

## Journey Idea to Sri Lanka

17 Days



Buddhist Monks

Prepared for  
Steppes Travel Clients

## QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Fly UK/Colombo (overnight)
Day 2	Sigiriya
Day 3	Sigiriya
Day 4	Sigiriya
Day 5	Sigiriya/Kandy
Day 6	Kandy
Day 7	Kandy
Day 8	Kandy/Hill Country
Day 9	Hill Country
Day 10	Hill Country
Day 11	Hill Country/Sinharaja
Day 12	Sinharaja/Yala
Day 13	Yala
Day 14	Yala/Galle
Day 15	Galle
Day 16	Galle/Kotgoda
Day 17	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/Sigiriya



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 Sigiriya, a drive of approximately 3 hours.

This afternoon at leisure to relax after your flight.

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

## Day 3

### Sigiriya

This morning you'll be collected from the hotel and taken to the ancient capital of Polonnaruwa.



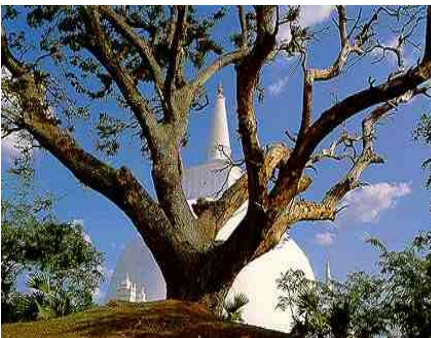
Polonnaruwa was the second capital of Sri Lanka, after Anuradhapura, which rose to fame in the 12 century AD. Ruins of buildings indicate that a very advanced civilisation thrived in Polonnaruwa. During the tour of the ruined city you will visit the Council Hall, the ruins of the palace, the ruins of the temple of Shiva, the ruins of Watadage (a circular image house), the Sathmahal Prasadhaya (a seven storied edifice), the rock inscription of Nissankamalla and the Gal Vihare where three sculptured statues of Buddha are found. Further, many other interesting sites like the Polonnaruwa Statue, the Ocean of Parakrama, and the ruins of the library.

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

## Day 4

### Sigiriya

Today you will visit Anuradhapura.



This sacred city was established around a cutting from the 'tree of enlightenment', the Buddha's fig tree, brought there in the 3rd century B.C. by Sanghamitta, the founder of an order of Buddhist nuns. Anuradhapura, a Ceylonese political and religious capital that flourished for 1,300 years, was abandoned after an invasion in 993. Hidden away in dense jungle for many years, the splendid site, with its palaces, monasteries and monuments, is now accessible once again.

Mihintale is a mountain peak near Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka. It is believed by Sri Lankans to be the site of a meeting between the Buddhist monk Mahinda and King Devanampiyatissa which

inaugurated the presence of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. It is now a pilgrimage site, and the site of several religious monuments and abandoned structures.

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

## Day 5

### Sigiriya/Kandy

This morning you'll be driven to the Rock Fortress of Sigiriya.



Designated as a World Heritage Site in 1982, Sigiriya was built in approx. 477 - 495 AD by King Kashyapa. Having killed his father he lived there in hiding, as he feared his life was in danger from his half brother. The 'Lion Rock' is a citadel, which raises 200 metres out of the scrub below; this fort was built as a fortified strong hold. 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. This trip is worth doing straight after breakfast before it becomes too hot.

A stop will also be made at the Dambulla Cave Temple which you pass on your way to Kandy.



Dambulla Rock is more than 1.5km around its base and the summit is at 550m. The caves were the refuge of King Valagambahu when he was in exile for 14 years. When he returned to the throne at Anuradhapura in the 1 Century BC, he had a magnificent rock temple built at Dambulla.

The site has been repaired and repainted several times and was designated a World Heritage Site in 1991. The caves comprise a mixture of religious and secular paintings and sculptures. There are several reclining Buddha's, including a 15m long sculpture of a dying Buddha. The frescoes on the walls and ceilings date from the 15 - 18 centuries.

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

## Day 6

### Kandy

Today visit the Royal Botanical Gardens.



The origins of the Botanical Gardens date as far back as 1371 when King Wickramabahu III ascended the throne and kept court at Peradeniya near the Mahaweli River. The ground work for the Gardens was formed by Mr Alexander Moon in 1821. The Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya were formally established by plants from Kew Gardens, Colombo and from the Kalutara Garden in Kalutara. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya were expanded under George Gardner, its superintendent in 1844. The gardens came under the administration of the Department of Agriculture when it was established in 1912.

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

## Day 7

### Kandy



Full days sightseeing to include the Elephant orphanage. 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.

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

## Day 8

### 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 Tea Trails in a room on a bed and breakfast basis.*

## Day 9 - 10

### Hill Country

Two full days based at Tea Trails. Your driver will be staying here in drivers accommodation so will be on hand to explore the area and visit a working plantation. However Tea Trails is located in such a wonderful place that it is worth spending some time enjoying the properties.

*Overnight at Tea Trails in a room on a bed and breakfast basis.*

## Day 11

### Hill Country/Kalawana



This morning you will be driven to Kalawana and the Boulder Garden. This is a drive of four and a half hours.

This afternoon at leisure.

Sinharaja (a short drive) is a unique stretch of rain forest, which apart from some local villages has been left virtually undisturbed. In 1989 UNESCO recognized it as a World Heritage site and a Biosphere Reserve. The word Sinharaja means 'Lion King' and local people believe it was home to the now extinct Sri Lankan lion.

*Overnight at Boulder Garden in a room on a bed and breakfast basis.*

**Day 12**

**Kalawana/Yala**



After an early breakfast, you will be taken to Sinharaja. Later today you'll be driven onto Yala.

As you're staying at Kulu Safaris' you will have unlimited jeep safaris into the park. Therefore if you'd like to take a safari drive this evening the jeep will be available.

*Overnight at Kulu Safari in a tent on an all inclusive basis.*

**Day 13**

**Yala**

Full day to spend in the park or relax at the campsite.

*Overnight at Kulu Safari in a tent on an all inclusive basis.*

**Day 14**

**Yala/Galle**

After breakfast, you will be driven to Galle, approximately 3 hours.

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

**Day 15**

**Galle**



Full free day in Galle. If you would like some time on the beach then I'd suggest you take a car to Thalpe where there is good swimming and a lovely spot for lunch - the Wijaya.

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.

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

**Day 16**

**Galle/Colombo**



Today you will be driven up the coast road to Colombo for your last night. Depending on what you would prefer you could be collected after breakfast and spend some time in Colombo for shopping and a nice lunch. Otherwise the driver/guide can come later and you can head straight to your hotel for the evening.

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

**Day 17**

**Colombo/UK**

Transfer to the airport for your return flight.

## 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 £2,995 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](http://www.steppestravel.co.uk) for further information.

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