



EXCLUSIVE FESTIVAL DEPARTURE

 **SRI LANKA**

10 NIGHTS



AUGUST 2025

\$3,499PP

Experience the magic of Sri Lanka and witness the spectacular Grand Randoli Perahera - one of Asia's most breathtaking festivals on this Exclusive Group Tour Departure hosted by Lana Kanchik.

Watch Kandy's streets come alive with vibrant dancers, majestic elephants, and centuries-old tradition. Beyond the festival, discover ancient wonders like Sigiriya Rock Fortress, world-famous tea plantations, wildlife safaris in Yala, and stunning coastal escapes — all wrapped into one unforgettable journey.



Celebrate Perahera in Sri Lanka

The Most Celebrated Festival in Sri Lanka



Grand Randoli Perahera in Kandy



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Colombo – Negombo – Sigiriya – Kandy – Nuwara Eliya – Yala – Bentota – Colombo

Day 01 | Monday, 04th August 2025:

Arrive Colombo and drive to Negombo (15 Kms/ 30 mins)

Upon arrival at Colombo International Airport, having cleared immigration, collected your luggage and passed through customs, please make your way towards the exit of the terminal building where you will see a bank of people waiting for you. Amongst them will be a **Travel Sapphire Representative** who will be waiting to greet you with a paging board with your name on.



Negombo

You will be escorted to your hotel in **Negombo**.

The town of Negombo is situated on the shore of a lagoon. It has been an important trading port for both the Dutch and the Portuguese in the years past. It is a beautiful seaside resort on the western part of the island of Sri Lanka. The best part is that it is just a short drive from Colombo and offers an amazing coastline lined with palms to its visitors. The natural beauty of the beach is truly breath-taking; besides it is not as busy as crowded as the capital.

Stay overnight in the hotel.

Breakfast is at the hotel.

Later, travel by surface to **Sigiriya**.

Enroute, visit **Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage**.



Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage is a home for about 60 elephants (out of which around 50 are baby elephants) found abandoned or orphaned in the wild. They are being cared for, fed and trained by the wildlife authority. The best time for your visit is in the morning, when you will have the opportunity of seeing these ‘babes’ being bottle-fed. You could also see the elephants having their daily baths at a river close by.

Later, visit **Sigiriya Rock Fortress** (a UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Climb the 5th century Sigiriya Rock Fortress, which is a UNESCO world heritage site, built by King Kashyapa (477-495 AD). The ‘Lion Rock’ is a citadel of unusual beauty rising 200 meters from the scrub jungle. The rock was the innermost stronghold of the 70-hectare fortified town. A moat, rampart, and extensive gardens including the renowned water gardens ring the base of the rock. Visit the world-renowned frescoes of the “Heavenly Maidens” of Sigiriya, which are in a sheltered pocket of the rock approached by a spiral stairway. These frescoes are painted in earth pigments on plaster

Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel.

Stay overnight in the hotel. (Meals: B, D)

Breakfast is at the hotel.

Later, visit the ancient town of **Polonnaruwa**.



Polonnaruwa Ancient City

Polonnaruwa – a “World Heritage Site” was the Capital of Sri Lanka from 11th - 13th Centuries, contains some splendid and spectacular statues. Lankatilake, Tivanka and Thuparama are the most beautiful and largest Image Houses and Tivanka has the best example of frescoes of the Polonnaruwa period. Rankoth Vehera and Kirivehera 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.

Evening, enjoy **4x4 Jeep Safari in Minneriya National Park**.

Minneriya National Park, 8889 hectares in extent and known for its large population of elephants in herds of 100 to 150 roaming in the jungle and seen in the catchment area of the lake. Wild elephants, wild buffaloes, wild boar, spotted deer, sloth bear, Sambhar, crocodiles, jackals, 9 kinds of amphibians, 25 kinds of reptiles, 160 species of birds, 26 varieties of fishes, 78 varieties of butterflies are recorded to be inhabitants.

Rest of the day is at leisure.

Stay overnight in the hotel. (Meals: B, D)

Breakfast is at the hotel.

Later, travel by surface to **Kandy**.

En-route visit, **Dambulla Cave Temple**.



Dambulla Cave Temple

Dambulla Cave Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage site and dates to 1st century BC. Originally it was the refuge of King Walagamba, and the caves were later converted into a rock temple. It has five caves under a vast overhanging rock, the ceilings of the caves are painted with complex patterns of religious images. The caves are the finest storehouse of Sinhala art and sculptures consists of an imposing 15-metre-long reclining Buddha, 150 statues of the Buddhist order, statues of Kings and Hindu deities etc.

Later, visit **Matale Spice Garden**.

Matale Spice Gardens are among the best on the island. You will be introduced to different spices and shown how some of these spices are grown and processed. A processing and training unit has been set up in the area and farmers are grouped in a cooperative to ensure fair prices and you will also be able to purchase spices.

Upon arrival in Kandy, transfer to the hotel.

Kandy is the last capital of Sri Lanka. It is amongst hilly terrain and in the center of the city houses the most charming Kandy Lake. City lies at an elevation of 465 meters above sea level. Kandy was last home for Kandyan Kings of yore in 19th century and fountain for all music, arts, crafts and culture in the country.

Later, visit the **Temple of the Tooth Relic**.

This temple houses a tooth relic of the Lord Buddha and is consequently considered one of Sri Lanka's most holy shrines. Although you may not view the actual tooth itself, the casket within which it is said to be is displayed twice a day.



- Excursion Duration: approx. 01 hour
- Light Colored clothing with sleeves and trousers or skirts below the knee length are recommended
- Since this is a religious site – the foot ware should be removed before entering the temple premises. You can wear socks if you wish to.

Later in the evening, enjoy **Cultural Dance Show**.

The Cultural Dance Show is a stimulating Sri Lankan Arts, Dance & Cultural Heritage Show that is a must see for any visitor who visits the historic city of Kandy. It is the first Cultural Dance Show of its kind to be established in Sri Lanka

Stay overnight in the hotel. (Meals: B, D)

Breakfast is at the hotel.

Later, enjoy the city tour of Kandy including **Kandy upper Lake viewpoint, lake round, Gem Museum and Local markets.**

Afternoon is at leisure.

Evening, enjoy **The Grand Randoli Perahera celebrations and witness the procession in Kandy.**



The Procession of Grand Randoli Perahera Celebrations in Kandy

The Grand Randoli Perahera is a vibrant and elaborate procession that marks the conclusion of the Kandy Esala Perahera in Sri Lanka. It's a significant cultural and religious event, attracting thousands of spectators to Kandy, the city of the sacred Tooth Relic. The Randoli Perahera, which means "palanquin procession," is celebrated after the Kumbal Perahera for five consecutive nights, and the Maha Randoli Perahera, the most grand, is the final procession.

Stay overnight in the hotel. (Meals: B, D)

Breakfast is at the hotel. Later, travel by surface to **Nuwara Eliya**.

Enroute visit to **Ramboda Falls, Tea Plantation and Tea Factory**.

Visit to **Tea plantation and Tea factory** where one the best tea in the world is produced. You will be explained all about the process of processing tea and gain first-hand experience. Taste a cup of pure Ceylon tea which begins its journey as raw green leaves in the hills and ends up as a final golden-brown graded product which we all but know too well.



Tea Plantation and Gardens

Also, enjoy **tea plucking season at the plantation with local workers**.

Upon arrival in Nuwara Eliya, transfer to the hotel.

Nuwara Eliya, the 'Little England' of Sri Lanka, is set against beautiful backdrops of Mountains, Valleys, Waterfalls and Tea Plantations. It is one of the coolest places in the Island, but it is just like an English spring day, although the temperature does drop at night. All around Nuwara Eliya you will see evidence of the British influence, houses like country cottages or Queen Ann style mansions.

Later visit **Nuwara Eliya City, Gregory Lake, Old post office and Victoria Park**

Lake Gregory sometimes also called Gregory Lake or Gregory Reservoir, is a reservoir in the heart of the tea country hill city of Nuwara Eliya in Sri Lanka. Lake Gregory was created during the period of British Governor Sir William Gregory in 1873.

Old Post Office the Nuwara Eliya Post Office is a historic landmark in Sri Lanka, built in 1894 during the British colonial era. It is a two-story red brick building with a striking Tudor-style design and a clock spire, making it a visually appealing and significant architectural feature of the town.

Victoria Park is a public park located in Nuwara Eliya, next to the Nuwara Eliya Post Office in Sri Lanka. Originally the park was the research field of Hakala Botanical Garden. The park was formally named in 1897 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The park was established with the planting of its first tree, an Oak, by a visiting German Princess.

Stay overnight in the hotel. (Meals: B, D)

Day 07 | Sunday, 10th August 2025:

**Nuwara Eliya – Ella (By Train)
Ella – Yala (95 Kms / 2.5 Hrs)**

Breakfast is at the hotel. Later, transfer to **Nanu Oya** railway station to board the **scenic train ride to Ella**.

Board a local train for a journey through the hill country. A ride by local train to little England is one of the most picturesque rail journeys in the world! You journey through dark tunnels on winding tracks, the famous Ceylon Tea. The rolling mountains are a carpet of velvety green tea plantations, interspersed with gushing streams and tumbling waterfalls.

Visit the **Nine Arches Bridge**.



Nine Arches Bridge

Nine Arches Bridge is in Demodara, between Ella and Demodara railway stations. The surrounding area has seen a steady increase in tourism due to the bridge's architectural ingenuity and the profuse greenery in the nearby hillsides. Popular rumors suggest that when construction work commenced on the bridge, the Great War began between the empires of Europe and the steel assigned for this site was reallocated to Britain's War related projects at the battlefield. As a result, the work came to a standstill, leading the locals to build the bridge with stone bricks and cement, but without steel.

Later, travel by surface to Yala.

Yala National Park is Sri Lanka's most renowned national park and is famous for Elephant, Leopard, Bear, Crocodile and Wild Boar. Claims have subsequently been made that Yala National Park has the world's highest concentration of leopards per square kilometer. This park is primarily shrub jungle with several salt and freshwater lagoons. The areas popular with leopard are rock strewn hillocks with dense shrub in which the animals hide.

Upon arrival in Yala, transfer to the hotel.
Stay overnight in the hotel. (Meals: B, D)

Morning, enjoy **Jeep Safari in Yala National Park.**



Yala National Park

Yala is home to 44 varieties of mammal and 215 bird species. Among its more famous residents are the world's biggest concentration of leopards, majestic elephants, sloth bears, sambars, jackals, spotted deer, peacocks, and crocodiles. The best time to visit Yala is between February and July when the water levels of the park are quite low, bringing animals into the open.

Return to the hotel for breakfast. Later, travel by surface to **Bentota.**

En-route, enjoy the city tour of **Galle** visiting **Galle fort, Clock Tower, Light House, Old Dutch Streets & Rampart.**



Galle Fort

Galle said to be the famous Tarshish of the Bible is the Port where the Portuguese first landed in Sri Lanka. Fortified by the Dutch who ruled maritime Sri Lanka in the 17th and 18th centuries, the city still retains the air of old Holland. Old Dutch Churches and monuments with armorial bearings, well preserved Fort, and ramparts, imposing crested and monogrammed gateway dated 1669, many well-preserved Old Dutch houses and narrow alleys still bearing Dutch names. As for souvenirs, one may make a pick of exquisite hand-made lace, Ivory carvings, moonstone jewellery and beautiful translucent tortoise shell ware, including bracelets, trinket boxes, and combs - sometimes inlaid with silver.

The **Galle Fort** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest remaining fortress in Asia built by European occupiers. The fort is a living monument, inhabited by a bustling community, within the great ramparts, massive bastions and pepper pot towers. The once sleepy Galle Fort is now a dynamic area with a distinctively Mediterranean atmosphere.

Upon arrival in **Bentota**, transfer to the hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure.

Bentota is a resort town on Sri Lanka's southwest coast. Most of the best things to do in Bentota, like water sports and taking a boat trip down the Bentota River (Bentara Ganga), revolve around the water—but there are plenty of other things on offer, too, including visiting nearby temples, feasting on local food, and catching a picture-postcard Indian Ocean sunset.

Stay overnight in the hotel. (Meals: B, D)

Day 09 | Tuesday, 12th August 2025:

Bentota

Breakfast is at the hotel.



Beach in Bentota

Rest of the day is at leisure.

Stay overnight in the hotel. (Meals: B, D)

Day 10 | Wednesday, 13th August 2025:

Bentota – Colombo (85 Kms/ 1.5 Hrs)

Breakfast is at the hotel. Later, travel by surface to **Colombo**

Upon arrival in Colombo, transfer to the hotel.

Later, proceed for sightseeing tour of Colombo visit **Galle face Green, BMICH, Independent Square, Local Bazaars.**

Enjoy a walk along the promenade of **the Galle Face Green** overlooking the Indian Ocean. Continue past the **Dutch Hospital** complex dating back to the Dutch colonial era, now a heritage building and a shopping and dining precinct. Experience hustle and bustle of the commercial area of the Fort.

Drive past the noisy bazaar area of Pettah or Pitakotuwa as the locals call it. Visit the **Fort Railway station** opened in 1917 and to-date functions as the central station for Colombo.

Drive past Slave Island, Beira Lake in the heart of the city, Viharamahadevi Park, the Town hall and Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo residential area. Conclude your tour at the Independence Square, a monument built at the location where the ceremony marking the end of British rule in Ceylon took place on 4th February 1948.

Visit **The Temple of Gangaramaya**.



The Gangaramaya Temple

Later, visit **The Temple of Gangaramaya**. It is one of the most important Buddhist temples in all of Sri Lanka. The temple is built on an island that is connected to the mainland by a wooden bridge. The temple's architecture demonstrates an eclectic mix of Sri Lankan, Thai, Indian, and Chinese architecture.

Visit the **Colombo Lotus Tower**. Standing at the height of 356 m, this tower is the tallest tower in South Asia, 11th tallest tower in Asia and 19th tallest tower in the world. The tower basically serves as a transmission center for television and radio. Besides the communication and transmission activities, the tower also houses banquet halls, museums, shopping complexes etc. A visit to the observatory deck is a must as it offers an exceptional view of the city.

Stay overnight in the hotel. (Meals: B, D)

Day 11 | Thursday, 13th August 2025:

Colombo Departure

After breakfast, transfer to Colombo International Airport to board flight for onward destination. (Meals: B)

*******Tour Completes*******