



## **‘The Essence’ of Sri Lanka - 17 Day Tour September – October 2024**

### **AIRPORT - NEGOMBO**

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#### **Day 01: Arrival – Negombo (Approx. 20 Min Drive)**

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- On arrival, you will be met by our GI representative
- Transfer to the Hotel in Negombo
- Dinner & Overnight stay at the Hotel

#### **Dinner & Overnight Stay at Jetwing Blue - Deluxe Room**

<http://www.jetwinghotels.com/jetwingblue/>

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#### **Day 02 : Canal Boat Ride (Approx. 02 Hrs)**

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- After Breakfast, Negombo Canal Boat Ride.
- Dinner & Overnight stay at hotel.

#### **Negombo Canal Boat Ride ( duration 2 hrs )**

Private tour of the canal by boat. The Canal was constructed by the Dutch, from Colombo in the south, to Puttalam in the north. The Dutch Canal, flows across Negombo main street and was the main supply route for the Dutch Administration. The 100km long canal running through the town is still being used and is an attraction for those who want to see the country from a different perspective.



#### **Dinner & Overnight Stay at Jetwing Blue - Deluxe Room**

<http://www.jetwinghotels.com/jetwingblue/>

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**Day 03 : Negombo – Wilpattu (Approx. 03 Hrs Drive)  
Visit Wilpattu Nation Park (Approx. 03 Hrs )  
(Approx. 1Hrs Drive )**

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- After Breakfast, Transfer to Wilpattu National Park.
- Afternoon Visit Wilpaththu National Park.
- Check into Big Game
- Afternoon Half Day Safari
- Dinner & Overnight Stay at Hotel.

**Wilpattu National Park (duration 03 Hrs.)**

is 508 square miles (131.694 hectares) in extent and was declared as a National Park in 1938.

The Park features many lakes, and large numbers of birdlife, making this a delightful adventure in nature.

Leopards, Wild Elephant herds. Spotted Deer, Sambhur, Barking Deer, Wild Boar, Wild Buffalo, sloth Bear, Mongoose, Crocodile and Peacocks are also found here.



**Dinner & Overnight Stay at Big Game Tented camp**

<http://nuwarawewa.com/>

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**Day 04: An (Approx. 15 Min Drive)  
Wilpattu – Jaffna (Approx. 4 ½ Drive)**

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- Breakfast at Hotel.
- Leave for Jaffna by road OR
- Train subject to availability
- Transfer to the Hotel in Jaffna.
- Dinner & Overnight stay at hotel.

**Dinner & Overnight Stay at Jetwing Jaffna-Deluxe Room**

<http://www.jetwinghotels.com/jetwingjaffna>

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**Day 05: Jaffna – Jaffna (Approx. 01 ½ Hrs Drive )**  
**Visit Nagadeepa (Approx. 02 Hrs )**

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- After Breakfast, leave for the tour of Jaffna
- Take a trip to Hammenheil Fort.
- Afternoon Nallur Kandasamy Temple
- Visit Jaffna Library
- Dinner & Overnight stay at hotel.



**Hammenheil Fort 2 hours and a 10 minute boat ride to the Island**

With a fascinating history, commencing with construction by the Portuguese in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> Century,

and the Dutch capturing it in March 1658, the Fort provides real interest for History buffs.

The Dutch maintained a Garrison here and nine large dungeons were used to store gunpowder. The British used the Fort firstly as a maximum security prison, and then as an infectious diseases hospital.



**Nallur Kandaswamy temple 1 hours**

Nallur Kandaswamy temple is one of the most impressive religious buildings in Jaffna and one of the most significant Hindu temple complexes in the country dedicated to God Murugan. The kovil's 15th-century structure was vandalized by the Portuguese in the 17th century and the current structure was rebuilt in 1734.

**Don't forget to walk across and have a RIO Ice Cream which Jaffna is famous for.**

**Jaffna Public Library** is located in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. It is one of Jaffna's most notable landmarks, and is run by the Jaffna Municipal Council. The library was built in 1933 and burnt in 1981, during the war. Prior to the early 1980s, it was one of the biggest libraries in Asia, containing over 97,000 books and manuscripts.<sup>[2][3]</sup> In 2001, rehabilitation of the library was completed, with new structure being built and new books received, although its old books and manuscripts were unable to be replaced. It is Sri Lanka's second main public Library only rivaled by the Library in Colombo. The building's classical lines and beautiful proportions make it stand out architecturally.



### **Dinner & Overnight Stay at Jetwing Jaffna-Deluxe Room**

<http://www.jetwinghotels.com/jetwingjaffna>

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### **Day 06 : Jaffna Trincomalee( Approx. 04 Hrs drive)**

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- After Breakfast, Transfer to Hotel in Trincomalee
- Relax At Hotel
- Dinner & Overnight stay at hotel.

### **Dinner & Overnight Stay at Trinco Blu**

<http://www.cinnamonhotels.com/en/trincoblubycinnamon/>

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## Day 07-08 : Trincomalee

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- Leisure at Hotel.
- Visit Koneswaram Temple & Fort Frederick.
- Dinner & Overnight stay at hotel.

**Koneswaram Temple -(duration approx. 2 hrs)** According to an inscription found on the doorway to the Fortress this Temple was constructed by King Kulokodan in 3<sup>rd</sup> Kaliyugaya, with 1000 columns. It was destroyed by the Portuguese in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century A.D when all the columns were thrown into the sea below. Three bronze statues were brought up by divers, found among the columns in the sea ,and are now kept in the modern temple at the same site, within the Dutch Fort in Trincomalee.



### Dinner & Overnight Stay at

<http://www.cinnamonhotels.com/en/trincoblubycinnamon/>

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**Day 09: Trincomalee - Polonnaruwa ( Approx. 2 ½ Hrs drive)**  
**Visit Polonnaruwa Ancient City (Approx. 03 Hrs)**  
**Polonnaruwa - Girithale (Approx. 30 Min Drive )**

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- Breakfast at Hotel.
- Visit Polonnaruwa Ancient City.
- Proceed to Hotel in Sigiriya
- Dinner & Overnight stay at hotel.

### **Polonnaruwa :( duration approx. 03 hrs. )**

Another “World Heritage Site”, of which there are eight on the island, Polonnaruwa was the Capital of Sri Lanka from 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries, and contains some splendid and spectacular statues, stupas, and examples of Sri Lankan carving, magnificently displayed in the wonderful Gal Vihare where four enormous Buddhas can be viewed.



### Dinner & Overnight Stay at Aliya Resort & Spa

<https://www.themacollection.com/aliya-resort/>

**Day 10 : Girithale – Sigiriya (Approx. 01 Hrs Drive)  
Visit Sigiriya Lion Rock Fortress (Approx. 03 hrs)  
Sigiriya – Habarana (Approx. 25 Min Drive )  
Visit Village Tour (Approx. 03 Hrs)**

- After Breakfast, Transfer to Sigiriya.
- Climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress. 0730Hrs
- Village Tour in Habarana.
- Transfer Back to Hotel in Sigiriya
- Dinner & Overnight stay at hotel.

**Sigiriya Rock Fortress :( duration approx. 03 hrs climb)-**

This amazing rock fortress is perhaps the most iconic landmark in Sri Lanka.

Rising 200 meters, the site was chosen by King Kasyapa as his new capital during his reign 477-495AD.

He built an impressive palace at the top , decorated walls with beautiful frescoes ,the remains of which are still to be seen ,and has left us the challenge of climbing the 1200 steps to the top!



**Village Visit (duration approx. 03 hrs)**

We have an interesting excursion available in Habarana, in the form of a traditional bullock cart ride. This maximum three hour program is designed for you to experience traditional Sri Lankan rural village style, where you will travel in a Bullock cart to a village, through lush green paddy fields where you will be served tea and " juggery" along with lunch made in authentic style. Traditional cooking methods, and a visit to a paddy field to see how the local farmers protect their crops from the wild animals, will be demonstrated. The finale of this excursion will be a traditional canoe ride in a lake in Habarana. Highly recommended as a "must do" activity when you are in Habarana to feel the real Sri Lanka.



**Dinner & Overnight Stay at Aliya Resort & Spa**  
<https://www.themacollection.com/aliya-resort/>

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**Day 11: Sigiriya – Kandy (Approx. 3 ½ Hrs)**  
**Visit Kandy Temple of Tooth Relic (Approx. 01 Hrs)**  
**Evening Visit Cultural Dance Show (Approx. 01 Hrs)**

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- After Breakfast, Transfer to Kandy. Around 0800Hrs
- Visit Temple of Tooth Relic.
- Dinner & Overnight stay at hotel.

**Temple of the Tooth (duration 01 hrs)**

A residual remnant of the past dating as far back as the 14th century, the Royal Palace of the Kandyan Kingdom lies tucked away near the valleys of [Kandy .and harks back](#) to the last Kandyan King, Wickrama Rajasinghe. Very little of the structure remains today, of the Royal Court (Magul Maduwa) but the **Temple of Tooth** displays wonderful architectural history, and is a place of important Spiritual significance to the local population.



**Dinner & Overnight Stay at Amaya Hills**

<https://www.amayaresorts.com/amayahills/>

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**Day 12: Kandy – Nuwara Eliya**  
**Train Kandy to Nuwara Eliya (Approx. 03 Hrs)**

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- After Breakfast at hotel,
- Take the train to Nuwara Eliya (One way) – **Strictly subject to availability, tickets can be confirmed only 01 or 02 days prior to travel date.**
- Dinner & Overnight stay at Hotel.

**Train ride (Duration 03 Hrs)**

In Nuwara Eliya you will travel on the train that was built by the British in the Colonial times and probably hasn't changed much since then. However, old though it may be it is one of the high lights of the trip .The views are amazing, zig zagging around the mountains, through tea plantations and across stunning bridges! From Ella straight to a place called Nuwara Ellya, which is nicknamed Little England for obvious reasons The houses look English, the street names are English and there is even an old English race course.



**Dinner & Overnight Stay at Araliya Red**

<https://www.araliyaresorts.com/araliya-red>

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**Day 13: Nuwara Eliya – Horton Plains (Approx. 1  
1/2 Hrs Drive)**  
**Visit Horton Plains - Optional (Approx.  
03 – 04 Hrs)**

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- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit Horton Plains. (Optional) PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A STRENOUS WALK
- Dinner & Overnight stay at hotel.

**Horton Plains National Park:( duration approx. 03 - 04 hrs)**

20 miles (32 km) from Nuwara Eliya via Ambewela and Pattipola, is the Horton Plains ,**3160 hectares** in extent. Known to Sri Lankans as Mahaeliya, it became known Horton Plains after Sir Robert Horton, British Governor from 1831- 1837. Horton Plains became a Nature Reserve in 1969 and was upgraded as a National Park in 1988, due to its unique watershed and bio-diversity values. This is the only Park where visitors can walk on their own on the designated tracks.



**Dinner & Overnight Stay at Araliya Red**  
<https://www.araliyaresorts.com/araliya-red>

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**Day 13: Nuwara Eliya – Galle (Approx. 06 Hrs  
Drive)**

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- After Breakfast, Proceed to Hotel in Galle.
- Dinner & Overnight Stay at hotel.

**Overnight Stay at Radisson Blu, Galle**  
<https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-galle>

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**Day 15: Galle City Tour (Approx. 02 Hrs Drive)**

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- After Breakfast , Galle City Tour
- Dinner & Overnight at Hotel.



**The Dutch Fort - Galle - (duration approx. 1 ½ hrs).**  
**One of our favourite places to visit, a living piece of history!**

The South Coast's major city is Galle, whose oldest landmark is the massive Portuguese and Dutch Fort which is a "World Heritage Site" in which the central city is contained. But the city may be much older. Some scholars believe it to be the "Tarshish" of the Old Testament, to which King Solomon sent his merchant vessels, and to which Jonah fled from the Lord. Today, the 90-acre Galle Fort shows no evidence of the Portuguese founders. The Dutch incorporated the Portuguese northern wall in a great rampart in 1663. A second, taller wall was built inside of it. Between the two walls, a covered passage connected the central bastion with the Fort's two half bastions overlooking the sea. The Dutch also installed a sophisticated drainage system, complete with brick-lined underground sewers that were flushed twice a day by the high and low tides. The original gate to the fort was by the harbour. It is still there, marked by the British Coat-of-arms on the front and the Dutch V.O.C. (Vereenigde Oost Indische Compagnie) with the Coat-of-arms with a rooster crest, is on the inner side of the Fort.



**Overnight Stay at Radisson Blu, Galle**

<https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-galle>

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**Day 16:**

**Galle - Colombo (Approx. 2 ½ Hrs Drive)**

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- Breakfast at Hotel.
- Drive to Colombo
- Visit Lunu Gaga Estate
- Colombo city tour
- Dinner & Overnight stay at hotel.

**Lunuganga Estate** was the country home of the renowned Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa. Started in 1947, the garden led Bawa, a lawyer called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1940, to decide to become an architect. As he went on to become Sri Lanka's and one of Asia's most prolific and influential architects, the garden at the Lunuganga estate remained his first muse and experimental laboratory for new ideas. He continued to change and



experiment with its spaces and structures throughout his life until his final illness in 1998. Left to the Lunuganga Trust on his demise in 2003, the gardens are now open to the public and the buildings on the estate are run as a country house hotel.

**The Old Colombo Dutch Hospital** –(known as The Dutch Hospital ) is considered to be the oldest building in the Colombo Fort area dating back to the Dutch colonial era in Sri Lanka. It is now a heritage building and a shopping and dining precinct.

**Colombo** –(Durations 02 hrs) is the business and commercial center.

Colombo was only a small seaport, which came into prominence in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century with the arrival of the Portuguese in 1505. It developed as a major Harbour during the British period and became the capital in 1815 after Kandy was ceded to the British.



**Dinner & Overnight stay at Galle Face Hotel in Colombo –**  
<https://gallefacehotel.com/>

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**Day 17: Colombo – Airport (Approx. 45 Min Drive)**

- Transfer to the airport for departure.

**\*\*\*END OF TOUR\*\*\***

**THE PACKAGE INCLUDES :**

- ✓ Accommodation in standard rooms on HB basis for 16 nights starting with Breakfast on day 02 ending with Breakfast on day 17 at hotels specified or of similar standard.
- ✓ Negombo Canal Tour
- ✓ Willpatu Safari
- ✓ Jaffna Tour

- ✓ Nallur Temple
- ✓ Hammonheil Visit
- ✓ Sigirya Rock Fortress
- ✓ Village Tour with cooking demonstration
- ✓ Kandy City Tour
- ✓ Temple of the Tooth
- ✓ Nuwara Eliya City Tour
- ✓ Tea factory Visit
- ✓ Galle City Tour
- ✓ Lunuganga Estate
- ✓ Colombo City Tours
- ✓ Cost of English Speaking Chauffeur Guide
- ✓ Train Ride Subject to Availability

**THE PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE :**

- ✓ Meals not specified in the itinerary throughout the tour.
- ✓ Cost of beverage throughout the tour.
- ✓ Expenses of a personal nature.
- ✓ Any other services not specified above.
- ✓ Tips and portorage
- ✓ Spa Treatment costs

**CANCELLATION CHARGES :**

Cancellation up to 60 days prior to travel-----no fee

Cancellation 59---20 days prior ----%75 fee charge

Cancellation less than 20 days-----100% fee

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Transfer timings given are only approximate. These timings could vary according to conditions .

**HOTEL RULES AND REGULATIONS :**

The official check-in time at all hotels will be 1200hrs - 1400 hrs ( depending on the hotel).

The official check-out time at all hotels will be 1100hrs.

Hotel Check in/Check out times are fixed and there are no guarantee for early/late check in/out unless paid for.

## Applicable Rates for Travelling September/October 2024 Land Content only.

Price Per Person Sharing           @ US \$7,450  
Single Supplement                   @ US \$1,250

**Airline Bookings: Own arrangements**

**Visa Application:** Please visit: [www.eta.gov.lk](http://www.eta.gov.lk) to arrange your visa.

## Payment Details to Join this Trip:

### **Land Content:**

We have arranged this itinerary with our agent in Sri Lanka .

50% Deposit    90 days prior to arrival in Sri Lanka.

Balance           30 days prior to arrival in Sri Lanka

We have recently been able to negotiate a Bank Transfer arrangement;