



Sri Lanka at a Glance

Sri Lanka at a Glance Private Tour 11 days

From stunning scenery to amazing architecture, Sri Lanka is a tropical paradise island steeped in history and culture. This extraordinary short tour through Sri Lanka, encompasses all the sights of Colombo, nature spotting in Yala National Park and a visit to the coastal fort of Galle

Inclusive price includes:

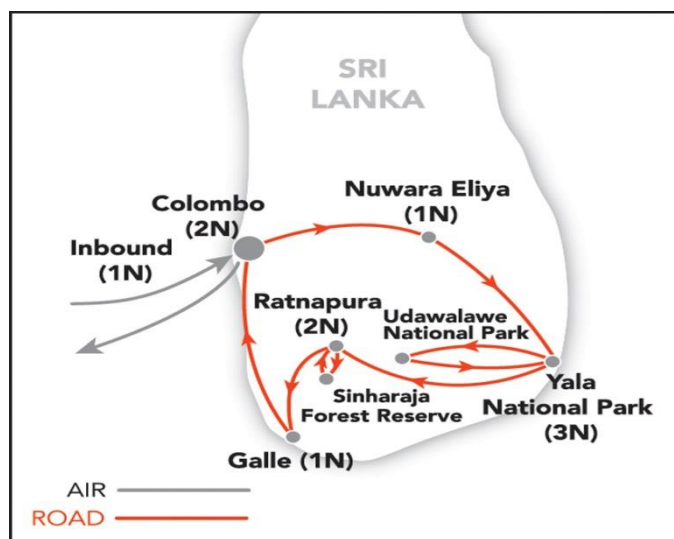
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated, excluding drinks
- Touring with guides and entrance fees,
- Visa fees for UK passport holders

Your Tour Dossier

This document is designed to be read in conjunction with the other pre-departure information provided by Wendy Wu Tours including the tour itinerary as described in our brochure and/or website. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour.

If there are any particular challenges, from the length of time spent on your feet, the length of drives and flights, to the standard of remote accommodation; they will be explained here.

All passengers must read this document to ensure the itinerary is suitable for their interests and physical capabilities. This is not your final itinerary and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.



Welcome to Wendy Wu Tours

Sri Lanka continues to amaze, fascinate and thrill our passengers, many of whom have travelled to one country in Asia with us, then another, year after year. We urge you to keep in mind all the rewards, as well as challenges of travelling in a country with a history, culture and attitude so unlike your own.

A typical day's sightseeing may include the bustle and noise of a city street, sights and smells of a local market and interacting with the locals. Travelling in Sri Lanka requires patience as potential delays are to be expected due to standards of service. There is a low level of English spoken throughout Sri Lanka, so your local guides will be indispensable during your trip.

Almost everything will be different to what you may be used to. We have found that our passengers who embark with a sense of humour and adventure, who accept that things do not always go to plan, are those who find their experience most rewarding. It is essential that all passengers recognise the demands of factors such as basic facilities and cultural differences they may encounter in some areas.

Sri Lanka at a Glance Private Tour – Comfortable Paced Tour

Our private tours are accessible to everyone. This tour will involve sightseeing on foot and some climbing of stairs

This tour is not strenuous, and can be taken at a pace that suits the abilities of passengers travelling in your party. If any member of your party has mobility difficulties, please advise Wendy Wu Tours, so that our operators can be advised and may rearrange the itinerary to suit your needs. If at any point during the tour you feel you are being rushed, or not moving fast enough, please let your local guide know, so that they may adjust the touring accordingly and provide you with the best experience possible.

NB: Please note that times and distances listed in the tour dossier are approximate.

Days 1-2: UK/Colombo

On Day 2, you will be met at Colombo airport in the arrivals hall by your Local Guide from Wendy Wu Tours. Transfer to your hotel and check-in.

No Meals Included

Day 3: Colombo

Sightseeing today includes a tour of the city, starting with a visit to Fort District, the historic centre of the city. Adjacent to Fort is Pettah Market, a shopper's dream where each street is dedicated to a particular product. We will visit Sea Street - the Goldsmith's quarters in the heart of Pettah. Nearby is a Hindu temple with elaborate stone carvings and the bell mounted on the belfry at Kayman's Gate, the original entrance to the Fort.

You will also visit the Dutch Church of Wolfendhall, Kelaniya Buddhist Temple, Davatagaha Mosque and the Colombo and Natural History museums. We end our tour of Colombo at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) where we will see a replica of Avukana Buddha and the Independence Memorial. Tour takes around 3 hours.

Later continue to Nuwara Eliya (5 hour drive), visiting a tea plantation and tea factory en-route. Here you can observe the process of manufacturing tea.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 4: Nuwara Eliya – Yala National Park

After breakfast visit Sita Amman Temple. According to legend, the temple is believed to mark the spot where the goddess Sita was held captive by King Ravana. Continue onto the Hakgala Botanical Gardens, known for its roses, ferns and medicinal plants, and located beneath the towering Hakgala rock. Tour lasts around 1 hour. Later this afternoon depart for Yala National Park (around 5 hours drive), home to elephants, leopards, sambhur, wild buffalo and over 130 birds species. Enjoy an evening jeep safari.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 5: Yala National Park

Today you will enjoy a morning (commences at 5:30) and afternoon jeep safari (commences at 15:00) around the park, visiting Block 1 which is said to contain the world's largest leopard population. Listen out for the leopards purr as you drive around the reserve. Each safari takes 3 hours.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 6: Yala National Park – Udawalawe National Park

Today you will take part in a safari of The Udawalawe National Park by jeep. Journey to Udawale take 2.5-3 hours. The area of this park is 30,821 hectares and is a dry zone park which was declared as a national park in 1972. This park is world famous for its elephants seen in all their playfulness, whole herds of them, adults and babies bathing and playing in the water or feeding. In addition to the elephants, deer species such as spotted deer, sambhur, barking deer and

langur, water buffalo and jackal are some of the prominent wild animals found in this park.

Return to Yala National Park this afternoon for an overnight stay.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 7: Yala National Park - Ratnapura

This morning depart Yala National Park for Ratnapura, the famous gem mining town of Sri Lanka. Travel time around 3-4 hours. The name Ratnapura translates to 'City of Gems' and here you will see the famous Ceylon Sapphires being mined. The experience of seeing the manual process of miners digging, washing & sifting the stones will definitely be a memorable one.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8: Ratnapura – Sinharaja Forest Reserve

Enjoy a tour of the Sinharaja Forest Reserve, the only UNESCO World Heritage listed rainforest in Sri Lanka. Sinharaja, which translates to Kingdom of the lion, is made up of 8,864sq km hectares of forest. The Reserve has an abundance of flora; many of the plants are very rare and are represented by only one individual of its kind. There is also a wealth of endemic species including birds, fish, reptiles, snakes and amphibians. Tour lasts around 3-4 hours.

Return to Ratnapura and have the afternoon at your leisure.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 9: Ratnapura - Galle

This morning you will leave for Galle (3.5 hour drive). Upon arrival in Galle stroll around the lighthouse and the Old Town followed by a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage listed

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Before You Leave

Itinerary Changes - The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your Local Guide will inform you of any changes as they are informed of them. Roads in Sri Lanka have generally been improved over recent years, but some road construction and/or weather conditions may still lengthen the driving times. Similarly, if you feel whilst on tour that you are being rushed, or moving too slow, please speak to your local guide, to ensure that the pace of your tour suits your abilities.

Visas - A visa is required for entry into Sri Lanka. A standard visa processing service is included in your tour cost. We will require your passport, completed visa application form, and 1 passport photo, taken within the last 6 months, to process your visa. We will require all this information 8 weeks prior to departure. As per our standard visa processing service, we will have your passport for at least 4 weeks. In rare cases you may be required to provide further information or documentation to the Sri Lankan Embassy and/or be required to attend an interview at the embassy in London. If this is the case we will notify you as soon as possible.

Vaccinations and Your Health - We recommend that you contact either your local GP or a travel doctor for advice on vaccinations and travel health. www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk is a comprehensive website that you may also find useful.

Climate - Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

Dutch Fort, the best preserved colonial fort built in the whole of Asia.

Continue on with a visit to the Dutch Reformed Church along with the Dutch Museum which contains paintings, prints, documents, furniture & ceramics from the Dutch colonial era.

Breakfast and a Picnic Lunch

Day 10: Colombo

This morning transfer back to Colombo (3 hours) and spend the day at leisure.

Breakfast

Day 11: Galle/UK

This morning transfer back to Colombo Airport where you will fly back to the UK. Depending on your chosen airline your flight will either arrive this evening or tomorrow.

Breakfast

Land Only

If you are travelling on a land only basis, then you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel in Colombo on Day 2. On Day 10, you will checkout from your Colombo hotel, and continue as per your own arrangements.

Please refer to the Wendy Wu Tours brochure and/or website for details on departure dates, prices, itineraries, inclusions and tour extensions available as well as full booking conditions.

Insurance - It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Suggested Packing List - A complete list will be provided with deposit documentation and your final documentation pack.

What to Expect on Tour

Development - Although Sri Lanka is developing, it still lacks international standards of civil infrastructure and therefore tourist facilities. For example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade; concepts of personal responsibility are different to those in the UK. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the UK. However, all of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense as well as refer to notices and follow advice from your Local Guide.

Accommodation - Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Sri Lanka. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Four and five star hotels are also available on private tours. If you would like to upgrade, please speak to one of our reservation consultants.

Meals – Some meals are included in our private tours, please see inclusions above. If you would like to travel on a fully inclusive meal basis please speak to Wendy Wu Tours, to arrange this prior to travel. Included meals are designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout Sri Lanka. For meals not included, local guides will be happy to assist with recommendations on where and what to eat in order to fully appreciate this vastly different cuisine.

Tipping - As with most countries, tipping is a way of life in Sri Lanka. For private tours we recommend an amount of US \$5 per person per day for tipping to be distributed amongst drivers, restaurants, guides etc. This amount is at your own discretion.

Optional Extras - Prior to departure you may wish to add on some extra touring or evening shows to your itinerary, as you are travelling on a private basis, which means you have flexibility and choice. Please speak to one of our reservation consultants to discuss the optional extras available. Whilst on tour, your local guide may offer you some extra touring or unique experiences. The cost can range in price, so please allow extra money if you feel you may participate in any extra activities.

Personal Expenses- You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of £150 per week should be sufficient; however for those that can't resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

After Your Booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application help sheet, and an Indian travel guide. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approx. 2 weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, suggested packing list, travel guide and phrase book, along with your final itinerary and international tickets.

Last Updated December 2013