

13 Day Insights 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, Ella, Tissamaharama (Yala National Park), Mirissa (South Coast), Bentota, Colombo

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
- Feast on an authentic **farmer's lunch** using local ingredients and prepared by a local family
- 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
- 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** and witness skilled hands plucking leaves, before entering the factory to see leaves processed, dried, and crafted into flavourful teas
- Enjoy **free time** in Ella, Mirissa and Colombo to uncover the destinations and personalize your journey to suit your own interests
- Stroll the charming streets of colonial Galle with its UNESCO World Heritage listed **Galle Fort**
- Relax at **Bentota**, one of the country's south western coastal towns renowned for its pristine beaches and watersports

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 meal

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 of 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

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 for check in.

Meals: Breakfast.

Accommodation: BBQ HUB Ella 3* 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: Ella - Tissamaharama (Yala National Park)

Spend a morning at leisure or opt for the optional tour to Lipton Seat (paid locally). Later continue to Tissamaharama and en route visit the picturesque Rawana Waterfall for some stunning photos and the iconic Nine Arches Bridge, a marvel of colonial-era railway construction. Learn about its history and take in the surrounding greenery.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner.

Accommodation: Chaarya Resort & Spa 4* or similar

Please note: Optional Lipton Seat

Embark on an unforgettable journey to Lipton Seat in Haputale. Trek through emerald-green tea estates, ascending to the renowned viewpoint where Sir Thomas Lipton himself once beheld the breathtaking landscapes. As you reach the top, be captivated by the panoramic vistas that stretch as far as the eye can see. Immerse yourself in the rich tea culture and savor the serene beauty of this iconic destination.

Day 8: Tissamaharama (Yala National Park) - Mirissa (South Coast)

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.

Later, continue along the south coast for an overnight stay.

Meals: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Mandara Resort 4* or similar

Day 9: Mirissa (South Coast) - Galle - Bentota

Spend the morning at your leisure or join the optional whale watching adventure. After check-out, visit Galle, 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.

Continue to the Bentota, (80 km / 90 minutes) celebrated for its beautiful beaches, crystal-clear waters, and vibrant water sports.

Meals: Breakfast.

Accommodation: NH Bentota Ceysands Resort 4* or similar

Day 10: Bentota

Enjoy a free day at leisure in Bentota. Take advantage of the hotel's wide array of facilities including several restaurants and bars, an impressive swimming pool or engage in various sports activities as you wish.

Meals: Breakfast.

Accommodation: NH Bentota Ceysands Resort 4* or similar

Day 11: Bentota - Colombo

Today, journey to Colombo (90 km / 2 hours). Upon arrival, check in to your downtown hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure, exploring the bustling capital of Sri Lanka. Uncover this vibrant city known for its cultural sites, markets, and scenic waterfronts

Meals: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Steuart by Citrus 3* or similar

Day 12: Colombo - Home

Enjoy further free time exploring Colombo, do some last minute shopping along Galle Face Green or jump in a tuk-

tuk to Colombo 7 for great coffee and cake.

At the appropriate time, transfer to the airport for departure.

Meals: Breakfast.

Accommodation: In-flight meal

Day 13: Home

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

INCLUSIONS

- **Return international flights**
- Small group journey, max. 20 travellers
- 11 nights in hand-picked 3 and 4-star hotels
- Daily breakfast, 1 lunch, 4 dinners
- Return airport transfers in country
- Fully escorted by English-speaking local guides
- Dedicated private air-conditioned vehicles
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as per itinerary
- 24/7 Support

EXCLUSIONS

- 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 AU\$ PER PERSON

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Friday 04 Oct 2024	Wednesday 16 Oct 2024	AU\$2,799		Book
Friday 18 Oct 2024	Wednesday 30 Oct 2024	AU\$2,799		Sold Out
Friday 08 Nov 2024	Wednesday 20 Nov 2024	AU\$2,799		Book
Friday 22 Nov 2024	Wednesday 04 Dec 2024	AU\$3,099		Book
Friday 06 Dec 2024	Wednesday 18 Dec 2024	AU\$3,599		Book
Friday 10 Jan 2025	Wednesday 22 Jan 2025	AU\$3,799		Book

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Friday 24 Jan 2025	Wednesday 05 Feb 2025	AU\$3,699		Book
Friday 07 Feb 2025	Wednesday 19 Feb 2025	AU\$3,099		Book
Friday 21 Feb 2025	Wednesday 05 Mar 2025	AU\$3,099		Book
Friday 07 Mar 2025	Wednesday 19 Mar 2025	AU\$3,199		Book
Friday 21 Mar 2025	Wednesday 02 Apr 2025	AU\$3,199		Book
Friday 28 Mar 2025	Wednesday 09 Apr 2025	AU\$3,199		Book
Friday 04 Apr 2025	Wednesday 16 Apr 2025	AU\$3,199		Book
Friday 18 Apr 2025	Wednesday 30 Apr 2025	AU\$3,599		Book
Friday 02 May 2025	Wednesday 14 May 2025	AU\$2,999		Book
Friday 16 May 2025	Wednesday 28 May 2025	AU\$2,999		Book
Friday 06 Jun 2025	Wednesday 18 Jun 2025	AU\$2,999		Book
Friday 20 Jun 2025	Wednesday 02 Jul 2025	AU\$2,999		Book
Wednesday 03 Sep 2025	Monday 15 Sep 2025	AU\$3,099		Book

OPTIONAL TOURS



WHALE WATCHING
AU\$120



MORNING SAFARI YALA NATIONAL PARK
AU\$135



VISIT LIPTON SEAT
Contact

FINE PRINT

FLIGHT INFORMATION

This package includes return flights from Sydney/Melbourne.

Flights from Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth attract a **\$400 surcharge**.

Airline Selection: We book the best available airlines for your journey, which may include a mix of full-service and low-cost carriers. Specific airline requests can be made at the time of purchase. This includes upgrades to your preferred carrier, premium economy or business class cabins or specific seats. Whilst we will try our best, not all requests can be confirmed.

Flight Conditions: Flights may not be direct and could involve a maximum of two transits.

Ticketing Information: Once issued, tickets are non-refundable. Changes are subject to airline rules, airline change fees, and an Asia Vacations Group change fee of \$250 per person.

Passenger Details: Please ensure all traveller names are as per passports. This includes all middle names. Errors may incur a name change fee of \$150 plus airline charges, or require the purchase of a new ticket.

Flight Schedule Changes: Any changes or cancellations to airline schedules are outside our control. We recommend staying updated with airline schedules before departure. Additional expenses for extended transits or alternative arrangements are the traveller's responsibility.

Internal Airfares: Local flights included in your itinerary may utilise low-cost carriers without meals or entertainment. Checked baggage is included; any additional baggage fees are payable at check-in.

Booking Considerations: If travelling with others on separate bookings, we may not be able to guarantee all flights are the same due to availability.

Luggage and Fees: You are responsible for your luggage at all times. Excess baggage fees, if incurred, are payable directly to the airline. All tickets will include 20 kg checked baggage per person, plus 7 kg of hand luggage. We recommend travelling with a max 20kg per person due to restrictions on internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train transportation. Please note, you will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters are not included.

No-Show Policy: Missing your flight may result in fees including a no-show fee, airline reissue fee, and possible new ticket purchase. Asia Vacations Group charges a \$250 admin fee for re-booking assistance.

Price Adjustments: Prices are final at the time of ticketing. Any subsequent changes may result in additional costs due to factors beyond our control, such as currency fluctuations or airline surcharges.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Group Size

Minimum: 6

Maximum: 20

Single Supplement

Single supplement is **\$835 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 22 August 2024

The Sri Lankan government has announced a visa-free access policy for citizens of 35 countries, including Australia

starting from October 1, 2024, and lasting for six months. During this period, travelers will be able to visit Sri Lanka without a visa.

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.

ASIA VACATION GROUP

Australia Call: 1800 229 339