

## 9 Day Highlights of Sri Lanka

### AVG Travels – World Travel Experts!

Local Knowledge. Vacations of a Lifetime.

Discover the world with AVG Travels, where our team of destination experts combines local knowledge with a passion for adventure to offer you the vacation of a lifetime. At AVG Travels, we not only provide an immersive travel experience, prioritize your comfort, safety, and enjoyment, but also showcase the beauty and cultural richness of stunning destinations.

Specialists in touring since 2015, AVG Travels, previously known as Asia Vacation Group, are proud to craft your itinerary and create memories that last a lifetime. Travel with confidence knowing your trip has been thoughtfully crafted by our experts with you personally in mind.

International Flights Included	Small Group Journey	Fully Escorted
7 Day Change Of Mind		

### Day by Day Itinerary

Negombo, Sigiriya, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Tissamaharama (Yala National Park), Galle

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Marvel at **Dambulla Cave Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with its intricate rock carvings and stunning Buddha statues
- Climb the iconic **Sigiriya Rock Fortress**, also known as Lion's Rock, and discover one of Sri Lanka's most extraordinary architectural marvels
- Explore the ruins of **Polonnaruwa**, Sri Lanka's second-oldest kingdom, and immerse yourself in the island's rich history
- Visit the revered **Temple of the Tooth** in Kandy, a significant Buddhist pilgrimage site. This sacred temple, housing the tooth relic of Buddha, offers visitors a spiritual journey
- Watch a **Cultural Show** featuring traditional Sri Lankan dance, music, and vibrant costumes, highlighting cultural heritage through elaborate performances
- Experience a **scenic train ride** from Nanu Oya to Ella, hailed as one of the most beautiful train journeys in the world
- Spend time at a **tea plantation** estate in the picturesque hill country and learn the art to brewing the perfect cup of tea
- Stroll the charming streets of colonial Galle with its UNESCO World Heritage listed **Galle Fort**

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Home - Negombo

Ayubowan. Welcome to Sri Lanka!

Upon arrival at Colombo's Bandaranaike International Airport you will be met and transferred to your Negombo hotel for check-in.

**Please Note:** Although most flights arrive late at night, due to airline flight scheduling and availability, some departures may occur one day prior.

**Meals:** In-flight

**Accommodation:** Regal Reseau Hotel & Spa 4\* or similar

## **Day 2: Negombo - Dambulla - Sigiriya**

After breakfast, drive to Dambulla (160 km / 4 hours). Upon arrival, visit Dambulla Cave Temple, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site dating from the 1st century BCE.

Marvel at the impressive rock formations towering 160 metres above the surroundings, housing intricate religious and worldly paintings and sculptures. Witness the remarkable 15-metre-long reclining Buddha statue carved directly into the rock.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner.

**Accommodation:** Wewa Addara Hotel 3\* or similar

## **Day 3: Sigiriya - Polonnaruwa - Sigiriya**

Start your day with an early breakfast before climbing the iconic Sigiriya Rock Fortress, known as Lion's Rock. Take in the impressive views at the summit of this 5th-century marvel. A UNESCO World Heritage site, built by King Kassapa I, it served as a royal citadel for more than 18 years and showcases extraordinary artistry and architecture, including the famous mirror wall and stunning frescoes.

After exploring Sigiriya, travel to Polonnaruwa, and feast on an authentic farmer's lunch of curry and rice using local ingredients and prepared by a local family.

Discover the ancient Polonnaruwa Kingdom, Sri Lanka's second-oldest kingdom, featuring impressive ruins like the Gal Viharaya, Lankathilake, and the Vatadage.

**Please Note:** Starting from the base, the climb up Sigiriya Rock involves over 1200 metal stairs or steep steps. For those unable to make it to the summit, relax in the royal gardens or visit the Sigiriya Museum that offers exhibits and background on the cultural and religious significance of Sigiriya.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Wewa Addara Hotel 3\* or similar

## **Day 4: Sigiriya - Kandy**

Set off for Kandy (90 km / 2 hours) with a stop at a Spice Garden in Matale. Learn about the ingredients used in Sri Lankan cuisine, experience a spice massage, and shop for natural products.

Continue to Kandy and explore the city on foot, visiting the Central Market and picturesque Kandy Lake. Witness the Temple of the Tooth, a significant Buddhist site. Built during the 17th century, the UNESCO World Heritage site houses the sacred tooth relic, which was brought to Sri Lanka in the 4th century A.D.

This evening be entertained with a traditional Sri Lankan cultural dance performance accompanied by musicians.

**Meals:** Breakfast.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Topaz 4\* or similar

**Please Note:** During the visit to the Temple of the Tooth, please wear clothing covering knees and shoulders, as a sign of respect. You will also be required to remove your shoes.

## **Day 5: Kandy - Tea Plantation - Nuwara Eliya**

Before leaving Kandy today, stop for a visit at the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, home to 4,000 plant species and once enjoyed by a Kandyan queen.

Continue towards Nuwara Eliya. On the way, stop and visit a tea plantation and a factory. Here you will enjoy the absolute tea experience, taking you from the young tea leaves being plucked to processed in the factory onsite to make an amazing cup of tea.

If you are interested, a tea plantation is the best place to purchase high quality tea.

Today ends in the hills of Nuwara Eliya.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner.

**Accommodation:** Ripon Grand Hill 3\* or similar

**Please Note:** The temperature in Nuwara Eliya will be 20-25c during the day, and 10-15c during the night. Warm clothing is recommended.

## **Day 6: Nuwara Eliya - Nanu Oya - Ella - Tissamaharama (Yala National Park)**

After breakfast, embark on one of South Asia's most famous train rides. The train journey from Nanu Oya to Ella is widely regarded as one of the most extraordinary rail experiences in the world. This picturesque route through Sri

Lanka's hill country offers stunning views of tea plantations, misty valleys, and cascading waterfalls

Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel in Tissamaharama for check in.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner.

**Accommodation:** Chaarya Resort & Spa 4\* or similar

**Please note:** Sri Lanka Railways have a manual booking system for train reservations. Tickets can only be booked 30 days prior to departure. On the rare occasion the train is fully booked we will cover the route by road.

#### **Day 7: Tissamaharama (Yala National Park) - Galle**

Spend the morning at your leisure or opt for a safari at Yala National Park, home to the world's highest concentration of leopards, and diverse wildlife including majestic elephants, sloth bears, sambars, jackals, spotted deer, and a variety of bird species.

Afterwards proceed to Galle (150 km / 2.5 hours), a historical town with well preserved Dutch and Portuguese colonial architecture and renowned for its Galle Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Stroll through the charming streets, walk along the ramparts, and soak in the views from the lighthouse, and more.

**Meals:** Breakfast.

**Accommodation:** Fort Bliss Galle 3\* or similar

#### **Day 8: Galle - Colombo - Home**

Relax until your transfer to Colombo's Bandaranaike International Airport for your flight back home.

**Meals:** Breakfast.

**Accommodation:** In-flight

#### **Day 9: Home**

Welcome home. We hope you have enjoyed your amazing Sri Lankan adventure with AVG Travels.

## **INCLUSIONS**

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- **Return international flights**
- Small group journey, max. 16 travelers
- 7 nights in hand-picked 3 and 4-star hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfast, 1 lunch, 4 dinners
- Return airport transfers in country on the first and last day of tour
- Fully escorted by English-speaking local guides
- Dedicated private air-conditioned vehicles
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as per itinerary
- 24/7 Support

## **EXCLUSIONS**

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- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Tipping and gratuities
- Any service not clearly mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities listed in the itinerary
- Personal expenses

## **DEPARTURE DATES: PRICE IS QUOTED IN \$ PER PERSON**

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DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Friday</b> 20 Dec 2024	<b>Saturday</b> 28 Dec 2024	\$4,199		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 10 Jan 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 18 Jan 2025	\$3,899		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 24 Jan 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 01 Feb 2025	\$3,899		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 07 Feb 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 15 Feb 2025	\$2,899		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 21 Feb 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 01 Mar 2025	\$2,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 07 Mar 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 15 Mar 2025	\$2,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 21 Mar 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 29 Mar 2025	\$2,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 28 Mar 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 05 Apr 2025	\$3,099		<a href="#">Sold Out</a>
<b>Friday</b> 04 Apr 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 12 Apr 2025	\$3,099		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 18 Apr 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 26 Apr 2025	\$3,099		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 02 May 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 10 May 2025	\$2,399		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 16 May 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 24 May 2025	\$2,399		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 06 Jun 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 14 Jun 2025	\$2,899		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 20 Jun 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 28 Jun 2025	\$2,999		<a href="#">Sold Out</a>
<b>Friday</b> 18 Jul 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 26 Jul 2025	\$3,099		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 15 Aug 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 23 Aug 2025	\$2,699		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 12 Sep 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 20 Sep 2025	\$2,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 10 Oct 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 18 Oct 2025	\$2,999		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Friday</b> 24 Oct 2025	<b>Saturday</b> 01 Nov 2025	\$2,899		<a href="#">Book</a>

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Friday 14 Nov 2025	Saturday 22 Nov 2025	\$2,999		<a href="#">Book</a>

## OPTIONAL TOURS

### FINE PRINT

#### FLIGHT INFORMATION

This package includes international flights from Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane or other city if requested when selecting your departure city.

#### Interstate Surcharge

Surcharges may apply and will be shown during the booking process when choosing your departure city.

In this package, we will use a selection of different airlines which may include a mix of full-service carriers or low-cost carriers. Luggage allowance is included.

- Some flights will require a minimum of 1 transit (maximum 2).
- All tickets will include 20-23 kilos checked baggage per person, along with 7 kilos of hand luggage.
- Despite the airlines baggage allowance, we recommend travelling with 20 kilos per person due to restrictions with internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train transportation. Also, you will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters is not included. If travelling over this amount, you will be liable for any excess baggage fees enforced by the airline, payable direct.
- Once ticketed, flights are non-refundable. **Any changes will be subject to the airline rules, Airline change fees and an AVG Travels change fee of \$250 per person.**
- Full names as per passport (including all middle names) are required. Any error in the names submitted will be subject to an AVG Travels name change fee of \$150 plus any applicable fees charged by the airline, or the ticket may be non-refundable with the purchase of a new ticket required.
- Any airline schedule changes or cancellations are beyond our control. It is important that you, as the customer, stay up-to-date with the latest airline schedule information prior to your departure. If a schedule change results in extended transits or an earlier/later departure from your destination, any additional accommodation or alternative arrangements will be at the traveler's expense.
- Any airline 'extras' such as pre-allocated seating is at your own arrangement (additional charges apply)
- After booking, the price payable may be subject to change as a result of factors beyond the control of AVG Travels. AVG Travels reserves the right to increase the price payable and this will be reflected on the customer's invoice. Increases may be in relation to, but not limited to, currency fluctuations, airline taxes, airfare increases and fuel surcharges.
- Internal flights (where applicable and included in the itinerary) will be using a local carrier and may include low-cost carriers without meals or entertainment. Checked baggage will still be included for each passenger. Any additional baggage required is payable at time of check-in.
- If you are travelling with another party on a separate booking, we cannot guarantee that the same flights will be booked for all parties, as this strictly depends on availability.
- You will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters are not included. If travelling over the recommended amount, you will be liable for any excess baggage fees enforced by the airline, payable directly.
- In the event of that you no-show on your scheduled flight, please be aware the airline will require you to pay a no show fee, Airline reissue fee plus any additional airfare and taxes. AVG Travels will also charge a \$250 admin fee to assist reaccommodating you on the next available flight. Please note that depending on the airline's policy, purchasing a new ticket may be required.

#### Flight requests, amendments or preferences

We understand customers may wish to request changes to their included airfares. If you wish to fly with a certain airline, land at a certain time or change your flight in other ways we will gladly provide you with a personalized quote tailored to your specific requirements.

We would be more than happy to provide you with a quote for the following requests:

**Airline Preferences** – You may wish to fly with a particular airline

**Cabin Preferences** – These include upgrading to premium economy or business class

**Extensions** (start and end cities must remain the same) – You may request to extend your stay pre or post tour.

**Meal Requests** – You may request a specific meal for dietary requirements.

**Seat Requests** – If you would like to request particular seating. However please note, not all airlines allow the selection of pre-purchased seat arrangements.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Group Size

Minimum: 6

Maximum: 16

### Single Supplement

Single supplement is **\$330 per person** in addition to the twin share price.

### Paired Solo Traveler

Not available

### Triple Share

Not available

### Children

Children must be 12 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are the same price as adults.

### Tour Length

The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day-by-day itinerary for the time spent on land.

### Accommodation

The accommodation listed in the itinerary is intended as a guide only and is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

### Guides in Sri Lanka

**National Guides** are well versed in the overall history, geography and major attractions across multiple regions of Sri Lanka. They can share detailed explanations of the cultural elements of the country. Often holding professional certifications or license recognized by tourism authorities, they work closely with local guides to provide a seamless experience. Groups with 8 or more travelers will be accompanied by a National Guide.

**Local Guides** specialize in a specific region or city. They offer in-depth knowledge about local attractions, cultural nuances, history, and daily life. Fluent in the local language and with a deep understanding of local landmarks, traditions, and cuisine they offer insights into the area that a broader national guide might not cover.

**Chauffeur Guide** combines driving and guiding into one role. In addition to driving, the chauffeur guide can provide general information about the sights, history, culture, and local customs of the areas visited. They are typically well-versed in local customs, etiquette and norms to ensure interactions with locals are respectful and meaningful.

### Arrival and Departure Transfers

If the holiday you book is LAND ONLY, arrival and departure transfers are NOT included in your tour price. You will need to make your own way to the joining hotel.

### Physical Requirements

#### Fitness Level

A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, exploring the sights, climbing stairs and walking over a variety of terrains from cobblestones streets, hiking trails and moderate hills. There may be 1 or 2 days on tour when walking can cover 4- 6 kms over uneven terrain. Regular walking and light exercise before your trip can help ensure a more enjoyable and hassle-free travel experience.

#### Pace of Travel

The itinerary is moderately paced with a mix of sightseeing, travel between destinations and some time at leisure. Travel times between locations can vary, and road conditions may affect the schedule. Be prepared for some early starts and active days, but also enjoy some downtime to rest and explore independently. Flexibility will enhance

your overall experience.

### **Tipping, Gratuities and Porterage**

A friendly reminder that tipping, gratuities and porterage is not included in your package. Tipping is customary in many countries as it makes up the wage component for these services. Many countries don't have a minimum wage like we do in Australia. Please be advised that USD \$6 per person/day will be collected in country by your tour escort on Day 1. This will cover all services throughout your journey but does not cover tipping or gratuities for room service, optional tours or any activities you do without the tour group.

### **Tour Documentation**

Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

### **Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is recommended to protect yourself against the unexpected. In addition to the support that a policy may provide, you may be asked to present a copy of your travel insurance documentation while traveling.

We have partnered with Nib Travel Insurance to offer our customers competitive rates for their travel insurance. You can book Comprehensive or Essentials cover for your domestic, international or multi-trip journeys simply with us.

### **Visa & Passport information**

It is the traveler's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of return and must have more than 2 blank pages.

### **Sri Lanka**

An e-visa is required for entry into Sri Lanka. The Department of Immigration and Emigration launched a system called "Electronic Travel Authorization – ETA" in order to grant prior approval for a visa online for foreign nationals who visit Sri Lanka. You can visit <http://eta.gov.lk/slvisa/> to purchase your visa online.

E-Visa's are only valid for 30 days, so you can only apply closer to your travel dates. Please do not apply for your visa until you have your travel documentation. It will take 3 business days to be approved. The cost is US\$50 per person.

### **Update 1 October 2024**

**DELAYED. The proposed implementation of visa-free travel, as previously announced in August 2024, has been put on hold with the recent elections in Sri Lanka. As such all guest will need to apply for a e-visa/eta using the following <http://eta.gov.lk/slvisa/>**

Please note that these details are subject to change without notice. We recommend visiting <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/> for up-to-date information in terms of entry requirements.

### **Weather**

Sri Lanka has a tropical climate, characterized by two distinct monsoon seasons. The southwest monsoon brings rain from May to September, while the northeast monsoon affects the eastern part of the island from December to February. Be prepared for sudden rain showers, especially during monsoon periods. Temperatures are generally warm year-round, ranging from 25°C to 32°C (77°F to 90°F). Humidity is high in coastal areas while the central highlands are cooler. Pack light breathable clothing for coastal regions and warmer layers for cooler highlands.

### **Currency**

Sri Lanka's currency is the Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR), symbolized as Rs. Banknotes ranging from 10 to 5,000 and coins from 1 to 10 rupees are commonly used. ATMs are widely available in urban areas, and credit / debit cards are accepted in many hotels, restaurants and shops. It's advisable to carry some cash for smaller transactions and rural areas where card facilities may be limited. Currency exchange services are available at airports, hotels, and local exchange bureaus.

### **Electricity**

Sri Lanka operates on a 230V supply voltage with a frequency of 50Hz. The common plug types are D (three round pins in a triangular pattern) and G (three rectangular pins in a triangular pattern) so travelers from countries with different plug types may need a power adapter. Generally hotels and accommodations will provide adapters upon request or have multi-purpose sockets, but it is wise to carry one for convenience.

### **HOW TO EXTEND YOUR STAY**

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour. On this tour you can choose from the following options:

### **Pre Tour Accommodation**

- \$250 per room, per night including one-way airport transfer based on double/twin room share

**Post Tour Accommodation**

- \$250 per room, per night including one-way airport transfer based on double/twin room share

Please select the number of extra nights required in the 'Additional Nights Accommodation' field when making your purchase. The additional cost for these arrangements will be added to your final payment invoice and are subject to availability.

**AVG Travels**

Australia Call: 1800 229 339

New Zealand Call: 0800 220 920

US Call: 1 888 440 6001