


BEAUTIFUL ESCAPE IN SRI LANKA  
*(14 NIGHTS/ 15 DAYS)*




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# Let your imagination soar

## About &Beyond Asia

Established in 1991, &Beyond strives to leave our world a better place through the delivery of extraordinary travel experiences and our care of the land, wildlife and people. We are bespoke tour operators for sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, South America and Antarctica. We also own and manage 29 extraordinary lodges and camps across three continents. We positively impact 75 communities and directly conserve our footprint of 1 million acres. Our 2030 vision is to scale our impact through partnerships to support the conservation of an associated 40 million acres of key biospheres and to double our 2020 impact investment, while offering discerning travellers a rare and exclusive experience of the world as it should be.

## Welcome to Sri Lanka

The tear drop shaped island of Sri Lanka lies in the Indian Ocean just off the southern tip of India. With its golden sandy beaches, azure blue waters and warm tropical climate, Sri Lanka is a year-round destination for holidaymakers seeking sun, sand and sea.

The island has a rich cultural heritage that dates back over 2,000 years which is linked to the origins of Buddhism in the country with magnificently constructed stupas and the ruins of ancient kingdoms. Controlled from the 16th century onwards by the Portuguese, Dutch and finally the British prior to gaining full independence in 1948, the influences of colonial powers remain visible in architecture and a number of forts across the country.

Sri Lanka is recognised as a global biodiversity hotspot with a rich variety of endemic flora and fauna, and incredibly for a small island, can boast of large iconic animals such as the Asian Elephant, Leopard and the largest animal to have inhabited our planet, the Blue Whale. From palm fringed beaches to scrub jungles and numerous man-made lakes in the lowlands to tropical rainforests, cloud forests and highlands laden with waterfalls at its centre, this resplendent isle is abundant in natural beauty.

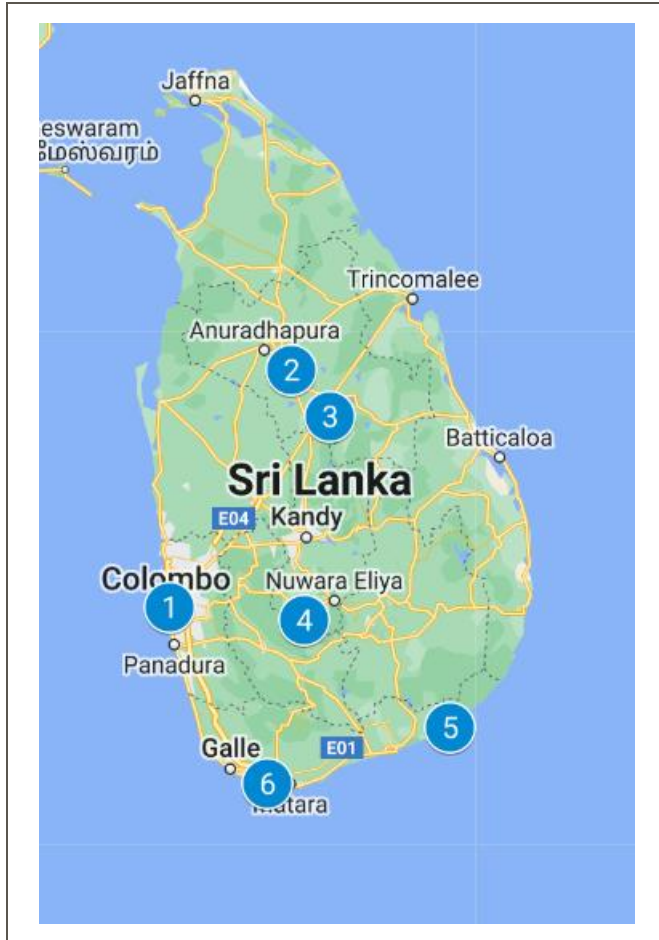
## Highlights of the Itinerary:

- Explore the ancient city of Anuradhapura.
- A whale watching off Mirissa with a Marine Biologist
- Walk with pilgrims in Kandy's Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic
- Tea experience in Hatton
- Look for wild Asian elephants in Kaudulla National Park with an expert
- South Coast Stay in Weligama
- Climb the legendary rock citadel in Sigiriya
- Park drives in Yala National Park
- Guided walk inside the Dutch fort in Galle



## At a glance

### Sri Lanka



14 nights / 15 days

- 1 - Tintagel - Colombo (Day 1)
- 2 - Uga Ulagalla Resort - Thirappane (Day 2,3)
- 3 - Water Garden Resort, Sigiriya (Day 4,5)
- 4 - Ceylon Tea Trails - Hatton (Day 6,7,8)
- 5 - Wild Coast Lodge, Yala (Day 9,10,11)
- 6 - Cape Weligama, Weligama (Day 12,13,14)

AN & BEYOND CUSTOM-DESIGNED ITINERARY		
DATE	SERVICE	ACCOMMODATION
Day 1-	Arrive at Colombo's Bandaranayake International Airport, Katunayake	
	Welcome on arrival and transferred to The Tintagel Colombo (approximately 50 minutes' drive)	
	Check in to the hotel relax after a long flight	
	Later in the afternoon go on a Colombo city tour with your guide	
	Overnight at The Tintagel Colombo	Executive Suite - BB
Day 2-	After breakfast proceed to Ulagalla Resort (approximately 4-hour drive)	
	Arrive in Thirappane and Check in to Ulagalla Resort	
	Spend the rest of the day at leisure	
	Later in the afternoon take a scenic 4x4 drive to a lake and experience beautiful Sunset while sipping a cup of tea	
	Overnight at Ulagalla Resort, Thirippane - 2 nights	Ulagalla Pool Villa - HB
Day 3 -	Spend the morning at leisure while enjoy some great in-house activities Ulagalla has to offer	

	In the late afternoon explore the city of Anuradhapura (approximately. 30 minutes' drive)	
	Tonight enjoy the Special "Kamatha Dinner at the Kamatha restaurant	
	Overnight at Ulagalla Resort, Thirippane	Ulagalla Pool Villa - HB
Day 4 -	After breakfast proceed to Sigiriya (approximately. 1 hour drive)	
	Arrive in Sigiriya and Check in to Water Garden Resort, Sigiriya	
	Early evening Angampora experience - A traditional and exciting welcome to Sri Lanka	
	Special Welcome Dinner with combining arrack tasting with local food	
	Spend 2 nights at Water Garden Resort, Sigiriya	Superior Deluxe Pool Villa - HB
Day 5	After a breakfast, explore a remote village on Tuk Tuks (E Bikes are also available) (approximately 45 minutes' drive)  <u><i>Colours and Sounds of Habarana is not just a ride through a village, it is an experience created for visitors to get hands on experience and understanding of the livelihood, culture, and way of life in a typical village.</i></u>	
	Later in the afternoon venture out on a Jeep Safari at Minneriya National Park to look for wild Asian elephants with an expert	
	Overnight at Water Garden Resort, Sigiriya	Superior Deluxe Pool Villa - HB
Day 6	Early morning climbs one of the island's most spectacular sight, the 5th century rock fortress of Sigiriya which is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site to witness the beautiful sunrise (approximately 10 minutes' drive)	
	Return to Sigiriya for a Champaigne breakfast by the poolside	
	After breakfast proceed to Kandy (approximately 2-hour drive)	
	Visit the Temple of the tooth relic in Kandy	
	Then Continue the drive to Ceylon Tea Trails (approximately 2-hour drive)	
	Arrive and check-in to Ceylon Tea Trails, Hatton	
	Spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure	
	Overnight stay at Ceylon Tea Trails, Hatton - 3 Nights	Garden Suite -AI
Day 7	Afterwards, enjoy a private tea experience at the Dunkeld tea factory. (Around 1 hour - 1½ hour experience).	
	Afterwards walk to the Ceylon Tea Trail's Leopard conservation centre with the naturalist. He will give a insight in the conservation efforts being done (approximately 30 minutes)	
	Afterwards have a special picnic lunch at the scenic "Gartmore" or "Fairlawn" waterfall.	

	<p>You will be picked up from bungalow at 12 noon and then transferred in a commuter van to one of these locations (approximately 45 minutes' drive). From there walk up to the waterfall (30 minutes' walk) and enjoy your lunch near the waterfall at 1330 hrs.</p> <p>After lunch, return to the vehicle (30 minutes' walk) and transferred to the bungalow (approximately 45 minutes' drive).</p> <p>The total distance of the walk will be around approximately 1.5 KM.</p>	
	Overnight at Ceylon Tea Trails, Hatton	Garden Suite -AI
Day 8	<p>Rest of the day at leisure or engage in some of the in-house activities along with (Activity cost payable direct)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kayaking in the Castlereagh reservoir</li> <li>• Mountain Biking</li> <li>• Play a game of croquet.</li> </ul> <p>Or simply relax and enjoy the scenery from your bungalow</p>	
	Overnight at Ceylon Tea Trails, Hatton	Garden Suite -AI
Day 9	After breakfast take a scenic drive to Yala (approximately 4 ½ -hour drive)	
	Arrive in Yala and Check in to Wild Coast Tented Lodge in time for a late lunch	
	Overnight at Wild Coast Tented Lodge, Yala - 3 nights	Cocoon Pool Suite -AI
Day 10- 11	Early morning or afternoon park drives in Yala National Park (3 Park drives)	
	Overnight at Wild Coast Tented Lodge, Yala	Cocoon Pool Suite -AI
Day 12	After breakfast take a scenic drive to Weligama (approximately 2 ½ -hour drive)	
	On your way, visit a working Cinnamon Plantation and learn the cinnamon making process followed by a delicious lunch with the host	
	Afterwards continue the journey and check in to Cape Weligama Resort, Weligama	
	Arrive in Weligama and Check in to Cape Weligama Resort, Weligama	
	Spend 3 nights at Cape Weligama Resort, Weligama	Junior Suite -BB
Day 13	Early morning go on a Whale and Dolphin watching tour in a private Catamaran with a marine biologist.	
	Return to your resort and refresh	
	<p>In the afternoon drive to Galle, walk around the charming Fort area explore the little shops.</p> <p>Afterwards, experience After <b>dark tales of Galle</b> - Discover the historical, archaeological and architectural heritage monument that is the Galle Fort with a resident local host.</p>	
	Overnight at Cape Weligama Resort, Weligama	Junior Suite -BB

Day 14	Today after breakfast, meet a local mask making family who will give you an introduction to mask making and it's uses before we learn how a small tree log becomes a mask. The family will start to show you the secrets of this age-old art by crafting few masks using their tool and finally applying paint to them. You are free to go hands on and join in on the mask crafting and painting if you wish.	
	Rest of the day at leisure	
	Overnight at Cape Weligama Resort, Weligama	Junior Suite -BB
Day 15	Transfer from Hotel to Bandaranaike International Airport for your departure flight (Approximately 3-hour drive).  (We recommend you at the airport <u>at least 3 hours</u> prior to the departure flight	
	<b>***End of Tour***</b>	

#### GLOSSARY

Sri Lanka

BB = Bed and breakfast

HB = Room, breakfast and dinner

FB = Full Board basis of room and all meals. (Please check itinerary for specific includes and excludes per property)

AI = Inclusive of all meals, drinks, and activities (please check itinerary for specific details per property)

#### ENTRY/VISA REQUIREMENTS

- As per the updated entry/visa policy in Sri Lanka, all visas must be applied online through the Immigration ETA portal <https://www.srilankaevisa.lk/>
- A valid passport, not less than 6 months, a confirmed return or onward air ticket and sufficient funds for the stay are other entry requirements to the country.
- Please note that the above details are subject to change when the government authorities revise their policies.
- Please click on the below links for more details on the new regulations
- Information: <https://www.srilankaevisa.lk/information>
- FAQs: <https://www.srilankaevisa.lk/faq>
- **SATELLITE PHONES AND DRONES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SRI LANKA**

## *Expect the extraordinary*

### Day 1 - Colombo

Arrive at Colombo's Bandaranayake International Airport, Katunayake

Welcome on arrival and transferred to The Tintagel Colombo (approximately 50 minutes' drive)

Check in to the hotel relax after a long flight

#### **Tintagel Colombo**

Located amidst the vibrant streets of Colombo, The Tintagel is a magnificently chic hotel that previously hosted political leaders and royalty. The hotel offers 10 individually designed suites. The Royal Suites are incredibly spacious and luxurious, featuring separate living rooms; the Superior Suites, adorned in light blue and off-white colours create a serene ambience, and offer an outdoor lounge area and private plunge pool; the Executive Suites reveal high ceilings and beautiful textures and colours with lovely bathrooms. All three accommodation options feature a private lounge and balcony area.

Delicious fare is served at the stylish Dining Room, a sophisticated restaurant serving an à la carte menu. The Private Dining Room serves delectable canapés and petit fours, and the Red Bar, exquisitely decorated with antique French baroque candle-stands and mirrors, is ideal for a nightcap and intimate chat. Numerous facilities at hotel ensure an impeccable stay, such as a well-equipped gym, a lap pool, a beautiful library to spend quiet moments pouring over books, and a fantastic spa for pampering treatments.

Later in the afternoon go on a Colombo city tour with your guide

#### **City of Colombo**

Colombo is an open and attractive city with a fascinating mix of 19th and 20th century colonial buildings, and more recent modern architecture. In the last few years, considerable renovation and restoration work has been undertaken in the capital. The Colombo Racecourse and Independence Square are such examples of recently renovated Colonial architecture. Places to see in Colombo are the Gangaramaya Temple with its eclectic mix of Sri Lankan, Thai, Indian, and Chinese architecture, the serene Seema Malakaya temple located on the Beira Lake, the Independence Square which is a national monument built to commemorate the independence of Sri Lanka from British rule, the old Dutch Hospital in Colombo which was built during the period where Sri Lanka was under Dutch rule and the Galle Face Green, especially at night, when it comes to life with street hawkers and locals enjoying the kebabs and the sea breeze.

Overnight at The Tintagel Colombo for 1 night in an Executive Suite on Bed & Breakfast Basis



## Day 2 - Colombo -Thirippane

After breakfast proceed to Ulagalla Resort (approximately 4-hour drive)

Arrive in Thirappane and Check in to Ulagalla Resort

### Ulagalla Resort, Thirapanne

Nestled in a village in the ancient kingdom of Anuradhapura, Ulagalla Resort tastefully blends a previous era with the modern comforts of the present.

Located on a sprawling 58acre estate, Ulagalla is a luxurious retreat nestled among two sparkling reservoirs, lush green paddy lands and lily ponds. The centerpiece of the resort is a meticulously restored “Walawwa” which was once a grand ancestral home of local chieftains and offers guests a glimpse of a bygone era. It now houses the reception, main restaurant, bar and underground wine cellar. The 19 villas, each over 850 square feet in size, all offer glass-walled panoramic views of the scenic, unspoiled, natural paradise filled with bird and animal life and are luxuriously equipped with air conditioning, high-end entertainment systems and many more amenities. Come relax, unwind and enjoy the tranquility that Ulagalla has to offer you.

Spend the rest of the day at leisure

Later in the afternoon take a scenic 4x4 drive to a lake and experience beautiful Sunset while sipping a cup of tea

Explore local area around Ulagalla by four-wheel drive on a journey in search of lesser known cultural, natural and historical highs. Board a 4 X 4 jeep for a scenic drive through rustic farmland, local villages, indigenous forest and vast lakes with a higher possibility of witnessing the majestic elephants and many more wild species.

Overnight at Ulagalla Resort, Thirippane for 2 nights in a Ulagalla Pool Villa on Half Board Basis





### Day 3 - Thirippane

Spend the rest of the day at leisure while enjoy some great in-house activities Ulagalla has to offer (**Optional - Cost Not Included - Payment Direct**)

#### JUNGLE KAYAKING

Take to the waters of the Wannemaduwa Tank in a kayak at dawn or dusk, to experience the breathtaking wildlife at a time when it's most active. Paddle quietly with your friendly staff guide through floating islands of lotus, strands of water reeds, and overhanging boughs. The soft light of the rising or setting sun makes for a picturesque setting for this excursion.

#### ULAGALLA ON HORSEBACK

If you prefer riding on horseback, you can spend an hour or so exploring the estate and neighbourhood on horseback with a staff groom.

#### ARCHERY

Surrounded by the birds and the trees of Ulagalla, offer exclusive archery excursion in Sri Lanka. Ulagalla even supply the equipment - bows, arrows, and targets - and expert advice as well as some friendly competition from Ulagalla recreational assistants, who are graduates of the Colombo School of Archery. You may even engage in a tournament with your own party or fellow guests.

In the late afternoon explore the city of Anuradhapura (approximately 30 minutes' drive)

#### The Ancient City of Anuradhapura

Spend your day exploring the various sites located within the ancient city of Anuradhapura. Here, Buddhism has prevailed from its introduction to the current period. On religious days, the city is filled with devotees who travel from all across the Island to pay homage to the various religious sites within the ancient city by first cleansing themselves in the manmade lake and then offering flowers and prayers to the Gods. On such days, the city can be a busy place but this is a part of the wonderful experience of witnessing Buddhism through a living ancient city.

Dating back to at least 1000 BC, Anuradhapura was capital of much of Sri Lanka between the 5th century BC and the 11th century AD. It was here that Buddhism was adopted by the rulers in the 3rd century BC. Thera Mahinda, the son of the great Indian Emperor Ashoka, introduced Buddhism to the country. The city grew and was a major secular and religious site that today covers over 40 sq km. Many places are still sites of worship and prayer. The Sacred Bo Tree grown from a cutting brought from Bodhgaya (India) by Ashoka's daughter is one important site to visit. Other sites of interest are the Ruwanweli Saya Stupa, the



Isurumuniya Temple and remains from palaces, temples, monasteries and ceremonial baths situated within the site.

Tonight enjoy a special dining experience call “Kamatha” dining in a special location

### Kamatha Dinner

You haven’t tasted Sri Lanka, locals say, until you fully experience an authentic “Kamatha” meal - rice paddy dining pavilion serving revered royal recipes from a Kingdom long forgotten.

The Kamatha, a new dining experience by Uga Ulagalla’s award winning team, set in the centre of a working paddy (rice) field brings together travellers and locals who have an appetite for exploring flavours.

On this epicurean adventure you will sample traditional dishes, explore old world ingredients and even work with home cooks and their favourite recipes. You will learn; how the traditions of a Kingdom are reflected in the myriad of fragrant spices and seasonings, about the utensils still in use after 2000 years and of the preparation of food in hand made clay pots and open wood fires at a whole different taste.

These thoughtful multi-course meals incorporate vegetables harvested at Uga Ulagalla’s organic farm, lake fish and free-range meats sourced locally and traditional breads and old-world rice, the signature crop of Uga Ulagalla’s paddy fields.

Overnight at Ulagalla Resort, Thirippane



### Day 4 - Thirappane - Sigiriya

After breakfast proceed to Sigiriya (approximately 1 hour drive)

Arrive in Sigiriya and Check in to Water Garden Resort, Sigiriya

### Water Garden Resort, Sigiriya:

Situated just six kilometres (4 miles) from the impressive Sigiriya Rock, the beautiful Water Garden Sigiriya features a selection of exquisite



villas. Offering contemporary, sophisticated interiors, and intimate secret gardens, the Deluxe Villas, partially submerged in water, are tastefully furnished and offer sublime views of the estate's streams and pools. The Superior Deluxe Villas and Duplex Twin Villas blend beautifully into the surrounding colourful gardens and feature private plunge pools, a glorious sun deck to while away the hours, and sensational views of the Sigiriya Rock.

A wonderful selection of international and locally-inspired menus await at the main restaurant, and refreshingly chilled cocktails can be savoured in the Twin Level Bar, which boasts exceptional views. Adventures abound close by. Explore the area and visit the famous Sigiriya Lion Rock. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a highlight of any trip to Sri Lanka

Early evening Angampora experience - A traditional and exciting welcome to Sri Lanka

Angam is believed to have been a part of the ancient culture of Sri Lanka that dates back to over 5000 years. It had evolved from generation to generation, standing the formidable test of time, and once became an indispensable part of the Sri Lankan way of life. Please see attached further information about Angampora, and the experience would include a private session with a group of 10 professionals who will showcase performances as well as conduct training sessions. Special Welcome Dinner with combining arrack tasting with local food

Spend 2 nights at Water Garden Resort, Sigiriya in a Superior Deluxe Pool Villa on Half Board Basis



## Day 5 - Sigiriya - Habarana - Sigiriya

After a relaxed breakfast, proceed to Habarana (approximately 20 minutes)

Arrive in Habarana and explore the back roads of Habarana with a local in Tuk Tuks, followed by a local lunch.

### Colours and Sounds of Habarana

Colours and Sounds of Habarana is not just a Tuk Tuk ride through a village, it is an experience created for visitors to get hands on experience and understanding of the livelihood, culture, and way of life in a typical village. During this experience, guests will get an opportunity to meet the real villagers and discover the countryside and local craftsmen community. The experience include visit to a place where villagers make broomsticks with coconut fiber, meet a local brickmaker who make bricks using the traditional methods (here, guests will be invited to make a brick using the traditional tools and techniques), observe and learn the traditional method of extracting Ayurvedic Medicinal Oil and meet a young woman in the village who teaches traditional dancing to the children. Here, the dancing teacher will invite the guests to try few steps of traditional dancing following her guidance. **(E bike option is also available)**

At the end of the experience, enjoy a scrumptious lunch with your host.

Later in the afternoon venture on a Jeep Safari at Hurulu Forest Reserve to look for wild Asian elephants.

### Elephants in Minneriya /Kaudulla national park or at Hurulu Forrest

Each afternoon, many individual elephants come out of the forest in to the open to graze on the fresh green pasture by the water's edge at Minneriya and Kaudulla national parks or at Hurulu forest reserve. You have excellent opportunities here to observe the social dynamics of the Asian Elephant as the large bulls in musth compete among each other and seek the females within the herd, while young calves with carefree abandon get up to their mischievous antics often to the displeasure of its alert mothers within the herd.

Your guide will be knowledgeable on where the elephants are encountered. Which is dependent on the monsoon. During the wet season, the herds disperse from Minneriya and Kaudulla, moving towards nearby Hurulu National Park and are scattered amongst the tall grasses and scrub jungle vegetation. In any of these parks, a variety of birds found in the dry zone including Indian Roller, Sri Lanka Jungle fowl, Indian Peafowl, Blue-tailed and Green Bee-eaters.

Return to your hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight at Water Garden Resort, Sigiriya in a Superior Deluxe Pool Villa on Half Board Basis



## Day 6 - Sigiriya - Kandy - Hatton

Early morning climbs one of the island's most spectacular sight, the 5th century rock fortress of Sigiriya which is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site to witness the beautiful sunrise (approximately 10 minutes' drive)

### Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Referred to as 'The Lion Rock' by locals, Sigiriya became the capital during the reign of King Kashyapa in the 4th century A.D. After slaying his own father, King Dhatusena of Anuradhapura to take the throne and fearing a retaliatory attack from the rightful heir Moggallana who fled to neighbouring India, the new King constructed his royal palace on the summit of this 200-metre-high rock with a fortress for his own protection. Walk through the meticulously landscaped Royal Gardens and ascend towards the summit where only ruins of the royal palace now remain. A visit to the fresco gallery with its ancient paintings of the King's maids in waiting and the Mirror Wall with ancient transcripts that closely match the modern-day Sinhalese language, should also not be missed. In 495 A.D, Moggallana returned from his exile and defeated the King re-instating Anuradhapura as the capital. Sigiriya was then used as a Buddhist monastery until the 14th century prior to being mysteriously abandoned.

Return to Sigiriya for a Champaigne breakfast by the poolside

After breakfast proceed to Kandy (approximately 2-hour drive)

Arrive in Kandy and explore Kandy city and the market area and visit the famous Temple of the tooth relic.

### Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic:

Referred locally as the Sri Dalada Maligawa, the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is the most revered site in the country. The Temple was built in the 16th century CE and is adjacent to the Royal Palace complex of the former Kingdom of Kandy. It overlooks the expanses of Kandy Lake. Housing the sacred tooth relic of the Lord Buddha, the building has held a significant role in Sri Lanka's politics since ancient times, with a belief that whoever holds the relic has the right to govern the country. The sacred tooth was smuggled into Sri Lanka from India by a princess in the 4th century and was initially kept in Anuradhapura and then moved to different locations across the country, before reaching Kandy. This sacred temple attracts thousands of white-clad pilgrims on a daily basis bearing lotus blossoms and frangipani for their offerings.



Then Continue the drive to Ceylon Tea Trails (approximately 2-hour drive)

Arrive and check-in to Ceylon Tea Trails, Hatton

### Ceylon Tea Trails:

Sri Lanka's first Relais & Chateaux resort, comprises five luxurious colonial era tea planters' bungalows, connected by walking trails through stunningly beautiful Ceylon tea gardens. Each of the five bungalows is different. Summerville with an air of a country cottage, Castlereagh with an eclectic style of its own, the high colonial Tientsin, one of the first planter's residences to be built in Ceylon, the more modern Norwood abounding with 50's character and Dunkeld, the new bungalow offering spectacular views of Castlereagh Lake and the Great Western Mountain range.

Built between 1888 and 1950, the bungalows offer a taste of gracious living thanks to butler service and period furnishings, accompanied by gourmet meals. Follow the Tea Trail from one unique bungalow to the next, staying a night or two at each or just laze in one. Trek, bike or picnic at spectacular locations each day in cool comfort. You can book a room or the entire bungalow and relish a luxury holiday in the heart of Sri Lanka's breathtaking Ceylon tea country.

Take the time to rest and relax in one of the luxurious bungalows, perfectly enveloped in warmth from a crackling wood fire, watching as the captivating mists rolls across the landscape.

Spend 3 nights at Ceylon Tea Trails, Hatton in Garden Suite and your stay is on All Inclusive Basis.



### Day 7 - Hatton

After breakfast join the Ceylon Tea Trails Tea Experience tour with the resident planter.

### Ceylon Tea trails Tea Experience

This is the essential Tea Trails experience. The Resident Tea Planter will show you first hand the age-old tea making process. First, follow the trail of the planters of old Ceylon, as they trekked through the dense jungle looking for the best slopes on which to plant tea. Then on



to watch the tea pluckers pick two leaves and a bud with deft hands. Then to the factory where the all-important conversion to “made” black tea happens. The machinery used is of very traditional British design, some as old as 100 years. The process is a very artisanal one, unchanged for a century. The daily complimentary tour ends with a tasting of different grades of this great brew. Together with tea-infused cuisine, tea based spa treatments and trekking trails that traverse tea-blanketed hills, you can literally lose yourself in tea. You will leave Tea Trails with a newly found appreciation of this wonder herb “Camellia Sinensis” and the terroir of Ceylon Tea.

Afterwards walk to the Ceylon Tea Trail’s Leopard conservation centre with the naturalist. He will give a insight in the conservation efforts being done (approximately 30 minutes)

Afterwards have a special picnic lunch at the scenic “Gartmore” or “Fairlawn” waterfall.

You will be picked up from bungalow at 12 noon and then transferred in a commuter van to one of these locations (approximately 45 minutes’ drive). From there walk up to the waterfall (30 minutes’ walk) and enjoy your lunch near the waterfall at 1330 hrs.

After lunch, return to the vehicle (30 minutes’ walk) and transferred to the bungalow (approximately 45 minutes’ drive).

The total distance of the walk will be around approximately 1.5 KM.

Overnight at Ceylon Tea Trails, Hatton



## Day 8 - Hatton

Breakfast at the garden of your Bungalow

Rest of the day at leisure or engage in some of the in-house activities along with experiences that are carefully curated to offer an authentic, intimate and exploratory journey into the heart, soul, history, and gastronomy of this magical island. Ceylon Tea Trails also offer activities



with healthy doses of fun, adventure and pampering, along with a holistic wellness offering for guests to escape their urban life and soothe mind, body, and soul. **(Optional - Cost Not Included - Payment Direct)**

- **Kayaking in the Castlereagh reservoir**

Enjoy magnificent views of tea-carpeted mountains as you paddle along the Castlereagh Lake in hi-spec kayaks. Mornings are the most beautiful as the weather is often fairer and the sun breaks through to gleam over the glassy water, and the foreboding mountains surrounding the lake emerge from the thinning mist.

- **Mountain Biking**

Ceylon Tea Trails has opened up a world of adventure and discovery in the Bogawantalawa Valley at an altitude of over 1500 meters. The unspoiled beauty of the surrounding valleys and hills are a great biking experience.

- Play a game of croquet

Or simply relax and enjoy the scenery from your bungalow

Overnight at Ceylon Tea Trails, Hatton



## Day 9 - Hatton - Yala

Enjoy your breakfast at Ceylon Tea Trails bungalow.

After breakfast head to Wild Coast Lodge, Yala (approximately 4 ½ hour drive)

Arrive in Yala and Check in to Wild Coast Tented Lodge

### Wild Coast Lodge, Yala

Wild Coast is a luxurious tented lodge sits on a deserted beach on the edge of Yala National Park, the Leopard hot spot in southeastern Sri





Lanka. 28 vaulted “Cocoon” tents offer the comfort of a luxury hotel with the excitement of a safari-style wilderness experience. The air-conditioned Cocoons measure a generous 55m2 and are furnished to the highest specification. Some have their own plunge pools. They are dotted around five watering holes designed to attract a variety of birdlife and amphibians, which can be viewed from each Cocoon’s outdoor viewing deck.

A bamboo-clad bar and restaurant serves creative daily changing menus, whilst a delicious “picnic tea” forms part of the safari drive experience. The lodge boasts a Sanctuary Spa offering a range of natural treatments developed in-house. The library doubles up as an educational centre where guests learn about the wildlife in the park and watch documentaries, further explained by the lodge’s expert guides.

Arrive in Yala and Check in to Wild Coast Tented Lodge in time for a late lunch

#### Wild Coast, Yala:

Wild Coast is a luxurious tented lodge sits on a deserted beach on the edge of Yala National Park, the Leopard hot spot in south eastern Sri Lanka. 28 vaulted “Cocoon” tents offer the comfort of a luxury hotel with the excitement of a safari-style wilderness experience. The air-conditioned Cocoons measure a generous 55m2 and are furnished to the highest specification. Some have their own plunge pools. They are dotted around five watering holes designed to attract a variety of birdlife and amphibians, which can be viewed from each Cocoon’s outdoor viewing deck.

A bamboo-clad bar and restaurant serves creative daily changing menus, whilst a delicious “picnic tea” forms part of the safari drive experience. The lodge boasts a Sanctuary Spa offering a range of natural treatments developed in-house. The library doubles up as an educational centre where guests learn about the wildlife in the park and watch documentaries, further explained by the lodge’s expert guides.

Enjoy delicious, authentic Sri Lankan cuisine in the Dining Pavilion, and sip colourful cocktails in the Ten Tuskers bar

Spend 3 nights at Wild Coast Tented Lodge, Yala in a Cocoon Pool Suite and your stay is on all Inclusive



## Day 10 - 11 - Yala

Spend the full day exploring the Yala National Park. You have two park drives in the morning and afternoon with a naturalist in a shared jeep. The morning park drive begins at around 0530 hours. Your afternoon park drive begins around 1430 hours, returning at sunset. (3 Park drives)

### Yala National Park

Yala National Park is located in the south-east corner of Sri Lanka and is the most popular destination for wildlife viewing. Leopards are the star attraction at Yala and Block I is believed to have the highest concentration of these big cats in the world. Leopards however are elusive by nature and we recommend a minimum of three to four park drives to have the best opportunities for good encounters. Asian Elephant, Sloth Bear, Jackal, Sambar, Spotted Deer Buffalo, Wild boar and the Grey Langur are among the other larger mammals that may be seen.

During the dry season which spans from June to September, large concentrations of Mugger Crocodile are can be seen in the dwindling waterholes. Yala is also an excellent birding destination with close to 300 avian species recorded; Indian Peafowl and Sri Lanka Jungle fowl, Changeable Hawk Eagle, Painted Stork, Malabar-pied Hornbills, Chestnut, Green and Blue-tailed Bee-eaters are among the species seen regularly in Yala. The varied landscapes from lagoons, beaches to rocky outcrops immersed among the scrub jungle are also a treat to the eye as you search out the park's wildlife.

Yala's varied habitats from rocky outcrops, riverine forests, scrub jungle and numerous waterholes make it an excellent destination for birders especially for dry-zone species with around 300 recorded species. At the waterholes and shallow lagoons, Painted Stork, Lesser Adjutant Stork, Asian Open bill, Indian Darter, Common Kingfisher are among a variety of water birds routinely seen. Yala is also one of the few locations where the critically endangered Black-necked Stork may be seen. Among the branches and scrub jungle vegetation, keep your eyes out for Blue-faced Malkoha, Green Bee-eater, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon and flocks of noisy Malabar-pied Hornbill. The strikingly beautiful Indian Peacock and the country's national bird, the Sri Lanka Jungle fowl are abundant here with the male peacocks routinely dancing and coming in to breeding plumage during the months of October to March in the wet season.

Overnight at Wild Coast Tented Lodge, Yala



## Day 12 - Hatton - Weligama

After breakfast, proceed from Yala to Weligama (approximately 2 ½ hour drive)

On your way, visit a working Cinnamon plantation in Weligama and learn the world-famous Ceylon Cinnamon making process, followed by a delicious lunch with the host.

### Top House Exclusive Cinnamon Experience

Top House is a beautiful, working cinnamon estate of 25 acres, just inland from Weligama. The British owners have restored the plantation and now produce true Ceylon cinnamon, which grows on the steep slopes of a high hill. The main house is perched on the hilltop with spectacular views over the jungle to the north and the Indian Ocean to the south. The owners have also built an artisan distillery where they extract pure cinnamon leaf oil according to age-old techniques fine-tuned with modern technology where they offer a variety of tour options of the cinnamon plantation.

The tour covers the nursery, the plantation, the peeling hut and the oil distillery. It explains the history of Ceylon cinnamon as well as showing the planting, harvest, peeling and preparation of quills. They will also demonstrate cinnamon leaf bundling and the entire process of cinnamon oil extraction, as well as the surprising uses of this very special essential oil. The tour shows an eco-friendly and perfectly self-sustaining farming process, with every part of the plant used or recycled, and a completely natural and health-giving result.

Afterwards continue the journey and check in to Cape Weligama Resort, Weligama

Arrive in Weligama and Check in to Cape Weligama Resort, Weligama

### The Cape Weligama, Weligama

Cape Weligama is a luxurious resort, home to a gorgeous collection of 40 free-standing villas and suites and is the only Relais & Chateaux property on the south coast of the island. Infinite 270-degree panoramas of the Indian Ocean and rugged coastline are celebrated from every curvaceous corner of this meticulously landscaped property,



perched on a cliff top rising up to 36 meters (118.11 feet) above sea level.

There are two adjacent public beaches. West Beach is accessed via a specially built cliff staircase while East Beach is next to the Dive Centre, a 5-minute walk from the resort. A reef provides safe swimming conditions and with no large resorts nearby, the beaches are not busy. The Beach Club and Dive Centre is staffed by professionals and is the embarkation point for all land and water-based activities. Offering first-rate PADI dive courses and exciting dives, other activities include private cruises, big game fishing, seasonal whale and dolphin watching trips and banana boating.

Innovative wining and dining venues hug the lofty cape and are complemented by a spectacular 60 meter (196.85 feet) crescent shaped infinity pool seamlessly merging with the ocean. All villas and suites have ocean views, with private butler services and individual gardens, dining and spa facilities.

Spend 3 nights at Cape Weligama Resort, Weligama in a Junior Suite on Bed & Breakfast Basis



## Day 13 - Weligama

Early morning, go whale watching off Mirissa on a privately chartered catamaran with a marine biologist (approximately 4-hour experience - Depends on sightings)

### Whale Watching

Sri Lanka is also one of the best places in the world to see blue whales. The island enjoys a unique position in the Indian Ocean, with the shoreline unusually close to the continental shelf, the point of



deepening marine life, while yet supplying nutrients from the coast. Therefore, the deep seas, which provides a habitat for whales easier to reach by boat, are good conditions for whales, especially sperm and blue whales. Almost 90 per cent of whales are guaranteed during the whale watching season.

Start early morning for the greatest conditions for whale watching and the calm waters. You will sail towards the Indian Ocean by boarding a modern catamaran off Mirissa with a professional team, safety equipment, a well-equipped kitchen where the chef serves a delicious full breakfast and a 3-course lunch. Once the guide spots the whales, you are invited to acquire the greatest views of the whales up to the top deck or front of the boat. After the whale watching, you'll head back towards shore, anchoring on the way for the chance to jump into the water and try some stand-up paddle boarding or snorkelling. In the middle of the day, the chef will start serving a snack on board as you sail back.

Return to your resort and refresh

In the afternoon drive to Galle, walk around the charming Fort area explore the little shops.

Afterwards, experience **After dark tales of Galle** - Discover the historical, archaeological and architectural heritage monument that is the Galle Fort with a resident local host.

First built in 1589 by the Portuguese, and extensively fortified by the Dutch during the 17th century, Galle Fort has a colourful history, and is recognized by UNESCO as a living World Heritage Site today. The fort itself is a haven for architectural fanatics. Your host will meet you post an early dinner. The meeting point will be at the Sunset Restaurant, where you will learn about the origins and the colonial occupants of the Galle Fort in brief, before we set off on our adventure. Fasten your seatbelts as this one will be one for the memory books. The Galle Fort at night is calm, a wee bit eerie and magical. You host will take you on a journey back in time, traversing through forgotten graveyards, abandoned gun powder mills, old quarries and lost dungeons. Gaze at the lit-up silk route in the far horizon and witness the lighthouse beam touch the walls of the Galle Fort. The highlight of the tour will be learning about the different ethnicities that occupy the Fort. Then you will get to visit a local's home for a chat and a cup of tea. We end the tour with a cold one at the historic Dutch Hospital.

Overnight at Cape Weligama Resort, Weligama



## Day 14 - Weligama

Today after breakfast, meet a local mask making family who will give you an introduction to mask making and it's uses before we learn how a small tree log becomes a mask. The family will start to show you the secrets of this age-old art by crafting few masks using their tool and finally applying paint to them. You are free to go hands on and join in on the mask crafting and painting if you wish.

Rest of the day at leisure

Overnight at Cape Weligama Resort, Weligama



## Day 15 - Weligama - Departure

Transfer from Hotel to Bandaranaike International Airport for your departure flight (Approximately 2-hour drive).

(We recommend you at the airport at least 3 hours prior to the departure flight)

## *Journey overview*

### Accommodation

DATE	DESTINATION	ACCOMMODATION	DETAILS
Day 1 -	Colombo	Tintagel	<b>Superior Suite</b> Bed & Breakfast
Day 2 -	Thirappane	Uga Ulagalla Resort	<b>Ulagalla Pool Villa</b> Breakfast and Dinner
Day 3 -	Thirappane	Uga Ulagalla Resort	<b>Deluxe Pool Villa</b> Breakfast and Dinner
Day 4 -	Sigiriya	Water Garden Resort	<b>Superior Deluxe Pool Villa</b> Breakfast and Dinner
Day 5 -	Sigiriya	Water Garden Resort	<b>Superior Deluxe Pool Villa</b> Breakfast and Dinner
Day 6 -	Hatton	Ceylon Tea Trails	<b>Garden Suite</b> All Inclusive
Day 7 -	Hatton	Ceylon Tea Trails	<b>Garden Suite</b> All Inclusive
Day 8 -	Hatton	Ceylon Tea Trails	<b>Garden Suite</b> All Inclusive
Day 9 -	Yala	Wild Coast Tented Lodge	<b>Cocoon Pool Suite</b> All Inclusive
Day 10 -	Yala	Wild Coast Tented Lodge	<b>Cocoon Pool Suite</b> All Inclusive
Day 11 -	Yala	Wild Coast Tented Lodge	<b>Cocoon Pool Suite</b> All Inclusive
Day 12 -	Weligama	Cape Weligama	<b>Junior Suite</b> Bed & Breakfast
Day 13 -	Weligama	Cape Weligama	<b>Junior Suite</b> Bed & Breakfast
Day 14 -	Weligama	Cape Weligama	<b>Junior Suite</b> Bed & Breakfast