

Pilgrimage and Ancient Cities: Anuradhapura and Mihintale 5-Night Spiritual Tour

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Sri Lanka



Duration
5 Nights 6 Days



Starting from
Rs. 38,250 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↶ Colombo · 1N

↷ Anuradhapura · 4N

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sri-lanka/sri-lanka-5-nights-6-days-package-786>

Overview

A focused Sri Lanka Pilgrimage tour package designed for travelers seeking spiritual immersion, ancient history, and tranquil meditation sites. This Sri Lanka tour package visits the sacred ruins of Anuradhapura and the holy summit of Mihintale, offering guided temple pujas, historical walks, and cultural experiences.

Highlights:

- Anuradhapura Sacred City: Visit the Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi, Ruwanwelisaya, Jetavanaramaya, and Thuparamaya
- Mihintale: Climb to the original site of Buddhism in Sri Lanka and witness panoramic views
- Guided puja and meditation experiences at ancient temples
- Comfortable stays with local cultural dining and transfers

This 5-night, 6-day Sri Lanka Pilgrimage package is ideal for pilgrims, history lovers, and those seeking a quiet spiritual retreat. Note: moderate walking and stair climbing required at ancient sites.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ Accommodation for 5 nights (1 night in Colombo, 4 nights in Anuradhapura) on twin/double sharing basis
- ✓ Daily breakfast and 3 selected dinners (local cuisine)
- ✓ Private air-conditioned transfers: airport to Anuradhapura, daily sightseeing, return to airport
- ✓ Experienced English-speaking guide for all sightseeing
- ✓ Entrance fees to listed monuments and UNESCO sites
- ✓ Guided temple puja/meditation sessions where available
- ✓ Bottled water during transfers

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ International flights to/from Sri Lanka
- ✗ Visa fees and travel insurance
- ✗ Personal expenses, gratuities, and optional activities
- ✗ Meals not mentioned in inclusions
- ✗ Any services not clearly specified in the itinerary
- ✗ Entrance fees for optional sites if not listed above

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Colombo and Transfer to Anuradhapura

Arrive at Bandaranaike International Airport (Colombo). Meet your representative and transfer north to Anuradhapura (approx. 4–5 hours). Check into your hotel and relax. In the late afternoon, enjoy a gentle orientation walk around the hotel area and an introductory briefing about the pilgrimage sites and etiquette.

Tip: Keep comfortable shoes and a scarf for temple visits.

Day

2

Full Day: Ancient Anuradhapura Sacred City

A full-day guided exploration of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Anuradhapura. Visit the most sacred shrines and monumental stupas. Experience the serene atmosphere and attend a traditional temple puja if available.

Major highlights include in-depth visits and time for personal reflection.

Day

3

Mihintale Pilgrimage and Summit Visit

Short drive to Mihintale, the birthplace of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. Ascend the historic stairway to the summit, visit the Mihintale Stupa, monastery ruins, ancient hospital complex, and the hermitage caves. Participate in a guided meditation session at a quiet shrine.

Note: The climb involves several hundred steps — take water and pace yourself.

Day

4

Excursion: Aukana Buddha and Local Pilgrim Sites

Morning drive to Aukana to view the spectacular standing Buddha statue carved from a single granite rock. Return via local pilgrimage stops and smaller temples around Anuradhapura, with time for cultural interactions and optional temple offerings.

Evening free for personal reflection or optional guided chanting session.

Day

5

Heritage Walks, Village Visit and Cultural Experience

Spend the day visiting lesser-known archaeological spots, a traditional village to observe local customs, and a small museum showcasing Anuradhapura artifacts. Enjoy a cultural dinner with local cuisine and a short presentation on the history of Buddhism in Sri Lanka.

Tip: Carry a hat and sunscreen for daytime walks.

Day

6

Departure: Transfer to Colombo and Return Flight

After breakfast, check out and transfer back to Colombo for your onward flight. En route, stop for photos and last-minute souvenir shopping. Arrive at Bandaranaike International Airport for departure.

End of the Pilgrimage and Ancient Cities: Anuradhapura and Mihintale 5-Night Spiritual Tour.

🔗 Frequently Asked Questions

🔗 When is the best time to visit Sri Lanka?

Sri Lanka has two monsoon patterns, so the best time depends on your destination. For the west and south coasts (Colombo, Galle, Mirissa) and hill country (Kandy, Ella, Nuwara Eliya), visit December to March for dry, sunny weather. For the east and north coasts (Trincomalee, Arugam Bay, Jaffna), May to September offers the best conditions. December to February brings cool, misty weather in the highlands with temperatures dropping to 6-12°C, so pack warm layers. March to May is warm but pleasant, while monsoon seasons (May-September for west/south, October-January for east/north) offer fewer crowds and better deals in affected regions.

🔗 How can I reach Sri Lanka from India?

The easiest way is by air to Bandaranaike International Airport (CMB) in Colombo. Direct flights operate from major Indian cities including Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, Mumbai, Delhi, Trichy, Madurai, Coimbatore, and Thiruvananthapuram. Flight time is typically 1-3 hours depending on your departure city. Other airports include Ratmalana (RML) near Colombo and Mattala (HRI) with limited operations. Occasional ferry services between South India and North Sri Lanka have operated but aren't consistently regular - check current status before planning. As an island nation, road or rail connections from India aren't available.

🔗 Do Indians need a visa to visit Sri Lanka?

Yes, Indians typically need an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) or e-visa obtained online before travel through the official Sri Lankan government portal. The process is straightforward and usually processed within 24-48 hours. However, Sri Lanka periodically offers visa fee waivers or promotional schemes for Indian tourists, so check the latest requirements and fees before booking your trip. Keep your passport valid for at least 6 months from arrival date. The ETA allows stays up to 30 days for tourism purposes. Always verify current visa requirements as policies can change.

❓ **What are the local transportation options in Sri Lanka?**

Sri Lanka offers diverse transport options. Trains provide scenic routes like Colombo–Kandy–Ella and Colombo–Galle – book seats early for popular sectors. Buses are economical and frequent with AC coaches on main routes. Tuk-tuks are ubiquitous; use the PickMe app or agree on fares beforehand. Ride-hailing includes PickMe (island-wide) and Uber (mainly Colombo). For comfort and flexibility, hire chauffeur-driven cars or taxis. Domestic flights and seaplanes offer limited seasonal services for longer distances. For circuits, many travelers prefer hiring a car with driver due to local knowledge and convenience.

❓ **Where should I stay in Sri Lanka and what accommodation options are available?**

Sri Lanka offers accommodations across all budgets. In Colombo, stay near Galle Face or Cinnamon Gardens for convenience. For beaches, choose Galle Fort for heritage charm, Mirissa/Weligama for whales and surfing, or Unawatuna for nightlife. Hill country options include Kandy for culture, Ella for scenery, and Nuwara Eliya for tea estates. Wildlife enthusiasts should stay near Yala or Udawalawe national parks. Options range from luxury resorts (Shangri-La, Amangalla, Cape Weligama) to mid-range hotels (Jetwing properties, Cinnamon chain) and budget guesthouses. Tea estate bungalows and eco-lodges offer unique experiences. Book advance during peak season (December–March).

❓ **What are the must-visit attractions in Sri Lanka?**

Top attractions include Sigiriya Rock Fortress with its 5th-century sky palace and frescoes, and the UNESCO-listed Galle Fort with Dutch colonial architecture. Experience the scenic Kandy–Ella train journey through tea plantations, visit Kandy's Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, and explore the ancient capitals of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa. For nature, safari in Yala National Park for leopards and elephants, whale-watch from Mirissa (December–April), and trek Horton Plains to World's End cliff. Don't miss Dambulla Cave Temple, the hill town of Ella with Nine Arch Bridge, Nuwara Eliya's tea estates, and cultural Jaffna in the north.

❓ **What local food and cuisine should I try in Sri Lanka?**

Sri Lankan cuisine offers rich flavors familiar yet distinct from Indian food. Must-tries include rice and curry platters with multiple vegetable and meat curries, hoppers (bowl-shaped fermented pancakes) and egg hoppers, string hoppers (idiyappam) with pol sambol, and kottu roti (stir-fried chopped bread with curry). Sample Jaffna crab curry, ambul thiyal (sour fish curry), and lamprais (rice in banana leaf). For desserts, try buffalo curd with kithul treacle and watalappam. Don't miss Ceylon tea from garden to cup. Vegetarians will find excellent options including dal curries, vegetable dishes, and coconut-based preparations. Street food is generally safe at busy stalls.

★ **Traveller Reviews**



Arjun Mehta

★★★★★ 5/5

Amazing Experience in Sri Lanka

The tour package was well organized and covered all major attractions. Our guide was knowledgeable and friendly. Highly recommend!



Priya Sharma

★★★★★ 5/5

Memorable Trip to Sri Lanka

Had a fantastic time visiting Sri Lanka. The cultural sites and natural beauty were breathtaking. Will cherish these memories forever!



Siddharth Verma

★★★★☆ 4/5

Excellent Package

Everything was perfectly planned from start to finish. The accommodations were top-notch and the itinerary was well thought out.



Anjali Rao

★★★★★ 5/5

Beautiful Beaches

Enjoyed relaxing on the beautiful beaches of Sri Lanka. The water activities were a highlight of my trip!



Ravi Kumar

★★★★☆ 4/5

Cultural Delight

Sri Lanka's rich culture was fascinating. The tour provided a deep insight into local traditions and history.

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