

PEARL LANKA VOYAGERS

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Classic of Pearl Lanka – 13 Days / 12 Nights Tour In Sri Lanka

Day 01 – Arrival to Colombo Airport & Transfer to a Colombo Hotel

Day 02 – Leave for Sigiriya

En-route visits the Elephant orphanage at Pinnawala.

Elephant orphanage at Pinnawala

This orphanage was established in 1975 by the Sri Lanka wildlife department in a 25 acre coconut property near the Maha Oya River. The orphanage was originally founded in order to afford care and protection to the many orphaned Elephants found in the jungle. As of 2003, there were 65 elephants. In 1978 the orphanage was taken over by the National Zoological Gardens from the Department of Wildlife and a captive breeding program was launched in 1982. Since this time over twenty elephants have been born. The aim of the orphanage is to simulate the natural world. The elephants are taken to the river twice daily for a bath, and all the babies under three years of age are still bottle fed by the mahouts and volunteers. Each animal is also given around 76kg of green matter a day and around 2kg from a food bag containing rice bran and maize. They get access to water twice a day, from the river. The orphanage is very popular and visited daily by many Sri Lankan and foreign tourist

After Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage continuous the trip to **Sigiriya**. Arrival and check in to the hotel in Sigiriya.

Afternoon climb the **Sigiriya Rock**.

- **Sigiriya Rock**

Sigiriya Rock where a fortress built by the patricide king Kashyapa in the 5th century A.D and today it's a treasure trove of rare art. A pocket of the giant rock are the famous frescoes of the " heavenly maidens of Sigiriya".

Overnight stay at Sigiriya hotel.

Day 03 – Polonnaruwa / Sigiriya

After Breakfast leave for Polonnaruwa.

- **Polonnaruwa**

Visit the 2nd capital of Sri Lanka, dating back to the 11th & 12th century A.D. The entire landscape of the region is punctuated by huge man-made reservoirs, numerous historical monuments. "Gal Vihara Or Rock Temple" complex in Polonnaruwa is one of the best among in world's stone carving art with the fine sculptures of the recumbent, standing and seated Buddha's. Afternoon visit the Minneriya National Park.

- **Minneriya National Park**

Minneriya National Park is located between Habarana and Polonnaruwa. Covered an area of 8890 hectares park is an ideal place for elephant and leopard watching. The vegetation of this park is mixed evergreen and scrub areas. The important feature of this park is that 3rd century built Minneriya Tank is located in the park. During the dry season Minneriya tank becomes the ideal place to observe its natural wild life.

Minneriya National Park is home to 24 species of mammals, 160 species of birds , 75 species of butterflies, 9 species of amphibians, 26 species of fish and 25 species of reptiles.

Day jeep safari will get you the opportunity to evident the natural beauty of the park and most of the wildlife. If you are lucky you will be able to get photographs of leopards and bathing elephants at the tank.

Overnight stay at Sigiriya Hotel.

Day 04 - After Breakfast leave for Kandy

En-route visits the rock cave temple of Dambulla.

- **Dambulla Rock Temple**

Dambulla Rock Temple Located at an elevation of 1118 feet from the sea level raises a massive rock from the surrounding plains of Dambulla of 600 feet high and over 2000 feet in length. It is home to the Worlds most acclaimed Cave Complex of magnificent Buddha Images and Rock Paintings of vivid colours and shapes constructed and painted

from around 2nd Century BC (Anuradhapura era) and continued up to the Kandyan era of the 18th Century. Sinhalese people call it as ' Dambulu Gala' (Dambulla Rock) and the Temple is called as the ' Rangiri Dambulu Viharaya' (Golden Rock Dambulla Temple).

Visit Nalanda Gedige the Abu Simbel of Sri Lanka, visit a spice garden & batik factory in Matale, visit at fabulous Hindu temple in Matale. Afternoon arrive to Kandy city, the last Royal Kingdom of Sri Lanka and the center of the traditional arts in Sri Lanka.

Check in to the Hotel in Kandy.

Day 05 – Kandy

- **Kandy**

After breakfast Kandy city tour.

Kandy

Kandy is a major city in Sri Lanka, located in the Central Province, Sri Lanka. It is the second largest city in the country after Colombo. It was the last capital of the ancient kings' era of Sri Lanka. The city lies in the midst of hills in the Kandy plateau, which crosses an area of tropical plantations, mainly tea. Kandy is both an administrative and religious city and is also the capital of the Central Province. Kandy is the home of The Temple of the Tooth Relic (*Sri Dalada Maligawa*), one of the most sacred places of worship in the Buddhist world. It was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO in 1988. First Visit Temple of the Tooth

Temple of the Tooth.

- **Temple of the Tooth**

Temple of the tooth is one of most sacred place of world Buddhist people. This historical monument long a center of the Buddhist faith, the stunning 17th-century **Temple of the Tooth** (*Sri Dalada Maligawa*) is believed to house the left upper canine tooth of the Lord Buddha himself. This precious relic attracts white-clad pilgrims, bearing lotus blossoms and frangipani, every day.

The annual procession of Temple of the tooth held in July or August. This Kandy Procession or Esala Perahera is the main identity of Sri Lankan traditional arts and culture. After the visit of Temple of the Tooth Walk around Kandy lake, kandyan Art and Craft Centre, Gemology Museum and the Kandy Market (A great bazaar full of the sounds of exiting trade).

Late in the evening view the Kandyan cultural performance.

Overnight stay at Kandy hotel

Day 06 – Kandy / Nuwara Eliya

After Breakfast leave for Nuwara Eliya, the center of hill country. The route to Nuwara Eliya from Kandy is one of the most beautiful routes of Sri Lanka. En-route visit a tea plantation and witness the manufacture of the world famous " Ceylon Tea". Visit Hanuman Hindu temple at Ramboda. The Ramayanaya mentions Ramboda hill as Suvela Mountain. Afternoon city tour of Nuwara Eliya.

- **Nuwara Eliya (Little England)**

Nuwara Eliya (Little England) is a mountain station at 1,868 m (6,128 ft) of altitude, in a splendid landscape. The city pretends to be particularly well-kept and neat, and the always green grass gives to the locality an aspect of "colonial British style". Nuwara Eliya was built entirely during the 19th century and its architecture mimics that of an English country town, with red-brick walls, country house like hill club and mock-Tudor half-timbering. Blessed with salubrious climate, breathtaking views of valleys, meadows, mountains and greenery; it's hard to imagine that Nuwara Eliya is only 180 Km from the hot and humid Colombo. Temperatures are 14C-21C (Jan- April) 16C-18C (May-Aug) 15C- 18C (Sept-Dec).

Overnight stay at Nuwara Eliya hotel.

Day 07 – Nuwaraeliya / Horton Plains

- **Horton Plains**

With a picnic breakfast leave for **Horton Plains** by a van or jeep. It is a 4km hike from the entrance office of the Horton Plains National Park. The Horton Plains is a beautiful, silent, strange world with some excellent hikes in the shadows of Sri Lanka's second- and third-highest mountains – Kirigalpotta (2395m) and Totapola (2359m), rearing up from the edges of the plateau. The 'plains' themselves form an undulating plateau over 2000m high, covered by wild grasslands and interspersed with patches of thick forest, rocky outcrops, filigree waterfalls and misty lakes.

Horton Plains plateau comes to a sudden end called **World's End**, a stunning escarpment that drops almost straight down for 880m. Unfortunately the view from World's End is often obscured by mist, particularly during the rainy season

from April to September. The early morning (between 6am and 10am) is the best time to visit, before the clouds roll in. In the evening and early morning you'll need long trousers and a sweater, but the plains quickly warm up, so take a hat as well. January to March are usually the clearest months on weather-wise.

Return to the hotel for lunch & afternoon visit the Hakgala botanical garden.

- **Hakgala Botanical Garden**

Hakgala Botanical Garden is situated on the Nuwara Eliya-Badulla main road, 16 km from Nuwara Eliya. The garden has a cool temperate climate because of altitude is 5,400 feet above the sea level. The mean annual temperature ranges between 16 °C to 30 °C during course of a year. From December to February it has a cold climate, while the warm climate persists from April to August.

The garden was established in 1861 as an experimental cultivation of Cinchona, a commercial crop thriving at the time. Once after the Tea replaced the Cinchona, it was turned into an experimental Tea cultivation. In 1884 it transformed to a garden. Since then many sub-tropical and some temperate plants were planted in the gardens.

Overnight stay at Nuwaraeliya hotel.

Day 08 – Nuwaraeliya / Yala

After Breakfast leave for Yala. The transport will be arranged **From Nuwaraeliya to Ella by the train.**

The train takes three hours go to Ella from Nanu-oya. In actual kilometers it's a pretty short journey but the train has to cross a lot of mountain ranges and descends from 1800m down to 1000m, passing through tea plantations, eucalyptus forests, mountains, villages and more tea plantations. Much of the track snakes it way along the edge of the mountains overlooking huge valleys of firstly tea plantations and small villages, then forests and waterfalls, before crossing to the other side of the range and being greeted with more valleys of tea plantations and small villages and the scenery was stunning. Clients will be picked by the chauffer guide at Ella train station and continuous the trip to Yala. En-route stops at Elle to admire the magnificent view of Ella gap

- **Ella**

Ella is a beautiful small sleepy town on the southern edge of Sri Lanka's Hill Country.

It's situated in the middle of beautiful countryside, with small vegetable plots in the valleys, tea plantations on the hill slopes and forests on the tops.

The climate throughout most of the year is typical of the high Hill Country, with a hot sun by midday, but a moderate air temperature. It will often rain in the afternoon, but only for an hour or so.

After Ella gap view visit the ancient Buduruwagala Buddhist temple and Tissamaharama Buddhist temple.

- **Buduruwagala**

Buduruwagala is an ancient Buddhist temple in Sri Lanka. The complex consists of seven statues and belongs to the Mahayana school of thought. The statues date back to the 10th century. The gigantic Buddha statue still bears traces of its original stuccoed robe and a long streak of orange suggests it was once brightly painted.

- **Tissamaharama Temple**

Tissamaharama is a Buddhist temple in Tissamaharama, Sri Lanka. It was built in the 2nd century BC by King Kavan Tissa of Ruhuna (Southern Sri Lanka). The site was consecrated by Lord Buddha himself, who spent some time in meditation there with 500 arhats (individuals who have reached enlightenment).

After Tissamaharama temple arrival to Yala or Tissamaharama Hotel.

Overnight stay at Yala or Tissamaharama Hotel.

Day 09 – Yala

Morning relax in the hotel. Afternoon, visit to Yala National Park by a 4x4 jeep.

- **Yala National Park**

Yala National Park is world renowned as one of the best parks to observe and photograph leopards. Although it has one of the world's densest leopard populations, it still requires good luck to see one of the elusive creatures in its natural habitat. Covering an area in excess of 126,000 hectare, the park is divided into 5 blocks, of which only Block One is open to the general public. The area consists of scrub jungle and brackish lagoons with stunning rock monoliths scattered throughout the park. Yala National Park has a substantial elephant population along with many other species like spotted deer, sambur, wild buffalo, sloth bear, mongoose and crocodiles to name a few. Also more than one hundred and thirty different species of birds can be seen, ranging from the lesser flamingos to Paradise Flycatchers, Crested Hawk Eagles and the rare Black necked Stork. The best times to see the wildlife is either in the early morning or in the late afternoon, when the animals are most active.

Overnight stay at Yala or Tissamaharama Hotel.

Day 10 – Galle / Hikkaduwa

After Breakfast leave for the beach hotel, En-route visit to see the blow hole at Hummanaya, traditional stilt fishermen at Ahangama and Gall Fortress at Galle.

- **Galle Fortress**

Galle Fortress is a World Heritage Site. The Galle Dutch Fort is a rare historical jewel protected by dark, thick stone walls with the endless ocean on one side. The roads inside the Galle Fort have hardly changed, like the squares on a chess board crisscrossing in regular patches. Straight and narrow lanes branch in and out inviting the visitor to a delightful walk into the 17th century. Galle Fortress was originally built by Portuguese in 15th century A.D and later rebuilt and extended by the Dutch is still fine preservation. Most of the administration of Galle still takes place from the fort. The view from the ramparts is superb.

Overnight stay at Beach Hotel in Galle/Hikkaduwa/Benthota

Day 11 – Stay at the Beach Hotel

After breakfast leave for glass bottom boat trip at Hikkaduwa, boat trip at Madu River which is the widest river in Sri Lanka and visit the turtle hatchery. Afternoon leisure at the hotel.

Day 12 – After Breakfast leave for Colombo

After Breakfast leave for Colombo. Check in to the hotel. After the refreshing make Colombo city tour and shopping.

- **Colombo**

The largest city and commercial capital of Sri Lanka is Colombo which is located in the western province adjacent to Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte (the capital city of Sri Lanka) Colombo is a vibrant city with a mixture of modern life, colonial buildings and ruins. Due to its very large harbor and its position along the East-West sea trade routes Colombo was very popular among ancient traders 2000 years ago. Colombo houses a majority of the Sri Lanka's corporate offices, restaurants and entertainment venues.

Famous land marks in Colombo include the National Museum, World Trade Center, Vihara Maha Devi Park and the Galle Face Green. The name "Colombo", first introduced by the Portuguese in 1505, is believed to be derived from the classical Sinhalese name *Kolon thota*, meaning "port on the river Kelani". It has also been suggested that the name may be derived from the Sinhalese name *Kola-amba-thota* which means "Harbor with leafy mango trees". However, it is also possible that the Portuguese named the city after Christopher Columbus.

Dinner and overnight stay at Colombo hotel

Day 13 – Transfer to Colombo Airport

END OF TOUR IN SRI LANKA