



GEMS OF SRI LANKA WITH YALA NATIONAL PARK

07 Days / 06 Nights

Kandy (2N) – Nuwara Eliyah (2N)- Yala National Park (2N)



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DAY 01: ARRIVAL AT COLOMBO AND TRANSFER TO KANDY

On arrival at Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo, you will be met by our local representative in Sri Lanka for a brief meet and greet.

You will then proceed to Kandy. En-route, we will visit Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage and Spice Gardens.

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage is a nursery that was commissioned by the Sri Lankan Government to take care of orphaned baby elephants who would otherwise face ill-fate because elephants suckle from their mother till they are five years old. Since then, it has expanded into a hospital and breeding ground for Asian Elephants. At the Orphanage, you can take part in feeding the elephants or simply watch them go for a bath in the river.



Afterwards proceed for a tour of **Sri Lankan spice garden** and learn about various spices and herbs such as Cinnamon, Vanilla, Cocoa, Turmeric and more. As you travel through the garden, the guide explains how they are actually procured from the plants, their advantages and medicinal properties.

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Later, proceed to **Kandy** and check-in at the hotel. Once the capital of the last independent kingdom of Sri Lanka, Kandy is today the second largest city in the country. The charming city is centred around the scenic Kandy lake and is surrounded by mountains covered by tea plantations and forests. A prominent Buddhist religious centre, it is also a major transportation hub owing to its location in the heart of the country.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Kandy.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Arrive at Colombo International Airport and proceed to Kandy
- Play with elephants at the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage
- Learn about Sri Lankan spices and herbs at a well maintained spice garden

DAY 02: KANDY SIGHTSEEING TOUR

After breakfast at the hotel, we will proceed with sightseeing tour of Kandy.

We shall begin the tour with a visit to the **Temple of Sacred Tooth Relic**. The temple is located in the **Royal Palace** and houses the sacred relic - a tooth of Gautum Buddha which was retrieved undamaged from his pyre by his disciple Khema. During the prayers, the golden casket in which the tooth is kept is revealed for the devotees to see and flowers are offered. Afterwards, we shall visit the **gem and lapidary museum** in Kandy. The

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museum is dedicated to showcasing the country's rich gemstone heritage and the art of lapidary, which involves cutting, shaping, and polishing gemstones.

Overnight stay at hotel in Kandy.



SEGV'S RECOMMENDATION - The **Kandy Lake Club** has been hosting the Cultural Dance show in Kandy for last 35 years. The wonderful show features all cultural dancing styles prevalent in Sri Lanka under one roof and is therefore a marvellous way to learn about Sri Lankan culture. The graceful movement of dancers and their vibrant costumes make this show a must watch. Look out for the fire walking performance which is a dance form inspired by Sita Devi's Agni Pariksha.



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HIGHLIGHTS

- See the most popular places in Kandy on a sightseeing tour
- Pay your respects to Buddha at the Temple of Sacred Tooth relic
- Enjoy a wonderful cultural performance at Kandy Lake Club [RECOMMENDED]

DAY 03: VISIT RAMBODA FALLS AND TRANSFER TO NUWARA ELIYAH

After breakfast at the hotel, we will proceed to Nuwara Eliya. Enroute we will visit Ramboda falls and a Tea processing factory.



The gorgeous **Ramboda falls** are one of the highest water falls in Sri Lanka. We will stop by the falls for a short time to soak in the beauty of the falls and the surrounding regions. Finally, we shall reach Nuwara Eliya and check-in at the hotel.

Nuwara Eliyah is the tea capital of Sri Lanka, surrounded by rolling hills covered by green tea leaves. We will visit the **tea processing factory** of one such tea plantation. During the visit we shall learn everything about tea production, from plucking of leaves to packaging for a fun informative session.

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Afterwards, we will proceed to **Nuwara Eliya** check-in at our hotel. Once the favourite hill-station of the British rulers of Sri Lanka, Nuwara Eliya is dubbed 'Little England' because of its British style colonial era bungalows and its cool climate. The tea garden county is also popular among Hindus as it is the site of Ashok Vatika where Goddess Sita lived when she was kidnapped by Ramavana.

Overnight Stay at the hotel in Nuwara Eliya.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy the view at Ramboda Falls - one of the highest falls in Sri Lanka
- Learn about the art of tea production at a tea processing factory

DAY 04: SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF NUWARA ELIYA

After breakfast, we will go on a sightseeing tour of **Nuwara Eliya**.

We will begin the city tour of Nuwara Eliya with a visit to **Sita Amman Temple**. It is believed to be the exact site where Goddess Sita was kept captive by Ravana. The temple has also been consecrated by Lord Hanuman whose giant footprints can be found at the

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site. Next, we will visit **Hakgala Botanical Garden**. The manicured gardens are extremely beautiful featuring some exotic plant and animal species. We shall also visit the beautiful **Gregory Lake** where you can indulge in lots of fun activities such as horse riding, boating and even jet-skiing.



Overnight Stay at the hotel in **Nuwara Eliya**.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Sita Amman Temple where Goddess Sita was held by Ravana in Lanka
- Roam in the beautifully landscaped Hakgala Botanical Gardens
- Enjoy a wonderful time at Gregory Lake

DAY 05: TRANSFER TO YALA NATIONAL PARK AND ANIMAL SAFARI

After breakfast at the hotel, we will proceed to Yala National Park.

Yala National Park is one of the most popular national park in the world because it has the highest density of Leopards in the world. The park is spread across 130,000 hectares and has been divided into 5 zones out of which only 2 are open to the public. Apart from the spotted big cats, the National Park has other exotic creatures including sloth bears, jackals, crocodiles, sea turtles and birds such as crested serpent eagles and grey hornbill.

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After check-in at the hotel, we will venture out for a safari ride through the park in search of the exotic animals and birds that dwell in the **National Park**.

Overnight Stay at hotel in Yala National Park.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Transfer to Yala National Park and check-in at the hotel

DAY 06: SAFARRI AT YALA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy two safaris – one in early morning and the other in the afternoon.



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Overnight stay at the hotel in Yala National Park.

SEGV'S RECOMMENDATION - Apart from the wildlife, Yala National Park also has two ancient Buddhist religious sights of significant importance. **Sithulpawwa Rock Temple** is a 2000 years old Buddhist monastery built by King Kavanthissa. **Buduruwagala** is a Buddhist rock temple built in 10th century which features seven tall and beautiful statues of Buddha which have been carved out from a large cliff.



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HIGHLIGHTS

- Go on the early morning and afternoon safari drives to catch wildlife in action
- Visit ancient Buddhist sites located in the National Park [RECOMMENDED]

DAY 07: COLOMBO CITY TOUR AND DEPARTURE

After breakfast at the hotel, check out from the hotel and proceed to **Colombo** for a short sightseeing of the Capital city.



During the panoramic tour, we will see the most important sights in the city- **Colombo lighthouse** which served as a prison cell for the last Sri Lankan king, **Gangarmaya Buddhist temple** - one of the most important religious sites in Colombo, **War memorial** dedicated to the army personnel that lost their lives in the two world wars and many more such landmarks.

After the city tour, you will transfer to the international airport to board a flight to India.

Arrive home with pleasant memories of your Sri Lanka tour organised by State Express Global Voyages, which we are sure you will treasure for a lifetime.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Transfer to Colombo city and see the most famous sights in the city
- Board flight to return back to India

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