

## 12 Days

**Day 1 According to your request pick up at the airport or hotel  
Transfer and overnight Nilaveli Beach**

**Day 2 Nilaveli Beach**

Enjoy and relax at the beautiful Pasikudah Beach. Calm down and be prepared for the upcoming days of your round trip.

**Overnight Nilaveli Beach**

**Day 3 Trincomalee**

**Tirukoneswaram Temple**

It belongs to the seven most important Shiva-Temples of Sri Lanka and was built on the Swami Rock. The temple flourished since its inception under all kingdoms like Anuradhapura Kingdom, Chola Empire or Jaffna Kingdom. After the destruction of the Portugese the Dutch and the British supported to rebuild this sacred temple.

**Overnight Nilaveli Beach**

**Day 4 Transfer Sigiriya approx. 3,0 hours**

**Sunset on the top of Sigiriya Rock**

One of the most fascinating sights of Sri Lanka is the 200m high Lion's rock (Singha Giri). 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 maidens“ under a rock overhang. Since 1982 Sigiriya has been UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Overnight Sigiriya**

**Day 5 Polonnaruwa (Transfer approx. 1,5 hours)**

Polonnaruwa was the capital of the second oldest kingdom of Sri Lanka. Its heyday reached the kingdom under Parakrama Bahu (1153-1186 AD), during this time the tooth relic of Buddha was also kept here. Now it can be found in the Tooth Temple of Kandy. The park of Polonnaruwa is one of the tourist attractions with numerous Buddha statues, huge dagobas and temple complexes. Particularly impressive are four Buddha statues carved into the rock, called the Buddha statues of Gal Vihara.

**Jeep-Safari Minneriya Nationalpark**

This national park has one of the largest elephant populations in Asia. Furthermore you can see different species of monkeys, leopards, deers and bears.

Due to the huge water reservoir, the park is also one of the most important bird areas.

**Overnight Sigiriya**

### **Day 6 Dambulla**

The cave temple of Dambulla covers 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 to Kandy approx. 2,0 hours**

**On the way: Visiting spice garden**

### **Cultural Dance Kandy**

Traditional dances of the highlands are presented. A cross-section of the most important dances is shown at this event: dances for patron gods, temple dances, drum dances, mask dances and much more. At the end of the show a fire walk is presented.

**Overnight Kandy**

### **Day 7 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.

### **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.

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

In the tooth temple 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 8 Nuwara Eliya

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

The meaning of this city is „City of Light“. Nuwara Eliya is located at 1,990 over the sea level and is surrounded by tea plantations. In this region you also find vegetable and dairy farming. The city was founded in the 19th century by Samuel Baker and served as a resort for the British colonial officers.

Many of the buildings from this time still exist.

### On the way: Tea Factory and 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 9 Hiking Horton Plains

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 200m 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 species 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.

### 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 10 Transfer Udawalawa Nationalpark approx. 4,0 hours

### Elephant Transit Home

The sanctuary for young elephants was founded in 1995. Three times a day you can watch the elephants being fed. A very cute spectacle!

### Overnight Udawalawa

### **Day 11 Jeep-Safari Udawalawa Nationalpark**

One of the most popular national parks is Udawalawe, primarily because of the large elephant population. But also various species of birds, crocodiles, water buffalos, monkeys and much more can be seen.

#### **Overnight Udawalawa**

### **Day 12 Galle**

**Transfer to Galle approx. 2,0 hours**

The most popular sight of Galle is the Fort which was built by the Portuguese in the 16th Century as a fortification around the old town and was extended by the Dutch. The Fort is considered the largest preserved building of its kind in South Asia. In 1988 the Fort was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage

Site. The old town of Galle with its imposing houses from the colonial era invites to stroll around or dine in one of the appealing restaurants.

### **End of the tour**

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