

Classic Sri Lanka 7-Night Tour: Colombo to Kandy, Nuwara Eliya & Galle

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Sri Lanka



Duration
7 Nights 8 Days



Starting from
Rs. 65,000 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↗ Colombo · 1N

↗ Kandy · 2N

↗ Nuwara Eliya · 2N

↗ Galle · 1N

↗ Colombo · 1N

Overview

Classic Sri Lanka 7-Night Tour: Colombo to Kandy, Nuwara Eliya & Galle – an enriching Sri Lanka tour package designed for first-time visitors and pilgrims alike. This 7-night, 8-day Sri Lanka Pilgrimage tour package combines cultural heritage, scenic hill country, tea plantations, and the sun-kissed southern coast. Travel comfortably from Colombo to Kandy, experience the sacred Temple of the Tooth Relic, enjoy the scenic train to Nuwara Eliya through tea estates, and unwind in historic Galle.

Highlights:

- Colombo city tour & Gangaramaya Temple
- Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage visit
- Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, Kandy (UNESCO/Spiritual)
- Scenic train journey to Nuwara Eliya through tea country
- Horton Plains / World's End option and Gregory Lake
- Colonial Galle Fort and southern beaches

This Sri Lanka Pilgrimage package is suitable for travelers seeking a blend of culture, nature, and relaxation. The itinerary can be customized to include additional pilgrimage sites on request.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ Private air-conditioned transfers and transportation throughout the tour
- ✓ Accommodation for 7 nights in 3/4 hotels (room and breakfast)
- ✓ Entrance fees to sights mentioned in the itinerary
- ✓ Kandy cultural show
- ✓ Private English-speaking driver-guide
- ✓ Train ticket (if the train option is selected) – seat class as specified
- ✓ Tea factory visit and guided tour
- ✓ Airport meet and assistance
- ✓ Note: Group departures can be arranged on request.

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ International airfare to/from Sri Lanka
- ✗ Visa fees (ETA) and travel insurance
- ✗ Meals not specified in the itinerary and personal expenses
- ✗ Gratuities/tips for guides and drivers (recommended)
- ✗ Optional activities and entrance fees not listed under inclusions
- ✗ Any items of a personal nature (laundry, minibar, telephone calls)
- ✗ Important: Prices exclude peak-season surcharges and festival/event related rate changes.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Colombo & City Introduction

Arrive at Bandaranaike International Airport (Colombo) and meet your private driver-guide. Transfer to your hotel in Colombo. Depending on your arrival time, enjoy a relaxed Colombo city tour covering Galle Face Green, Gangaramaya Temple, and the historic Dutch Period Museum. Evening at leisure to explore local dining.

Tip: Allow time to rest after your flight; light sightseeing helps acclimatize.

Day

2

Colombo to Kandy via Pinnawala

Depart Colombo after breakfast for Kandy, stopping en route at the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage to observe feeding and bathing sessions. Continue to Kandy and check into your hotel. In the evening, attend a cultural performance showcasing traditional Kandyan dance.

Pilgrimage note: Kandy is a major spiritual center—arrange extra time at the temple if you plan to perform special rituals.

Day

3

Kandy: Temple of the Tooth & City Exploration

Visit the sacred Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic (Sri Dalada Maligawa) in the morning, witnessing the devotional atmosphere. Explore the Kandy Lake, the Royal Botanical Gardens (Peradeniya), and the local markets. Optional short pilgrimage visits can be arranged to nearby temples and shrines.

Important: Dress modestly when entering temples (shoulders and knees covered).

Day

4

Kandy to Nuwara Eliya — Scenic Tea Country & Train Option

Travel to the hill country. For a memorable experience, opt for the scenic train from Kandy to Nanu Oya (advance booking recommended) — one of the world's most beautiful train rides through tea plantations and misty hills. Arrive in Nuwara Eliya and relax at your colonial-style hotel. Afternoon visit to a tea factory to learn about Sri Lankan tea production.

Train tip: Book window seats early. If you prefer road transfer, enjoy panoramic viewpoints along the A5.

Day

5

Nuwara Eliya Sightseeing: Lakes, Gardens & Tea Estates

Spend a full day exploring Nuwara Eliya – visit Gregory Lake, Seetha Amman Temple (pilgrimage interest), and stroll through colonial-era town streets. Optionally, head to Horton Plains National Park for the World’s End hike (early morning recommended) and see superb mountain vistas.

Horton Plains hike is weather-dependent; wear good walking shoes and carry water.

Day

6

Nuwara Eliya to Galle – Drive to the Southern Coast

Depart the hill country and drive southwest toward the southern coast. Enjoy changing landscapes from tea hills to coastal scenery. Arrive in Galle, check into your hotel, and take an evening walk along Galle Fort to admire colonial architecture, lighthouse views, and sunset along the ramparts.

Galle Fort is UNESCO-listed and ideal for leisurely exploration—wear comfortable shoes.

Day

7

Galle & Southern Coast Leisure

Explore Galle Fort in depth – visit the Dutch Reformed Church, Galle Lighthouse, and boutique shops. Optionally enjoy a short beach excursion to Unawatuna or Bentota, with time for water sports, swimming, or relaxation. Return to Galle for an evening meal featuring fresh seafood.

Beach safety: Swim in designated areas and follow local warnings.

Day

8

Return to Colombo & Departure

After breakfast, drive back to Colombo. Depending on your flight schedule, enjoy additional shopping at Crescat Boulevard or the Independence Memorial Hall area. Transfer to Bandaranaike International Airport for your onward flight.

Note: Allow at least 3–4 hours for airport arrival procedures for international departures.

🔍 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.

⚡ Why Choose TourGrids?

Because your dream vacation deserves the best! From expert advice to personalized trips, easy booking, and unbeatable deals – we make travel stress-free and fun!

⚡ Expert-Guided Planning

Personalized guidance from verified travel experts who understand your needs.

⚡ Customizable Packages

Tailor your trip your way – destinations, experiences, budget. All up to you!

 **Hassle-Free Booking**

Smooth, secure, and simple booking process without any stress or confusion.

 **Best Price Guarantee**

Multiple free quotes and booking at the most competitive rates available.

For the latest pricing, availability, and customization options, visit:

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sri-lanka/sri-lanka-7-nights-8-days-package-792>