

Buddhist Pilgrimage Tour

06 DAYS

Go on a full tour of Paradise Island, experiencing all the sensations of each and every continent. From the scenic hills and cool breeze in Kandy, to historical and cultural masterpieces which are named UNESCO World Heritage Sites, such as the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic and the Sigiriya 'Lion Rock' Fortress and the Dambulla Golden Cave Temples. Explore the wilderness and go adventuring on an exciting safari through Minneriya National Park. Spend an unforgettable time among the Gentle Giants of Pinnawala where they find refuge at the famous Millennium Elephant Foundation

HIGHLIGHTS

Explore some of Sri Lanka's most famous and historical, cultural destinations that include UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

- See the wild Sri Lankan elephants at Minneriya National Park

- Walk with an elephant around the grounds of the Millennium Elephant Foundation

- Learn about Sri Lanka's Arts & Crafts

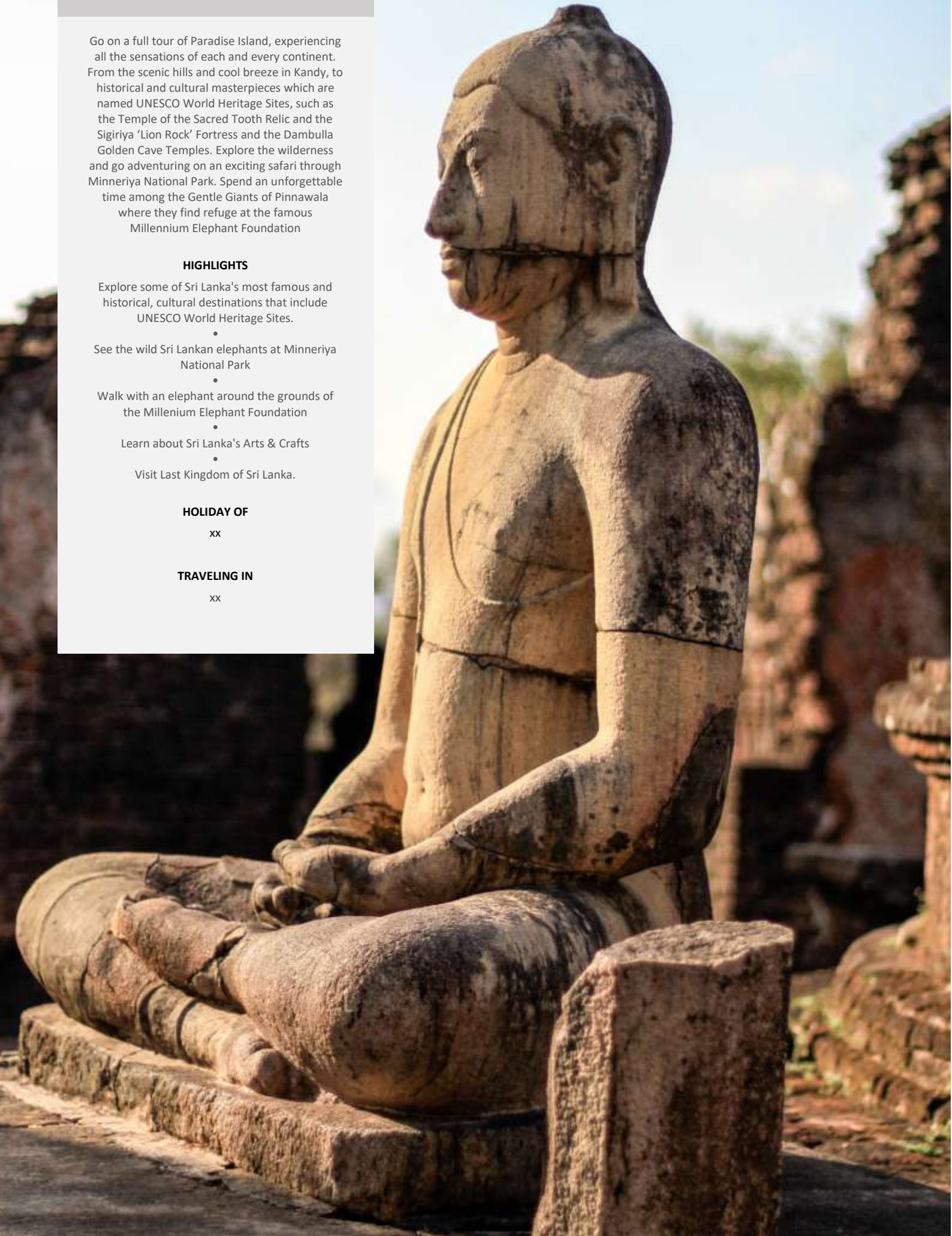
- Visit Last Kingdom of Sri Lanka.

HOLIDAY OF

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TRAVELING IN

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Sri Lanka the Wonder of Asia

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 stop ping 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 01

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

No Meals on This Day

Airport > Negombo

Arrive at Colombo International Airport. Here, you will be met by a designated chauffer guide from Lakpura. After the formalities at the airport you will be escorted to your air-conditioned vehicle and proceed to Negombo and check in to the hotel and relax. (Travel Time: 20 to 30 mins)

Things to Remember:

- You will spend approximately 1 hour getting through the immigration cue and baggage collection.
 - Your Chauffer will be paging 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: 30 to 45 mins)
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Day 02

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Negombo > Pinnawala > Dambulla

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and proceed to Dambulla. En-route make a stop at Pinnawala and visit the Millennium Elephant Foundation. (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.

Afterwards, continue to Dambulla and check in to the hotel and relax. (Travel Time: 2 to 2 ½ hrs)



The historic Dambulla Cave Temples, date as far back as the 1st Century BC. View the ancient murals depicting the life story of Lord Gautama Buddha. Marvel at the hundreds of Buddha figurines and other deities scattered across the five main caves. Visit the Golden Cave Temple, 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 and hear the legendary tales of this ancient kingdom.

Upon completion, return to the hotel and relax.

Day 03

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Dambulla > Sigiriya > Matale > Kandy

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and visit the famous Sigiriya 'Lion Rock' Fortress. (Travel Time: 30 to 40 min)



The 5th century AD rock fortress Sigiriya, once ruled by the Sri Lankan King Kashyapa, is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Sri Lanka's most historical landmarks. 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, that are a mind-blowing example of ancient Sri Lankan hydraulic engineering.

Thereafter proceed to Kandy. En-route make a stop at Matale to visit a Spice Garden and take a guided tour. (Travel Time: 1 to 1 ½ hrs).



The Matale Spice Tour gives you a hands-on experience of a Spice & Herbal Garden within the Spice capital of Sri Lanka, Matale. Here you will learn about Sri Lanka's famous spices such as coriander, chili, cinnamon, cardamom, nutmeg, and their uses. The garden is enriched with herbs, spice groves and plants with fragrant greenery shading from the tropical trees that heighten the unique aroma of each spice and herb. Apart from gaining knowledge on Sri Lankan spices, this unique tour also let's you learn about

Ayurvedic medicine. The tropical climate in which the plants and herbs are grown helps them preserve its ancient originality.

Thereafter, proceed to Kandy, check in to the hotel and relax. Later, go on technical tours related to arts and crafts such as gem crafting, woodcarving, and batiks. (Travel Time: 40 to 60 min)



Watch the Kandy Cultural Show with its colorful traditional dances and delightful music. The Kandy Cultural Show gives you an opportunity to experience some of Sri Lanka's traditions. Enjoy this hour-long extravaganza as some of the most popular art forms of the island take to the stage. Get mesmerized by fire dances, sword dances, and watch the talented Kandyan dancers take to the air to the thrumming, primal beat of the drums.

Upon completion return to the hotel and relax.

Day 04

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Kandy > Galle

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and visit Temple of the Tooth.



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.

On completion of the visit check out and proceed to Galle and visit Old Colonial City of Galle. (5 to 6 Hrs)



Explore the secrets of Galle where the Portuguese and Dutch made their headquarters. Visit the Galle Fort which is one of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia. View the museums of Galle and the lighthouse. Walk through the cobblestoned streets with their Dutch names and listen to your guide tell their stories. Relax with a king coconut or a cup of tea caressed by a breeze of the tropics.

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

Day 05

Overnight

See Hotel Collection

Room Type

See Hotel Collection

Meals

Breakfast

Galle > Colombo

After the breakfast check out from the hotel and proceed to Colombo. (Travel Time: 2 to 2 ½ hrs)

Thereafter check into the hotel and relax. Towards the evening go and explore the Commercial City of Sri Lanka, Colombo.



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 and relax.

Day 06

Meals

Breakfast

Colombo > Airport

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 6.
- 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 OLU water Per Person.