

# Sri Lanka Encompassed

15 days | Starts/Ends: Colombo



*PRIVATE TOUR: Experience the best of Sri Lanka. Colourful Colombo, ancient cities, Buddhist temples, colonial relics, spice and flower gardens, tea plantations, abundant wildlife and spectacular scenery in the National Parks, topped off with some blissful beach time in Kalutara!*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Dambadeniya - Exquisite 13th century city
- Anuradhapura - Sri Lankan birthplace of Buddhism
- Polonnaruwa - 11th century city, world heritage site
- Kandy - Temple of the Tooth, Botanical Garden and Ceylon Tea Museum
- Sigiriya - 5th century fortress ruins
- Matale - Spice gardens
- Dambulla - Magnificent Rock Temple
- Picturesque Horton Plains
- Dehiwela - Zoological gardens
- Kelaniya - Famous Buddhist Temple
- Colombo - Explore the Fort, Gangaramaya Temple and National Museum
- Buduruwagala - Ancient Mahayana Buddhist rock sculptures
- Yala and Bundala National Park

- Nuwara Eliya - Tea plantation and Hakgala Gardens
- Galle - Colonial town and fort
- Kalutara - Laid back, beautiful palm fringed beach resort

### What's Included

- Breakfast daily and 1 dinner
- 14 nights STANDARD hotels. SUPERIOR and DELUXE hotel options are also available upon request. Accommodation rating – See Trip Notes for details
- Tea Plantation and tasting - Nuwara Eliya region
- 4x4 Jeep safari to Horton Plains. Game drives in Yala NP and Bundala NP
- Touring - Dambulla, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, Matale, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Udawalawe NP, Yala NP, Bundala NP Galle and Colombo
- Entrance and park fees to all included sites
- Escorted by a licensed English speaking chauffeur guide
- Specialist local guides at some sites
- An airport arrival transfer day 1 and a departure transfer day 15
- All transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned tourism vehicles

### What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tipping - An entirely personal gesture

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Welcome to Sri Lanka

Welcome to Sri Lanka and the start of your holiday! On arrival in Colombo there's an included transfer to the hotel. Tonight, we enjoy a Sri Lankan dinner. **Overnight - Colombo (D)**

### Day 2 : Sightseeing in Colombo

Enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of Colombo including the Fort which was once a colonial stronghold, and Galle Face Green, a seaside expanse popular for informal cricket games. We will also visit the noisy oriental Pettah bazaar, Gangaramaya Temple, the Cinnamon Gardens and Independence Square. End the day with a tour of the National Museum (closed Friday). **Overnight - Colombo (B)**

### Day 3 : Buddhist Temple & Zoological Gardens



## Sri Lanka Encompassed - 15 days

www.onthegotours.com  
 UK 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com  
 AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com  
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038  
 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

updated on 25-02-2021 11:58:41

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

# Sri Lanka Encompassed

At Kelaniya, we explore the Raja Maha Vihara, a temple graced by Buddha on one of his three visits to Sri Lanka. The day continues with a visit to the beautiful zoological gardens at Dehiwela. **Overnight - Colombo (B)**

## Day 4 : Temple ruins and rock fortress

Colombo - Dambadeniya - Anuradhapura. En route to Anuradhapura, we pay a visit to 13th century Dambadeniya, once a royal capital. Its principal surviving ruins are the Dalada Maligawa Temple and the Dagoba, locally revered thanks to some corporeal relics of Buddha it is said to contain. Explore Panduvas Nuwara which features a well-preserved walled citadel, Padeniya, Arankele and the rock fortress of Yapahuwa. **Overnight - Anuradhapura (B)**

## Day 5 : Anuradhapura

Today we take in the site of Anuradhapura, the fascinating ancient city and one of Sri Lanka's most important archaeological sites. It contains vast artificial lakes, temples and statues including the Samadhi Buddha, dagobas (solid hemispheres topped with spires), royal baths and museums. Gaze at the holy Sri Maha Bodhi tree under which Prince Siddharta attained enlightenment, and it is also the oldest historically documented tree on earth. Later, we take a trip to Mihintale. **Overnight - Anuradhapura (B)**

## Day 6 : Dambulla & Polonnaruwa

Anuradhapura - Dambulla - Polonnaruwa - Giritale. En route to Giritale we make a stop to see the stunning Aukana Buddha statue and the impressive Dambulla cave temple, which contains beautiful images and statues of Buddha. We then explore ancient Polonnaruwa, an 11th century city of compact size. Here we discover the ruins of the Royal Palace and Gal Vihara, which boasts four enormous Buddha figures. **Overnight - Giritale (B)**

## Day 7 : Sigiriya & spice gardens



Giritale - Sigiriya - Kandy. Today sees you exploring the mighty Sigiriya, an elevated and mysterious 5th century fortress. The 'Lion Rock' is a citadel of unusual beauty rising 200 metres from the scrub jungle, it can be seen for miles. Visit the world-renowned frescoes of the 'Heavenly Maidens' of Sigiriya, which are in a sheltered pocket of the rock approached by a spiral stairway. At Matale, we visit an exotic spice garden before arriving in Kandy for the evening. **Overnight - Kandy (B)**

## Day 8 : Kandy & Temples of Embekke

Today we see the ruined temples of Embekke, Gadlardeniya, Lankatilleke and the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens. Back in Kandy, a scenic lakeside city, we visit the lake, bazaar, gem museum and lapidary. There'll also be a stop made at the Ceylon Tea Museum, housed in a beautifully refurbished old building with lots of vintage tea-processing machinery. Tonight, we enjoy a tour to the Temple of the Tooth and later take in a traditional cultural dance show **Overnight - Kandy (B)**

## Days 9-10 : Nuwara Eliya & tea plantations

Kandy - Nuwara Eliya. Departing Kandy, we head further into Sri Lanka's hill country, surrounded by tea plantations. Situated at 1,990m, Nuwara Eliya is one of the highest towns in the region, here we take a sightseeing tour and wander through Hakgala Gardens. On day 10, we take a jeep ride to scenic Horton Plains National Park. Located on a high windswept saddle, Horton Plains offers hikers stunning panoramic views. We hike to Bakers Fall passing the Gem Pit Pool,

the Chimney Pool, and the Leg of Mutton Pool before returning to Nuwara Eliya. **Overnight - Nuwara Eliya (B:2)**

## Day 11 : Buddhist rock sculptures & Yala NP



Nuwara Eliya - Yala National Park. Continuing to famous Yala National Park, stopping en route at Mahayana Buddhist rock sculptures, Buduruwagala. This evening, we enjoy a jeep safari in Yala National Park, the largest national park in Sri Lanka. The reserve is home to many rare species including elephants, wild boar, buffalo, leopard, crocodile and diverse bird life.

Note: Yala NP is usually closed sometime between Sept - early Oct due to drought. The length of this closure varies from year to year. **Overnight - Yala National Park (B)**

## Day 12 : Bundala NP & Galle

Yala National Park - Kalutara. This morning, we sightsee Bundala National Park - a bird sanctuary. Explore 17th century Galle Fort and stroll down its narrow streets filled with churches and colonial buildings. Continue to Kalutara, an ideal tropical beach location with its sparkling blue seas and lush fringe of palm trees, all bathed in warm golden sunshine. **Overnight - Kalutara (B)**

## Sri Lanka Encompassed - 15 days

www.onthegotours.com  
 UK 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com  
 AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com  
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038  
 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

# Sri Lanka Encompassed

## Days 13-14 : Beach time in Kalutara



With two days at leisure on Sri Lanka's tropical palm-fringed coast – soak up the sun, splash in the ocean or join an optional excursion to Ratnapura, home of Sri Lanka's famous gem trade. There are around 200 gem pits in Ratnapura and many lapidaries where the mined stones are dressed, cut and polished (you'll tour some pits, a lapidary and the museum). **Overnight - Kalutara (B:2)**

## Day 15 : Colombo

Kalutara - Colombo. Today you'll travel via the coast road to Colombo and there's an included onward transfer to the airport to meet your onward flight.(B)

## Yala NP - Possible closure Sep - Oct annually

Yala National Park, though more often only parts of the park close in September - October each year. Closure occurs when drought is experienced in the area and keeping areas off limits allows animals the maximum space to roam freely. It also gives the Department of Wildlife the opportunity to fill temporary water holes and carry out other strategies to assist wildlife.

Contact us for confirmed closure dates.

## Tipping

Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we would suggest for tour guides: USD\$4-7 per traveller, for each day of sightseeing.

For your driver and On The Go Representative we'd recommend USD\$2-3 per traveller for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

## Accommodation ratings

On our Private trips, you can often choose your style of accommodation. The price quoted on our website is reflective of the included accommodation, please see the "included" section on the first page of this document for details. Should you opt for an alternative hotel category, this will be confirmed in writing with the respective price on your invoice.

For further details about the indicative hotels, please see the "hotels" tab on our website. Here we rank hotel's in their respective country (REGIONAL CATEGORY) - but we also tell you how it ranks by Western standards (OUR CATEGORY).

**STANDARD** - Equates to a Western 3-star standard, always featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant.

**SUPERIOR** - Equates to a Western 4-star standard, featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant and often a swimming pool and/or a fitness centre.

**DELUXE** - Equates to a Western 5-star standard, usually featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, excellent service and customer care.

**LUXURY** - Equates to a Western 5-star plus standard - the creme de la creme. Featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, this accommodation is a cut above the rest. Sheer opulence!

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

### Sri Lanka Country Guide

## Welcome to Sri Lanka - Arrival transfer

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included. Upon arrival at Colombo Airport you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative, please have your Tour Voucher handy and make it available to our representative. Our representative will assist

you with your luggage and escort you to our vehicle for your transfer to your hotel.

**If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative** (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall) or your flight to Sri Lanka is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher. Please do not leave the airport or go to the hotel on your own. Call our emergency contact number and follow the advice given by our local team.

Pre and post tour accommodation can be arranged upon request, please contact us for rates. If you are arriving early and book pre tour accommodation with us then you will still qualify for our complimentary airport arrival transfer.

## Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Sri Lanka.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to [www.onthegotours.com/Sri-Lanka/Visas](http://www.onthegotours.com/Sri-Lanka/Visas)

## Health requirements

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

### Water

As tap water is not safe to drink in Sri Lanka, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available in hotels, shops and restaurants. You should also avoid salads which may be washed in unhygienic water.

## Sri Lanka Encompassed - 15 days

www.onthegotours.com  
 UK 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com  
 AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com  
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038  
 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

# Sri Lanka Encompassed

## What to pack

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit [www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com)

- Suitcase or frameless backpack/rucksack if preferred
- Small day bag for your camera, water, sunglasses, i-Pod etc.
- Please see go to [www.onthegotours.com/Sri-Lanka/Travel-tips-and-useful-info](http://www.onthegotours.com/Sri-Lanka/Travel-tips-and-useful-info) for recommendations on what/what not to wear
- Personal first aid kit
- Sunglasses, hat, umbrella, money belt, DEET - based industrial strength mosquito/insect repellent. High factor sunscreen and bathers/swim costume
- Anti-bacterial hand gel/wet wipes and flat pack toilet paper/tissues
- Universal travel adaptor
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Spare camera batteries, memory cards
- Pack as light as possible to leave room for the souvenirs!

## Shopping

Sri Lanka is excellent for gemstones especially sapphires, moon-stones and cats-eye. Other items to look out for include spices, wood carvings and other handicrafts, clothing of types, batik and hand-woven textiles, brassware, handmade lace from Galle and of course tea. Tea varies in quality, so if you're buying in bulk, ask for a tasting! If seeking modern local chic, Colombo offers a selection of department stores and stylish boutiques. Refrain from buying souvenirs made of coral (creation of this sort of tourist that contributes greatly to the destruction of Sri Lanka's reefs), ivory or the hides of endangered animals.

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been carefully selected based upon positive

feedback from On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

## It's not like home & what to expect

Please visit [www.onthegotours.com/Sri-Lanka/Travel-tips-and-useful-info](http://www.onthegotours.com/Sri-Lanka/Travel-tips-and-useful-info) for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

Travel to far - flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.

## Sri Lanka Encompassed - 15 days

[www.onthegotours.com](http://www.onthegotours.com)  
 UK 020 7371 1113 [info@onthegotours.com](mailto:info@onthegotours.com)  
 AUS 1300 855 684 [aus-info@onthegotours.com](mailto:aus-info@onthegotours.com)  
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038  
 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

updated on 25-02-2021 11:58:41

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.