_____

The Royal Cities of Sri Lanka

Day 1 **According to your request pick up at the airport or hotel and Transfer to Sigiriya**
Overnight Anuradhapura

Day 2 **Anuradhapura**
Anuradhapura was founded in the 4th century B.C. and was the first capital of Sri Lanka. For more than 1000 years Anuradhapura was the political and religious centre of various royal dynasties. After the exvacations revealed palaces, monasteries and monuments Anuradhapura once again became an important centre. The Sri Mahabodhi-Tree (poplar fig) has a great importance. It´s said to have originated from a branch of the tree under which Buddha Siddharta Gautama attained enlightment. Very impressive are the large dagobas like Ruvanvelisaya, Jethawana and Thuparama.
Since 1982 Anuradhapura is named as UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Transfer Sigiriya approx. 1,5 hours
Overnight Sigiriya

Day 3 **Sigiriya**
Sigiriya was a royal city from 473 until 491 A.D. The location of the palace is probably on of the most spectacular sites. It is located on a rock about 200m high, also called Lion Rock (Singha Giri). You can still see the foundation walls, as it was built of wood. About half way up you can admire frescoes called „Cloud Maidens" under a rock overhang. Around the rock the asscociated city was located which was surrounded by a moat. You can see pleasure gardens with relics of fountains, pavillons and a monastery complex. Since 1982 Sigiriya is named as UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Afternoon at your free disposal.
Our suggestion:
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 in a lake and cooking demonstration.
Overnight Sigiriya

Day 4 **Polonnaruwa**
Polonnaruwa was the capital of the second oldest kingdom in Sri Lanka. The kingdom reached its heyday under king Parakrama Bahu (1153-1186 A.D.). During this time the Buddha´s tooth relic was also kept here, which is now in the Tooth Temple in Kandy. The park of Polonnaruwa is one of the tourist attractions in Sri Lanka. You can reconstruct how the city once looked like. You can see numerous Buddha statues, large Dagobas, temples, garden and park complexes. Famous are especially four Buddha statues carved into the rock, named as Buddha statues of Gal Vihara.
Overnight Sigiriya

_____

Day 5 Yapahuwa
Transfer Yapahuwa approx. 3 hours
Yapahuwa is the most unknown city among the royal cities as the time span also was not very long. It was the capital between 1273 and 1284. Similar to the Sigiriya Fortress Yapahuwa was built on a 90m high rock to be better protected against invaders. A staircase with 100 steps leads up to the rock on which the remains of a stupa, a Bodhi tree and a Buddhist monastery can be seen.

Transfer to Kandy approx. 2,5 hours
Overnight Kandy

Day 6 Kandy
Transfer from Sigiriya to Kandy approx. 2,5 hours
Kandy was the kingdom that was able to hold its own for the longest time against the numerous attempts at conquest by the colonial powers (Portugal, Netherlands, United Kingdom). 1815 Kandy was conquered by the British. Kandy is located in the Central Highlands at an altitude of 500m amidst tea plantations and rainforests. Here also flows the Mahaweli river, the longest river of Sri Lanka with 335km.

Royal Botanical Garden Peradeniya
On an area of 80 hectares and thus the largest botanical garden of Sri Lanka. Here y:ou can observe around 4000 plant species: Orchids, spice plants, medical plants, different palm species, bamboo plants and ficus trees.
and much more.

Tooth Temple (Sri Dalada Maligawa)
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 brief look at it.

End of the tour

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