

# 13 DAYS / 12 NIGHTS – SMALL GROUP JOURNEY \$4,999 pp twin share (\$820.00 single supplement)

Sri Lanka has a recorded history that spans back 3000 years. Like its massive neighbour India, Sri Lanka is a diverse country, home to many religions, ethnicities and languages. It is also still blessed with a variety of wildlife that has survived alongside this human civilization, on this small island for centuries.

# **Highlights & Inclusions**

Negombo - Dambulla - Kandy - Wellawaya – Yala National Park – Galle

Visit the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Anuradhapura Ancient Kingdom, Sigiriya Rock Fortress, Dambulla Cave Temple, and Peradeniya Botanical Garden & Kandy Temple of the tooth /cultural dance.

All flights ex Mt Gambier | 4 star accommodation throughout | all transfers & transport | all sightseeing & entrance fees | travel insurance\* | breakfast daily | welcome & farewell dinner | 2 bottles of water daily



#### DAY 1: 1ST APRIL 2019 DEPART MOUNT GAMBIER

Depart Mount Gambier with Regional Express in the AM and arrive in Melbourne where you have day use of a room, twin share, at the Park Royal Melbourne Airport.

Depart Melbourne in the PM on your international flight to Sri Lanka where you will be transferred to the hotel.

#### DAY 2: 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2019 DAMBULLA

After breakfast proceed to Dambulla. En-route visit Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage.

Situated in the Central Province of Sri Lanka, Dambulla is a large town in the Matale District. It is best-known for its famed 2000-year-old rock cave temple known as



'Dambulla Cave temple' and is also called the 'Golden Temple of Dambulla'. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is said to be the largest and best-preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka, encompassing numerous caves filled with a collection of religious statues and colourful murals. The surrounding area boasts the most extensive rose quartz mountain range in South Asia. Don't miss the opportunity to visit the Ibbankatuwa Ancient Burial Sitea significant archaeological site. Visit a Spice Garden in Matale.

#### DAY 3: 3rd APRIL 2019 DAMBULLA

After breakfast proceed to Anuradhapura. Visit Anuradhapura Ancient Kingdom.

Anuradhapura Ancient Kingdom: Anuradhapura was the first ancient kingdom and Capital of Sri Lanka. As you explore the ancient ruins of this UNSECO 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 above, there are many other important shrines and monuments that give Anuradhapura its significant status as the first kingdom.

#### DAY 4: 4TH APRIL 2019 DAMBULLA

After breakfast climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress.

\*Sigiriya Rock Fortress: One of Sri Lanka's major attractions, the Sigiriya Rock Fortress was built by King Kashyapa (477-495 AD) for the purpose of protecting him from his rivals. An UNSECO World Heritage listed site, also known as the "Fortress in the Sky". The climb up to the top of the fortress doesn't only offer the reward of breathtaking views but there is so much to discover during your climb to the top. Highlights of the climb include water gardens, artistic frescoes, mirror wall, the lion gate and the magnificent views from the rock summit. Evening enjoy Minneriya National Park safari.

\*Minneriya National Park: The extent of the Minneriya National Park is approximately 8,889 hectares. Dry zone plant and animal species are common. The elephants are a highlight of the Park. Approximately 160 species of birds, 9 amphibians, 25 reptile species, 26 fish species and more than 78 butterfly species can also be found here. There are also rare bamboo trees in this park which is unique to Minneriya National Park

#### DAY 5: 5TH APRIL 2019 KANDY

After breakfast proceed to Kandy. En-route visit Dambulla Cave Temple.

\*Dambulla Cave Temple: Dambulla cave temple is part of the Golden Triangle of Sri Lanka and is encrusted into a magnificently large rock. It sits more than 160m above the surrounding land and spans for more than 1.5 km 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 3rd Century BC and is truly a wonder as it is the largest and best preserved cave temples in Sri Lanka. The cave temples are home to numerous religious and cultural paintings and sculptures.

Visit Kandy Temple of Tooth Relic and witness a cultural dance performance.

\*Temple of Tooth: The Temple of Tooth Relic ("Dalada Maligawa" as known to the locals) is located in Kandy. This sacred temple is also home to the palm-leaf transcripts and 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.

\*Cultural Show/Dance: A combination of up country & low country dance performances.



#### DAY 6: 6TH APRIL 2019 KANDY

After breakfast visit Peradeniya Botanical Garden and commence a City Tour of Kandy.

\*Peradeniya Botanical Gardens: This beautiful garden is located 6km from Kandy. It 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, pavilions, an octagon conservatory, fernery, a giant Javan fig tree and numerous flower beds. The best attraction is the orchid House where you can discover more than 1000 plants.

**Tour of Kandy:** The Hill capital of Kandy lies picturesquely surrounded by mountains. Kandy is also the last kingdom of Sri Lanka and is a bustling city. The tour of Kandy includes (Upper lake drive, visit to a Wood carving & Gem shop, Gem Museum, Kandy Bazzar/markets and visit to a Batik Factory).

#### DAY 7: 7TH APRIL 2019 WELLAWAYA

After breakfast proceed to Wellawaya. En-route visit a Tea Factory and Ella Gap View.

\*Tea Factory Visit: 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.

\*Ella Gap: Ella, 230km from the Capital City Colombo overlooks a spectacular gap in the southern mountains where the land falls to a dizzying drop of 3000ft into the southern sea. The small town is used as a base for many trekking expeditions to the surrounding areas. This is an en-route stop during journey to Tissamaharama. You can either stop for lunch or a tea break. From the Ella gap you can get a breathtaking view of the South East part of Sri Lanka. This is a great place for photography.

#### DAY 8: 8TH APRIL 2019 YALA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast proceed to Tissa. Yala National Park Wildlife Safari.

\*Yala National Park Wildlife Safari: Embark on an adventure of a lifetime with a Wildlife Jeep Safari at the Yala National Park! It is located approximately 24km Northeast of Tissamaharama. Yala is the best location to sight and photograph the rare and remarkable leopards. Other highlights of Yala include the herd of wild elephants, bears, wild boars, buffalos, deer, crocodiles and many species of birds. The vegetation ranges from open parkland to dense jungle. There are also an abundance of water supply for animals and birds ranging from waterholes, streams, small lakes to lagoons.

#### DAY 9: 9TH APRIL 2019 YALA NATIONAL PARK

Morning safari at Yala National Park.

In addition to providing luxury accommodation, the Jetwing Yala encourages the one-with-nature concept. Set within the immediate outskirts of the Yala National Park, Jetwing Yala holds a tremendous commitment to sustainability and the environment with it's large solar park. Leisure activities available at the Jetwing Yala lays focus on wellness. Recreational amenities include a swimming pool, spa, yoga sessions, beach volleyball, badminton and table tennis. The main attraction, which is the Yala National Park, hosts a true wildlife experience as it is favourable grounds to spot leopards, sloth bears, elephants and a wide variety of birdlife.

## DAY 10: 10TH APRIL GALLE

After breakfast proceed to Galle and commence a tour of Galle.

\*Tour of Galle: Galle, recognised as the Sothern Capital (116 km from Colombo) and is 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 still handles shipping and cruising yachts to present.



## DAY 11: 11TH APRIL GALLE

After breakfast at leisure. Experience local cooking demonstration.

On the fringe of the former Dutch Colonial town of Galle stands Jetwing Lighthouse, a testament to the iconic work of the Sri Lankan architect, Geoffrey Bawa. The Jetwing Lighthouse sits atop a hillock overlooking the blue waters of the Indian Ocean. The architectural marvel offers a rare sense of being steeped in history with the use of rich timber and Eco-friendly fabric. The hotel exudes old world charm amidst the sun, sea and sands of the southern coast. The hotel terrace is ideal for a drink and a chat while overlooking a spectacular Sri Lankan sunset. From luxury swimming pool to the spa, nothing is spared in terms of luxury as Jetwing Lighthouse lives up to its accolade of being a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World.



#### DAY 12: 12TH APRIL

After breakfast proceed to Colombo and commence a city tour of Colombo.

**Tour of Colombo:** Colombo tour includes a drive through the city taking you to the busy commercial areas as well as the tree-lined residential, Cinnamon Gardens. Visit Fort, the former British administrative centre and military garrison, Sea Street - the Goldsmith's quarters in the heart of Pettah, 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 & the Independence Square.

After the Tour you will be dropped at the Airport for your flight departing at 0020.

## DAY 13: 13TH APRIL 2019 MELBOURNE

Arrive back in Melbourne in the PM and connect with Regional Express back to Mount Gambier.





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\*TERMS & CONDITIONS: Price is per person twin share, \$820.00 supplement for single room. The price is in Australian dollars and includes transport, accommodation and meals as per itinerary. The price is based on minimum passenger numbers and should this number not be reached the price may increase, the tour may not be escorted or the tour may not proceed. A non-refundable deposit of \$1000 is due at time of booking, final payment is due no later than 90 days prior to departure. For full terms and conditions please contact B&P Travel & Cruise.