

Grand Cultural and Wildlife Circuit: Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa & Minneriya 6-Night

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Sri Lanka



Duration
6 Nights 7 Days



Starting from
Rs. 58,000 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↗ Sigiriya / Dambulla · 2N

↗ Polonnaruwa / Minneriya · 1N

↗ Kandy · 2N

↗ Colombo · 1N

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sri-lanka/sri-lanka-6-nights-7-days-package-788>

Overview

An expertly crafted Sri Lanka tour package and Sri Lanka Pilgrimage tour package that blends UNESCO World Heritage culture, sacred sites and thrilling wildlife. Over 7 days and 6 nights you'll climb the iconic Sigiriya Rock Fortress, explore the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, visit the golden Dambulla Cave Temples, and enjoy a safari in Minneriya National Park to see elephant herds. This itinerary is ideal for travelers seeking a balanced Sri Lanka Pilgrimage package with cultural depth and nature experiences.

Highlights:

- Sigiriya Rock Fortress (Lion Rock) climb and panoramic views
- Dambulla Cave Temple (Golden Temple) – ancient Buddhist murals and statues
- Ancient City of Polonnaruwa – well-preserved ruins and royal complexes
- Minneriya National Park Safari – famed for the gathering of elephants (The Gathering)
- Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, Kandy – important pilgrimage site
- Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens and a tea plantation visit

Note: This 6-night / 7-day Sri Lanka Pilgrimage tour package is designed for moderate activity levels; some days include stairs and short hikes.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ 6 nights accommodation in 3–4 hotels or heritage properties (twin/double sharing)
- ✓ Daily breakfast (6) and 2 dinners (as specified)
- ✓ Private air-conditioned vehicle with experienced driver-guide throughout the tour
- ✓ Entrance fees to Sigiriya Rock Fortress, Dambulla Cave Temple, Polonnaruwa Archaeological Park, Temple of the Tooth Relic and Peradeniya Gardens
- ✓ Jeep safari in Minneriya National Park (shared jeep basis)
- ✓ Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage visit
- ✓ Tea factory & spice garden visits
- ✓ Bottled water during transfers
- ✓ All local taxes and service charges
- ✓ This package is presented as an all-inclusive Sri Lanka tour package for cultural and wildlife highlights.

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ International and domestic flights
- ✗ Visa fees and travel insurance
- ✗ Meals not mentioned above and personal expenses (shopping, tips, laundry)
- ✗ Optional activities, balloon rides, or private boat rides
- ✗ Early check-in / late check-out charges unless specified
- ✗ Gratuities for drivers, guides and hotel staff
- ✗ Please inform us of any dietary requirements or mobility limitations when booking.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival and Transfer to Sigiriya

Arrive at Bandaranaike International Airport and meet your driver-guide. Transfer north to the Cultural Triangle and check in at your hotel near Sigiriya. If time permits, take a gentle walk around the village or relax at the hotel.

Arrival time-dependent activities may be optional. Early arrivals can visit a nearby temple or village.

Day

2

Climb **Sigiriya Rock Fortress**** & Visit ****Dambulla Cave Temple******

After breakfast, climb the UNESCO-listed Sigiriya Rock Fortress — see the ancient frescoes, the Mirror Wall, and enjoy sweeping views of the countryside. In the afternoon visit the Dambulla Cave Temple (Golden Temple), a major pilgrimage site with beautiful Buddha statues and murals. Return to your hotel for relaxation or an optional village tour with a traditional dinner.

Wear comfortable shoes for the Sigiriya climb; carry water and a hat.

Day

3

Polonnaruwa Ancient City & Evening Minneriya Safari

Drive to the ancient kingdom of Polonnaruwa and explore the well-preserved ruins: Royal Palace, Gal Vihara rock temple with its famous Buddha carvings, and the ancient reservoirs. After lunch, transfer to your wildlife lodge near Minneriya. In the late afternoon enjoy a jeep safari in Minneriya National Park to witness the seasonal elephant gatherings known as "The Gathering." Return to your lodge for dinner.

Safari timings are seasonal — mornings or late afternoons offer the best wildlife sightings.

Day

4

Transfer to Kandy via Spice Garden & Cultural Evening

After breakfast depart for Kandy. En route visit a Matale Spice Garden to learn about Sri Lanka's spices and their medicinal uses. Upon arrival in Kandy check-in to your hotel. In the evening visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic (Sri Dalada Maligawa) — an important pilgrimage site — followed by a traditional Kandyan cultural dance performance.

Temple visits require modest clothing (shoulders and knees covered).

Day

5

Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens, Tea Factory & Free Time in Kandy

Start the day with a visit to the Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens, home to extensive tropical plant collections and giant orchids. Continue to a nearby tea plantation and factory to see the tea-making process and enjoy a tasting. Afternoon at leisure in Kandy to stroll around the lake, shop for handicrafts, or relax at your hotel.

Tea factory visits are informative – bring a light jacket for higher-elevation breezes.

Day

6

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage en route to Colombo

Check out from your hotel and drive toward Colombo. En route visit the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage to observe rescued elephants bathing and feeding. Continue to Colombo for a city orientation tour: visit the Gangaramaya Temple, Independence Square and the bustling Galle Face Green. Check in at your Colombo hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure.

Pinnawala can be busy; mornings are usually less crowded.

Day

7

Departure from Colombo

After breakfast, depending on your flight time, you may have a little free time for last-minute shopping or a short city stroll. Transfer to Bandaranaike International Airport for your onward flight. End of the Sri Lanka Pilgrimage tour package – Grand Cultural and Wildlife Circuit.

If your flight is late in the day, ask about optional half-day excursions or an extended city 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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