### 15 DAYS 5 STAR GRAND SRI LANKA

### Asia Vacation Group - Authentic Asia!

Local knowledge, adventures of a lifetime.

Discover <u>Asia</u> with our team of experts, and a carefully selected, value-packed exploration of Asia's most iconic destinations. Our tours offer must-visit sights, rich experiences and quality inclusions all at an unbeatable prices. Your bucket list dreams are ticked off on these all-encompassing vacations.

Travel with the confidence. Your trip has been carefully crafted by <u>our team</u> with you in mind and it's that same team that takes you on the journey. One amazing team to help and guide you, not only as your local travel expert but also as a friend with helpfulness and sincerity.

Specialists in Asia touring since 2015, <u>Asia Vacation Group</u> is proud to be the people who craft your itinerary, help you at each step, plus guide and operate your tour.

The New Zealand Company	Relaxed Itinerary	7 Days Change of Mind to Receive Full Refund
Return Flight Included		

#### **Day by Day Itinerary**

Colombo, Galle, Yala National Park, Nuwara Eliya, Kandy, Sigiriya, Chilaw

## HIGHLIGHTS

Discover Sri Lanka at an unbelievable price. Explore Galle Fort, Yala National Park, Nuwara Eliya, Tea Plantation and Factory, Minneriya National Park, Lion Rock Fortress and Polonnaruwa Ancient City

### • Returned International flights included from Australia

- Incredible sightseeing, including: Yala National Park, Minneriya National Park, Lion Rock Fortress and Polonnaruwa Ancient City
- Comfortable group experience with no more than 16 persons
- Airport transfers included on the first and last day of tour
- 13 nights at 5-star hotel accommodation
- Dedicated transportation in comfortable, air-conditioned vehicles
- Daily breakfast buffet, 6 dinners and 2 lunches
- Fully escorted by English-speaking local guides on the day tour.
- In-depth sightseeing and all entry fees as per the itinerary

### ITINERARY

### Day 1: Colombo Arrival

Welcome to Sri Lanka!

On arrival at Bandaranaike International Airport, you will be met by your private transfer and driven to your accommodation in Colombo. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Meals: In-flight meals

Accommodation: Movenpick Colombo 5\* or similar

Please note: Due to airline flight schedules, some flights arrive very late in the evening. There is the opportunity to book pre-tour accommodation in Colombo should you wish

### Day 2: Colombo City Tour - Galle

After breakfast, you will meet the tour guide and give you an orientation and introduction to Sri Lanka and your upcoming journey. Afterwards, you will head south towards Galle, with a brief Colombo sightseeing tour on the way. Colombo offers a blend of modern western and Sri Lankan elements, we'll drive past some of the commercial capital's sites including Old Parliament, President's House, Gangaramaya Temple, Galle Face Green, Pettah,

ViharamahaDevi Park, and Independence Square.

We will also visit the Colombo National Museum. This charming museum takes visitors on a fascinating journey through Sri Lankan history. Housed in a stunning neo-Baroque building, which was specifically constructed by William Henry Gregory, Governor of Ceylon, in 1877, the museum boasts a gleaming white façade. As you make your way through the various rooms, you'll encounter exhibits dedicated to each of Sri Lanka's historical kingdoms. Informational display boards provide intriguing insights, such as the meaning behind the mudras (gestures and poses) depicted in Sri Lanka's Buddha statues. Then, in Balapitiya, we take a boat trip on the Madu River to visit 64 scattered islands, including Cinnamon Island, where we learn about cinnamon production. Sri Lanka is the world's largest producer of pure cinnamon. Spend tonight in Galle.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner.

Accommodation: Radisson Blu Resort Galle 5\* or similar

### Day 3: Galle

Today, set on a tour of the Galle Fort and its Fortifications. This is a city that exudes an essence with a perfect blend of past and present. Declared a UNESCO heritage site in 1988, the presence of Portuguese, Dutch and English is very evident in the fascinating architectural styles of the Galle Fort.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner.

Accommodation: Radisson Blu Resort Galle 5\* or similar

#### Day 4: Galle - Yala National Park

In the morning, we left for Yala National Park. On arrival, spend your afternoon on a guided game drive exploring the dynamic wildlife and the most luxuriant plant life in Yala National Park. Being one of the largest parks in Sri Lanka, it is the ideal place to sight the rare leopard!

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner.

Accommodation: Jetwing Yala 5\* or similar

Please note: Yala National Park closes for a period between the months of September and October. The exact closure dates are made clear closer to the time. The closure is due to the prevailing dry weather prior to this time and taking into consideration the well-being of the wildlife in the reserve. For departure dates that fall over this period, as defined in the departure dates listed below, Yala National Park will be replaced with a visit to Udawalawe National Park, while still being able to visit Block 4 or 5 of Yala National Park

### Day 5: Yala National Park - Nuwara Eliya

This morning, enjoy another safari in the Yala National Park by jeep to spot the diverse wildlife which calls the park home. After, we leave Yala behind us and continue the journey to Nuwara Eliya. Often referred to as 'Little England', this genteel highland community does have a rose-tinted, vaguely British-country-village feel to it, with its colonialera bungalows. Upon arrival, check in at the hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner.

Accommodation: The Golden Ridge Hotel 5\* or similar

**Please note:** Nuwara Eliya will be 20-25c during the day, and 10-15c during the night. Warm clothing is recommended. A smart casual dress code applies for dinner at all restaurants and bars. Guests in short trousers and sleeveless shirts and rubber slippers will not be permitted to enter the restaurants.

### Day 6: Nuwara Eliya - Visit Tea Plantation and Factory

Today you will have a leisurely morning.

In the afternoon you will visit a Tea Plantation and Factory. Here you will enjoy an absolute tea experience, taking you from the moment young tea leaves are plucked to being processed in the factory to make a steaming cup of tea. If you are interested, the tea factory is the best place to purchase high quality tea. Please wear strong and comfortable walking shoes.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner.

Accommodation: The Golden Ridge Hotel 5\* or similar

### Day 7: Nuwara Eliya - Kandy

This morning, you will depart for Kandy on a famous train journey, said to be one of the most scenic and beautiful in the world. Apart from the breathtaking sceneries of the tea country and picturesque waterfalls, it is a chance for you to mingle with local people. Discover the rich history of Kandy, once known as Senkadagala, during its time as the Hill Capital from 1514-1815 AD. Named a UNESCO heritage site in 1988, Kandy boasts a beautiful lake, historic

temples like the Temple of the Tooth Relic, and well-preserved ruins of the royal palaces.

Enjoy some free time upon arrival in Kandy during the afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner.

Accommodation: The Golden Crown Hotel 5\* or similar

### **Day 8: Kandy City Tour**

Discover the rich history of Kandy, once known as Senkadagala, during its time as the Hill Capital from 1514-1815 AD. Named a UNESCO heritage site in 1988, Kandy boasts a beautiful lake, historic temples like the Temple of the Tooth Relic, and well-preserved ruins of the royal palaces. Explore the beautiful city of Kandy with an included Tuk Tuk and Bazaar tour, followed by a delicious lunch at a local restaurant. Relax in the afternoon with a stroll around the picturesque Kandy Lake. In the evening, visit the revered Temple of Tooth, home to a sacred relic of the Buddha and its guardian elephants. End your day with a spectacular Sri Lankan Cultural Performance.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

**Accommodation**: The Golden Crown Hotel 5\* or similar

**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 9: Kandy - Dambulla Rock Cave Temple - Sigiriya

Today, you will leave for Sigiriya.

Enroute, explore the impressive Dambulla Rock Cave Temple, also known as the Golden Temple of Dambulla. This UNESCO heritage site dates back to the 3rd Century BC and boasts 157 statues and extraordinary paintings covering a vast 2100m2 area, making it the most impressive cave complex in Sri Lanka. It's truly a masterpiece worth experiencing.

Continue to Sigiriya for check-in.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner.

Accommodation: Cinnamon Lodge 5\* or similar

**Please note:** Since elephants are migratory animals, we may visit Wasgamuwa National Park on this day instead, based on the elephant locations.

### Day 10: Sigiriya - Sigiriya Rock Fortress - Polonnaruwa

After breakfast, you will transfer to Polonnaruwa. 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.

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, enjoy a private jeep safari at Minneriya National Park. Located in the districts of Matale and Polonnaruwa and bordered by the 'Mahaweli' and 'Amban' rivers, this park stretches an impressive 36,948 hectares. It was declared a National park in 1984, making it the only one in the Central Province. It's a paradise for nature lovers and one of the best places to observe elephants. Then return to the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

**Accommodation**: Cinnamon Lodge 5\* or similar

### Day 11: 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner.

Accommodation: Cinnamon Lodge 5\* or similar

### Day 12: Sigiriya - Chilaw

Today we make for the coastal town of Chilaw to finish off our time in Sri Lanka relaxing near the crystal waters of

the Indian Ocean. Chilaw is well known for the three 'C's' - Crabs, Coconuts and Coreas.

Meals: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Anantaya Resort and Spa Chilaw 5\* or similar

### Day 13: Chilaw

Today, you are free time at leisure to relax at the beach or explore the city as you wish.

Meals: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Anantaya Resort and Spa Chilaw 5\* or similar

#### Day 14: Chilaw - Home

Today you will be transferred to the Bandaranaike International Airport to board your flight home.

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight meals Accommodation: On Plane

#### Day 15: Home

Today, you arrive your hotel and we hope you enjoy your trip with Asia Vacation Group

### INCLUSIONS

- Returned International flights from New Zealand
- 02 water bottles per person per day
- Airport transfers included on the first and last day of tour
- 13 nights accommodation in centrally location
- Dedicated transportation in comfortable, air-conditioned vehicles
- Daily Breakfasts, 2 lunches, 9 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
- Tipping for driver and tour guide (AUD10/per person/day)
- Personal expenses
- Camera permits to sites.
- Compulsory New Year & Christmas Eve supplements
- Perahera Supplement whilst in Kandy.
- 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 NZ\$ PER PERSON

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Thursday</b> 18 Jul 2024	<b>Thursday</b> 01 Aug 2024	NZ\$6,699		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 08 Aug 2024	<b>Thursday</b> 22 Aug 2024	NZ\$6,299		Book

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Thursday</b> 22 Aug 2024	<b>Thursday</b> 05 Sep 2024	NZ\$6,299		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 12 Sep 2024	<b>Thursday</b> 26 Sep 2024	NZ\$6,299		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 26 Sep 2024	Thursday 10 Oct 2024	NZ\$6,499		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 10 Oct 2024	Thursday 24 Oct 2024	NZ\$6,299		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 24 Oct 2024	Thursday 07 Nov 2024	NZ\$6,299		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 14 Nov 2024	Thursday 28 Nov 2024	NZ\$6,599		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 28 Nov 2024	Thursday 12 Dec 2024	NZ\$6,699		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 12 Dec 2024	Thursday 26 Dec 2024	NZ\$7,099		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 20 Feb 2025	<b>Thursday</b> 06 Mar 2025	NZ\$6,399		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 06 Mar 2025	Thursday 20 Mar 2025	NZ\$6,499		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 20 Mar 2025	Thursday 03 Apr 2025	NZ\$6,499		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 10 Apr 2025	Thursday 24 Apr 2025	NZ\$6,499		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 24 Apr 2025	<b>Thursday</b> 08 May 2025	NZ\$6,799		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 08 May 2025	<b>Thursday</b> 22 May 2025	NZ\$6,299		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 22 May 2025	Thursday 05 Jun 2025	NZ\$6,299		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 12 Jun 2025	Thursday 26 Jun 2025	NZ\$6,299		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 10 Jul 2025	Thursday 24 Jul 2025	NZ\$6,699		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 14 Aug 2025	Thursday 28 Aug 2025	NZ\$6,299		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 28 Aug 2025	Thursday 11 Sep 2025	NZ\$6,299		Book

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Thursday</b> 04 Sep 2025	<b>Thursday</b> 18 Sep 2025	NZ\$6,499		Book
Thursday 18 Sep 2025	Thursday 02 Oct 2025	NZ\$6,498		Book
Thursday 09 Oct 2025	Thursday 23 Oct 2025	NZ\$6,299		Book
Thursday 23 Oct 2025	Thursday 06 Nov 2025	NZ\$6,299		Book
<b>Thursday</b> 06 Nov 2025	Thursday 20 Nov 2025	NZ\$6,599		Book
Thursday 20 Nov 2025	<b>Thursday</b> 04 Dec 2025	NZ\$6,699		Book

### **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: Sri Lanka Airlines, Malaysia Airllines, or similar (20-23kg for checked baggage per passenger and 7kg hand luggage per passenger).

- 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 \$1,290 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 NibTravel 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 <a href="http://eta.gov.lk/slvisa/">http://eta.gov.lk/slvisa/</a> 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 <a href="https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/">https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/</a> 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 choose from the following options:

#### **Pre Tour Accommodation**

- \$280 per room, per night based on double/twin room share
- \$80 per vehicle per way

#### **Post Tour Accommodation**

- \$245 per room, per night based on double/twin room share
- \$80 per vehicle per way

Please select the number of extra nights required in the 'Additional Nights Accommodation' field when making your purchase. The additional cost for these arrangements will be added to your final payment invoice and are subject to availability.

**ASIA VACATION GROUP** 

Australia Call: 1800 229 339