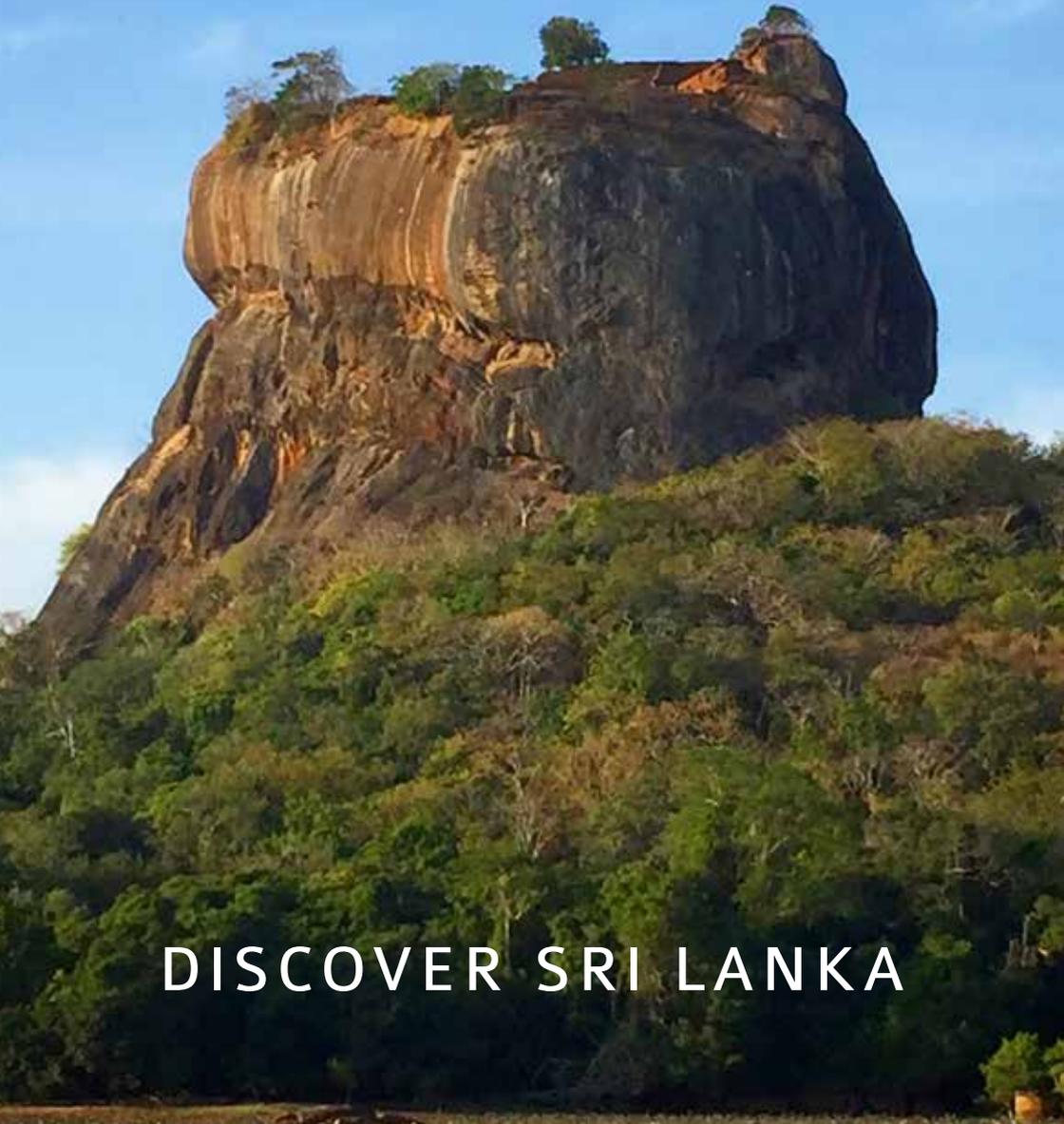


Your Trip ✈️



DISCOVER SRI LANKA

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

We make a big deal about the local perspectives we provide on our tours and consider the best way to do this is by having local people share their communities with you. What that looks like is that in each town or city we visit we engage local tour operators, guides, attractions and restaurants to provide guests with an authentic taste of the local area. Guests have the ongoing assistance of a tour director throughout the tour, however each time we do an activity it is supported by a local from that area.

SMALL GROUPS

All our tours are small enough that guests are able to get to know their fellow travelers well, with a maximum of 8 guests on any of our Sri Lankan tours. Our small group size means that we don't overcrowd a place we visit such as a small town, attraction or event. This allows guests to appreciate places for what they are, and not just for the masses of tourists. It's almost a private tour at group prices.

ADVENTURE FOR ANYONE

There is much more to visiting a place than just being there – guests need to get out and do things in the places they visit to really experience them. We include local experiences in each destination in the price of our tours. We provide adventures that are suitable for almost anyone – great for those who want to get out and do things, but don't quite want to climb Everest or rough it in a tent or backpacker dorm.





IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

Although we travel as a group, we really want to make sure that a YourTrip tour is all about you. We give a good mix of included activities and time for you to explore on your own. We provide suggestions of what you can do in each region before you travel and our tour director will be able to give you plenty of suggestions. We also like to get to know you before you travel to help you get the best out of the experience. Any special occasion during the tour or special requests you may have let us know and we will do our best to try and accommodate.

We visit the must see places on the general tourist routes because there are some places that you just must see. We also pride ourselves on branching away from the beaten track and explore some the smaller regions where larger operators tend to bypass. This allows you to get a different perspective of the country being visited and to get up close and personal with local operators and attractions. It also provides a more unique story to tell at home, visiting places that others may not already been.

We can also assist you with pre or post tour extensions to get the most out of your trip to Sri Lanka using a growing network of suppliers and experienced agents both in Australia and Sri Lanka. If we can't find something for you ourselves, we will endeavour to put you in touch with someone who can. It's all about making our group tours all about you.



DISCOVER SRI LANKA

13 Nights - 14 Days - 3 Two Night Destinations - Rail Journeys included

Overview

In our discovery tour of Sri Lanka, we capture the different landscapes, cultures, history and wildlife of this beautiful island nation. Guests experience evidence of Sri Lankan history dating back over 2,000 years, visit wildlife in their natural settings and enjoy the exciting local Sri Lankan cuisine. We explore the history of Sri Lanka as we trace the various kingdoms that ruled Sri Lanka until the British defeated the last kingdom in Kandy.

Day 1: Beachside Arrival

On arrival at Colombo International Airport, your guide for your Sri Lanka tour

will meet and greet you and transport you to your beachside resort in Negombo. Guests have the option to arrive a day earlier if they wish to spend a day on the beach recovering from any jetlag before commencing their Sri Lanka tour.

Day 2: Ancient Cities and Traditions

Our first morning starts with a journey from the beachside resorts of Negombo to dry Anuradhapura. We travel past villages that come to life when locals celebrate religious festivals on what would otherwise be a quiet Sunday morning. Today's trip ends in the original capital of Sri Lanka: Anuradhapura. We enjoy a leisurely lunch before embarking

on a tour of Sri Lanka's cultural origins. We take a guided tour of sacred sites, exploring stupas that were once some of the tallest constructions on the planet. After watching locals perform current day offerings at one of Buddhism's most sacred sites, our first day comes to an end. (B,D)

Day 3: Birthplace of Buddhism

After a delightful breakfast, we leave Anuradhapura to explore the birthplace of Sri Lankan Buddhism. Mintale's rocky outcrop monastery is where Buddhism was first established in the country. We travel to Sigiriya for lunch and relax by the pool or take a stroll in the nearby village to escape the midday heat. As the sun begins to fall, we transfer to Minneriya National Park for a jeep safari in search of elephants. The elusive leopard, crocodiles and a plethora of native birds come out from the jungle as the sun sets.

Guests travelling in September and October may witness the annual elephant gathering with hundreds of elephants grazing in the park. (B,D)

Day 4: Polonnaruwa Era

Our journey today explores Polonnaruwa as we trace the steps of kings across ancient ruins. The ruins we explore today are younger than those in Anuradhapura, making it easier to imagine how the palaces once rose into the sky. We wander ruins of palaces, shrines and temples of the old capital of Sri Lanka. Exploring can build up an appetite, so we visit a local home turned restaurant to experience some authentic Sri Lankan cuisine. We enjoy the local food against a scenic backdrop of farms and rice fields. The afternoon is yours to explore the local village in Sigiriya, where your guide will help out to ensure an enjoyable afternoon. (B,L,D)



Day 5: Sigiriya Rock

Visiting the impressive Sigiriya rock fortress, we enter the stairs between the giant stone Lion Gate, of which only the paws remain, and make our way up to the palace ruins perched on top of the flat rock. We admire ancient rock art and impressive engineering feats as we explore this sacred and unique part of Sri Lankan history. We also visit the stunning rock caves in nearby Dambulla, each containing a different representation of Buddha. As we approach Kandy, we visit a commercial spice farm and learn about the spices that once enticed many traders to Sri Lanka. This is followed by lunch in the nearby restaurant. Our arrival in Kandy allows guests to relax or create their own adventures in the afternoon and evening. (B,L)

Day 6: Kandy, Sri Lanka's Kingdom

As Sri Lanka's last kingdom, Kandy resisted both the Portuguese and Dutch before falling to the British empire in 1815. The capital of each kingdom before Kandy protected the Buddha's tooth relic within the palace complex. As the last kingdom, Kandy remains home to

the Buddha tooth relic, a most precious and sacred site in Sri Lanka. We explore the Temple of the Tooth Relic, Kandy's most visited site, during morning offerings before the crowds become too intense. The afternoon and evening are open to guests to discover some of the British contribution to the region or the Colonial experiences include visiting a tea museum and having lunch in the nearby botanical gardens. Historical experiences include exploring the rain-forest above Kandy and viewing the ancient town from the hills above. (B)

Day 7: Train to the Tea Country

Train travel in Sri Lanka is one of the best ways to get off road and see parts of the countryside that are inaccessible by car. Our Sri Lanka train journey takes place on one of the most scenic sections of railroad in Asia: the line between Kandy and Nuwara Eliya. Our day starts on the outskirts of Kandy, from where we climb 1,300m into the heart of Sri Lanka's tea country. Although we travel less than 100km, the four-hour journey takes in some breathtaking scenery that can only be seen from the rails. Riding in second.





class, we feel the temperature drop with fresh burst of air flowing freely through open windows. The train weaves its way along hillsides covered in tea plantations towards Sri Lanka's high tea country. **(B)**

Day 8: Ceylon Tea

After a week of travelling, we slow the pace down and relax in what was once the destination for the colonial empire's Ceylon tea trails. The name Ceylon was given to Sri Lanka while the British controlled the country, which is why Sri Lankan tea is often called Ceylon tea. We find out the British influence remains strong to this day as we explore one of the finest tea plantations Sri Lanka has to offer in Nuwara Eliya. During the day, we visit Lovers Leap, explore the Pedro tea estate and enjoy a high tea. To experience the life of a local, there is an opportunity to pick your own tea leaves and discover the effort that goes into making the perfect cup of tea. **(B, High Tea).**

Day 9: Journey to Worlds End

Horton Plains National Park is the destination of today's trip for our early morning hike to World's End. Once the hunting grounds for the elite, these plains are now a national park perched over 2,100m above sea level. Hiking to World's End takes us across grassland plateau and through jungle to the breathtaking precipice dropping 1,200m to the valley below. The view extends to tiny towns surrounded by tea plantations. On clear days, you can see Sri Lanka's south coast from here. Heading back, we pause at the beautiful Bakers Falls before descending to the town of Haputale and once again riding the railway. Once in Ella, if you're feeling energetic you can hike Mini Adam's Peak or Ella Rock. If you feel like relaxing, grab a book and watch the day go by in this relaxing little village. **(B)**

Day 10: Southern Safari

We descend from the high country and travel into the plains of Sri Lanka's south. Along the way, we see the landscape change from the jungle-covered hills to the savannah-like plains of southern Sri Lanka. We explore historic railway bridges, waterfalls and ancient rock carvings before arriving at Udawalawe National Park. We take to a jeep for a safari of a national park that rivals the savannah of Africa. As the sun sets across Udawalawe dam, we search for elephants, the elusive leopard and crocodiles on our Sri Lanka Safari. After an exciting day witnessing the circle of life, our evening ends with a group dinner. (B, D)

Day 11: Sri Lanka Beaches

We start our day with a visit to the elephant transit home where elephants are rehabilitated for release into the wild. Leaving the savannah-like plains of Udawalawe, we head south towards some of Sri Lanka's best beaches. We remember those who lost their lives in the 2004 tsunami as we pass colonial towns along the coast. Each town is home to ancient fishing villages, Buddhist temples and shrines. We watch fishermen use various methods to catch fish from the shoreline and visit the only blowhole in Sri Lanka to observe the power of the sea. In the evening, we arrive in the fort city of Galle where we watch the sun set over Sri Lanka beaches. (B)

Day 12: Dutch Fort in Galle

The Dutch, Portuguese and British all occupied Sri Lanka for some periods in the country's past. The fort in Galle is a great relic of maritime history and life during the Dutch period of Sri Lanka. Explore the fort during the day before coming back to the city at night for a dinner in the old city. (B, D)

Day 13: Colombo

Departing Galle, we head north along the coastline towards the commercial and trading hub of Sri Lanka: Colombo. After visiting a unique turtle conservation facility that has assisted in the safe hatching and release of thousands of baby turtles, we take one of the country's few highways into Colombo. Our guide takes us on a tour of the highlights of this hectic city before we take a sundowner on the checkerboard of the famous Galle Face Hotel to conclude our tour of Sri Lanka. (B, Sundowners)

Day 14: Farewell Sri Lanka

Although the tour program is complete, your trip doesn't need to end just yet. For those wishing to explore Colombo further, we can arrange add-on accommodation. And for anyone wanting the ultimate in island paradise relaxation, we can assist in booking a few nights in the Maldives to complete your holiday. (B)

DISCOVER SRI LANKA



Private Tour Options

Our groups are very small, with a maximum of 6 guests on our standard departures. If you don't want to travel in a group, let us know and we can easily customise your trip to a private tour for any group size.

If you can't make one of our regular departure dates, let us know as a private tour or extra departure on your desired dates can easily be arranged.

WHAT IS INCLUDED ON THE DISCOVER SRI LANKA TOUR?

This tour of Sri Lanka includes such a great variety of experiences that it is bound to appeal to people with a wide range of interests. It's for anyone who loves the great outdoors and spotting wildlife and marine life. The tour will also satisfy those who want to experience a truly authentic sense of place when they visit a small regional town. History buffs will enjoy the journey back in time from modern times to colonial remnants and relics from thousands of years ago. Many of the experiences are outlined in the day-to-day program. For a quick overview, here is a snapshot of what is included in the program:

- Entry and guided tours of the major sacred sites in Anuradhapura.
- Entry and guided tours of the major sacred sites in Polonnaruwa.
- Entry and guided tours of the major sacred sites in Sigiriya, including rock climb.
- A jeep safari in either Minneriya or Kaudulla National Parks.
- Authentic meal at a family restaurant on the outskirts of Polonnaruwa.
- Entry and guided tour of the Dambulla cave temples.
- Entry and guided tour of the major sacred sites at the Temple of the Tooth Relic.
- Tea museum tour experience, including a cup of local tea.
- Entry to the Botanical Gardens outside Kandy.
- Rail journey from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya.
- Tea factory tour, tasting and opportunity to pick your own tea leaves.
- High tea in the tea plantations.
- Horton Plains National Park admission fees.
- Tuk tuk experience to Lipton's Seat.
- Rail journey from Haputale to Ella.
- A jeep safari in Udawalawe National Park.
- Entry to the Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home.
- Tour of the Dutch Fort in Galle.
- Entry and tour of a green turtle conservation centre.
- City tour of Colombo.





Tour Availability

Our tours are available to be booked directly with YourTrip on our website, by phone or from one of our highly experienced partner travel agents.

As a bonus, all of our small group tours to Sri Lanka have a guaranteed departure - if you book, we will deliver. Whether you're the only traveller or our small group is full, our guarantee means you can book your holiday in the confidence it will go ahead.

Multiple two-night stay destinations ensure you aren't rushed off your feet and allow you to add your own adventures to the already very generous inclusions list.

Contact us Today!

Phone 1300 793 787
www.yourtrip.com.au

2017/18 Departure Dates:

- 1 July 2017**
- 22 July 2017**
- 12 Aug 2017**
- 2 Sep 2017**
- 23 Sep 2017**
- 14 Oct 2017**
- 4 Nov 2017**
- 24 Nov 2017**
- 23 Dec 2017**
- 20 Jan 2018**
- 10 Feb 2018**
- 3 Mar 2018**
- 31 Mar 2018**
- 21 Apr 2018**
- 12 May 2018**
- 2 June 2018**
- 30 June 2018**

Private Tours: Anyday!

