

Contemporary Ceylon

17 Days

Sri Lanka though a renowned leisure destination for its mesmerizing hill country, exquisite beaches, and fascinating cultural attraction of ancient cities and shrines is not a destination that readily comes to mind for a golfing holiday. If you look up the Sri Lanka Map you will learn to your delightful surprise that you can easily fit in three fabulous golf courses of all Asia located at three elevations.

HIGHLIGHTS

World Class - UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

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Last Kingdom - Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic & Kandyan Culture.

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Into the Wild – Safaris in Yala National Park.

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Little England – Cold, Scenic Peaks and Cozy Little Towns of Ella & Haputale

•

On the Shores – Explore the Southern Coast of Sri Lanka.

HOLIDAY OF

XXXXX

TRAVEL DATES

XXXXX

AK10160100

YOUR TOUR CONSULTANT

DINAKSHI FERNANDO



Dinakshi Fernando is a Tour Coordinator with a flair for adventure. She propels at meeting her client's expectations and is always committed to ensuring that your journey across Sri Lanka will be a memory to look back upon no matter where you go. Her dedication, focus and determination are the traits that make her such a valuable asset to Lakpura.
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It could be Kenya, it could be Fiji, and it could be Tibet, New Zealand or South Africa. The people, landscapes and wildlife are so diverse, you could be just about anywhere on earth. But there's something very different here. It hits you as soon as you step off the plane. You know, you're somewhere special and exotic. The ancient temples, the sweet scents of spices, the old-world charms and the warm tropical air tell you; you're on the teardrop island of Sri Lanka.

The one thing that can really stop you in your tracks in Sri Lanka, is how profoundly and how quickly the landscape and wildlife changes over a relatively short distance. One minute you're in hot, bustling village streets. The next, you're in the cool mountain region, surrounded by endless tea fields. You turn a corner and wild elephants are standing by the road side. Half an hour later, and you're at the bottom of a huge waterfall, sheltering from the heat with the local monkeys.

It's as if the trade winds have carried a few elements from every corner of the earth and deposited them all here, in this one little island. And that's not far from the truth. Sri Lanka's prominent position along ancient spice routes between Europe, Africa and Asia, means travelers have been stopping here and leaving a little something behind for thousands of years.

There are 8 world Heritage sites in Sri Lanka. The 3 ancient and magnificent cities of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Sigiriya were inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1982 followed by Galle, Kandy, and the Sinharaja Forest Reserve in 1988. The Golden Temple of Dambulla in 1991 and finally the Central highlands were added in 2010. These places of historical and natural significance are not to be missed for any visitor to Sri Lanka.

Being an ancient kingdom, Sri Lanka has preserved its most precious treasures, its culture and tradition. An integral part of this is its cuisine. Sri Lankan cuisine has many influences from varied destinations such as North and South India, Persia, Malaysia, Holland and Portugal. Rice, which is usually consumed daily, can be found at any special occasion, while spicy curries are a favorite dish for lunch



and dinner. Fish curry is a specialty. Having a history marked by four centuries of colonial rule, the country still manages to safeguard remnants from the past in their original grandeur. Some of the more renowned historic sites are the Galle Fort built originally by the Portuguese, Colombo Harbour and the ancient city of Polonnaruwa all confirm Sri Lanka's ancient and colorful past. The rock temple of the Buddha, Gal Vihara is one of the finest examples of the religious heritage. Temples play an important part in everyday life and a visit to one should be a must for all visitors.

Sri Lanka's wildlife is as varied as the island itself, ranging from elephants and leopards to Whales – it is the only place in the world to find all three in such proximity. Sri Lanka is ranked amongst the world's best biodiversity hot spots. As a country with a high rate of endemism, it has many groups of animals including birds, mammal, reptiles and amphibians which can't be found anywhere in the world.

Day 1

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

No Meals on This Day

Airport > Negombo

Arrive at Colombo International Airport at TBA hrs. Here, you will be met by a designated chauffer guide from Lakpura Travels.

Things to Remember:

- You will spend approximately 1 hour getting through the immigration cue and baggage collection.
- Your Chauffer will be page your name at the Airport Arrivals Lounge.
- After the formalities at the airport you will be escorted to your air-conditioned Van and proceed to Negombo and check into the hotel. (Travel Time: 20 to 30 mins)



Enjoy the sun on the sandy beaches of Negombo on the Western Coast of Sri Lanka. Watch the flourishing fish industry, which is a centuries-old tradition. Ride an adrenaline high with some fun water sports. Enjoy the corals and underwater life while diving. See the 50-year-old ship-wreck just off the coast, where many varieties of fish make their home.

On completion of the day check into the hotel and relax.

Day 2

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Negombo > Kosgoda > Balapitiya > Galle

After breakfast check out from the hotel and proceed to Galle. En route make a pauase at Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery and go on a lovely boat ride n Madu River. (Travel Time: 2 to 2 ½ hrs)



Visit the Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery on the Southwestern coast of Sri Lanka. Learn more about the five endangered sea turtle species that come to the shores of Sri Lanka to nest. Learn how the Kosgoda Turtle Care Program helps protect the nests until they hatch and increases the chances of survival for the babies. Get a chance to see, touch and feed baby turtles; or even injured adult turtles that the Turtle Hatchery cares for.



Go on a wonderful boat ride down the Madu River with its flourishing ecosystem. Pass through the secretive passages created by the mangroves. See the basking crocodiles and water monitors. Visit one of the small islands with its cinnamon harvesting natives. Enjoy the restorative qualities of the famous fish massage. Observe the waterbirds in their natural habitats.

On completion of the day proceed to Galle and check into the hotel for relaxation. (Travel Time: 50 to 60 mins)

Day 3

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Galle

Spend the day leisurely at the hotel. Later during the day, discover the city of Galle, where the Portuguese and Dutch made their headquarters, and its secrets. Visit the Galle Fort which is one of the best preserved fortifications in Asia.



View the Maritime Museum, Galle National Museum and the lighthouse. Walk through the cobblestoned streets with their Dutch names as you learn more about their histories.

Afterwards, return to the hotel and rest for the night.

Day 4

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Galle > Yala

After breakfast at the hotel, check out of the hotel and proceed to Yala.

En-route, stop by and enjoy lunch at one of the local restaurants along the beautiful coast of Tangalle and then check out the famous Stilt Fishermen at work in Koggala.



Watch the captivating sight of fishermen perched on stilts in the waters along the coast of Koggala. Hear the stories of how stilt fishing came to Sri Lanka, from the mouths of the fishermen who have practiced the craft for generations. Learn how the stilt fishing is done in detail and marvel at the level of skill that goes into it.

Thereafter proceed to Yala. En route make a pause at Ussangoda. (Travel Time: 2 to 2 ½ hrs)



Ussangoda is a strange coastal area because of its lack of trees. Its serpentine rock contains toxic heavy metals. Only specific smaller plants were able to adapt to this soil. But according to the Ramayana legends there are two more explanations for the baldness of Ussangoda. After meeting Sitadevi Lord Hanuman provoked the mighty King Ravana and his army of Rakshasas. It resulted in Lord Hanuman's tail being set on fire by Rakshasas. Hanuman in turn went on to torch parts of King Ravana's empire with his burning tail. Ussangoda is said to be one of these burnt

areas. Besides the Ramyana Trail legend has it that earlier on the Ussangoda plateau was used an airport by King Ravana for his Dandumonara peacock chariot, before Hanuman devastated the landing site.

On completion of the day check into the hotel and relax.

Day 5

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Yala

With packed breakfast go on a lovely morning safari in Yala National Park.



This amazing three-hour Safari offers the opportunity to visit Yala National Park, the second largest in the island based off the Southeastern coast of Sri Lanka. Get a chance to see the famous Sri Lankan leopards, indigenous wild water buffalo, Sri Lankan Sloth Bear and large herds of Sri Lankan Elephants. The park is also home to many other species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates.

On completion of the safari return back to the hotel and relax.

Day 6

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Yala > Ella

After breakfast check out from the hotel and proceed to Ella and go on a lovely city tour around Ella. (Travel Time: 2 ½ to 3 hrs)



Explore the city of Ella and it's most interesting places. Pass through bright green tea fields, and tough stretches of rock, and get to see the magical views of Little Adam's Peak. Walk over the history seeped Nine Arches Bridge and listen to the story of its construction. End your hike at the Demodara Railway station with its unique loop-over track design. This tour gives you the chance to see the best sights of Sri Lanka

On completion of the day check into the hotel and relax.

Day 7

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Ella > Nuwara Eliya

After breakfast at the hotel, check out from the hotel approx. 09.00 am and proceed to Ella Railway Station by 09.20 am to catch the train to Nanu Oya.



The Ella to Nanu Oya train journey takes you on scenic ride through some of the most beautiful highland countryside areas in Sri Lanka. Watch the brilliant greens carpets of the tea plantations. See the picturesque villages with misty mountain backdrops pass by. Peer through drizzle and mist to look at the magical landscapes of Hill Country. Enjoy the amazing sights of intimidating mountains, deep and dark woodlands, and magnificent waterfalls as they go by your windows.

Your chauffeur will pick up you at the Nano Oya Station and take you a city tour around Nuwara Eliya.



Visit the highland city that was the premium holiday resort town of the British in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Enjoy walking through the streets with their pretty little cottages, quaint villas and beautiful mansions. Make a memory in the old red-bricked post office as you purchase an inexpensive and colorful postcard to take home or send to your friends. Relax at Queen Victoria Park or on the shores of Lake Gregory.

On completion of the day return back to the hotel and relax.

Day 8

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Nuwara Eliya > Horton Plains > Nuwara Eliya

Early in the morning proceed to Horton Plains National Park and go on a lovely trek in the National Park.



Visit the beautiful Horton Plains National Park in Ohiya, with its montane grasslands and cloud forests. Enjoy the majestic views from the precipice of World's End and the cooling sprays from Baker's Falls. Catch glimpses of the many endemic fauna that make their home in the plains. Get to know more about the archeological finds that were discovered in the area.

On completion of the trek, return back to the hotel and relax.

Day 9

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Nuwara Eliya > Kandy

After breakfast at the hotel proceed to Kandy. En-route make a pause at Ramboda Falls and Bluefield Tea factory and get guided tour through the Tea Estate and learn more about the varieties, processing methods and qualities of tea. (Travel Time: 1 ½ to 2 hrs)



Visit Ramboda Falls, which is the 11th tallest in the country. Get a guided tour through Mackwoods Tea Estate and learn more about the varieties, processing methods and qualities of tea. Walk through the shaded avenues and colorful mazes of Hakgala Botanical Gardens. Relax and take a walk along the shores of Lake Gregory. A peaceful day filled with lots of beautiful sights.



Tea Factory and a plantation where you would see how the world's famous "Ceylon Tea" is manufactured. In 1824 a tea plant was brought to Ceylon by the British from China and was planted in the Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya for non-commercial purposes. James Taylor was a British citizen who introduced commercial tea plantation in Sri Lanka (Ceylon). He arrived to Sri Lanka in 1852 and settled down in Loolecondera estate in Kandy. Today even people who have never heard of Sri Lanka are familiar with Ceylon tea, which is known for its quality.

On completion of the day proceed to Kandy and make a visit to the Temple of the Tooth Relic. (Travel Time:

3 to 3 ½ hrs)



The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is a UNESCO World Heritage Site which was built in the 16th century as the place of veneration and protection for Lord Buddha's sacred tooth. Walk through the beautifully embellished passageways and elaborately painted halls, done in red, cream and black. Lounge against delicately carved pillars and get amazed by the beautiful golden statues. Get an unforgettable experience of history and art.

Upon completion check in to the hotel and relax.

Day 10

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Kandy > Pinnawala > Kandy

After breakfast, visit the Millennium Elephant Foundation in Pinnawala. (Travel Time: 2 to 2 ½ hrs)



The Millennium Elephant Foundation (MEF) is a family run non-government organization (NGO) dedicated to improving the welfare of domestic elephants throughout Sri Lanka. The Foundation provide and fund the care, medical treatments, food, mahout salaries, the running costs of the charity as well as having an on call Mobile Veterinary Unit which travels around the country treating sick elephants in need. The Elephant Walk Experience is another alternative to elephant riding for tourists, which is an ethical, up close and personal experience for tourists.

On completion of the day return back to the hotel and relax. Later on the evening go and witness the Kandyan Cultural Show and go on technical tours go related to arts and crafts such as gem crafting, woodcarving, and batik design.



The Kandy Cultural Show gives an opportunity to experience some of the traditions of Sri Lanka. Enjoy this hour long extravaganza as some of the most popular art forms of the island take to the stage. Get wowed by fire dancers and sword dancers. Watch the colorful Kandyan dancers take to the air to the thrumming primal beat of the drums.

On completion of the day return back to the hotel and relax.

Day 11

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Kandy > Peradeniya > Matale > Dambulla

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and visit the Royal Botanical Gardens of Peradeniya. (Travel Time: 20 to 30 mins)



Visit the famous Royal Botanical Gardens of Peradeniya, which were formed in the early 19th century. Walk through the vast area containing over 4000 species of plants. Enjoy the learning more about the orchids, spices and medicinal plants. Wander down avenues shaded by large and rare trees, or bordered by flowering plants. Enjoy seeing the cannonball tree, walking over the wobbly suspension bridge and through the short hedge mazes or even climbing the twisty trees that make wonderful jungle gyms.

Thereafter proceed to Matale and visit a Spice Garden and do a guided tour of a spice and herbal garden, where you learn about spices, such as coriander, chili, cinnamon, cardamom, and nutmeg; and their uses. (Travel Time: 1 to 1 ½ hrs)



Take part in a traditional cooking demonstration that shows you how to make Sri Lankan cuisine while making full use of spices. Learn to make roti or create curry powder from scratch in one of the workshops in Spice Garden.

Thereafter proceed to Dambulla and visit the golden cave temple. (Travel Time: 1 to 1 ½ hrs)



Enter the historic caves of the Golden Temple of Dambulla, dating back to the 1st century BC. View the ancient murals depicting the life story of Lord Gautama Buddha. Look at the hundreds of figurines of Buddha and other deities scattered throughout the five main caves. Visit the Cave of the Divine King, Cave of the Great King and the Great New Monastery. See the giant golden Buddha Statue just a little distance outside the cave complex.

On completion of the day check into the hotel and relax.

Day 12

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Dambulla > Sigiriya > Dambulla

After breakfast at your hotel, at approx. 8.00 AM, make your way to Sigiriya Rock Fortress, the Eighth Wonder of the World. (Travel time: 15 to 30 mins)



Climb the 5th century AD rock fortress, Sigiriya, where the King Kasyapa ruled. Walk through the entrance framed by the paws of a lion that is quite appropriate for its name, 'The Lion Rock'. View the beautiful unfading murals that brought Sigiriya its fame. Climb the steep staircase to see the terraced gardens and still-working cisterns. Walk through the tunnels leading to the palace as you get a feel for times long past.



After making your descent, proceed to a local village nearby and experience the world from the view of a villager. Enjoy a relaxing catamaran safari across a calm lake. Walk through the golden fields ripe with their harvest of paddy. Delight your taste buds with a home cooked lunch; made over a wood-fire and served on fragrant lotus leaves placed over woven trays. (Travel Time: 10 to 15 mins)

Thereafter return back to the hotel and relax.

Day 13

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Dambulla > Anuradhapura > Dambulla

After breakfast at the hotel proceed to Anuradhapura and visit the ancient ruined city of Anuradhapura. (Travel Time: 1 ½ to 2 hrs)



Walk through the ancient ruined city of Anuradhapura, which was the capital for over a millennium until the 10th century AD. View the pagodas, monastic buildings and ponds that are scatter all over the vast area. Visit important landmarks such as Jetavanarama, which was one of the tallest buildings of the ancient world, the Sri Maha Bodhi and the ruins of the huge Abhayagiri Monastery. Gain more knowledge about Sri Lanka's history as you walk in the footsteps of Kings.

Thereafter return back to Dambulla, en route make a pause at Avukana Buddha Statue and return back to the hotel. ((Travel Time: 1 to 2 hrs)

This visit takes you to the majestic 40-foot rock sculpture in Avukana is one of the classical examples of Standing Buddha statues in Sri Lanka. You will be able to see the marvelous crafting of the statue in its being carved from a single rock and standing unsupported except for a single thin attachment at the back; the delicately carved folds of the robe; and the cleanly sculpted body structure. The partially collapsed structures around it point to it once having been sheltered in an image house



On completion of the day return back to the hotel and relax.

Day 14

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Dambulla > Yapahuwa > Dambulla

After breakfast at the hotel proceed to Yapahuwa, which was one of the ephemeral capitals of medieval Sri Lanka. (Travel Time: 1 ½ to 2 hrs)



Visit the rock fortress of Yapahuwa where the seat of government was based in the 13th century. It also had its own Temple of the Tooth Relic where the relic was housed at that time. View the majestic entrance arch and ornamental stairway. Walk through the ruins of the temple at the summit or along the terraces. Enjoy the detailed sculptures scattered throughout the entire fortress.

On completion of the day return back to the hotel and relax.

Day 15

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Dambulla > Polonnaruwa > Minneriya > Dambulla

After breakfast at your hotel, make your way to the ancient capital of Sri Lanka, Polonnaruwa, one of Sri Lanka's ancient capitals. The land is rich with history and culture and an important part of the cultural triangle. (Travel Time: 2 to 2 ½ hrs)



Polonnaruwa, Kings ruled the central plains of Sri Lanka from Polonnaruwa 800 years ago, when it was a thriving commercial and religious centre. From here, free-marketeers haggled for rare goods and the pious prayed at any one of its numerous temples. The glories of that age can be found in archaeological treasures which give a pretty good idea of how the city looked in its heyday.

Thereafter proceed to Minneriya go on a lovely safari in Minneriya National Park. (Travel Time: 30 to 40 mins)



This three-hour safari takes you on a ride through the Minneriya National Park. Enjoy the sight of over 150 elephants congregating in one place during the famous Great Elephant Gathering, which happens in the dry season between May to October. In addition to elephants, get a chance to also see many mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians in the scrublands, forests and other areas.

On completion return to the hotel for relaxation.

Day 16

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Dambulla > Colombo

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and proceed to Colombo go on a City and Shopping tour including the Pettah market in Commercial City of Sri Lanka. (Travel Time: 3 to 4 hrs)



Experience the colorful lights and bright life of Colombo, the capital City of Sri Lanka. Visit historic monuments such as the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green, Gangarama Temple, the National Museum and more. Enjoy the malls of Independence Square or the Race Course. Visit boutique shops and designer stores. On completion return to the hotel for relaxation.

Day 17

Meals

Breakfast

Colombo > Airport

After the breakfast check out from the hotel and proceed to airport after spending a memorable time in this island.

End of Tour

COST INCLUDES

- Accommodation on sharing a one double room and occupying a double room at the hotels specified in hotel collection.
- Meal plan on Bed and Breakfast basis starting with breakfast on day 2 and ending with breakfast on day 17.
- Transport in a Private Vehicle, inclusive of all chauffer accommodation, cost of fuel, parking & highway tolls.
- Service of an English-Speaking Chauffer Guide throughout the tour.
- All prevailing taxes and service charges (Except for Credit Card Charges)

COST EXCLUDES

- Entry Visa Fees, please visit www.eta.gov.lk for more details / submit your individual visa application.
- International / Domestic Airfare.
- Any expenses of personal nature.
- Tips & Portages.
- Cost of Beverages
- Meals where not specified.
- Entrance fees where not specified.

COMPLIMENTARY

- Daily 1ltr bottle of water Per Person.
- 1 Un-loaded SIM card.