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# 8 Days

# Day 1 According to your request pick up at the airport or hotel

## **Transfer Anuradhapura**

**Overnight Anuradhapura** 

### Day 2 Anuradhapura

Anuradhapura was the centre of various royal dynasties for more than 1000 years. The Sri Mahabodhi Tree (poplar fig) is said to come from a branch of the tree under which Buddha Siddharta Gautama had attained enlightment. Imposant are also the large Dagobas like Ruvanvelisaya and Jethawana.

Since 1982 Anuradhapura is UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### **Mihintale**

Mihintale is one of the oldest Buddhism complexes of Sri Lanka. The monk Mahinda was sent by the Indian king Ashoka to announce the Buddhism in Sri Lanka.

**Overnight Anuradhapura** 

## **Day 3 Wilpattu Nationalpark**

The uniqueness of this national park are the "Willus" (natural lakes). Wilpattu is famous for its leopard population and also for a large variety of birds and reptiles.

**Overnight Anuradhapura** 

## Day 4 Sigiriya

Transfer to Sigiriya approx. 1,5 hours

### **Village Tour Sigiriya**

This rural village tour gives you an idea of the Sri Lankan lifestyle. We will provide bullock cart ride, sightseeing of paddy fields, catamaran ride on a lake and cooking demonstration.

### **Sigiriya Rock**

One of the most fascinating sights of Sri Lanka is the 200m high Lion's rock (Singha Giri). You will go up early in the morning.

On the top you will see the foundation walls of the palace as Sigiriya was a former kingdom. About half way up you can admire frescoes also known as "cloud maiden" under a rock overhang. Since 1982 Sigiriya has been UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Overnight Sigiriya** 



### Day 5 Dambulla

The cave temples of Dambulla cover an area of 2.100m<sup>2</sup> and is herewith the largest temple complex of Sri Lanka. King Valagamba of Anuradhapura once used it as an exile when the city was occupied by the Indians. In many cave temples paintings and statues can be admired. Since 1991 Dambulla is UNESCO World Heritage Site.

## Transfer from Dambulla to Kandy approx. 2,5 hours

**Overnight Kandy** 

On the way: Visiting Spice Garden

## Kandy

One of the kingdoms was Kandy which was able to hold this status against the numerous conquests by the colonial power (Portugal, Netherlands, United Kingdom) for a long time. Kandy is located in the Central Highlands at an altitude of just 500m. Here also flows the Mahaweli river the longest river of Sri Lanka with 335km longitude.

## **Tooth Temple (Sri Dalada Maligawa)**

Where does the name tooth temple comes from? The upper left canine tooth of Buddha Siddharta Gautama is kept here as a relic. The tooth keeps the spiritual power of Buddha. It symbolises good harvest and protects the land from drought. The tooth temple is considered to one of the most pilgrimage sites for Buddhists. In the early morning, late morning and in the evening the shrine with the tooth is opened in a ceremony and the pilgrims are allowed to take a brief look at it.

**Overnight Kandy** 

# **Day 6 Royal Botanical Garden Peradeniya**

With an area of 80 hectares and thus the largest botanical garden of Sri Lanka. Here you can observe around 4000 plants: Orchids, spice plants, medical plants, different palm species, bamboo plants, ficus trees and much more.

# **Gem Museum Kandy**

Sri Lanka is popular for its gems like topas, saphire or ruby. In this muesum you will learn interesting facts about the various gemstones. A short film impressively shows the steps for mining the gemstones.

### Transfer Nuwara Eliya approx. 2,5 hours

### On the way: Tea factory with tea tasting

Experience which stages tea leaves have to go through to become an aromatic drink. Finally you are cordially invited for a tea tasting.

**Overnight Nuwara Eliya** 



## **Day 7 Nuwara Eliya**

The reason why Nuwara Eliya is also known as "Little England" you can recognize on the architecture of the buildings. You can take a boat trip on the Gregory Lake or drive with the bicycle around the lake. In the Victoria Park you can admire different species of plants and birds.

## Hiking Horton Plains/World's End/Baker's Falls (approx. 3-4 hours)

The Horton Plains National Park is located near Nuwara Eliya and belongs to the "Central Highlands of Sri Lanka". It lies at an altitude of 2,000-2,300m and is the most important watershed of the country and contains the most extensive cloud forest area. Therefore, to have a clear view you should start the tour early in the morning. There are around 750 plant species, many of them are endemic. Also animals like Sambar (horse deer), amphibian or birds species are located here. If you reach the **World's End** you have an amazing view maybe just to the sea on a clear day. World's End is a steep slope of 870m.

The Baker's Falls are also located in this national park and spring from the river Belihul Oya.

# **Sight seeing Nuwara Eliya**

# **Gregory Lake**

You can enjoy the lake in different ways: By boat tour, rent a bike and discover the surrounding of the sea or take a walk.

#### Victoria Park

Stroll in this beautiful park where the stream Nanu Oya runs through and creates a number of small lakes. Also some rare species of birds can be seen here.

**Overnight Nuwara Eliya** 

## **Day 8 Haputale**

**Transfer Haputale around 1,5 hours** 

### **Hiking Lipton's Seat**

A beautiful hiking with passing tea plantations on the way to the summit called Lipton's Seat. The name comes from Thomas Lipton, a Scottish businessmen who came 1890 to Sri Lanka and introduced the tea production.

End of the tour

At the end of the tour we will drop you to your desired destination