

# SRI LANKA CULTURAL TOUR





## ABOUT THE CULTURAL TOUR

Discover the heart and soul of Sri Lanka with our carefully curated cultural tours. Our tours are designed for travelers who seek more than just sightseeing. They offer the chance to experience real life in Sri Lanka and understand the culture in an authentic way. You can meet local people, spend time with them, and take part in their daily work and activities. You may also learn about traditional skills, taste local food, enjoy music and dance, and witness the simple lifestyle that makes Sri Lanka unique. These tours are unhurried and mindful, giving you the time to explore, learn, and reflect. By the end of your journey, you will carry not only photos, but also unforgettable memories and a deeper appreciation of Sri Lanka's way of life.



## TRAVEL PHOTOS AND TRAVEL VIDEOS

This tour is also an excellent option for travelers who prefer to have someone else capture their travel photos and videos. If you'd rather not lug around bulky, complicated, and heavy cameras everywhere you go but still desire professional quality visuals of your journey, then this tour is perfect for you. Our photographer, Saman, will accompany you, capturing stunning photos and videos of the places you visit. This way, you can share the joy of your holiday experiences through beautifully managed images and videos. This photography and videography service is completely free of charge, capturing a fair amount of photos and videos.



## ABOUT THE 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. His strong connections with local communities make access easy, and people are welcoming, cooperative, and happy to take part in your sessions, allowing you to capture authentic photos with confidence. If you are interested in learning photography, he will also guide you through basic camera settings and controls. Ultimately, you will truly enjoy traveling around Sri Lanka with him while capturing amazing photos and videos.



## 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**

# CULTURAL TOUR ITINERARY - 12 DAYS

## DAY 01

Fishing Village In Negombo  
Overnight Stay In Wilpattu

## DAY 02

Full Day Jeep Safari At Wilpattu National Park  
Overnight Stay In Wilpattu

## DAY 03

Ruins Of Ancient City In Anuradhapura  
Overnight Stay In Anuradhapura

## DAY 04

Half Day Jeep Safari At Minneriya National Park  
Overnight Stay In Sigiriya

## DAY 05

Ancient Rock Fortress In Sigiriya  
Dambulla Cave Temple In Dambulla  
Overnight Stay In Polonnaruwa

## DAY 06

Ancient Ruins In Polonnaruwa  
Overnight Stay Mahiyanganaya

## DAY 07

Sri Lanka's Indigenous Veddas' In Dambana  
Temple Of The Tooth Relic In Kandy  
Overnight Stay In Kandy

## DAY 08

Child Monks Piriven Education Temple In Kandy  
Cultural Dance Performance In Gadaladenya  
Overnight Stay In Kandy

## DAY 09

Bahiravokanda Buddha Statue In Kandy  
Damro Tea Factory In Labookellie  
Overnight Stay In Haputale

## DAY 10

Tuk Tuk Ride Through Green Valley In Haputale  
Tea Pluckers In Haputale  
Tea Workers's Village In Haputale  
Sri Lankan Food Making Demonstration In Haputale  
Overnight Stay In Haputale

## DAY 11

Scenic Train Journey From Haputale To Nanu Oya  
Overnight Stay In Haputale

## DAY 12

Nine Arches Bridge In Ella  
Ravana Waterfall In Ella  
Stilt Fishermen In Koggala  
Overnight Stay In Mirissa





# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## Cultural Dance Performance In Gadaladenya

This is a private session held away from usual stage performances for tourists. The session is conducted by a local dancing master, giving you the rare opportunity to experience Sri Lanka's cultural traditions in an authentic setting. You will learn how traditional dancers dress in vibrant costumes, discover the process of making drums, and witness the artistry that goes into every detail. The highlight of this experience is a spectacular dance performance, where young children and elderly performers come together to showcase the rhythm, energy, and beauty of cultural dances passed down through generations.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## Child Monks Piriven Education Temple In Kandy

Experience the lifestyle of child Buddhist monks by visiting a monastic Pirivena school, where child monks receive education in both spiritual and academic subjects, guided by experienced teachers and senior monks. The Pirivena teaches classical subjects such as Sinhala, Pali, and Sanskrit, along with Buddhism, history, and logic. During your visit, you can observe how the child monks study language, literature, culture, and traditional practices. You can also share a short, fun English lesson with the child monks to bring joy to their day and even participate in serving breakfast by adding your own food.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

### A Tuk Tuk Ride Through Green Valley In Haputale

Experience the journey of a Tuk Tuk driver by traveling in his vibrant three-wheeler while enjoying the spectacular views of the mountains and tea fields. This small, open three-wheeler allows you to see and feel the breathtaking landscapes in a way that cars or buses cannot, from mist-covered peaks that seem to touch the sky to the endless green carpets of neatly arranged tea plantations. As the Tuk Tuk winds its way through narrow village roads, you'll breathe in the refreshing mountain air, catch the aroma of freshly plucked tea leaves, and hear the gentle hum of daily village life around you.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## Sri Lankan Food Making Demonstration In Haputale

Experience the art of Sri Lankan food making through a live demonstration by a local food expert. Sri Lankan cuisine is simple yet incredibly flavorful, often prepared with fresh, organic ingredients sourced directly from home gardens and local markets. During the session, you'll discover the unique blend of spices, herbs, and cooking techniques that give Sri Lankan food its rich taste and aroma. You can also roll up your sleeves and try your hand at preparing traditional dishes, such as rice and curry, coconut sambol, or hoppers, under the friendly guidance of the cook.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

### Tea Pluckers On Tea Field In Dambethenna

You can walk into the beautiful tea fields and observe traditional tea pluckers, witnessing how they expertly pick fresh young green tea leaves each morning. The task of plucking tea is traditionally done by women, who carefully hand-pick the leaves to ensure the highest quality. Hand-plucking allows workers to select only the top two leaves and a bud from the tea plant, which are the freshest, most tender, and flavorful parts. If you prefer, you can also dress in traditional sarees, just like the tea pluckers, and step into the lush, green tea fields to personally try plucking the leaves yourself.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

### Tea Workers' Village In Dambethenna

You can walk into Tamil tea workers' villages near the tea fields, strolling around their colorful, quaint houses. Sri Lankan tea workers are primarily Indian Tamils, brought by the British during colonial period to work on plantations. These villages are among the most economically deprived in Sri Lanka. While walking through the village, you may encounter children; offering chocolates or sweets can bring them joy, and witnessing their smiles in response to your kindness is gratifying. There are also many opportunities for portrait photography if you would like to take candid photos of villagers.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## Fishing Village In Negombo

Negombo fishing village is a small, bustling coastal community filled with vibrant fishing activities every morning. At dawn, the beach comes alive as fishermen return with their fresh catches, which are then laid out for sorting, drying, or selling at the lively local fish market. Colorful traditional boats, known as oruwa, dot the shoreline, while fishing nets are spread out to dry under the golden sun, adding to the village's unique charm. The market is especially energetic, with locals haggling over a wide variety of fish, from small sprats to large tuna.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## Stilt Fishermen In Koggala

Experience the traditional fishing method with stilt fishermen by visiting a roadside fishing spot during sunset. Stilt fishermen are a unique sight found along the southern coast of Sri Lanka. This ancient fishing technique involves fishermen sitting on wooden poles, known as stilts, anchored in shallow waters. The fishermen maintain a balanced position on the stilt while casting their lines to catch fish. You can also try this traditional method yourself by sitting on the perched vertical poles with crossbars, using a fishing rod to catch small fish and fully immerse yourself in the experience.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## Scenic Train Journey From Haputale To Nanu Oya

Experience a scenic train journey through the beautiful mountains of tropical 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.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## Ancient Ruins And Architectural Marvels In Polonnaruwa

Ancient ruins and cultural marvels of Polonnaruwa await you, where centuries-old stone carvings, royal palaces, temples, and statues tell the story of a once-glorious kingdom. Walking through this UNESCO World Heritage Site allows you to explore the timeless craftsmanship and witness the spiritual and cultural legacy left behind by great kings. You can admire the intricately carved Gal Vihara statues, wander among the remains of majestic audience halls and royal gardens, and discover the sophisticated irrigation systems that showcase the intelligence and grand vision of early Sri Lankan civilization.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

### Damro Tea Factory In Labookellie

Experience learning everything about Ceylon tea while witnessing the step-by-step manufacturing process. Sri Lanka is famous for its high-quality tea and has a long history of cultivation dating back to the 19th century. Inside the tea factory, the step-by-step tea-making process can be seen. Fresh tea leaves are first withered to reduce moisture, then rolled to release natural oils. The leaves are fermented to develop flavor and color before being dried to stop oxidation. After drying, the leaves are sorted by quality. High-quality factory-made Sri Lankan tea, known for its rich taste and aroma, can be purchased.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## 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.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## Bahiravokanda Buddha Statue In Kandy

The Bahiravokanda Buddha Statue, located on a hilltop just outside the city of Kandy, is one of Sri Lanka's iconic landmarks. Towering at over 25 meters, this white Buddha statue can be seen from many parts of the city. Visitors who make the short climb up the hill are rewarded with a peaceful atmosphere and breathtaking panoramic views of Kandy, including the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, Kandy Lake, and the surrounding mountains. The statue depicts Lord Buddha in a seated meditation posture, symbolizing serenity and spiritual awakening.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## Temple Of The Tooth Relic In Kandy

The temple of the tooth relic is one of Sri Lanka's most sacred Buddhist sites, housing a revered tooth relic of Lord Buddha. Built in the 16th century, the temple architecture showcases traditional Kandyan craftsmanship, with intricate wood carvings, golden canopies, and detailed paintings depicting Buddhist themes. The relic is enshrined in a golden casket within the inner sanctum and can be viewed only during special rituals. As a UNESCO world heritage site, the temple of the tooth relic attracts both pilgrims and tourists from around the world, offering a serene environment for worship, connection.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## Ancient Rock Fortress In Sigiriya

Experience climbing the ancient rock fortress of Sigiriya. This site of historical significance is dominated by a massive granite column approximately 180 meters high. Sigiriya features the ruins of an upper palace on the flat top, a mid level terrace with the Lion Gate and mirror wall frescoes, and lower palaces clinging to the slopes below. As you ascend, you'll encounter beautifully preserved frescoes depicting celestial maidens, providing a glimpse into the artistic talent of the time. The views from the summit offer a unique perspective of the lush jungles and distant mountains, creating a sense of tranquility.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## Nine Arches Bridge In Ella

A short hike to the Nine Arches Bridge, which was constructed during the British colonial era around 1921 and stands as a testament to the ingenuity of Sri Lankan and British engineers. What makes this bridge truly remarkable is its unique construction built entirely of bricks, stones, and cement, with not a single piece of steel used. According to local folklore, during World War I, steel supplies were redirected to the war effort, compelling the engineers to use locally sourced materials to complete this architectural marvel.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## Ravana Waterfall In Ella

Ravana Falls is a striking twenty five meter cascade, plunging down a series of jagged rocks to create a mesmerizing spectacle of white water against a verdant backdrop. The falls originate from the towering Ella Rock, which channels water from a natural spring, especially during the rainy season. During this time, the cascade is at its fullest and most powerful, forming a dramatic veil of water that can be seen from the roadside. According to local legend, the waterfall is named after King Ravana, the powerful ruler of Lanka, who is said to have hidden Princess Sita in a cave behind the falls after abducting her.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

### 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.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## Vedda Indigenous People In Dambana

The Vedda are the indigenous people of Sri Lanka and one of the oldest ethnic groups in the country, known for their deep connection to nature and forest life. They have preserved ancient traditions, customs, and knowledge of the land passed down through generations. Today, only a few Vedda groups continue to protect their unique identity, while many others have adapted to modern life. You can walk to their village, visit a mud hut, and enjoy an Ayurvedic drink with jaggery. You can learn how the Vedda hunt using bows and arrows, observe fire-making by rubbing stones, and witness ritual dances with songs.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

### 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.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

## Ruins Of Ancient City In Anuradhapura

Anuradhapura, the first capital of Sri Lanka established in the 4th century BCE, was the center of Sinhalese civilization and Theravada Buddhism. It served as the capital for over a thousand years, becoming a major political, cultural, and religious center until it was abandoned in the 11th century due to invasions. The ruins of Anuradhapura cover a vast area, with notable sites including stupas, temples, and monasteries, all carefully planned and constructed by ancient kings. The city's architecture showcases impressive engineering feats, like irrigation systems and massive stone structures.

