# 10 Day Taste of Sri Lanka with Flights

## DAY 1: Depart Australia, Arrive Columbo, Sri Lanka

On arrival at Colombo International airport, you will be welcomed by a representative and transferred to your hotel in Negombo, a 30 minute drive away.

Note: Some airline schedules may depart on Day 0.

**MEALS:** In-flight

**OVERNIGHT:** 3 or 4 Star Hotel, Negombo

## DAY 2: Negombo Free Day

Enjoy a day at leisure to relax after the flight and explore the beach town of Negombo. Alternatively, take our optional sightseeing tour around Colombo.

City Tour Itinerary: You will proceed to do a Colombo city tour in this throbbing city, a heady mix of cultures thrives. Here, contrasting landmarks - ancient sites, colonial masterpieces and ultra - modern skyscrapers sit side by side. Quaint old shops and wayside stalls lie under the shadows of glittering stores and sprawling shopping malls. Similarly, lifestyles and traditions old and new continue, making Colombo a unique and exciting city. Its history dates far back: the port of Colombo was influential as early as the 5th century when ships from Rome, Arabia, and China traded with Sinhalese kings for food supplies, spices and jewels.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** 3 or 4 Star Hotel, Negombo

**OPTIONAL:** City Tour $15

## DAY 3: Negombo ~ Pinnawela ~ Habarana ~ Cultural Hotel

After breakfast you will proceed to the Cultural Area, on your way you will have the option to visit the famous Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage, while in the Orphanage you will have the chance to feed milk to the baby Elephants (09.30-11.00am) followed by river bathing (optional). The orphanage is a remarkable project that began in 1972 which was created to protect abandoned or orphaned wild elephants who would not otherwise have survived in the wild. From the banks of the river you can watch these gleeful herds of elephants splashing around freely on the river. After we continue to the cultural area where we check into our hotel and enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

Alternatively you can take an optional village tour to discover Hiriwaduna Village where an Authentic Sri Lankan Lunch will be provided. Take a ride in a bullock cart swaying from side to side on an unpaved...
trail, enjoy a nature walk through a scrub jungle, and wade through a local stream with low hanging branches and cross a lake in an ‘oruwa’, the traditional mode of over water transport. Spend time with a farmer harvesting crops under his guidance and taste authentic village cuisine prepared by the farmer’s family with freshly picked produce and local herbs cooked in clay pots over an open hearth fuelled by firewood you are welcome to participate in the cooking process.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** 3 or 4 Star Hotel, Cultural Area

**OPTIONAL:** Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage Entrance $20 / Hiriwaduna Village Tour $18

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**DAY 4: Cultural Hotel ~ Sigiriya ~ Minneriya**

After an early breakfast in the morning you will climb the “Sigiriya”, the Lion Rock a UNESCO world heritage site, the unique icon of Sri Lanka. A testimony to the inventiveness of the ancient civilizations of the land, the once impenetrable stronghold of King Kassapa, ‘Sihagiri’ or Lion’s Rock as it was called then, is considered to be the 8th wonder of the world today. The feats of artistry, architecture and engineering at Sigiriya continue to impress visitors with their utter magnificence, even thousands of years on. Intricately landscaped pleasure gardens sprawl out below the rock, giant lion paws hewn in stone mark the entrance to the fortress at its foot and a highly polished mirror wall still carries the scrawled writings of ancient poets. A somewhat treacherous climb up the rock is well worth it to see the impressive ruins of a once glorious city at the summit – 370m high. And the 360-degree view from the top is equally astounding. (optional). You will then have a chance to have lunch.

In the evening take the option of an exclusive Jeep Safari through the Minneriya National Park which is highly famous for its elephants and wildlife. Minneriya National Park is home to one of the most spectacular natural events in the world – the Elephant Gathering, sometimes you will see up to 300 majestic Asian elephants. Visitors can also look forward to sighting of other mammals such as Sambar, and Sri Lanka’s two endemic species of monkey, the Purple-faced leaf monkey and Toque Macaque. Although rare, there have been sightings of the Sri Lankan Leopard and Sloth Bear as well as the Gray Slender Loris. The Minneriya National Park is also an ideal location for bird watchers as it attracts many endemic and migrant species. Large flocks of birds are a common sight, especially water birds such as Cormorants, Pelicans, Painted Stork and Lesser Adjutant Stork. (optional)

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** 3 or 4 Star Hotel, Cultural Area

**OPTIONAL:** Minneriya Safari $60 / Sigiriya Climb $49

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**DAY 5: Cultural Hotel ~ Dambulla ~ Matale ~ Kandy**

After breakfast you will proceed to Mahiyanganagana via Kandy visiting the famous Dambulla Rock Temple (optional). Standing approximately 100m high, the approach to the entrance of the caves entails climbing up the face of the rock, although stone steps have now been cut to make the climb easier. Whilst climbing to the entrance of caves, take time to stop and enjoy the view of the surrounding area, which is truly breathtaking.
On the way to Kandy we visit a spice Garden in Matale, as well as also enjoy a complimentary Head massage. There are shops where you can purchase different spices of Sri Lanka.

After lunch we visit the Silk factory & Gem Museum in Kandy. Kandy is famous for precious gems where you can purchase the world-famous Ceylon Blue Sapphire worn by the British Royal family. Just north of the lake, the golden-roofed Temple of the Sacred Tooth Houses Sri Lanka’s most important Buddhist relic – a tooth of the Buddha. During puja (offerings or prayers), the heavily guarded room housing the tooth is open to devotees and tourists. However, you don’t actually see the tooth. It’s kept in a gold casket shaped like a dagoba (stupa), which contains a series of six dagoba caskets of diminishing size. The entire temple complex covers a large area, and as well as the main shrine there are numerous other temples and museums within the complex. (optional)

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** 3 or 4 Star Hotel, Kandy

**OPTIONAL:** Dambulla Cave Temple $15 / Tooth Relic $15

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**DAY 6: Kandy ~ Nuwara Eliya**

Breakfast at hotel and then proceed to Nuwara Eliya, driving through scenic lush valleys tea plantations. You have the option to take a train ride from Baudulla to Nanu Oya and meet up with your guide at the other end. We stop for lunch with a view en route to Nuwara Eliya and then visit a local Tea Factory Plantation to witness the process how the world-famous Ceylon Tea is made. Hidden away high in the central mountains at an altitude of over 6000 feet, Nuwara Eliya is the resort capital of the hills – and a world away from the hot tropical beach atmosphere of the coast, not just in climate but in its character too. The British planters who flocked to the region to grow tea in the mid-19th century developed Nuwara Eliya as their summer retreat. Created as an exact replica of an English town it is often called 'Little England'; and with its primarily colonial architecture, the stately Victoria Park, golf course, racing track, boating lake and grand period style hotels – and the cold, frequent showers of rain adding to the illusion, you could well be in an old English country town. This is the heart of the tea country, and is also a good base for excursions to discover other attractions of the hills.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** 3 or 4 Star Hotel, Nuwara Eliya

**OPTIONAL:** Train ride from Baudulla to Nanu Oya $18

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**DAY 7: Nuwara Eliya ~ Beach Stay**

After breakfast at the hotel you will drive to the west coast for your last couple of nights in Sri Lanka. On arrival, you will check into the hotel and spend the day at your leisure.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** 3 or 4 Star Hotel, Bentota

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**DAY 8: Beach Stay ~ Free Day**
Enjoy a full day at leisure to relax and soak up the sun at this stunning destination. There is an optional tour for the Balapitiya River Cruise where you are able to see beautiful small uninhabited islands and also visit Kosgoda turtle hatchery.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** 3 or 4 Star Hotel, Bentota

**OPTIONAL:** Balapitiya River Cruise & Turtle Hatchery $30

### DAY 9: End of Tour, Departure

After breakfast at the hotel, you will start your way back to the airport for your onward flight home. Most flights from Colombo leave late evening so we will take a leisurely drive back to Colombo to enjoy a last morning at the beach and also have time for last minute shopping in Colombo before being dropped off at the airport in time for your return flight.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, In-Flight

**OVERNIGHT:** In-Flight

### DAY 10: Arrive Australia

Today you will arrive home to Australia. Thank you for travelling with MyHoliday2!

*Note: Some flights may depart very early on this day and arrive in Australia on Day 11.*

**MEALS:** In-Flight