

# Sri Lanka Highlights

## EXHILARATING ISLAND ADVENTURES

Featuring the ultimate highlights of Sri Lanka moving from lodge to lodge with much closer connection to nature while you sink in to the pleasures of the rich cultural heritage it has to offer

**14 NIGHTS | 15 DAYS**

DAY 01

# ARRIVAL

Ayubowan (May you live long)

As you land in the tropical isle, be led through the silk route VIP immigration to be met and welcomed by your travel host from ArTravele. Afterwards commence your journey to your hideaway in Colombo. Your travel host will accompany you to your first hideaway. Take a 45 minute drive into the hustle and bustle of the Colombo city. Check into your hideaway and relax before exploring Sri Lanka with ArTravele.

Late evening, Hop on board a Tuk Tuk with a chilled Lion Beer in your hand to explore the gastronomical side of Colombo with a local host. From devilled prawns to sweet tea and sweet meats to a mouth watering dinner to a rhythmic beat, Street food of Colombo will keep you yearning for more. You will be led through a curated street food trek to take in all that commercial city has to offer.

Return to your hideaway for the night after a hearty meal and tour around town.



Hideaway: *Uga Residence*  
Chamber: *Park Suite*  
Meal Type: *Bed & Breakfast*

## GET TO KNOW COLOMBO A LITTLE BIT..

This commercial hub is a mix of east, west, past and present drawing together all the cultures, religions and influences of colonialism into a perfect blend of sounds, smells and a kaleidoscope of colour. No longer just a sprawling city, you have to endure its beaches, a worthy destination on its own right, which makes an excellent start or finish to your Sri Lankan holiday.

Placement: *Airport to Colombo*  
Distance: *35km*  
Time: *45minutes*



DAY 02

## CULTURAL PLEASURES

After breakfast, you will head out towards the cultural triangle of the Island. A cultural explosion awaits your presence.

En route you will stop over at a coconut estate and be taken through a unique experience of how local toddy is made. Watch as the toddy tapper takes you through the experience and taste a bit of this local delight. Enjoy a quick snack and be on your way to your hideaway in the culture.

Check in to your private pool villa and enjoy your leisurely time. You have the **option** to set out to a local village temple and grace through its charm and history as you are taken through the life of Buddha and his teachings on simplicity. Obtain a private blessing by the local priest and enjoy the views from above the rock before heading back to your hideaway



Hideaway: *Ulagalla Resort*  
Chamber: *Ulagalla Pool Villa*  
Meal Type: *Half Board*

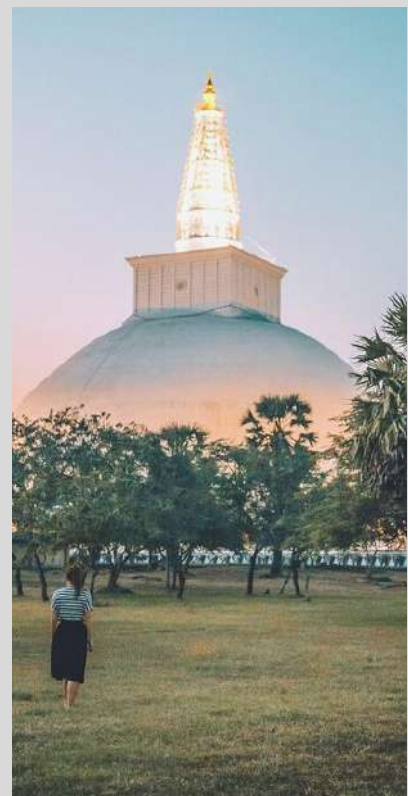
### GET TO KNOW ANURADHAPURA A LITTLE BIT..

Anuradhapura is Sri Lanka's ancient capital, 5th century BC - 9th century AD and the centre of the island's Buddhist civilization.

In antiquity and the interest, it is the equal of any ancient 'buried city'. The island's oldest Buddhist shrines - some dating back to 3rd century BC are found here.

Impressive white 'dagabas' (relic chambers) and monuments, embellished with handsome stone carvings and sculpture, the oldest documented tree on earth - The Sri Maha Bodhi (over 2000 years old), pleasure gardens, beautifully executed stone baths and ponds, a superb irrigation system of reservoirs and canals are the attractions of Anuradhapura.

Placement: *Colombo to Anuradhapura*  
Distance: *170 km*  
Time: *03 Hours 45 minutes*



DAY 03

## CULTURAL PLEASURES

Early morning you will set out to climb the ancient rock and to learn of its great history. Be marveled as you are guided through the steps of this UNESCO world heritage site. Enjoy the magnificent views from the top and after descending enjoy a refreshment overlooking the serenity of nature.

Afterwards, you will visit an authentic local village home to meet with its owners who will guide you through the steps of crafting an authentic Sri Lankan meal. Thereafter, enjoy the mouthwatering meal cooked in their hut. Partake in the local way of life and entertainment while you enjoy the company of the locals.



Hideaway: *Ulagalla Resort*  
Chamber: *Ulagalla Pool Villa*  
Meal Type: *Half Board*

### GET TO KNOW SIGIRIYA A LITTLE BIT..

A mighty 600 ft high rock-fortress of a 5th century King is famous for its entrancingly beautiful frescoes which are found in a sheltered pocket of the rock. One cannot fail to marvel at the masterful execution of the sinuous forms of these women (originally 500, of which only 19 remain today). The old stairway to the top led through the mouth of a huge crouching lion, carved from the rock- today only the paws remain. Remains of the handsome royal citadel are on the summit.

Placement: *Anuradhapura to Sigiriya*  
Distance: *75 km*  
Time: *1 Hour 30 minutes*



DAY 04

## CULTURAL KINGDOM

After breakfast today, head into the ancient city of Anuradhapura. Explore the towering dagoba's scattered around the city that are coupled up with calming buddhist temples around. If visited early morning, a thick mist can be found enveloping the surrounding gardens along with the ancient city. Explore the wonders in the surrounding area before you visit the Kaludiya Pokuna (black water pond) for a serene getaway. as you walk through enjoy the serenity it presents and partake in a guided meditation session.

After a hearty exploration return back to your hideaway to enjoy the pleasures of your private villa and its own activities such as horse back riding, archery, cycling and many more

Relax at your hideaway to spend the rest of the day at leisure



Hideaway: *Ulagalla Resort*  
Chamber: *Ulagalla Pool Villa*  
Meal Type: *Half Board*

### GET TO KNOW KALUDIYA POKUNA A LITTLE BIT..

Kaludiya pokuna is the largest of the ponds in Mihintale. Most experts believe that Kaludiya pokuna may probably be the ancient Porodini Pokuna mentioned in the tablets of Mahinda IV (975 – 991 AD) & the temple complex named “Hada Yunha” built by Kassapa IV (898 – 914). However, the caves & some building may have been built as early as 3rd Century BC. Kalu-diya pokuna, literally translated means the black water pool. It is said that the name evolved out of respect to the reflections of trees and boulders of the neighboring forests and mountains, and is true to its description at most times of the day



DAY 05

## CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

After a hearty breakfast say your goodbyes to the cultural hub as you make your way down to the hill capital of Kandy. Watch the scenery dramatically change in front of your eyes as you make your way to higher elevation with lush vegetation. En route, visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic to see the tastefully built temple to house the sacred tooth of Buddha. The unique Kandyan architecture can be spotted on every building in this complex. Make your way through to the main area passing the beautiful murals painted on the walls and ceiling. Your travel host will relate the stories which are considered precious by a Sri Lankan and which makes Kandy the little pride of our island.

Thereafter you will drive to your hideaway while enjoying the majestic views of the mountain terrain. Relax with a freshly brewed cup of golden Ceylon tea with English tiered platters of mouthwatering goodies including finely cut finger sandwiches ranging from egg mayonnaise and cress to cured ham with English mustard; mouth-watering pastries hot out of the oven; dainty fairy cakes or slabs of Battenburg and freshly baked scones served with specialty jams and cream.

Spend rest of the day at leisure after enjoying a fancy English high-tea.



Hideaway: *W15 Hantana*  
Chamber: *Stable Suite*  
Meal Type: *All Inclusive*

### GET TO KNOW KANDY A LITTLE BIT..

surrounded by scenic mountains and tea plantations is a majestic city with much pride as the last stronghold of the Sinhalese Kings. Kandy was declared as a World Heritage site as it is home to the “Dalada Maligawa” - Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha. Today, it is the centre of Buddhism, arts, crafts, dancing, music and culture. From its religious sites to spectacular train rides, Kandy is renowned for its Esala Perahera (usually held in July or August) which is a must-see event featuring dancers, jugglers, musicians, fire-breathers and lavishly decorated elephants. During this parade, the tooth relic is set upon a respectable tusker who carries it around the city which is considered to be a blessing.

Placement: *Anuradhapura to Hantana*  
Distance: *125 km*  
Time: *03 Hours 10 minutes*



DAY 06

## HIGHLANDS EXPLORED

Wake up cozy to the mountain mist of Hantana while you are served your tea to perfection. After a well deserved breakfast, enjoy a visit to a tea factory where you will meet the amazing tea-pluckers of Sri Lanka and then to observe the withering, rolling and the fermenting process of tea. After learning the art of leaf to cup, head to the Ceylon Tea Museum to learn about the famed art of tea production and take-part in a typical Sri Lankan Tea Tasting session.

Thereafter experience an awe-inspiring hiking expedition. Your private guide will offer you both challenging and easy trails to choose from. However, either way you will be met with picturesque views and a moment one with nature helping you to heighten your senses. You will wend your way through carpets of manicured tea fields, pass by little rivulets of refreshingly cool water, climb grassy hills dipping into lush valleys, traversing upon paths and stones as old as time itself, all the while immersing yourself in the magnificence of Nature.

Afterwards, return back to your hideaway to enjoy rest of the day at leisure.



Hideaway: *W15 Hantana*  
Chamber: *Stable Suite*  
Meal Type: *All Inclusive*

### GET TO KNOW HANTANA A LITTLE BIT..

This mountain range is declared as a protected nature reserve by the Environmental conservation authority. The freshwater springs from the western end of the mountain range feed the Mahaweli river. The mountain range consists of seven individual peaks. These reachable mountain peaks offer spectacular views of the Kandy city, Knuckles range and the hills of the Sabaragamuwa region. The Mountain range is easy to explore apart from the fact that it's giving spectacular views of the surrounding regions, one of the best places to visit while trekking through the hills of Hanthana is the Hanthana temple, which dates to the days of the Kandyan kingdom. Fishing cats, civets, wild boars, hares, monkeys, leopards, foxes, birds and hedgehogs are a few of the animals which have made the hills of Hantana their home.



DAY 07

## SCENIC PLEASURES

Today, you will leave the last kingdom of Sri Lanka and pay a visit to the town famously known as "Little England" Drive towards the hills of Nuwara Eliya and feel the change in atmosphere as the roads tend to wind up and the wind cooling further. Visit the iconic Grand hotel for some early lunch and to enjoy the views of the little England until its time for you to hop on board one of the most scenic rail journeys of the World.

Pass through many varying scenery and you may want to hold on to your cameras or enjoy the stunning beauty of nature and be present in the moment.

Upon reaching Ella you will be driven to your hideaway amongst the tea plantations



Hideaway: *Nine Skies*  
Chamber: *Demodera Bedroom*  
Meal Type: *All Inclusive*

### GET TO KNOW NUWARA ELIYA A LITTLE BIT..

Nuwara Eliya is the heart of Sri Lankan hill country. It is the home of the famous Ceylon Tea and the rolling mountains are a carpet of velvety green tea plantations, interspersed with gushing streams and tumbling waterfalls. The salubrious climate, misty glens and the decidedly British character make Nuwara Eliya a must visit

Placement: *Hantana to Ella via Nuwara Eliya*  
Distance: *138 km*  
Time: *03 Hours 30 minutes*





DAY 08

## MOUNTAIN EXPLORER

Wake up early this morning to the chilly weather and misty views and brew yourself a hot cup of Ceylon Tea as you enjoy the view. Meet your Travel Host as he along with a local guide will accompany you to the peak of Ella Rock. Hike up through tea fields and mountainous edges as you cross large pine forests to finally come across the picturesque Ella gap bathed in golden rays as the sun appears gingerly from behind the mountain ranges in the distance. Enjoy a freshly cut king coconut to refresh yourself and prepare for your climb down.

Afterwards, stroll through the Ella town and enjoy the lifestyle of the locals and spend a moment being one of them. Enjoy a quick snack or a full lunch at one of the chic little restaurants by the side of the road and spend some quality time as you rest and relax your muscles after the climb.

Afterwards, return back to your hideaway to enjoy your final night cozying up in the hills of Ceylon



Hideaway: *Nine Skies*  
Chamber: *Demodera Bedroom*  
Meal Type: *All Inclusive*

### GET TO KNOW ELLA A LITTLE BIT..

*An enchanting hill-country village boasting breathtaking views and seas of luscious green tea fields, Ella is situated approximately at 3400 ft above sea level. The town is ideal to relax, unwind and soak in the atmosphere, offering a chilly climate perfect for a warm cup of freshly brewed tea. Filled with some of the must-see highlights such as the 'Little Adam's Peak' viewpoint for beginner level hikers or the 'Ella Rock' viewpoint for the more moderate level hikers, this is a must visit. The biggest highlight of Ella is the most scenic train ride which ends at the significant Ella railway station after snaking its way through picturesque pine forests and tea plantations.*



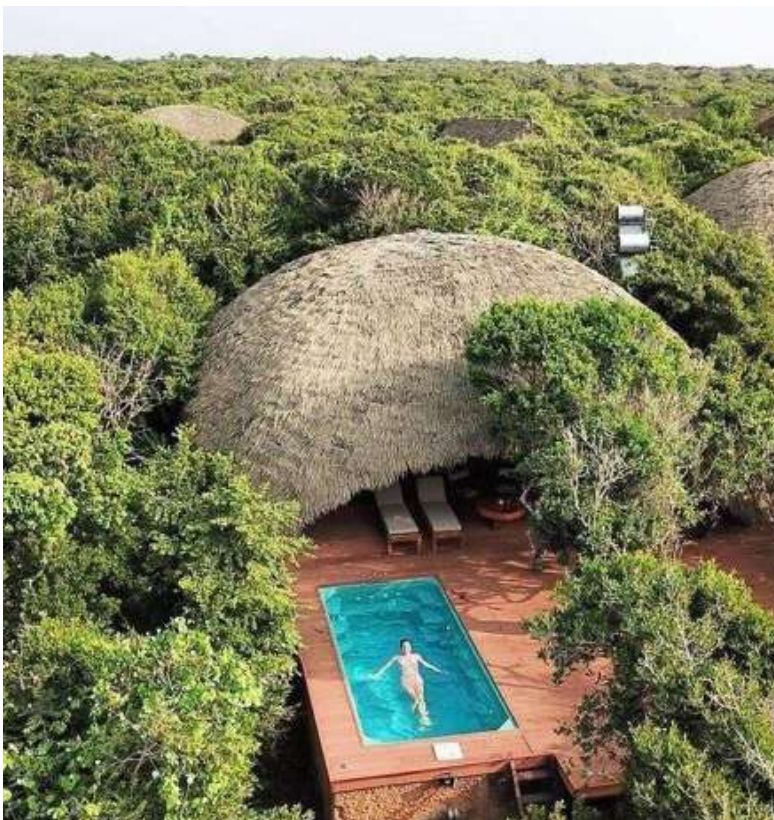
DAY 09

## LUXURY IN THE WILDERNESS

After a hearty breakfast, Bid farewell and leave to the wild side of Sri Lanka - Yala.

Check-in to your luxurious private cabin bordering the Yala National Park, that offer views of the surrounding wilderness and seascape. Stay amidst the jungle while you are greeted by many wild friends. You're going to be in the lap of nature, so besides multiple shades of green and brown and blue, there'll be all sorts of grunts, chirps, trumpets, and rustling.

After lunch you will drive towards the Yala national park to enter the animal kingdom. Enter the kingdom of the animal habitat in the deep south home to many such as the leopards, Elephants, deer, ample bird life, buffalo and many more. You will be met by one of our expert rangers who will then take you on a guided safari. After an exhilarating experience you will be driven back to your private pool cabin to be under the watchful night's sky.



Hideaway: *Uga Chena Huts*  
Chamber: *Cabin with Pool*  
Meal Type: *All Inclusive*

### GET TO KNOW THE YALA NATIONAL PARK A LITTLE BIT..

She stalks through the shadows, avoiding the touch of light, creeping ever closer before pouncing on her unsuspected victim. The leopard who is the master of stealth has made Yala National park the most popular park in the island. Situated along the south eastern coast of the island, the park consists of habitats that are perfectly suited for its vast leopard population. Rocky outcrops, grasslands, scrub jungle and large hard wood trees makes a perfect combination of habitats for the island's apex predator. The word around the forest is that block one of the national park, holds the highest density of leopards in the world.

Placement: *Ella to Yala*  
Distance: *113 km*  
Time: *03 Hours*



DAY 10

## CALL OF THE WILD

Wake up early and set off on a safari jeep to enjoy a sunrise game drive at the Yala National Park. Be guided through the home of the leopards, Elephants, Water Buffaloes and many other beings while you enjoy each other's company.

Return back and enjoy the richness of privacy at your hideaway before heading to local Village for a curd making experience where the experts teach you the secrets of making the perfect buffalo curd. End your lesson with a delightful tasting of this popular and delicious Sri Lankan dessert.

Late evening, enjoy a private candle light dinner under the sky full of stars with a bon fire by your side.



Hideaway: *Uga Chena Huts*  
Chamber: *Cabin with Pool*  
Meal Type: *All Inclusive*

## GET TO KNOW TISSAMAHARAMA A BIT

Tissamaharama is one of the most pleasant towns in the southern coast. The beautiful man-made tank (reservoir) in Tissa, Tissa Wewa with its remarkable bird life provides the scenic backdrop to the town. Tissa was the sanctuary in the deep south, where Sinhalese patriots fled to rally support against marauding Dravidian invaders from Southern India.



DAY 11

## SOUTHERN BLISS

Wake up early morning to watch the glorious sunrise which is bound to leave you speechless. thereafter head out for your final breakfast in the wild.

Afterwards, check out and drive across the southern coastline to reach your next destination which is all about the beach! En route you will visit a Cinnamon plantation and partake in a guided walk by the owner of the estate who will take you through the story of Cinnamon before you are invited to a tea ceremony overlooking the glorious landscapes.

Afterwards, you will check in to you hideaway. The turquoise blue waters to gaze at, watching the rugged waves crashing to the shore, golden sun for a perfect tan are all yours !



Hideaway: *Cape Weligama*  
Chamber: *Pool View Junior Suite*  
Meal Type: *Fully Inclusive*

### GET TO KNOW WELIGAMA A BIT

Weligama is one of the breathtaking beach destinations situated in southern coast of Sri Lanka. Famous for its surf waves, whale watching, great bars and restaurants. It has a combination of both modest guesthouses and simple restaurants.

Placement: *Yala to Weligama*  
Distance: *152 kms*  
Time: *3 hours 40 minutes*



DAY 12

## MIGHTY WHALES

Today you will rise early and drive to Mirissa harbor to see the Majestic Blue Whale. The ever smiling, mischievous dolphins will put on a show while some of the oldest and the largest sea creatures, the humpback and the blue whales, will nonchalantly glide past you, when you embark on a whale/ dolphin watching excursion off the Southern coast of Sri Lanka.

Afterwards return back to your hideaway and rest and relax as you enjoy the ocean vibes



Hideaway: *Cape Weligama*  
Chamber: *Pool View Junior Suite*  
Meal Type: *Fully Inclusive*

### GET TO KNOW MIRISSA A LITTLE BIT..

Mirissa is a world-famous destination for spotting the largest sea mammal, blue whale and this is one of the main reasons why many visit Mirissa. November to April is the best season for whale watching which allows you to catch a rare glimpse of the beautiful and gigantic whales and the playful dolphins at close proximity.

Placement: *Weligama to Mirissa*  
Distance: *12 km*  
Time: *20 mins*



DAY 13

## THE COLONIAL CHARM

Today you will drive through the coastal belt of the Island to visit one of the fortified cities of Sri Lanka. A UNESCO world heritage site - Galle Fort. Stop over at any point you may be interested in to take in the beach vibes.

As you reach Galle your travel host will impart his knowledge of the historical tales which makes this city one worth visiting. Afterwards, you will check-in at your hideaway in the Galle Fort which is a testament to the colonial architecture that reverberates throughout the old town. Experience the colonial charm and traditional hospitality whilst spending your last two nights in Sri Lanka.

In the evening as the sun begins to descend step out to stroll through the cobblestoned streets of Galle, gracing through the chic cafes and boutiques as you spend some quality time enjoying the slow-paced life.

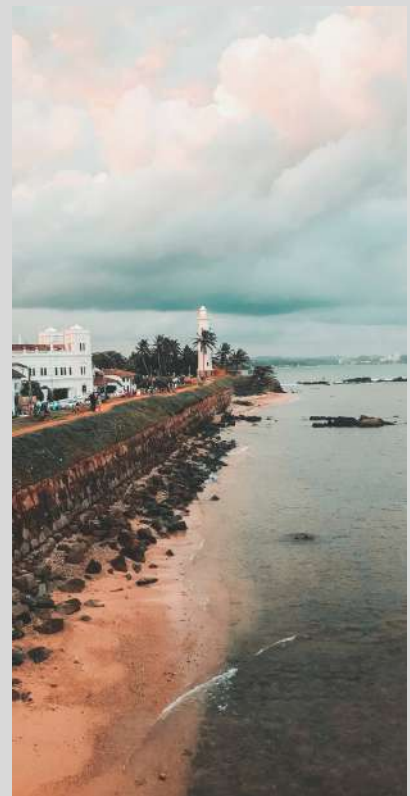


Hideaway: *Amangalla*  
Chamber: *Bedroom*  
Meal Type: *Half Board*

### GET TO KNOW GALLE A LITTLE BIT..

Galle, said to be the famous Tarshish of the Bible is the Port where the Portuguese first landed in Sri Lanka. Fortified by the Dutch who ruled maritime Sri Lanka in the 17th and 18th centuries, the city still retains the air of old Holland. Old Dutch Churches and monuments with armorial bearings, well preserved Fort and ramparts, imposing crested and monogrammed gateway dated 1669, many well preserved old Dutch houses and narrow alleys still bearing Dutch names. As for souvenirs, one may make a pick of exquisite hand-made lace, Ivory carvings, moonstone jewellery and beautiful translucent tortoise shell ware, including bracelets, trinket boxes, combs - sometimes inlaid with silver.

Placement: *Weligama to Galle*  
Distance: *26 km*  
Time: *01 hours*



DAY 14

## THE COLONIAL CHARM

Today you will drive through the coastal belt of the Island to visit one of the fortified cities of Sri Lanka. A UNESCO world heritage site - Galle Fort. Stop over at any point you may be interested in to take in the beach vibes.

The perfect spot for lunch would be at one of the humble home's of one of our signature personalities. First, you will visit a local market in a vintage car driven by a local who has deep roots in the city of Galle to pick your own vegetables for your lunch. Then head to the household which is a 4th generation of gem merchants in Galle to prepare a Biriyani - a mouthwatering cuisine. Enjoy a delicious home cooked meal before visiting the Dutch outpost located on the south western coast of Sri Lanka. The minimalistic, stately and elegant little boutiques on the cobble stoned streets as you explore the history of this great city with your travel host.

Afterwards, you will check-in at your hideaway in the Galle Fort which is a testament to the colonial architecture that reverberates throughout the old town. Experience the colonial charm and traditional hospitality whilst spending your last two nights in Sri Lanka.



Hideaway: *Amangalla*  
Chamber: *Bedroom*  
Meal Type: *Half Board*

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DAY 15

## ITS NOT GOODBYE!

After a sensescape in Sri Lanka where you enjoyed the company of locals, wildlife, epicurean mysteries and adventure you will drive towards Colombo to reach the airport in time for your onward journey.

Based on the time of your departure flight your final day could be curated accordingly.

We would suggest you spare a few hours to explore more of Colombo and its shopping malls.

Here's wishing you Ayubowan as you leave the island of Sri Lanka but hoping to see you soon back again to explore the unexplored destinations of Ceylon.

