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CINEMATIC DRONE FILMING TOUR IN
SRI LANKA





ABOUT THE DRONE FILMING TOUR

This drone filming tour is specially designed for videographers who sell footage on stock platforms such as Adobe stock. It is also suitable for videographers who create travel videos for YouTube, as well as anyone who is enthusiastic about flying drones and capturing amazing footage. The tour covers major cultural attractions, natural landscapes, waterfalls, and beaches, allowing you to capture stunning videos without rushing and providing sufficient time for each drone flight. You will also have the opportunity to fly your drone at additional locations of your choice along the way, depending on time availability. Flying a drone in Sri Lanka is prohibited without proper approvals from the relevant authorities, and the approval process can be complex, as permissions must be obtained from multiple entities such as the civil aviation authority, department of archaeology, ministry of defence, Sri Lanka police, and Sri Lanka air force. Therefore, we will obtain all necessary security clearances on your behalf and facilitate your drone operations in Sri Lanka legally and smoothly. If your drone weighs more than 250g, third party liability insurance will also be arranged for you too.



ABOUT THE DRONE TOUR GUIDE

Saman Weeratunga is a professional travel photographer and videographer based in Kandy, Sri Lanka. He guides photography and drone filming tours in Sri Lanka for beginners, enthusiasts, and professionals. He specializes in photographing and filming local people in Sri Lanka, conducting cultural photography tours, and offering travel photography and drone filmmaking experiences across the island, helping photographers and videographers capture authentic moments of local life, traditions, and aerial videography in Sri Lanka. 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 of Sri Lanka, he best photography and videography locations, timing, lighting conditions, for photography and drone filmmaking tours. Travel with Saman for a unique Sri Lanka photography and drone filming experience and capture photos and videos of people, culture, and landscapes with guidance.



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.

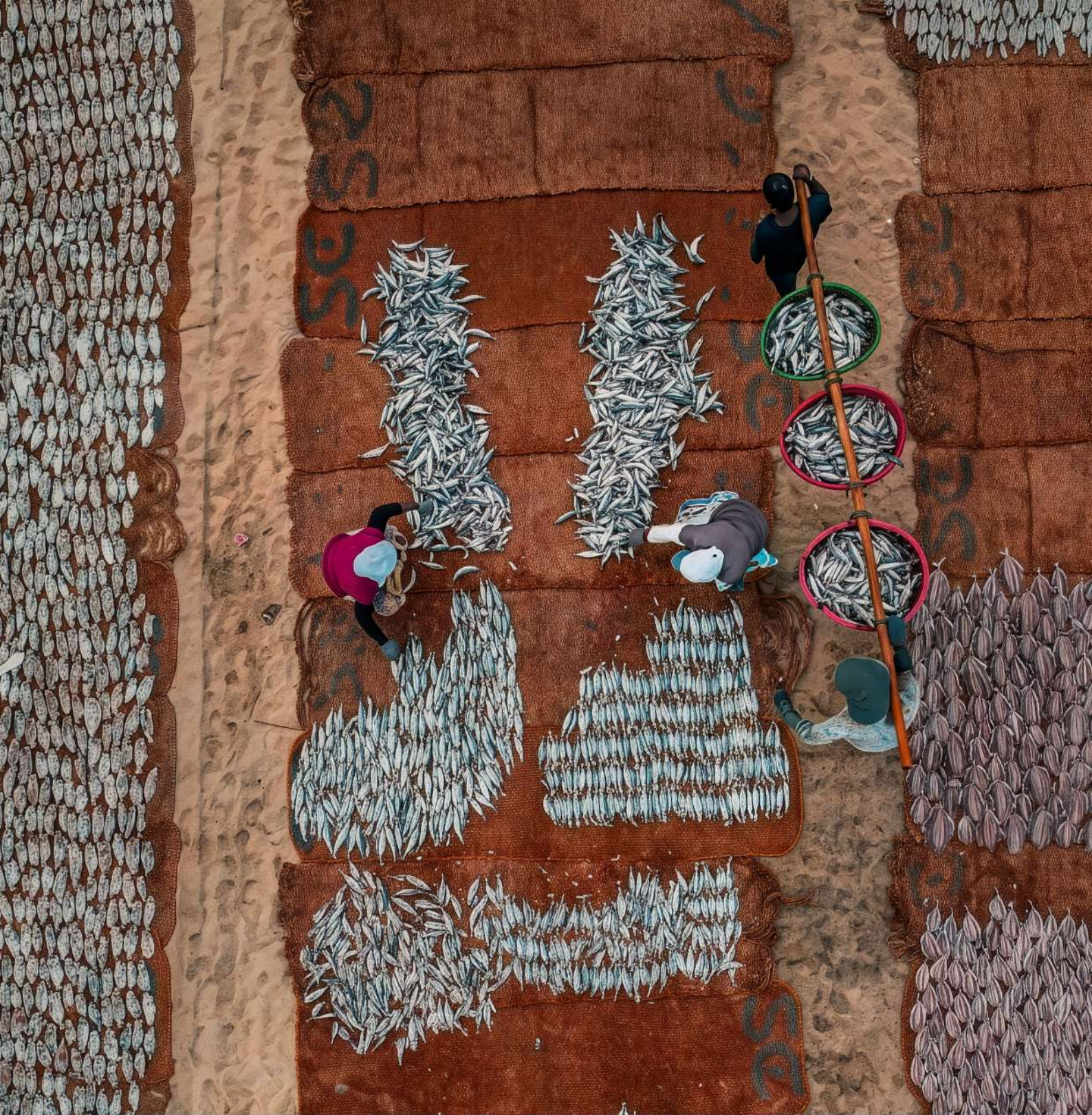


FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

STILT FISHERMEN IN HABARADUWA

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. The elevated position allows fishermen to fish without disturbing the water, helping them spot and catch fish more easily and more effectively.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

PORUTHOTA FISHING VILLAGE IN NEGOMBO

This is a small fishing village is 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.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

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.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

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.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

SIGIRIYA ROCK FORTRESS AREA 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.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

THALKOTE LAKE IN SIGIRIYA

Thalkote lake is a beautiful reservoir located near Sigiriya in Sri Lanka's cultural triangle. One of the most remarkable features of Thalkote lake is the opportunity to see both Sigiriya and Pidurangala in a single view. During calm weather conditions, the still waters of the reservoir often mirror the towering rock formations, creating stunning reflections. The lake is surrounded by lush vegetation, agricultural lands, and patches of forest that support a diverse range of wildlife. Thalkote Lake is also an important part of the region's irrigation system, which has supported local farmers.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

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.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

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.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

A TRAIN PASSING THROUGH RAILWAY LOOP IN DEMODARA

The Demodara railway loop is famous because the railway line forms a complete loop around a hill and passes directly beneath itself through a tunnel. This rare engineering feature allows a train to gain height gradually while traveling through the steep mountainous terrain. When a train travels through the loop, it can often be seen both entering and exiting different sections of the same hill at nearly the same time. The loop was constructed during the British colonial era as part of the railway line connecting Sri Lanka's tea growing highlands with the rest of the country and its ports.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

FISHERIES HARBOUR IN WELIGAMA

The harbour is primarily used by offshore fishing boats that venture far into the Indian ocean in search of tuna, swordfish, and other pelagic fish species. Many of these vessels are equipped with navigation systems, ice storage facilities, and living quarters that allow crews to remain at sea for extended periods. The harbour provides essential facilities for the fishing fleet, including docking areas, fuel supplies, ice production, fish handling facilities, and boat maintenance services. When the vessels return, fishermen unload large quantities of fresh fish that are transported to markets.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

FISHERIES HARBOUR IN MIRISSA

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FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

SEGUWANTIVU WIND FARM IN PUTTALAM

Seguwantivu wind farm is one of Sri Lanka's major renewable energy projects, consisting of numerous large wind turbines strategically positioned in an area known for its strong and consistent coastal winds. These turbines convert the kinetic energy of the wind into electricity, which is supplied to Sri Lanka's national power grid, helping to increase the country's use of clean and sustainable energy sources while reducing dependence on fossil fuels. The wind farm occupies a vast expanse of open coastal land characterized by lagoons, salt marshes, and fishing villages.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

DIYALUMA WATERFALL IN KOSLANDA

Diyaluma falls is the second highest waterfall in Sri Lanka and one of the most spectacular natural attractions in the country's hill country. The waterfall plunges approximately 220 meters (720 feet) down a sheer rock face, creating a breathtaking sight that can be seen from miles away. The name Diyaluma means rapid flow of water in Sinhala, a fitting description for the powerful cascade that tumbles down the mountainside. The falls can be seen from the main road as a striking white ribbon of water descending the dark rock face, visible from several kilometers away.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

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.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

BAMBARAKANDA WATERFALL IN KALUPAHANA

Bambarakanda falls is the tallest waterfall in Sri Lanka, plunging approximately 263 meters (863 feet) down a nearly vertical rock face in the central highlands. Unlike many broad waterfalls, Bambarakanda is characterized by its narrow stream of water that descends in a long, uninterrupted drop from the summit of a steep cliff. The waterfall was formed by Kuda Oya, which is a tributary of the Walawe river. Due to its exceptional height, Bambarakanda falls can be seen from considerable distances, especially during the rainy season when the water flow is at its strongest.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

TROPICAL BEACH IN MIRISSA

Mirissa beach is a beautiful tropical beach on Sri Lanka's southern coast, where coconut palms line the shoreline along the edge of the Indian ocean. One of the main attractions at the beach is parrot rock, a small rocky outcrop located just offshore that can be reached on foot during low tide and offers views across the bay. Nearby is coconut tree hill, a coastal headland covered with tall coconut palms overlooking the ocean. The beach is also home to numerous restaurants, cafes, and small shops that contribute to the lively character of the area throughout the year and resorts.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DRONE FLYING SESSION

TROPICAL BEACH IN DODANDUWA

Dodanduwa beach is a quiet and less crowded coastal area located on Sri Lanka's southern coast, known for its long stretch of sandy shoreline and traditional fishing village atmosphere. The beach is not a major tourist hotspot, which helps preserve its natural and peaceful character. The shoreline is lined with fishing boats, coconut palms, and small houses, reflecting the strong connection between the community and the sea. Fishing is the main activity in the area, with local fishermen often seen bringing in their daily catch or preparing their boats for offshore trips in the Indian ocean,



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

NON DRONE FLYING SESSION

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, kingfishers can be seen there.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

NON DRONE FLYING SESSION

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.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

NON DRONE FLYING SESSION

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 and Vatadage.



FILMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

NON DRONE FLYING SESSION

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.

DRONE FILMING TOUR ITINERARY - 10 DAYS

DAY 01

Meeting At The Browns Beach In Negombo
Poruthota Fishing Village In Negombo (Early Morning)
Seguwantivu Wind Farm In Puttalam (Afternoon)
Overnight Stay In Nochchiyagama

DAY 02

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

DAY 03

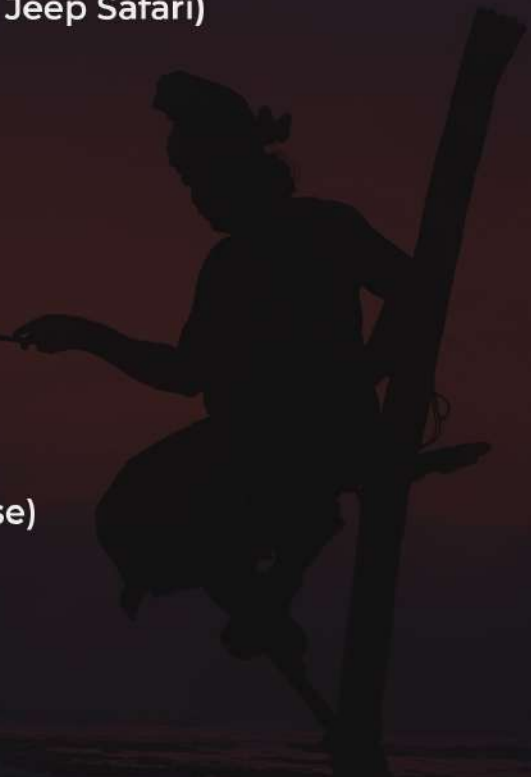
Pidurangala Rock In Sigiriya (Sunset)
Overnight Stay In Sigiriya

DAY 04

Sigiriya Rock Fortress Area In Sigiriya (Sunrise)
Thalkote Lake In Sigiriya (Morning)
Sigiriya Rock Fortress In Sigiriya (Sunset)
Overnight Stay In Sigiriya

DAY 05

Sigiriya Rock Fortress Area In Sigiriya (Sunrise)
Ancient Ruins In Polonnaruwa (Evening)
Overnight Stay In Sigiriya



DRONE FILMING TOUR ITINERARY - 10 DAYS

DAY 06

A Train Passing Around Railway Loop In Demodara (Afternoon)
Overnight Stay In Haputale

DAY 07

Tea Pluckers On Tea Fields In Haputale (Early Morning)
Tuk Tuk Ride Through Green Valley In Haputale (Morning)
Diyaluma Waterfall In Koslanda (Afternoon)
Bambarakanda Waterfall In Kalupahana (Afternoon)
Overnight Stay In Haputale

DAY 08

A Train Passing Over The Nine Arches Bridge In Ella (Morning)
Ravana Waterfall In Ella (Afternoon)
Overnight Stay In Weligama

DAY 09

Fisheries Harbour In Weligama (Sunrise)
Fisheries Harbour In Mirissa (Morning)
Mirissa Beach In Mirissa (Sunset)
Overnight Stay In Weligama

DAY 10

Dodanduwa Beach In Dodanduwa (Early Morning)
Galle Dutch Fort In Galle (Morning)
Japanese Peace Pagoda In Rumassala (Afternoon)
Stilt Fishermen In Habaraduwa (Sunset)
Overnight Stay In Weligama



DRONE FILMING TOUR COST – 10 DAYS

COST PER PERSON

Total cost of the drone filming tour US\$ **1,900** per person

INCLUDES

- Drone Security Clearance Charges
- Drone Tour Guide Service Fee
- Service Fee For Obtaining Drone Security Clearance
- Air Conditioned Private Transport
- Entrance Fees For Attractions
- Entrance Fees For Wilpattu National Park
- Safari Jeep Charges For Wilpattu National Park
- Tuk Tuk Charges From Haputale To Dambethenna

EXCLUDES

- Hotel Accommodation
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Beverages
- Central Cultural Fund Archaeological Site Fee
- Air Tickets And Visa Charges
- Model Release Document Fees (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.

AIRPORT PICKUP & DROPOFF

Our tour will start at Negombo beach, and you may join the drone tour from there. If you are staying within 5 km of Negombo beach, free hotel pickup available on the first day of the tour. Please note that the tour cost does not include airport pickup on the arrival day or airport drop off on the departure day. You may arrange a separate taxi service for airport transfers.

PAYMENT METHOD

ADVANCE DEPOSIT

To confirm your reservation and obtain drone security clearance, a deposit of US\$ **500** is kindly required for each participant. This deposit secures your booking and ensures your place on the tour.

BALANCE PAYMENT

The remaining balance payment for each participant is kindly requested to be settled within three (03) days after arrival.

REFUND POLICY

If any drone flying session is canceled during the tour for any reason, the cost of entrance tickets or related expenses (excluding transport and security clearance costs) will be refunded. Please note that this does not apply to tickets purchased in advance due to high demand, if applicable. Kindly be advised that advance deposits are non refundable if a participant is unable to join drone filming tour due to personal reasons, as we pay and obtain the drone flying security clearance in advance.

PAYMENT MEDIUM

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

DRONE FLYING AND TRAVEL TIME

We have scheduled one or two major drone flying sessions per day and have not planned more within a single day due to travel time, fatigue from long drives, and drone battery charging limitations. However, it is always possible to make stops along the way to capture amazing drone footage as you wish, depending on lighting conditions and the time remaining during the journey. Please note that drone security clearance is issued district wise in Sri Lanka. If you wish to capture videos in a district that is not included in a pre planned drone flying session for which we have already obtained security clearance, there is no issue in flying the drone. However, if you wish to fly the drone in a district where we have not already obtained security clearance for a pre planned drone flying session, it will not be possible to fly the drone as desired.

DRONE RULES & COMPLIANCE NOTICE

Please kindly note that we conduct the drone filming tour strictly in accordance with government rules and do not encourage any violation of drone flying regulations. However, if you choose to break the government drone flying rules and are caught by the Sri Lanka police or relevant authorities, you will be required to deal with the matter yourself, and we will not be involved in such cases. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in maintaining legal and safe drone operations throughout the tour.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DRONE FEES

The archaeological sites of Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa, Anuradhapura, Dambulla, and Galle are managed and conserved by the Sri Lankan government institution known as the Central Cultural Fund (CCF). Therefore, the standard drone security clearance issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka does not permit flying drones within CCF managed heritage sites. Special approval must be obtained separately from the CCF, and drone operations inside these archaeological sites are treated as documentary filming activities. The foreigner permit fee for flying a drone at these locations starts from approximately **USD 600** per site per day. If you wish to fly your drone inside any of these archaeological sites by obtaining and paying for the required CCF approvals, please inform us in advance. In our tour schedule, we have planned drone flying activities outside the CCF managed archaeological zones, and our tour cost does not include CCF permit charges required for drone operations inside those protected heritage sites.

SRI LANKA DRONE REGULATIONS

According to Sri Lanka's national aviation authority, the civil aviation authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL), flying a drone is legal in Sri Lanka, but it is recommended to be aware of and comply with the drone regulations listed below before flying.

Any drone that is equipped with any data capturing sensors which could potentially pose a safety or security threat shall not be flown without prior authorization. Drones are prohibited from operating at speeds above 87 knots (100 mph).

The remote pilot must maintain visual line of sight and remain aware of the surrounding environment at all times. A drone operation should not be conducted during inclement weather or when visibility is less than 5 km (3 miles).

Only one drone can be operated at the same time by the same remote pilot. Operating a drone from a moving vehicle, boat, or any other moving platform is prohibited. Remote pilots must ensure that they always give way to all manned aircraft and any other manned vehicles. Drones are not permitted to operate at night from 20 minutes after sunset to 20 minutes before sunrise. Insurance is required for drones above 250g.

