



Home
& Afar
Travel

Sri Lanka Essence

20 SEP - 1 OCT 2026

12 DAYS SMALL GROUP FULLY ESCORTED TOUR - FOOD TRAILS, SAFARIS & FORTS

From
\$3983 pp*
Twin Share - T&C's Apply

Day 1 – Arrival in Colombo

Ayubowan! Welcome to Sri Lanka. Upon arrival at Bandaranaike International Airport, you will be met by a local representative and transferred to your hotel in Colombo. Due to a late-night arrival, the remainder of the day is at leisure, allowing time to rest and recover after your journey.

Overnight at Granbell Hotel Colombo.

Day 2 – Colombo: City, Culture & Street Flavours

After breakfast, enjoy a relaxed morning at leisure.

In the evening, experience Colombo from a local's perspective on a hosted walking and tuk-tuk tour. This social and immersive experience explores the city's colonial maritime history, old harbour quarters and hidden laneways. Sample a selection of local street food at popular neighbourhood spots followed by a short tuk-tuk ride through historic districts.

Overnight at Granbell Hotel Colombo. Breakfast included.

Day 3 – Colombo to Sigiriya (via Dambulla)

After breakfast, depart Colombo and travel towards Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle. En route, visit the UNESCO-listed Dambulla Cave Temple, renowned for its beautifully preserved cave shrines and ancient Buddha statues.

Continue to a traditional village for an authentic rural experience, including a catamaran crossing, village walk and a locally prepared lunch. Arrive in Sigiriya in the afternoon and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

Overnight at Kassapa Lions Rock, Sigiriya. Dinner included.

Day 4 – Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa & Minneriya National Park

This morning, climb the iconic Sigiriya Rock Fortress, one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated landmarks. Explore the ancient ruins, frescoes and water gardens, and enjoy panoramic views from the summit.

Later, visit the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, before embarking on a jeep safari in Minneriya National Park, famous for its large gatherings of wild elephants.

Overnight at Kassapa Lions Rock, Sigiriya. Breakfast and dinner included.

Day 5 – Sigiriya to Kandy

After breakfast, travel to Kandy, stopping en route at a spice garden to learn about Sri Lanka's aromatic spices and their traditional uses. Continue with a visit to Muthu Amman Kovil, a colourful Hindu temple.

In Kandy, stroll through the beautifully landscaped Peradeniya Botanical Gardens before visiting the sacred Temple of the Tooth Relic. Enjoy a brief city orientation before returning to your hotel.

Overnight at Cinnamon Citadel Kandy. Breakfast and dinner included.

Day 6 – Kandy: Food & Culture

Enjoy a relaxed morning at leisure.

In the afternoon, take part in a hosted Kandy food trail, discovering traditional Kandyan snacks, sweet shops and street-side favourites, brought to life through local stories and cultural insights. The evening is free to relax by the river or explore independently.

Overnight at Cinnamon Citadel Kandy. Breakfast and dinner included.

Day 7 – Kandy to Nuwara Eliya (Tea Country)

Today travel into Sri Lanka's hill country, passing misty mountains and rolling tea plantations. Visit a tea estate and factory to learn about tea production, followed by a tasting of freshly brewed Ceylon tea.

Continue to Nuwara Eliya, stopping at waterfalls and viewpoints along the way. On arrival, enjoy a gentle walk through this charming colonial-era town and around Gregory Lake. The cool-climate evening is at leisure.

Overnight at The Lynden Grove, Nuwara Eliya. Breakfast and dinner included.

Day 8 – Nuwara Eliya to Ella (Scenic Train Journey)

This morning, board the iconic hill-country train for a scenic journey to Ella (subject to availability), travelling through tea fields, forests and mountain villages.

On arrival, explore Ella town and enjoy a short hike to Little Adam's Peak for sweeping valley views. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Overnight at Morning Dew Hotel, Ella. Breakfast included.

Day 9 – Ella to Yala

After breakfast, depart for the south-eastern wilderness region. In the afternoon, enjoy an exciting jeep safari in Yala National Park, home to leopards, elephants, sloth bears and abundant birdlife.

Return to your lodge for dinner, surrounded by nature.

Overnight at Cinnamon Wild Yala. Breakfast and dinner included.

Day 10 – Yala to Galle

Travel along the southern coast to Galle. On arrival, check in to your hotel and enjoy a relaxed afternoon by the ocean, with time for beach walks or unwinding by the infinity pool.

Overnight at Le Grand Galle. Breakfast included.

Day 11 – Galle: History & Coast

This morning, enjoy a guided walk through the UNESCO-listed Galle Fort with a local host. Discover its colonial architecture, historic ramparts and atmospheric streets shaped by Portuguese, Dutch and British influences. The afternoon is free for beach relaxation, or shopping within the fort.

Overnight at Le Grand Galle. Breakfast included.

Day 12 – Departure

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

Breakfast included.



For more information contact Home and Afar Travel

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