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THE PEOPLE FOCUSED PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR IN
SRI LANKA



ABOUT THE TOUR COMPANY

We specialize in arranging unique photography tours in Sri Lanka, offering both professional and beginner photographers the chance to capture stunning photos and videos of local people and their lifestyles. Our tours include both candid and arranged photoshoots with local people at sunrise, sunset, or under perfect lighting conditions. In our specially arranged photo sessions, photographers are given the freedom to move or direct the scene as they wish, creating a fantastic setup for capturing stunning photos and videos. We have also built strong, long term relationships with local people in most of the areas we travel, which allows us to arrange photography sessions smoothly and respectfully. In addition, we arrange model release documents, obtain drone permits hassle free, organize transportation and hotel bookings, allowing photographers to travel comfortably across Sri Lanka and focus fully on capturing photos and videos with ease.



ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR GUIDE

Saman Weeratunga is a travel photographer and videographer based in Kandy, the heart of Sri Lanka. He has a strong passion for photography and videography. His creative journeys have taken him across amazing countries such as Switzerland, Austria, France, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Kenya, the Czech Republic, Singapore, and Malaysia. He has excellent knowledge of the people of Sri Lanka and understands the right timing and locations for people photography. Saman will guide you while traveling around Sri Lanka to capture stunning photos and videos of local people and their daily lives. As his strong connections with local communities make access easy, people are welcoming and cooperative. They are happy to take part in photography sessions, allowing you to capture authentic moments with confidence. If you are a beginner photographer, he will help you learn basic camera settings and controls. Ultimately, you will truly enjoy traveling around Sri Lanka with him while capturing amazing photos and videos.



THE ADVANTAGES OF TRAVELING WITH US

We arrange private photo sessions, giving photographers the freedom to move freely and direct the scene as they wish, creating the perfect setup for capturing stunning photos and videos.

We take photographers to hidden locations away from tourist spots, giving them complete freedom to capture their own images without disturbances or unwanted people in the frame, allowing for uninterrupted photography.

We have strong local connections built over years of photography tours. These relationships allow us to arrange special sunrise photo sessions at usually inaccessible locations. Speaking the local language and understanding the culture is an advantage, allowing us to communicate effectively, earn trust, and work directly for portrait photography in ways foreign guides cannot.



THE ESSENTIAL CAMERA GEAR CHECKLIST

Camera body: DSLR Or mirrorless camera with versatile zoom lenses.

Drone: Great for aerial shots, as we handle all permits hassle free for flying.

Tripod: Essential for stability, especially in low light conditions or for long exposure shots.

Filters: Neutral density filters, polarizing filters, or graduated filters to control light and enhance your shots.

Portable lighting: Depending on your photography style, consider bringing portable lights or reflectors for added creativity.

Black background drop cloth: Ideal for close up portraits.



THE HASSLE FREE DRONE CLEARANCE

We handle all the hassle of obtaining official clearance for drone flights in Sri Lanka. We understand the complexities of navigating regulations from multiple authorities, including the civil aviation authority, central cultural fund, and department of archaeology. Also, obtaining drone permissions for archaeological sites such as Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa can be particularly challenging due to strict regulations designed to preserve these historical treasures. We take the burden off your shoulders by managing all the paperwork and coordination, ensuring swift approval so you can fly your drone smoothly and hassle free during your travel period. Finally, it's not only for landscape aerial drone shots, you can also use your drone for aerial portraits, capturing unique views of stilt fishermen, tea pluckers, and Vedda indigenous people, creating unforgettable photography experiences.



TWENTY SEATER BUS
FOR 05 - 15 PASSENGERS



SIX SEATER VAN
FOR 03 - 04 PASSENGERS



FOUR SEATER CAR
FOR 01 - 02 PASSENGERS

PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR ITINERARY - 10 DAYS

DAY 01

Pettah Market In Colombo (Evening)
Seema Malaka Temple In Colombo (Evening)
Overnight Stay In Negombo

DAY 02

Fishing Village In Negombo (Morning)
Stilt Fishermen In Koggala (Sunset)
Overnight Stay In Ahangama

DAY 03

Japanese Peace Pagoda In Rumassala (Morning)
Galle Fort And Surroundings In Galle (Morning)
Stilt Fishermen In Koggala (Sunset)
Overnight Stay In Ahangama

DAY 04

Scenic Train Journey From Ella To Haputale (One Hour)
Overnight Stay In Haputale

DAY 05

Tuk Tuk Ride Through Green Valley In Haputale (Morning)
Tea Pluckers In Haputale (Sunrise)
Tea Workers's Village In Haputale (Morning)
Overnight Stay In Mahiyanganaya

DAY 06

Sri Lanka's Indigenous Veddas' In Dambana (Morning)
Traditional Dancers In Polonnaruwa (Sunset)
Overnight Stay In Polonnaruwa

DAY 07

Ancient Ruins And Monks In Polonnaruwa (Sunrise)
Jeep Safari At Minneriya National Park In Minneriya (Evening)
Overnight Stay In Sigiriya

DAY 08

Ancient Rock Fortress In Sigiriya (Morning)
Dambulla Farmers Market In Dambulla (Morning)
Dambulla Cave Temple In Dambulla (Afternoon)
Overnight Stay In Nochchiyagama

DAY 09

Jeep Safari At Wilpattu National Park In Wilpattu (Full Day)
Overnight Stay In Nochchiyagama

DAY 10

Jeep Safari At Wilpattu National Park In Wilpattu (Full Day)
Overnight Stay In Nochchiyagama



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Sri Lanka's Indigenous Veddas' In Dambana

The Vedda people are one of the oldest ethnic groups in Sri Lanka, known for their unique culture, hunting practices, and traditions dating back to before the 6th century BCE. Today, they live in regular houses and huts, with only a few still maintaining the traditional long hair, attire, and beards. This session is set up with a few Indigenous people for a photo session in their small hut and the surrounding area, which is away from the regular touristic Vedda village nearby, where no tourists are around. This is an organized photo session capturing the aboriginal appearance of the Veddas and their traditional culture.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Stilt Fishermen In Koggala

Stilt fishing is a method unique to the island of Sri Lanka. Fishermen sit on a crossbar tied to a vertical pole driven into the sand a few meters offshore. This technique is mainly practiced during March to April when fish are abundant. This session is set up with a few stilt fishermen, selecting the best poles to sit against the sunrise or sunset to create a perfect silhouette, while also ensuring a steady position for long exposure photographs of the fishermen and the still water. This is an organized photo session capturing traditional fishermen in silhouette style and their fishing method at dusk or dawn with colorful sky lights.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Ancient Ruins And Monks In Polonnaruwa

The Ancient City of Polonnaruwa in Sri Lanka is a historic site that was once the capital of the country during the 11th to 13th centuries. It is known for its well preserved ruins, including palaces, temples, and statues. This session is set up with special permission from the Department of Archaeology to enter the ruins at sunrise, with no tourists allowed at this time, and includes featuring young Buddhist monks for the photo session. This is an organized photo session capturing ancient architecture of Sri Lanka, adding liveliness to the ruins by photographing young Buddhist monks in front of them.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Pettah Market In Colombo

Pettah Market is a busy and colorful market known for its wide variety of goods. It is a large area with many small streets, where traders sell items like fresh fruits, vegetables, spices, and many more. Each street is often focused on one type of product, making it easy to find what you need. The market is full of activity, with people buying and selling goods throughout the day. Pettah is not only a key trading center but also a reflection of the island's diverse. This is a candid photo session capturing the market's vibrant atmosphere, focusing on the actions of hard workers and the emotions reflected in their close up faces.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Fishing Village In Negombo

Negombo fishing village is a small, bustling coastal village with a lot of fishing activities in the morning. Each morning, the beach comes alive as fishermen return with their catches, which are then laid out for sorting, drying, or selling at the local fish market. Colorful boats dot the shoreline, and fishing nets are spread out to dry under the sun, adding to the village's charm. The market is especially lively, with locals haggling over a variety of fish. This is a candid photo session capturing the fishing village's vibrant atmosphere, focusing on the actions of fishermen and the emotions reflected in their close-up faces.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Tea Pluckers On Tea Field In Dambethenna

The task of plucking tea is traditionally done by women, who expertly pluck by hand to ensure the highest quality of leaves. Hand plucking allows workers to select only the top two leaves and a bud from the tea plant. The work is physically demanding, as tea pluckers spend long hours in the fields, moving through rows of bushes. In Sri Lanka, pluckers gather 15 to 20 kilograms of tea leaves daily. This is a candid photo session capturing the portraits of tea pluckers in the tea fields, showcasing their colorful clothes and traditional tea plucking methods used to process Ceylon tea.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Tea Workers' Village In Dambethenna

Sri Lankan tea workers are primarily Indian Tamils, brought by the British during the colonial period to work on plantations. Many of these workers were transported from southern India to meet the labor demands of the burgeoning tea industry, which became a major export commodity. Today, the descendants of these laborers continue to reside in tea plantation villages, often among the most economically deprived areas in the country. This is a candid photo session capturing close up portraits of the villagers, especially children, who live in very basic line houses that provide a colorful backdrop.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Dambulla Famers Market In Dambulla

Dambulla farmers market is one of Sri Lanka's largest wholesale markets for fresh produce, serving as a hub for vegetables and fruits. Each day, farmers, traders, and suppliers arrive with a variety of goods, filling the marketplace with produce from leafy greens and tomatoes to bananas, mangoes, and other fruits. The market becomes especially active in the morning and evening as trucks loaded with freshly harvested produce line up to unload. This is a candid photo session capturing the market's vibrant atmosphåere, focusing on the actions of hard workers and the emotions reflected in their close up faces.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Traditional Dancers In Polonnaruwa

There are three main styles of Sri Lankan classical dance: the Kandyan dances of the hill country, the low country dances of the southern region, and the Sabaragamuwa dances of the Ratnapura region. These classical dance forms differ in their movements and the shape of the drums used. This session is set up with a few Sri Lankan traditional dancers and drummers in costumes from a dancing academy, bringing them to a nearby rock and requesting some dance performances and poses. This is an organized photo session capturing the dance poses of Sri Lankan traditional dancers in colorful costumes.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Jeep Safari At Wilpattu National Park In Wilpattu (Full Day Safari)

Wilpattu national park is the largest national park in Sri Lanka and one of its most untouched and peaceful wildlife destinations. Due to the comparatively low number of safari jeeps compared to Yala national park, there is a high chance of spotting rare wildlife such as the Sri Lankan leopard and sloth bear in a calm, natural setting. The park is also home to a wide variety of animals, including elephants, crocodiles, wild boars, jackals, and numerous bird species. What makes Wilpattu unique is its network of natural lakes, known as villus, which attract wildlife and create excellent opportunities for photography.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Jeep Safari At Minneriya National Park In Minneriya (Half Day Safari)

Minneriya national park, where you'll witness the splendid sight of around 80 to 100 majestic Sri Lankan elephants gathering in grass fields and near the reservoir. As you traverse the park's landscapes, you'll encounter herds of elephants, often led by protective matriarchs, surrounded by playful calves who stick close to their mothers for guidance and safety. As evening falls, the elephants become more active, engaging in playful displays, trumpeting, and socializing with one another. This unique safari offers an unforgettable opportunity to observe these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Seema Malaka Temple And Skyscrapers In Colombo

Seema Malaka is a peaceful Buddhist temple in Beira lake in Colombo. It is a small but beautiful temple, built on a floating platform surrounded by calm waters. From this peaceful spot, a different side of Colombo can be seen, the modern skyline filled with tall skyscrapers. Looking from Seema Malaka, the view of Colombo's skyscrapers is breathtaking. Some of the most famous skyscrapers in Colombo can be seen from here, including the Lotus Tower, luxury hotels, and apartment buildings. The Lotus Tower is the tallest structure in Sri Lanka, with a unique shape inspired by a lotus flower, and its green and purple colors make it stand out.



SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

Ancient Rock Fortress In Sigiriya

The Ancient Rock Fortress in Sigiriya, Sri Lanka, is a remarkable historical site built on a massive granite rock. This fortress, also known as Lion Rock, dates back to the 5th century and was once a royal palace. It is famous for its impressive frescoes and large lion statue at the entrance. The site is also home to ancient inscriptions, mirror walls, and pathways that provide insight into the lives of those who once inhabited it. The top of the rock offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape, making it a unique architectural marvel. Sigiriya is also recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

Dambulla Cave Temple In Dambulla

The Dambulla Cave Temple is a historic Buddhist temple complex in Sri Lanka. The ancient temple dates back over 2,000 years and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its cultural and architectural significance. Located atop a large granite rock, it consists of five main caves filled with impressive statues, murals, and religious paintings. The statues include 153 Buddhas, four gods, and three of Sri Lanka's ancient kings, crafted in varying styles and sizes. These artworks depict Buddha's life, historical events, and religious stories, covering walls and ceilings with vibrant, detailed colors.



SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

Scenic Train Journey From Ella To Haputale

This scenic train ride offers a breathtaking journey through the mountains of Sri Lanka. The views on both sides of the tracks are spectacular, showcasing lush landscapes and vibrant greenery. The train winds through hills, providing glimpses of farms, villages, and vast tea plantations. If you step into third class, you will have the chance to interact with locals who enjoy chatting. Leaning out of the train door provides some of the best views and an exhilarating feeling, but be cautious. Avoid extending your limbs outside the train at the wrong moment, as low-hanging trees and tunnels pose danger.



SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

A Tuk Tuk Ride Through Green Valley In Haputale

The Tuk Tuk ride through the green valley in Haputale offers a unique experience with stunning natural beauty. The small, open vehicle provides an up close view of the surrounding landscapes, from mist covered mountains to neatly arranged tea plantations. As the Tuk Tuk winds through narrow roads, you feel a cool breeze, and with every turn, a picturesque scene is revealed. The gentle bouncing over uneven roads adds to the thrill, while the friendly driver shares stories about the area. The ride passes through tea workers' villages, where you observe daily routines and see school kids walking to school.



SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

Galle Fort And Surroundings In Galle

Galle is a city rich in history, culture, and stunning architecture. One of its most famous landmarks is Galle fort, a UNESCO world heritage site originally built by the Portuguese in the 16th century and later fortified by the Dutch. The Galle lighthouse, one of Sri Lanka's oldest and most scenic, stands inside the fort, overlooking the turquoise waters of the Indian ocean. Beyond the fort, Galle offers some interesting places to visit. Nearby, the Japanese peace pagoda provides a tranquil setting with panoramic coastal views. The Rajgama Wella fish market has a lively atmosphere where fishermen bring in the day's catch.



SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

Japanese Peace Pagoda In Rumassala

The Japanese Peace Pagoda, a gleaming white stupa that is not only a religious monument but also a site of breathtaking beauty. It offers visitors a chance for reflection and stunning panoramic 360 degree views. Built in 2005 by a Japanese organization dedicated to promoting peace and non-violence worldwide, the pagoda serves as a poignant reminder of the devastating consequences of war and a call for universal harmony. It is part of a global network of peace pagodas, established to inspire unity among all people, regardless of nationality or religion.

