

Sri Lanka

CULTURE LOVERS TOUR



Get ready to immerse yourself in Sri Lanka's fascinating culture, history and heritage. Explore UNESCO World Heritage-listed sites, visit the iconic tea plantations that dot the country's central highlands and catch a glimpse of local Sri Lankan life.

DAY 1



ARRIVE IN COLOMBO, TRAVEL TO NEGOMBO

45 MINUTES DRIVE

Welcome to Sri Lanka! Upon arrival at Colombo International Airport, connect with your dedicated My Holiday guide and drive just 45 minutes to your hotel in Negombo. Once a small fishing town, Negombo is now a modern tourist hotspot, located on the west coast of Sri Lanka. Head to Sea Street, where you'll find many seafood restaurants, serving delicious local dishes.

Accommodation: Suriya Resort

DAY 2



NEGOMBO TO MATALE (B, L, D)

5 HOURS DRIVE

Today, leave for Matale, where you'll visit one of Sri Lanka's famed spice gardens. This offers a great chance to learn more about the spices grown in Sri Lanka and their many uses in both food and medicine. Later, engage in a cooking demonstration to gain firsthand experience in how to add spices to your own meals at home.

Accommodation: Arangala Forest Lodge

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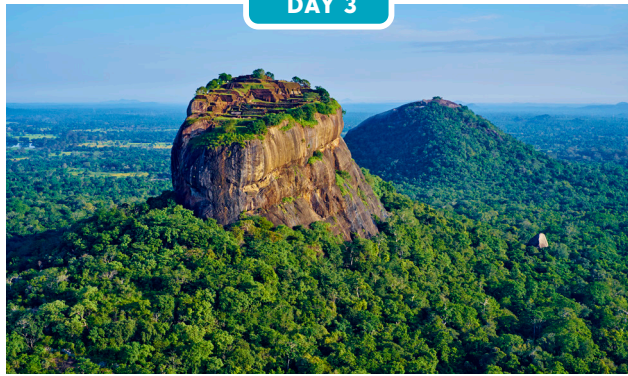
 **NATALIE GRUZLEWSKI**
TRAVEL EXPERT



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DAY 3



MATALE TO SIGIRIYA TO MATALE (B, L, D)

3 HOURS DRIVE

Head to Sigiriya Rock Fortress, often referred to as the Eighth Wonder of the World. Rising out of the lush jungle, this rocky monolith is home to the remains of an ancient fortress built in the late fifth century. Sigiriya translates to 'Lion Rock', a reference to the way visitors traditionally began their final ascent to the top of the fortress: passing through the open jaw of a lion. Today, the only remains of this lion figure are the gigantic paws sculpted into the side of the rock. Later, return to Matale and participate in another traditional Sri Lankan cooking experience.

Accommodation: Arangala Forest Lodge

DAY 4



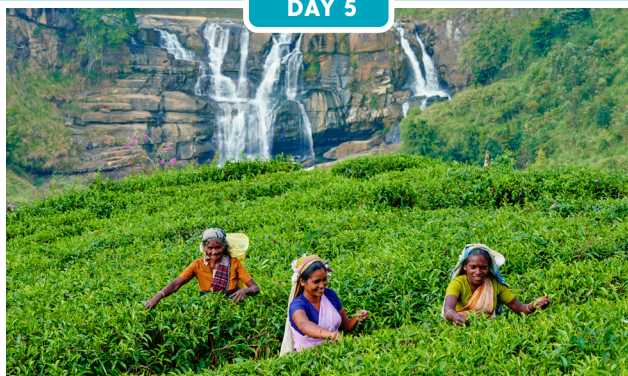
MATALE TO KANDY (B, D)

3.5 HOURS DRIVE

Travel to Kandy and head to the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic. Dating back to the 16th century, this UNESCO World Heritage Site consists of numerous buildings, each decorated with paintings and carvings depicting Buddha. As the name suggests, this temple complex houses the relic of the tooth of Buddha, which is carefully guarded by security night and day. This evening, be entertained by traditional Kandyan dancers during a cultural show and visit a local family at their house for a homemade dinner.

Accommodation: Amaya Hills

DAY 5



KANDY TO NUWARA ELIYA (B, D)

30 MINUTES DRIVE + 3.5 HOURS TRAIN

Today, embark on one of the world's most beautiful rail journeys. Built by British colonists in 1864 to transport Ceylon Tea to the capital city, the four-hour railway from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya offers unending views of lush tea estates and the surrounding hills. This train journey is a must-do on any trip to Sri Lanka. Upon arrival in Nuwara Eliya, head to a working tea plantation to watch as the tea pickers collect leaves, deliver sacks to the factory and process the leaves to create the final product.

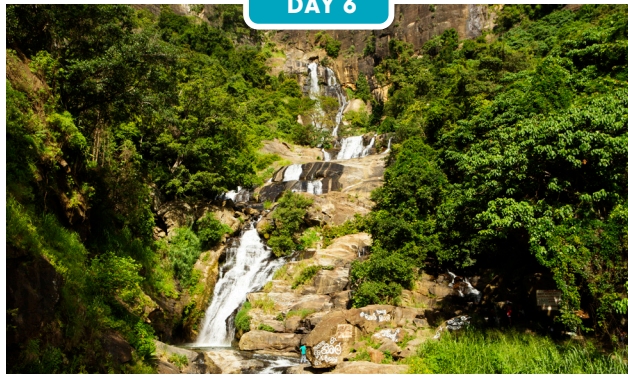
Accommodation: Araliya Green Hills



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DAY 6



NUWARA ELIYA TO WELLAWAYA (B, D)

3 HOURS DRIVE

Travel to Wellawaya to learn more about what life is like in rural Sri Lanka. Explore this small town on bicycles or by foot, likely witnessing local villagers as they engage in typical daily chores like farming, cooking, cleaning and gardening – all without the interference of tourists.

Accommodation: Jetwing Kaduruketha

DAY 7



WELLAWAYA TO COLOMBO (B, D)

7 HOURS DRIVE

Drive seven hours to Colombo, the largest city in Sri Lanka. From the initial Arab traders to the Portuguese, Dutch and British colonists who later occupied the city, Colombo is defined by its history and boasts a melting pot of international influences. Explore the city on a locally-guided tour, checking out attractions like Colombo Independence Square, Colombo National Museum and the Galle Face Green. Enjoy a final night in Sri Lanka at the Fairway Hotel.

Accommodation: Fairway Hotel

DAY 8



DEPART COLOMBO (B)

45 MINUTES DRIVE (TO AIRPORT)

Enjoy a final Sri Lankan breakfast before heading to Colombo International Airport to catch your flight to the Maldives.

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