

Sri Lanka Island Tour (19 Days / 18 Nights)

AIRPORT - NEGOMBO

DAY 01

Arrival at the Bandaranayake International Airport, meet your driver/guide and transfer to the first hotel in Negombo by a luxury car.
Visits:

- **Colonial Dutch Fort**

Close to the seafront near the lagoon mouth are the ruins of the old Dutch fort, which has a fine gateway inscribed with the date 1678. Also there is a green, called the Esplanade, where cricket matches are a big attraction. As the fort grounds are now occupied by the town's prison, the only way you'll get a peek inside is by committing a serious crime. You'd need to be very interested in old Dutch architecture to go to such lengths.

- **Dutch Canal**

The boat ride/safari that takes you along the colonial Dutch canal which runs through Waikkal, gives you snap shots of bird life, essentially comprising waders, stunning kingfishers, rare pied kingfishers, bee-eaters, Brahminy kites, etc. Water monitors, bearing an uncanny resemblance to crocodiles, are also bound to make an appearance, so keep your eye out for a glimpse! You can prolong your boat journey by following the canal onto the sea, where you can continue onwards to Negombo where you can stop at the town, do some shopping and return via boat to Waikkal.

- **2nd biggest Fish Market in Sri Lanka**

The Negombo Fishing Village, also known as the Lellama by the locals, is located across the lagoon bridge, near the Old Dutch Gate. The large open air fish market is the second largest in the country. It gives you an unpretentious insight into the local fisher community. The market is loud, vibrant and smells like fish! You will be able to witness the fishermen in hundreds of boats bringing in their daily catch. See how the wholesalers and restaurateurs trade and watch the packing and loading of fish for distribution across the country as well as for export – worldwide. The retail area is a bustling hive of activity – with customers negotiating prices with mom and pop fish vendors.

NEGOMBO - ANURADHAPURA

DAY 02

After breakfast leave for Anuradhapura. On the way visit,

- **Munneswaram Hindu Temple**

Munneswaram temple is an important regional Hindu temple complex in Sri Lanka. It has been in existence at least since 1000 CE, associated with the popular Indian epic Ramayana, and its legendary hero-king Rama. The temple is one of the ancient *Pancha Ishwarams* dedicated to Shiva in the region.

- **Wilpattu National Park**

Wilpattu National Park (Willu-pattu; Land of Lakes) is located 45km northeast of Puttalam and 26km southwest of Anuradhapura, the Northwest coast lowland dry zone of Sri Lanka. The unique feature of this park is the existence of "Willus" (Natural lakes) - Natural, sand-rimmed water basins or depressions that fill with rainwater. Wilpattu National Park sits on 1,317 square kilometers (131, 693 hectares) and ranges from 0 to 152 meters above sea level. Nearly sixty lakes (Willu) and tanks are found spread throughout the park. Wilpattu is the largest and one of the oldest National Parks in Sri Lanka. Wilpattu is among the top national parks world-renowned for its leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*) population. A remote camera survey was conducted in Wilpattu from July to October 2015 by the Wilderness & Wildlife Conservation Trust. As many as forty nine individual leopards were photo-captured in the surveyed area and the core area density was between that of Yala National Park's Block I and the Horton Plains National Park.

ANURADHAPURA - TRINCOMALEE

DAY 03

After breakfast visit the ancient capital Anuradhapura,

- **Anuradhapura Sightseeing (UNESCO HERITAGE SITE)**

Anuradhapura was built in the 3rd century BC and capital of the Sinhalese people for 1000 years from the 4th century BC, despite frequent invasions from southern India. Today it is the largest and most important ancient site in Sri Lanka and there is a wealth of old palaces, temples, 'dagobas' (Buddhist monument) and Buddha statues to explore over a large area. The most visited part is the sacred Bodhi tree which is said to have been planted from a sapling from the tree under which Buddha gained enlightenment. This was brought from India by Sangamitta, the daughter of the great Indian emperor, Ashoka, who had sent his own son, Arahath Mahinda, to spread Buddhism in Sri Lanka. It is one of the most important pilgrimage places in the country.

- **Mihintale Mountain Peak**

Mihintale is a mountain peak near Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka. It is believed by Sri Lankans to be the site of a meeting between the Buddhist monk Mahinda and King Devanampiyatissa which inaugurated the presence of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. It is now a pilgrimage site, and the site of several religious monuments and abandoned structures.

TRINCOMALEE

DAY 04

After breakfast visit,

- **Pigeon Island Marine Park**

Pigeon Island National Park is one of the two marine national parks of Sri Lanka. Situated 1 km off the coast of Nilaveli, a fishing village in Eastern Province, it encompasses a total area of 471.429 hectares. The island's name derives from the rock pigeon which have colonized it. The national park contains some of the best coral reefs of Sri Lanka. Pigeon Island was designated as a sanctuary in 1963 and 2003 re-designated as a national park. As a national park is the 17th in Sri Lanka.

- **Koneswaram Temple**

Koneswaram Temple is also known as Tirukoneswaram Kovil (Hindu temple) which is situated on top of Swami Rock. This temple is dedicated to the Hindu God Shiva, and it is one out of five such temples in Sri Lanka. It is believed that this Kovil has been in existence since 2500 years ago, and was renovated by the south Indian Chola king Kulakottan and maintained by Sinhala Buddhist kings.

- **Trincomalee Fort**

Fort Fredrick, also known as Trincomalee Fort or Fort of Triquillimale, is a fort built by Portuguese colonials at Trincomalee, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka, completed in 1624 CE, built on Swami Rock-Konamamalai from the debris of the world famous ancient Hindu Koneswaram temple (Temple of a Thousand Pillars). The temple was destroyed by the Portuguese colonial Constantino de Sá de Noronha under Phillip III, occupier of the Jaffna kingdom and Malabar country on the island. On the Konamalai cape was also built a new village of Portuguese and Tamil people, 50 Portuguese soldiers and inside the fort, a church named after "Nossa Senhora de Guadalupe". The Fort of Triquillimale was dismantled and rebuilt by the Dutch in 1665, renamed Fort Fredrick. In the afternoon you will visit Koneswaram Temple. The famous Koneswaram temple is located inside this fort. This Hindu temple earlier knows as the temple of thousand Pillars. According to historical information, Portuguese had demolished the old Koneswaram temple and they build this fort with the parts of that.

TRINCOMALEE

DAY 05

Free Day at,

- **Nilaveli Beach**
(optional whale watching, snorkeling, suba diving)

Nilaveli is a coastal resort town and suburb of the Trincomalee District, Sri Lanka located 16 km northwest of the city of Trincomalee. A historically popular Tamil village and tourist destination of the district alongside the nearby Uppuveli, the numbers of visitors declined following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and Sri Lankan Civil War, but have risen again since 2010. Pigeon Island National Park, one of the two marine national parks of the region is situated 1 km off the coast of Nilaveli, its many species of vegetation, coral and reef fish contributing to Nilaveli's rich biodiversity.

TRINCOMALEE

DAY 06

Free Day at the,

- **Nilaveli Beach**
(optional whale watching, snorkeling, suba diving)

TRINCOMALEE – POLONNARUA - SIGIRIYA

DAY 07

After breakfast leave for Sigiriya. On the way visit,

- **Ancient City of Polonnaruwa**

The second most ancient of Sri Lanka's kingdoms, Polonnaruwa was first declared the capital city by King Vijayabahu I, who defeated Chola invaders in 1070 to reunite the country once more under a local leader. In Polonnaruwa you can see traces of a great kingdom that once existed there and is historically valuable in Sri Lanka. Today the ancient city of Polonnaruwa remains one of the best planned archaeological relic cities in the country, standing testimony to the discipline and greatness of the Kingdom's first rulers. Its beauty is also used as a backdrop to many movies and video clips. The ancient city of Polonnaruwa has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO.

- **Minneriya National Park**

Minneriya National Park was designated as a national park on 12 August 1997, having been originally declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 1938. The reason for declaring the area as protected is to protect the catchment of Minneriya tank and the wildlife of the surrounding area. The park is a dry season feeding ground for the elephant population dwelling in forests of Matale, Polonnaruwa, and Trincomalee districts. Along with Kaudulla and Girithale, Minneriya forms one of the 70 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of Sri Lanka. Large numbers of Sri Lankan elephants are attracted to grass fields on the edges of the reservoir during the dry season. The Minneriya tank contributes to sustain this large herd. Elephants gathered here are numbering around 150-200. Some reports account the number of elephants to as high as 700. They migrate here from Wasgamuwa National Park and benefit from the food and shelter of the park's forest. Tourists visit Minneriya largely because of elephants, especially in dry season.

SIGIRIYA

DAY 08

After breakfast visit,

- **Sigiriya Rock Fortress (UNESCO HERITAGE Site)**

Sigiriya is an archeological site in North Central Sri Lanka. It contains the ruins of an ancient palace complex, built during the region of King Kasyapa (477AD - 495 AD). It is one of the 7 world heritage sites in Sri Lanka and is one of its most popular tourist destinations. The Sigiriya site consists of a 180m tall granite rock, whose sides are so steep that at some points the top overhangs the base. At the top of the site there is a palace complex. The ruins of various chambers, stairways and pools can be seen at the top. There is a stone stairway leading from the base to the top of the mountain. About half way to the top, there is a pair giant pair of lions paws which is in fact the ruin of a huge head of a lion whose open mouth served as the entrance to the royal palace. Surrounding the palace complex are the ruins of a garden complex consisting of two moats, various pools.

- **Hiriwaduna** (local village)

Hiriwaduna is just a 02 Km (05 minutes) drive from Sigiriya or you can trek to this typical Sri Lankan village. The trek begins with an awesome walk along a bund of a Wewa or manmade reservoir. The reservoir itself, the surrounding scrub jungle, marshland and village are a hive of early morning or evening activity. The amazing birdlife, butterflies and possible sightings of crocodile only add to the charm of seeing the villagers as they go about their early morning tasks of fishing, or washing clothes at the periphery of the lake. Initially one wades through a shallow stream and thereafter crosses a wider tributary in a catamaran of an obliging farmer to inspect Chena cultivation (slash and burn agriculture). Enjoy the farmer's humble hospitality. With the guidance of the farmer, pick some fresh vegetables from the plot and join in the preparation of a simple meal prepared in the traditional method using earthenware pots and firewood as fuel. This is great opportunity to sample authentic local cuisine. The journey continues through dense shrub forests, home to many forest birds and other wildlife including monkeys, bear and even elephants. In Hiriwaduna you can go on a bicycle, oxcart or boat trip.

SIGIRIYA – DAMBULLA - KANDY

DAY 09

After breakfast leave for Kandy. On the way visit,

- **Dambulla Cave Temple** (UNESCO HERITAGE Site)

Dambulla Cave Temple 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 world's most acclaimed Cave complex of magnificent Buddha Images and Rock Paintings of vivid colors and shapes constructed and painted from around 2nd Century BC (Anuradhapura era) and continued up to the Kandyan era of the 18th Century. The five main temple caves cover over 1000 square meters, these were formed out of a deep cavern, part natural and part excavated. One cave consists of a reclining Buddha over 15 meters in length and another holds 50 statues in a variety of positions and is decorated in glowing colors. The ceiling of this ancient monastery is covered with the colorful frescoes. Long strips of narrative paintings depict episodes of a story such as the life of Buddha or the coming of Buddhism to Sri Lanka.

- **Spice Garden in Matale**

In the past Sri Lanka was known as Taprobane, world renowned for its quality spices. In the 16th century Ceylon, as it was known then, was discovered by the Portuguese who soon began trading in cinnamon and other spices. The Dutch and British followed, bringing with them their own history and influences, forming a strong Western presence which created a history of food expressed with spices which can be tasted in today's meals. Spices are an essential element of the cuisine of Sri Lanka and the Ayurvedic tradition and a visit to a garden specialized in the cultivation of these substances is an excellent way to discover different uses of certain ingredients. Find cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, vanilla, cardamom and black pepper, to name a few. Visitors can buy the products in their natural state or in the form of oils and potions that are used by Ayurvedic medicine.

- **Kandy Temple of the Tooth** (UNESCO HERITAGE Site)

The Temple of the Tooth Relic, Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy, is the most prominent and sacred Buddhist shrine in Sri Lanka, even in the world. The relic of the tooth is kept in a two-story inner shrine fronted by two large elephant tusks. The relic rests on a solid gold lotus flower, encased in jeweled caskets that sit on a throne. The temple is joined to the Pattiripuwa (Octagon) tower, built in 1803, that was originally a prison but now houses a collection of palm-leaf manuscripts. The king's palace is also in the temple compound.

KANDY – PINNAWALA - KANDY

DAY 10

After breakfast visit,

- **Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage**

It is established in 1975 as place for shelter and cares the wounded elephants and abandoned baby elephants found in jungle. This is covered an area over 24 acre land. It was under the department of Department of Wildlife but now under the National Zoological Garden. The main daily activities taken place in the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage are feeding milk to baby elephants and the bathing sessions.

- **Peradeniya Botanical Garden**

Botanical Garden in Peradeniya is Sri Lanka's largest garden an elegant and spacious 147-acres (60-hectares) plenty of time is needed to stroll Peradeniya's imposing Avenue of Royal Palms. There are some 4,000 different species of plants at Peradeniya Gardens. The 10,000 or so trees, which are the stars, are mature, lofty giants, many of them tropical timber trees. Highlights of the collection include the Giant Bamboo of Burma, capable of growing to 40 meters height (130 feet) with a 25-centimetre (10-inch) stem diameter. And it can grow by a rapid 30 centimeters a day (12 inches). Absolutely sensational is the century old giant Javan fig tree, its tentacle like roots spread across the enormous area of about 1,800 square meters (19,375 square feet) a massive central trunk beneath the tree's vast canopy 'umbrella'. The Cannonball tree is also intriguing, with its cannonball-like fruit hanging off the trunk and large open, waxy pink-white flowers. So is the Double Coconut Palm, one of 200 types of palms displayed at Peradeniya – originating from the Seychelles, this tree produces the largest seed known. Its fruits take five years to mature. The gardens showcase all of Sri Lanka's flora and representative species from around the tropical world. Luminaries as varied as Queen Elizabeth II, Marshal Tito and Yuri Gugarin have planted trees to mark their visits to the garden.

- **Traditional Cultural Show**

With elaborate costumes, gyrating dance moves and show-stopping, fire-breathing stunts, a Kandyan dance performance is one of the defining experiences of a stay in Kandy. Calling it a traditional Kandyan dance performance is something of a misnomer as the shows are very much aimed at audience entertainment and contain dance routines and costumes from across the country, including the famous 'devil' dances of the west coast (which are very hard to see in their home region).

KANDY – KITUGALA – NUWARA ELIYA

DAY 11

- **Kitulgala White Water Rafting** (optional Rainforest Trekking)

Experience White Water Rafting on the picturesque Kelani River, covering 5 major rapids and 4 minor rapids. This activity is for anyone above the age of 10 years with safety gear, modern rafts, and a comprehensive safety briefing will be given by our white water rafting instructors beforehand. The distance covered is around 5 KMs. The river and its surrounding will make you feel enchanted, with a memorable Experience during your White Water Rafting Tour in Kithulagala.

- **Tea Plantations & Tea Factory**

No visit to the hill country is complete without a visit to a tea estate, where you can view the vibrant green fields of tea which for so many people epitomize the image of Sri Lanka. Surrounded by the breathtaking, idyllic landscape, you will also get a chance to taste and purchase some of the world's finest tea. Nuwara Eliya situated at around 2000m above sea level and surrounded by lush tea plantations. Nuwara Eliya is the main hill resort of Sri Lanka and the heart of the tea industry. This city with an elevation of 6200 meters is the highest in Sri Lanka. Once a pleasure retreats of the European planters the town is still very much an English town with many English style bungalows and buildings. Some of the finest teas in the world are produced here, and a visit to a tea factory and a tea plantation is a must. The process is unchanged from Victorian times, and you can follow it through from picking, drying and crushing to fermenting, packing, and especially tasting and buying.

- **Nuwara Eliya** (Little England) Sightseeing tour

NUWARA ELIYA – HORTON PLAINS - ELLA

DAY 12

After breakfast visit,

- **Horton Plain National Park**

Make an excursion to Horton Plains by 4 x 4 (jeep). This misty grassland plateau is a National Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site. It sits at an elevation of more than 2,000 m (6,500 ft) about 20 km from Nuwara Eliya. There is a strange and mysterious silence about the place, and it has some excellent walks. From this plateau rises Sri Lanka's second- and third-highest mountain: Thotupola Kanda (2,357 m) and Kirigalpota (2,389 m). The grassland is interspersed with patches of forest and some unusual vegetation that grows only at high altitudes. The trees are encrusted with lichens, and giant ferns and rhododendrons also flourish. The dense forests are home to deer, jackal, the shaggy bear-monkey, sambhur (a large deer) and the occasional leopard. The plains are also popular with birdwatchers. World's End is located in Horton Plains National Park and it is a sheer cliff, with a drop of about 4,000 feet (1,200 m). It is one of the most visited parts of Horton Plains National Park. It is one of the key attractions in Sri Lanka.

- **Iconic Train Ride to Ella** (Sri Lanka's highest village)

Ella is a small village in the Badulla District of Uva Province, Sri Lanka governed by an Urban Council. It is approximately 200 kilometres (120 mi) east of Colombo and is situated at an elevation of 1,041 metres (3,415 ft) above sea level. The area has a rich biodiversity, dense with numerous varieties of flora and fauna. Ella is surrounded by hills covered with cloud forests and tea plantations.

The town has a cooler climate than surrounding lowlands, due to its elevation. The Ella Gap allows views across the southern plains of Sri Lanka.

ELLA

DAY 13

After breakfast visit,

- **Little Adams Peak**

Little Adams Peak is named after the sacred Adams Peak (Sri Pada – where, according to legend, the foot print of Lord Buddha is preserved) due to the similarity between the two mountains. It is 1141 m in height. Little Adam's Peak attracts many travelers who come to Sri Lanka. With an easy hike up to the mountain you'll have spectacular panoramic views from Little Adams Peak. You walk through lush green tea plantations, pass waterfalls and paddy fields while enjoying the sceneries. It will be priceless if you visit the place in the morning when the clouds roll in. It is locations like this that make Sri Lanka a beautiful natural destination. You also will get a free neck exercise since you have to rotate your body to seek the best 360 degree views on the top.

- **Nine Arch Bridge**

The Nine Arches Bridge, also called The Bridge in the Sky, is one of the most iconic bridges in Sri Lanka and is one of the best examples of British railway constructions when Ceylon was still a colony of the British Empire. It is located in Demodara, between Ella and the Demodara railway station. In the past decade the surrounding area has seen a steady increase of visitors due to the bridge's architectural ingenuity and the profuse greenery in the nearby hillsides. Loosely founded, albeit popular rumours suggest that when construction work commenced on the bridge, the Great War began between the empires of Europe and the steel consignment assigned for this site was reallocated to Britain's War related projects at the battlefield. As a result when the work came to a standstill the locals came forward and built the bridge with solid stone bricks and cement without steel.

- **Tea Plucking**

Ceylon tea is known all over the world for its taste and flavor. You are in Ella and why not see how your tea is made. Everywhere you go in the Sri Lankan highlands there are tea plantations: endless shining rows of leafy bushes in the brightest and deepest shades of green you can imagine. You can walk through the tea estates surrounding Ella. You will see the pluckers busy with their job and you can have a nice chat with them and also learn how to do the plucking. Yes, it is not easy without practise. There are plenty of nearby tea factories too. Closest is Uva Halpewatte factory. If you want to visit more tea factories visit Dambatenne and Newburgh which are not too far from Ella.

- **Rawana Water Fall**

The Ravana Falls popularly known as Ravana Ella is a popular sightseeing attraction in Sri Lanka. It currently ranks as one of the widest falls in the country. This waterfall measures approximately 25 m (82 ft) in height and cascades from an oval-shaped concave rock outcrop. During the local wet season, the waterfall turns into what is said to resemble an areca flower with withering petals. But this is not the case in the dry season, where the flow of water is reduced dramatically.

ELLA – UDAWALAWE NATIONAL PARK

DAY 14

After breakfast visit,

- **Udawalawe National Park**

The Udawalawe National Park was created to provide a sanctuary for wild animals displaced by the construction of the Udawalawe Reservoir on the Walawe River, as well as to protect the catchment of the reservoir. The reserve covers 30,821 hectares (119.00 sq mi) of land area and was established on 30 June 1972. Before the designation of the national park, the area was used for shifting cultivation (chena farming). The farmers were gradually removed once the national park was declared. The park is 165 kilometres (103 mi) from Colombo. Udawalawe is an important habitat for water birds and Sri Lankan elephants. It is a popular wildlife destination and the third most visited park in the country.

UDAWALAWE - SINHARAJA

DAY 15

After breakfast visit,

- **Baby Elephants Transit Home**

The Udawalawe Elephant Transfer Home is located within Udawalawe National Park in Sri Lanka that was established in 1995 by the Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife Conservation. Its primary objective is to rehabilitate orphaned elephant calves for ultimate release back into the wild

- **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 eco region, 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 Lion Kingdom. 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 the dry-zone national parks such as Yala. There are about 3 wild elephants, and roughly 15 leopards. The most common larger mammal is the endemic purple-faced langur. 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 can be found 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 birdwings and butterflies.

SINHARAJA – MIRISSA BEACH

DAY 16

After breakfast leave for Mirissa. On the way visit,

- **Dondra Head Lighthouse**

Dondra Head Lighthouse is a lighthouse located on Dondra Head, Dondra, the southernmost point in Sri Lanka and is Sri Lanka's tallest lighthouse, and also one of the tallest in South East Asia. Dondra Head lighthouse is operated and maintained by the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

The lighthouse is near the village of Dondra, and is approximately 6 km (3.7 mi) southeast of Matara. The name Dondra is a synonym for "Devi-Nuwara" in the local Sinhala language, "Devi" meaning "Gods" and "Nuwara" meaning "City". The meaning of Dondra is "City of the Gods".

- **Colonial Dutch Fort in Matara**

The Matara fortification was built by the Portuguese around 1550, but the actual fort was built by the Dutch when they took Matara after the capture of Galle. The remains of the fort (a rampart and a gateway) are in good preservation. Inside the fort there are several old Dutch houses and a church with gravestones on the floor dated from 1686. After the Matara rebellion in 1761-1762, a beautiful fort called redoubt "Van Eck" was built in 1763-1765, on the right bank of the river. This fort was the only star shaped fort in Ceylon, over the gate of the fort is a Dutch coat of arms.

MIRISSA - GALLE

DAY 17

After breakfast visit,

- **Dutch Fort in Galle (UNESCO HERITAGE Site)**

Galle is a bustling provincial capital and administrative centre for the South. Once a port, Galle was Sri Lanka's first international commerce and trade centre, and the streets are still awash with a cosmopolitan range of goods available to buy in exotic markets and quirky art galleries. The Dutch presence is still visible in Galle, and should you want to retrace the footsteps of the Dutch rule, let our guide give you the tour of the Old Dutch fort (a UNESCO World Heritage site), the Dutch Government House, the former New Oriental Hotel (built in 1684), the old bell tower, and the Dutch tide-based sewage system.

GALLE - COLOMBO

DAY 18

After breakfast leave for Colombo. On the way visit,

- **Turtle Hatchery**

It is said that these sea turtles need a specified location or beach to lay down their eggs. Therefore they come to places like Sri Lanka ignoring many other beaches around the world. Eventually they lay down the eggs on the sandy beaches and return back to sea. The aim of the Turtle Hatchery is to ensure the life of turtles and conserve them. The Sea turtle hatchery is a day care for new born turtles.

- **Madu Ganga River Safari / Bentota**

The Madu River Safari is popular activity that has to be on the 'to do' list of any visitor. This unforgettable activity last for over two hours and gives a visitor a chance to travel the secretive passages through the mangrove forests and see the ecology. The safari goes through a mangrove lagoon joined to the sea by a narrow canal and containing 15 islands of varying size, some of which are inhabited. It is formed of two shallow water-bodies, Maduganga and smaller Randonbe Lake, connected by two narrow channels. On the islands and shores relatively undisturbed mangrove vegetation contains a rich biodiversity qualifying the wetland for 7 Criteria of International Importance. Many globally/nationally endangered, endemic and rare species - e.g. Shorea affinis, an endemic and endangered plant, the Purple-faced Leaf Monkey, Estuarine Crocodile, Flapshell Turtle and the Indian Python find shelter here. The lagoon provides the breeding, spawning and fattening ground for many fish species and supports 1.2 % of the Little Green Heron bio geographical population.

- **Colombo Sightseeing / Shopping**

Colombo is the commercial capital and largest city of Sri Lanka. It is the financial centre of the island and a popular tourist destination. In Colombo you will see a fascinating mix of old and new, with a central cluster of high-rise office blocks and hotels overshadowing red-tiled colonial-era buildings and sprawling street markets which overflow with high piled fruit and vegetables, colorful silks and cottons, and deliciously fragrant spices. Not to mention the many museums and galleries, churches, mosques and temples.

COLOMBO - AIRPORT

DAY 19

After breakfast transfer back to the airport

Travel Agent Information

We are flexible in our approach and are happy to review and provide recommendations on your own suggested tour programme

- No Limit on Groups Sizes (01 - 99+ pax)
- Accommodation options are ranging from budget hotels to luxury and boutique resorts
- All meal plans available; including special dietary (DBML / GFML), vegetarian and/or vegan meal plans
- Private Transportation by limousine, minivan and/or bus
- Experienced, multi-lingual drivers and tour guides

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