



Day 1

Arrive at Colombo International Airport, Katunayake. Meet, assist, welcome with garlands and transfer to Colombo.

Afternoon commence on a city tour.

Drive through the commercial and city centre area known as the Fort, built by the Portuguese in the 16th century. See the busy markets and bazaars of Pettah, visit a Buddhist and a Hindu temple, an old Dutch church and continue to the Cinnamon Gardens residential area. Drive past the Town Hall, Independence Square and the B.M.I.C.H (International Convention Centre).

Dinner & overnight at Galadari Hotel - Colombo or Grand Oriental Hotel - Colombo

Day 2

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast leave for Anuradhapura for sight-seeing.

This ancient city which was founded in the 04th century B.C. has the largest number of Ancient monuments of the great Sinhala civilization which flourished in this region. Visit the Royal Palaces, Shrines, Dagobas and Sri Maha Bodhi. Taking pride of place is the Sri Maha Bodhi, the Bo tree grown from a branch of the very tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment the oldest historically documented tree in the world, over 2200 year old.

Dinner & overnight at Tissawewa Grand - Anuradhapura or Palm Garden Village - Anuradhapura.

Day 3

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning leave for Polonnaruwa for sightseeing.

Polonnaruwa was the Islands medieval Capital during the period 11th to 13th century A.D. The city in its day was fortified with three concentric walls, beautified with parks and gardens and sanctified by many shrines. Visit the ruins of the Audience hall, Council Chamber, the Royal Citadel, the Kumara Pokuna (pond), Royal Pavillion, Siva Dewale, the Thuparama, the Vatadage Relic House, Kiriwehera, Hatadage, Gal Vihare, with most impressive sculptures & stone carvings. Also see the reservoirs.

Thereafter continue drive to Sigiriya and climb Sigiriya rock fortress, built by King Kassapa in the 05th century A.D. The lion rock is a citadel of unusual beauty, rising 200 metres from the scrub jungle. The base of the rock is ringed by a moat and rampart and extensive gardens including the renowned water gardens. See the world famous frescoes of the Heavenly maidens of Sigiriya in a sheltered pocket of the rock. Also see the mirror wall and the lion stairway which leads to the summit.

Return to hotel.

Dinner & overnight at Sigiriya Village - Sigiriya or Thilanka Resort and Spa - Dambulla.



Day 4

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast leave for Kandy.

Enroute visiting Dambulla Rock Cave Temple.

Like Sigiriya, this is a vast isolated rock mass where King Valagambhahu took refuge in the 01st century B.C. He later turned the caves into a rock temple. The temple consists of a series of 5 caves containing many statues and paintings including a 47 ft. long statue of the Buddha.

Thereafter continue drive to Kandy.

Enroute visit spice garden in Matale.

Late afternoon witness a cultural pageant highlighting various up country dance forms, including a fire walking display.

Thereafter visit the Temple of Tooth Relic of the Buddha.

Dinner & overnight at Earl's Regency - Kandy or Hotel Suisse - Kandy.

Day 5

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast leave for Pinnawela to visit the Elephant Orphanage, where you can view the feeding of elephants, which takes place daily. The highlight of this event is to observe feeding of baby elephants using Milk bottles. (All these events can be photographed.) After feeding of the elephants they will be taken by foot to nearby river for their daily bath.

Afternoon : sightseeing tour of Kandy - the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings.

Visit the Peradeniya Botanical Garden , where a rare collection of tropical exotic and indigenous flora can be viewed and also the famous Orchid House.

Visit to the Market Place, and an Arts & Crafts show room. Then drive along the Upper lake road to get a panoramic view of the Kandy lake and its environs and drive past the picturesque University premises.

Dinner & overnight at Earl's Regency - Kandy or Hotel Suisse - Kandy.

Day 6

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast leave for Nuwara-Eliya.

Enroute visit a tea plantation and a tea factory. At the tea factory witness the process of manufacture of tea from plucking of the green leaves to packeting of the processed tea which is mainly meant for export markets.

Evening sightseeing tour of the city.

Visit the Nuwara-Eliya Town, Market place, Golf Course, the Hill Club, and drive around this hill station viewing Lake Gregory.

UK Friends of Galle: Suggested 10-day tour of Sri Lanka



Dinner & overnight at Grand Hotel - Nuwara Eliya or Galway Forest Lodge - Nuwara Eliya.

Day 7

Early morning leave the hotel with packetted breakfast for an excursion to Horton Plains by a private jeep.

Horton plains is a strict nature reserve, the highest plateau in Sri Lanka. Nature lovers will love this wide, Patna-grass covered plain, the haunt of several wild yet harmless animals and the home for many species of birds. ~Bride paths through the plains will take you to the precipice, popularly referred to as Worlds End, a sheer drop of 1050 metres. The view when it is clear of mist is magnificent.

Afternoon at leisure.

Dinner & overnight at Grand Hotel - Nuwara Eliya or Galway Forest Lodge - Nuwara Eliya.

Day 8

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning leave for Tissamaharama.

Evening visit the Yala National Park for a safari by private jeep.

Yala is approximately 1259 Kms in extent and is located in the south eastern corner of the Island. The terrain is varied, flat plains alternating with rocky outcrops. The vegetation ranges from open parkland to dense jungle a must for any wildlife enthusiast with the specialty being the large number of Elephants, Deer, Wild Boar and Sambhur.

Dinner & overnight at Yala Village Hotel



Day 9

Galle

Proceed to Galle (stay at Light house , lady Hill or Cloisenburg)

Visit children and school you support through UKFG

GALLE FORT

Built in 1663, the fort still retains the atmosphere and charm of Dutch days. Many old Dutch buildings are still intact inside the fort. The best way to see the fort is by walking around at the time of sunset. The tranquil atmosphere of the fortress area of Galle belies its turbulent past. The fort was constructed by the Portuguese, later fell to the Dutch and was finally occupied by the British.

Its location on the southwest coast of Sri Lanka put it firmly on the trade route between the East and Europe, and each wave of settlers built their own churches and mansions. Now a World Heritage Site, it is a lovely place to wander and explore the small shops, while outside the fortress area Galle is a bustling city with plenty of sandy coves nearby.

You can either stay in Galle and visit these areas or stay in a beach retreat and make expeditions into the historic centre.

Dutch Museum:

The Dutch Museum which is housed in a restored Dutch mansion of the time, contains paintings, prints, documents, furniture and ceramics from the Dutch colonial era. Housed in old building, the

Nation Museum

The, **National Maritime Museum** (*admission Rs300, 9am-5pm, Wednesday to Saturday*) which is situated is near the main gate of the fort, within the Galle fort has exhibits of sea artifacts nearly 800 years old through underwater expedition, for the visitor. Other attractions of the museum are ancient earthenware, historical maps, beer mugs traditional masks, antique luxury and religious items, inclusive of relic casket for tourist attractions.

Koggala:

Koggala, near Galle is the hometown of a famous local writer Martin Wickramasinghe. The museum of Folk, Art & Culture built in his honour at his old residence has an excellent display of local folk items. They include the costumes of folk dancers, sports items, household items and furniture and vast arena of the folk life of the early 20th century. Take a boat trip in the lagoon and Koggala Lake to see many of its small islands, which is a popular destination for bird watching.

Galle international stadium

Besides, home to a cricket ground, the was redeveloped after the devastating Tsunami that struck Srilanka and other Asian islands, and if you are a cricket freak, you can watch your country play in Srilanka

Unawatuna Beach Resort Galle

The ultimate tropical and exotic destination –is where you find golden sandy stretches, fringed by swaying green palms overlooking the blue India Ocean and beautiful sunsets. It is simply picture perfect and where you would want to holiday. For relaxing, sun and fun, The Unawatuna Beach Resort is pure heaven.

UK Friends of Galle: Suggested 10-day tour of Sri Lanka



Day 10

Drive back to Airport

Although Srilanka's first ever motorway Galle express way is opened now and you could reach Colombo in one hour, if you have time, please take the scenic coastal road to Colombo via Bentota where you could have a few stops to watch the beaches , enjoy local drinks and food