

Buddha and Beach

12 days | Starts/Ends: Colombo



Explore Dambulla Rock Temple and discover the ancient city of Polonnaruwa and visit iconic Sigiriya Rock. Sip on refreshing Ceylon tea and see Sri Lanka's famous wildlife on a jeep safari in Udawalawe National Park before heading to the idyllic beaches of Bentota for some sun, sea and relaxation.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Colombo - The Fort area, Galle Face Green and Gangaramaya Temple
- Polonnaruwa - The ancient capital city of Ceylon
- Sigiriya - 5th century fortress ruins
- Dambulla - Rock Temple
- Kayanwala Village visit and cookery demonstration
- Matale - Spice gardens
- Kandy - City tour including Tuk Tuk ride, Temple of the Tooth and cultural performance
- Giragama Tea Factory - A working tea factory with a long history
- Scenic train ride through waterfalls and tea plantations from Kandy to Nuwara

Eliya and drive through Nuwara Eliya's 'Little England'

- Udawalawe National Park - Home to the nation's largest herd of Asian Elephants
- Ratnapura - Heart of the nation's gem mining industry
- Bentota Beach - Palm fringed beaches and golden sand

What's Included

- Breakfast daily and 1 lunch
- 11 nights 4-5 star hotels and heritage properties
- Guided sightseeing - Dambulla, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, Nuwara Eliya, Udawalawe NP and Colombo
- Scenic train journey from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya, canoe and Tuk Tuk trips
- Jeep safari/game drive in Udawalawe National Park
- Escorted by an English speaking national guide for groups of 6 or more (professional chauffeur guide for groups of 5 or less)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on days 1 and 12
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned tourism vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$50-\$60pp, paid in local currency

- Entrance Fees: USD\$120-\$140pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visas
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$3-7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

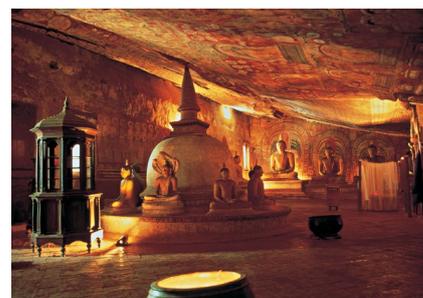
COVID SAFE GUIDE

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Colombo - your way

Saturday. Welcome to Sri Lanka! Airport arrival transfer and the remainder of today is at leisure. Our hotel is located on the seafront and is a short walk from Galle Road and many of the city highlights. Choose to head out and independently explore, take a dip in the pool or enjoy a cocktail whilst you watch the sunset over the Laccodive Sea. **Overnight - Colombo**

Day 2 : Dambulla & Polonnaruwa



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Colombo - Dambulla - Polonnaruwa - Dambulla. Bidding farewell to Colombo this morning we drive inland to Dambulla, stopping en route at a fruit and vegetable market in Naramwela Town. Dambulla Rock Temple is an incredible ancient complex of caves which dates back to the 1st Century BC. The five caves contain over 150 images of Buddha including an impressive 14 metre carved statue.

After exploring this ancient site, we continue to Polonnaruwa. This fascinating 11th century city is home to many interesting ruins and famous monuments including the Royal Palace and the Gal Vihara. Polonnaruwa was once the capital and is also the second most ancient city in Sri Lanka. It is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This evening, we return to Dambulla for an evening at leisure.

Overnight - Dambulla (B)

Day 3 : Sigiriya



Dambulla - Sigiriya - Kandy. This morning we explore Sigiriya and the famous 'Lion Rock' fortress. Built over 1500 years ago, this beautiful citadel stands 200 meters high in the middle of verdant jungle and was an important stronghold of the 70 hectare fortified town. It can be viewed from miles around and is definitely one of Sri Lanka's most iconic and famous sites. You'll be able to view the world famous paintings of the Heavenly Maidens which stand in a sheltered pocket of the rock approached by a spiral stairway.

From Sigiriya, we take a bullock cart ride and short canoe trip to the village of Kayanwala. Here, at Kayanwala Village we take part in a cookery demonstration in a mud brick home of a local woman and enjoy a freshly prepared lunch of curry, dahl, spiced rice, pickle and

more. En route to Kandy we stop at a spice garden in Matale to see the different herbs and spices, which Sri Lanka is famous for. You will be introduced to different spices and shown how some of these spices are grown and processed.

Overnight - Kandy (B, L)

Day 4 : Temple of the Tooth

This morning, we take a sightseeing tour of Kandy - the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings and our first stop will be the Temple of the Tooth Relic. Legend has it that one of Buddha's teeth was taken from him as he lay on his funeral pyre. It was then smuggled into Sri Lanka in 313AD. It now attracts daily pilgrims who come bearing lotus flowers and frangipani. After driving around Kandy Lake - built by the last Sinhala king, we visit the local bazaar and a gem museum, we then take Tuk Tuk ride up into the surrounding hills. This afternoon we stop at the Geragama Tea Factory, manufacturing 'Low Grown' and 'Long Leaf' tea. This evening, we watch a cultural performance of traditional Sri Lankan music and dance. **Overnight - Kandy (B)**

Day 5 : Nuwara Eliya & tea plantation



Kandy - Nuwara Eliya. This morning offers free time, before transferring to the railway station for a scenic train trip. Passing kilometre upon kilometre of verdant tea plantations that hug the winding mountain passes, we'll see waterfalls, suspension bridges and tea pickers on our journey up to Nuwara Eliya - Sri Lanka's most popular hill resort. Nuwara Eliya is also the heart of Sri Lanka's tea country producing a significant share of the world's best tea.

Upon arrival we embark on a sightseeing tour of Nuwara Eliya - an area known locally as 'Little England'.

Overnight - Nuwara Eliya (B)

Day 6 : Udawalawe National Park jeep safari

Nuwara Eliya - Udawalawe National Park. Today we head south to Embilipitiya, our base for exploring Udawalawe National Park. Udawalawe is probably one of the best places to spot the famous Sri Lankan elephant, the biggest of all the Asian elephants in the wild. It is thought that there are around 400 elephants here. The park is also home to the elusive leopard, the Sri Lankan sloth bear, the cheeky langur monkey and various types of deer. We enjoy an afternoon game drive here before returning to our hotel. **Overnight - Udawalawe National Park (B)**

Day 7 : Gem mine & Colombo city tour



Udawalawe National Park - Colombo. We travel back to Colombo this morning with a visit to the Gem Mine and Museum at Ratnapura. Sri Lanka is famous for its gem industry and is home to 40 out of the 85 types of gems that exist in the world.

Arriving to Colombo, we commence a city tour, seeing the Fort area in the north of the city which is famous for its government buildings and interesting shops. We'll also see the somewhat unusual Gangarama Temple and take a stroll along Galle Face Green, a popular spot for kite flying and games of cricket.

Overnight - Colombo (B)

Day 8 : Lazy days by the beach in Bentota

Colombo - Bentota. After breakfast, we head south to the beautiful beach resort of Bentota.

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Hotel check in and the rest of the day is at your leisure. **Overnight - Bentota and Beruwala (B)**

Days 9-11 : Beach, pool & sunset cocktails



The beautiful palm fringed beaches of Bentota are without a doubt its biggest draw cards, and once you set eyes on them you'll understand why. Nestled on the Indian Ocean coast with warm crystal clear waters, Bentota offers travellers a whole host of water sports from snorkelling and scuba diving, to water skiing and surfing – the choice if yours. Indulge in a glass of Toddy – a local coconut flavoured tippie, head to the spa and opt for an Ayurveda treatment which the area is famous for, or simply while away the days on the beach with a cocktail in hand. **Overnight - Bentota and Beruwala (B:3)**

Day 12 : Colombo

Wednesday. Bentota - Colombo. Today our tropical island adventure comes to an end. Departure transfer to Colombo Airport for your onward international flight.(B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

OZO Colombo

OZO Colombo is a modern and stylish hotel, with sweeping Indian Ocean views from its rooftop infinity pool and many of its rooms. There's free WIFI access throughout the hotel and the guestrooms are bright and airy with all modern amenities. To top it off,

there's also a fantastic fitness center and a restaurant serving delicious, authentic Sri Lankan cuisine. OZO is centrally located on Marine Drive, near Galle Road and just a 10 minute drive from the city centre.



Jetwing Lake

The Jetwing Lake hotel is a brand new property with spacious and comfortable rooms that enjoy a contemporary design blended with splashes of Eastern influenced decor. The ensuite facilities are magnificent and in keeping with the luxurious feel of the property as a whole. Each room also comes with a balcony, from which guests can get some fresh air and enjoy the spectacular views. Within the complex there is a pool, spa and fitness centre, where guests can while away their free time. There is also a restaurant, which serves sumptuous meals.



OZO Kandy Hotel

The stylish OZO Kandy prides itself on its smart facilities and stunning mountain surrounds. Its highlight being the rooftop pool and BOMMU Bar where you can soak up panoramic views over Kandy whilst enjoying a cocktail or two. The hotel's all-day dining restaurant serves a tasty array of Asian and international cuisine using only fresh and handpicked produce. Other amenities include a fitness centre and complimentary WiFi, with guestrooms boasting signature soft beds and rain showers.



Jetwing St Andrew's

Jetwing St. Andrew's is a unique colonial retreat set in a former country house and surrounded by landscaped gardens. All the spacious rooms are classically furnished with elegant wood and offer free WiFi and flat-screen TVs. The grounds of the hotel give a great feel of colonial splendour and guests can wake up to a typical English breakfast and enjoy a stiff brandy at the bar later in the day. Fine dining is offered at the Old Course Restaurant and the hotel also boasts an antique snooker table, which is the oldest in Sri Lanka.



Grand Udawalawe Safari Resort

Situated on 7 acres of land, the Grand Udawalawe Safari Resort is the only hotel of its class in the area. Rooms are spacious with beautiful hard wood flooring and artwork depicting the wildlife of Udawalawe. Food here is delicious and plentiful with an extensive breakfast menu. The outdoor pool is a great place to relax by and enjoy a refreshing splash in after a good day on safari. Well located just a few minutes drive from Udawalawe National Park.



Eden Resort & Spa - Beruwala

The Eden Resort and Spa is a relaxing hotel that combines elegance and charm. The

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selection of rooms are spacious and well equipped with lovely timber flooring and air conditioning. The hotel itself also offers a plethora of restaurants plus an onsite spa.



PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
20 Nov	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
04 Dec	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
18 Dec	USD 3,295	USD 4,795

PRICES / DATES 2022

Date	Twin Share	Single
01 Jan	USD 2,695	USD 4,195

PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' is compulsory for solo travellers or if your booking party cannot reach the minimum of 2 persons in a room and the amount needs to be added to the per person price. The single supplement offers the comfort of your own room and is also available to any other person wanting their own room.

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Date	Twin Share	Single
06 Mar	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
20 Mar	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
03 Apr	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
17 Apr	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
01 May	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
15 May	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
29 May	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
12 Jun	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
03 Jul	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
24 Jul	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
07 Aug	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
21 Aug	USD 2,245	USD 3,745
11 Sep	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
25 Sep	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
09 Oct	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
16 Oct	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
23 Oct	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
06 Nov	USD 2,095	USD 3,595
13 Nov	USD 2,095	USD 3,595

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