

Connaissance de Ceylan

Classic Tour in Sri Lanka
“10 Nights / 11 Days”
01st May to 31st Oct 2023



Where am I going in Sri Lanka?



Day 01 AIRPORT - COLOMBO Meals (B)

PM Arrive at the Airport.
Meet & Assistance on arrival by a representative of Connaissance de Ceylan.
Transfer to Colombo (Approx. 30minutes' drive from Airport to Colombo)

Arrive and check in at Hotel
Overnight stay at the hotel. (Reserved on B/B basis

Hotel Category Room type Kingsbury Hotel Colombo - <https://www.thekingsburyhotel.com/>
5* Superior

Day 02 COLOMBO - RABUKKANA - KANDY Meals (B & D)

AM After Breakfast, check out from the hotel and proceed to visit Colombo city.
(Approx. 45 mins' drive from Hotel to Colombo)

Formerly the capitol of Sri Lanka, Colombo remains the commercial hub of the Island. Situated on the West coast of the Island, Colombo has one of the largest artificial harbors in the world and is a principal port of the Indian Ocean. Colombo is a vibrant city with plenty to see and do. If shopping is on your agenda, this is the best place to get it done.

Proceed to Kandy.
(Approx. 3 1/2 hours' drive from Colombo to Kandy)

En-route visit Millenium Elephant Foundation.

Situated on a beautiful 15 acre land, Millennium Elephant foundation is the only certified Non-profit Organization working with captive elephants in Sri Lanka, working continually to improve the care, protection and treatment of Elephants in Sri Lanka by providing a place of care, medical services and facilities. The Foundation currently tends o8 elephants and volunteers from all four corners of the world come here to attend to their daily care. During your visit you would get to bathe elephants in the near-by river, and to experience a drenching shower as the jumbo shoots water at you! Visit the unique paper factory where paper is produced out elephant droppings. Optionally, you can set out on the famous 'walk with the elephant' where you walk behind while it freely roams through the woods in its natural space.

PM Check in to your hotel
Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel

Hotel Mountbatten Bungalow – <https://www.themerorts.com/mountbattenbungalow/>

Category Boutique
Room type Bungalow room

Day 03 **KANDY – PERADENIYA – KANDY** **Meals (B & D)**

AM After the breakfast visit the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens
(Approx. 15 mins' drive from Hotel to Botanical Gardens)

The Royal Botanical Garden at Peradeniya was established in 1821 and now covers 140 acres, smuggled 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 flora from sub-tropical climates around the world.

- Duration – Approx. 2 hours
- Difficulty – easy
- Attire- Light and comfortable clothing, sunglasses, sunscreen and a hat

PM Evening proceed to visit Kandy city along with Sacred Temple of Tooth Relic & Kandyan cultural dance show.
Sri Lanka's second city is Kandy, a beautiful historical city in the citadel of the country. It is not only known for its great kings who ruled the city for almost 225 years independently until the British took over in 1815, but it is also the place where the Sacred Tooth of Lord Buddha is laid in a magnificent temple. The incomparable Perahera celebration, a procession of more than 100 elephants, is held every August here.

Return to the hotel.
Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel

Hotel **Mountbatten Bungalow** – <https://www.themerorts.com/mountbattenbungalow/>
Category Boutique
Room type Bungalow room

Day 04 **KANDY – KANDAPOLA – RAGALA** **Meals (B & D)**

AM After breakfast, check out and proceed towards Nuwara Eliya
(Approx. 2 hours 45 mins' drive from Kandy to Ragala)

PM Arrive at Nuwara Eliya.

Proceed to visit Liddesdale Tea Factory

It is generally accepted that the discovery of tea occurred in ancient China. The Chinese say it was their Emperor Shen-Nung in 2737 BC who first tasted Tea. The story goes that while he was boiling his drinking water a few leaves from a wild tea

bush accidentally fell into the water. The Emperor liked the delicate flavor they imparted to the water and so the art of tea making was born. Ceylon Tea acclaimed as the best Tea in the world. The influence of climatic conditions imparts to the product a variety of flavors and aromas, synonymous with quality. The cultivation and manufacture of tea is presently a highly skilled, scientific and technical process, with Sri Lanka producing some of the most fragrant teas in the world.

Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel

Hotel Scottish Planter Glendevon Bungalow - <https://www.themerorts.com/scottishplanter/>
Category Boutique
Room type Crawford / Farquharson

Day 05 **RAGALA – PASIKUDAH** **Meals (B & D)**

AM After the breakfast proceed to Pasikudah.
(Approx. 4 hours' and 20 mins drive from Hotel to Pasikudah)

PM Check in to the hotel
 Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel

Hotel Maalu Maalu Resort & Spa – <https://www.themerorts.com/maalumaalu/>
Category 4*
Room type Deluxe room

Day 06 /07 / 08 **PASIKUDAH** **Meals (B & D)**

AM / PM Full day at leisure
 Driver and the vehicle will not be available
 Dinner & Overnight stay at the hotel

Hotel Maalu Maalu Resort & Spa – <https://www.themerorts.com/maalumaalu/>
Category 4*
Room type Deluxe room

Day 09 **PASIKUDAH – POLONNARUWA – MINNERIYA - SIGIRIYA** **Meals (B & D)**

AM After breakfast, check out from the hotel and proceed to Sigiriya.
(Approx. 2 hours' 30 mins' drive from Hotel to Sigiriya)

En-route visit Polonnaruwa.
(Approx. 1hour 30 mins' drive from Hotel to Polonnaruwa)

Polonnaruwa was established as the capital city after the fall of Anuradhapura and is known as the mediaeval capital of Sri Lanka. Polonnaruwa contains the ruins of some of the masterpieces of Buddhist sculpture and remarkable feats of engineering that were well ahead of their time. Most outstanding amongst these is the Gal Vihara temple with its famous rock carvings of the Buddha and Parakrama Samudra, a vast man made reservoir covering an area of over 23 kilometers.

Afterwards complete your drive to Sigiriya on way visit Minneriya National Park. Minneriya National park to experience an elephant safari. (It will be either Minneriya / Kaudulla or Eco Park, this park will be decided on the elephant movements of the visiting day.) (Approx. 45 mins' drive from Polonnaruwa to Minneriya)

Minneriya National park is one of the best places in the country to see wild elephants, which are often present in huge numbers, and wading birds. Dominated by the ancient Minneriya Tank, the park has plenty of scrub, forest and wetlands in its 88.9 sq km to also provide shelter for toque macaques, sambar deer, buffalo, crocodiles and leopards. The dry season, from May to September, is reckoned to be the best time to see elephants, which can number 200 or more, come to feed and bathe during what is known as 'the Gathering'. However, it's also possible to see large numbers of elephants here at other times of year too.

PM Check into hotel.
Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel

Hotel Aliya Resort & Spa – <https://www.themerorts.com/aliyaresort/>
Category 4*
Room type Deluxe room

Day 10 **SIGIRIYA – HABARANA - SIGIRIYA** **Meals (B & D)**

AM After the breakfast proceed to visit Sigiriya Lion's Rock
(Approx. 10 mins' drive from Hotel to Sigiriya Lion's Rock)

We highly recommend visiting early, due to school holidays we expect the site to be crowded.

The Sigiriya rock fortress is a remarkable feat of engineering and a fascinating example of artistic craftsmanship. Hewn out of the living rock, the Sigiriya fortress was the stronghold of King Kashyapa; a formidable royal palace and city. Sigiriya, or the 'Lion Rock' is most famous for its frescoes; a series of "heavenly maidens" painted on the rock surface itself. From halfway, up the rock, you can witness the elaborately landscaped water gardens containing the royal baths and fountains; some of which still work today during the rainy seasons. Sigiriya is a still standing monument to Kashyapa, and the vision of a truly egotistical monarch.

(Approx. 3 hours' to visit Sigiriya Lion's Rock)

- Duration – 2-3 hours depending on pace of climbing
- Difficulty – moderate to hard
- Attire- It can get hot, so bring sunglasses, a hat and sunscreen.
- Points to note-
 - To beat the heat and crowds, climb the rock in the morning (around 7am)
 - Expect heavy crowds of locals on weekends, public holidays and school vacation

After the visit of sigiriya you will proceed to visit a typical local village activity experience in a nearby village (this visit will be included with cart ride / a cone ride in a stream plus a cooking demonstration in a local village house with a traditional Sri Lankan lunch. The safari is designed for you to experience the real traditional Sri Lankan rural village style, where you will travel in a Bullock cart to a rural village through lush green paddy fields. The traditional cooking methods, and a visit to a paddy field to see how the local farmers protect their crops from the wild animals, will be demonstrated, and a traditional canoe ride in a lake in Habarana. Highly recommended as a "must do" activity when you are in Habarana to get feel the real Sri Lanka

Hotel Aliya Resort & Spa – <https://www.themerorts.com/aliyaresort/>
Category 4*
Room type Deluxe room

Day 11

SIGIRIYA – DAMBULLA - AIRPORT

Meals (B)

AM After breakfast check out from the hotel and proceed to Colombo.
(Approx. 4 hours'20 mins drive from Hotel to Colombo)

En-route visit the Dambulla Cave Temple
(Approx. 30 mins drive from Hotel to Dambulla)

The Dambulla temple, also known as the Golden Temple, was founded in the 1st century AD by King Valagamba who is said to have fled to the caves during an invasion from South India. This UNESCO World Heritage site is filled with various sculptures and paintings of Lord Buddha and his devotees, various Hindu divinities and gods as well as Sri Lankan Kings. Spread out over 5 caves, each cave depicts statues and paintings from a different period of Sri Lanka's rich history thus showcasing the evolution of Sri Lankan artistic style.

- Duration – Approx. 1h 30 minutes
- Difficulty – easy to medium
- Attire- Kindly cover your shoulders, knees, take off your shoes and bring a pair of socks as the ground may heat up.

Points to note- Expect heavy crowds of locals on weekends, public holidays and school vacation

PM Proceed to the Airport for the departure.
(Approx. 3 hours' 30 mins drive from Dambulla to the Airport)

We wish you a safe flight back home.... Ayubowan!

----- **END OF SERVICES** -----

Highlights

- The Minneriya gathering is world renowned as one of the best places to see elephants in the wild (Specially during the month of July & August)
- Visit of Liddesdale Tea Factory which is exclusive for Connaissance clients
- The calm serene idyllic beach of Pasikudah, perfect for beach lovers.
- The Sigiriya Rock Fortress is quite a climb to get to the top, but it offers magnificent views over Sigiriya.

Lowlights

- Cities of Colombo & Kandy can be packed with traffic during school & Office rush hours
- Due to popularity of these parks there can be many jeeps during the peak which can be slightly frustrating.

Proposed Accommodation (Subject to availability)

City	No of Nights	Hotel	Room Category	Meal Basis	Website
Colombo	01	Kingsbury Hotel	Superior	BB	https://www.thekingsburyhotel.com/
Kandy	02	Mount Batten Bungalow	Bungalow room	HB	https://www.themerorts.com/mountbattenbung
Ragala	01	Scottish Planter Bungalow	Crawford	HB	https://www.themerorts.com/scottishplanter/
Passikudah	04	Maalu Maalu Resort	Deluxe	HB	https://www.themerorts.com/maalumaalu/
Sigiriya	02	Aliya Resort & Spa	Deluxe	HB	https://www.themerorts.com/aliyaresort/

Price Includes following services:

- Meet and assistance on Arrival & Departure.
- Transportation by an A/C car (up to 2 pax) & A/C Micro Van (03-06 pax) with an **English-speaking Chauffeur.**
- Accommodation on Half Board basis & Bed & Breakfast Basis

Price does not include the following services:

- **Compulsory Tourist visa charges**
- Tips and Gratitude.
- Airfares.
- Lunches
- Entrance fees for the respective sites.
- Visits according to the program.
- Kandy Perehara tickets & supplement at Mount Batten bungalow
- Single room supplement
- Optional – changing room price Tamarind Tree Katunayaka
- Early check in / Late check out
- Airport embarkation tax (included in air ticket)
- Photo and Video Camera permits at the sites.
- Extra's such as laundry, telephone calls, faxes, e-mails.... etc
- Expenses of personal nature
- Alcoholic beverages, other drinks not specified in the price include
- **Price does not include services other than those specified**

Notes:

- For Online visas please follow the link - <http://www.eta.gov.lk/slvisa/>
- All drive times are approximate and are subject to change.
- **All reservations subject to availability at time of booking.**
- The standard check in time in Sri Lanka is 1400 hours and the Checkout time is 11am.
- On Poya and other religious days alcohol will not be served at hotels and restaurants.
- Please note that plucking of Tea leaves is not done on public holidays & Sundays. As such the Tea production process does not take place, however a tour of the factory will be arranged where the process is explained.
- Train rides are subject to availability, hence might not be available if not booked in advance.
- You can always change currency at the airport and a local SIM card can be purchased at the airport of Sri Lanka.
- When visiting religious sites such as Kandy Temple, Dambulla Temple your attire should cover up to ankle length and sleeveless tops/shirts/t-shirts will not be allowed. It is also advised to bring a pair of socks as you will be asked to remove slippers/shoes when entering sacred temples.
- **Cancellation Policy:**
 - *If cancelled 61 days prior to your arrival 75% refund made.*
 - *If cancelled 60 - 31 days prior to your arrival 75% cancellation charged*

- *If cancelled less than 30 days prior to your arrival 100% cancellation charged.*