

Sri Lanka Travel: Homepage description

Why Sri Lanka?

Holidays in Sri Lanka are filled with amazing experiences in its sun kissed sandy shores, expeditions to the many UNESCO heritages sites, thrilling adventures of snorkelling and whale watching, relaxing at lush tea plantations, camping at the misty mountains and countless more places to explore. Sri Lanka offers the perfect blend of culture, beaches, awesome weather to everyone with many exciting activities, interesting cities to visit making the island a true paradise.

Sri Lanka is a South Asian island in the Indian Ocean is widely known for its scenic beauty. The tropical island nation offers the traveller remarkable combination of spectacular landscapes, enchanting cultural heritage sites, primeval beaches and unique experiences within a compact location. Within Sri Lanka's area of 65,525 sq. km lies 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, approximately 1300 km of pristine beach, 15 national parks that are home to endemic flora and fauna, 500,000 acres of flourishing tea plantations, 250 acres of botanical gardens, and 350 waterfalls of prevailing culture dating back to more than 2500 years.

To do in Sri Lanka

Pristine Beaches

The beach lover's paradise, the coast line of Sri Lanka is home to many stunning beaches. The scenic coast line bordered with coconut palms is a sun-worshippers dream. A quieter beach can be found at Kalpitiya known for its golden sands and quiet coves while perfect spot for solitude and lazy days spent enjoying a tan will be at Unawatuna. For adventurous water activities, the beaches of Bentota offers windsurfing, water skiing and diving, whereas Tangalle is famous for snorkelling and mesmerizing coral reefs. Whale watching in Mirissa is a must do in Sri Lanka if you are an adventure freak.



UNESCO world heritage sites

The World Heritage List compiled by UNESCO that are part of world's heritage to protect and preserve include 8 incredible attractions from Sri Lanka. They are the ruins of ancient Kingdom of Anuradhapura which flourished between 5th century BC and 10th century BC, ruins of Polonnaruwa Kingdom which succeeded Anuradhapura, and the remarkable Sigiriya rock that became a spectacular rock fortress with impressive water gardens. The entire exotic city of Kandy home to temple of tooth relic is a world heritage site along with five caves and temples in Dambulla dating back to 1st century. Currently, Dambulla city offers hot air ballooning which is a romantic and exciting highlight to your holiday while fly above the clouds and gently float above the island gazing at the natural beauty of Sri Lanka

The Galle Fort built by the Portuguese in 1588 said to be the famous Tarshish of the Bible where King Solomon Obtained gems and spices is a must visit World Heritage Site. Two natural landmarks in the list refers to Sinharaja Forest Reserve and Central Highlands bearing Peak Wilderness, Horton Plains, and the Knuckles Conservation Forest. A visit to these scenic sites holding years of culture and history of rise and fall of kingdoms is a must if you are in Sri Lanka.

	EIGHT	Polonnaruwa Ancient City	
	Galle Fort	UNESCO	
	WORLD	Dambulla Cave Temple	
	Anuradhapura Heritage Site	HERITAGE	
	Temple of the Tooth Kandy	Sinharaja Forest Reserve	
	SITES	Central Highlands (Horton Plains & Knuckles Range)	
	Sigiriya Rock Fortress		

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Adventure lovers

1. Rafting at Kithulgala

Kithulgala located in the wet zones of Sri Lanka is one of the wettest places in the country as it is affected by two monsoons. The weather is ideal to engage in white water rafting. For travellers in quest of adventure away from rushing rivers, the jungles around the river promises excellent trekking and bird watching experience. It is home to 23 of 27 endemic birds of Sri Lanka. This city also offers other activities such as confidence jumping, stream slides, water fall trekking, and adventure based training programs.



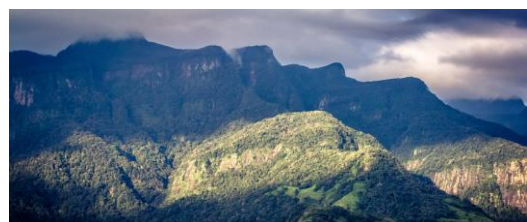
2. Whale watching excursions in Mirissa



Whale and dolphin watching in Mirissa is one of the most exciting water activities to do in Sri Lanka. The Warm Indian Ocean houses Blue whales, Bryde's whales, Sperm whales, Fin whales, Common dolphins, Bottlenose dolphins, Spinner dolphins, Rissos's dolphins. At times turtles and various fish species such as Bluefin tuna and flying fish can be spotted. The season starts in November and ends in April as the ocean is warm and calm during this period. The duration of tour is 3 to 5 hours and depends on spotting of whales hence plan in advance as this an adventure not to be missed if you are in Sri Lanka.

3. Knuckles trekking and camping

Knuckles mountain range situated in the Matale district which is a little away from Kandy gets its name due to resemblance to knuckles of a closed fist. Trekking is most popular and those who climb to the top obtain a visual treat from the breath-taking



scenery of the surrounding country side and greenery. Make sure to drop by the traditional village of Meemure and have hot tea with Jaggery.

4. Hiking at Horton Plains



Horton plains is a national park situated in the central highlands. This beautiful, primitive expanse of land is home to numerous endangered species. The hiking paths are laid through forests and plains hence you may spot a deer or two as you hike. At the southern edge of Horton plains is Worlds end, and is absolute nothingness. It is a magnificent view of southern side of Sri Lanka. The best hours to visit is in the morning between 6am and 10am before the clouds take over the skies and hence if you want to sight this mesmerizing view, plan ahead.

Wildlife safari game drives

The enormous number of untouched habitats in Sri Lanka is notably one of the more popular destinations for wildlife safaris. The pearl of the Indian Ocean is home to most thrilling big game wildlife tours of the world. From the main national parks, Yala has the highest leopard density in the world, Udawalawe is a habitat for water birds and elephants, Wilpattu is home to elephants, leopards, reptiles and birds and Minneriya is where the world's largest elephant gathering takes place. Be prepared to travel this part of island with your cameras on the go as wildlife as guaranteed to be astounding and trip will surely be fun and exciting.



Hill Country

The gorgeous hill country of Sri Lanka offers amazing landscapes. Nuwareliya, the heart of tea country located at an elevation of 1980 meters in the central highlands is of tropical abundances and pleasant cool mountain climate. The night temperature may plunge low enough to produce frost. It is perfect holiday destination if you are planning on escaping the heat or expect to relax among beautiful green mountains. The highlights of Nuwareliya are its lush plantations where you have the unusual opportunity of plucking the signature 'two leaves and a bud' which will be later processed for export tea, tasting tea at Labookelle tea centre, visit the Haggala botanical gardens, have a cold shower at the Ramboda falls, go horseback riding at Lake Gregory and visit the numerous strawberry farms around Nuwareliya for its gorgeous scenery and allows you to spend time with the animal following by tour of the factory where you can learn the process of manufacturing milk, cheese, butter and other dairy products. Travelling to Nuwareliya by coach



Travelling to Nuwareliya by coach

is considered the most scenic route and hence do not miss this city when you are visiting Sri Lanka.

Touring post war city of Jaffna



Located at northernmost part of island, Jaffna was once a city rich with learning and culture. Ruined by civil war that lasted for three decades, only some of its past glory can be glimpsed today. It is now gradually emerging from many years of isolation and fighting. The town is fascinating with its eclectic mixture of colonial charm and vibrant Tamil culture. People are friendly and can be reached via land of

air. The surroundings islands of Jaffna hold many sites such as remote temples and beaches. The Dutch fort on Neduntive islet and Nallur Kovil are several must-visit sites.

Tuk Tuk rides

Colombo and Kandy are vibrant, compact cities rich in culture, history and heritage. The city traffic however is unruly at times and hence best to get around is by taking a tuk tuk. The three-wheeled taxis offers travels an exhilarating experience and are notoriously fast, easy to park and manoeuvre through the tiny streets with ease. A ride by a tuk tuk is a must if you are in Sri Lanka.



Shopping

Shopping in Sri Lanka may take different forms like haggling with a handicraft-seller while sunbathing on the beach choosing fruit from traditional village store, 'the kade' while side-stepping from sacks of rice or checking bargain priced latest international fashions as Sri Lanka is a major garment exporter while enjoying peace of a luxurious shopping centre in Colombo.

Additionally, visit a handicraft shop and handlooms shops that are home to several handmade batik clothing and products. The ritual masks, lacquer ware, lace and wood carvings are popular in Sri Lanka. Also Sri Lanka widest variety of precious stones among world's gem producing countries such as - blue sapphires, star sapphires, rubies, cat's eye, garnets, moonstones, aquamarines and topazes. Sri Lanka naturally has a tradition in jewellery making, so you can bring your gems to life.



Sri Lanka dining

Sri Lanka also known as the Teardrop of India is home to numerous mouth-watering dishes. Making liberal use of local fruits such as coconut and Jackfruit, sea food and an arsenal of spices, Sri Lankan cooking delivers an abundance of incredible dishes. Some of the must try dishes are



kottu, hoppers, crab curry, isso wade and pol roti. Must try are the different accharus made from mango, olives, ambarella and wood apple. Sri Lanka is a food hub and hence do not forget to eat all you can as long as you can.