

Journey Idea to Sri Lanka & the Maldives

19 Days



Prepared for
Steppes Travel Clients

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Fly UK/Colombo (overnight)
Day 2	Colombo/Tangalle
Day 3	Tangalle
Day 4	Tangalle
Day 5	Tangalle/Galle Fort
Day 6	Galle Fort
Day 7	Galle Fort/Kandy
Day 8	Kandy
Day 9	Kandy/Hill Country
Day 10	Hill Country
Day 11	Hill Country/Dambulla
Day 12	Dambulla
Day 13	Dambulla/Colombo
Day 14	Colombo/Male
Day 15 - Day 18	Maldives
Day 19	Fly Male/Colombo Fly Colombo/UK

DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1

UK/Colombo

Depart the UK on a flight to Colombo, a flight time of approximately 11 hours, flying overnight. (Day flights also available).

Day 2

Colombo/Tangalle

You will be met upon arrival by the Steppes Travel representative at the airport and transferred to your hotel. All transfers are private (unless stated otherwise) and included in your trip, however it will not detail every transfer on this itinerary.



Transfer to Tangalle, a drive of approximately 4 hours, in a 4WD drive vehicle. We can recommend a selection of hotels during your stay here but a favourite of ours is Amanwella.

Amanwella is situated amidst a mature coconut grove fronting a crescent shaped beach close to the village of Tangalle in southern Sri Lanka. The resort derives its name by combining the words, aman, or “peace” in Sanskrit, and wella, the Sinhalese name for beach. All 30 suites of this beachfront resort feature their own private swimming pool and terrace.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Tangalle on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 3 - Day 4

Tangalle

Two full days at leisure.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Tangalle on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 5

Tangalle/Galle Fort



Today, you'll be driven to Galle Fort. The sister hotel, Amangalla is situated here and whilst this is one of our favourites, we will be happy to recommend other hotels to suit your tastes.

Galle is considered the most important town in the South and has managed to retain its colonial atmosphere. The Portuguese, Dutch and British have all made their mark on this interesting port and it is well worth spending time exploring the town within the fort walls, which was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988.

It is an excellent place for shopping and eating and some of our favourites spots are:

Elephant Walk - clothes and gifts

M M Ibrahim - Gems and Jewellery

Barefoot - clothes and gifts

Galle Fort - wonderful dinner

The Lighthouse - good value for dinner on the sea

Also dotted around the fort and harbour are local fish restaurants

and small shops.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Galle on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 6

Galle Fort

Free day in Galle.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Galle on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 7

Galle Fort/Kandy



Today, you will be driven to Kandy, with a stop en route for lunch.

Kandy is the second largest city in Sri Lanka after Colombo and is home to some of the most famous sites in the country. Firstly, you will visit the Botanical Gardens, which are the second largest in the world after Kew in England. The most amazing collection of flowers and trees are beautifully kept by up to 50 gardeners and well as a world famous orchid house. It is also possible to see the outside of Lord Mountbatten's colonial house within the gardens.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Kandy on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 8

Kandy



Full days sightseeing to include the Elephant orphanage and the Botanical gardens, amongst other places of interest. This evening you may like to visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic, which looks pretty when lit up at night.

Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage

If you like elephants and you like nature, then the Elephant Orphanage at Pinnawela is a must-see. Most of these animals have either been abandoned or injured in the wild. You can get very close to the elephants and watch them having a swim and you can even have a go at washing a baby orphan or one of the older elephants.

Day 9

Kandy/Hill Country



Early this morning, you will be collected for your transfer to the Hill Country. It is possible to travel by train or drive, although if travelling by train, tickets can only be purchased five days prior to travel and are subject to availability.

We recommend a stay at the Ceylon Tea Trails. However, please discuss the alternative options with your consultant.

Nestled among the tea draped hills of the Bogowantalawa region at over 4,000 ft. above sea level, Ceylon Tea Trails consists of four classic colonial era bungalows that boast twenty luxury rooms and suites.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in the hill country on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 10

Hill Country



Full free day in the hill country.

Overnight at your chosen accommodation in the hill country on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 11

Hill Country/Dambulla

After breakfast you'll be driven to Dambulla. On arrival, rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Dambulla on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 12

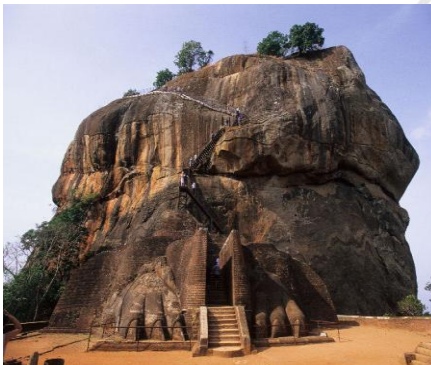
Dambulla

Full day to visit Sigiriya and Anuradnapura.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Dambulla on a bed and breakfast basis.

Day 13

Dambulla/Colombo



Today visit Sigiriya with your guide. However before breakfast this morning, you may wish to take an elephant back safari through the forest and lake.

This vast flat-topped rock stands 200-m above the surrounding countryside. It was an exceptional natural site for a fortress, which gets its name from the lions that were believed to occupy the caves. For some clients this trip is one of the highlights of a visit to Sri Lanka.

There are stunning views from the top and famous frescoes to be viewed on the way up. It is a steep climb and once past the lion's feet the steps become rather narrow. It was designated a World Heritage Site in 1982.

Later this afternoon you'll be driven back to Colombo.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Colombo on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 14

Colombo/Male

Early this morning, you'll be driven to the airport for your short flight to Male. From here, you will either transfer by speedboat or seaplane to your chosen island.

The islands themselves boast some of the world's most



spectacular hideaways tucked away on some of its dreamiest beaches. Stop, unwind and allow yourself to be pampered in your luxurious surroundings where the facilities, service and cuisine of any of our chosen properties, will certainly not disappoint.

Our consultant will be delighted to discuss your requirements and make some recommendations to ensure that your stay is a memorable one.

Day 15 - Day 18

Maldives

Four full days to enjoy local activities or purely relax and unwind at your chosen resort.

Day 19

Male/Colombo/UK

Depart Male your flight to Colombo, connecting here for your return flight to the UK.

Steppestravel
travel beyond the ordinary

TRIP PRICE

In each location there is a variety of different category of hotels, lodges and guest houses, therefore this is a general price guide only.

Price from £3,995.00 per person

The rates quoted are subject to the availability of all services, currency fluctuations, written confirmation and Steppes Travels terms and conditions.

The price includes return flight from UK, internal flights, local transport, airport-hotel transfers and tours on a private basis, accommodation (twin/double with private facilities where available) and board, entrance charges to sites, parks and museums. Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis, unless staying in a remote lodge when normally this will be on a full board basis.

The price excludes travel insurance, and items of a personal nature, such as laundry, drinks, etc.

Please note that the above is only a suggested journey, allowing in-depth visits to the highlights of the country and the chance to explore the wide range of possibilities this fascinating country has to offer. We have a separate list of escorted tours and specialise in tailoring individual itineraries to your particular interests and requirements. This journey idea serves more as a general guide on what there is to see and do, as well as a guide on price.

Why Travel with Steppes?

Steppes Travel was founded in 1989 with the objective of creating a travel company where service and knowledge are of the highest priority. We aim to design itineraries and include the highlights of any country, whilst taking travellers off the beaten track to see lesser known, interesting places not frequented by large numbers of tourists. We offer individuals the ability to travel safely in remote areas, with the knowledge that we have travelled there before.

Financial Protection

Steppes Travel is a fully bonded tour operator that complies with the Civil Aviation Authority bonding conditions of the UK. This fully guarantees your money in the unlikely event of us going out of business before you start your holiday. Our ATOL number is 6945 and we have full insurance to cover the financial failure of an airline. In addition, all accommodation-only bookings (such as hotels, lodges and boats) which are not covered by the ATOL regulations are financially protected with all payments being held in a separate trust account until the date of departure. This is in accordance with the Package Travel Regulations Act 1992.

Specialist Knowledge

We demand and employ only a very high calibre of staff. All of our specialists have a wealth of travel experience and have travelled, and continue to travel, extensively throughout their regions of specialisation. You can therefore rely on their first hand knowledge and expertise. Some have been with us for more than ten years. They will tell you about those intimate, friendly hotels and introduce you to our charismatic guides - those little extra qualities that make your holiday both unique and special.

A Tailor-made Journey

After an initial discussion with you, one of our specialists will create a unique itinerary for your trip, designed around your own interests, preferred style of accommodation and the pace at which you like to travel. This will be fine tuned until you are completely satisfied with it. Throughout this whole process, you will be dealt with by the same specialist and you are welcome to call them at any time.

24 hour Emergency Service

We have an emergency service so that we can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Recognition

More than 65% of our business is achieved through recommendations, referrals and repeat bookings. This, for us, is the highest endorsement we could have. In addition, our 20 years of experience in this specialist travel sector confirms our expertise.

Please contact the Steppes East team on 01285 651010 or visit our website www.steppestravel.co.uk for further information.

Steppestravel
travel beyond the ordinary