

9 Day Sri Lanka Wildlife and Culture

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, Anuradhapura, Sigiriya, Kandy

HIGHLIGHTS

- Unwind at **Negombo**, a vibrant coastal town with a picturesque lagoon and a lively fish market
- Embark on a wildlife adventure in Sri Lanka's largest national park, **Wilpattu**, where elusive leopards, sloth bears, and elephants roam
- Discover **Anuradhapura**, renowned for its well-preserved ruins and sacred Buddhist sites and a UNESCO World Heritage site
- 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
- Take a jeep safari in **Minneriya National Park** and search for a rich tapestry of wildlife and herds of elephants
- Marvel at **Dambulla Cave Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with its intricate rock carvings and stunning Buddha statues
- 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
- Learn to prepare traditional **Sri Lankan cuisine** using fresh local ingredients and guided by a friendly host at a local family home
- Watch a **Cultural Show** featuring traditional Sri Lankan dance, music, and vibrant costumes, highlighting cultural heritage through elaborate performance

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 hotel for check-in. Enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure. Negombo is a vibrant coastal city in Sri Lanka, a short drive from the capital Colombo. Known for its beaches, bustling fish markets, vibrant local culture and a picturesque lagoon with a series of canals built by the Portuguese and Dutch colonial powers it's the perfect

introduction to Sri Lanka.

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: Goldi Sands Hotel 4* or similar

Day 2: Negombo - Wilpattu National Park - Anuradhapura

Rise early for a fascinating optional tour (additional expense paid locally) to the Fish Market, the second largest open-air fish market in Sri Lanka. Spend time soaking in the early morning activity, witness the fishermen in their boats returning to the shore with their catch and then observe the daily auctions. Return to the hotel for breakfast before setting off for the journey to Wilpattu National Park (150 km / 3.5 hours).

Embark on a jeep safari in Wilpattu National Park, Sri Lanka's largest wildlife sanctuary. Search for diverse wildlife, including leopards, elephants, and various bird species, while traversing scenic landscapes of ancient lakes and dense forests. Knowledgeable guides enhance the experience, providing insights into the park's unique ecosystems and conservation efforts.

Continue to Anuradhapura, the first capital and undoubtedly the grandest city of ancient Sri Lanka, and check-in to the hotel and relax.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel Alakamnda 3* or similar

Day 3: Anuradhapura

Set off for a morning exploration of Anuradhapura, renowned for its well-preserved ruins and sacred Buddhist sites. Visit the iconic Sri Maha Bodhi tree, believed to be a sapling of the original tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment and the oldest historically documented tree in the world. Explore the impressive Dagoba (stupa) of Ruwanwelisaya, the ruins of the Abhayagiri Monastery, and the historic Tank of Nuwara Wewa. This journey immerses visitors in rich history and the spiritual essence of this UNESCO World Heritage site. Return to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel Alakamnda 3* or similar

Day 4: Anuradhapura - Sigiriya

After a leisurely breakfast, drive to Sigiriya (75 kms, 1.5 hours) passing through picturesque landscapes, vibrant villages, and lush greenery. Enjoy some time to relax and refresh before its time to climb the iconic Sigiriya Rock, 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.

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.

Accommodation: Hotel Sigiriya 4* or similar

Day 5: Sigiriya - Polonnaruwa - Minneriya National Park - Sigiriya

Travel to Polonnaruwa (60 kms / 75 minutes), and discover Sri Lanka's second-oldest kingdom, featuring impressive ruins. Explore the magnificent Royal Palace, stunning Gal Vihara rock sculptures, and the intricately carved Parakrama Samudra reservoir. The historical site showcases impressive Buddhist temples, statues, and relics, reflecting the rich heritage of the medieval kingdom.

Later, take a jeep safari in Minneriya National Park and encounter a rich tapestry of wildlife and natural beauty. As you traverse the park's diverse landscapes, you'll encounter herds of majestic elephants, often seen congregating around the expansive Minneriya Tank. The park's lush forests and grasslands are also home to a variety of wildlife, including deer, leopards, and a vibrant array of bird species.

Meals: Breakfast.

Accommodation: Hotel Sigiriya 4* or similar

Day 6: Sigiriya - Dambulla - Kandy

Set off from Sigiriya after breakfast towards Kandy (90 kms / 2.5 hours), and see the landscape transform to rolling hills and lush greenery. En route stop to visit the renowned Dambulla Cave Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The temple complex consists of five caves, each adorned with exquisite ancient murals and over 150 Buddha statues. The caves are carved into a vast rock outcrop, providing a striking backdrop and panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.

Continue to Kandy and take a scenic drive around Kandy, viewing the 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 7: Kandy

Enjoy a free morning before making your way to a local family home for a hands-on cooking workshop. Learn to prepare traditional dishes using fresh local ingredients guided by a friendly host, you'll explore vibrant flavours and techniques, culminating in a delicious homemade lunch that reflects the rich culinary heritage of Sri Lankan cuisine.

This afternoon take the opportunity for an optional tour (additional cost, paid locally) to visit at the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, home to 4,000 plant species and once enjoyed by a Kandyan queen. Stroll through lush landscapes, admire vibrant orchids, and marvel at the towering palms. Explore the enchanting Spice Garden and relax by the tranquil lake, all while soaking in the rich biodiversity and historical significance of this beautiful haven.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel Topaz 4* or similar

Day 8: Kandy - Negombo - Home

Enjoy your final morning in Kandy before your transfer to Colombo's Bandaranaike International Airport (150 km / 3 hours) 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

- **Return international flights**
- Small group journey, max. 20 travelers
- 7 nights in hand-picked hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfast, 1 lunch
- 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
- Two 500 ml water bottles per person per day
- 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 \$ PER PERSON

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Wednesday 15 Jan 2025	Thursday 23 Jan 2025	\$3,099		Book
Wednesday 12 Feb 2025	Thursday 20 Feb 2025	\$2,599		Book
Wednesday 12 Mar 2025	Thursday 20 Mar 2025	\$2,599		Book
Wednesday 09 Apr 2025	Thursday 17 Apr 2025	\$3,099		Book
Wednesday 07 May 2025	Thursday 15 May 2025	\$2,599		Book
Wednesday 04 Jun 2025	Thursday 12 Jun 2025	\$2,599		Book
Wednesday 02 Jul 2025	Thursday 10 Jul 2025	\$3,099		Book
Wednesday 30 Jul 2025	Thursday 07 Aug 2025	\$2,599		Book
Wednesday 27 Aug 2025	Thursday 04 Sep 2025	\$2,599		Book
Wednesday 24 Sep 2025	Thursday 02 Oct 2025	\$3,099		Book
Wednesday 22 Oct 2025	Thursday 30 Oct 2025	\$2,599		Book
Wednesday 19 Nov 2025	Thursday 27 Nov 2025	\$2,599		Book

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 re accommodating 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: 4

Maximum: 20

Single Supplement

Single supplement is **\$399 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.smarttraveller.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

- \$275 per room, per night including one-way airport transfer based on double/twin room share

Post Tour Accommodation

- \$275 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

