

CLASSIC SRI LANKA

20 Days

Classic Sri Lanka is a trip for those who appreciate the true beauty of diverse landscapes and the rich and fascinating culture and history of Sri Lanka. Visit the cool, lush green hill country. Embark on fascinating wildlife safaris and walk with the Aborigines (The ancient ones). Have a truly Sri Lankan experience with a cup of Ceylon Tea or fresh King Coconuts on the calm southern coast. This is undoubtedly a tour of immense charm.

HIGHLIGHTS

- *World Class* - UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- *Last Kingdom* - Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic & Kandyan Culture.
- *Into the Wild* – Safaris in Gal Oya National Park.
- *Little England* – Cold, Scenic Peaks and Cozy Little Towns of Ella & Haputale
- *On the Shores* – Explore the Southern Coast of Sri Lanka.

HOLIDAY OF

XXX

TRAVEL DATES

XXX

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 > Colombo

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

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 Colombo and check into the hotel. (Travel Time: 1 to 1 ½ hrs)

Later in the afternoon go on a City and Shopping tour in Commercial City of Sri Lanka.



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.

Must Try:

- **Dinner @ Gallery Café in Colombo.**
- **Barefoot Gallery (Books and Handlooms).**
- **Spa Ceylon.**
- **Dutch Hospital.**

Thereafter return back to the hotel and relax. Later that evening go on street food walk in Galle Face Green and enjoy the night life in Colombo.

Day 2

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Colombo > Kosgoda > Galle

After breakfast at the hotel check out and proceed to Galle, en route make a pause at Kosgoda and visit Turtle Hatchery. (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.



On completion of the visit head to the old Galle Dutch Fort along the scenic coast-line in time to explore the post-colonial port town at your leisure.



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. A cycling tour of Galle will be also available, should you be interested.

Should you choose to embark on the Galle Cycling Tour, you will get to cycle through the wonderful green countryside of Galle. Stop by a rural village and get to know its people. Visit the local Buddhist temple or domestic coconut fiber factory. Have fun attending a traditional Sri Lankan cooking demonstration and have a delicious village lunch, or stop by at any restaurant for a lunch of your choice. Let your wheels take you through the golden paddy fields and bright green tea plantations. You could round off your day with a picnic tea in the wild.



Day 3

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Galle > Ahangama > Koggala > Galle

After breakfast at the hotel proceed to Ahangama and visit Handunugoda Tea Factory. (Travel Time: 50 to 60 mins)



Visit Handunugoda Tea Factory which is also known as the Virgin White Tea Factory. Learn the history of the tea that this factory produces. Get to know how the famous Virgin White Tea is plucked and processed completely untouched by human hands. Engage in a tasting session with a delicious cup of tea and scrumptious chocolate cake. Get a chance to purchase some tea leaves as a souvenir.

Thereafter enjoy lunch at one of the local restaurants along the beautiful coast of Galle and then check out the famous Stilt Fishermen at work in Koggala. (Travel Time: 20 to 30 mins)



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.

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

Day 4

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Galle > Udawalawe

Enjoy your morning with a refreshing breakfast. Later proceed to Udawalawe and check into the for relaxation. (Travel Time: 3 to 3 ½ hrs)

Day 5

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Udawalawe > Haputale

Early in the morning prior to breakfast go on a lovely morning safari in Udawalawe National Park.

Enjoy a three-hour safari which would give you a chance to explore the amazing Udawalawe National Park. Travel through the marshes, forests and grasslands of the park that was created as a sanctuary for wildlife in the 1970s. See the water birds and Sri Lankan elephants for which the park is famed. Catch glimpses of the other mammals and birds, as well as the reptiles, amphibians and butterflies.



On completion of the safari return back to the hotel to have breakfast. After having breakfast check out from the hotel and proceed to Haputale and Explore the most famous landmarks of Haputale. (Travel Time: 3 to 3 ½ hrs)



Visit Lipton's Seat, one of the most famed observation points in Sri Lanka, which gives views of the Uva, Sabaragamuwa, Central and Eastern Provinces. Roam over the grounds of Adisham Bungalow, a beautiful Tudor mansion built in the early 1900s. View the neo-gothic architecture of St Andrews church, walk through its graveyard which is the resting place of many British tea planters, and much more. This is a great opportunity to relax and enjoy the calming beauty of Haputale and its sights.

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

Day 6

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Haputale > Ella > Haputale

On this day, while enjoying the glorious accommodation experience, go on a sightseeing tour in Ella and witness the marvelous of Ella. (Travel Time: 1 to 1 ½ hrs)



Explore the city of Ella and its 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 return back to the hotel and relax.

Day 7

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Haputale > Gal Oya

After breakfast check out of the hotel and proceed to Gal Oya. (Travel Time: 3 ½ to 4 hrs)



Discover an ancient land untouched by time; a haven of serenity in which to reconnect with the rhythms of the earth. Immerse yourself in nature. Soak yourself in local culture. Explore the rich wildlife of Gal Oya, one of Sri Lanka's most remote and least visited wilderness areas.

Gal Oya Lodge is a unique Sri Lanka ecolodge spread across 20 acres of private jungle. Take your time enjoying this natural paradise through the experiences we offer, which include a walk with our Veddha neighbors, one of the last remaining communities of the forest-dwelling, indigenous people of Sri Lanka.

After check-in and lunch, visit the Veddah Village that evening.



Gal Oya Lodge neighbours one of the last remaining communities of the Veddha – the forest-dwelling, indigenous people of Sri Lanka. We can invite the village Chief to take you on a walk through the jungles of his ancestors. Discover and learn about local nature as he brings the forest alive, explaining his tribe's use of medicinal plants, ancient hunting grounds and cave dwellings. It's a fascinating insight into how the hunter-gatherers lived in the jungles of Gal Oya.

After visiting the Veddah Village, proceed back to Gal Oya, (Travel Time: 1 to 1 ½ hrs)

Day 8

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Gal Oya > Gal Oya

Wake up before the crack of dawn, at around five am. Sip a quick tea / coffee and embark on an early morning safari in Gal Oya National Park.



The drive takes you past small village lands where locals are beginning to rise, and after a brief time you come to a very inconspicuous road that guides you down into the buffer zone of the park. You arrive at the Wildlife Department's base and collect one of their officers to accompany the safari, and then enter Gal Oya National Park.

As you drive the jungle slowly begins to come alive amongst the fresh hues of sunlight gleaming through the foliage, with piercing birdcalls and buzzing insects. One of our skilled drivers turns off the engine of the jeep at certain points, which allows you to silently creep through, taking in all the noises of the magnificent, waking park. Your expert naturalist points out the inhabiting wildlife, including grey langurs, various species of deer, a plethora of birds, small mammals, elephants, reptiles and if you are super, super lucky, perhaps even the leopard.

After you have taken in all the wonders of the surrounding jungle during the initial drive portion of the safari, you reach the river, and it is almost definitely more magnificent than you imagined. Gal Oya team members set up an intimate picnic breakfast for you, and then leave you to enjoy in peace. When you are finished, the river may look too wonderful to not jump in, but there is also the option to walk along the riverbank, which we very much recommend. Your naturalist guides you down an intrepid path, through rock formations and stunning greenery, pointing out more wildlife along the way.



Relax that noon and later in the evening, go on a Boat Safari on Sri Lanka's largest lake.



Return back to the lodge for dinner.

Enjoy the only experience in Sri Lanka that allows you to spot wildlife from the water. It's a unique way to immerse yourself in the animals' habitats. With a little luck you could spot elephants swimming between islands or bathing at the lake's edge. A 2-3 hour safari by boat, and a scenic 40 minute drive from the lodge to the lake is perfect to explore the national park and surrounding villages.

Day 9

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Gal Oya > Kandy

Early in the morning prior to breakfast go on a trek to the Monkey Mountain.

For the intrepid ones, a 2-hour uphill trek first thing in the morning to the top of the cliffs facing the lodge is rewarded with stunning 180 degrees' views over the large forested valley we are in. If you set off early enough you can watch the sun rise over the hills in the distance and observe the seemingly never-ending jungle canopy below. Return for a well-earned breakfast and enjoy the view looking back up what you just climbed.

On return, check out and proceed to Kandy and check in to the hotel and relax. (Travel Time: 3 ½ to 4 hrs)

Day 10

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Kandy > Peradeniya > Kandy

Enjoy your morning with a refreshing breakfast visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic.



(Travel Time: 20 to 30 mins)

Visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic 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.

Later proceed to Peradeniya and visit Royal Botanical Gardens.



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 go on city and a technical tour related to arts such as gem crafting, woodcarving and batiks in Kandy City and watch the Kandyan Cultural Show with its colorful traditional dances and delightful music.



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 return back to your hotel and relax.

Day 11

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Kandy > Nuwara Eliya > Kandy

After breakfast at the hotel go on a lovely city tour in Nuwara Eliya, a journey to the central highlands with its tea covered hills, gushing waterfalls, and scenic beauty. (Travel Time: 2 to 2 ½ hrs)



Nuwara Eliya is set in the heart of tea-country is a beautiful town where the British succeeded in creating a replica of the English countryside, with homes in styles from Georgian to Queen Anne. Well-kept lawns with hedges, an Anglican church, a famous golf course and beautiful parks give the place an air of nostalgia. Situated 6,200 feet above sea level, the air is cool and fresh – a serene retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city life.

On completion of the day return back to the hotel.

Day 12

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Kandy > Matale > Dambulla

After breakfast at the hotel check out and proceed to Matale, 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)



Euphoria Spice and Herbal is located 12 km away from Matale (The spice capital of Sri Lanka). Enriched with herbs, spice groves and plants with fragrant greenery shading from the tropical trees that enlightens the unique aroma of each spice and herb. We give the opportunity for our visitors to explore and gain knowledge on Sri Lankan spices, herbs and the benefits of Ayurveda. The tropical climate in which our plants and herbs are grown helps them preserve its ancient originality. The educational tour around the garden, which we call "The Spice Tour", let the visitors feel the

sensation of the Sri Lankan spices and herbs which is demonstrated in different foreign languages to suit our customer need.



Thereafter proceed to Dambulla and visit the cave temple. (Travel Time: 20 to 30 mins)

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.

Upon completion, return to the hotel and relax. (Travel time: 15 to 30 mins)

Day 13

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & 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)

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

Day 14

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Dambulla > Trincomalee

After breakfast at check out and proceed to Trincomalee and check into the hotel for relaxation. (Travel Time: 3 to 3 ½ hrs)

Later on that evening visit Koneswaram Temple and the Fort Fedric. (Travel Time: 20 to 30 mins)



Visit this ancient temple praised by famous Indian poet-saints and mentioned by several famous personas around the world. See the beautiful murals describing the history of the temple. Worship at the little cave shrine that has its start in 1580 BC, as compared to the actual temple which was developed in 400 BC. Marvel at the giant statue of King Ravana who, according to legend, worshipped this shrine.

Visit the Fort of Trincomalee originally built by the Portuguese in 1624 CE. See the stones that once formed the Koneswaram temple before the Portuguese destroyed it. Listen to the history of Fort Frederick, which was dismantled and rebuilt by the Dutch.

Day 15

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Trincomalee > Trincomalee

After relaxed breakfast at visit the Pigeon Island National Park.



the Pigeon Island National Park consisting of the smaller pigeon island and larger pigeon island and the coral reef that encircles the larger island. See the rock pigeon that makes the island its breeding grounds. Explore the islands to see the many coral types and fauna that can be found here.

Later that evening Visit Nilaveli and Thiriyaya Watadage.

Relax on Nilaveli Beach which is considered one of the most perfect beaches in Sri Lanka. Enjoy the golden sand swaying palms and clear blue sea. See the ancient 10th century Tamil inscription that mention that the beach was part of a land grant to the Koneswaram Temple.

Explore Thiriyai, or Thiriyaya as it is known now, is a village where Tamil Buddhism was practiced in ancient times. Visit the Girihadu Seya Stupa, which was built to mark the location where according to legend Buddha is gave hair relics to two traders who served him porridge as alms. See the old fortress of one of the last Vanniyar Chiefs who ruled the area.

On completion return back to the hotel.



Day 16

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Trincomalee > Trincomalee

Spend the day leisurely enjoying the beach and the hotel facilities.

Possible Activities – Whale Watching



This tour gives you an opportunity to see the biggest mammals on earth, the whales, in their natural habitat. Get a chance to see blue whales, sperm whales and fin whales as they swim in the waters to the south of Sri Lanka. Gain more knowledge about the whales as a species from a qualified naturalist and learn to identify them. This tour gives you a responsible whale watching experience with a minimal imprint on nature.

Day 17 – Day 18

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Trincomalee > Trincomalee

Spend the days leisurely enjoying the beach 😊

Day 19

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Trincomalee > Negombo

After breakfast at check out from the hotel, head to Negombo and check into the hotel for relaxation. (Travel Time: 5 to 5 ½ hrs)

The Negombo Fishing Village also known as the Lellama by the locals is located across the lagoon bridge, near the Old Dutch Gate. The large open-air fish market is the second largest in the country. It gives you an unpretentious insight into the local fisher community. The market is loud, vibrant and smells like fish! You will be able to witness the fishermen in hundreds of boats bringing in their days' catch. See how the wholesalers and restaurateurs trade and watch the packing and loading of fish for distribution across the country as well as for export – worldwide. The retail area is a bustling hive of activity – with customers negotiating prices with mom and pop fish vendors.



Day 20

Meal Plan

Bed & Breakfast

Negombo > BIA

After a relaxed morning and breakfast at the hotel check out and, drive to the Airport for your flight back home!

End of Tour

COST INCLUDES

- Accommodation on sharing one 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 20.
- 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.