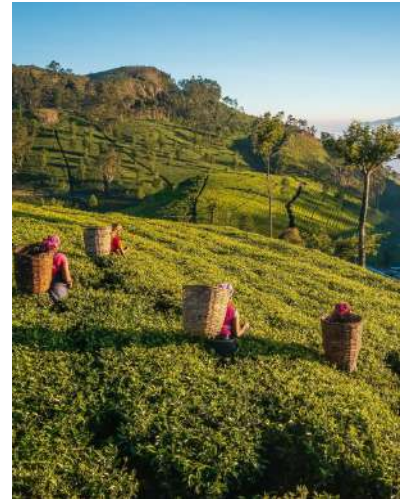




EXOTIC GLOBAL HOLIDAYS · DESTINATION MANAGEMENT
COMPANY · SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka in Five Nights

Five nights across the island's classic heart — the capital's colonial streets, the painted cave temples and rock fortress of the Cultural Triangle, the hill capital of Kandy and its sacred tooth relic, and a two-night finish on the palm-fringed southern coast.

Ayubowan

Thank you for choosing Exotic Global Holidays to shape your Sri Lankan journey. As the island's premier destination management company, we build authentic, unhurried travel around the people who take it — your interests, your pace, your comfort and your budget.

Six days are given to Sri Lanka's classic heart. You begin among Colombo's restless streets, then head north to the Cultural Triangle for the painted caves of Dambulla and the climb to Sigiriya Rock Fortress, with the gathering elephant herds of Minneriya close by. From there to Kandy, last capital of the Sinhalese kings and home to the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic and its drums and dancers, before the long run down to the south coast for two unhurried nights by the sea — the ramparts of Galle Fort, whales offshore in season, and a long stretch of palm-backed sand.

On the pages that follow you will find the journey day by day — sights, suggested timings, our insider tips, accommodation and everything included. Optional add-ons are marked and guidance given throughout, but the rhythm of each day remains yours to set.

We look forward to welcoming you to the island. Until then, may you travel safely and with great anticipation.

EXOTIC GLOBAL HOLIDAYS · CRAFTING AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES
THROUGH SRI LANKA

03 · DAY BY DAY

The journey, day by day

DAY	ROUTE	OVERNIGHT	NIGHTS
01	Airport — Colombo	Colombo	1
02	Colombo — Dambulla	Dambulla	1
03	Dambulla — Kandy	Kandy	1
04	Kandy — South Coast	South Coast	2
05	South Coast	South Coast	↳
06	South Coast — Airport	Departure	—

DAY 01 · ARRIVAL — COLOMBO

Ayubowan! On arrival at Bandaranaike International Airport, you are met by your Exotic Global Holidays chauffeur-guide and assisted with a smooth transfer to your hotel in nearby Colombo — just 40 minutes away. Check in to your hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure. In the evening, explore the restaurants around Colombo.

TRAVEL TIP *Colombo can be humid on arrival — keep a change of light cotton clothing and a local SIM card in your hand luggage, and change a small amount of currency at the airport for tips and tuk-tuk fares.*

△ Overnight: Colombo



DAY 02 · COLOMBO — DAMBULLA

After an early breakfast, set out on a short tour of Colombo — the colonial arcades and clock tower of the Fort quarter, the crowded lanes of Pettah bazaar, and the serene shrine rooms of Gangaramaya Temple beside Beira Lake — before heading north into the dry-zone plains of the Cultural Triangle. At Dambulla, a stairway climbs a granite outcrop to the Royal Rock Temple, five linked caves holding more than 150 Buddha images and ceilings painted with murals that follow every contour of the living rock — a place of worship without a break for more than two thousand years. In the afternoon, an optional jeep safari into Minneriya National Park, where herds drawn to the receding reservoir make up what is known as The Gathering, one of the largest concentrations of wild Asian elephants anywhere.



TRAVEL TIP *It is a long drive north — around four hours — so make early start, and keep temple wear handy: Dambulla asks for covered shoulders and knees, and shoes come off at the top. Depending on water levels, your guide may switch the afternoon safari to neighbouring Kaudulla or Eco Park; trust the call, as the elephants move between all three.*

△ Overnight: Dambulla / Sigiriya

DAY 03 · DAMBULLA — KANDY

An early climb up Sigiriya Rock Fortress, the fifth-century citadel King Kasyapa raised on a 200-metre column of rock — water gardens and boulder gardens at the base, the mirror wall and the celebrated frescoes of the Sigiriya maidens halfway up, the giant lion's paws at the final stairway, and the palace foundations on the summit with the plains laid out in every direction.

Afterwards, drive south towards Kandy, stopping at a Matale-area spice garden where cinnamon, cardamom, pepper and vanilla grow within a few paces of each other, and at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya — sixty hectares of avenue palms and orchids held in a loop of the Mahaweli River. In the evening, a Kandyan cultural performance brings drummers, masked dancers and fire-walkers to the stage.



TRAVEL TIP Start Sigiriya at 7 am — by mid-morning the 1,200 steps are hot, crowded and slow, and the metal spiral stair to the frescoes becomes a queue; Pidurangala opposite gives the better photograph of Sigiriya itself. Arrive thirty minutes early for the evening cultural show to get a seat near the front.

△ Overnight: Kandy

DAY 04 · KANDY — SOUTH COAST

A morning in Kandy, the last capital of the Sinhalese kings, ringed by hills around its lake. The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is the spiritual centre of the island and of the Buddhist world beyond it; time your visit for the morning pooja ceremony, when drummers and horn players lead the opening of the shrine and pilgrims press forward with lotus flowers. Afterwards, set out on the long run south-west to the coast — several hours by road and expressway — where your beach hotel and a long stretch of palm-backed sand wait. The rest of the day is yours for the pool, the sea or nothing at all.

TRAVEL TIP The tooth relic temple enforces its dress code strictly — white or light clothing, shoulders and knees covered, shoes and hats left at the counter; the morning pooja is around 9.30 am. It is a long transfer to the coast, so make an early start and break the drive with lunch on the way.



△ Overnight: South coast beach hotel · night 1 of 2

DAY 05 · BEACH STAY (SOUTH COAST)

A full day on the coast, shaped however you like it. Galle Fort is the obvious draw — a walled Dutch town of ramparts, coral-stone churches and shaded verandah cafes that is best walked in the cooler light of early morning or late afternoon, finishing at the lighthouse as the sea turns gold. Closer to the hotel, a boat safari on the Madu River threads mangrove tunnels and tiny island hermitages, and the stilt fishermen of Koggala still perch above the surf at dawn and dusk. Between November and April, an early boat from Mirissa gives you a strong chance of blue whales and spinner dolphins.



TRAVEL TIP *The Indian Ocean here has a real undertow — swim between the flags where lifeguards are posted, and ask your chauffeur-guide which beach is safest on the day, as it changes with the monsoon. Whale-watching boats leave around 6 am and sell out in season, so book the day before.*

△ Overnight: South coast beach hotel · night 2 of 2

DAY 06 · SOUTH COAST — BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Breakfast at leisure, and depending on your flight time perhaps a last swim or a walk along the sand. Your chauffeur-guide then transfers you to Bandaranaike International Airport for your onward flight — around three hours from the south coast by the Southern Expressway — with assistance at check-in. We hope you leave with a sense of the island rather than a checklist of it, and we would be glad to welcome you back.

TRAVEL TIP *Allow three hours before an international departure, and remember the drive up from the south coast can take three hours or more, so plan the morning around your flight time. Buffalo-curd, cinnamon and any wooden or antique-looking item should be declared or checked before you pack it; export of genuine antiquities is prohibited.*

△ Overnight: — Departure

04 · ACCOMMODATION

Where you will stay

The hotels below are offered at two comfort levels for the same itinerary. Please confirm which category you would like us to quote.

DESTINATION	NTS	4-STAR OPTION	5-STAR OPTION
Colombo	1	Radisson Hotel Colombo	Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo
Dambulla / Sigiriya	1	Habarana Village by Cinnamon	Cinnamon Lodge Habarana
Kandy	1	Cinnamon Citadel Kandy	Earl's Regency
South Coast (Beach)	2	Turyaa Kalutara	Cinnamon Bey Beruwala

The itinerary comprises 5 nights and 6 days. All hotels are subject to availability at the time of confirmation; should a listed property be unavailable, we will do our very best to secure a similar alternative of the same category at the same cost; where that is not possible, an alternative will be offered with any supplement advised to you in advance.

Pricing & terms

Please contact us for pricing and terms and conditions.

READY WHEN YOU ARE

Ayubowan — and safe travels

Tell us what you would like changed and we will rework the journey around it. Nothing here is fixed until you say so.