



# Lens and Legends of Sri Lanka

21 - 26 January 2026 | 5 nights 6 days | Class: **Premium**



(Photo by Amol Hendre)

## Day-wise Programme

### Day 1: Colombo arrival - Anuradhapura

Upon arrival at Bandaranaike International Airport and proceed to **Anuradhapura**. (*Airport to Anuradhapura approx. 4 hrs.*). Check in to the hotel and relax. Begin an evening city tour in Anuradhapura, **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

### **ANURADHAPURA** (*The excursion will take approx. 3 hrs.*)

The capital of Sri Lanka from the 05th Century B.C. to the end of the 10th Century A.D. was the most celebrated of Sri Lanka's ancient ruined cities which is now preserved as a UNESCO World Heritage. The city's greatest treasures are its Dagobas constructed of bricks and are hemispherical in shape. The most notable of these dagobas are the Ruvanveliseya dating back to the 2nd Century B.C. and is 300 feet in diameter. The city's most renowned relic is the sacred Bo Tree, which is said to have grown from a branch of the tree under which the Buddha gained Enlightenment. It was planted 2250 years ago and is the oldest historically authenticated tree in the world.

On completion back to hotel.

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(Lunch / Dinner)

### **Day 2: Anuradhapura – Wilpattu - Habarana**

Start the day early with a **morning safari** at **Wilpattu National Park** with a **packed breakfast**.

*(Anuradhapura to Wilpattu approx. 1 hr.)*

#### **WILPATTU NATIONAL PARK** *(The excursion will take approx. 4 hrs.)*

The unique feature of this park is the existence of "Willus" (Natural lakes) - natural sand-rimmed water basins or depressions that fill with rainwater. Located in the Northwest coast lowland dry zone of Sri Lanka, the park is located 30 km west Anuradhapura and located 26 km north of Puttalam. The park is 131, 693 hectares and ranges from 0 to 152 meters above sea level. Nearly sixty lakes (Willu) and tanks are found spread throughout Wilpattu and it is the largest and one of the oldest National Parks in Sri Lanka. It is also among the top national parks & world renowned for its Leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*) population. The Leopard population in Wilpattu is still not yet known. In addition, 31 species of mammals have been identified within Wilpattu national park. Mammals that are identified as threatened species living within the Wilpattu National Park are the Elephant, Sloth bear, Leopard and Water Buffalo. Sambhur, spotted deer and mongoose are more of Wilpattu's residents.

**After lunch at a local restaurant**, enjoy an **evening safari** through a different zone of the park.

Later in the evening, transfer to **Dambulla** for check-in and rest. *(Wilpattu to Habarana approx. 2 hrs.)*

(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

### **Day 3: Habarana – Sigiriya - Habarana**

After breakfast, visits the world-famous **UNESCO SITE, Sigiriya** and enjoy **bird watching trail** in **Sigiriya Sanctuary**. *(Habarana to Sigiriya approx. 30 min)*

#### **BIRD WATCHING - SIGIRIYA SANCTUARY**

Nestled at the Sigiriya Rock, the forest and wetlands provide sanctuary for over 65 bird species, including endemic, resident, and migratory varieties. Raptors like Shaheen Falcon, White Bellied Sea Eagles, Grey Headed Fish Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, and Crested Hawk Eagle can be seen. Common and rare species include Little Scops Owl, Indian Long-tailed Night-Jar, Forest Eagle Owl, Open bill, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Green Imperial Pigeon, Emerald Dove, Ceylon Jungle Fowl, Orange-headed Ground Thrush, Indian Blue Chat, and more.

Climb the **Sigiriya Rock Fortress**.

**SIGIRIYA** *(The excursion will take approx. 3 hrs.)*

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Sigiriya is a "World Heritage Site" which is built in the 5th Century and known as the "Fortress in the Sky" which is perhaps the most fantastic wonder of the Island. It is also known as Lion Rock because of the huge lion that used to stand at the entrance to the Palace on the summit of the 600-foot-high rock. On its summit are the foundations of the Royal Palace, Water Tanks to supply water and all other buildings and at the edges the guardhouses. On one of the stairways the only known ancient work of Sinhala secular painting survived in the form of Frescoes of 21 life sized damsels still shining in their original colours. This magnificent creation is preserved as a UNESCO Heritage and also known to be the Eighth World Wonder.

**Lunch at a local restaurant.**

Thereafter proceed to Dambulla and visit **Royal Cave Temple**. (*Sigiriya to Dambulla approx. 30 min*)

**DAMBULLA** (*The excursion will take approx. 2 hrs.*)

Dambulla Cave is a vast isolated rock mass 500 feet high and a mile around the base. Within these rock columns you find the Dambulla Cave Temple which is one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites in Sri Lanka. The Caves of Dambulla sheltered King Walagamba during his 14 years of exile from Anuradhapura. When he regained the throne, he built the most magnificent of Rock Temples to be found in the Island. In the first Cave is a recumbent image of the Buddha 47ft long cut out of the Rock. There are images of deities associated with Buddhism all around. The frescoes on the walls and the ceiling are the oldest here but they are over painted in the Kandy period. In the Second Cave, the finest and the largest of all, there are 150 life-size statues of the Buddha in various postures with few statues of Gods and Kings. The ceiling is also covered with frescoes, which depict great events in the life of the Buddha and landmarks in the history of the Sinhalese people.

Return to the hotel and enjoy dinner.

(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

#### **Day 4: Habarana – Pidurangala – Dambulla – Peradeeniya - Kandy**

Early morning sunrise hike to Pidurangala Rock. (Habarana to Pidurangala approx. 30 min)

**PIDURANGALA** (The excursion will take approx. 3 hrs.)

Pidurangala Vihara is an ancient Buddhist temple situated in Matale District, Sri Lanka. The temple was constructed on a massive rock, which is located a few kilometers north of the historical fort Sigiriya. It is believed that the history of Pidurangala Vihara goes back beyond to the first and second century BC. From those days Pidurangala was used as a Buddhist monastery and but became a prominent place during the reign of King Kashyapa (473 - 495 AC). Pidurangala is a more challenging climb than

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Sigiriya, so should not be attempted by those with poor physical fitness. There is no clear path to the top: steep, uneven steps give way to an expanse of boulders and crevices that climbers must navigate in order to reach the summit. From the top, there are glorious vistas of the surrounding landscape and an incredible view of the majestic Sigiriya Rock.

Back to hotel and enjoy breakfast.

Drive towards Peradeniya and visit the famous Royal Botanical Garden in Peradeniya.

*(Pidurangala to Peradeniya approx. 2 ½ hrs.)*

#### **PERADENIYA BOTANICAL GARDEN**

Peradeniya Botanical Garden is a haven of natural beauty and biodiversity, covers 147 acres and is home to over 4,000 species of plants, including an impressive collection of orchids, spices, medicinal plants, and palm trees. The garden's history dates back to 1371, originally serving as a royal pleasure garden before being established as a botanical garden in 1821. Stroll through the garden's meticulously landscaped paths, will encounter a range of flora from tropical rainforests to desert environments. Highlights include the iconic Royal Palm Avenue, the giant Javan fig tree with its massive spreading canopy, and the stunning Orchid House showcasing vibrant and delicate orchids.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Thereafter, proceed and visit to the Temple of the Tooth Relic participating evening pooja.

*(Peradeniya to Kandy approx. 30 min.)*

#### **KANDY (The excursion will take approx. 1 hr.)**

The hill capital is another "World Heritage Site". It was the last stronghold of the Sinhalese Kings during the Portuguese, Dutch and British rule and finally ceded to the British in 1815 after an agreement. To the Buddhists of Sri Lanka and the World, Kandy is one of the most sacred sites as it is the home of the "Dalada Maligawa" - Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha.

On completion check in to the hotel.

(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

#### **Day 5: Kandy – Kithulgala - Colombo**

After breakfast, begin the scenic drive towards Kitulgala and visit Makandawa Forest Reserve. (Kandy to Kithulgala approx. 2 hrs.)

#### **MAKANDAWA FOREST RESERVE**

Explore the Makandawa Forest Reserve, one of the oldest rainforests in Sri Lanka, on a walk focusing on bird watching and biodiversity. The trail offers the chance to spot endemic rare bird species.

On completion Proceed to Colombo.

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(Kithulgala to Colombo approx. 2 ½ hrs.)

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Commence a city tour in Colombo.

**COLOMBO (The excursion will take approx. 3 hrs.)**

Colombo is the business and commercial centre and the new capital is Sri Jayawardhanapura Kotte, only a few miles away. Colombo was only a small seaport, which came into prominence in the 16th Century with the arrival of the Portuguese in 1505 and the development of it as a major Harbor took place during the British period. Colombo became the capital of Sri Lanka in 1815 after Kandyan Kingdom was ceded to the British. The remains of the buildings during the period of the Portuguese, Dutch and British rule are found in every area of the city. None of the Portuguese & Dutch fortifications are found today but some of their buildings and churches could be seen in the Fort & Pettah areas. On completion check in to the hotel and relax.

(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

**Day 6: Colombo shopping and airport drop**

Free time for us to go out, walk near hotel, see places nearby the hotel. Check out and enjoy shopping and free time at Galle Face. Proceed to Colombo Airport to board flight to hometown.

(Breakfast / Lunch)

**Price per person in twin / triple sharing Rs. 75,000/-**

**(excludes airfare and travel insurance)**

| CITY         | HOTELS                          |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Anuradhapura | Rajarata Hotel or similar       |
| Habarana     | Oakray Elephant Lake or similar |
| Kandy        | The Swiss Residence             |
| Colombo      | The Ocean Colombo               |

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**Includes**

Accommodation in 4-star hotels on twin / triple sharing  
Private vehicle as per the itinerary  
Meals as per the itinerary  
Tourist Visa  
Entry fees to National Parks  
1-litre bottled mineral water per person per day  
All entry fees  
All taxes

**Excludes**

International Airfare  
Any other meals not mentioned in the itinerary  
Tips to guide, driver, waiters, porters etc.  
to driver is compulsory  
Travel Insurance  
Extra transport in case if any  
Personal expenses  
Any other expense not mentioned in the itinerary

**Bank Details****Aayu Expeditions**

SVC Co-operative Bank Limited  
Bandra (west) Mumbai – 400050  
Current Account No. 100304180002360  
IFSC – SVCB0000003

**Terms and Conditions for Domestic and International Departures**

Company is not responsible for loss of passport, loss of foreign currency, loss / damage of luggage and any other important documents of the client.

Visa – issuing of a tourist / transit visa is a sole decision of the Embassy of the particular country. We are not responsible if visa is rejected.

Tips – We request you to pay tips to driver and tour guide subject to their policies. We will inform you the amount at the time of booking a tour.

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Company does not book air tickets in advance. Airfare should be paid by client as per the rate on the day of ticket booking. We will suggest you to the airlines and time. If you need any other alternate flight, we request you to meet us at the point of destination at given day and time.

Check-in and check-out timings of the hotels should be strictly adhered to. Early check-in or a late check-out is not guaranteed and is only on request. If the hotel / resort / lodge ask for some additional amount, guest would be liable to pay.

Guests are requested to take care of their belongings. In case guests forget their belongings, they have to pay extra charges for transport and any other assistance to get it back.

We mostly serve Indian meals. Local meals will be served when there will no availability of Indian meals. In this case we request guests to adjust and enjoy local meals.

We allow guests sufficient time for shopping. Incase guests want to visit different places for shopping. They have to pay extra charges for transport and other assistance.

We have a right to change the itinerary as per the situation without any prior notice.

80% of the total tour cost should be paid at the time of booking. Remaining 20% should be paid before 10 days before the departure.

We are not liable for damages for any delay or default in performance during the term hereof if such delay or default is caused by conditions beyond its control, including, but not limited to acts of God, Government restrictions, continuing domestic or international problems such as wars or insurrections, strikes, curfews, fires, floods, terrorist attacks, work stoppages and embargoes.

Any disputes arising in respect of the tour shall be subject to Mumbai Jurisdiction.

### **Refund Policy**

Any payments received for the booking confirmation of the tour / package will neither be refunded nor be carried forward for any other tours. We arrange "Cancellation of Tour" Insurance policy at an extra cost at the time of advance received from the guest for that particular tour / package. In case our guests cancel the tour for any reason, our guests would be entitled to claim refund directly from Insurance Company. (T&C apply). In this situation, our role will be like a catalyst to guide you in claiming for insurance towards "Cancellation of Tour".

**Thank you. We look forward to have you in this memorable expedition.**

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