

PEARL LANKA VOYAGERS

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Discover of Pearllanka – 15 Days / 14 Nights Tour In Sri Lanka

Day 01 – AIRPORT / COLOMBO

Arrival, welcome & assistance at the airport. Transfer to hotel in Colombo.

Afternoon **Colombo city tour.**

- **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.

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

Famous land marks in Colombo include the National Museum, Fort area commercial center, Pettah Colombo's bustling bazaar area, Gall Face Green , Independent memorial building ,Cinnamon gardens that are full of large residences, Buddhist temples, Hindu temples & mosques, World Trade Center, Vihara Maha Devi Park and the Galle Face Green..

Dinner and overnight stay at Colombo hotel

Day 02 – COLOMBO / NEGOMBO / ANURADHAPURA

After breakfast leave for Anuradhapura

- **Negombo**

Visit the fishing village in **Negombo**, which is the center of the islands fishing community and it's largely Roman Catholic by faith, with huge imposing churches down almost every street. The sea & the catamarans are the backdrop to the Negombo scenery.

- **Aukana**

One of Sri Lanka's most perfect and elegant statues, the Aukana Buddha lies to the west of the large Kala Wewa tank. Creation of both the temple and the tank (reservoir) is attributed to King Dhatusena in the 5th century. The statue stands 12m high, carved from a single rock and is completely free standing. It is an example of the Abhayamudra Buddha, showing superhuman qualities. It is a unique creation in the world by an unknown sculptor.

- **Anuradhapura**

Visit the first Royal Kingdom of Sri Lanka founded in the 05th century B.C. Anuradhapura is surrounding the largest number of ancient monuments of a great civilization. " Sri Mahabodhi " the oldest historically documented tree in the world is over 2200 years. There are monuments such as Ruwanveliseya Dagobah, 2nd century BC with its famous elephant wall; Thuparama Dagobah 3rd century B.C, the brazen palace which once had nine stories, the image of the Samadhi Buddha is one of the finest places of Buddhist sculpture, the twin ponds, guard stones & moonstones.

Overnight stay at Anuradhapura Hotel.

DAY 03 – ANURADHAPURA / POLONNARUWA

After breakfast visit to **Mihintale.**

- **Mihintale**

Mihintale is a mountain peak 13 km East of Anuradhapura, Mihintale or the Sinhalese translation 'Mahinda's Mountain' is believed to be the place where in the year 247 BC the Sinhalese King Devanampiyatissa was converted to Buddhism by Arahat Mahinda; the son of Ashoka, the last Mauryan Buddhist emperor of India. This event took place on the full moon day in the month of June. Known as the cradle of Buddhism, it is a revered site for Buddhist pilgrims from around the world. It is now a

pilgrimage site, and the site of several religious monuments and abandoned structures. After Mihintale continuous the trip to Polonnaruwa. En-route visits **Ritigala**.

- **Ritigala**

Ritigala is an ancient Buddhist monastery and mountain in Sri Lanka. The ruins and rock inscriptions of the monastery date back to 1st century BCE. Ritigala is one of the less visited but most legendary ancient sites of Sri Lanka. Situated 188 km north-east of Colombo in the North Central province, it is right between the ancient cities of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa. After Ritigala visit to **Medirigiriya Watadage**.

- **Medirigiriya Watada Geya**

Medirigiriya Watada Geya is one of the oldest ruin in South Asia, According to the historical records, Watada geya has built up before 1900 years. During the Polonnaruwa kingdom, it has built to protect the stupa from rain and sun. It's situated 40 km s away from Polonnaruwa. This unbelievable construction still stands without falling down. The meaning of watadagea, he house around the stupa. It has created only from the thick stone. Afternoon arrival and check in to the hotel in Polonnaruwa.

Day 04 – POLONNARUWA / SIGIRIYA

After Breakfast visit to **Polonnaruwa Archeological site**.

- **Polonnaruwa Archeological site**

Visit 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 climb the **Sigiriya**.

- **Sigiriya**

Sigiriya rock 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". **Sigiriya**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is of immense archeological significance: it is one of the best preserved and most elaborate surviving urban sites in the South Asia from the first millennium A.D.

Overnight stay in Sigiriya Hotel

Day 05 – DAMBULLA / MATALE / NALANDA / KANDY

En-route visits the rock cave temple of **Dambulla Rock Temple**

- **Dambulla Rock Temple**

Dambulla Rock 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.

- **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.

Evening visit the **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.

Overnight stay in Kandy Hotel.

Day 06 – KANDY / PINNAWALA / KANDY

After breakfast visit to **Elephant Orphanage in Pinnawala**.

- **Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage**

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. A captive breeding program was launched in 1982 and since this time over twenty elephants has been born. 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 people.

Return to Kandy. Visit the city of Kandy. 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 in Kandy hotel.

Day 07 – KANDY/MAHIYANGANAYA /KANDY

- **Mahiyanganaya Temple**

After breakfast leave for Mahiyanganaya, marks the Buddha's first visit to Sri Lanka over 25 centuries ago, nine months after His Enlightenment. On this occasion He visited Mahiyanganaya to restore peace among the warring Yakkha tribes, one of the legendary inhabitants of this island at the time.

After Mahiyanganaya Temple Visit to see **Veddhas, the Indigenous People** of Sri Lanka.

- **Veddhas, the Indigenous People**

Veddhas people are considered to be one of the oldest tribes in the world. Originally old people, Veddhas used bows and arrows to hunt game and also gathered honey. They consumed venison, flesh of rabbit, common brown monkey, monitor lizard, turtle, tortoise and wild boar with relish and killed only for food. In the older days, their dwellings consisted of caves and rock shelters but today they live in huts of wattle daub thatched with lluk grass. Most researchers agree that Veddha cave drawings found at Hamangala, were done by the women who spent long hours in these caves waiting for their menfolk's return from the hunt.

Return to Kandy. Late in the evening view the Kandyan cultural performance.

Overnight stay in Kandy Hotel

Day 08 – KANDY/PERADENIYA/NUWARA-ELIYA

After breakfast visit the royal botanical gardens of Peradeniya

- **Peradeniya Botanical Garden**

Peradeniya botanical garden, which is well known for its large number and variety of plants. More than 4000 species include indigenous and introduced plants. This garden is best known for its collection of orchids the largest in Asia. At one time this beautiful botanical garden was reserved exclusively for Kandyan royalty. Today even commoners are allowed in to what are, at 60 hectares, the largest and most impressive botanic gardens in Sri Lanka. The many highlights include a fine collection of orchids and a stately avenue of royal palms. Another big hit is the giant Javan fig tree on the great lawn. Covering 2500 sq metres, it's like a giant, living geodesic dome.

After Peradeniya botanical garden leave for Nuwara Eliya the center of hill country, En-route visit a tea plantation and witness the manufacture of the world famous " Ceylon tea ". This route is one of the most beautiful routes of Sri Lanka. Evening relax & enjoy the cool climate. Overnight stay at Nuwara Eliya hotel

Day 09 – NUWARA-ELIYA / 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.^[3] 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 Nuwaraeliya hotel.

Day 10 – NUWARA-ELIYA / THISSAMAHARAMAYA

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 Nanuoaya. 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 Thissamaharama 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.

- **Thissamaharama Temple**

Thissamaharama is a Buddhist temple in Thissamaharama, 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).

Overnight stay in Thissamaharamaya hotel.

Day 11 – THISSAMAHARAMAYA/KATARAGAMA/YALA/THISSAMAHARAMAYA

- **Katharagama**

After breakfast visit to the Kataragama temple. Kataragama is one of the few places in Sri Lanka which is worshipped by most of the popular religious people in Sri Lanka. According to the Buddhists, Kataragama is one of the 16 places visited by Buddha during his 3 visits to Sri Lanka. The main shrine devoted to Skanda popularly described in eulogies as God having six faces and twelve arms whose assistance is sought for worldly gain. The history of the shrine dates back to 2 century BC. The annual procession held in July or August is the main event of the shrine with fire walkers and Kawadi dancers. Offering to the got are made at 4.30am 10.30am and 6.30pm daily.

- **Yala National Park**

Afternoon, visit to Yala National Park by a 4x4 jeep. 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 hotel.

Day 12 – GALLE/HIKKADUWA/BENTHOTA

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.

Galle was the center of the Dutch regime in the 17th century and the majestic Galle Fort bears testimony to this fact. The City of Galle is one of the well preserved **colonial-era cities** in Southeast Asia and has been declared a " **World Heritage City** ". The Dutch Museum, Groote Kerk (Great Church) and the National Maritime Museum are two famous tourist attractions in Galle. International Cricket Stadium has also contributed to enhance the image of the city as a sports destination.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Galle/Hikkaduwa/Benthota

Day 13 & 14 – BEACH STAY

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 15 – AIRPORT

Transfer to the airport to connect flight for departure.

END OF TOUR IN SRI LANKA