



- Exclusively for Solo Travellers
- Your Own Room Always
- Visit Amazing Destinations

**ITINERARY
SRI LANKA**



MAGICAL SRI LANKA

13 DAY SOLO TOUR: AUGUST 2020



Lapped by the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) is a fascinating island nation. It is a natural paradise and our tour brings you an itinerary which offers an excellent and exhilarating, all-round introduction to this magical place. 13 days of adventure and discovery in a land that will take your breath away.

Its diverse landscapes range from rainforest and arid plains to highlands and sandy beaches. It's famed for its ancient Buddhist ruins, including the 5th-century citadel Sigiriya, with its palace and frescoes. The city of Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka's ancient capital, has many ruins dating back more than 2,000 years.

From Anuradhapura city to the Polonnaruwa ruins, Sigiriya rock to Mirissa and Galle to Colombo – this fun, relaxing and culture-rich tour of Sri Lanka shows you the very best of this beautiful Country.

Will you join us?

Day 1 - Tuesday 4th August 2020

Arrive at Colombo / Negombo

On arrival at the airport you will get your first taste of warm Sri Lankan hospitality. A representative will welcome you and transfer you to your hotel in Negombo. Negombo is a charismatic fishing town north of Colombo. The Sinhalese refer to Negombo as Meegamuwa 'The village of honey' (or bees) due to story about a swarm of bees that had settled in a boat pulled ashore here. However, it was not honey or bees that made this town known - it was cinnamon. Discovered by the Moors (a term first used during the Portuguese period to refer to Muslims) who settled on the west coast cinnamon trade. Due to its significant Catholic population, Negombo is dominated by shrines and picturesque churches. Apart from this, Negombo offers some of the best beaches on the west coast of Sri Lanka, with coral reefs and a 50 year old shipwreck (Kudapaduwa) that serves as an artificial reef for many varieties of fish.

- **Accommodation: Your own standard room at 'Goldi Sands', Negombo (3.5 stars)**



Day 2 - Wednesday 5th August 2020

Negombo / Anuradhapura / Dambulla (B,D)

After breakfast we drive to Anuradhpura, made the first capital of Sri Lanka by King Pandukhabaya in the 4th century BC and it so remained until the 11th century AD. Anuradhpura is a beautiful picturesque town located along a river bank which is popular for the fascinating ancient ruins and deep rooted Buddhist culture. There is plenty to see, from ancient trees like the Sri Maha Bodhi, the oldest tree in the world, to ancient monasteries and historic ruins. Later in the day we continue on to our hotel in Dambulla.

- **Accommodation: Your own deluxe room at 'The Paradise resort and Spa', Dambulle (4 stars)**



Day 3 - Thursday 6th August 2020

Dambulla / Polonnaruwa / Minneriya / Dambulla (B,D)

Today starts with a visit to the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, with its immense Buddha's statues carved from rock. Although not as important historically as Anuradhpura, its remains are better preserved and there are some truly awe-inspiring monuments to be seen. Some of the most impressive are the massive carvings of Buddha which are hewn out of bare rock. The city was established when the Sinhalese moved their capital from Anuradhpura to Polonnaruwa in the early 12th century and it's not difficult to take a step back in time and imagine life as it must have been here almost a thousand years ago. Later we head to the Minneriya National Park for an evening Jeep Safari. The park is a dry season feeding ground for the local elephant population, along with the rare and endangered Sri Lankan Leopard and Sloth bear. The park was declared as a wild life sanctuary in order to protect the watershed of Minneriya tank and the wildlife of the surrounding area. The tank is historically important for the country as it was built by King Mahasen in the 3rd century AD.

- **Accommodation: Your own deluxe room at 'The Paradise resort and Spa', Dambulle (4 stars)**



Day 4 - Friday 7th August 2020**Dambulla / Hiriwadunna / Dambulla (B,D)**

After breakfast, we set off to Hiriwadunna village for a traditional ride in a bullock cart swaying from side to side on an unpaved trail, (alternatively you can take the journey in a Tuk Tuk if you prefer).

We'll also enjoy a nature walk through a scrub jungle, cross a lake in an 'oruwa', the traditional mode of over water transport and spend time with a farmer harvesting crops. Under his guidance we will taste authentic village cuisine prepared by the farmer's family, with freshly picked produce and local herbs cooked in clay pots over an open hearth fueled by firewood.

It's an excellent way to understand what village life means as the inhabitants go about their daily chores. It throws light on traditional methods of farming, such as the tree house where the farmer spends his nights to protect his crops from elephants and other nocturnal marauders.

Later that evening we visit the Dambulla rock cave temple. Carved out of the rock, this extensive series of caves are covered from floor to ceiling with extraordinarily well-preserved frescoes depicting all kinds of Buddhist imagery. The complex is the largest of its kind in the world and the biggest cave is over 50 metres long. The caves have been places of worship for more than 2000 years, although the frescoes have been added at various times

through the ages.

Tonight we'll enjoy dinner at the hotel.

- **Accommodation: Your own deluxe room at 'The Paradise resort and Spa', Dambulle (4 stars)**

Day 5 - Saturday 8th August 2020**Dambulla / Sigiriya / Matale / Kandy (B,D)**

Today we head to Sigiriya where we can walk the Sigiriya Rock Fortress. Embedded with a fascinating history that swirls around a citadel carved from the bedrock. This UNESCO Word Heritage Site hides remarkable frescos that unfold its legend amidst the gigantic lion paws carved into the rock. The landscape that entwines the ancient, but short-lived fortress of one of the greatest kings to walk the plains of the Wonder of Asia is breathtaking.

Next we continue to Kandy with a stop at the Matale Spice Garden on the way. Kandy is the last royal capital - the city that felt the footsteps of great kings, national heroes and the land that carved the Highlight of Asia – the Kandy Esala Perahera. Visit the buzzing Kandy market or simply take a walk around the shady banks of the lake.

- **Accommodation: Your own standard room at 'Royal Kandyan', Kandy (4 stars)**





Day 6 - Sunday 9th August 2020 Kandy / Peradeniya / Kandy (B,D)

After breakfast, we take a trip to the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, situated in the Central Province of Sri Lanka and visited by approximately two million people annually. The unusual name is the Sinhalese translation for guava plain. The garden is notable for its collection of a variety of orchids. It is home to various species of plants, spices, medicinal plants and palm trees. It is also one of the largest botanical gardens of Sri Lanka. An artificial lake with water plants, including giant water lily and papyrus, can be found in the centre of the garden. In the heart of the town is the 'Temple of the Tooth' (Dalada Maligawa), the most important shrine in the country, which houses a relic of a tooth of Buddha taken from his funeral pyre in 543 BC. It is renowned for its daily 'Thewawa' ceremony. Each evening, the day's worship culminates when the casket containing the tooth relic is put on display to devotees who have travelled from all over the Buddhist world. (Please ensure that you wear long pants or a long dress when visiting the temple out of respect to the local community).

- **Accommodation: Your own standard room at 'Royal Kandy', Kandy (4 stars)**



Day 7 - Monday 10th August 2020 Nuwara Eliya (B,D)

Today we head to the railway station to board our train to Nanu Oya. This will be a journey that will rattle you straight into the heart of the tea country where pure Ceylon Tea is made. Enjoy the surroundings as our train journeys through dense vegetation and narrow tunnels, all the while cutting through mountains, hissing its way to a picture-perfect serenity among the lush green mountains. We'll get off the train with a bag full of memories and head to our next stop, the hotel in Nuwara Eliya, for our overnight stay. Nuwara Eliya is a small city in the hill country of Sri Lanka. The city is considered to be one of the most important locations for tea cultivation and well known for its cool climate (the coolest area in Sri Lanka). Many of the buildings still have preserved features from the colonial period. Many private homes have also maintained their old English-style lawns and gardens.

- **Accommodation: Your own standard room at 'The Blackpool', Nuwara Eliya (4 stars)**



Day 8 - Tuesday 11th August 2020**Nuwara Eliya / Ella / Yala (B,D)**

Today we head to Ella, a beautiful country village surrounded by mountains, tea plantations and breathtaking scenery. The Ella Gap offers a stunning view and on a clear night you can see the subtle glow of the Great Basses light house on the southern coast of Sri Lanka. The Ravana Ella Falls is another spectacular sight and the perfect place for a quick dip in the cool waters.

NINE ARCH BRIDGE - Demodara is a quaint and interesting railway station of Sri Lanka, an upcountry region close to Badulla town. The Bridge is situated 2 km away from Ella town along Passara Road between Ella and Demodara Railway Stations.

LITTLE ADAM'S PEAK – Also known as ‘Punchi Sri Pada’ this peak is 1141 m in height and attracts many travellers who come to walk through its lush green tea plantations, waterfalls and paddy fields while enjoying the panoramic views.

RAWANA WATERFALL -This waterfall measures approximately 25 m (82 ft) in height and cascades from an oval-shaped concave rock outcrop. During the local wet season, the waterfall turns into what is said to resemble an arece flower with withering petals. But this is not the case in the dry season, where the flow of water reduces dramatically. The falls form part of the Ravana Ella Wildlife Sanctuary, located 6 km (3.7 mi) away from the local railway station at Ella. The falls have been named after the legendary king Ravana, who, according to legend, is said to have kidnapped princess Sita, and had hidden her in the caves behind this waterfall, now simply known as the Ravana Ella Cave. The reason for the kidnapping is said to be a revenge for slicing off the nose of his sister by Rama (husband of Sita) and his brother Laxmana. At the time, the cave was surrounded with thick forests in the midst of wilderness.

- **Accommodation: Your own deluxe room at ‘Chaarya Hotel and Spa’, Yala (3.5 stars)**



Day 9 - Wednesday 12th August 2020

Yala / Galle / Beruwala (B,D)

It's an early start today as we head with a packed breakfast to the Yala National Park.

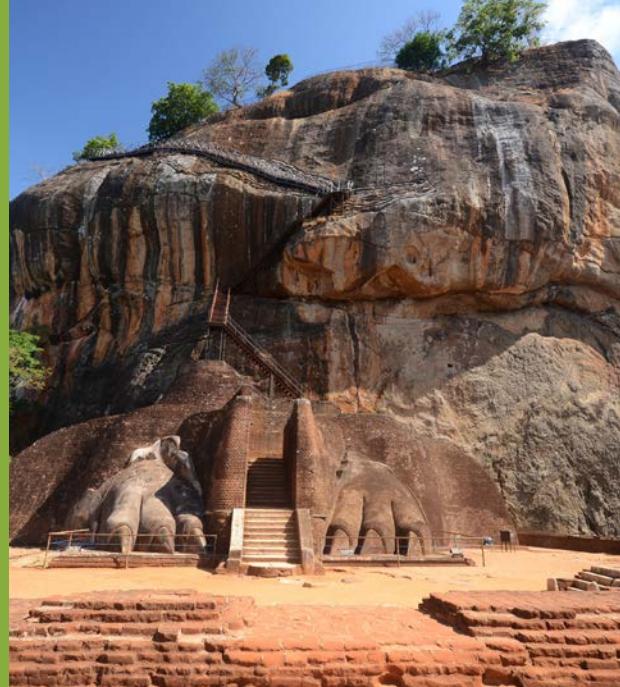
The park is the largest in Sri Lanka and home to all the big mammals found in the country. Elephant, leopard, sloth bear, spotted deer (chital), wild boar and sambar deer can all be found here, although as with all wildlife experiences, sightings depend on a degree of good fortune!

Apart from the larger species, small mammals such as black-naped hare, grey mongoose, ruddy mongoose, striped-necked mongoose, grey Langur and porcupine are also common. The park is also famous for its abundant bird life, with over 140 species having been recorded so far within its boundaries. These birds include changeable hawk-eagles, crested serpent eagles, Malabar pied hornbills, jungle fowls, painted storks, white ibis and black-necked storks.

Next we drive to Galle, once the chief port of Sri Lanka. It is still well known for handmade lace and it's here we visit the World Heritage-listed Galle Fort (spanning 90 acres), which was originally built by the Portuguese and later extended by the Dutch in 1663.

Today's town has grown and spreads into the surroundings but the fort is the slow beating heart of Galle's history. The walled city has stood since the early sixteenth century, through the Colonial periods of the Portuguese, Dutch and British and in our present times is proclaimed as an Archaeological Reserve and has been identified as a living World Heritage Site. The etymology of the name Galle is explained as probably an altered form of the Sinhalese word 'gala': a cattle fold or posting-place from which the Portuguese named it Point-de-Galle. The simpler and more popular theory is found in the similarity of the Sinhalese word: gala, for rock, which the Portuguese duplicated by adopting the Latin word: Gallus, for rooster. They thus designed the coat-of-arms of the city as that of a rooster standing upon a rocky perch.

- **Accommodation: Your own superior room at 'The Palm's Hotel' Beruwala (4 stars)**



Day 10 - Thursday 13th August 2020**Beruwala (B,D)**

Today is yours to relax, explore and soak up the culture.

- **Accommodation: Your own superior room at 'The Palm's Hotel' Beruwala (4 stars)**

Day 11 - Friday 14th August 2020**Beruwala / Colombo (B,D)**

After breakfast we drive to Balapitiya where we enjoy a boat ride on the Madu River. The 915 hectare Madu Ganga Estuary is connected by two narrow channels to the Randombe Lake, forming a complex wetland system encompassing 64 mangrove islets. Next we head to Colombo, Sri Lanka's bustling commercial hub located on the country's west coast and with a population of between 800,000 and one million. It is by far Sri Lanka's biggest city, as well as the most developed. Its natural harbour at the mouth of the Kelani River was a magnet for successive traders and conquerors – initially the Arab merchants, then Portuguese, Dutch and British imperialists. The city is a jarring mix of old and new, with a central cluster of high-rise office blocks and hotels overshadowing red-tiled colonial-era buildings and sprawling street markets which overflow with high-piled fruit and vegetables, colorful silks and cottons, and deliciously fragrant spices. On its crowded streets stand places of worship, symbolic of Sri Lanka's multiethnic heritage: graceful Buddhist viharas (temples), for instance, stand close to extravagant temples encrusted with Hindu statuary, along with Muslim mosques with minarets scattered along Colombo's streets. Its population is swollen by some 400,000 plus commuting workers during the day and is virtually empty after nightfall.

- **Accommodation: Your own 'sleep' room at 'OZO Colombo' (4 stars)**

Day 12 - Saturday 15th August 2020**Colombo (B,D)**

Today we take a city tour of Colombo by Tuk Tuks!

We'll visit the following places:

- BMICH (Bandaranaike Memorial Int'l Conference)
- Red Mosque Colombo
- Gangaramaya Temple
- Pettah Bazaar
- Galle Face Green
- Viharamahadevi Park
- Old Parliament
- Independence Square

Later we'll enjoy a Special Gala Dinner on the lake at Cinnamon Lakeside.

- **Accommodation: Your own 'sleep' room at 'OZO Colombo' (4 stars)**

Day 13 - Sunday 16th August 2020**Colombo Departure (B)**

After breakfast our tour ends as you transfer to the airport for your flight home or onwards to further adventures!

PLEASE NOTE:

As most flights depart Sri Lanka late in the evening, we can organise your check-out for 9pm at 'OZO Colombo.' The cost will be \$200AUD, and includes your airport transfer. You will then have all day to relax and enjoy Sri Lanka for just a little longer.



TOUR PRICE A\$3,776 PLUS INTERNATIONAL AIRFARES**TOUR DATES: 4TH - 16TH AUGUST 2020****Tour Inclusions:**

- Two's a Crowd tour host from Australia.
- English-speaking local tour guide throughout
- All ground transportation, as detailed in the itinerary, using air conditioned coach
- 12 nights deluxe hotel accommodation in your own room — always!
- Meals as detailed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch & D=Dinner)
- Tips and gratuities for the local guides
- Site and Monument entrance fees:
 - Anuradhapura ancient city
 - Polonnaruwa ancient city
 - Minneriya National park jeep safari
 - Hiriwadunna village tour with Lunch
 - Dambulla rock cave temple
 - Sigiriya Rock Fortress
 - Matale Spice garden

- Temple of the scared tooth relic
- Cultural show in Kandy
- Royal botanical gardens
- Train ride from Kandy to Nanu oya
- Tea Plantation and Tea Factory Visit
- Yala National park jeep safari
- Madu river boat ride
- Galle City Sightseeing
- Colombo City tour by Tuk - Tuk
- Standard CHI Travel Insurance Policy. Additional premium may be payable if over 69 years, have an existing medial condition or wish to extend your travelling dates (underwritten by Allianz)

Tour Exclusions:

- All international airfares/airport taxes
- Any expenditure of personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone calls, souvenirs etc.
- Visas (if required)
- Any meals not listed as included

**NEED MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT THE TEAM:**

Phone: 1300 55 45 01 (AUS) or 0800 895 145 (NZ) **Email:** team@twosacrowd.com.au

ABOUT TWO'S A CROWD: We are an award winning tour company exclusively dedicated to the needs of solo travellers. At Two's a Crowd, single and solo travellers have access to fantastic itineraries at great prices without ever feeling like a third wheel to someone else's private getaway. Our travellers enjoy the best of both worlds: private time, personalised attention, low single supplements, as well as the camaraderie of like-minded travellers. For your peace of mind we are ATAS accredited (No A13850).

Our commitment is to make solo travel more enjoyable and affordable.

Terms & Conditions: • Prices are per person and based on sole use rooms throughout • Pricing correct at May 2019 and is subject to change until paid in full.
• Refer to our website www.twosacrowd.com.au for full terms and conditions. ©2019 Travel Passion Pty Ltd | ABN 32 140 754 856 trading as Two's a Crowd.

Two's a Crowd and the disk logo are registered trademarks of Travel Passion Pty Ltd.

Issued: 13/05/19