

Sri Lanka in Depth



Blue Dot Travel
Go somewhere different

February 2027 | 14 Days

\$6,690 pp twin share, twin share
Solo Supplement: \$2,200

Tour Highlights

- Sigiriya Rock Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage site
- Elephant gathering at Minneriya National Park
- Dambulla rock cave temple
- Scenic rail journey through tea plantations
- Sunset on Galle's Dutch lighthouse
- Spotting wildlife in Yala National Park
- Fantastic food and local hospitality



Sri Lanka in Depth



Tour overview

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.



MODERATE

Activity rating: Moderate

You must be capable of: walking up to 8,000 steps daily; occasionally ascending 3-4 flights of steps; standing at attractions for up to 1 hour; boarding and disembarking transport unaided, and handling your own luggage.

Saturday 30th January ARRIVAL

Welcome to Sri Lanka! Flights are scheduled to arrive in Colombo late in the evening. We'll meet our local guide and transfer to our hotel, about 25 minutes from the airport. Overnight: Negombo

Day 1, Sunday 31st January NEGOMBO

After our late arrival, enjoy a sleep-in! We recommend the egg hoppers for breakfast. Your morning is at leisure: there are some local art & craft shops near the hotel, or simply relax by the pool. In the afternoon we'll take a short sightseeing tour of Colombo's key sites. Overnight: Negombo **B/D**

Day 2, Monday 1st February NEGOMBO — HABARANA

This morning, we'll visit the famous Negombo Fish Markets. Known as Lellama, or "the place of bargaining," it's a sensory dive into local life, where trade hums in a rhythmic motion. Then we'll travel to Habarana for a 4WD jeep safari through Minneriya and Kaudulla National Parks. The parks are relatively small, making it easy to spot animals and birds in their natural habitat. The highlight is the hundreds of wild Asian elephants that gather to drink, graze and socialise. This region is known as the "dry zone", but it's actually a series of lakes and reservoirs connected by an elaborate network of canals dating back to the 5th Century AD. It's a region of breathtaking scenery. Overnight: Habarana **B/D**

Day 3, Tuesday 2nd February HABARANA REGION

This morning we'll visit the 200m high Rock Fortress of Sigiriya. The entrance was once the mouth of a huge crouching lion carved into the rock, but today, only the paws remain. The ruins of the royal citadel are situated at the summit, and the site is adorned with ancient frescoes. On our way back to our hotel, we'll visit Hiriwadunne, a traditional Sri Lankan village surrounded by lakes, jungle and farmland. We'll join a short cooking lesson, then sit down to a freshly prepared lunch made by the local villagers. Overnight: Habarana **B/L/D**

Day 4, Wednesday 3rd February HABARANA REGION

Today we'll visit the medieval capital of Polonnaruwa. This UNESCO-listed site feels like a step back in time with its well-preserved palaces, grand stone temples and Buddha statues. Our afternoon is at leisure, and our hotel is in a gorgeous setting. Overnight: Habarana **B/D**

Day 5, Thursday 4th February HABARANA — KANDY

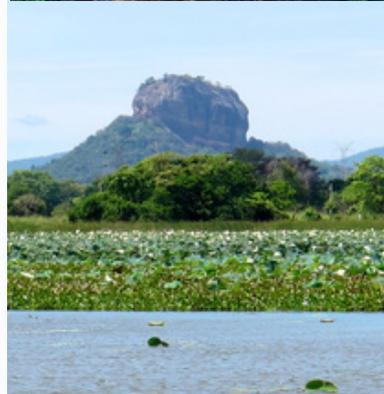
Today, we'll travel to Kandy via the UNESCO-listed Dambulla Cave Temple. The climb to the Cave Temple is steep, with approx 150 steps, but it is worth the effort for the hundreds of beautiful Buddha statues. Watch out for the monkeys; they can be very curious! We'll learn about Sri Lanka's renowned spices on a guided tour of a local spice garden, followed by a relaxed lunch, reaching Kandy in the late afternoon. Overnight: Kandy **B/L/D**

Day 6, Friday 5th February KANDY

This morning we'll visit the Sacred Temple of the Tooth of Buddha for the morning service. (Your guide will provide guidance on appropriate clothing.) We'll take a short walk through the bustling city of Kandy with its markets and old colonial buildings, then continue to Arthur's Seat viewpoint and the sprawling botanical gardens. There's an optional visit to a local gem factory - be prepared for a hard-sell shopping experience! (You can laze by the pool or visit the town if this isn't for you.) Conclude the day with Kandy's excellent cultural dance show. Overnight: Kandy **B/D**

Day 7, Saturday 6th February KANDY — NUWARA ELIYA

Today, we'll travel by train to the tea-growing region of Sri Lanka - Nuwara Eliya. The trip will take about 4 hours through stunning, deep-green terraced farms and villages. In Nuwara Eliya, we stay at the iconic and "very British" Grand Hotel. After a short sightseeing tour of the town, we'll visit the local tea plantation. Overnight: Nuwara Eliya **B/D**



Day 8, Sunday 7th February HORTAIN PLAINS

This morning we'll take an early morning trek to the "World's End" in Hortain Plains National Park. (NB: there is a strict plastic ban in this park). This scenic region boasts a remarkable mix of landscapes – mountains, grasslands, waterfalls, and trout-filled streams. The trek is approx 7km, with a few short, steep sections. Next, we'll drive through the famous Pekoe trails of British tea cultivation to the stunning Heritage Tea Factory. Enjoy lunch with sweeping views of the surrounding mountains and lush tea fields. Overnight: Nuwara Eliya **B/L/D**

Day 9, Monday 8th February NUWARA ELIYA – ELLA

Today, we'll continue our drive through stunning landscapes to the mountain town of Ella. We'll visit the colonial era Nine Arch Bridge, known for its elegant stone arches and scenic train crossings – it's one of the most photographed bridges in Asia. This afternoon, you'll have time to wander the streets of this charming town for some shopping at the arts and crafts stores. Overnight: Ella **B/D**

Day 10, Tuesday 9th February ELLA TO YALA

Before breakfast, there's an opportunity to walk to Little Adam's viewpoint for spectacular views of the surrounding area. After breakfast, we'll travel South to Yala National Park, the second biggest in the country. En route, we'll stop at Rawana Water Falls and the Elephant Transit Home in Udawalawe, where orphaned baby elephants are rehabilitated. We spend the next two nights at the stunning Jetwing Yala resort, the perfect place to relax! Overnight: Yala N.P area **B/D**

Day 11, Wednesday 10th February YALA

Enjoy some relaxation this morning, taking in the beautiful grounds and spectacular pool at our resort. In the afternoon, we'll take a jeep safari to spot wildlife, returning after dusk. Yala National Park is renowned for its diverse wildlife, including elephants, sloth bears, crocodiles, wild boars, and a wide array of bird species. In particular, the park has received recognition for its conservation efforts and the opportunity to view leopards. Overnight: Yala N.P area **B/D**

Day 12, Thursday 11th February YALA – GALLE

We'll continue travelling along the South Coast, stopping for a home-cooked lunch with a local family, where we can help prepare some local dishes. Then it's on to Galle, a UNESCO-listed city known for its distinctive Dutch architecture, culture, and coastal charm. We'll take a short walking tour of the historic fort, with time to soak up the golden light over the harbour – the classic Sri Lankan photo opportunity. Overnight: Galle **B/L/D**

Day 13, Friday 12 February GALLE

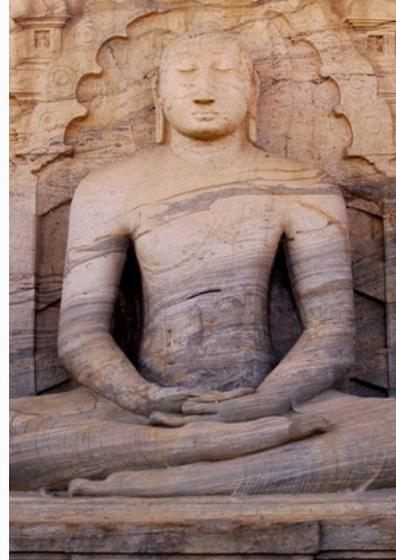
Today is a relaxed day, with a visit to the nearby turtle sanctuary and moon-stone mine. Then your day is free to enjoy Galle however you like. It's a great spot for shopping and exploring, with an excellent cafe and restaurant scene. Your guide will be available for tips and ideas if you're looking for inspiration. Overnight: Galle **B/D**

Day 14, Saturday 13th February GALLE – MADU RIVER – DEPARTURE

This morning we'll have a leisurely morning in Galle, followed by a boat ride along the Madu River. Winding our way past tiny islands and lush mangrove forests, there's an abundance of vibrant birdlife, huge water lilies and colourful butterflies. We'll travel back towards Colombo for our farewell dinner at one of Negombo's top-rated restaurants. Finally, we'll be dropped off at the airport late in the evening (around 21:30), for the flight home, departing in the early hours on Sunday. **B/D**

Day 15, Sunday 14th February ARRIVE HOME

Your flight home is planned to depart just after midnight, and you'll arrive in Australia late in the afternoon.





Accommodation

Our hotels are carefully chosen to capture the local atmosphere and set you up in an ideal location. You can expect accommodation that comprises a mix of standard hotels, boutique-style hotels, and smaller, independently owned establishments. Below are some of the hotels on this tour.

Final hotels may change, and a complete list will be shared with you.

Jetwing Blue, Negombo

www.jetwinghotels.com/jetwingblue/

Cinnamon Lodge, Habarana

www.cinnamonhotels.com/cinnamon-lodge-habarana

Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya

www.thegrandhotelnuwaraeliya.com

Jetwing Yala

www.jetwinghotels.com/jetwingyala/

Why Blue Dot?

Travel is more than just moving from one place to another; it is an opportunity to explore this vast planet, connect with its people and marvel at its beauty. We have established a group of loyal, like-minded travellers who share this feeling and have taken multiple tours with us. With Blue Dot, you'll experience

- Thoughtfully designed itineraries with unique experiences
- Small, inclusive groups with a maximum of 16 travellers
- The support of both an Australian tour leader* and experienced local guides
- Programs designed to meet the needs of mature-age travellers
- Hands on, personalised service including customised flight bookings
- Tipping included in your tour cost

*Australian leaders accompany groups with more than 10 travellers.

Blue Dot welcomes solo travellers

In fact, over half of our clients are solo travellers. We understand it can be daunting to travel on your own, and we'll ensure your travel is safe, inclusive and enjoyable. You can confidently join our groups, knowing that we bring solo travellers together to share the camaraderie of an unforgettable adventure.

Enquiries and bookings

A \$500 deposit is required to secure your booking.

For more information:

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