



THE AMAZING SRI LANKA

DECEMBER - APRIL
Ex Brisbane

Known as the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean', Sri Lanka is an island country that boasts endless beaches, timeless ruins, amazing architecture, exciting safaris and rolling hills of lush tea plantations. The wildlife is equally amazing and this is the closest place to home you can experience a thrilling game drive! You will be mesmerized by this magical place, where every corner holds a new discovery. You will definitely return home knowing why the Amazing Sri Lanka really is amazing! Contact our office for more details or to secure your place today!



**Price on
application**

**Departure
from other
ports available**



INCLUSIONS

Return Economy Airfares + Taxes
Singapore Airlines ex BNE
13 Nights' Accommodation
Cooked Breakfast Daily
3 x Lunch / Daily Dinner
Services of local guides
All touring and entrance fees as
per itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

Negombo City Tour
Famous Elephant Orphanage
Ancient city of Anuradhapura
Sacred Sri Maha Bodhi Tree
Dambulla Cave Temple
Wildlife safari in Minneriya
Sigiriya Rock
Local school visit
Royal Botanic Gardens
Tea Plantation



**BOOK YOUR TRAVEL
INSURANCE WITH
UPLIFT TOURS &
TRAVEL & RECEIVE
A 15% DISCOUNT**



TERMS & CONDITIONS: *All prices quoted are per person twin share. ** Single supplement applies. Credit card surcharges apply. A non-refundable deposit of \$800 per person is required at time of booking to secure place on the tour. Final non-refundable payment is due to our office 90 days prior to departure. All bookings are subject to availability and price confirmation at the time of booking. The Itinerary may be subject to change if beyond our control or that of the suppliers. **Tour is subject to minimum numbers being met.** Price may be subject to change until paid in full, should there be any currency fluctuations, surcharges or airline tax increases. **Travel insurance is essential.** Bantoft Enterprises Pty Ltd ATF Bantoft Family Trust trading as Norfolk Select Marketing, All About Travel, Go See Touring, Uplift Tours ABN: 86 497 126 690 ATAS Accreditation No: A10619 IATA 0235976-6

1300 484 510

lauren@uplifttours.com

www.uplifttoursandtravel.com

Day 1 Wednesday	Depart Brisbane 11:25pm	
Welcome to the start of your wonderful Sri Lankan experience! We meet at the Community Centre Reception at 7:45pm this evening for our transfer to the Brisbane International Airport for our Singapore Airlines flight SQ246 to Colombo via Singapore.		
Day 2 Thursday	Arrive Sri Lanka 09:50am / Negombo	[D]
We arrive into Singapore at 5:05am, where we will have a short transit and depart on flight SQ462 at 8:30am and arrive into Colombo at 9:50am. Upon arrival at Bandaranaike International Airport and after clearing immigration and customs, we will be met by our local representative and transfer to Negombo. We check into the hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure, before we enjoy dinner at our hotel this evening. (For those looking to unwind, massages can be arranged directly through the resort. Whether you prefer a relaxing full-body massage or a refreshing foot treatment, the hotel offers a variety of options to suit. Please note massages are at your own cost and to be booked directly with the hotel).		
Accommodation: Jetwing Blue, Negombo – 2 nights		
Day 3 Friday	Negombo Sightseeing	[B/D]
After breakfast, enjoy a guided city tour of Negombo, known for its vibrant fishing industry, colonial architecture, and cultural diversity. One of the city's highlights is the Dutch Fort and canal system, built during the colonial era. The city's economy thrives on tourism and fishing. The Negombo Lagoon supports a large fishing community and the local fish market is a bustling, colourful spot for visitors. The capital is also known for its strong Catholic heritage, with many churches dotting the area. St Mary's Church, with its ornate ceiling paintings, is a notable landmark. Upon completion, we return to the hotel and relax with an afternoon of leisure. Optional massages are available directly at the resort (at your own cost).		
Day 4 Saturday	Negombo / Pinnawala / Anuradhapura	[B/D]
Begin the day with an early breakfast before making a visit to the lively Negombo Fish Market (Lellama), one of the largest and most famous fish markets in Sri Lanka. It's located near the lagoon, close to the Old Dutch Fort. Every morning, especially at dawn, the market comes alive with the hustle and bustle of fisherman unloading their catch. You'll see a wide variety of seafood, tuna, prawns, crabs, squid and more, spread out on mats and tables. It's not just a market, but a cultural experience. The mix of shouting vendors, negotiating buyers, and the smell of the sea creates a lively and authentic atmosphere. Tourists often visit the market to witness the traditional fish trade and take photos, though it's primarily a local hub for business and supply. Afterwards, we check out from the hotel and proceed to Anuradhapura. En route we make a visit to the famous Elephant Orphanage in Pinnawala. We spend a few hours here, where over 70 elephants live in a safe and natural environment. Visitors can observe the elephants being fed with bottles and enjoy the spectacular sight of them bathing and playing in the nearby river. The orphanage plays a vital role in rescuing, caring for, and breeding orphaned and injured elephants, supporting their conservation and welfare. It offers an educational and unforgettable experience for all ages. Later we continue to Anuradhapura and check into our hotel.		
Accommodation: Lake Forest Hotel, Anuradhapura – 2 nights		
Day 5 Sunday	Anuradhapura	[B/D]
Today, we explore the sacred ancient city of Anuradhapura, a UNESCO World Heritage Site rich in history and culture. Wander through impressive ruins of palaces, monasteries, and stupas that showcase Sri Lanka's ancient civilization. This tour offers a fascinating glimpse into the island's spiritual and archaeological heritage. Afterwards we visit the sacred Sri Maha Bodhi Tree. The Sri Maha Bodhi in Anuradhapura is one of the oldest living trees in the world and a sacred pilgrimage site for Buddhists. It is said to be a sapling from the original Bodhi Tree in India under which Buddha attained enlightenment over 2,500 years ago. Devotees come to offer prayers and witness this symbol of peace, wisdom and spiritual awakening. Return to the hotel, with the remainder of the day at leisure. Enjoy dinner in-house this evening.		
Day 6 Monday	Anuradhapura / Dambulla	[B/D]
After breakfast, we check-out from the hotel and proceed to Dambulla. En route, we visit Dambulla Cave Temple. Discover the awe-inspiring Dambulla Cave Temple, a Heritage Site renowned for its rich cultural and religious significance. Carved into a massive rock formation, this sacred site boasts a labyrinthine complex of caves adorned with intricate Buddhist murals and over 150 stunning statues of Lord Buddha. As you ascend the summit, marvel at the panoramic views of the surrounding countryside, offering a serene backdrop to this spiritual sanctuary. Immerse yourself in the tranquility and spirituality of this ancient marvel, which has stood as a beacon of faith for over two millennia. Afterwards, we continue our journey to Dambulla and check into the hotel. Later in the afternoon, we proceed to get a wild life experience of Minneriya National Park. The park is a renowned wildlife sanctuary famed for its annual "Gathering" of elephants. During the dry season, hundreds of elephants migrate to the Minneriya Tank, creating one of the most spectacular wildlife events in Asia. Beyond elephants, the park is also home to leopards, sloth bears, and a rich variety of birdlife. A jeep safari Minneriya offers visitors an unforgettable experience combining breathtaking scenery with the thrill of observing wildlife in their natural habitat. We then return to the hotel and enjoy dinner in-house tonight.		
Accommodation: Amaya Lake Hotel, Dambulla – 2 nights		
Day 7 Tuesday	Dambulla / Hiriwaduna / Sigiriya	[B/L/D]
This morning, experience village life in Hiriwaduna with a guided nature trek, catamaran ride and traditional village lunch. The trek begins with a scenic walk along a bund of Wewa (man-made reservoir). The amazing birdlife, butterflies and possible sightings of crocodile, only add to the charm of the trek. Sight the villagers as they go about their early morning tasks of fishing or washing clothes at the periphery of the lake. Initially one wades through the shallow stream and thereafter crosses a wider tributary in a catamaran of an obliging farmer to inspect Chena cultivation (slash and burn agriculture). Enjoy the farmer's humble hospitality. With the guidance of the farmer, pick some fresh vegetables from the plot and join in the preparation of a simple meal prepared in the traditional method using earthenware pots and firewood as fuel. This is a great opportunity to sample authentic local cuisine. The journey continues through dense shrub forests, home to many forest birds and other wildlife including monkeys, bear, python and even elephants. Later, enjoy a relaxed tuk-tuk tour around the Sigiriya rock base, with scenic views and local interactions. The base of Sigiriya is one of Sri Lanka's most iconic landmarks. As you ride through the scenic village paths and lush surroundings, your local driver will share fascinating stories and legends about the ancient rock fortress. You'll pass paddy fields, small lakes and local homes, gaining a glimpse into rural life. The views of Sigiriya from ground level are impressive, especially as the golden light of the afternoon casts dramatic shadows on the rock. This tuk-tuk ride is a great way to experience the area's natural beauty and cultural heritage. It's a laid-back, engaging way to connect with local history and enjoy the landscape. For those who would like to climb Sigiriya, it can be arranged as an optional activity. It's quite a climb to the top of the rock, with around 1,200 steps, winding past ancient frescoes, the famous Mirror Wall and the lion's paws carved into the rock. Upon completion, we return to the hotel and enjoy dinner this evening.		

Day 8 Wednesday	Dambulla / Matale / Kandy	[B/D]
------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------

After breakfast we check-out from the hotel and travel to Kandy. We make a stop in Matale to explore its vibrant handloom scene and a batik factory to witness the traditional art of wax-resist dyeing. Here you can see skilled artisans create intricate designs by hand. The visit includes a short tour of the production process and a chance to shop for unique batik clothing, wall hangings and souvenirs. It's quick but enriching cultural experience that highlights Sri Lanka's textile heritage. Visit the handloom showrooms in Matale to discover traditional Sri Lankan textiles made using age-old weaving techniques. These shops offer beautiful hand woven fabrics, cushions and other crafts, often made with natural dyes. It's a great place to buy authentic, handcrafted souvenirs while learning about local craftsmanship. Afterwards visit the spice garden at Matale to see varieties of spice plantation and shop the locally grown souvenirs. An agricultural zone in the Central Province, Matale seldom drops off the maps due to its remarkable contribution through flagship crops of the island extending from tea, rubber & vegetables to spices. Stop by the side of a spice garden - into which you will be most welcome - and observe the therapeutic values of spices & processes over a refreshing cup of herbal tea! Upon arrival to Kandy, we make a special stop at a local school in Kandy. This visit offers a chance to engage with local students, learn about the Sri Lankan education system and gain insight into daily life in the region. Guests often enjoy brief cultural exchanges, including songs, dances or classroom interactions. It's a heartwarming experience that supports community connections and leaves a lasting impression with both visitors and students alike. Later, check into our hotel and spend the evening at leisure, before meeting to enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Radisson Hotel, Kandy – 2 nights

Day 9 Thursday	Kandy Sightseeing	[B/D]
-----------------------	--------------------------	--------------

Enjoy a full-day city tour in Kandy and visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic. Explore the cultural heart of Sri Lanka with a Kandy city tour, a rich journey through history, culture and natural beauty. Start with a visit to the iconic Temple of the Tooth Relic, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Buddhism's most sacred shrines. Stroll around the peaceful Kandy Lake, then head to the Royal Palace complex to delve into the city's royal past. The tour often includes a stop at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya, famed for its vast collection of tropical flora. Don't miss the vibrant Kandy Market for a taste of local life. This tour provides a well-grounded glimpse into the soul of Sri Lanka's hill capital. Upon completion, visit a silk shop in Kandy. Kandy is home to several well-known silk shops offering beautiful, high-quality silk garments like sarees and scarves. Later in the evening we attend a colourful cultural performance. We enjoy a vibrant cultural show in Kandy featuring traditional dances like Kandyan and Devil Dance, colourful costumes and live drumming. The highlight is the thrilling fire walking demonstration, where performers walk barefoot over hot coals. This memorable experience offers a unique glimpse into Sri Lanka's rich heritage.

Day 10 Friday	Kandy / Nuwara Eliya	[B/D]
----------------------	-----------------------------	--------------

After breakfast, checkout and proceed to Nuwara Eliya. Upon arrival we visit a tea plantation. Sri Lanka, Team and Tourism are words which cannot be separated. Take a tour to the cold & misty hills that take pride in an ultimate tea tour, covering lush green blankets of tea plantations. Or just step into a tea factory processing the prestigious brand of Ceylon Tea, to observe a rich tradition kept alive up to date. As we observe the hissing and swishing of machines, inhaling the heavenly scent arising from these facilities, make sure to end your day in style over a perfectly blended cup of pure Ceylon Tea. Later we check-in to our hotel and enjoy dinner in-house.

Accommodation: Araliya Green Hills Hotel, Nuwara Eliya – 1 night

Day 11 Saturday	Nuwara Eliya / Ella	[B/D]
------------------------	----------------------------	--------------

Enjoy breakfast before checking out of the hotel, as we then proceed to Nuwara Eliya Train Station (Nanu Oya station) to board the scenic train to Ella. The journey is one of the most scenic in Sri Lanka. It winds through tea plantations, misty hills, and charming villages, offering breathtaking views throughout the journey. The journey takes about 3-4 hours and for the best views, position yourself on the left side of the train! It's a relaxing and unforgettable way to enjoy Sri Lanka's hill country, passing lush tea fields and mountain vistas. On arrival into Ella, the coach will pick us up and travel to the hotel, where we will check-in and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure, before meeting for happy hour and dinner. .

Accommodation: Oak Ray La Ella Breeze Hotel, Ella - 1 night

Day 12 Sunday	Ella / Mirissa / Galle	[B/L/D]
----------------------	-------------------------------	----------------

We checkout after breakfast to depart Ella and travel to the southern coast. Upon arrival into Galle, we check-in at the hotel and later enjoy lunch at a beachfront restaurant in Mirissa. Mirissa Beach offers a delightful selection of beachfront restaurants where you can enjoy a relaxed lunch with ocean views! Later, we return to the hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure.

Accommodation: The Merchant Galle Fort, Galle - 2 nights

Day 13 Monday	Galle	[B/L/D]
----------------------	--------------	----------------

Enjoy breakfast before heading out to enjoy a traditional Sri Lankan cooking demonstration. This hands-on experience gives us the chance to learn how to prepare authentic local dishes using fresh spices, herbs and vegetables. We will watch and participate as a local chef guides us through the steps of creating classic Sri Lankan curries and sambols. It's a fun and flavorful way to connect with the culture and bring a taste of Sri Lanka home with us. We will get the chance to cook our own Sri Lankan lunch after the demonstration. It's Pa fun, hands-on way to experience local cuisine and enjoy the meal you've prepared yourself. Put your new skills to the test using fresh ingredients and traditional methods. The result is a flavorful, authentic lunch made by you! This afternoon, enjoy a guided walking tour of historic Galle Fort. The port city of Galle is situated along the southwestern coast of Sri Lanka. A UNESCO World Heritage Site primarily known for Fort Galle was first built in 1588 by the Portuguese and later fortified by Dutch in 1649. The attractions in the precincts of the Galle Fort include Dutch Reformed Church, Old Dutch Hospital, Galle Clock Tower and Galle Lighthouse. The National Maritime Museum, also located at the fort, offers fascinating insights into the country's maritime history; some of the objects displayed are believed to be more than 800 years old! Walking around the city and watching the sunset are some of the top things to experience in Galle. Afterwards, we return to the hotel for the evening, with dinner in-house.

Day 14 Tuesday	Galle / Colombo	[B/D]
-----------------------	------------------------	--------------

After breakfast and hotel check-out this morning, en route to Colombo, we stop at the Ariyapala Mask Museum in Ambalangoda. It showcases traditional Sri Lankan masks used in rituals and dances. Visitors can see beautifully carved masks and watch artisans at work, preserving this unique cultural craft. Next, we explore the wonders of Sri Lanka's coastal treasures with a visit to Kosgoda's renowned turtle hatchery, where we will witness the incredible journey of hatchlings to the sea. After immersing ourselves in the world of turtles, we head over to the vibrant beach town of Hikkaduwa. If you wish, you can dive into the crystal-clear waters to swim alongside gentle sea turtles, discover colorful marine life, whilst snorkeling, or catch some waves while surfing. With its unique blend of conservation and aquatic adventures, this itinerary promises an unforgettable experience along Sri Lanka's stunning coastline.



Day 14 Tuesday**Galle / Colombo Continued...****[B/D]**

Next we make a stop at a cinnamon plantation to see how Sri Lanka's famous cinnamon is grown and harvested. On a cinnamon plantation, you can see how the bark is carefully peeled from the trees, then dried and processed into the cinnamon sticks and powder used in cooking and medicine. Visiting a plantation offers insight into this traditional spice industry and its cultural importance. Later we arrive in Colombo, check into our hotel and relax for the evening.

Accommodation: The Kingsbury Hotel, Colombo - 1 night

Day 15 Wednesday**Colombo City Tour / Airport Transfer****[B/D]**

We spend our final day enjoying a city tour of Colombo. Colombo is Sri Lanka's prime city. The official capital, Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte, is also within the urban area of Colombo, so Colombo is often called the capital of Sri Lanka. The city has a rich cultural heritage and some very scenic and popular attractions. Colombo has a good collection of attractions to serve just this purpose, like the Galle Face Green, the Beira Lake and the Viharamahadevi Park, which are popular places for picnics and for you to spend some quality time with loved ones. The city still has many structures from the colonial period and early history. Most of the museums you see today were used by colonial masters. For example, the Colombo Museum, which was the residence of the British Governor of Ceylon when it was first built. After the tour, we return to our hotel for relaxation. We enjoy a finale dinner at Ceylon Curry Club. Upon completion we check out from the hotel and transfer to Bandaranaike International Airport for our late-night departure.

Day 16 Thursday**Depart Colombo / Arrive Brisbane**

We depart on our Singapore Airlines flight SQ469 at 12:45am and arriving into Singapore at 07:15am. After a short transit, we depart on flight SQ245 at 09:55am, before arriving into Brisbane at 7:45pm this evening. After clearing customs and collecting our luggage, we meet our driver and transfer back to the village, ending an incredible exploration of Sri Lanka!

Key: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

***** A Moderate level of fitness is required for this tour, as there is a great deal of walking *****



1300 484 510

lauren@uplifttours.com

www.uplifttoursandtravel.com