and the arrangements available on the day, the experience may include an introduction to traditional farming practices, a glimpse into local village life, and a cultural presentation featuring traditional Sri Lankan folk songs and dancing. Enjoy a freshly prepared traditional Sri Lankan lunch, made using locally sourced ingredients, while experiencing the warmth and hospitality of the rural community. Continue to Sigiriya and spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Relax at your hotel and unwind in the peaceful surroundings.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

OVERNIGHT: Aliya Resort & Spa, Sigiriya

Day 5: Sigiriya ~ Kandy

Rise early this morning for a visit to the magnificent Sigiriya Rock Fortress, arriving in time to enjoy the spectacular sunrise over this iconic UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take time to explore the ancient rock citadel and discover its fascinating history, remarkable architecture and royal heritage.

Return to the hotel for breakfast before beginning your journey towards Kandy. En route, stop in the city of Matale to visit a traditional spice garden. Discover Sri Lanka's rich variety of spices and learn about their importance in the island's culinary, cultural and Ayurvedic traditions.

Continue to Kandy, Sri Lanka’s cultural capital and the country’s second-largest city. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and enjoy some time to relax and refresh. This evening, experience a traditional Kandyan cultural performance, featuring vibrant costumes, rhythmic drumming, traditional dances and captivating performances that showcase the island’s rich artistic heritage. This lively cultural experience offers a wonderful introduction to the traditions and performing arts of Sri Lanka’s hill country. Following the cultural performance, enjoy some free time to explore Kandy at your own pace. Take a leisurely stroll around picturesque Kandy Lake, browse the local shops and lively streets, or simply soak up the atmosphere of this historic city. Later, return to your hotel for dinner and spend the remainder of the evening at leisure..

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Golden Crown Hotel, Kandy

Day 6: Kandy ~ Nuwara Eliya

After breakfast, visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, one of Sri Lanka’s most revered Buddhist sites and an important cultural landmark in Kandy. Located within the historic Royal Palace complex, the temple is believed to house a sacred relic of the Buddha and attracts pilgrims and visitors from around the world.

Continue with a visit to a gem museum, where you’ll discover Sri Lanka’s long-standing tradition of gemstone mining and craftsmanship.Learn more about the country’s gem industry, traditional mining methods and the intricate process of cutting and polishing these beautiful stones. Afterwards, continue your journey towards Sri Lanka’s spectacular central highlands. As you gradually ascend into the hills, the landscape transforms dramatically, with winding mountain roads, lush green valleys, cascading waterfalls and extensive tea plantations carpeting the surrounding slopes. Enjoy the panoramic scenery along the way as you make your way towards Nuwara Eliya, often referred to as “Little England” for its cool climate and distinctive colonial-era character.

Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening at leisure. Relax and unwind in the refreshing mountain climate, or take a leisurely stroll through the town and soak up the peaceful atmosphere of Sri Lanka’s scenic hill country.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: St. Andrew's Hotel, Nuwara Eliya

Day 7: Nuwara Eliya City Tour

After breakfast, head to the Single Tree Temple and embark on a scenic 40-minute hike to the Single Tree Hill viewpoint. As you make your way uphill, enjoy the crisp mountain air and tranquil surroundings before reaching the viewpoint, where spectacular panoramic views unfold across Nuwara Eliya’s rolling

hills, lush tea plantations and mist-covered valleys.

Following your hike, continue to a nearby tea factory and discover the fascinating journey of Ceylon tea, from freshly picked leaves to the world-famous tea enjoyed around the globe. The factory retains some of its original machinery, offering an authentic glimpse into traditional tea production. Learn how the leaves are carefully withered, rolled, fermented, dried and graded to create the distinctive character of Ceylon black tea. For a more hands-on experience, take part in a tea-plucking experience, joining local tea pluckers among the emerald-green plantations and learning how the finest tea leaves are carefully selected. This provides a wonderful opportunity to experience an important part of everyday life in Sri Lanka's picturesque hill country.

Later, enjoy a quintessential Nuwara Eliya experience at the Grand Tea Lounge, one of the town's celebrated venues. Set within the historic Grand Hotel, relax in elegant surroundings and indulge in an iconic High Tea, accompanied by a selection of delicate savouries, pastries and sweet treats, while soaking up the timeless colonial atmosphere of Nuwara Eliya. Return to your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure..

MEALS: Breakfast, High Tea

OVERNIGHT: St. Andrew's Hotel, Nuwara Eliya

Day 8: Nuwara Eliya ~ Scenic Train Ride ~ Wellawaya

After a leisurely breakfast, travel to the railway station and board the scenic train for one of Sri Lanka's most memorable journeys through the spectacular hill country. Settle back and enjoy the ever-changing scenery as the train winds its way through emerald-green tea plantations, misty mountains, dramatic valleys and charming rural landscapes. The approximately 3,5 hour long journey offers a wonderful glimpse into the natural beauty and tranquillity of Sri Lanka's central highlands.

Disembark at Demodara Railway Station, where your journey continues by road to Jetwing Kaduruketha. Nestled amidst lush paddy fields, mountains and traditional village landscapes, this beautiful rural retreat provides an opportunity to experience a more peaceful and authentic side of Sri Lanka. The property blends harmoniously with its natural surroundings, creating a tranquil setting away from the bustle of the island's main tourist centres. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Take time to relax, explore the serene surroundings or simply unwind while appreciating the beautiful landscape and unique character of this charming countryside retreat.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Jetwing Kaduruketha

Day 9: Wellawaya City Tour

After breakfast, enjoy a leisurely morning at the hotel. Take time to relax, make use of the hotel's facilities and amenities, or simply enjoy the peaceful surroundings at your own pace. Later, visit the fascinating Buduruwagala Temple, home to an impressive collection of ancient rock-cut Buddhist statues. The site is best known for its magnificent towering Buddha, carved directly into the surrounding rock face and standing as a remarkable testament to Sri Lanka's ancient artistic and religious heritage.

Following your temple visit, continue to the tranquil Buduruwagala Tank and enjoy a relaxing boat ride across its peaceful waters. Take in the surrounding natural scenery and enjoy a refreshing drink as you soak up the serenity of this beautiful rural setting. Return to your hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Relax and unwind, enjoy the hotel's facilities, or simply take time to appreciate the peaceful atmosphere of your countryside retreat.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Jetwing Kaduruketha

Day 10: Wellawaya ~ Galle

After breakfast, depart for Sri Lanka's beautiful southern coast, travelling through scenic countryside and along picturesque coastal roads. This drive is approximately 4 hours. Upon arrival in Galle, check in to your hotel and take some time to relax, unwind and enjoy the hotel's facilities.

Later in the afternoon, set out on a sunset walking tour of historic Galle Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Sri Lanka's most atmospheric landmarks. Wander through its charming narrow streets, admire beautifully preserved colonial architecture, and discover historic churches, grand merchants' houses and hidden courtyards. Continue along the ancient ramparts, with sweeping views across the Indian Ocean. As the afternoon unfolds, make your way to one of the fort's iconic oceanfront vantage points. Pause to watch the sun slowly dip towards the horizon as the sky transforms into warm, golden hues, creating a memorable final evening on Sri Lanka's southern coast.

In the evening, join your chauffeur or guide and fellow travellers for a special farewell seafood dinner. Enjoy a selection of fresh, locally sourced seafood in a relaxed setting, while sharing stories, laughter and favourite memories from your journey through Sri Lanka.

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Radisson Blue, Galle

Day 11: Galle ~ Colombo ~ Departure

After breakfast, transfer to the international airport for your departure flight. The drive to the airport takes approximately 2.5 hours. We hope you've had a wonderful time exploring Sri Lanka!

NOTE: Depending on airline schedules, your flight may depart in the early hours of Day 12.

MEALS: Breakfast