

PEARL LANKA VOYAGERS

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Discover of Pearllanka – 10 Days / 09 Nights Tour In Sri Lanka

Day 01 - AIRPORT / PINNAWALA

Arrival, welcome & assistance at the airport. Transfer to Hotel in Pinnawala .

Overnight stay at Pinnawala Hotel.

Day 02 – PINNAWALA / SIGIRIYA

After Breakfast Visit Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

- 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 2013, there were 85 elephants.

A captive breeding program was launched in 1982 and since this time over twenty five 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.

After the visit of Pinnawala elephant orphanage proceed to Sigiriya.

Afternoon visit Sigiriya Rock Fortress.

- 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 03 - DAMBULLA / MATALE / NALANDA / KANDY

After breakfast leave for 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).

After Dambulla Rock Temple visit a spice garden & batik factory in Matale, visit at fabulous Hindu temple in Matale.

Afternoon proceed to Kandy city.

- **Kandy**

Kandy is located in the Central Province of Sri Lanka. Also it is the second largest and major city in the country after Colombo. It was the last capital of the ancient kings' era of Sri Lanka before the British ruling era. 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.

Afternoon visit the Kandy City, Temple of The Tooth and Late in the evening view the Kandyan cultural performance show.

- **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.

- **Cultural Show (Kandy Dance)**

Cultural Show (Kandy Dance) is one of the famous evening events not to be missed when visiting this heritage city. It starts in the evening and runs for more than 1 hr. Listen to the captivating traditional drummers and be mesmerized viewing the many different art forms from the up country and low country of the island. The spectacular fire dancers and other folklore, Demon dancers, Traditional Kandyan dancers are a definite breathtaking experience to the locals and visitors alike.

Overnight stay Kandy Hotel

Day 04 - KANDY / NUWARAELIYA

After Breakfast leave for Nuwaraeliya. The transport will be arranged From Kandy to Nanuoya by the train. Car will follow you to Nanu Oya

Leave to Kandy Railway station, and board the train and leave for Nuwara Eliya. Enjoy the picturesque journey from your observation carriage, the train snaking its way through the mountains through the tea country. The train takes four hours go to Nanu-oya from Kandy. In actual kilometers it's a pretty short journey but the train has to cross a lot of mountain ranges and climbing from 1000m to 1800m, passing through tea plantations, small villages. 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. Car will follow you to Nanu Oya and you will be picked by the chauffer guide at Nanuoya train station and continuous the trip to Nuwaraeliya.

Afternoon Visit Nuwaraeliya City.

- **Nuwara Eliya**

Nuwara Eliya is a city, in the hill country of the Central Province, Sri Lanka. The city name meaning is "city on the plain (table land)" or "city of light". The city is the administrative capital of Nuwara Eliya District, with a picturesque landscape and temperate climate. It is located at an altitude of 1,868 m (6,128 ft) and is considered to be the most important location for Tea production in Sri Lanka. The city is overlooked by Pidurutalagala, the tallest mountain in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka is one of the world's largest exporters of tea. Since the introduction of tea to Sri Lanka in mid 19th century Nuwara Eliya has been the capital of the tea industry. For many miles prior to reaching Nuwara Eliya from either direction you will find acres and acres of tea plantations, in-fact nothing but tea estates. The slow-growing tea bushes of

this highland region produce some of the world's finest Orange Pekoe tea, and several tea factories around Nuwara Eliya offer guided tours and the opportunity to sample or purchase their products.

The city was founded by Samuel Baker, the discoverer of Lake Albert and the explorer of the Nile in 1846. Nuwara Eliya's climate lent itself to becoming the prime sanctuary of the British civil servants and planters in Ceylon. Nuwara Eliya, called Little England then, was also a hill country retreat where the British colonialists could immerse in their pastimes such as fox hunting, deer hunting, elephant hunting, polo, golf and cricket.

Due to its highland location, Nuwara Eliya has a subtropical highland climate with a mean annual temperature of 16 °C (61 °F). In the winter months it is quite cold at night, and there can even be frost. However, it rapidly warms up as the tropical sun climbs higher during the day.

Nuwara Eliya offers many activities for tourists including visits to tea plantations golfing, horse riding, boating, hiking and of course exploring the beauty of the landscaped gardens, waterfalls and plateaus. The town's attractions include the golf course, trout streams, Victoria Park, and boating or fishing on Lake Gregory. Victoria Park is an attractive and well-used oasis. It is popular with birdwatchers at quieter times because of the good opportunities it gives to see various species of birds. Galway's Land Bird Sanctuary, close to Lake Gregory, is another wildlife site of 0.6 km². Hakgala botanical garden is a 20 minutes drives from Nuwaraeliya. Another place related to folklore is the Hindu Temple called Seetha Kovil (Hanuman Kovil) situated on the way before reaching the Hakgala Botanical Garden. The temple is located in the village called "Seetha Eliya". The area is related to the Ramayana story in Hinduism. Folklore says that the mighty king Ravana kidnapped princess Seeta who was the queen of Rama and hid her in the place where the temple now is.

Local tourists flock to this town in their 'season' from March to May when it is the hottest duration for the town, April being the busiest. The town really comes alive in April for the Sinhalese and Tamil New Year, and it is difficult to find accommodation as Sri Lankans holiday in the region during this period. The festive season starts on April 1 annually in a ceremonial manner.

Overnight stay at Nuwaraeliya Hotel

Day 05 - NUWARA-ELIYA / HORTON PLAINS / NUWARAELIYA

With a picnic breakfast leave for Horton Plains

- **Horton Plains**

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.

After the world's end visit, return to Nuwara Eliya hotel. Afternoon walk in Nuwaraeliya city.

Overnight stay in Nuwaraeliya hotel.

Day 06 - NUWARA-ELIYA / ELLA

After breakfast leave for Ella. En-route visit 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.

After Hakgala Botanical Garden proceed to Ella.

- **Ella**

Ella is a little village paradise in the central highlands of Sri Lanka. This sleepy mountain village, with a view, is the perfect base for relaxing, whilst also offering lots of fantastic walks through tea plantations to temples and waterfalls. Some of the places you could see in Ella are **Ella Gap**, **Ravana Ella Water Falls**, **Little Adams Peak** and **Bambaragala Peak** among the other many varied pleasant walks with stunning sceneries and through the clean and cheap restaurants and many of small shops. Ella with its perfect climate soothes your mind and makes your day to day anxieties feel a world away. It reminds one of a hot English summer, hot during the day and cool at night. Most foreign tourists would like to spend a couple of days there. When you are traveling out of town you could find plenty of things to keep you occupied.

Overnight stay at Ella Hotel

Day 07 – Ella / Udawalawa

About 10.30 am leave Ella for Udawalawa. Afternoon visit the Udawalawa National Park

- **Udawalawa National Park**

The park is situated just south of the Central Highlands, of which escarpment brings about an enrapturing backdrop. At the center of the park lies the Udawalawe Reservoir. **Udawalawe National Park** established in the year 1972, with the objective of protecting the catchment area of Udawalawe reservoir, which provides water for agriculture and hydro-power generation spreads over an area 30,821, resembles an African game park: it is mainly thorny-shrub jungle with grasslands. While the remnants of the Teak plantations that were planted at the time of the construction of the Udawalawe Reservoir is scattered around, Kumbuk and the endemic Mandorang trees abound in the riverine areas.

Wildlife at Udawalawe National Park

Keeping company to the herds of elephants, the main attraction of the park are Water Buffalo, Wildboar, Spotted Deer, Sambur Deer, Jackal, Sambar, Black-naped hare, mongooses, bandicoots, foxes, s the endemic Toque Macaque and Gray Langurs. Sighting Leopard and other smaller cats like Fishing cat & Jungle cat would be a bonus. While the crocodiles doze off on the banks of the reservoir, the water monitor lizards are abundant in the park.

Udawalawe is undoubtedly the best place in Sri Lanka to see wild Asian Elephants throughout the year: there are about 500 elephants in the park and they often roam in herds of up to 100. **Udawalawe National Park** is unique in terms of consistency in numbers of elephants roaming the park: it has no seasonal variation in herds of elephants. The best hours to visit the park are in the mornings and evenings. Late evening also affords the photographic opportunities in the backdrop of loveliest sunsets.

Udawalawe National Park is one of the best places to see Raptors in Sri Lanka and afford excellent opportunities for photography. Endemic birds include the Ceylon Junglefowl, Ceylon Spurfowl, Ceylon Green Pigeon, Ceylon Grey Hornbill, Ceylon Woodshrike and Ceylon Swallow. Among the other bird species seen are Spot-billed Pelican, Little Cormorant, Grey Heron, Indian Pond Heron, Cattle Egret, Large Egret, Little Egret, Intermediate Egret, Painted Stork, Woolly-necked

Stork, Yellow-wattled Lapwing, Green Bee-eater, Crested Tree-swift. In forested areas Sirkeer and Blue-faced Malkohas are found. During the migrant season of birds (Nov to March): Booted Eagle, Common Kestrel, Harries, Rosy Starlings, Black-capped Kingfisher, Wood Sand Piper, Common Sand Piper, Little Ringed Plover, Whiskered Tern, Yellow Wagtail, Forest Wagtail & Citrain Wagtail.

Elephant Transit Home (ETH) at Udawalawe National Park

The **Udawalawe Elephant Transfer Home** is an Elephant orphanage located within the **Udawalawe National Park**. Established in 1995 by the Department of wildlife Conservation, it is home to over 40 orphaned elephants. The orphaned calves and juveniles of the park are brought into the orphanage and raised with necessary care until such time as they could be released to their habitat. Once they are released to the park, the Park authorities take upon themselves to keep constant track of the beasts till they get used to the new life in the wild. As at the year 2008, no less than sixty-five elephants had been released to the jungle.

Overnight stay at Camp Site in Udawalawa National Park

Day 08 – Udawalawa / Kalawana / Sinharaja

After the early breakfast at camp site make a morning safari trip in Udawalawa National Park. After the safari trip leave Udawalawa for Kalawana. En-route visit Gem Mines.

- **Gem Mines in Rathnapura**

Sri Lanka's city of Gems "Rathnapura" is the world's richest treasure house of gems and is a picturesque town attracting tourists from all around the world. Also Rathnapura is one of the most prominent gem mining destinations in Sri Lanka.

Rare sparkling precious and semi-precious stones are found in the rich soil that covers the entire district Ratnapura is known for producing some of the best quality cornflower-blue and white sapphires. Sapphires in beautiful hues of blue, yellow, green, violet, pink as also 'padparaschas' – stones a shade of orange-pink combination which are considered to be extremely rare and precious are found here. Bright yellow topaz, cinnamon coloured grossular garnets, the finest quality of matara diamond or zircon in colours of orange, brown, green, yellow and also colourless occur here

In addition to this green and yellow tourmaline, brown, green and yellow Chrysoberyl cat's eye, moonstone and spinel of various colors are mined in this area of Ratnapura. **After the visit of gem mines, have a. Afternoon proceed to Kalawana.**

Overnight stay at hotel in Kalawana.

Day 09 - SINHARAJA/COLOMBO

After an early breakfast visit Sinharaja Rain Forest.

- **Sinharaja Rain Forest**

Sinharaja Forest Reserve is a national park and a biodiversity hotspot in Sri Lanka. It is of international significance and has been designated a Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The hilly virgin rainforest, part of the Sri Lanka lowland rain forests ecoregion, was saved from the worst of commercial logging by its inaccessibility, and was designated a World Biosphere Reserve in 1978 and a World Heritage Site in 1988. The reserve's name translates as *Kingdom of the Lion*.

The reserve is only 21 km (13 mi) from east to west, and a maximum of 7 km (4.3 mi) from north to south, but it is a treasure trove of endemic species, including trees, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

Because of the dense vegetation, wildlife is not as easily seen as at dry-zone national parks such as Yala. There are about 3 elephants and the 15 or so leopards are rarely seen. The most common larger mammal is the endemic Purple-faced Langur.

An interesting phenomenon is that birds tend to move in mixed feeding flocks, invariably led by the fearless Greater Racket-tailed Drongo and the noisy Orange-billed Babbler. Of Sri Lanka's 26 endemic birds, the 20 rainforest species all occur here, including the elusive Red-faced Malkoha, Green-billed Coucal and Sri Lanka Blue Magpie. Reptiles include the endemic Green pit viper and Hump-nosed vipers, and there are a large variety of amphibians, especially tree frogs. Invertebrates include the endemic Common Birdwing butterfly and the inevitable leeches.

After Sinharaja Rain Forest proceed to Colombo.

Overnight stay in Colombo hotel.

Day 10 -COLOMBO/AIRPORT

After the breakfast Checkout the hotel and Colombo city tour and Shopping visit.

- **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..

After Colombo city visits transfer to Colombo airport at 16.00hrs for departure.

END OF TOUR IN SRI LANKA