Earthbound Expeditions

Highlights of Sri Lanka Tour

10 days, from US$1,497 per person

Duration	Group size	Country
10 days	**15 people**	**Sri Lanka**

Highlights of Sri Lanka Tour Overview

Sri Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon, is one of the most scenic countries in the world and well worth visiting. It is known for its tropical jungles, tea gardens, elephant orphanage, beaches and many festivals.

Sri Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon, is one of the most scenic countries in the world and well worth visiting. It is known for its tropical jungles, tea gardens, elephant orphanage, beaches and full calendar of colourful festivals. With its many pilgrimage sites, sacred Buddhist temples, busy cities and mountainous jungle landscapes, Sri Lanka is becoming a popular destination for travellers.

Sri Lanka is a Buddhist country with many ancient Buddhist sites, including Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, Dambulla, Panduwasnuwara and Yapahuwa. These places contain the remains of a great civilisation that developed over centuries under the influence of Buddhism, which is still practised in Sri Lanka in a traditional form.

This ten-day guided tour introduces you to the culture of Sri Lanka. You spend nine nights in highly rated accommodation as you travel around the country. A buffet breakfast is served each day, and your days are spent visiting ancient sites and natural landscapes. On arrival in Colombo, an experienced English-speaking guide meets you and transfers you to your hotel. You travel around the country in an air-conditioned luxury van.

You go on a jeep safari in Yala National Park to see wildlife, visit the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage to watch the elephants being fed and bathed, and take an elephant ride in Habarana. You see UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the Dambulla Cave Temple and Galle Fort, attend a cultural show in Kandy, and see the waterfalls of Nuwara Eliya. All national park and sightseeing entrance fees are included, along with many other visits and experiences on this award-winning tour.

Ten days gives you a good introduction to the culture and nature of Sri Lanka, and many travellers find they would like to stay longer.

Join this tour to discover the island of Sri Lanka.

You can combine a Sri Lanka tour with Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan or India, and visit 2 or 3 countries on one trip. Write to us with what you would like to do and we will be happy to help.

Email us at earthbound@wlink.com.np or earthboundexpd@gmail.com.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive in Sri Lanka and travel to Dambulla

Our representative will meet you at the airport. You can arrive in the afternoon of day 1. One of our experienced driver-guides then takes you to your hotel in Dambulla. On the way, you visit the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, arriving in time to see the elephants' morning feeding and bathing. You can have lunch by the river and watch them bathe. In Dambulla, you visit the Dambulla Rock Cave Temple, which has five caves built into the rock. You then check in to your hotel in Dambulla and rest.

Altitude: 170 m On foot: Easy walking, 1–2 hrs Night: Hotel, Dambulla Meals: None

Day 2

Sigiriya and Habarana

After breakfast, you climb the Sigiriya rock fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most important archaeological sites in Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle. The climb takes 2 to 3 hours. You then go

to Habarana for the Hiriwadunna trek and a boat ride on a lake with fine views. Return to your hotel in Dambulla to relax.

Altitude: 170 m On foot: 3–4 hrs Night: Hotel, Dambulla Meals: Breakfast

Day 3

Dambulla to Kandy

After breakfast, you check out of the hotel in Dambulla and travel to Kandy. On the way, you visit the Dambulla Rock Cave Temple and a spice garden in Matale, where you can see most of the spices grown in Sri Lanka. In Kandy, you visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic, which holds Sri Lanka's most important Buddhist relic, a tooth of the Buddha. You then check in to your hotel in Kandy and have the afternoon free. In the evening, you are driven to a cultural show featuring various kinds of Sri Lankan dance. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Kandy.

Altitude: 500 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Kandy Meals: Breakfast

Day 4

Kandy city tour

After breakfast, you set off on a city tour of Kandy, which includes the botanical gardens and the Gem Museum, where you can see a variety of gemstones and a large collection of jewellery. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, are known for their wide range of plants, with large lawns, huge tropical trees and many kinds of bamboo. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight in Kandy.

Altitude: 500 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Kandy Meals: Breakfast

Day 5

Kandy to Nuwara Eliya

After breakfast, your driver meets you in the hotel lobby and explains the sights of Nuwara Eliya. The drive passes tea plantations and waterfalls. On the way, you visit a tea factory to see how tea is made, and you can buy a selection of fresh tea. Later, you stop at Ramboda Falls to enjoy the views. Before checking in, you visit the Hanuman Temple, one of the holy places associated with the Ramayana. You then check in to your hotel in Nuwara Eliya for dinner and a relaxing evening.

Altitude: 1,868 m On foot: None, 3–4 hr drive Night: Hotel, Nuwara Eliya Meals: Breakfast

Day 6

Nuwara Eliya city tour

After breakfast, you set off on a city tour of Nuwara Eliya. The town lies among the misty hills, with an average temperature of 10°C to 25°C. Places you can visit include Gregory Lake, Victoria Park, Nuwara Eliya Golf Course, the racecourse, Lover's Leap waterfall, the Mackwoods Tea Factory Museum, St Clair's Falls and Galway's Land National Park. Return to your hotel in Nuwara Eliya for dinner and a relaxing evening.

Altitude: 1,868 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Nuwara Eliya Meals: Breakfast

Day 7

Nuwara Eliya to Yala

After breakfast, we drive to Yala, which takes about 6 hours. The park is best known for its elephants and leopards. You check in to the hotel in Yala and rest. In the evening, you go on a jeep safari in Yala National Park. Animals you may see include elephants, peacocks, leopards, sloth bears, wild boar, sambar, buffalo and deer. Return to the hotel in Yala.

Altitude: 20 m On foot: None, 6 hr drive Night: Hotel, Yala Meals: Breakfast

Day 8

Yala to Bentota

After breakfast, you travel to your resort in Bentota, a well-known beach destination on the southwest coast of Sri Lanka. Bentota is known for its beaches and water sports and is a good base for day trips along the west and south coasts. At the hotel, you can swim, bodysurf, dive, jet-ski, windsurf, parasail and water-ski, and all the equipment you need can be hired. On the way, you visit Galle Fort, an old Dutch fort and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery, where you can learn about turtle conservation. The hatcheries are open from 06:00 to 18:00. If you wish, you can release a three-day-old turtle into the ocean. Check in to the hotel in Bentota and enjoy the surroundings.

Altitude: 5 m On foot: None, 4–5 hr drive Night: Resort, Bentota Meals: Breakfast

Day 9

Bentota

After breakfast, we go to the Madu River, a protected wildlife sanctuary, for a relaxing boat ride. Next, you visit the moonstone mines, where you see how the stones are extracted, cut and polished ready for sale. Return to the hotel in Bentota.

Altitude: 5 m On foot: Easy walking, 1–2 hrs Night: Resort, Bentota Meals: Breakfast

What's included

- 10-day tour of Sri Lanka
- Nine nights in highly rated hotels on a twin-share basis
- Scheduled airport transfers
- Daily buffet breakfast
- All transport during the tour in an air-conditioned luxury van
- Experienced English-speaking guide
- All national park and sightseeing entrance fees
- Concierge service at the airport and at all hotels
- 2 bottles of mineral water (500 ml) per person per day
- Jeep safari in Yala National Park to see leopards and other wildlife
- Visit to the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage to see the elephants fed and bathed
- Visit to the Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery to release a baby turtle into the ocean
- Visit to Sigiriya National Park and Lion's Rock, the most famous historical site in Sri Lanka
- River boat ride on the Madu River
- Visit to the sacred Temple of the Tooth and the Dambulla Cave Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Cultural show in Kandy, and the tea plantations and waterfalls of Nuwara Eliya
- Time on the beaches of Bentota, a well-known beach destination
- The Avukana Buddha statue, carved from stone
- Visit to Galle Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and entrance to the Botanical Gardens
- Award-winning tour company with a 98% TripAdvisor rating

Not included

- Supplements as mentioned
- Lunch and dinner (approximately USD 220)
- Tips and gratuities

- International airfare
- Personal expenses and any other costs not listed above

Photos, videos and reviews of this trip: earthbound.rajansimkhada.com/highlights-of-sri-lanka-tour-10-days