

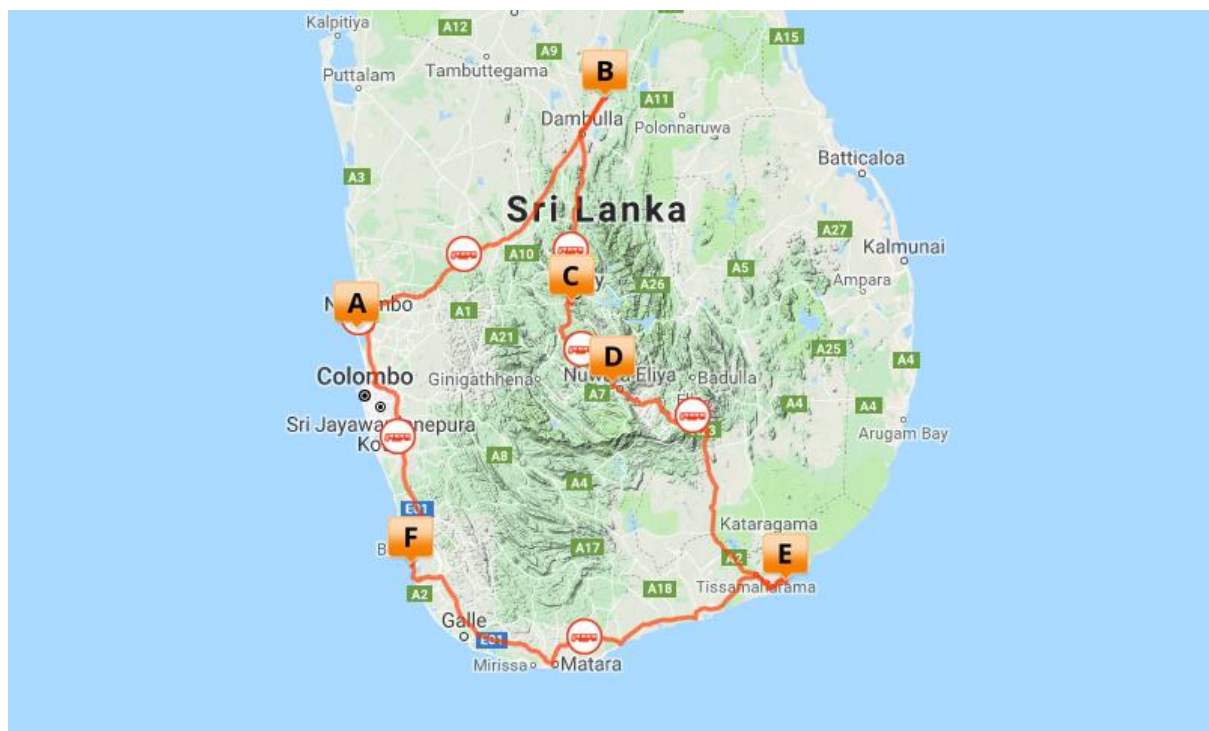


Travel & Cruise Professionals
Sri Lanka

Negombo - Sigiriya - Kandy - Nuwara Eliya - Yala National Park - Ahungalla
12 Days / 11 Nights

30 October 2019 - 10 November 2019





Accommodation

Accommodation	Destination	Start	End	Duration
Jetwing Lagoon	Negombo	30 Oct	31 Oct	1 Night
Aliya Resort and Spa Sigiriya	Sigiriya	31 Oct	3 Nov	3 Nights
Amaya Hills Resort	Kandy	3 Nov	5 Nov	2 Nights
Araliya Green Hills Hotel	Nuwara Eliya	5 Nov	6 Nov	1 Night
Jetwing Yala	Yala National Park	6 Nov	8 Nov	2 Nights
Heritage Ahungalla	Ahungalla	8 Nov	10 Nov	2 Nights

Day 1: Jetwing Lagoon, Negombo (Wed, 30 October)

Day Itinerary

Upon arrival into Sri Lanka you will be met and transferred to your Hotel for check in.



This bustling, fishing town on the west coast of Sri Lanka (and close to the Bandaranaike International Airport), had a rather turbulent colonial history involving the Dutch, Portuguese and British due to the cinnamon trade. In fact, the wild cinnamon that grew in the region was described as ‘the very best in the universe as well as the most abundant’. The remnants of this colonial period remain with the strong Catholic Church influence in the town. The Negombo Lagoon and the many canals offer superb birdwatching, the town’s Old Quarter is worth a visit, and the community is friendly and welcoming.

Overnight: Jetwing Lagoon

Located between the Indian Ocean and the Negombo lagoon, Jetwing Lagoon offers a blend of rejuvenation and relaxation. The spacious guest rooms provide expansive views of either the lagoon or the sea side.

The Jetwing Lagoon has a restaurant called Geoffrey’s by the Lagoon, offering Geoffrey Bawa favourites. Guests can indulge in lengthy swims across what is known as one of the longest swimming pools along the west coast. The spa offers ultimate indulgence with various therapies and a host of sporting activities takes place at the lagoon.



Day 2: Aliya Resort and Spa Sigiriya, Sigiriya (Thu, 31 October)

Day Itinerary

NEGOMBO – ANURADHAPURA – SIGIRIYA (5 HOURS)

After breakfast, drive to to Sigiriya en-route visiting Anuradhapura - - Anuradhapura was the first ancient kingdom and Capital of Sri Lanka. As you explore the ancient ruins of this UNSECO World Heritage listed site, be sure to visit the city’s greatest treasures. These include the magnificent 13 metre high statue of Lord Buddha carved out of solid

granite, the most renowned relic of the Bodhi Tree (grown from a branch transported from India) under which Buddha was believed to have attained enlightenment. In addition to above, there are many other important shrines and monuments that give Anuradhapura its significant status as the first kingdom.



Situated in the northern Matale District of Sri Lanka, the small village of Sigiriya is best known for its proximity to the magnificent Sigiriya 'Lion Rock'. The village offers some comfortable accommodations and a variety of restaurants for visitors to enjoy when stopping over to view the famous rock. This ancient rock fortress rises abruptly from the lush landscape and reaches over 200 metres in height. Crowning this massive outcrop are the ruins of an ancient civilisation, which are considered to be one of the best -preserved examples of ancient urban planning and have been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visitors can walk through the lily-dotted moats, lush gardens and cave shrines, through the grand lion-paw entrance, and climb the series of steep staircases passing beautiful murals painted on the sheer rock walls, and enjoy exploring the ruins and soaking up spectacular views of the surrounds.

Anuradhapura



Overnight: Aliya Resort and Spa Sigiriya

Nestled among the lush greenery of rolling fields, decades old indigenous trees and chena growth of the dry zone of the Central Province, Aliya Resort & Spa invites you to relax and unwind, far from the hustle and bustle of city life. Themed on the beloved Sri Lankan elephant, or 'Aliya' as it is known in the Sinhala language, this property has a distinct feel of living in a village, but with all the modern facilities required for a comfortable and idyllic stay. This Sigiriya hotel 'Aliya' is an authentic experience of the lifestyle of nearby villages in the Cultural Triangle. The stunning backdrop of the Sigiriya Rock formation, or 'Lion Rock' as well as the Pidurangala Rock Temple are majestically flaunted with highlighted in a simple foreground of manicured lawns and the stunning blue of the eternity pool that line up with this breathtaking view. Making this unique amongst other resorts in Sri Lanka Sigiriya hotels, Aliya Resort & Spa features roomy chalets as well as charming luxury tented rooms that are set up on wooden deck platforms with all the modern amenities. This family friendly resort takes your every need to heart and delivers with a warm Sri Lankan smile.



Included

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Day 3: Aliya Resort and Spa Sigiriya, Sigiriya (Fri, 01 November)

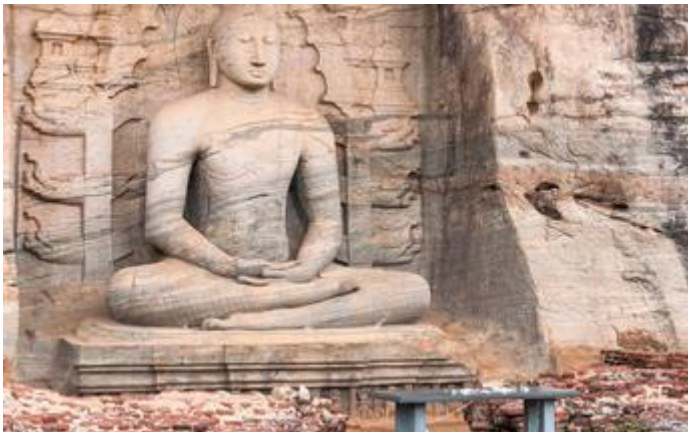
Day Itinerary

Full day excursion to Sigiriya Rock Fortress and Polonnaruwa. A World Heritage Site, the Sigiriya Rock Fortress dates back to the 5th century, and is perhaps Sri Lanka's picture post card monument. It is a massive rock structure jutting out of the forested plains like a giant tooth, and still has the remains of the Fortress and the Royal Palace. The climb up to the Sigiriya Rock Fortress is 1200 steps through the Mirror Wall and the giant stone paws of a lion, Sigiriya means Lion's Fortress in the local Sri Lankan language, Sinhalese. Continue to Polonnaruwa which became the Island's capital after the South Indian Chola Kings ransacked Anuradhapura. Polonnaruwa is a more compact city than Anuradhapura, and many of its temples, monasteries and palaces are still intact and are certainly worth visiting.

Sigiriya



Polonnaruwa



Included

Breakfast & lunch

Day 4: Aliya Resort and Spa Sigiriya, Sigiriya (Sat, 02 November)

Day Itinerary

Day at leisure. Spend the day relaxing in the hotel or exploring the city.

Included

Breakfast & lunch

Day 5: Amaya Hills Resort, Kandy (Sun, 03 November)

Day Itinerary

SIGIRIYA – DAMBULLA – KANDY (3 HOURS)

After breakfast, drive to Kandy en-route visiting Dambulla Cave Temple - - Dambulla cave temple is part of the Golden Triangle of Sri Lanka and is encrusted into a magnificently large rock. It sits more than 160m above the surrounding land and spans for more than 1.5 km around the base. Also known as the “Golden Temple” it was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1991. This ancient complex was initially established in 3rd Century BC and is truly a wonder as it is the largest and best preserved cave temples in Sri Lanka. The cave temples are home to numerous religious and cultural paintings and sculptures.

Later enjoy a lunch and a cooking demonstration at a Spice Garden followed by a traditional head and shoulder massage to get relaxed.



The second major city in Sri Lanka (the other being Colombo) lies in the midst of the Kandy Plateau, an area of tropical tea plantations. A prominent feature is Kandy Lake, to the north of which lies the golden-roofed Temple of The Tooth, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and important place for Buddhist worship, as it is said to house a tooth relic of Buddha. Other fascinating places include the Ceylon Tea Museum, the Buddhist Publication Society, the Ayurvedic centre in the Amaya Hills nearby, the Kandyan Art Association and Cultural Centre, where crafts people can be seen at work, and the Kandy Muslim Hotel, which offers the finest spiced curries served with naan or rotis.

Dambulla Cave Temple



Overnight: Amaya Hills Resort

Built in 1997, Amaya Hills is an idyllic escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. Rising from the bedrock on which it lies, the resort resonates a timeless design - a combination of regal splendor and breath taking nature. Intricate, yet charming elements of the Kandy culture make up its extravagant interiors, showcasing remarkable antiques and trinkets to a dramatic effect. Beautifully incorporated into the layout of the resort is the natural surroundings - lush tropical trees, fragrant blooms and vibrant bird-life pairing with enthralling views of the forest-covered Heerassagala Mountains - a view which can be seen from any room of the resort.

Take a refreshing dip in the turquoise pool or lounge on the pool deck with soaring hills stretched out before you like a picturesque canvas. Luxurious leisure amenities include the spa that offers Ayurveda treatments, a fitness centre and restaurants specializing in international and local cuisine. Explore a number of attractions such as the magnificent Sigiriya Fortress and the luxuriant Peradeniya Gardens.



Included

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Day 6: Amaya Hills Resort, Kandy (Mon, 04 November)

Day Itinerary

This morning visit to Peradeniya Botanical Gardens - - This beautiful garden is located 6km from Kandy. It was first built as a pleasure garden by a Sinhala king and was expanded by the British. It covers approximately 147 acres and is a stroller's paradise with extensive well-kept lawns, pavilions, an octagon conservatory, fernery, a giant Javan fig tree and numerous flower beds. The best attraction is the orchid House where you can discover more than 1000 plants.

Later sightseeing tour of Kandy - - The Hill capital of Kandy lies picturesquely surrounded by mountains. Kandy is also the last kingdom of Sri Lanka and is a bustling city. The tour of Kandy includes (Upper lake drive, visit to a Wood carving & Gem shop, Gem Museum, Kandy Bazaar/markets and visit to a Batik Factory).

Evening visit to the Temple of Tooth - - The Temple of Tooth Relic ("Dalada Maligawa" as known to the locals) is located in Kandy. This sacred temple is also home to the palm-leaf transcripts and its history dates back to 1687. This stunning piece of architecture is instantly recognised by its octagonal shape and golden roof. Although you are not able to view the actual tooth itself, the casket within which it is held is displayed twice a day.

Included

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Day 7: Araliya Green Hills Hotel, Nuwara Eliya (Tue, 05 November)

Day Itinerary

KANDY – NUWARA ELIYA (2.5 HOURS)

After breakfast at the hotel proceed to Nuwara Eliya via 01st Class A/C Train (Peradeniya to Nanu Oya), en-route visit to a Tea Factory.

Scenic Train ride (Peradeniya-Nanu Oya): A ride in the scenic carriage gives you an unparalleled view and penetrating glimpse both of the scenic beauty and culture of the hill country as you travel along.

Tea Factory Visit: Observe the process of manufacturing tea. You will also learn about how tea is graded and taste a cup of pure Ceylon tea in the factory. Opportunity to purchase some of the finest teas will also be available (at own cost).

Upon arrival in Nuwara Eliya, check in at the hotel.



Nuwara Eliya is a beautiful mountain station in Sri Lanka known for its incredible scenery and abundant tea plantations. Sometimes referred to as “Little England”, the city is well-kept and neat and features British-style red-brick walls, mock-Tudor half-timbering and a very English country club. The surrounding areas offer breathtaking views of valleys, meadows, mountains and greenery, and most importantly a wonderful break from the heat and humidity of the coast. Tea Estates, waterfalls, and mountains complete the picture. Visitors can take guided tours of the tea plantations, meander through the roses, take a picturesque walk to the ‘Lovers’ Leap’ waterfall, and meander through orchids and giant cypresses at the Hakgala Gardens. Other highlights include the Seetha Amman and Nuwara Eliya Buddhist Temples and the Galway's Land National Park.

Overnight: Araliya Green Hills Hotel

The “Little England of Sri Lanka – Nuwara Eliya” is a fabulous gateway located amidst the scenic beauty of the misty Blue Mountains, which is just the right spot to curl up in comforts, away from the hectic routine of daily life. Green Hills is a conceptualised, amazing work of architecture that is simply built to make vacations a totally pampered, spoiled and luxurious engagement, enticing the senses.

Green Hills was designed and crafted based on absolute comfort. With a plethora of facilities that are complete and comprehensive when it comes to comfort, visitors are promised a dream vacation that will be resplendent of memories. Whether guests desire a calm and relaxing holiday in the cool climes of Nuwara Eliya, or an invigorating vacation, Green Hills can offer both.



Included

Breakfast

Day 8: Jetwing Yala, Yala National Park (Wed, 06 November)

Day Itinerary

NUWARA ELIYA – HORTON PLAINS – YALA (4 HOURS)

Explore Horton Plains National Park early in the morning with packed breakfast from the hotel. Afterwards proceed to Yala and en-route visit Ella Gap. Rest of the day is at leisure.

Horton Plains National Park: Located approx 32 km from Nuwara Eliya, Horton Plains is Sri Lanka's highest plateau at an elevation of 7,200 ft. Horton Plains became a Nature Reserve in 1969 and was upgraded as a National Park in 1988, due to its unique watershed and bio-diversity features. Its flora has high level of endemism. The hills are covered with diverse wet low evergreen forest with even large trees flattened to the ground on the higher windswept slopes. The two escarpments "Little World's End" and "World's End" falling from the Horton Plains 1000 feet and 4000 feet respectively to the land below and the Baker's Falls, are recommended places to visit. The central mountain is known as the "Cloud Forest".

Ella Gap: Ella, 230km from the Capital City Colombo overlooks a spectacular gap in the southern mountains where the land falls to a dizzying drop of 3000ft into the southern sea. The small town is used as a base for many trekking expeditions to the surrounding areas. This is an en-route stop during journey to Tissamaharama. You can either stop for lunch or a tea break. From the Ella gap you can get a breathtaking view of the South East part of Sri Lanka. A great place for photography.



Yala National Park is the most visited and second largest national park in Sri Lanka. The park consists of five blocks, two of which are now open to the public, and also adjoining parks. The blocks have individual names such as, Ruhuna National Park (block 1) and Kumana National Park or 'Yala East' for the adjoining area. It is situated in the southeast region of the country, and lies in Southern Province and Uva Province. The park covers 979 square kilometres (378 sq mi) and is located about 300 kilometres (190 mi) from Colombo. Yala was designated as a wildlife sanctuary in 1900, and, along with Wilpattu was one of the first two national parks in Sri Lanka, having been designated in 1938. The park is best known for its variety of wild animals. It is important for the conservation of Sri Lankan Elephants, Sri Lankan leopards and aquatic birds.

Overnight: Jetwing Yala

In addition to providing luxury accommodation, the Jetwing Yala encourages the one-with-nature concept. Set within the immediate outskirts of the Yala National Park, Jetwing Yala holds a tremendous commitment to sustainability and the environment with it's large solar park.

Leisure activities available at the Jetwing Yala lays focus on wellness. Recreational amenities include a swimming pool, spa, yoga sessions, beach volleyball, badminton and table tennis. The main attraction, which is the Yala National Park, hosts a true wildlife experience as it is favorable grounds to spot leopards, sloth bears, elephants and a wide variety of birdlife.



Included

Breakfast

Day 9: Jetwing Yala, Yala National Park (Thu, 07 November)

Day Itinerary

Morning jeep safari into the Yala National Park.

Yala National Park



Included

Breakfast

Day 10: Heritance Ahungalla, Ahungalla (Fri, 08 November)

Day Itinerary

YALA – AHUNGALLA (5.5 HOURS)

After breakfast at the hotel proceed to Ahungalla via Galle and en-route commence a city tour in Galle. Rest of the day is at leisure.

Tour of Galle: Galle, recognised as the Sothern Capital (116 km from Colombo) and is home to the popular Fort called “Santa Cruz”, which is listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The Fort which was initially built by the Portuguese in 1619 has been expanded and further developed by the Dutch and the British. Galle was the main seaport of Sri Lanka before Colombo and still handles shipping and cruising yachts to present. During the tour of Galle, you will have the opportunity to visit Galle Fort, Old Dutch Church and Walk along the Rampart.



Situated on the south western coastline of Sri Lanka, only 70 kilometres from the capital, is idyllic Ahungalla. Lush palm tree forests end on a beautiful beach where azure waters lap against straw coloured sand. One of the few buildings in this beautiful coastal hamlet is the Heritance Ahungalla Hotel, which sits back from the beachfront and is popular with honeymooners. Excursion options include a visit to the local turtle hatchery, where you could release newborn baby turtles into the sea, and Brief Gardens, the grand house and thriving garden of landscape architect Bevis Bawa, developed in 1929.

Overnight: Heritance Ahungalla

Heritance Ahungalla is a luxury hotel located on 15 acres of beachfront on Sri Lanka’s southwest coast. It is the ideal place to enjoy a relaxing beach holiday while being pampered by world-class service. It is also the perfect luxury base from which to go on a river safari along the Madu Ganga, visit the Kosgoda turtle hatchery or take in the culture and history of Galle and Sri Lanka’s coastal villages.

Heritance Ahungalla was designed by local architect Geoffrey Bawa, famous for blending interior and exterior spaces, connecting buildings with the natural environment. You can see this for yourself as you first approach the hotel. Your first view is of a group of stately coconut trees reflected in a mirror-like pool, before your gaze slides across the polished floor of the open lobby straight through to the ocean beyond. The infinity pool makes you feel as if you are in the ocean itself when you get in and your eye level is just above the water.

The stylish bedrooms and suites offer wonderful sea views. As well as the delicious buffets and theme nights in the Jute Restaurant, dining in the Upper Room and some more exotic, unusual options are offered.



Included

Breakfast & lunch

Day 11: Heritance Ahungalla, Ahungalla (Sat, 09 November)**Day Itinerary**

Day at leisure

Galle**Included**

Breakfast & lunch

Day 12: End of Itinerary (Sun, 10 November)**Day Itinerary****AHUNGALLA - COLOMBO – AIRPORT (3 HOURS)**

Drive to Colombo. Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka is a city that is fast modernising, but there are still some parts that retain the old world charm of the Sri Lankan capital.

Later sightseeing tour of Colombo that includes a drive through the city's busy commercial areas as well as the tree lined residential, Cinnamon Gardens, Fort - the former British administrative centre and military garrison, Sea Street - the Goldsmiths quarters in the heart of Pettah, the Bazaar area, where is also a Hindu Temple with elaborate stone carvings, and the Dutch Church of Wolfendhal dating back to 1749. Also visit the BMICH, see the replica of Avukana Buddha & the Independence Square.

Afterwards enjoy a farewell dinner at **Ministry of Crab Restaurant**.

Later transfer to Colombo airport in time to board flight for onward destination.

Colombo



Included

Breakfast & dinner