

## 20 Days

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

**Overnight Kalpitiya**

**Day 2 – Day 3 Kalpitiya**

Relax the first days in the lagoon of Kalpitiya. You have the possibility to make a boat tour in the lagoon or try kite surfing.

**Overnight Kalpitiya**

**Day 4 Wilpattu Nationalpark**

**Transfer approx. 2,0 hours**

The uniqueness of this nationalpark 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 5 Anuradhapura**

Anuradhapura was the centre of various royal dynasties for more than 1.000 years. The Sri Mahabodhi Tree (poplar fig) is said to come from a branch of the tree under which Buddha Siddharta Gautama had attained enlightenment. 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 6 Sigiriya**

**Transfer 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 maidens“ under a rock overhang. Since 1982 Sigiriya has been UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Overnight Sigiriya**

### **Day 7 Polonnaruwa**

#### **Transfer around 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. 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.

#### **Overnight Sigiriya**

### **Day 8 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 Kandy approx. 2,5 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 9 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 it's the largest botanical garden of Sri Lanka. You can observe around 4000 plant species with a variety from orchids, spice plants, medical plants to plants from temperate zones. Certainly you also find 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 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 10 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.

### 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.

### Sightseeing Nuwara Eliya

The reason why Nuwara Eliya is also known als „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.

### Overnight Nuwara Eliya

## Day 11 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 2.100-2.300m and is the most important watershed of the country and contains the most extensive cloud forest area. 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. When you reach the **World´s End** you have an amazing view maybe just to the sea on a clear day. The **Baker´s Falls** are also located in this national park and spring from the river Belihul Oya.

### Overnight Nuwara Eliya

## Day 12 Train ride to Ella approx. 3 hours

Enjoy this impressive ride with beautiful landscape.

### Little Adam´s Peak

The ascent to the Little Adam´s Peak lasts around 45 min. A cosy hiking with a beautiful view from the top. On your way you pass an adventure park where you can join some activities.

### Overnight Ella

## Day 13 Nine Arch Bridge

This imposing viaduct bridge stands for railroad construction in the British colonial era. The bridge is approx. 90m long and 24,5m high. It was built in 1921 using only stone and mortar, no iron and steel was used.

### Cooking Demonstration Srilankan Curries

Do you want to discover the secret of the Srilankan kitchen? It's our pleasure to organise a cooking demonstration.

#### Overnight Ella

### Day 14 Udawalawe Nationalpark

Transfer approx. 2,0 hours

#### Jeep-Safari

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 Udawalawe

### Day 15 Elephant Transit Home Udawalawe

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

Transfer Sinharaja Rainforest Reserve approx. 2,5 hours.

#### Overnight Sinharaja Rainforest Reserve

### Day 16 Sinharaja Rainforest Reserve

The Sinharaja Rainforest is the last contiguous tropical forest in Sri Lanka. It is classified by UNESCO as a World Heritage for a Biosphere Reserve. Over 60% of the trees and 95% of the birds found there are endemic.

#### Overnight Sinharaja Rainforest Reserve

### Day 17 Galle

Transfer approx. 3,0 hours

The most popular sight of Galle is the Fort which was built by the Portugese 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.

#### Overnight Galle

### Day 18 – Day 20 Bentota

Enjoy the last days of your tour at one of the beautiful beaches of Bentota.

### End of the Tour

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