

Sri Lanka - "Tea & Textile Trails"

Fully escorted by Heather Westwood



TRADE TRAVEL
Group Travel Specialists

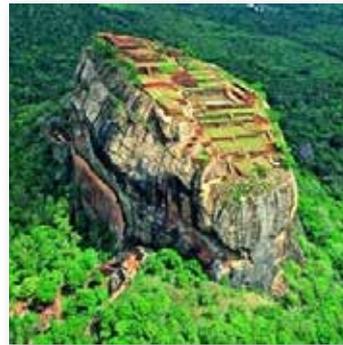
14 Days/13 Nights

Departs: Wednesday 24th October - Tuesday 6th November 2018.

Tour Cost: \$3999.00 per person Twin Share (\$900.00 single supplement)

(Includes Airport Taxes, Levies & Fuel Surcharges) - Airport taxes/levies/fuel surcharges are subject to change until fully ticketed. Tour prices are valid for travel in 2018 but are subject to International currency fluctuations until fully ticketed.

Minimum 20 Paying Passengers Please note that itinerary is subject to change without notice.



Day 1 Wed 24 Oct: Australia - Sri Lanka - Negombo

Flight Meals

On arrival at Colombo International Airport after our flight from Brisbane we are **greeted by our English speaking Sri Lankan tour guide** who will remain with us for the duration of our Sri Lanka tour. After our late evening arrival we transfer to our hotel for check in.

Overnight Negombo: Hotel Goldi Sands

Day 2 Thurs 25 Oct: Negombo

Breakfast & Dinner

After a leisurely breakfast we enjoy a relaxing morning at our hotel. Late morning we board our coach and enjoy a **highlights tour of Negombo** which include the **amazing Fish Markets**, plus several buildings that date back to the Dutch and Portuguese colonial days including the **Dutch Fort and Catholic Church**. The sandy beaches, sea, colourful wooden boats and fishing port provide a scenic backdrop. Later in the afternoon we arrive back at our hotel before dinner.

Overnight Negombo: Hotel Goldi Sands

Day 3 Fri 26 Oct: Negombo - Pinnawala

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today we depart early from Negombo and travel up to the Central Province Region which is dominated by Sigiriya Rock. We stop in Pinnawala, home to the **Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage**, where we will see elephants at close range, in a natural setting bathing in the Maha Oya River. This 24 acres large elephant orphanage is also a breeding place for elephants. From 5 baby elephants since opening in 1975, the orphanage now has the greatest herd of elephants in captivity in the world. We enjoy **lunch overlooking the Maha Oya River and the bathing elephants**. After leaving Pinnawala we continue our drive into the Central Province Region arriving at the iconic Sigiriya Rock for photos. Here we visit the **Sigiriya Museum** which has a diorama of the site and provides an excellent overview and explanation of Sigiriya's cultural importance. **Those wishing (at own cost) will have time to scale the iconic Lion Rock Fortress!** After leaving "Lion Rock" we check into our accommodation before dinner.

Overnight Sigiriya: Camelia Resort

Sigiriya "Lion Rock" is one of the most valuable historical monuments of Sri Lanka. Referred by locals as the "Eighth Wonder of the World" this ancient palace and fortress complex has significant archaeological importance. The palace is located on a massive rocky plateau 370 meters above sea level and includes remnants of a ruined palace, surrounded by an extensive network of fortifications, vast gardens, ponds, canals, alleys and fountains.



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Day 4 Sat 27 Oct: Ancient City of Anuradhapura

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After breakfast we continue to one of the better kept ruins of **Ancient Ceylon - the UNESCO World Heritage City of Anuradhapura**. Re-founded in 4th Century BC, Anuradhapura became the capital of Ceylon and the sacred city of Buddhism, home to the most renowned relic, **the sacred Bodhi tree**, planted in 3rd Century BC. Our guide will introduce us to some of **Anuradhapura's sacred sites** such as the **Siri Maha Bodhi, Ruvanveliseya Dagaba, Samadhi Buddha and the Twin Ponds**, all rich in Buddhist faith culture and practices. After our tour we break for lunch before returning back down to our resort for a relaxing afternoon poolside before meeting up for dinner.

Overnight Sigiriya: Camelia Resort

Day 5 Sun 28 Oct: Ranveli Spice Gardens - Royal Botanical Gardens of Peredeniya

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This today as we travel to the **spiritual city of Kandy** via the spice gardens route. We then get to experience the traditional spices that Sri Lanka is renowned for at the **Ranveli Spice Garden**. For centuries, spices have been one of Sri Lanka's celebrated exports. Spices are mostly grown in home gardens and used not only to flavour food but also in medicine and cosmetics. Take the opportunity to sample such scents and flavours as cinnamon, ginger, pepper, vanilla, cardamom etc. We continue our journey down into Kandy arriving at the lush **Royal Botanical Gardens of Peredeniya**. After **lunch in the restaurant** we take a guided stroll through the gardens. The gardens were established in 1821 and now cover 140 acres, snuggled in a loop in the Mahaweli River, the longest river in Sri Lanka. Its primary purpose was the testing and acclimatizing of plants for commercial use in Sri Lanka. Today the Gardens have one of the largest collections of around 4000 species of flora from sub-tropical climates around the world. Among them, the Giant Bamboo, Double Coconut, over 180 species of gorgeous Orchids, and the Ehetu tree which spreads its branches and foliage out to a staggering 2000 square metres. Leaving the gardens. After leaving the gardens we check into our hotel. Late afternoon we enjoy a **Cultural Kandyan Dance and Fire Eating Show**. After the performance we make our way back to our hotel for dinner.

Overnight Kandy: Swiss Residence

Day 6 Mon 29 Oct: Selyn Textiles Tour

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning we travel up to **Kurunegala** where we are joined by our Selyn guide. Our **5 Part Selyn Textiles Tour** begins at the dye plant where the handloom process begins with the dyeing of the 100% cotton yarn into a myriad of vibrant colours. We then travel into the interiors of the Kurunegala district to see the women artisans practice the traditional skill of handloom weaving. Following our visit and lunch we move onto the factory which will take us through the stages of finishing the products. We get to see the transformation from the vibrant hand woven coloured fabrics into the beautiful home textiles, fashion items and soft toys. Our tour finishes at the Wanduragala Store where we have the chance to purchase our own special item to take home. We then return back to Kandy via the famous **Elephant Rock**. We later gather for dinner at our hotel.

Overnight Kandy: Swiss Residence

Day 7 Tues 30 Oct: Tooth Temple - Ramboda Falls - Nuwara Eliya

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After check out we will visit the **Temple of the Tooth** (Dalada Maligawa), the most important shrine in the country, which houses a relic of a tooth of Buddha taken from his funeral pyre in 543 BC. It is renowned for its daily 'Thewawa' ceremony. Each evening, the day's worship culminates when the casket containing the tooth relic is put on display for devotees who have travelled from all over the Buddhist world. We then **depart Kandy and proceed to Nuwara Eliya** via the stunning **Ramboda Falls** for our **lunch stop**. Our drive to Nuwara Eliya is a picturesque journey through the mountains and Sri Lanka's tea growing centre, where we will relish the endless views of tea carpeted valleys and the bright flash of the "tea pluckers" in their pimento, fuchsia and cerise coloured saris. We stop at Ramboda Falls which is the 11th highest waterfall in Sri Lanka. After taking in the spectacular views and enjoying lunch above the falls we continue our scenic drive through the tea county before arriving in the **picturesque township of Nuwara Eliya**. We then take pass by Lake Gregory, Nuwara Eliya Race Course and the picturesque 18-hole golf course and Grand Hotel where we are able to admire the beautiful gardens surrounding the Elizabethan-era style hotel.

Overnight Nuwara Eliya: Araliya Green Hills Hotel

Day 8 Wed 31 Oct: Norwood Bogawantalawa Tea Plantation

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today we experience a day in the beautiful **Bogawantalawa Valley or "Golden Valley of Tea"**. Our experience today will include a **The Norwood Bogawantalawa Tea Plantation Tour** where we be able to pluck some leaves, tour the tea factory and of course sample the best tea in the world. We will view stunning waterfalls, rolling tea plantations, colourful gardens, ravines and rivers on our journey from Nuwara Eliya to Bogawantalawa via the towns of Talawakelle, Kotagala and Hatton. Late afternoon we arrive back at our hotel in Nuwara Eliya for a rest before dinner.

Overnight Nuwara Eliya: Araliya Green Hills Hotel

Day 9 Thurs 1 Nov: Nuwara Eliya - Ella Gap by Rail - Yala National Park

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

From Nuwara Eliya we travel out to the Nanu Oya Railway Station before travelling by the train through the panoramic hill country to Ella. Our **scenic rail journey** takes us through some **stunning countryside that is littered with valleys of colourful houses, tea plantations, terraced veggie gardens, glorious waterfalls and amazing gorges**. We arrive in the small village of Ella where we enjoy beautiful views of **Ella Gap and Adams Peak**. In Ella we have lunch then rejoin our coach and continue down in to **Yala National Park** where we check into our hotel before dinner.

Overnight Yala: Elephant Reach Hotel

Day 10 Fri 2 Nov: Yala - Galle - Bentota

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

On our early morning safari we visit one of the foremost places to visit in Sri Lanka, the **Yala National Park**. The Park is famous for the **elusive leopard**, and has one of the highest densities of leopards in the world. While there, we can also spot the **Sloth Bear, Crocodiles** and the **Asian Elephant**. With “good luck” we may witness all these creatures and more on our **Jeep Safari** accompanied by a naturalist guide. After our safari its back to our hotel for breakfast and check out. We then travel up to the historic seaport of **Galle** via Matara. Along the way, the road reveals new and unexplained beauty. At the end of the south coast railway line lies Matara, the most important settlement on the south coast. The town contains many remnants of Sri Lanka’s colonial past and is divided by the island’s third longest river, the Nilwala Ganga – a beautiful wide expanse of water that splits the old town from the new. On arrival into Galle we proceed passed the marina, small fresh fish markets and then onto the historic **Galle Fort precinct**. Galle was once the chief port of Ceylon and a town rich in history. It was the centre of the Dutch regime in the 17th century and the majestic Galle Fort (spanning 90 acres) bears testimony to this fact. The city of Galle is one of the most well preserved colonial-era cities in Southeast Asia and has been declared a ‘World Heritage Site’. The Dutch museum & the Dutch church are two famous tourist attractions within the Galle Fort. We then enjoy a leisurely walking tour through the **cobbled stone pathways of the Galle Fort**, which is an **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and urban ensemble which illustrates the interaction of European architecture and South Asian traditions from the 16th to the 19th centuries. After lunch at the **Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel** we proceed further up the coast. We make a stop at the **Tsunami Monument** before an emotional visit to the **Tsunami Photo Museum**. On the 26th of December 2004 the tsunami hit different countries across the Indian Ocean with Sri Lanka also in its destructive path. It is impossible to tell all the tsunami stories, but by telling some the realisation of what took place on and after this devastating event will become evident. Our last stop today is at the **Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery** where several species of turtles, especially the endangered hawksbill are hatched, raised and released back into the sea. Most vulnerable of all are the turtle eggs which are left exposed and vulnerable to predators on beaches all around the coast. These eggs are brought to the hatcheries by the fishermen and volunteers. We are shown the various stages of natural incubation, hatching, feeding and releasing. Late afternoon we check into the Avani Bentota Resort with plenty of time to relax before dinner.

Overnight Bentota: Avani Bentota Resort

Day 11 Sat 3 Nov: Tuk Tuk Safari - Lunuganga Gardens - Cooking Demo & Lunch

Breakfast & Lunch

After breakfast we will get to experience a unique part of Sri Lanka as we board our **Tuk Tuk with driver/guide** and depart inland to the **unique Lunuganga Estate**, which was the country home of the **renowned Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa**. Started in 1947, the garden led Bawa, a lawyer called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1940, to decide to become an architect. As he went on to become Sri Lanka’s and one of Asia’s most prolific and influential architects, the garden at the Lunuganga estate remained his first muse and experimental laboratory for new ideas. He continued to change and experiment with its spaces and structures throughout his life until his final illness in 1998. Left to the Lunuganga Trust on his demise in 2003, the gardens are now open to the public and the buildings on the estate are run as a country house hotel. Following we **continue by Tuk Tuk** to the **beautiful boutique hotel and garden of Nisala Arana**. Our experience at Nisala Arana includes a **unique Sri Lankan cooking class followed by lunch in the Pavilion or within a Garden Setting**. This afternoon will allow us to enjoy some time back at the resort for a rest, swim or maybe a spa treatment. Dinner tonight will be a casual affair and at own cost.

Overnight Bentota: Avani Bentota Resort

Day 12 Sun 4 Nov: Bentota - Colombo

Breakfast & Dinner

This morning we check out of Avani and travel up to the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo. Our first stop is at **Teaeli Premium Tea** for a **fully hosted Artisan Tea Tasting Experience**. Hosted by the resident Tea Master, this experience begins with a brief talk that takes us through the legendary journey of Tea starting from the year 1860 to present. Next up is the most anticipated element of the experience, the Tea Tasting. Our host invites us to select up to 12 different types of Teas and we will be guided on the quantity of tea to use per serving, the time required to brew and how to strain our tea’s perfectly onto the tasting bowl. After the tasting, sit back and enjoy the “high-tea” styled bites that include savoury and sweet snacks and of course, unlimited Tea. This is a Tea Experience like no other. Following we enjoy some free time at the **Paradise Road Store and Paradise Road Gallery Café**. We then check into the Ramada Colombo before a free afternoon. Just a short distance from the Ramada is the historic Galle Face Hotel which is well worth a visit. Late afternoon we transfer down to the **historic Mount Lavinia Hotel** for “**Sunset Happy Hour**” between 6 - 7.00pm at The Terrace with 50% off selected cocktails, mocktails and local beers all while having the chance to take in a truly gorgeous sunset as well!! Following we enjoy our **farewell dinner at The Terrace Restaurant**.

Overnight Colombo: Ramada Hotel

Day 13 Mon 5 Nov: Colombo - Australia

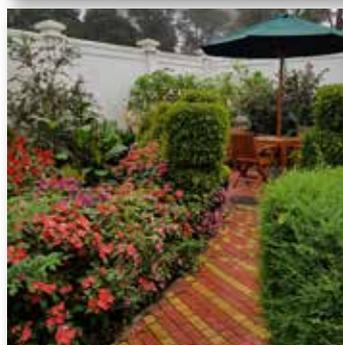
Breakfast

This morning after breakfast we enjoy the **sights of Colombo by coach** where our guide will introduce us to some of Colombo’s curious sites such the **Vibrant markets of Pettah, Independence Memorial Hall, Town Hall, Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre** plus the option of stopping at the **famous Cricket Club Cafe for lunch (own cost split bill)**. The rest of the day is at leisure before our late evening check out. We transfer to the Colombo International airport at 9.00pm for 10.30pm check in and a safe return flight back home.

Day 14 Tues 6 Nov: Australia

After our early morning flight, we arrive back in Australia after our wonderful highlights tour of Sri Lanka with Trade Travel.

Tea & Textile Trails of Sri Lanka



Tour Highlights: Negombo Highlights & Fish Markets; Elephants of Pinnwalla; Sigiriya Rock Museum; UNESCO World Heritage City of Anuradhapura; Ranveli Spice Garden; Royal Botanical Gardens of Peredeniya; Cultural Kandyan Dance & Fire Eating/Walking Performance; Kurunegala 5 Part Selyn Textiles Tour; Temple of the Tooth Relic; Lunch Ramboda Falls; English Styled Country Homes & Gardens of Nuwara Eliya; “Golden Valley of Tea” - Norwood Bogawantalawa Tea Plantation Tour; Scenic Railway Journey Nuwara Eliya to Ella; Ravan Water Falls; Yala National Park Wildlife Safari; Galle Fort Precinct; Tsunami Photo Museum; Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery; Unique Tuk Tuk Safai Tour - Lunuganga Estate Gardens & House & Cooking Class & Lunch at Nisala Arana; Hosted Artisan Tea Tasting Experience; Paradise Road Store; Historic Mount Lavinia Hotel - “Sunset Happy Hour” & Farewell Dinner The Terrace Restaurant; Colombo City Highlights Tour & much more. ** *Optional Lunch Day 13 Cricket Club Cafe! POA*

The Tour Price Includes:

- Return economy flights - Australia - Colombo - Australia
- Luxury air-conditioned coach travel - Bottled water daily
- 12 Nights accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner as per itinerary (31 meals)
- All touring, entry fees, English speaking guides & attractions as per the Itinerary
- Gratuities for driver, helper & tour director.

The Tour Price Excludes:

- Visa - approx \$50.00 AUD
- Tips to porters, hotel staff, tour operators & safari drivers

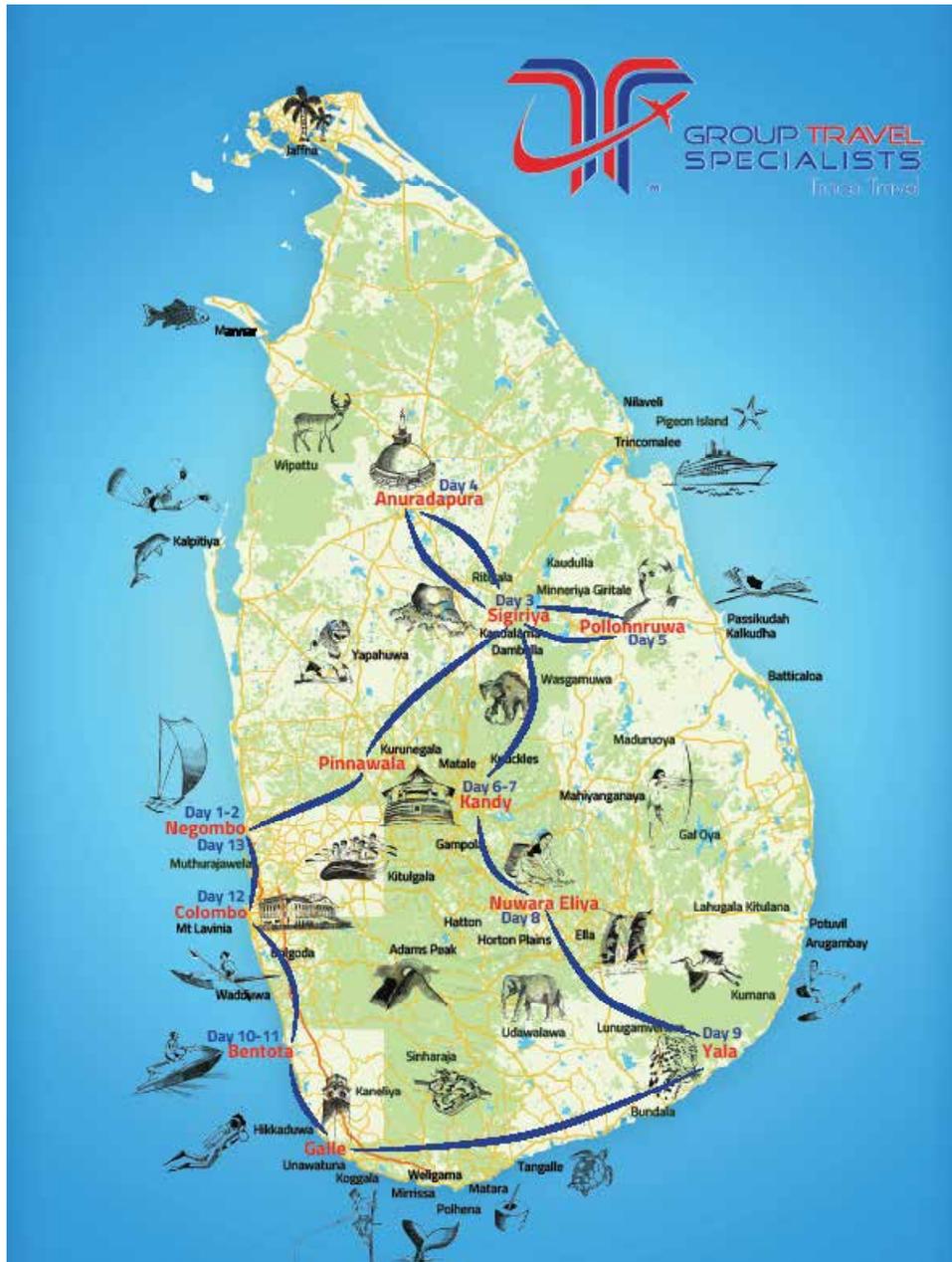
Deposit: A deposit of \$500 per person is due now on booking to secure your place on this tour, along with completed & signed booking forms

Final Payment: Due no later than **Monday 2 July 2018**

For information, bookings & travel insurance contact:

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