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Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Tour

16 Day Conducted Tour

for only **\$3,990** per person twin share.

This price includes airport taxes and fuel levies

The price is fantastic value for a tour to this fascinating country which has only fairly recently been opened up to tourists. The price includes all of the following:

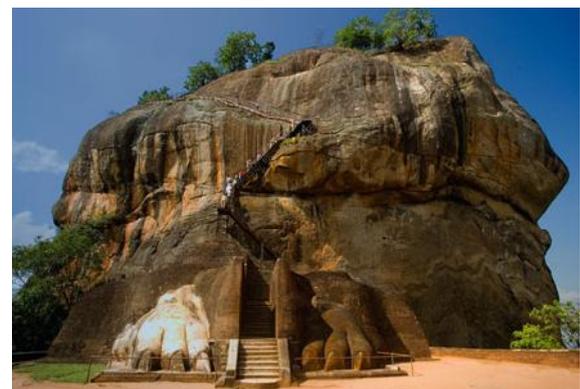
- Return air fares from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane into Colombo with Singapore Airlines.
- A 14 day coach and rail tour of Sri Lanka (Ceylon) visiting many major tourist attractions in this scenically beautiful country.
- A wildlife jeep safari in Minneriya National Park, as well as a visit to an elephant orphanage and also a turtle hatchery.
- Nearly all meals.
- Very good accommodation, mainly 3 ½ to 4 star.
- All entrance fees.
- All transfers and transport.
- Services of local English speaking tour guides in Sri Lanka and if there are 12 or more tour participants, there will be an Australian tour escort.



The tour program has been designed to provide you with a great overview of Sri Lanka and also allow sufficient leisure time to enjoy the facilities of the lovely hotels and resorts.



If you don't have a travel partner but want to travel at twin share rates we will do our best to match you up with another traveller, but this is not guaranteed. For a single room there is an extra charge of \$1025.



Tour departs Australia 2nd September and returns 17th September 2015

We try harder to find you the best travel deal

Itinerary for Sri Lanka Tour

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

02.09.15 Australia - Singapore - Sri Lanka

Brisbane passengers depart at 2.30pm on flight SQ 236, arriving in Singapore at 8.50pm.

Sydney passengers depart at 3.10pm on flight SQ 222, arriving in Singapore at 9.30pm.

Melbourne passengers depart at 3.40pm on flight SQ 228, arriving in Singapore at 9.30pm.

All passengers depart Singapore at 10.55pm on flight SQ 468, arriving in Colombo at 12.05am the next day (03.09.15).

Upon arrival in Sri Lanka you will be transferred to your hotel in Negombo.

Accommodation: Jetwing Blue, Negombo

03.09.15 Negombo

(B/L/D)

This morning is at leisure to relax or explore Negombo. In the afternoon we have a tour of Negombo, which is located 37Km north of Colombo and is well known as a classic fishing town. Its wide sandy beaches, lush tall coconut palm trees and gourmet seafood will send any visitor into instant tropical paradise. The highlights of this tour include the Old Dutch Fort, the Dutch Cemetery with a large Banyan tree and the many churches built by the Portuguese and Dutch. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Jetwing Blue, Negombo

04.09.15 Negombo - Pinnawala - Anuradhapura

(B/L/D)

This morning after breakfast we proceed to Anuradhapura. En route we visit Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, which is situated approximately 90km from Colombo. The orphanage was originally founded in 1975 by the Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife Conservation. It is aimed at providing care and protection for many of the orphaned baby wild elephants found wandering in the forests of Sri Lanka. Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage also places an emphasis on breeding and ongoing research for these gentle giants. After lunch at a local restaurant we continue on our way to Anuradhapura. Upon arrival we check into the hotel, with the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Palm Garden Village

05.09.15 Anuradhapura - Trincomalee

(B/L/D)

After breakfast this morning we visit Anuradhapura Ancient Kingdom, which was the first kingdom and capital of Sri Lanka. As you explore the ancient ruins of this UNESCO World Heritage listed site, be sure to visit the city's greatest treasures. These include the magnificent 13 metre high statue of Lord Buddha carved out of solid granite, the most renowned relic of the Bodhi Tree (grown from a branch transported from India) under which Buddha was believed to have attained enlightenment. In addition to the above, there are many other important shrines and monuments that give Anuradhapura its significant status as the first kingdom. We then depart for Trincomalee. Upon arrival in Trincomalee we check into the hotel with the remainder of the day at leisure. Lunch and Dinner will be at the hotel.

Accommodation: Chaaya Blu

06.09.15 Trincomalee**(B/L/D)**

After breakfast we have a tour of Trincomalee, which is 165 miles from Colombo and one of the largest and safest natural harbours in the world. Trincomalee is connected by rail and road. It has sunny weather throughout the year, with white sandy beaches, calm, placid and warm waters ideal for underwater activities and for whale watching. We visit Koneswaram Temple. According to an inscription found on the doorway to the fortress, the temple was destroyed by the Portuguese in the 16th century AD. They threw all the columns down to the sea below. Three bronze statues, found among the columns in the sea, were brought up by divers and are now kept in the modern temple at the same site which is located within the Dutch Fort in Trincomalee. The rest of the day is at leisure. Lunch and dinner will be at the hotel. Accommodation: Chaaya Blu

07.09.15 Trincomalee - Sigiriya - Habarana**(B/L/D)**

This morning we proceed to Habarana and have lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon there is an opportunity to climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress. Sigiriya Rock Fortress is one of Sri Lanka's major attractions. It was built by King Kashyapa from 477 - 495 AD for the purpose of protecting him from his rivals. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is also known as the 'Fortress in the Sky'. There is so much to discover during your stair climb up to the fortress, including water gardens, artistic frescoes, a mirror wall and the lion gate. When you reach the top you are rewarded with breathtaking views. Please note that the climb to Sigiriya Rock consists of 1200 steps and is quite strenuous. As such it is not suitable for everyone. For those not wishing to climb the rock there will be an alternative Hiriwaduna Trek. The trek through Hiriwaduna is an adventure that gets every nature lover excited. Ride a bullock cart, which is Sri Lanka's oldest form of transportation, on an unpaved trail. Then set off on a nature walk through a scrub jungle. If you come across a stream, you will have to wade through it knee deep and later cross a wider tributary on a kind farmers catamaran. He will take you to inspect the Chena Cultivation (slash and burn agriculture). Immerse yourself in a typical Sri Lankan village. Spend time with a farmer harvesting crops, watch the children play, or enjoy the sight of the village folk as they go about their daily tasks of fishing or washing clothes at the lake. Lunch today is at a local restaurant and dinner is at the hotel.

Please note for today's touring, you can either select Sigiriya Rock or the trek.

Accommodation: Cinnamon Lodge

08.09.15 Habarana - Dambulla - Habarana**(B/L/D)**

This morning we have an elephant-back ride in Habarana. An elephant-back ride is an unforgettable and thrilling experience like no other, providing a bird's eye view of wildlife and nearby natural surrounds. It is a memorable and unique opportunity to share the day interacting with these gentle giants who are considered Sri Lanka's pride and one of their most treasured wildlife. Sri Lanka is home to the Indian elephant and a ride through the wilderness areas gives you breathtaking views and scenery of Sri Lanka. After lunch at a local restaurant we visit Dambulla Cave Temple which is part of the Golden Triangle of Sri Lanka and is encrusted into a magnificently large rock. It sits more than 160 metres above the surrounding land and measures more than 1.5km around the base. Also known as the "Golden Temple" it was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991. This ancient complex was initially established in the 3rd century B.C. and is truly a wonder as it is the largest and best preserved of the cave

temples in Sri Lanka. The cave temples are home to numerous religious and cultural paintings and sculptures. Afterwards we visit Minneriya National Park for a wildlife safari. Minneriya National Park is approximately 8,889 hectares, with the elephants being the highlight of the park. Approximately 160 species of birds, 9 amphibians, 25 reptile species, 26 fish species and more than 78 butterfly species can be found here. There are also rare bamboo trees which are unique to the park. Return to the hotel for dinner.

Accommodation: Cinnamon Lodge

09.09.15 Habarana - Kandy

(B/L/D)

This morning we depart for Kandy. Lunch today will be at a local restaurant.

Afterwards we visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic, or "Dalada Maligawa" as it is known to the locals. This sacred temple is located in Kandy and is also home to the palm-leaf transcripts. Its history dates back to 1687. This stunning piece of architecture is instantly recognised by its octagonal shape and golden roof. Although you are not able to view the actual tooth itself, the casket within which it is held is displayed twice a day. We then see a cultural show, which displays a combination of up country and low country dance performances. Dinner tonight is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Cinnamon Citadel

10.09.15 Kandy

(B/L/D)

Today we have a tour of Kandy, which is known as the charming hill capital of Sri Lanka and lies picturesquely surrounded by mountains. Kandy is also the last kingdom of Sri Lanka and is today a bustling city. Our tour of Kandy includes Upper Lake Drive and a visit to a wood carving and gem shop. We also visit a gem museum, Kandy bazaar/markets and a batik factory. Lunch is at a local restaurant. Afterwards we visit Peradeniya Botanical Gardens. This beautiful garden is located 6km from Kandy and was first built as a pleasure garden by a Sinhala king and was expanded by the British. It covers approximately 147 acres and is a stroller's paradise with extensive well kept lawns, pavillions, an octagon conservatory, fernery, a giant Javan fig tree and numerous flower beds. The best attraction is the orchid house, where you can see more than 1000 plants. On our way back to the hotel we have a lovely drive through the nearby university grounds. Dinner tonight is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Cinnamon Citadel

11.09.15 Kandy - Nuwara Eliya

(B/L/D)

After breakfast we proceed to Nuwara Eliya. Along the way we have a train ride from Peradeniya to Nanu Oya. Our train ride gives you unparalleled views and penetrating glimpses both of the scenic beauty and culture of the hill country as you travel along. Lunch is at a local restaurant. Afterwards we visit a tea factory, where we observe the process of manufacturing tea. You will also learn about how tea is graded and taste a cup of pure Ceylon tea in the factory. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Jetwing St Andrews

12.09.15 Nuwara Eliya - Ella - Tissamaharama

(B/L/D)

Today we travel on to Tissamaharama. En-route we visit Ella Gap. Ella is situated 230km from the capital city of Colombo and overlooks a spectacular gap in the southern mountains where the land falls to a dizzying drop of 3000 feet into the Southern Sea. The small town is used as a base for many trekking expeditions to the

surrounding areas. This is a great place to stop for a tea break. From the Ella Gap you can get a breathtaking view of the south-east part of Sri Lanka. It is a great place for photography. We continue on to Tissamaharama and have lunch at the hotel. This afternoon is at leisure to relax on the beach or enjoy the hotel facilities. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Jetwing Yala

13.09.15 Tissamaharama - Weligama - Galle

(B/L/D)

After breakfast we travel to Galle. Along the way we will pass an area famous for Stilt Fisherman. You may see the local fishermen going about their daily routines as they fish in chest-deep water just a few metres off shore and perched on a cross bar off a single pole planted into the sea bed. This is a traditional method of fishing amongst the locals in the southern part of Sri Lanka. Afterwards we have a tour of Galle, which is recognized as the southern capital of Sri Lanka. It is 116km from Colombo and home to the popular fort called "Santa Cruz", which is listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The fort, which was initially built by the Portuguese in 1619, has been expanded and further developed by the Dutch and the British. Galle was the main seaport of Sri Lanka before Colombo and to this day is still an active sea port. During the tour of Galle, you will have the opportunity to visit Galle Fort, Old Dutch Church and walk along the Rampart. Lunch will be at a local restaurant and dinner is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Jetwing Lighthouse, Galle

14.09.15 Galle

(B/L/D)

Today is at leisure to enjoy our fantastic resort hotel or further explore Galle. The included meals today will be at the hotel.

Accommodation: Jetwing Lighthouse, Galle

15.09.15 Galle - Colombo

(B/L/D)

This morning we commence our trip to the nation's capital Colombo. En route we stop to see some Toddy Tappers at work. A Toddy Tapper rope-walks quickly from treetop to treetop at 30 to 40 feet above the ground in order to harvest the sweet milky sap of the cut coconut blossom. We then enjoy a boat ride on the Madu River, which is a complex coastal ecosystem of mangroves and islands. A boat tour is an ideal way to experience hundreds of species of plants and animals in their natural habitat. There are around 64 islands in the river and lagoon. This is followed by a visit to a turtle hatchery in Kosgoda, which comes highly recommended by Lonely Planet. The small town of Kosgoda on the southern strip is famous for its turtle hatchery which is operated by the Wild Life Protection Society of Sri Lanka. At the hatchery, fishermen are paid for rescuing the vulnerable eggs which they collect at night, along the sandy beach. Visitors can witness the exceptional sight of them hatching or even see tanks filled with new born hatchlings. After being fed, the baby turtles are returned back to the sea where they are released when they are 2 - 4 days old. Once placed on the beach, most baby sea turtles start moving towards the water, flapping their tiny flippers. Visiting this turtle hatchery is both enjoyable and rewarding. Lunch is at a local restaurant.

Afterwards we continue to Colombo and have dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: The Kingsbury

16.09.15 Colombo
(B/L/D)

This morning we commence a sightseeing tour of Colombo, Sri Lanka's largest city. We drive through the busy commercial areas as well as the tree-lined residential suburb of Cinnamon Gardens. Visit Fort, the former British administrative centre and military garrison. Then onto Sea Street, which is the Goldsmith's quarters in the heart of Pettah. Also see the Bazaar area, a Hindu Temple with elaborate stone carvings and the Dutch Church of Wolfendhal dating back to 1749. If time permits, you may also see the replica of Avukana Buddha and the Independence Square. Afterwards we visit the Colombo National Museum, which was established in 1877. It is best known for its collection of antiques and objects d'art. Over 500,000 publications of Sri Lanka with more than 4,000 palm leaf manuscripts are found in the library of the museum. Among the exhibits are the regalia of the King of Kandy, ancient and medieval jewellery, a rare collection of traditional demon masks, wood and ivory carvings, an exquisite collection of Buddhist and Hindu bronzes, specially from the Polonnaruwa Period, reproductions of temple frescoes, Chinaware including VOC plates of the Dutch period, antique furniture, numismatics from the earliest period to modern times, lacquered objects, stone sculpture and stone inscriptions. Afterwards we have a chance for some last minute shopping in Colombo, which is a shopping paradise for people who enjoy a good bargain on quality clothes and fashion accessories. We then return to the hotel with some time to relax. We have an 8pm late checkout and a farewell dinner at the hotel, before transferring to the airport for our flights home.

17.09.15 Colombo - Singapore - Australia

Depart Colombo at 1.20am on SQ 469, arriving in Singapore at 7.40am.
Sydney passengers depart Singapore at 9.25am on SQ 211, arriving in Sydney at 7.05pm.
Brisbane passengers depart Singapore at 9.40am on SQ 245, arriving in Brisbane at 7.30pm.
Melbourne passengers depart Singapore at 10.45am on SQ 217, arriving in Melbourne at 8.10pm.



Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Sri Lanka Tour

Deposits and Payments - A non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable in full 8 weeks prior to departure.

Refunds and Cancellations - Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

Insurance - Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form, located on the last page of the Suresave Travel Insurance information booklet. Until this time the travel insurance cannot be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bear no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

Passports - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour.

Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. From the 1st January 2012, all passengers visiting Sri Lanka are required to have an Electronic Travel Authorisation, which can be completed at www.eta.gov.lk. At present the cost for this authorisation is USD \$30 per person. Please note that this cost is subject to change.

Basic Tour Price and Taxes - Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in air taxes and fuel levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

Not Included in the Cost - Travel insurance and all items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals, (except those specified in the itinerary), etc are not included in the cost. Similarly, credit card payments can only be accepted if 2% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 3% surcharge for Diners Club.

Breakaway Fee - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee. The breakaway fee for most deviations including a post-tour extension on this tour is \$55 per person. Please inquire with our office for prices on any pre-tour extensions.

Health and Fitness - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. Macleay Valley Travel is legally not permitted to provide medical advice as to vaccinations/injections which you may require for this tour and advise you to consult your local medical practitioner for specific medical advice. There are no compulsory injections required for this tour.

Booking through other Agents - As we keep the cost of our tours as low as possible, there is insufficient margin for us to be able to pay commission to other travel agents, so some bookings can only be accepted if the client pays the other agent's commission.

Accreditation - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

Limitation of Liability - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM

Name of Tour : _____ Departure Date: _____

Passenger 1 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Passenger 2 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ **PostCode** _____ **Email** _____

Telephone / Fax Number: _____ **Mobile** _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Nationality: _____

Passport Nationality _____

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

Single room / Twin beds / Double bed: (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE / BRISBANE

Do you have any existing medical conditions?: _____

Special Dietary Requests: _____

Optional Extensions: _____

Would you like to receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person.

DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name. If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.