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EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE CULTURAL TOUR IN  
**SRI LANKA**





## ABOUT THE CULTURAL TOUR

We specialize in unique people focused Sri Lanka photography tours, led by an experienced Sri Lankan professional photography guide. In addition to photography tours, we also offer cultural sightseeing tours in Sri Lanka. This cultural sightseeing tour offers an authentic way to explore real Sri Lankan life and experience the country's rich culture. This tour is ideal for travelers who are looking for more than just a regular sightseeing tour in Sri Lanka. You can meet local people, spend time with local communities, and take part in their daily activities and traditional work. You may also learn local skills, enjoy traditional food, experience traditional music and dance, and discover the simple lifestyle that makes Sri Lanka truly unique. This tour is also ideal for travelers who would prefer to hire a photographer in Sri Lanka to capture their journey across the island. You can enjoy professional photos of yourself at local attractions, cultural locations, and with local people during your travels. Our Sri Lankan travel photographer will accompany you throughout the experience, capturing natural and memorable photos at the beautiful places you visit.



## ABOUT THE TOUR GUIDE

Saman Weeratunga is a professional travel photographer and videographer based in Kandy, Sri Lanka. He guides photography tours in Sri Lanka for beginners, enthusiasts, and professionals. He specializes in people photography in Sri Lanka, cultural photography tours, and travel photography experiences across the island, helping photographers capture authentic moments of local life and traditions. With international travel experience across Switzerland, Austria, France, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Kenya, Czech Republic, Singapore, and Malaysia, he brings strong creative insight and global photography knowledge to every Sri Lanka photography tour. Saman has deep local knowledge and strong connections with local communities in Sri Lanka, allowing him to guide you around the country and help you experience the real lifestyle, culture, and daily life of local people. If you are interested in photography, he will also guide you step by step in camera settings, composition, lighting techniques, and creative storytelling. He can also take beautiful photos of you with local people, cultural attractions, scenic location across the country.



## HASSLE FREE DRONE CLEARANCE

We handle all the hassle of obtaining official clearance for drone flights in Sri Lanka, making the entire process simple and stress free. Drone usage in Sri Lanka requires approvals from several authorities, and all communication is managed on behalf of clients. This includes the civil aviation authority, the central cultural fund, and the department of archaeology, each of which has its own set of rules and procedures that must be followed carefully. Obtaining drone permissions can be even more challenging when it comes to protected archaeological and heritage sites such as Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa. These locations are strictly regulated to preserve their cultural and historical value, so special approvals are required before any drone activity can take place. Understanding and managing these requirements can be time-consuming and complicated for visitors. That is why full responsibility is taken for the entire process, including preparing documents, submitting applications, and coordinating with relevant authorities. By handling everything from start to finish, the stress and confusion are removed, ensuring a smooth and well managed approval process.



## TRAVEL AGENT COLLABORATION

The cost details provided in this itinerary cover only our service charges, giving full flexibility for partners or tour operators to add their own profit margin and offer the tour to their clients at a price that best suits their market. This structure is designed to make collaboration simple and transparent, while allowing complete control over final pricing. Payments can be collected directly from guests, with only the agreed service cost required to be transferred to us, ensuring a smooth and efficient financial process. Please note that the tour cost does not include hotel accommodation, which allows full freedom for partners to select and book hotels independently based on their clients' preferences. However, we are happy to provide suitable hotel recommendations based on budget, comfort level, and proximity to key photography locations to make planning easier. Similarly, meals and beverages are not included in the tour package, as dining preferences can vary widely among travelers. Guests are free to choose their own food options throughout the journey and make payments directly at restaurants, ensuring maximum flexibility and a personalized travel experience.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## INDIGENOUS VEDDA PEOPLE IN DAMBANA

This is an organized private session with a few indigenous Vedda early in the morning at a remote area away from the main tourist village. The Vedda are the indigenous people of Sri Lanka, known for their deep connection to nature and their way of life. Traditionally living in forested areas, they follow customs, rituals, and hunting practices that have been passed down through generations. They have their own unique language and spiritual beliefs closely connected to the forest environment, preserving ancient traditions and knowledge through generations today.



## TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### TRADITIONAL DANCERS IN POLONNARUWA

This is an organized private session with a few traditional dancers at a rocky area during sunset, away from tourist areas. There are three main traditional dance styles in Sri Lanka: Kandyan dancing from the hill country, known for energetic movements and drumming with royal traditions; Low Country dancing from the southern coastal areas, famous for mask and ritual dances with healing ceremonies; and Sabaragamuwa dancing from the Sabaragamuwa Province region, blending graceful movements and cultural influences. These styles are deeply rooted in tradition.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## STILT FISHERMEN IN HABARADUWA

This is an organized private session with a few stilt fishermen at sunrise or sunset, away from the tourist beach areas. Stilt fishermen are traditional Sri Lankan fishermen who balance on wooden poles planted in shallow coastal waters while fishing with simple rods. This unique and iconic practice, mainly seen along the southern coast, is a traditional method of fishing known as stilt fishing, where fishermen sit on crossbars fixed to wooden poles above the sea. It is a skill that requires great balance and patience, often practiced during calm early mornings daily.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## SRI LANKAN COOKING LESSON IN HAPUTALE

This is an organized private session with an expert in Sri Lankan cuisine. Sri Lankan traditional food is rich, flavorful, and strongly influenced by spices and coconut based cooking. Sri Lankan rice and curry is the most popular everyday meal in the country. It consists of steamed rice served with a variety of curries such as vegetables, dhal, fish, chicken, or seafood, enjoyed across all regions. Each curry is prepared using spices like curry leaves, cinnamon, turmeric, chili, and coconut milk, creating a mix of spicy, aromatic, and creamy flavors, loved by many people worldwide alike.



## TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### TEA PLUCKERS ON TEA FIELDS IN HAPUTALE

Sri Lanka's tea pluckers are an essential part of the country's world famous tea industry, especially in the central highlands. Early in the morning, tea pluckers begin their work as they move carefully through the plantations, hand picking the youngest tea leaves and buds that produce high quality Ceylon tea. Most of them are skilled women who have inherited this traditional occupation through generations, working with precision and speed while maintaining strict quality standards. They carry woven baskets on their backs or shoulders, gradually filling them with freshly plucked leaves.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## RURAL TEA ESTATE VILLAGERS IN HAPUTALE

Tea estate workers in Sri Lanka trace their origins to Indian Tamil laborers who were brought during the British colonial period in the 19th century. When the British established large coffee and later tea plantations in the central highlands, there was a shortage of local labor, so workers were recruited from South India, mainly Tamil Nadu for plantation work in Sri Lanka and beyond. Over time, they developed their own culture, language, traditions, and social systems while continuing to play a vital role in tea industry. Today, their descendants continue supporting global reputation of Ceylon tea.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## PORUTHOTA FISHING VILLAGE IN NEGOMBO

This is a small fishing village located in Negombo, where fishermen practice small scale fishing. Before sunrise, fishermen head out into the sea in small boats, often powered by outboard engines or paddles, carrying nets, lines, and equipment. These fishing activities take place close to shore, mainly targeting species such as sardines. In the early morning, fishermen return to the shore in small boats, gather fish from their nets, and bring the catch to nearby small fish markets for sale. The nearby fish market is a lively place where fresh catches are sold directly after arrival.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## WILPATTU NATIONAL PARK IN WILPATTU

Wilpattu national park is the largest national park in Sri Lanka, where the name “Wilpattu” comes from two Sinhala words, Wil meaning natural lakes, and Pattu meaning area or region. Wilpattu is home to a wide variety of animals. The most famous resident is the Sri Lankan leopard, and also elephants, sloth bears, spotted deer, water buffalo, and golden jackals. The park is also a paradise for birds, where over 200 bird species have been recorded. Many birds like painted storks, open bill storks, Sri Lanka jungle fowl, peacocks, and various eagles, owls, and kingfishers can be seen there.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## DAMBULLA CAVE TEMPLE IN DAMBULLA

The Dambulla cave temple is one of Sri Lanka's remarkable historical and cultural sites, known for its ancient rock caves filled with Buddhist murals and statues. The complex features five main caves, each adorned with preserved murals covering the ceilings and walls, along with over a hundred Buddha statues in various poses. The site houses more than 150 statues, including reclining Buddha figures and finely detailed seated and standing statues, all arranged in a harmonious and atmospheric setting. Its elevated location offers stunning panoramic views of the countryside.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## ANCIENT RUINS IN POLONNARUWA

The ruins of Polonnaruwa refer to the ancient remains of the medieval capital of Sri Lanka, which flourished between the 11th and 13th centuries. After the fall of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa became the second capital of the island under King Vijayabahu, and it later reached its golden age during the reign of King Parakramabahu. Today, the archaeological site preserves a remarkable collection of monuments, including royal palaces, audience halls, Hindu and Buddhist temples, stupas, and carved stone statues. The most iconic attractions are the Gal Vihara Buddha statues and Vatadage.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## SIGIRIYA ROCK FORTRESS IN SIGIRIYA

Sigiriya is an ancient rock fortress and palace complex in Sri Lanka dating back to the 5th century AD, built by King Kashyapa as his royal residence and stronghold after he seized the throne. It functioned as a royal palace and fortress, and later became a Buddhist monastery after the king's death. To reach the summit, visitors climb approximately 1,200 steps, passing through gardens and terraces. At the site, visitors can see fresco paintings, mirror wall graffiti, lion's paw entrance, summit palace ruins, ancient stairways, water gardens and panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## PIDURANGALA ROCK IN SIGIRIYA

Pidurangala rock is one of the best viewpoints, offering a breathtaking panoramic view of Sigiriya rock fortress rising above the surrounding forests and plains. Pidurangala has deep historical and spiritual significance, once serving as an ancient Buddhist monastery where monks meditated in its caves. Today, it is a popular hiking spot with stunning sunrise and sunset views. The trail passes through forest paths and stone steps, ending near a large reclining Buddha statue. From the summit, visitors enjoy one of Sri Lanka's most iconic views, especially the perfect sight of Sigiriya rock.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## TEMPLE OF THE SACRED TOOTH RELIC IN KANDY

The temple of the tooth is one of the most sacred Buddhist sites in Sri Lanka, housing the tooth relic of Gautama Buddha. The history of the temple dates back to the 4th century AD, when the relic was brought to Sri Lanka from India and became a symbol of authority, as it was believed that whoever possessed the relic had the right to rule. Today, it remains an active place of worship, where daily rituals are performed, and it is also the focal point of the Esala Perahera, a procession that honors the sacred tooth relic with traditional dancers, drummers, decorated elephants, whip crackers.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## JAPANESE PEACE PAGODA IN RUMASSALA

The Japanese peace pagoda is a beautiful white Buddhist stupa built by Japanese monks as a symbol of peace and harmony, promoting non violence and unity among all people of the world. These temples were established by Buddhist monks inspired by the Japanese Nipponzan Myohoji order, especially under the guidance of Nichidatsu Fujii after world war II. The pagoda sits on a peaceful forested hilltop overlooking the Indian Ocean, offering breathtaking panoramic views of the coastline, including Unawatuna Bay and Galle Fort, with clear distant horizon views.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## HISTORIC GALLE DUTCH FORT IN GALLE

The fort was originally built by the Portuguese in 1588 to protect their trading interests along the southern coast. Later, in 1640, the Dutch captured Galle and extensively rebuilt and expanded the fort, strengthening its ramparts, gates, and bastions to create a powerful coastal defense system. The design of the fort reflects classic Dutch military architecture, carefully planned to withstand attacks from both land and sea. Today, the fort is a living heritage site where colonial buildings, old churches and narrow cobblestone streets still preserve its historic charm beautifully intact.



## TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### A TRAIN PASSING OVER THE NINE ARCHES BRIDGE IN ELLA

The bridge was built during the British colonial period entirely out of stone, brick, and cement, without the use of steel, and stands as a remarkable example of early railway engineering and local craftsmanship. The area around the bridge is popular with travelers who come to enjoy scenic walks along the railway tracks. One of the best experiences at the nine arch bridge is watching a train slowly pass over its nine elegant arches. As the train curves gently along the track, framed by thick greenery and rolling hills, it creates a perfect, postcard like moment with breathtaking views.



## TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### LIPTON'S SEAT VIEWPOINT IN HAPUTALE

Lipton's seat is one of the most scenic viewpoints in Sri Lanka. The location was named after Sir Thomas Lipton, the Scottish tea planter who used to sit here and admire his vast tea estates during the colonial era. On clear days, you can see parts of the Hambantota district, Monaragala district, Ampara district, and Matara district from the viewpoint. The area is often covered with cool mist and moving clouds, creating a peaceful and scenic atmosphere, especially during the early morning hours, offering breathtaking views and fresh mountain air all around, truly unforgettable experience.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## RAVANA ELLA WATERFALL IN ELLA

Ravana Ella Waterfall is one of the most famous and easily accessible waterfalls in Sri Lanka. The waterfall is about 25 meters high and is especially powerful during the rainy season when the water flow increases significantly. The waterfall flows down from rocky cliffs surrounded by dense forest and green hills. Beyond its natural beauty, Ravana Falls is also deeply connected to Sri Lanka's ancient history and mythology. According to the legendary Ramayana epic, it is believed that King Ravana once hid Princess Sita in the caves behind or near this waterfall, during his reign in Lanka.



## TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### TUK TUK RIDE THROUGH GREEN VALLEY IN HAPUTALE

This is an amazing journey in a vibrant three wheeler, where you can enjoy spectacular views of the mountains and tea fields. This small, open vehicle lets you truly see and feel the beautiful landscapes, from misty mountain peaks to endless green tea plantations. As the three wheeler winds its way through narrow village roads, you can breathe in the fresh mountain air, catch the aroma of freshly plucked tea leaves, and hear the gentle rhythm of daily village life around you. This kind of experience and fresh air is something you cannot enjoy when traveling by car or bus.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## SCENIC TRAIN JOURNEY FROM DEMODARA TO HAPUTALE

The train journey is a relatively short but scenic ride through Sri Lanka's hill country. Along the way, passengers can enjoy views of tea plantations, misty mountains, small villages, waterfalls, and forest-covered hills. The train passes through tunnels and over valleys, offering changing landscapes at every turn. A better way to enjoy the scenery is to sit by the window and relax, as it offers a view throughout the journey. Many foreign passengers prefer standing at the doors for photography and open air views, but it can be dangerous due to sudden tunnels, narrow sections.



# TOUR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## GIRAGAMA TEA FACTORY IN PILIMATHALAWA

Visiting a tea factory, the visitors can learn the full tea manufacturing process, starting from freshly plucked green leaves brought from nearby plantations to the final graded product ready for export. The process typically includes withering, rolling, oxidation, drying, and sorting, each stage carefully controlled to develop the tea's flavor and aroma. This guided tour is led by knowledgeable staff, followed by a tea tasting session where guests can sample freshly brewed Ceylon tea and also have the opportunity to buy fresh factory made Ceylon tea directly from the tea factory.

# CULTURAL SIGHTSEEING TOUR - 10 DAYS

## **DAY 01**

Poruthota Fishing Village In Negombo (Early Morning)  
Traveling From Negombo To Nochchiyagama (5-Hour Drive)  
Overnight Stay In Nochchiyagama

## **DAY 02**

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

## **DAY 03**

Traveling From Nochchiyagama To Dambulla (2-Hour Drive)  
Dambulla Cave Temple In Dambulla (Morning)  
Traveling From Dambulla To Polonnaruwa (1-Hour Drive)  
Traditional Dancers In Polonnaruwa (Sunset)  
Overnight Stay In Polonnaruwa

## **DAY 04**

Ancient Ruins In Polonnaruwa (Sunrise)  
Traveling From Polonnaruwa To Sigiriya (1-Hour Drive)  
Pidurangala Rock In Sigiriya (Sunset)  
Overnight Stay In Sigiriya

## **DAY 05**

Sigiriya Rock Fortress In Sigiriya (Early Morning)  
Traveling From Sigiriya To Kandy (3-Hour Drive)  
Temple Of The Sacred Tooth Relic In Kandy (Evening)  
Overnight Stay In Kandy



# CULTURAL SIGHTSEEING TOUR - 10 DAYS

## DAY 06

Giragama Tea Factory In Pilimathalawa (Morning)  
Traveling From Pilimathalawa To Mahiyanganaya (3-Hour Drive)  
Overnight Stay In Mahiyanganaya

## DAY 07

Indigenous Vedda People In Dambana (Early Morning)  
Traveling From Dambana To Demodara (3-Hour Drive)  
Scenic Train Journey From Demodara To Haputale (1-Hour Journey)  
Overnight Stay In Haputale

## DAY 08

Lipton Seat Viewpoint In Haputale (Early Morning)  
Tea Pluckers On Tea Fields In Haputale (Early Morning)  
Rural Tea Estate Villagers In Haputale (Morning)  
Tuk Tuk Ride Through Green Valley In Haputale (Morning)  
Sri Lankan Cooking Lesson In Haputale (Evening)  
Overnight Stay In Haputale

## DAY 09

A Train Passing Over The Nine Arches Bridge In Ella (Morning)  
Rawana Ella Waterfall In Ella (Morning)  
Traveling From Ella To Mirissa (5-Hour Drive)  
Overnight Stay In Mirissa

## DAY 10

Traveling From Mirissa To Galle (1-Hour Drive)  
Historic Galle Dutch Fort In Galle (Sunrise)  
Japaneses Peace Pagoda In Rumassala (Morning)  
Traveling From Rumassala To Mirissa (1-Hour Drive)  
Stilt Fishermen In Habaraduwa (Sunset)  
Overnight Stay In Mirissa



# CULTURAL TOUR COST – 10 DAYS

## COST PER PERSON

Total cost US\$ **600** per person (if there are **7+** participants)

Total cost US\$ **800** per person (if there are **7** participants)

Total cost US\$ **900** per person (if there are **6** participants)

Total cost US\$ **1,000** per person (if there are **5** participants)

## INCLUDES

- Air Conditioned Private Transport
- Entrance Fee For The Attractions
- Wilpattu National Park Entrance Fee
- Wilpattu Safari Jeep Charges
- Cooking Lesson Fee
- Veddas Private Session Fee
- Stilt Fishermen Private Session Fee
- Traditional Dancers Private Session Fee
- Train Tickets From Demodara To Haputale
- Tuk Tuk Charges From Haputale To Dambethenna
- Photography Guide Service Fee

## EXCLUDES

- Hotel Accommodation
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Beverages
- Air Tickets And Visa Charges
- Drone Security Clearance (If Any)
- Tips & Other Similar Charges (If Any)

## FOODS AND BEVERAGE COST

Our tour cost does not include breakfast, lunch, dinner, beverages, or any other food. We will recommend good restaurants close to the visiting locations. Food costs are not included as they are variable, and we also prefer to give guests the freedom to choose meals according to their own preferences.

# PAYMENT METHOD

## ADVANCE DEPOSIT

To confirm your reservation, a deposit of **US\$ 100** is kindly required for each participant. This deposit secures your booking and ensures your place on the tour.

## BALANCE PAYMENT 01

Fifty percent (50%) of the total tour cost for each participant is kindly requested to be settled within three (03) days after arrival.

## BALANCE PAYMENT 02

The remaining balance payment for each participant is kindly requested to be settled within eight (08) days after arrival.

## REFUND POLICY

If any photography session is canceled during the tour for any reason, the cost of entrance tickets or any related expenses (excluding transport costs) will be refunded. Please note that this does not apply to tickets that have been purchased in advance, if applicable. Kindly be advised that advance deposits are non refundable in the event that a participant is unable to join the photography tour due to personal reasons.

## PAYMENT MEDIUM

Kindly note that payments are accepted in cash only, in USD / EUR / GBP

# PASSPORT INFORMATION SUBMISSION

It is necessary to provide the passport details of travelers in order to obtain special permission from the archaeological department for the sunrise sessions In Polonnaruwa. Passport details are also required when booking train tickets. Therefore, please submit an image of the bio page of your passport. Your passport information will be stored securely and will be permanently deleted once the tour has ended. This is required for smooth coordination and official approvals.

# TIPS FOR SRI LANKA THAT MIGHT HELP

Flying drones is prohibited in national parks and metropolitan areas like Colombo, Kandy. Special permission is required from the civil aviation authority, department of archaeology, central cultural fund, and Sri Lanka police for flying drones at archaeological sites like Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa, Galle.

When visiting Buddhist or Hindu temples, cover your legs and shoulders, and remove your shoes and hats. Thick socks can help protect your feet from hot sand. Never pose with your back to Buddha statues when taking photos, as it is considered highly disrespectful in Sri Lankan culture. Always face the statue respectfully.

The tropical sun can be very strong, protect your skin and eyes by applying sunscreen, wearing a hat, and using sunglasses. In the hill country, temperatures can be cooler, so it's a good idea to bring a light jacket or sweater.

Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted, but American Express may not be accepted everywhere. Small shops may not accept credit cards, so keep some Sri Lankan rupees on hand for small purchases and local restaurants. The standard voltage in Sri Lanka is 230 V with a frequency of 50 Hz. Plug types used are D and G, so you may need a plug adapter.

Sri Lanka has relatively few mosquitoes, mainly in the evenings, so use insect repellent and wearing light, long sleeved clothing is recommended for protection. Public restrooms may lack toilet paper or soap, so carry tissues and hand sanitizer.

Buy a SIM card at the airport for easy connectivity. Dialog and Mobitel offer the best coverage across the island. eSIMs are also available for purchase at the airport. Buying a local SIM or eSIM is recommended because hotel Wi-Fi is often very slow.

When traveling in rural areas, you may encounter many poor children who gather around you. Bringing small, inexpensive chocolates or sweets can make them very happy, as they love receiving something from foreigners. Stationery or educational materials are less practical, as there are often many children, but small packets of sweets are easy to distribute fairly among them.

