

SRI LANKA

Depart Cairns 24th October at 10.45AM arrive Singapore 3.25PM – Silk air

Accommodation: Peninsular/Excelsior IN: 24th October OUT: 25th October

Depart Singapore 25th October at 10.15AM arrive Colombo 11.35AM – Silk air

Commence the following tour with Intrepid on the 25th October in Colombo and ending in Colombo on the 8th November

Day 1: Negombo

Ayu-bowan! Welcome to Sri Lanka. Your adventure begins in the town of Negombo, located close to the international airport. You can arrive at any time on Day 1 as there are no activities planned until the important welcome meeting at 5.30 pm. Those arriving early can get into the spirit of seaside Sri Lanka by observing the local fishing craft and perhaps feasting on fresh seafood. The beautiful surrounding countryside is best explored on a bicycle, which you can rent with help from the hotel reception.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

Day 2: Anuradhapura

Leave Negombo after breakfast today. Your private vehicle takes you to ancient Anuradhapura via the small town of Chilaw (approximately 5 hours total travel time). Those keen on history and archaeology might like to visit Mihintale, the sacred birthplace of Sri Lankan Buddhism, as a recommended optional activity. The price of this will depend on the number of people sharing the vehicle.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast

Day 3: Anuradhapura

A guided bicycle tour of the city will take place today. Among the ruins you'll see the sacred old Bo Tree, a spiritual reminder of the beginnings of Buddhism in Sri Lanka and the inspiration for Anuradhapura's great buildings. The ruins themselves are spread over quite an area, some in woodland settings and others appearing park-like with columns and ponds dotted about.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Anuradhapura - Bodhi Tree Temple
- Anuradhapura - Bike tour

Meals Included

- Breakfast

Special Information

For the temple visits here and on other days you will need to remove your shoes (leaving socks on is acceptable, and recommended on hot days) and ensure you have your shoulders and legs covered.

[Day 4: Polonnaruwa](#)

Travel on to Polonnaruwa (approximately 2.5 hours), the capital of the Indian Chola Dynasty after Anuradhapura was conquered in the late 10th century. These ruins are close together and generally in much better repair than those you have just seen. Cycling amid the remains of 1,000-year-old Polonnaruwa is once again the best way to get around. Once the heat of the day has eased you'll visit more palaces, temples and stupas. A likely highlight will be the massive stone Buddhas: 14-metre-high granite carvings of the iconic reclining Buddha which represent the zenith of Sinhalese rock carving. You'll also visit the well laid-out museum, which has scale models of many of the buildings to show how they would have existed in their time.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Polonnaruwa - Bike Tour

Meals Included

- Breakfast

[Day 5: Dambulla](#)

Depart Polonnaruwa this morning and travel to Dambulla (approximately 2.5 hours). Explore the amazing Dambulla Cave Temples which are located high on a stone cliff face, with numerous steps to enter. Some 150 Buddha images adorn the five caves, with fascinating frescoes and paintings on the walls and roofs. In the afternoon, you may like to relax by the hotel pool or take an optional wildlife jeep safari to Minneriya, Kaudulla or Eco National Park where you might spot some wild elephants with a bit of luck. Which park is available to visit depends on the season, but both Minneriya and Kaudulla are within easy reach of Dambulla.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Dambulla - Cave Temples

Meals Included

- Breakfast

[Day 6: Sigiriya - Kandy](#)

Early this morning, before the heat is too intense, head to Sigiriya (approximately 30 minutes). This ruined fortress is one of Sri Lanka's premier sights. Those who make it to the top are rewarded with astounding views. Make sure you are wearing sturdy footwear, as this is a very steep climb with some

uneven slopes. Those unable to climb to the top can explore the gardens at the base of the rock and still get some fantastic shots of the fortress from below. Return to the hotel to freshen up before heading to Kandy (approximately 3 hours). On the way, there's the option of stopping at one of the region's wonderful spice gardens for lunch and to learn about the medicinal properties of ingredients used in cooking and treatments. In beautifully located Kandy, visit the Dalada Maligawa (aka Temple of the Tooth), Sri Lanka's most important Buddhist site, and mingle with the white-clad pilgrims who come here to worship. Time permitting, you'll have the option of visiting the National Museum or the world-class Botanical Gardens.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Kandy - Temple of the Tooth
- Sigiriya - Lion Rock

Optional Activities

- Kandy - Botanical Gardens - LKR1200

Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

Special Information

The visit to Lion Rock takes around 3.5 hrs. Start around 7am, reaching the lion paw around 8.30 am. On the way visit the water garden, boulder garden, Sigiriya Frescos and the mirror wall. After the Lion Paw it's a steep climb with plenty of steps and walkways along the side of the rock. This part of the climb takes around 30 minutes. Those not wanting to go to the top can rest at the Lion Paw until the rest of the group return.

[Day 7: Kandy](#)

Today you will visit a nearby tea factory and take a guided tour to learn about the production of Sri Lanka's best-known beverage. Of course, you will also sample some of the delicious varieties while you're here. Your hotel in Kandy, located far from the noise and bustle of the city, is a great place to unwind with lovely views over the town.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Tea Factory Visit

Meals Included

- Breakfast

[Day 8: Bandarawela](#)

Take a scenic train journey into the highlands to Bandarawela (approximately 7 hours). Once in Bandarawela you will visit a local home for a cooking demonstration to learn some secrets of traditional Sri Lankan cuisine. Enjoy the delicious meal afterwards.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Bandarawela - Cooking demonstration & local meal

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Dinner

[Day 9: Haputale](#)

Drive to the starting point for our walk today (approximately 30 mins). This hike (approximately 4.5 hours) takes you through picturesque tea plantations and small Tamil villages. Lunch will be arranged at Tamil tea worker's house. Tonight's accommodation is in a comfortable local lodge.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Hill Country trek

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

The hike requires good walking shoes, as the 'track' is in parts rocky and with vegetation, and if there has been recent rain it can get very muddy and slippery. You do need to be fit, because although the walk is not too demanding, it can be difficult walking on the rough and unsteady ground. Our usual route is about 20 kilometres in total. If you don't feel you are able to complete the hike, you can be taken by vehicle to our lodge in Haputale and wait for the group to arrive.

[Day 10: Kuda Oya](#)

Drive to the nearby starting point for our walk today (approximately 4.5 hours) to explore more of the beautiful surrounds of Sri Lanka's Hill Country. Enjoy this chance to meet the curious tea pickers along the way and stop for an included lunch in Bambarakanda. We will then proceed to Kuda Oya and spend the evening at Gangadhara eco-lodge, a riverside jungle camp. Engage with local Sri Lankans, fish, and enjoy an included barbecue dinner around a bonfire.

Accommodation

- Permanent tented camp (with facilities) (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

If you don't feel you are able to complete today's hike, you can be taken by vehicle to Bambarakanda to enjoy lunch with the rest of the group.

[Day 11: Mirissa](#)

Set off for the beach and enjoy the changing views from jungle hills to Sri Lanka's south coast by private bus (approximately 4 hours) to the beach of Mirissa. This is your paradise for two days of relaxation, with your comfortable accommodation just metres from the water.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast

Special Information

[Day 12: Mirissa](#)

Enjoy a day of beach splendour in Mirissa. The beach itself is a long curve of sand with lovely clear waters for swimming – a great spot to watch the sunset. Consider taking a bicycle ride or tuk-tuk to nearby Weligama, where colourful fishing boats bring fresh fish to sell along the shore or 'bikesplore' the lesser known areas of nearby Galle on an Urban Adventure. The local cottage industry of lace products is also well worth a look. From September to April there is an optional whale watching excursion. Please ask your leader as you'll need to book at least one day in advance.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Optional Activities

- Mirissa - Whale Watching (Nov to Mar) - USD45
- Galle - Bikesplore Galle Urban Adventure - USD49

Meals Included

- Breakfast

[Day 13: Galle](#)

Head further down the coast. Arrive in Galle (approximately 1 hour), home to an impressive World Heritage-listed Dutch fort with extensive walls and many interesting old buildings. In the evening, enjoy a stroll around the historic fort and watch the sunset from the ramparts.

Accommodation

- Guesthouse (1 night)

Included Activities

- Galle - Walking tour

Meals Included

- Breakfast

[Day 14: Colombo](#)

Leaving Galle, we travel on to Colombo by train, the nation's capital (approximately 3 hours). Stop by some of the city's main sights on a bus tour including Independence Square, Parliament, and past the National Museum, finishing with a shopping opportunity for a good cause at the Barefoot Fair trade Store. Here you can find a collection of handicrafts from around the country and support small cottage industries. If you are lucky enough to be in Colombo on a Saturday, visit Good Market, a local market full of stalls showcasing social enterprises and responsible businesses. Tonight there's an optional final group dinner to celebrate your journey together.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Colombo - City Tour

Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

[Day 15: Colombo](#)

Your trip comes to an end today, with no activities planned. Checkout time at the hotel is 12 noon. If you are keen to explore more of Colombo, check out our Urban Adventures day tours - your leader can help you book.

Optional Activities

- Colombo - Eat, Eat, Repeat Urban Adventure - USD55
- Colombo - Colombo by Tuk Tuk Urban Adventure - USD55

Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

Depart Colombo 9th November at 12.45AM arrive Singapore 7.30AM – Silk air

Accommodation: Peninsular/Excelsior IN: 9th November OUT: 10th November

Depart Singapore 10th November at 8.40AM arrive Cairns 5.20PM – Silk air

Cost per person \$3788.00 and includes the following:

Airfares

Airport taxes

2 nights accommodation in Singapore

15 day tour with the following inclusions

Inclusions

Meals

11 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners

Transport

Private vehicle, train

Accommodation

Hotels (12 nights), Local Lodge (1 night), Permanent Tented Camp (with basic facilities) (1 nt)

Included activities

- Anuradhapura - Bodhi Tree Temple
- Anuradhapura - Bike tour
- Polonnaruwa - Bike Tour
- Dambulla - Cave Temples
- Kandy - Temple of the Tooth
- Sigiriya - Lion Rock
- Tea Factory Visit
- Bandarawela - Cooking demonstration & local meal
- Hill Country trek
- Galle - Walking tour
- Colombo - City Tour