

## **JAFFNA PENNINSULA, NORTH OF SRI LANKA – 2 WEEKS TOUR**

Visit Buddhist archeological excavation at Kandadorai in Jaffna, Ruins dated to the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD. Small helmet shaped pagodas something you will not find anywhere else in the world. Covering Colombo, Jaffna, Nilaveli, Sacred bo tree in Anuradhapura, Wilpattu national park, Unesco world heritage sites Sigiriya rock fortress, Polonnaruwa, 1,500 year old rock cave temple in Dambulla, Temple of the tooth relic in Kandy and Negombo

### **Day 01**

Upon arrival, when you leave the airport terminal please look for your tour guide displaying a signboard with your name.

Transfer to your hotel in Negombo

**Overnight stay in Negombo**

### **Day 02**

After breakfast proceed to Wilpattu

In the afternoon take a private 4x4 jeep safari in Wilpattu national park

The unique feature of this park is the existence of Natural, sand-rimmed water basins or depressions that fill with rainwater.

Wilpattu is among the top national parks world-renowned for its leopard population.

Animals found within the Wilpattu National Park are the elephants, sloth bear, leopard, water buffalo, sambhur, spotted deer and mongoose

**Stay overnight at a campsite in Wilpattu**

### **Day 03**

After breakfast drive to Jaffna.

Visit Naga Deepa Buddhist Temple, Nainatheevu Naga Poosanai Amman Hindu Temple in the afternoon.

**Stay two nights in Jaffna**

### **Day 04**

Your Jaffna sightseeing today includes the Point Pedro Light House, the northern most point of Sri Lanka, Kandadorai Temple (Helmet shaped small pagodas), archeological monuments of King Sankili II, Jaffna Fort, Public Library, Clock Tower and the local fish market (Pannai public market), Keeramali Hotsprings, Maruthanamadam Anjaneyar Temple and Nilavarai Bottomless Well

### **Day 05**

After breakfast take a private road transfer back to Nilaveli via Elephant pass.

At Leisure in the afternoon

**Stay two nights in Nilaveli**

### **Day 06**

At Leisure

### **Day 07**

After breakfast proceed to visit Anuradhapura which was the capital from the 4th Century B.C. and features well-preserved ruins of ancient Sri Lankan civilization.

Also visit Mihintale which is a mountain peak near Anuradhapura. It is revered as the birthplace of Buddhism in Sri Lanka.

*Anuradhapura was the first capital of Sri Lanka, famous for its well-preserved ruins of*

*ancient Lankan civilization. From the 4th century BC, it was the capital of Sri Lanka until the beginning of the 11th century AD. During this period it remained one of the most stable and durable centers of political power and urban life in South Asia. Sri Maha Bodhi (Sacred Bo-Tree) was brought as a sapling of the tree under which prince Siddhartha attained to enlightenment and it is over 2,200 years old and is the oldest historically documented tree in the world. Samadhi' Buddha statue (4th century AD) is one of the most famous statues, depicting the Buddha in a state of 'Samadhi' ; deep meditation.*

### **Stay overnight in Anuradhpaura**

#### **Day 08**

After early breakfast leave for Sigiriya and Climb Sigiriya rock fortress

***Sigiriya** is home to the 5th Century 'Fortress in the Sky' which is perhaps the most fantastic single wonder of the Island built by King Kashyapa (477-495 AD). It is also known as Lion Rock because of the huge lion that used to stand at the entrance to the fortress. Within its triple-moated defence the huge rock rises almost to a sheer height of 500ft. On its summit are the foundations of what was once a great and sumptuous palace and gardens complete with swimming pool. On one of the stairways the only known ancient work of Sinhala secular painting survived in the form of frescoes of life sized damsels in all the freshness and delicacy of their original color. These Frescos painted in earth pigments on plaster.*

In the afternoon visit Polonnaruwa, which was the second capital city of Sri Lanka. Here you can see the ruins of the Royal Palace, temples and splendid statues of the Buddha.

***Polonnaruwa** which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> capital of Sri Lanka - the Capital of Sri Lanka from 11th - 13th Century, contains some splendid and spectacular statues. Lankatilake, Thivanka and Thuparama are the most beautiful and largest shrine ruins and Thivanka has the best example of frescoes of the Polonnaruwa period. Rankot Vihara and Kiriwehera are well preserved large stupas, and Gal Vihare - a rock shrine, has four Buddha statues, two seated, one standing and one reclining and Parakrama Bahu statue are examples of Sinhalese stone carver. The Vata-da-ge is a unique creation of Sri Lankan artists and the remains of a former Temple of the Tooth Relic*

### **Overnight stay in Habarana**

#### **Day 09**

After breakfast proceed to Kandy. En route visit Dambulla cave temples and a spice garden in Matale.

***Dambulla** - is famous for the five cave Temples on a rock which was donated by king Walagambahu in the 1st century BC to Buddhist monks. The first 03 caves are better, older and larger than the other two. All the 5 cave walls and ceilings are covered with Buddhist murals and there are more than 130 Buddha statues, statues of Gods and Kings are also found here.*

**Spice Garden at Matale** and see the luscious Cinnamons, Cardamons, Pepper plants etc. You can also purchase your requirements of spices. You can have Srilankan style home made lunch at the Spice Garden if interested.

Thereafter proceed to Kandy.

In culturally rich Kandy drive around the lake built by the last Sinhala king in 1798, and visit the bazaar, arts and crafts centre, a gem museum and a lapidary

In the evening watch a cultural show featuring the exotic traditional dances of Sri Lanka.

### **Stay two nights in Kandy**

#### **Day 10**

In the morning, tour the Temple of the Tooth Relic

Thereafter visit the Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya

#### **Day 11**

Transfer from your hotel to Peradeniya rail station, for a scenic train from Peradeniya to Ella.

Pickup from Ella railway station and transfer to your hotel in Ella

### **Stay two nights in Ella**

#### **Day 12**

After breakfast proceed on sightseeing in Ella including 9 arches bridge, Ella gap and little Adam's peak.

#### **Day 13**

Morning private road transfer to Colombo

### **Overnight stay in Colombo**

#### **Day 14**

After breakfast proceed on a city tour of Colombo

*Colombo* - A drive through the city will take you to the Fort and Pettah - the commercial area of the city and tree-lined Colombo - 07 Cinnamon Gardens. The Hindu Temple at Sea Street, lined with goldsmith's shops, the Dutch Church at Wolfendhal, dating back to 1749. The Independence Hall, B.M.I.C.H, see the replica of Avukana Buddha, the Independence Square and Gangarama Temple.

Pickup from your hotel and transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

#### **PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- Meet and assist arrival and departure at the airport.
- Tour as per the itinerary
- Transport is by air-conditioned car/van with an English speaking chauffeur guide.
- 13 nights accommodation based on HALF BOARD basis in hotels mentioned or similar.
- (Only for Luxury Category – Campsite on All inclusive basis)
- Entrance fees as per itinerary.
- 4X4 jeep safari in Wilpattua
- Train ride from Nuwara Eliya to Ella
- Service charges and government taxes

#### **PACKAGE EXCLUDES:**

- Any additional excursions not specified in the itinerary.
- Lunch and any additional meals/snacks.
- Expenses of a personal nature.
- Tips