

Byroads
Inspiring Escorted Journeys

Secrets of Sri Lanka





SECRETS OF SRI LANKA

DISCOVER THE TIMELESS BEAUTY OF THIS
ISLAND PARADISE

14 DAYS

A TREASURE ISLAND REVEALED



DEPARTS FROM:
COLOMBO

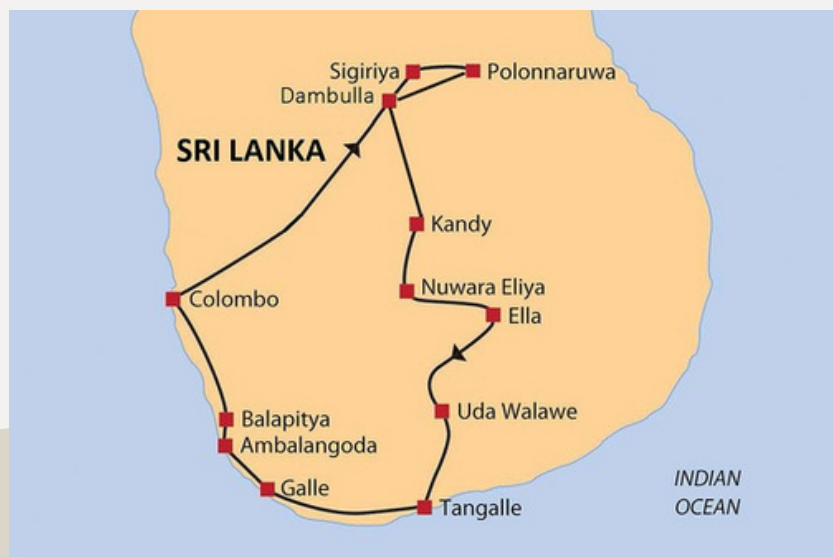


MAX GROUP SIZE:
14 PEOPLE



PHYSICAL LEVEL
MODERATE

Sri Lanka is known as the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean'. Discover an island of emerald landscapes and vibrant cultures, coloured by history and brimming with ancient ruins, sacred temples, and colonial fortresses. Every step is an adventure in wonder on this immersive Byroads exploration of this island nation.



HIGHLIGHTS

- National Museum Colombo
- Dambulla Cave Temples
- Ancient City of Polonnaruwa
- Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Spice Plantation Visit
- Kandy- Old Sinhalese Capital
- Temple of the Tooth
- Kandy Botanical Gardens
- Tea Plantation Visit Tea Museum
- 'Little Adam's Peak' Walk
- Ella Market & Cooking Class
- Buduruwagala Giant Buddha
- Udawalawe National Park
- Game Drive in Uda Walawe
- South Coast Beach Retreat
- Galle Fort
- Ambalangoda Mask Museum
- Madu River Boat Safari

MEET YOUR HOST



Every Byroads tour is supported by an experienced Byroads Escort – a true travel professional with a genuine passion for travel and people. They take care of all the nitty-gritty details to ensure your trip runs smoothly – and you can focus on enjoying the moment.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: TUE 16NOV27 - COLOMBO

Arrive at Bandaranaike International Airport near Colombo, where you'll be met and transferred to your centrally located hotel. Take some time to unwind after your journey and settle into your surroundings. In the evening, meet your fellow travellers and Byroads Tour Leader for a casual briefing and welcome to your Sri Lankan adventure.

DAY 2: WED 17NOV27 - COLOMBO

Begin your day with a visit to St. Anthony's Catholic Church, a revered pilgrimage site known for its peaceful atmosphere and reputation for miracles. This cherished place of worship is beloved by locals of all faiths and offers a moment of quiet reflection in the heart of the city. Nearby stands the striking Jami Ul-Alfar Mosque, a Colombo icon with its candy-striped red-and-white façade and unique Indo-Saracenic design. Built in 1909, it remains one of the most distinctive religious landmarks in Sri Lanka.

Next, explore the fascinating National Museum, home to a superb collection of royal regalia, ancient artefacts, and artwork that traces the island's long and complex history—from ancient kingdoms to colonial rule. Afterwards, enjoy a leisurely drive through Colombo's colonial quarters, where grand buildings and historic landmarks reflect the city's Portuguese, Dutch, and British influences. Your guide will share stories of Colombo's past and point out key sites that shaped the city's unique character.

This afternoon, take time to relax or explore on your own in the historic Fort district, with its colonial charm, seaside views, and lively mix of shops, cafes, and heritage buildings. (B)

DAY 3: THU 18NOV27 - DAMBULLA

Travel northeast to Dambulla, home to the spectacular Golden Temple of Dambulla. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the largest and best-preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka, dating back to the 1st century BC. Step inside the temple's cool stone chambers to discover a series of caves richly adorned with murals and over 150 statues of the Buddha, as well as Hindu deities. The serenity and artistry of the site make for a memorable visit.

After exploring, continue to your nearby hotel and settle in for a relaxing two-night stay, surrounded by the natural beauty of Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle. (B)

DAY 4: FRI 19NOV27 - POLONNARUWA - DAMBULLA

This morning, journey to the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka's second capital after Anuradhapura. A UNESCO-listed site, Polonnaruwa flourished from the 11th to 13th centuries and remains one of the best-preserved historical cities on the island. Wander among ruins of royal palaces, ancient shrines, monastic buildings and enormous stupas, all reflecting the advanced engineering and artistic brilliance of the ancient Sinhalese. Highlights include the Gal Vihara, with its beautifully carved Buddha statues in various postures.

On the return to Dambulla, stop at a local woodcarving workshop, where skilled artisans continue a time-honoured craft, producing intricate creations from fragrant native woods. (B)

DAY 5: SAT 20NOV27 - SIGIRIYA - KNUCKLES RANGE - KANDY

After breakfast, head to Sigiriya, one of Sri Lanka's most iconic landmarks. This dramatic 200-metre-high rock fortress, often referred to as the 'Lion Rock', was once a royal citadel and palace. Climb to the summit, stopping en route to view the famed Sigiriya frescoes and the Mirror Wall. At the top, be rewarded with stunning panoramic views and insights into the architectural ingenuity of this 5th-century marvel.

Continue your journey through the misty Knuckles Mountain Range, enjoying a scenic drive and picnic lunch en route. Before arriving in Kandy, stop to explore a spice plantation, where fragrant cinnamon, pepper, and cardamom grow in the fertile highland soil. (B)

ITINERARY

DAY 6: SUN 21NOV27 - KANDY

Nestled in the central highlands and ringed by mountains, Kandy is one of Sri Lanka's most charming and historically significant cities. Begin your day with a guided exploration of this UNESCO World Heritage-listed city, once the final capital of the ancient Sinhalese monarchy. Visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, the island's most revered Buddhist site, believed to house a tooth relic of the Buddha himself. The temple's spiritual atmosphere and ornate architecture leave a lasting impression.

Later, stroll through the Royal Botanical Gardens of Peradeniya, famous for its collection of orchids, towering palms, and medicinal plants. If time permits, visit a gem workshop to learn about Sri Lanka's legendary sapphires and semi-precious stones. (B)

DAY 7: MON 22NOV27 - NUWARA ELIYA - ELLA

Today, delve into Sri Lanka's tea heritage. Visit the Ceylon Tea Museum to learn about the evolution of tea cultivation, processing, and export—one of the cornerstones of the nation's identity. Ascend into the cool highlands to Nuwara Eliya, a colonial-era hill station affectionately known as 'Little England' for its cool climate and British-style architecture. Enjoy a traditional lunch at the charming Hill Club, a relic of the British Raj with its old-world charm.

In the afternoon, pass through tea plantations and misty mountain passes as you travel to the laid-back town of Ella, where you'll spend the night surrounded by lush greenery. (B)

DAY 8: TUE 23NOV27 - ELLA

Wake to the breathtaking views from your hotel, overlooking Ella Gap, a dramatic cleft in the hills that opens out to the southern plains below. This morning, browse for fresh ingredients at the local market, then head to a traditional kitchen for a hands-on Sri Lankan cooking class. Learn to blend spices and prepare local favourites, followed by a delicious lunch featuring your creations.

After lunch, enjoy free time. You might choose to hike to Little Adam's Peak, an easy and scenic 45-minute walk with sweeping views from the summit. Or simply relax at the hotel with a pot of Ceylon tea, soaking in the tranquil highland air. (B,L)

DAY 9: WED 24NOV27 - BUDURUWAGALA – UDAWALAWE NATIONAL PARK

Today you descend from the hills to the southern plains. En route, stop at Buduruwagala, where a towering 15-metre-high rock-carved Buddha stands serenely amidst jungle surrounds, flanked by six other mysterious figures.

Arrive at Udawalawe National Park, one of the best places in Sri Lanka to see elephants in the wild. After lunch, hop aboard a jeep safari and head into the park in search of elephants, deer, water buffalo, wild boar, and numerous bird species. Later, visit the Elephant Transit Home, a respected rehabilitation centre for orphaned elephant calves, where the focus is on returning them to the wild. (B)

DAY 10: THU 25NOV27 - SOUTH COAST RETREAT

After breakfast, travel to the south coast and check in to a charming beach retreat nestled along a stretch of white sand and turquoise water. This afternoon is yours to unwind. Swim in the ocean, enjoy a relaxing Ayurvedic massage, or simply soak up the sun with a book and a fresh coconut in hand. Today is about relaxation, wellness, and reconnecting with nature. (B)

ITINERARY

DAY 11: FRI 26NOV27 - GALLE

After a leisurely breakfast depart your beach retreat and travel along Sri Lanka's picturesque southern coastline to the historic city of Galle, arriving later in the afternoon. En route, pass fishing villages, coconut groves, and glimpses of the glittering Indian Ocean.

Having checked in to your hotel inside the old fort or nearby, enjoy some free time to settle in, relax, or take a short stroll through this character-filled town. As evening falls, the fort's golden-hour light and sea breeze make for an especially atmospheric welcome. (B)

DAY 12: SAT 27NOV27 - GALLE

This morning, explore Galle in depth on a guided walking tour of the UNESCO-listed Dutch Fort, the best-preserved colonial sea fortress in Asia. Stroll along the ramparts, admire the elegant architecture, and visit key sites such as the Dutch Reformed Church, the 19th-century Clock Tower, and the Old Dutch Hospital, now transformed into a stylish shopping and dining precinct.

Later, enjoy a leisurely afternoon to discover more at your own pace. Options include visiting the National Maritime Museum, exploring the Japanese Peace Pagoda, relaxing at the beach, or enjoying a long lunch at one of Galle's excellent cafes and restaurants. With its artistic vibe and laid-back charm, Galle is the perfect place to unwind before your journey north. (B)

DAY 13: SUN 28NOV27 - AMBALANGODA - MADU RIVER - COLOMBO

This morning begin the journey back to Colombo. En route, stop at the Mask Museum in Ambalangoda, where the intricate world of Sri Lankan mask-making comes to life. Learn about traditional performances and the spiritual meanings behind these vivid creations.

Afterward, take a tranquil boat ride on the Madu River, an estuary known for its biodiversity. Cruise past mangrove forests, small islands, and local fishermen, gaining insight into the region's ecosystem and traditional livelihoods. Arrive in Colombo late afternoon and enjoy a final evening in the capital. (B)

DAY 14: MON 29NOV27 - DEPART COLOMBO

The Secrets of Sri Lanka tour comes to an end after breakfast today. Taxis to the airport are available, or Byroads can arrange a private transfer on request. We hope you leave with rich memories and a deep appreciation for the beauty and diversity of Sri Lanka. (B)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

GUIDES

- ✓ Byroads tour host and national and local guides

TRANSPORT

- ✓ Arrival transfer, private bus with air-conditioning, jeep, boat

ACCOMMODATION

- ✓ 13 nights (3 to 4-star hotel average)

MEALS

- ✓ 13 breakfasts, 1 lunch

TICKETS

- ✓ Entrance fees to indicated sites



GETTING THERE: FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS

Sri Lankan Airlines, Singapore Airlines and Thai Airways are good options to get to Colombo. You can book your flights online or via your travel agent who may also offer you alternative airlines.

Your arrival transfer is included however your departure transfer is not and can be booked on request

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

We'd love to do it all for you. But there are a few things you'll need to arrange yourself. This includes your:

- Visa
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Departure transfer
- International flights
- Additional meals and drinks
- Cash for tipping kitty
- Optional tours
- Spending of a personal nature
- Laundry

ACCOMMODATION

Byroads accommodation is a destination unto itself. We choose our hotels carefully to ensure a seamless transition from your day exploring to a night of relaxation. Think traditional architecture blended with modern comforts – and plenty of views.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



Suisse Hotel Kandy Experience a charming retreat that exudes colonial elegance amidst lush greenery. Savor exquisite dining and relax in beautifully designed rooms while soaking in the surrounding views.



Grand Udawalawe Safari Resort Discover a tranquil oasis designed for relaxation and comfort. Enjoy beautifully appointed rooms with a serene atmosphere. Take a refreshing dip in the pool and unwind in the lush gardens.



98 Acres Resort Set on a tea estate with stunning panoramic views, this remarkable lodge is within a 15-minute walk of Little Adam's Peak and the Nine Arches Bridge, offering a peaceful escape amidst nature's beauty.

THE FINER DETAILS

DATES AND PRICES

DATE	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
16 November 2027	*4235 USD	*1000 USD
Due to the volatility of international currencies, trip fees are calculated in US Dollars. However, you will be charged in Australian dollars. Currency conversion is based on Westpac Banking Corporation's buying rate on your balance due date.		

*Provisional 2027 Prices

Additional expenses

Tipping is customary, so please allow extra funds for the tipping kitty. This will pay your local and national guides, drivers and porters.

MEALS

Breakfast is included daily, and one lunch. Elsewhere, you can enjoy the delicious variety of local food on offer. Meals typically cost between 10-15 USD for lunch and 15-20 USD for dinner.

DOCUMENTATION

Once we've received your final payment, we'll post you a comprehensive field guide. It's a physical document you can keep handy to inform your travels. It also includes all relevant tour and accommodation information you may need to book your visa.

VISAS

Visas are required for most nationalities, including Australians and New Zealanders. The Sri Lankan tourist visa is applied for on-line. Other nationalities should check with Byroads.

READY TO PACK YOUR BAGS?



BOOK ONLINE NOW
(available 24/7)

Or visit: www.byroads.com.au/portfolio_page/byroads-booking-form/



Got questions? Contact us at travel@byroads.com.au