

# [Travelzoo] 12 Day Highlights of Sri Lanka with Maldives

## Asia Vacation Group – World Travel Expert!

Local knowledge, adventures of a lifetime.

Explore the world with our team of experts and embark on a carefully selected, value-packed exploration of the world's most iconic destinations. Our tours offer must-visit sights, rich experiences, and quality inclusions all at an unbeatable price. Your bucket list dreams are ticked off on these all-encompassing vacations. Specializing in travel tours that span the globe since 2015, we are proud to be the people who craft your itinerary, help you at each step, plus guide and operate your tour. You can travel with confidence, knowing our team has curated these itineraries based on their first-hand travel experience.

<b>Exclusive for Travelzoo member</b>	<b>Return Flights included</b>	<b>7 Day Change of Mind</b>
<b>Small Group Tour</b>		

## Day by Day Itinerary

Negombo, Sigiriya, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Tissamaharama, Galle, Maldives

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Return flights included**
- Incredible sightseeing including discovering Safari at Minneriya National Park Climb The Sigiriya Rock Fortress, Dambulla Cave Temple Heritage Site, Tea Plantation & Tea Factory and relax in Maldives.
- Comfortable group experience with no more than 15 persons
- Airport transfers included on the first and last day of tour
- Dedicated transportation in comfortable, air-conditioned vehicles
- Daily breakfasts, 1 lunches, 3 dinners
- Fully escorted by English-speaking local guides
- In-depth sightseeing and all entry fees as per the itinerary

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Negombo Arrival

Welcome to Sri Lanka.

A warm welcome await you at the arrival lounge of the Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake. Your tour guide will give you a brief introduction and commence the trip to Negombo.

Check in to hotel rest of the day at leisure and overnight stay at the hotel.

**Meals:** On-flight meals

**Accommodation:** Regal Reseau Hotel & Spa 4\* or similar

### Day 2: Negombo - Dambulla Golden Cave - Sigiriya

After breakfast, drive to Dambulla (**160 km/4 hours**). Upon arrival, visit **Dambulla Golden Cave Temple**, designated as a world heritage site dating from the 1st century BC Dambulla temple is located on a gigantic rock towering more than 160 m above the surrounding area. The Rock itself is more than 1.5 km around its base and the summit is at 550m. The caves on this rock were the refuge of King Walagamba when he was in exile for 14 years and feature a mixture of religious and worldly paintings and sculptures. Several reclining Buddha statues include the 15-meter-long sculpture of the Buddha which is carved to the rock.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner.

**Accommodation:** Tropical Life Resort & Spa 3\*

### Day 3: Lion Rock Fortress - Polonnaruwa - Sigiriya

After early breakfast, you will climb the Sigiriya Rock Fortress (Lion's Rock), one of the most extraordinary artistic complexes of its time. This magnificent citadel, declared as a UNESCO heritage site in 1982, allures artistic and

architectural curiosity from around the globe. Sigiriya is a rock fortress built in the 5th century A.D. This majestic Citadel in the sky was the refuge of King Kasyapa and is world-renowned for its Mirror Wall', which consists of poems and paragraphs carved by some of the thousands of visitors who visited the rock many years ago, and for its magnificent frescoes, like the Ajantha frescoes of India. After that, you will transfer to Polonnaruwa. Along the way, experience the authentic flavors of Sri Lanka with a farmer's lunch prepared by a local family, showcasing the island's culinary traditions. Savor the taste of freshly prepared rice and curry dishes, carefully crafted using local ingredients.

After lunch, drive to visit the Polonnaruwa Ancient Kingdom is Sri Lanka's second oldest kingdom and features a plethora of ruins and places of religious worship. Some of the many interesting places to visit in Polonnaruwa include the Gal Viharaya (Stone temple), Lankathilake, Thivanka Image House, Nissanka Latha Mandapaya, the Audience Hall and the Vatadage. Then return to the hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch.

**Accommodation:** Tropical Life Resort & Spa 3\* or similar

#### **Day 4: Sigiriya - Kandy**

After breakfast, proceed to Kandy city (**90 km / 2 hours**) enroute visit a Spice Garden in Matale.

You will learn the ingredients for cooking curry, distinguish species, experience massage and shopping for some product nature stay here. Thereafter, go ahead to Kandy City.

Upon arrival, explore the city tour by foot. Visit Central market, Old Bogambara Prison from outside, stroll around Kandy Lake will entice you to spend some time here. Also, visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic of the Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. The sacred relic was brought to Sri Lanka in the 4th century A.D. The sacred relic has ever since been the symbol of sovereignty for its ruler and is always enshrined in great splendor. Embark on a sightseeing tour in the city of Kandy. Thereafter, enjoy a typical Sri Lankan cultural performance.

**Meals:** Breakfast.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Topaz 3+\*

**Tips & suggestions:** During the visit of Temple of the Tooth please wear clothing covering knees and shoulders, as a sign of respect. You will also be required to leave your shoes at the shoe counter near to the entrance before entering the temple.

#### **Day 5: Kandy - Tea Factory - Nuwara Eliya**

After breakfast, you will leave for Nuwara Eliya.

Along the way, you will visit Peradeniya Botanical Gardens once enjoyed by a Kandyan queen; this rose garden is enclosed next to a large bend in the Mahaweli River. Residence of Kandyan princes in the 1st Century. There are 4,000 different plant species here, considered one of the most advanced in Asia.

Afternoon visit a tea plantation and a factory. Here you will enjoy the absolute tea experience, taking you from the moment the young tea leaves are plucked from the plantation to being processed in the factory to make a steamy cup of tea. If you are interested, the tea factory is the best place to purchase good quality tea. Next, proceed to Nuwara Eliya and admire the amazing views here.

Arrive and check in to the hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner.

**Accommodation:** Lynden Grove Hotel 3\*

**Tips & suggestions:** Please note you will be driving to an altitude of 1900 meters and therefore the temperature in Nuwara Eliya will be 20-25c during the day, and 10-15c during the night. Warm clothing is recommended.

#### **Day 6: Nuwara Eliya - Ella - Tissamaharama**

After breakfast, embark on one of South Asia's most famous train rides, The mystical train ride from Nanu Oya to Ella. The train journey from **Nanu Oya to Ella** in Sri Lanka is widely regarded as one of the most extraordinary and visually stunning experiences in the world. Spanning approximately 25 kilometers (15.5 miles), this scenic route traverses the captivating landscapes of Sri Lanka's hill country. As the train ascends gradually into the mountains, passengers are treated to breathtaking panoramic vistas of verdant tea plantations, ethereal valleys veiled in mist, captivating waterfalls, and dense forests teeming with life. Pick up from Railway station and proceed to Tissamaharama. Upon arrival, you will be taken to the hotel at for check in.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner.

**Accommodation:** Chaarya Resort & Spa 4\*

**Special note:** that it is not possible to confirm the train ticket reservation due to the fact that Sri Lanka Railway has a manual system for reservations. Tickets can only be booked 30 days prior to departure. On the rare occasion the

train is fully booked we'll conduct the route by road.

#### **Day 7: Tissamaharama - Beruwala**

After breakfast, you are free at leisure or you can purchase our optional **Yala National Park**.

Afterwards proceed to Galle and engage in a Galle city tour.

**Meals:** Breakfast.

**Accommodation:** Lady Hill Hotel 3\*.

#### **Optional Tour:** Yala National Park (Highlight Tour )

Wake up early in the morning at 05.30am, visit the Yala National Park with a packed breakfast from the hotel. The Yala National Park in southern Sri Lanka has the world's highest concentration of leopards. Much of the nature reserve is parkland, but it also includes jungle, beaches, freshwater lakes, rivers and scrubland. In addition to leopards the Yala National Park is also home to substantial numbers of elephants, crocodiles, wild boar, water buffalo, gray langurs and many more varieties of large animals. But that's not all; the park is also home to birds of prey such as the white-bellied sea eagles, waders, painted Storks, the Indian peafowl and the Sri Lanka jungle fowl.

#### **Day 8: Galle - Colombo - Maldives**

After breakfast, you are free at leisure.

Then you were transferred to the airport for the flight to Male – Capital of Maldives.

**Welcome to Paradise!** A visit to the Maldives is truly a dream come true. This stunning tropical nation lies within the Indian Ocean and is composed of 26 colourful coral atolls composed of hundreds of idyllic islands. The Maldives is world famous for its beautiful beaches, sapphire blue lagoons and extensive coral reefs. Upon arrival you will be welcomed and then transferred to your hotel by speed boat. After checking in, the rest of the day is yours to spend at leisure, taking in the gorgeous tropical landscape.

Your all inclusive package includes:

– Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily – snacks & cakes are available outside main mealtimes

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Adaaran Club Rannalhi 4\* or similar

#### **Day 9: Maldives**

This morning enjoy a delicious breakfast while admiring the surrounding low-lying islands that make up the utopian Maldives. Every atoll here is formed by centuries of coral reef growth, and each is encircled by a shallow lagoon, protected by the surrounding reef systems. The islands here have tropical castaway qualities: tall coconut palms, white sandy beaches and crystal clear lagoons. Today you may enjoy an entire day of leisure, participating in some of the many exciting activities that the islands have to offer.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Adaaran Club Rannalhi 4\* or similar

#### **Day 10: Maldives**

Breakfast at your resort and you also enjoy your leisure day in the dreamy Maldives. Enjoy any number of the incredible activities available to you, and make the most of your fantastic adventure here. Alternatively, relax on the beach and take in the picture-perfect surroundings while dipping your toes in the warm, luscious waters of the Indian Ocean. You will have never known true relaxation until you set foot on this luxurious white sandy beach.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Adaaran Club Rannalhi 4\* or similar

#### **Day 11: Maldives - Male - Home**

After breakfast, check out your hotel and leave your resort to Male Airport and then take a flight back home.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** On plane

#### **Day 12: Home**

You arrive your home and we hope you will enjoy your amazed holiday with Asia Vacation Group

## **INCLUSIONS**

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- **Return flights included**
- 02 water bottles per person per day
- Airport transfers included on the first and last day of tour
- 10 nights in 3\* and 4\* hotel accommodation
- Dedicated transportation in comfortable, air-conditioned vehicles
- Daily Breakfasts, 6 lunches, 3 dinners
- Fully escorted by English-speaking local guides
- In-depth sightseeing and all entry fees as per the itinerary

## EXCLUSIONS

- Meals and drinks are not mentioned in the program
- Visa fee in Sri Lanka, Maldives
- Tipping for driver and tour guide (AUD10/per person/day)
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance (we strongly recommend you hold a valid travel insurance policy for all domestic and overseas travel)
- Trip delay or interruption by airline schedule change
- Extra cost or missing tour caused by flight delay or cancel
- Any service not clearly mentioned in the program

## DEPARTURE DATES: PRICE IS QUOTED IN AU\$ PER PERSON

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Friday</b> 12 Jul 2024	<b>Tuesday</b> 23 Jul 2024	AU\$4,699		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 23 Aug 2024	<b>Tuesday</b> 03 Sep 2024	AU\$2,999	Hot Deal	<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 06 Sep 2024	<b>Tuesday</b> 17 Sep 2024	AU\$2,999	Hot Deal	<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 04 Oct 2024	<b>Tuesday</b> 15 Oct 2024	AU\$4,599		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Monday</b> 04 Nov 2024	<b>Friday</b> 15 Nov 2024	AU\$2,999	Hot Deal	<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 22 Nov 2024	<b>Tuesday</b> 03 Dec 2024	AU\$4,199		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 20 Dec 2024	<b>Tuesday</b> 31 Dec 2024	AU\$5,699		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 10 Jan 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 21 Jan 2025	AU\$5,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 24 Jan 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 04 Feb 2025	AU\$4,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 07 Feb 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 18 Feb 2025	AU\$4,599		<a href="#">Book</a>

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Friday</b> 21 Feb 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 04 Mar 2025	AU\$2,999	Hot Deal	<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 07 Mar 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 18 Mar 2025	AU\$4,599		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 21 Mar 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 01 Apr 2025	AU\$4,499		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 04 Apr 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 15 Apr 2025	AU\$4,499		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 18 Apr 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 29 Apr 2025	AU\$4,499		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 02 May 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 13 May 2025	AU\$2,999	Hot Deal	<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 16 May 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 27 May 2025	AU\$2,999	Hot Deal	<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 06 Jun 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 17 Jun 2025	AU\$3,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 20 Jun 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 01 Jul 2025	AU\$4,499		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 18 Jul 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 29 Jul 2025	AU\$4,599		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 15 Aug 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 26 Aug 2025	AU\$4,299		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 12 Sep 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 23 Sep 2025	AU\$4,599		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 10 Oct 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 21 Oct 2025	AU\$4,599		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 24 Oct 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 04 Nov 2025	AU\$4,599		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 14 Nov 2025	<b>Tuesday</b> 25 Nov 2025	AU\$4,399		<a href="#">Book</a>

## OPTIONAL TOURS

## FINE PRINT

### FLIGHT INFORMATION

This package includes international flights from Sydney/Melbourne and surcharge from Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth or other city if requested when selecting your departure city.

### Interstate Surcharge

## Surcharge of **\$400 for departures from Adelaide, Brisbane** and Perth

In this packages, we will use some different airlines such as: Malaysia Airlines, Sri Lanka or similar (23kg for checked baggage per passenger and 7kg hand luggage per passenger, 01-piece check-in baggage).

- Some flights will require a minimum of 1 transit (maximum 2).
- All tickets will include 23 kilos checked baggage per person, along with 7 kilos of hand luggage.
- Despite the airlines baggage allowance, we recommend travelling with 20 kilos per person due to restrictions with internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train transportation. Also, you will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters is not included. If travelling over this amount, you will be liable for any excess baggage fees enforced by the airline, payable direct.
- Once ticketed, flights are non-refundable. Any changes will be subject to the airline rules, Airline change fees and an Asia Vacation Group change fee of \$250 per person.
- Full names as per passport (including all middle names) are required. Any error in the names submitted will be subject to an Asia Vacation Group name change fee of \$150 plus any applicable fees charged by the airline, or the ticket may be non-refundable with the purchase of a new ticket required.
- Any airline schedule changes or cancellations are beyond our control. It is important that you, as the customer, stay up-to-date with the latest airline schedule information prior to your departure. If a schedule change results in extended transits or an earlier/later departure from your destination, any additional accommodation or alternative arrangements will be at the traveler's expense.
- Any airline 'extras' such as pre-allocated seating is at your own arrangement (additional charges apply)
- After booking, the price payable may be subject to change as a result of factors beyond the control of Asia Vacation Group. Asia Vacation Group reserves the right to increase the price payable and this will be reflected on the customer's invoice. Increases may be in relation to, but not limited to, currency fluctuations, airline taxes, airfare increases and fuel surcharges.
- Internal airfares (where applicable and included in the itinerary) will be using a local carrier and may include low-cost carriers without meals or entertainment. Checked baggage will still be included for each passenger. Any additional baggage required is payable at time of check-in.
- If you are travelling with another party on a separate booking, we cannot guarantee that the same flights will be booked for all parties, as this strictly depends on availability.
- You will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters are not included. If travelling over the recommended amount, you will be liable for any excess baggage fees enforced by the airline, payable directly.
- In the event of that you no-show on your scheduled flight, please be aware the airline will require you to pay a no show fee, Airline reissue fee plus any additional airfare and taxes. Asia Vacation Group will also charge a \$250 admin fee to assist re accommodating you on the next available flight. Please note that depending on the airline's policy, purchasing a new ticket may be required.

### **Flight requests, amendments or preferences**

We understand customers may wish to request changes to their included airfares. If you wish to fly with a certain airline, land at a certain time or change your flight in other ways we will gladly provide you with a personalized quote tailored to your specific requirements.

We would be more than happy to provide you with a quote for the following requests:

Airline Preferences – You may wish to fly with a particular airline

Cabin Preferences – These include upgrading to premium economy or business class

Extensions (start and end cities must remain the same) – You may request to extend your stay pre or post tour.

Meal Requests – You may request a specific meal for dietary requirements.

Seat Requests – If you would like to request particular seating. However please note, not all airlines allow the selection of pre-purchased seat arrangements.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **Physical Requirements**

A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

### **Tipping**

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. Please be advised that tipping for tour guides, drivers and bellmen are required and will be collected by your travel consultant 7 days before you depart. A gratuity of 10AUD per person/day can make a big difference to locals employed in the tourism industry as they have done an impeccable job to serve you through your holiday.

**Accommodation**

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

**Single Supplement**

Single supplement is **\$1,700 per person** in addition to the twin share price.

**Paired Solo Traveler**

Not available.

**Group size:**

4-16 pax

**Triple Share**

Upon your request except for cruises

**Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is recommended to protect yourself against the unexpected. In addition to the support that a policy may provide, you may be asked to present a copy of your travel insurance documentation while traveling.

We have partnered with **Nib Travel Insurance** to offer our customers competitive rates for their travel insurance.

You can book Comprehensive or Essentials cover for your domestic, international or multi-trip journeys simply with us.

**Visa & Passport information**

It is the traveler's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of return and must have more than 2 blank pages.

**Sri Lanka**

An e-visa is required for entry into Sri Lanka. The Department of Immigration and Emigration launched a system called "Electronic Travel Authorization – ETA" in order to grant prior approval for a visa online for foreign nationals who visit Sri Lanka. You can visit <http://eta.gov.lk/slvisa/> to purchase your visa online.

E-Visa's are only valid for 30 days, so you can only apply closer to your travel dates. Please do not apply for your visa until you have your travel documentation. It will take 3 business days to be approved. The cost is US\$50 per person.

Please note that these details are subject to change without notice. We recommend visiting <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/> for up to date information in terms of entry requirements.

**Maldives**

A tourist visa is available on arrival for stays of 30 days or less.

Please note that these details are subject to change without notice. We recommend visiting <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/> for up to date information in terms of entry requirements.

**Tour Documentation**

Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

**Children**

Children must be 2 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are the same price as adults.

**Tour Length**

The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land.

**HOW TO EXTEND YOUR STAY**

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour. On this tour you can pay extra for arriving early or extension your trip.

AU\$200 pp for trip extension or early arrivals. This is just administrative only, no service included.

**ASIA VACATION GROUP**

Australia Call: 1800 229 339