

## Heritage Tour Sri Lanka

<b>Duration:</b>	9 days / 8 nights
<b>Tour Type:</b>	Tour with Private Transfers
<b>Group Details:</b>	Group of 10-12 Pax or FIT
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Star Class Hotels & Boutique Hotels
<b>Meal Plan:</b>	All Bookings done on HB basis (please inform us of any preferences/allergies in advance)
<b>Ideal For:</b>	Adventurers and Culture seekers
<b>Rate</b>	On Request



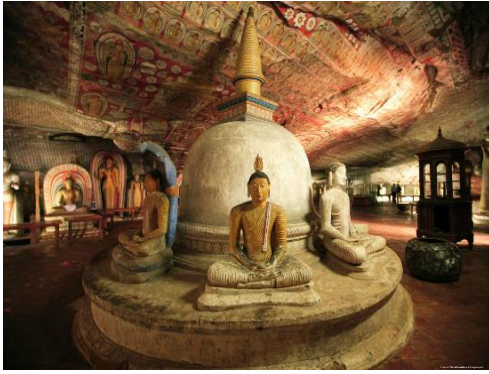
**The Sigiriya Rock Fortress:** Considered by some as the eighth wonder of the world, the site is both a palace and fortress. Sigiriya consists of an ancient castle used by King Kashyapa of the 5th century AD. The Sigiriya site has the remains of an upper Sky Palace sited on the flat top of the rock, a mid-level terrace that includes the Lion Gate and the Mirror Wall and the Sigiriya Frescoes, the lower palace that clings to the slopes below the rock, and the moats, walls and gardens that extend for some hundreds of metres out from the base of the rock. Sufficient remains to provide the visitor with a stunning insight into the ingenuity and creativity of its builders.



**Polonnaruwa Ruins:** Kings ruled the central plains of Sri Lanka from Polonnaruwa 800 years ago, when it was a thriving commercial and religious centre. The glories of that age can be found in the archaeological treasures that still give a pretty good idea of how the city looked in its heyday. You'll find the archaeological park a delight to explore, with hundreds of ancient structures – tombs and temples, statues and stupas – in a compact core. The Quadrangle alone is worth the trip. Today the ancient city of Polonnaruwa remains one of the best planned archaeological relic sites in the country, standing testimony to the discipline and greatness of the kingdom's first rulers.



**The Ruins of Anuradhapura:** This is one of South Asia's most evocative sights, and is the first ancient capital of Sri Lanka, which lasted for the longest period. It is world-famous for its well preserved ruins of the Great Sri Lankan Civilization. The sprawling complex contains a rich collection of archaeological and architectural wonders: enormous dagobas (brick stupas), ancient pools and crumbling temples, built during Anuradhapura's thousand years of rule over Sri Lanka. Today, several of the sites remain in use as holy places and temples; frequent ceremonies give Anuradhapura a vibrancy that's a sharp contrast to the museum-like ambience at Polonnaruwa.



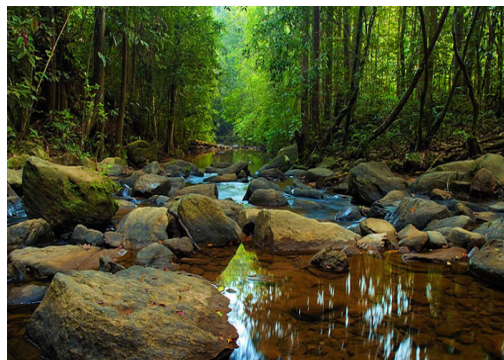
**Dambulla Cave Temples:** This is the largest and best-preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka. The rock towers 160 m over the surrounding plains. There are more than 80 documented caves in the surrounding area. Major attractions are spread over five caves, which contain statues and paintings. These paintings and statues are related to Gautama Buddha and his life. There are a total of 153 Buddha statues, three statues of Sri Lankan kings and four statues of gods and goddesses, including two statues of Hindu gods, god Vishnu and god Ganesh. The murals cover an area of 2,100 square meters. Depictions on the walls of the caves include Buddha's temptation by Mara (demon) and Buddha's first sermon. The temple has around 325 steps to get to the cave area.



**The Sacred City of Kandy:** Kandy was the last capital of the Sinhala kings whose patronage enabled the Sinhala culture to flourish for more than 2,500 years until the occupation of Sri Lanka by the British in 1815. Kandy was the capital from 1592 to 1815, fortified by the terrain of mountains and the difficult approach. The city is a World Heritage site declared by UNESCO, in part due to the temple, The Sri Dalada Maligawa or The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha. It was built within the royal palace complex which houses the tooth relic. The relic has played an important role in local politics since ancient times.



**The Central Highlands:** A World Heritage region, the Central Highlands includes the Knuckles Conservation Forest and Mountains, Horton Plains National Park and Peak Wilderness. The Knuckles mountain range resembles the knuckles of clenched fist. The higher montane area is often robed in thick layers of cloud. More than 34 percent of Sri Lanka's endemic trees, shrubs, and herbs are only found in these forests. The Horton Plains are the headwaters of three major Sri Lankan rivers, the Mahaweli, Kelani, and Walawe. It is a mystical undulating plateau over 2000 m high. The plateau comes to a sudden end at World's End, a sheer precipice with a 1050 m drop. Sambar deer and many important bird species endemic to Sri Lanka, but restricted to the Horton Plains can be found here.



**The Sinharaja Rainforest:** Surrounded by bruised clouds and spectral mists, the enigmatic Sinharajah Rainforest is the last remaining virgin tropical rainforest on the island. It spreads over an area of just 34 square miles, but is alive with life, colour, and sound. Home to a vast range of rare and endangered trees, in addition to an abundance of endemic birds, reptiles and mammals, Sinharajah is a treat for the Naturalist. Although sightings are rare, the larger mammals to be spotted are Leopards and Elephants, both have been confirmed to be living within the forest reserve.



**Galle Fort:** Basking on the southern coast of Sri Lanka in the bay of Galle, the Fort was first built by the Portuguese in 1588 before being extensively fortified by the Dutch in the mid- 1600s. The Fort was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988 as a unique exposition of "an urban ensemble which illustrates the interaction of European architecture and South Asian traditions from the 16th to the 19th centuries". Along the narrow cobble stone streets, today you will see clear and well maintained evidence of the Dutch influence in the Galle Fort with some notable differences to 400 years ago.

**Day 1  
Sigiriya**

Welcome to Sri Lanka! Arrive at Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake and be met by a Jungle Fowl representative.  
Be driven to your hotel in Sigiriya (Drive time approx. 4 hours).  
Stop for Lunch on the way at a restaurant serving authentic Sri Lankan cuisine.  
Dinner and overnight stay.

**Day 2  
Sigiriya**

Early breakfast at the hotel and set out to explore the World Heritage sites of Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura on a full day tour.  
You will leave the hotel by 8 am and return around 6pm in the evening.  
A guided tour will be done in Polonnaruwa & Anuradhapura.  
Lunch break in Anuradhapura.  
Head back to hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

**Day 3  
Kandy**

Breakfast and head to the Rock Fortress.  
You will start your climb by 8am to avoid the heat of the day, and truly enjoy this amazing cultural and scenic experience.  
After your rock climb, return to your hotel for lunch and a rest. Check out and drive to Kandy (drive time approx. 2.5 hrs).  
En route you will visit the World Heritage site of Dambulla Cave Temples, also known as the Golden Temple of Dambulla.  
Head onwards to Kandy for dinner and overnight stay.



<p><b>Day 4</b> <b>Nuwara Eliya</b></p>	<p>After breakfast, drive to the Knuckles Forest Reserve for some sightseeing in the area.</p> <p>In the evening, visit the site of the Temple of the Tooth Relic (the sacred tooth of the Buddha), which is a famous pilgrimage site.</p> <p>The golden-roofed Temple of the Sacred Tooth houses Sri Lanka's most important Buddhist relic – a tooth of the Buddha. During pooja (offerings or prayers), the heavily guarded room housing the tooth is open to devotees and tourists. However, you don't actually see the tooth. It's kept in a gold casket shaped like a dagoba (stupa), which contains a series of six dagoba caskets of diminishing size. The complex also includes a series of smaller temples, shrines and museums.</p> <p>Head onwards to Nuwara Eliya for dinner and overnight stay. (Drive time 2 ½ hours).</p>
<p><b>Day 5</b> <b>Nuwara Eliya</b></p>	<p>Have breakfast and leave early to the World Heritage site of Horton Plains. (Approx. 1-1/2 hours each way).</p> <p>The trek through Horton Plains National Park takes around 3 ½ hours and can be done at your own pace.</p> <p>Dinner and overnight stay.</p>
<p><b>Day 6</b> <b>Sinharaja</b></p>	<p>Have breakfast and drive to Sinharaja (drive time approx. 6 ½ hours).</p> <p>Stop for lunch en route.</p> <p>Check in to your hotel and relax.</p> <p>Dinner and overnight stay.</p>
<p><b>Day 7</b> <b>Galle</b></p>	<p>After breakfast go on a guided nature trail in Sinharaja Rainforest (duration 3 hours). This trail takes you through the eco system change – from tea estates to the forest canopy and through to the disturbed forest. You will surely spot some wildlife and endemic bird species of Sri Lanka along the way.</p> <p>Drive to Galle (Drive time approx. 3 ½ hours).</p> <p>Dinner and overnight stay in Galle.</p>

**Day 8**  
**Galle**

After breakfast drive to Galle Fort, explore the cobblestone streets and take in the wonderful sites of this diverse little town. You can also visit a traditional mask making workshop located in the Fort, or relax with a traditional Ayurveda spa treatment.

Dinner and overnight stay.

**Day 9**  
**Departure**

After breakfast drive to the airport for departure (drive time approx. 2 hours).

We wish you a safe return journey, and look forward to welcoming you again in Sri Lanka!

Package Includes the following:

- Accommodation for 8 nights.
- Half Board Basis at all hotels (Breakfast and Dinner).
- English speaking driver and air conditioned vehicle for entire stay, also including highway toll charges, all driver accommodation and driver meals for the entire stay.
- Mileage covering all geographical areas mentioned on the itinerary. The driver will be at your disposal to do the sightseeing and excursions & pick up and drop off at the airport.
- Guided tours in Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura.
- Guided nature trail in the Sinharaja Rain forest.

Terms & Conditions & Payment:

- 50% payment to be made once the Itinerary is confirmed. Balance to be paid 60 days before travel.
- Hotels are subject to availability at the time of booking. If the suggested hotels are not available, similar category hotels will be provided.
- Any cancellation within 30 days of travel will result in full cancellation fee being applicable.
- Flights to Sri Lanka & Travel Insurance are not included.