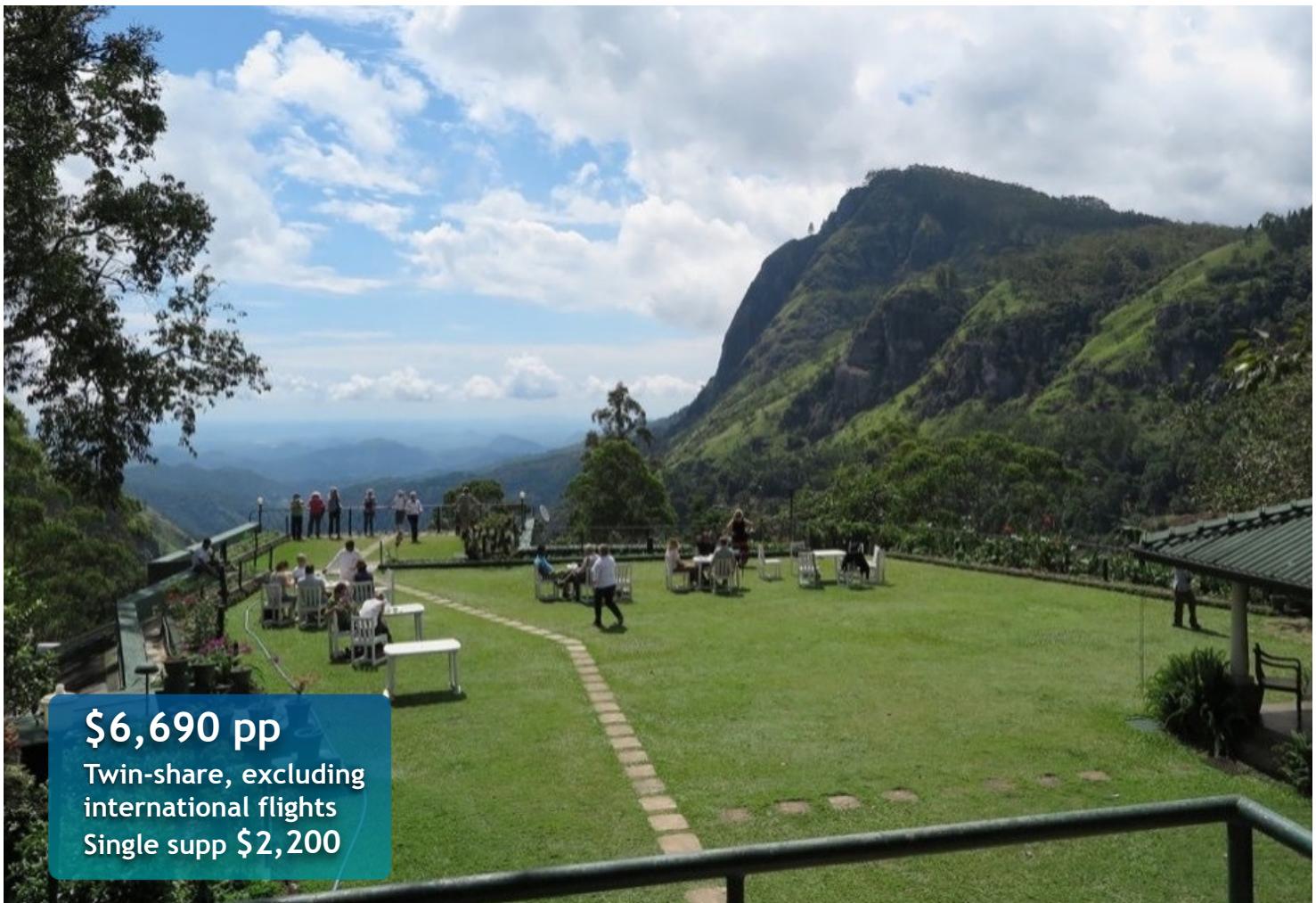


Sri Lanka in Depth

Departing
February 2027

Blue Dot Travel





\$6,690 pp

Twin-share, excluding
international flights
Single supp \$2,200

SRI LANKA IN DEPTH SCENERY, SAFARIS AND ANCIENT SITES

Welcome to Sri Lanka, where ancient traditions meet lush landscapes, and every corner tells a story. From golden beaches to fields of coconut palms, vibrant cities to peaceful villages—this island is packed with beauty, culture, and fantastic food.

Our Sri Lanka small group tour is designed to show you the heart of the island, not just the tourist spots. Our expert local guide has been running our tours for years and knows all the hidden gems. Whether you're a solo traveller, a couple, or a group of friends, our Sri Lanka tour provides a relaxed cultural hit.

Sri Lanka's indigenous and colonial history is fascinating, with fantastic ancient temples to explore. The abundance of wildlife is a major highlight — elephants, monkeys, and hundreds of bird species are often seen in the wild, while the national parks offer the chance to spot leopards, sloth bears, sambar deer and more.

Ready to explore one of Asia's most underrated gems? We know you'll love it.



Saturday 30th January ARRIVAL

The group will arrive in Colombo at approx. 22:30 hours. Our guide will meet us for our transfer to hotel in Negombo, around 25 minutes from the airport, where we stay for two nights.



Day 1, Sunday 31st January NEGOMBO

Given the late night arrival of the flight, today is a slow start. Sleep in and have a hearty breakfast (try the egg hopper)

before heading off on a tour to the famous Negombo Fish Markets late morning. Called Lellama, or “the place of bargaining”, buying and selling is done rhythmically and is a unique aspect of Sri Lankan markets. The rest of the afternoon is for leisure. There are some local art and craft shops near the hotel and good places to have lunch. **B/D**

Day 2, Monday 1st February NEGOMBO — HABARANA

After breakfast, depart for Habarana. We'll embark on a 4WD jeep safari through Minneriya and Kaudulla National Parks to watch elephants gather. Minneriya



National Park is relatively small, making it easy to spot wildlife, large animal species, and birds in their natural habitat. Located in the north-central area of the island, Habarana is a part of Sri Lanka's dry zone. Thanks to the genius of the ancient kings dating back to the 5th Century AD, the Sri Lankan dry zone is anything but, with hundreds of lakes and reservoirs connected by an elaborate network of canals. The region has breathtakingly beautiful scenery. Dinner at Cinnamon Lodge Harbarana (or similar), where we will stay for three nights. **B/D**



Day 3, Tuesday 2nd February HABARANA REGION

This morning, we'll visit one of the country's main icons, the Rock Fortress of Sigiriya, a must-see destination. A mighty 200m-high fortress of a 5th-century king, Sigiriya is famous for its entrancingly beautiful frescoes found in a sheltered pocket of the rock.



The old stairway to the top once led through the mouth of a huge crouching lion carved into the rock — today, only the paws remain. The ruins of the royal citadel are on

the summit. After lunch, see the UNESCO-listed Polonnaruwa, which rose to fame as the country's capital after the decline of the previous capital, Anuradhapura. The monuments of this medieval city are relatively well-preserved and provide clear evidence of Sri Lanka's past glory. Dinner is back at our hotel. **B/L/D**



Day 4, Wednesday 3rd February HABARANA REGION

Today, we'll embark on a nature walk to Hiriwadunne Village, just 10 minutes from our hotel. Take an easy walk across the undulating landscape (or a bullock ride if you prefer) through the surrounding scrub, jungle, and marshland to visit a local village - a hive of early morning activity. The amazing birdlife, butterflies and possible sightings of crocodiles only add to the charm of seeing the villagers as they go about their early morning tasks. There's a quick cookery lesson and then lunch at the village. Dinner at the hotel. **B/D**



Day 5, Thursday 4th February HABARANA — KANDY

After breakfast, depart for Kandy. En route, visit the UNESCO-listed

Dambulla Cave Temple with a tour and lunch at the Spice Garden Matale. The climb to the Cave Temple is steep, but it is well worth the effort. Watch out for the monkeys; they can be very curious! The Spice Garden tour is fascinating and a good spot for lunch (take your mosquito repellent). Later, check into our hotel in Kandy for a two-night stay. We'll transfer to the city for an evening service at the Sacred Temple of the Tooth of Buddha followed by dinner at our hotel. **B/L/D**



Day 6, Friday 5th February KANDY

Today, we'll stroll the streets of the bustling city of Kandy. UNESCO inscribed the Sacred City of Kandy as Sri Lanka's fifth and the world's 450th World Heritage site, cited for its religious and historical significance as an internationally renowned Buddhist pilgrimage site and as Sri Lanka's last royal capital. The markets, old colonial buildings and shops in the old slum area are fascinating. In the afternoon, the vehicle will take you to Arthur's Seat viewpoint (high above the city) and the botanical gardens. Later, watch the local cultural show with singing and dancing. Subject to time, there may be an option to visit a local gem factory in the afternoon. You've been warned — this is a medium-to-hard-sell shopping destination! Laze around the pool or visit town if this is not for you. Dinner is at the hotel. **B/D**



Day 7, Saturday

6th February

KANDY —

NUWARA ELIYA

Today, we'll take the train to the tea-growing region of Sri Lanka — Nuwara Eliya. The trip will take approximately 4 hours through stunning, deep-green terraced farms and villages. On arrival, check in to the "very British" Grand Hotel, where the stay is two nights. In the afternoon, a sightseeing tour of the town and a visit to a tea plantation, before returning to the hotel for dinner. **B/L/D**



Day 8, Sunday 7th February HORTAIN PLAINS

Those up for a trek will take an early morning excursion to The Hortain Plains National Park and World's End. The trek to World's End and the beautiful Baker's Falls is around 2.5 -3 hours (7 km). This scenic region boasts an astounding variety of landscapes, from mountains to grasslands and marshes to trout-filled streams. The trek can be considered medium-level; however, it includes a few short, challenging sections. It will depart at about 5.30 am and return around midday. We'll then be driven through the famous Pekoe trails of British tea cultivations and on to the stunning Tea Factory Hotel for lunch, which is included. This is an old tea factory situated in one of the most beautiful settings imaginable. Drive back to our hotel late in the afternoon. **B/L/D**

Day 9, Monday 8th February NUWARA ELIYA — ELLA

Today, drive about 90 minutes to the charming township of Ella. The views from certain lookouts in

this region are stunning, as is our hotel! In the afternoon, we will visit the wonderful creation of the British Colonials, named " Nine Arch Bridge ". This is one of the most visited and photographed bridges in Asia. Wander the streets of the little mountain town of Ella for some shopping at the arts and crafts stores. **B/L/D**



to watch the sunrise. After breakfast, check out of the hotel and take a coach transfer to Yala, located southeast of the island. Yala National Park is the second-largest national park in the country. On our way, we stop at Rawana Water Falls for photos and visit the Elephant Transit Home in Udawalawe, where around 30 motherless baby elephants are fed milk. On arrival, check in to the lovely Jetwing Yala for two nights. The stunning resort is the perfect place to relax and swim in what could be Sri Lanka's best pool! Dinner at the hotel. Warning... you may never want to leave. **B/D**



2.00 pm, you'll take a jeep safari to spot wildlife (returning about 6.30 pm). Yala National Park is renowned for its diverse wildlife, including abundant elephants, leopards, bears, crocodiles, wild boars, and a wide range of bird species. Its open, undulating terrain made it famous for elephants for many years. Still, the park has also received considerable recognition from National Geographic and the Discovery Channel, which documented the leopard research, conservation, and identification program. Several salt and freshwater lagoons serve as a haven for many resident and migratory birds. Dinner tonight is at the hotel. **B/D**

Day 12, Thursday 11th February **YALA — GALLE**

After breakfast, we'll depart for the UNESCO-listed Galle on the Southwest coast to experience its unique style, architecture, and cuisine. The south of Sri Lanka has evolved a distinctly unique culture. En route, we'll visit a local family village home for

lunch and learn to prepare a few typical southern dishes. Learn how to prepare fish ambul thiyal and a curry made of young jackfruit, which, correctly prepared, makes a great meat substitute. It's a favourite amongst Sri Lanka's vegetarians!

The curry powder used for this dish is a unique mix of powdered coriander, cumin, cinnamon, cardamom, and cloves. We'll arrive at the hotel in the afternoon with some spare time before exploring the Dutch city of Galle on foot. A photo of the lighthouse with the sun setting is quite special. We'll stay two nights in Galle, and dinner is at our hotel. **B/D**



Day 13, Friday 13th February **GALLE**

Today is a free day for you to spend time in Galle (great for shopping) or to do whatever you please. Your guide will provide some tips! **B/D**

Day 14, Saturday 13th February **GALLE — MADU RIVER — DEPARTURE**

After a leisurely breakfast, spend free time this morning enjoying the hotel grounds or strolling the streets of Galle. Lunch is at your leisure before checking out of the hotel early afternoon. The group will then enjoy a boat trip to the Madu River to observe local fishermen at work. The mangroves are beautiful, with a



variety of birdlife to be spotted. The South Coast around Galle is where the famous stilt pole fishermen used to fish. Sadly, nowadays, they'll do it only for a few dollars so the tourists can take photos. On the way home, stop for a farewell dinner at the highly-rated " Lords Restaurant - Negombo". Then, transfer to Colombo International Airport for your flight to Australia, which departs very early in the morning, around 12.30 am on Sunday the 14th. You'll be dropped off at the airport around 21:30 hrs for this flight. **B/D**

Sunday 14th February **ARRIVE HOME**

Your direct flight home will depart just after midnight, and you'll arrive home in Australia late in the afternoon. **B**



Icon indicates a day where there is **moderate physical exertion**. A basic level of fitness is required: eg. A trek over 'mostly flat' terrain or climbing several flights of steps without the support of handrails or elevators.



Icon indicates a day where there is a **particularly active section**. A good level of fitness is required: eg. A longer trek over non-groomed, uneven terrain, or ascending to reach a panorama. May also include exposure to higher altitude. **An alternate activity may be offered if you choose to sit out an active section.** Please call - we are happy to discuss each tour in more detail.