

Tour Of Sri Lanka
With A Driver Guide In Your Own Exclusive Air-Conditioned Vehicle.

Attn: Alison Head
Our Ref: 828BFEI

AUGUST 2012

Day	Date	Location	First Class Hotels	Special Choice	Daily Schedule
01	01/08	Depart UK			
02	02/08	Arrive Colombo	The Cinnamon Grand Interconnecting Rooms	Mount Lavinia House Adjoining Rooms	>Pick Up From Colombo Airport >Relax On Arrival At Colombo Or Negombo
03	03/08	Dambulla	Chaaya Village Deluxe Interconnecting Room	Kassapa Lions Rock Interconnecting Rooms	>Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage >Bathing With Elephants At The Millennium Elephant Foundation >Golden Cave Temples At Dambulla
04	04/08	Dambulla	Chaaya Village Deluxe Interconnecting Room	Kassapa Lions Rock Interconnecting Rooms	>The Ancient Medieval Capital Of Polonnaruwa >Travel By Exclusive Private Jeep To See 'The Gathering' Of Elephants At Minneriya Or Kaudulla Lakes (Best July-September)
05	05/08	Kandy	Chaaya Citadel Deluxe Interconnecting Rooms	Thilanka Hotel Interconnecting Rooms	>The Sigiriya Rock Fortress, One Of The Wonders Of The Ancient World >Elephant Back Ride At Habarana >Temple Of The Buddha's Tooth
06	06/08	Hill Country	Melheim Resort Adjoining Rooms	The Bandarawela Hotel Adjoining Rooms	>By Train Through The Hill Country (Observation Car)
07	07/08	Yala	Elephant Reach Interconnecting Rooms	Wild Escape Family Cottage	>The Beautiful View Of Sri Lanka's Hill Country At Ella Gap >Ravana Ella Waterfalls
08	08/08	Yala	Elephant Reach Interconnecting Rooms	Wild Escape Family Cottage	>Leopards And Wild Elephants At Yala National Park – Exclusive Private PM Jeep Safari
09	09/08	Galle	The Fort Printers Adjoining Rooms	Fort Dew Adjoining Rooms	>Sri Lanka's Famous Stilt Fishermen At Koggala >Galle Fort And Ramparts Enclosing A Perfectly Preserved Old Heritage Town
10	10/08	Beach	1		>Hikkaduwa Coral Gardens Boat Trip >Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery >Drop Off At Beach Hotel
11	11/08	Beach	2		
12	12/08	Beach	3		
13	13/08	Beach	4		
14	14/08	Beach	5		
15	15/08	Depart Colombo Arrive UK			>Transfer To Colombo Airport

Yellow=Beach

Note: From 15 September – 30 October Yala National Park May Sometimes Be Closed To Visitors. In This Event, Uda Walawe National Park Will Be Used With Comparable Accommodation At Uda Walawe.

Note: Special Choice – An Eclectic Choice Of Properties Providing Accommodation At Affordable Prices

Day 01 – Depart UK

Day 02 – Colombo



Aerial View Of Colombo

Relax At Colombo

Colombo is an ideal location for rest and relaxation. Surrounding the city centre or Fort is the shopping area called Pettah with colourful bazaars and markets lining the streets. The best restaurants in the island are to be found in the city as well as a collection of world famous Old Empire hotels that hark back to a bygone era.



Gangaramaya Temple



Temple On Beira Lake

Day 03 – Dambulla



Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage

Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage

Set in a pretty riverside location, this is home to about 70 Elephants- the largest group of orphaned Elephants in the world! Most have been found injured or abandoned in the wild. Baby calves, some only a few weeks old are fed by bottle and the whole herd is then bathed in the adjoining river. A tour highlight for many visitors to Sri Lanka.

Millennium Elephant Foundation

Located near to Pinnawela, this is a highly reputed charitable trust that is heavily involved in elephant conservation of domesticated elephants in Sri Lanka. Unlike the Pinnawela Orphanage, here you can wash and feed the elephants, or even take an elephant shower if you wish! There are 7 domesticated elephants at the Millennium Elephant Foundation.

See their website: <http://www.millenniumelephantfoundation.com/>



The Golden Cave Temple At Dambulla

The Golden Cave Temple At Dambulla

An extremely ancient series of 5 cave temples containing thousands of Buddhist images and paintings, which date back 2000 years. Sri Lanka's artistic masterpiece and a UNESCO World Heritage Site of prime importance.

Day 04 – Dambulla



Gal Vihare Sculptures At Polonnaruwa

The Ancient City Of Polonnaruwa

The capital of medieval Sri Lanka from 11th-14th Century contains ruins of stupas, temples and monasteries, which are still excellently preserved. The Gal Vihare with 3 huge rock-cut images of the Buddha is one of the world's great works of Buddhist sculpture.



Elephants At Minneriya Lake

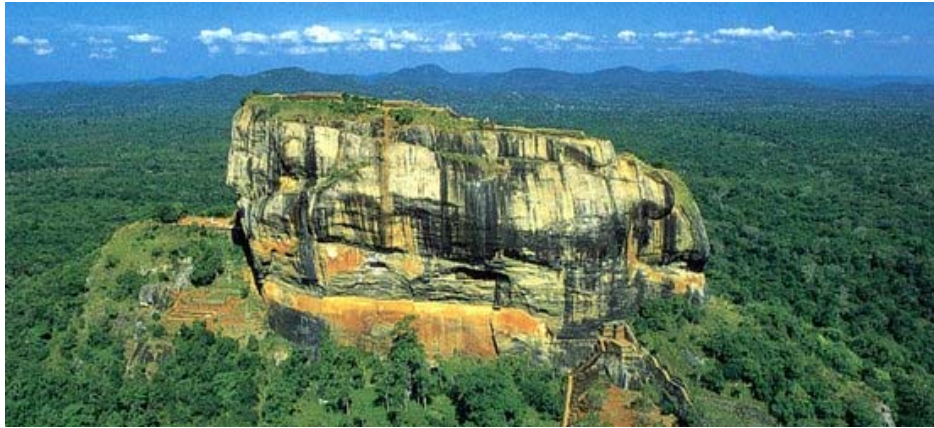
Elephant Watching At Kaudulla Or Minneriya Lake By Jeep

Take a jeep tour of Kaudulla or Minneriya Lake where wild elephants gather by the water's edge in the afternoon. During August and September at Minneriya you may encounter the biggest herds of Asian Elephants to be found anywhere in the world (up to 300!).

The jeep drive to Kaudulla in particular is highly picturesque, following an irrigation canal upto the park entrance. Both National Parks are located around very beautiful lakes in exquisite natural surroundings.



Day 05 – Kandy



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Sigiriya Rock Fortress

The remarkable 'fortress in the sky'. A magnificent rock citadel with beautiful frescoes hidden in a natural cave dating from 470 A.D. The climb to the top from the huge stone Lions Paws is a dizzying experience with superb views over surrounding forests and distant hills. The newly excavated Royal Pleasure Gardens at the foot of the rock are some of the earliest from antiquity. Thought by many to be the 8th Wonder Of The Ancient World!



Temple Of The Tooth

Temple Of The Buddha's Tooth

Arrive in Kandy, the island's prettiest town and the last capital city of the Sri Lankan Kings. The best time to visit its world famous shrine, containing the revered tooth of the Buddha is the evening 'pooja' ceremony when the temple is illuminated with flickering lamps - a magical experience.

A beautiful view of Kandy can be seen from Lake Drive above the pretty Kandy Lake. You may also visit the Old Town area adjacent to the temple, which contains some very early British colonial and Kandyan period buildings in a narrow maze of streets. UNESCO has designated the whole area as a World Heritage Site.



Day 06 – Hill Country



Hill Country Express

By Train Through Sri Lanka's Hill Country

Without doubt One Of The Most Beautiful Train Journeys In The World. The Observation Car gives magnificent views of the Hill Country while passing cascading waterfalls.

The Hill Country Of Sri Lanka

Tea estates cover the mountains of the island in a vast expanse of green as far as the eye can see. Legendary Hill Stations of the British tea planters who came to Ceylon, as it was then known include Nuwara Eliya and Bandarawela. Amazing views from the southern escarpment of the Uva Hills can be experienced at Haputale and Ella.



Hill Country Near Nuwara Eliya



Tea Estates Near Nuwara Eliya



Day 07 – Yala

Tea Overlooking The Ella Gap

Ella Gap

Perhaps the most magnificent view in Sri Lanka is seen from the garden of the Ella Rest House. Isolated hills on the plain can be seen 'popping up like islands in the mist'.

Ella

The area around the spectacular 'Ella Gap' is a great place for walking and relaxation. The well known Ravana Ella Waterfall is one of the most beautiful in Sri Lanka.



Idyllic Tea Estates And Waterfalls At Ella



Day 08 – Yala

Leopard Crossing Road At Yala

Encounters With Leopards And Wild Elephants At Yala National Park-Jeep Safari

The largest wildlife park in Sri Lanka is very reminiscent of the African savannah and is where the greatest variety of wildlife can be observed. Herds of Spotted Deer, solitary Sambar or Elk and Wild Boar are common. Peacocks are plentiful in the jungles. Monster Crocodiles are to be seen at some of its watering holes.

Yala is now gaining an international reputation as the best place to watch Leopards in Asia. It has the highest population density of Leopards in the world and is one of the few locations where they can be observed during daylight hours.



Sloth Bear At Yala



Day 09 – Galle



Old Galle

The South Coast Road

The journey to your beach hotel will be on one of the most beautiful roads in the world. Hugging the coast for long stretches through a picture-postcard tropical coastline you will have many opportunities to stop and enjoy the view along the way.

Tangalle

Tangalle has perhaps the most beautiful area of coastline in the whole of Sri Lanka. Still unspoilt with miles of deserted beaches and an ocean of the deepest shade of blue. You can choose to relax by the beach or explore the surrounding areas which have bird-filled lagoons and turtle nesting beaches.

The Old Dutch Fort Of Galle

An ancient port with its commanding Dutch Fort (1640) enclosing a perfectly preserved Old Town of great historical and architectural value. UNESCO has designated some 200 buildings inside the fort as a World Heritage Site. You can walk down streets that have remained unchanged for over 300 years! The recently renovated New Oriental Hotel (Amangalle) is thought to be the oldest hotel in Asia.



Galle Lighthouse



Day 10 – To Sri Lanka's Beaches



The South Coast Road

Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery

Here you may see baby turtles that are conserved for release into the ocean at an important turtle-nesting beach. Turtle eggs are collected from nearby beaches and hatched in large tanks. Depending on the time of day, it may be possible for you to release a handful into the ocean and watch them disappear with the breaking waves.



Baby Turtles At Kosgoda Hatchery



Turtle Hatchery And Baby Turtles



Depart Sri Lanka