

SRI LANKA

THE PEARL OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

Ancient Kingdoms • Wildlife • Tea Country • Scenic Railways • Tropical Beaches

20 March – 4 April

Discover the extraordinary beauty of Sri Lanka on an unforgettable journey through one of Asia's most fascinating destinations. From ancient royal cities and spectacular rock fortresses to wildlife safaris, lush tea plantations, misty mountain landscapes and golden beaches, this carefully designed tour offers an exciting and varied experience of the island. Sri Lanka combines rich history and vibrant culture with breathtaking scenery and warm hospitality. Along the way, we will encounter ancient Buddhist monuments, wild elephants, tropical forests, picturesque mountain towns and charming coastal villages, while allowing plenty of time to relax and enjoy the surroundings.

Friday 20 March

We meet at Malta International Airport at 07:00 to check in for our with Turkish Airlines to Colombo via Istanbul. Flights TK1370 / TK0730 departs from Malta at 09:25

Saturday 21 March ARRIVAL IN SRI LANKA • ANAWILUNDAWA WETLAND • YAPA HUWA • ANURADHAPURA

Arrive in **Colombo** airport at 05:55. Our Sri Lankan adventure begins with an early morning breakfast before travelling north along the picturesque coastal route towards **Anawilundawa Wetland Sanctuary**, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve renowned for its rich biodiversity, birdlife and tranquil surroundings. This gentle introduction to Sri Lanka's natural beauty allows you to relax after their International flight. Along the journey, we will pass through the famous **Coconut Triangle**, see local **Prawn Farming** areas and experience the changing rural landscapes that showcase authentic Sri Lankan village life. Free time and continue to the historic **Yapahuwa Rock Fortress**, one of Sri Lanka's medieval capitals. Then proceed to **Anuradhapura** and check in at the **4-Star Rajarata Hotel**. The rest of the day at leisure, with time to unwind by the hotel's spacious swimming pool or enjoy a refreshing drink at the bar after your journey. Dinner at the Hotel

Monday 22 March WILPATTU NATIONAL PARK SAFARI • ANURADHAPURA

Early morning departure takes us to **Wilpattu National Park**, Sri Lanka's largest and oldest national park, celebrated for its unique natural lakes ("villus"), diverse wildlife and excellent opportunities to encounter elephants, spotted deer, sloth bears, crocodiles and, with a little luck, the elusive Sri Lankan leopard. Enjoy an exciting **half-day Jeep Safari** through the park's unspoilt wilderness. A packed breakfast will be provided during the excursion. Following the safari, enjoy free time before continuing to **Mihintale**, one of Sri Lanka's most sacred historical sites and widely regarded as the birthplace of Buddhism in the country. Surrounded by peaceful, forested hills, Mihintale offers breathtaking panoramic views. After exploring Mihintale, return to Anuradhapura and time at leisure. Dinner at the hotel



Tuesday 23 March SACRED ANURADHAPURA – A VUKANA BUDDHA– KALA WEWA– DAMBULLA

After breakfast, embark on a guided tour of the **Sacred City of Anuradhapura**, Sri Lanka's first ancient capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore its magnificent monasteries, impressive stupas, sacred shrines and the revered **Sri Maha Bodhi**, the oldest historically documented tree in the world, grown from a sapling of the tree under which Lord Buddha attained enlightenment. Following lunch, continue to the magnificent **Avukana Buddha Statue**, one of Sri Lanka's finest ancient stone sculptures. Standing nearly 12 metres high and carved from a single granite rock face, this masterpiece reflects the exceptional craftsmanship and artistic achievements of Sri Lanka's ancient civilisation. A short drive brings us to **Kala Wewa**, the vast ancient reservoir constructed by King Dhatuśena. Continue our journey to **Dambulla** and check in at the **5-Star Jetwing Lake Hotel** located at a beautifully set amidst peaceful natural surroundings. Dinner at the hotel

Wednesday 24 March SIGIRIYA ROCK FORTRESS • VILLAGE EXPERIENCE • HERITANCE KANDALAMA

Rise early this morning to climb the magnificent **Sigiriya Rock Fortress**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Sri Lanka's most iconic landmarks. Built by King Kashyapa in the 5th century AD, the ancient citadel is renowned for its royal palace ruins, remarkable frescoes, landscaped water gardens and breathtaking panoramic views. Then we proceed to enjoy an authentic **Hiriwadunna Village Experience**, providing a glimpse into traditional rural life. Travel through the peaceful village surroundings before taking part in a hands-on **Sri Lankan cooking demonstration** where you will discover local ingredients and traditional cooking techniques. Afterwards, savour a freshly prepared Sri Lankan lunch. In the afternoon, visit the award-winning **Heritage Kandalama**, Geoffrey Bawa's architectural masterpiece, beautifully integrated into the surrounding forest and overlooking Kandalama Lake. Return to the hotel for a relaxing evening. Dinner at the hotel

Thursday 25 March DAMBULLA • NALANDA GEDIGE • MATALE • KANDY

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and begin the day's journey with a visit to the magnificent **Dambulla Cave Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest, best-preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka. Admire its remarkable collection of ancient Buddha statues and beautifully preserved murals dating back over 2,000 years. Continue to the historic **Aluvihare Rock Temple** in Matale. Next, visit the remarkable **Nalanda Gedige**, an ancient stone temple renowned for its unique fusion of Buddhist and Hindu architectural styles. Proceed to a renowned **Spice Garden** in Matale, where you will discover Sri Lanka's world-famous spices and medicinal herbs. Free time and continue a scenic drive to **Kandy** the last royal capital of Sri Lanka and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival, check in to the **4-Star Oak Ray Heritage Hotel**, located in the city centre. Dinner at the hotel

Friday 26 March KANDY HERITAGE & CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

After breakfast, begin the day with a visit to the **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic** (Sri Dalada Maligawa), Sri Lanka's most revered Buddhist shrine and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Home to the sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha. Continue with a guided **Kandy city tour**, discovering the unique charm of Sri Lanka's last royal capital. Visit a traditional **wood carving workshop**, followed by a **Batik Factory** to observe the intricate process of Sri Lanka's famous hand-dyed textiles. **Gem Museum**, Photo stop at a scenic viewpoint overlooking the city and picturesque **Kandy Lake**. Free time and proceed to experience everyday life with a leisurely walk through the vibrant at the fruit and vegetable market, where colourful displays of fresh tropical produce and local spices provide an authentic insight into Sri Lankan culture. In the evening, enjoy a spectacular **Traditional Kandyan cultural dance performance**, featuring vibrant costumes, energetic drumming and the famous fire-walking display. After the performance, enjoy some free time before returning to the hotel for dinner.

Saturday 27 March KANDY • PERADENIYA • RAMBODA • NUWARA ELIYA

breakfast, check out of the hotel and begin your journey into Sri Lanka's picturesque hill country with a visit to the magnificent **Royal Botanical Gardens**, Peradeniya. The gardens are home to an impressive collection of tropical flora, towering royal palms, colourful orchids, giant bamboo and rare medicinal plants. Continue along one of Sri Lanka's most **Scenic Mountain Roads**, passing lush tea plantations, cascading waterfalls and charming hillside villages. Stop at the beautiful **Ramboda Waterfall** for lunch (At leisure) and you can enjoy spectacular views of one of the country's highest waterfalls. In the afternoon, visit both the renowned **Damro Tea Factory** and **Bluefield Tea Gardens**. Each offers a unique perspective on Sri Lanka's world-famous Ceylon Tea industry. Arrive in **Nuwara Eliya**, affectionately known as "Little England" for its cool climate, colonial architecture and beautifully landscaped gardens. Check in to the **4-Star Araliya Red Hotel**

Sunday 28 March NUWARA ELIYA • HORTON PLAINS NATIONAL PARK • NUWARA ELIYA

Breakfast and depart for **Horton Plains National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Sri Lanka's most spectacular highland nature reserves. The park is renowned for its rolling grasslands, mist-covered & cloud forests. Enjoy a scenic walk through this pristine landscape, visiting the famous **World's End Viewpoint** and the picturesque **Baker's Falls**, while keeping an eye out for sambar deer and a variety of endemic bird species. In the afternoon, enjoy a **Nuwara Eliya City Tour**, exploring the charming colonial town visit its highlights, including **Gregory Lake, Victoria Park**, the historic **Post Office**, and the lively local market. Dinner at the hotel

Monday 29 March NUWARA ELIYA • SCENIC TRAIN JOURNEY • NANU OYA TO ELLA • ELLA

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and transfer to **Nanu Oya Railway Station** to board one of the world's most scenic train journeys. Travelling through Sri Lanka's breathtaking hill country, the route winds past emerald-green tea plantations, mist-covered mountains, cascading waterfalls and picturesque rural villages, offering unforgettable views throughout the journey. Upon arrival at **Ella Railway Station**, transfer to our **4-Star MOI Ella Hotel by DBI** for check-in.

Tuesday 30 March DISCOVER BEAUTIFUL OF ELLA

After breakfast, begin the day with a walk to **Little Adam's Peak**, one of Ella's most popular viewpoints. The gentle walk-through lush tea plantations is rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. Continuing to the iconic **Nine Arch Bridge**, an impressive colonial-era railway bridge nestled amidst dense jungle and tea estates. Free time and proceed to visit the beautiful **Ravana Falls**, one of Sri Lanka's most famous waterfalls, surrounded by lush greenery. In the afternoon, visit the peaceful **Kubawela Mahamevnawa Buddhist Monastery**, beautifully nestled among the hills surrounding Ella. Complimentary cup of tea or coffee is offered as a gesture of Sri Lankan hospitality, providing a unique opportunity to experience the serenity and warmth of a living Buddhist community. Afterwards, return to Ella town for some free time to relax, browse local boutiques or enjoy one of the town's cosy cafés before returning to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel

Wednesday 31 March ELLA • ELEPHANT TRANSIT HOME • UDAWALAWE SAFARI • UNAWATUNA

After breakfast, depart to **Udawalawe**, enjoying the scenic drive through Sri Lanka's southern countryside. Arrive at the **Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home** in time for the 10:30 feeding session, where orphaned elephant calves are cared for and rehabilitated before being released back into the wild. In the afternoon, embark on an exciting **Jeep safari in Udawalawe National Park**, one of the best places in Sri Lanka to observe wild Asian elephants in their natural habitat. The park is also home to water buffalo, spotted deer, crocodiles, jackals, peacocks and a remarkable variety of birdlife, making it a memorable wildlife experience. After the safari, continue your journey to the beautiful southern coast and Unawatuna. Check in at the **5-Star Araliya Beach Resort & Spa** and relax after an adventurous day. Dinner at the Hotel

Thursday 01 April UDAWALAWE • GALLE FORT • BENTOTA

Enjoy a relaxed morning with free time to unwind at the beach or make use of the hotel's facilities after the previous day's exciting wildlife adventure and late arrival. After a leisurely breakfast, depart to **Bentota** along Sri Lanka's beautiful southern coastline. En route, visit the historic **Galle Fort**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Wander through its charming, cobbled streets, admire the colonial architecture, browse boutique shops and cafés, and enjoy spectacular views of the Indian Ocean from the ancient ramparts. Continue along the coastal road, with a brief stop to observe the famous **Sri Lankan Stilt Fishermen** (subject to weather conditions and local availability) *, a unique and iconic tradition associated with the island's southern coast. Proceed to visit a **Sea Turtle Conservation Hatchery**, where you will learn about the protection and rehabilitation of endangered sea turtles. Continue to **Bentota** and check into the elegant **5-Star Rockwall Boutique Hotel**. Dinner at the hotel.

Friday 02 April BENTOTA • MADU RIVER BOAT SAFARI • COLOMBO

Breakfast and proceed to the beautiful **Madu River** for an unforgettable **Boat Safari** through one of Sri Lanka's most important coastal wetlands. Cruise through the tranquil **Mangrove Forests**, exploring a network of winding waterways and small islands. Along the way, observe a variety of birdlife, monitor lizards, colourful butterflies and the unique flora and fauna. Then proceed to **Colombo**, Sri Lanka's bustling commercial capital. Upon arrival, Colombo City Tour guided exploring the city's fascinating blend of colonial heritage and modern development. Drive through the historic **Fort and Pettah districts, Independence Square**, admire the iconic **Gangaramaya Temple, Old Parliament...** Check in to the prestigious **5-Star the Kingsbury Colombo Hotel** dinner at the hotel

Saturday 3 April COLOMBO AT LEISURE

Today is completely at leisure in **Colombo**. Enjoy a relaxing final day doing some shopping, discovering more of the city independently or simply unwind at the hotel. Colombo offers an excellent choice of shops, boutiques, cafés and restaurants, making it the perfect place to enjoy the final day of our Sri Lankan adventure.

Sunday 4 April COLOMBO • BANDARANAIKE INT. AIRPORT

Transfer to Sri Lanka and transfer to Bandaranaike International Airport for our return journey to Malta.

TK1131 – Colombo to Istanbul, departing at 08:25 and arriving at 14:25 local time.

TK1371 – Istanbul to Malta, departing at 17:00 and arriving in Malta at 18:35.

*“A truly memorable journey
through the Pearl of the Indian ocean comes to an end..”*

**Price per person includes:
Half Board, All Excursions, Entrance Fees & Airport Tax**

	Discounted Price
Triple room	€ 2'710
Double room	€ 2'760
Single room	€ 3'280

Mandatory tipping in total of €40 per person for Sri Lankan guides & drivers

Price Includes:

- Flights with Turkish Airlines
- Malta – Colombo - Malta
- All Transfers and excursions as per program
- All entrance fees
- Hotels as per itinerary (or similar)
- Daily Buffet Breakfast
- Half board
- Local guides during all excursions
- Airport Tax
- Tour Leader
- Insolvency protection

Visa required

