



Saturday · August 10th, 2019 - Saturday · August 17th, 2019

Sri Lanka Kandy Festival

Sri Lanka Kandy Festival (8 days)
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8 days

Duration

Day 1/10 August 2019
Arrival Transfer / Colombo
Meals Included: Breakfast

You will be met on arrival at the Bandaranayke International Airport for your transfer to Colombo.

After check in at your hotel, rest of the day is at leisure.

Accommodation: OZO Colombo (Double/Twin share)

Day 2/11 August 2019
Colombo/Dambulla/Sigiriya/Dambulla
Meals Included: Breakfast

Breakfast at hotel.

We then travel to Dambulla, stopping along the way to visit a local market.

On the way to Dambulla, we visit the Dambulla Cave temple, which was donated by King Walagambahu in the 1st century BC to Buddhist monks. Dambulla is a World Heritage Site and is the most impressive of Sri Lanka's cave temples. The complex of five caves with over 2000 sq. meters of painted walls and the ceiling is the largest area of paintings found in the world. These caves contain over 150 images of the Buddha of which the largest is the colossal figure of the Buddha carved out of rock spanning 14 meters.

After your cave tour, check into your hotel.

Later in the afternoon proceed to Sigiriya to visit to the Sigiriya Rock, which will remain an unforgettable experience of your Sri Lanka trip. Rich in both legend and architecture, the culminating ascent to the summit of the Sigiriya Rock (UNESCO World Heritage Site) is well worth the effort. Apart from the ruins of the palace and penthouse of the Parricidal King Kashyapa, you will be rewarded with the breathtaking panorama of the surrounding jungles. The site is also famous for the ancient landscaped gardens (5 AD) and the frescoes of the enticing bare breasted 'cloud maidens' depicting the typical dress of the palace courtesans.

Upon completion return to your hotel.

Accommodation: Jetwing Lake Hotel (Double/Twin Share)

Day 3/12 August 2019
Dambulla/Polonnaruwa/Sigiriya/Kandy
Meals Included: Breakfast

Breakfast at hotel.

This morning, proceed on a sightseeing tour to Polonnaruwa, the best conserved medieval capital of Sri Lanka. A visit to Polonnaruwa will take you through its rich dynastic past. Established (1015) next to the shimmering waters of the Parakrama Samudra, a man-made lake, the region was described as the 'Granary of the Orient' in ancient chronicles. Intricately carved lotus pillars, meditative halls, ceremonial towers, magnificent royal baths and palace ruins have been uncovered in this UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Gal Vihara Temple presents an ensemble of imposing and inspirational Buddhas hewn out of a massive block of granite.

Thereafter we leave to enjoy a Sri Lankan village experience where a walk along the village path will bring us to a "Wewa" typical village lake. The village homes are totally different to build up urban areas of Sri Lanka. The small houses are surrounded by green woods on the edge of which their home gardens extend. It is common to spot watch huts in the fields from which the menfolk keep up at night on the lookout for wild elephants and wild boar.

Cross the Lake by canoe observing the rich birdlife and once we reach the farm, the lady of the house gladly demonstrates her cooking abilities using a traditional hearth. You can also participate in this experience if you wish before partaking of her delicious meal.

Once completed, return to the vehicle and leave for Kandy. En route, visit a spice garden in Matale, to see the different spices, which Sri Lanka is famous for. You will be introduced to different spices and shown how some of these spices are grown and processed.

Continue to Kandy and check into your hotel.

Accommodation: OZO Kandy Hotel (Double/Twin share)

Day 4/13 August 2019
Kandy – (sightseeing)
Meals Included: Breakfast

Breakfast at hotel.

Then this morning proceed on a sightseeing tour of Kandy - the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings, and a World Heritage Site. The name Kandy conjures visions of splendour and magnificence. Many of the legends, traditions and folklore are still lovingly kept alive. Drive around the Kandy Lake built by the last Sinhala king Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe in 1798. Visit the Kandy town and Bazaar, the arts & crafts centre and a gem museum and a lapidary. A Tuk Tuk Ride Will Be Included as a part of the Sightseeing Tour of Kandy.

Thereafter we visit a tea plantation and factory at Giragama.

Once completed, return to your hotel for an afternoon at leisure by the pool.

In the evening visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic and thereafter witness a cultural show featuring traditional Sri Lankan dancing.

Accommodation: OZO Kandy Hotel (Double/Twin Share)

PEREHARA PERIOD ONLY (05th August 2019 – 16th August 2018)

In the evening witness the Kandy Perahera Pageant. Esala Perahera (the festival of the tooth) is the grand festival of Esala held in Sri Lanka. It is very grand with elegant costumes. Happening in July or August in Kandy, it has become a unique symbol of Sri Lanka. It is a Buddhist festival consisting of dances and nicely decorated elephants. There are fire-dances, whip-dances, Kandyan dances and various other cultural dances. The elephants are usually adorned with lavish garments. The festival ends with the traditional 'diya-kepeema.

Day 5/14 August 2019
Kandy/Nuwara Eliya
Meals Included: Breakfast

Breakfast at hotel.

Then proceed to the Kandy Railway Station for a scenic train journey through tea plantations and waterfalls up to Nanu Oya.

After arriving at the Nanu Oya Railway Station, continue on to Nuwara Eliya, which is Sri Lanka's premier hill resort with a fine bracing mountain climate. It is also the heart of Sri Lanka's tea country, producing some of the world's best tea. The mountain slopes and valleys are a carpet of velvety green tea plantations, interspersed with gushing streams and tumbling waterfalls. Red or green roofed plantation bungalows, English country style homes and hotels with lovely flower gardens, a fine 18 hole golf course and a racecourse gives Nuwara Eliya a decidedly British character.

Check in at St Andrews Hotel - the rest of the evening is at leisure.

Accommodation: St Andrews Hotel (Double/Twin Share)

Day 6/15 August 2019
Nuwara Eliya / Udawalawe
Meals Included: Breakfast

Breakfast at hotel.

Leave for Udawalawe via Ella & Wellawaya and check in at the Grand Udawalawe Safari Hotel.

Late afternoon proceed on a Jeep Safari to visit the Udawalawe National Park. Udawalawe is the most reliable place to see elephants in their wild habitat year round. Some 400-500 elephants live in the park and herds of up to 50 are commonly seen. The open plains are covered in thick manna grass up to the borders of the large reservoir in the Centre and the Walawe river. The park is also covered by some abandoned teak plantation and dense scrub jungle. This variety in habitat makes for a rich variety of wildlife and game. As well as elephants, leopards live in the park (though you will be very lucky to spot one), toque monkeys, grey langur, spotted deer, wild pig and sambar. There are numerous bird species of course and Udawalawe is particularly rich in raptor species, among them the white bellied sea eagle and the crested serpent eagle.

Once completed, return to your hotel and the rest of the evening is at leisure.

Accommodation: Grand Udawalawe Safari Hotel (Double/Twin Share)

Day 7/16 August 2019
Udawalawe/Ratnapira/Colombo
Meals Included: Breakfast

Breakfast at hotel.

This morning leave for Colombo with a visit to the Gem Mine and Museum at Rathnapura. Sri Lanka is famous for its gem industry and is home to 72 out of the 250 types of precious stones in the world.

Continue to Colombo and proceed on a sightseeing tour. The city skyline has dramatically changed during the last decade, trendy malls and cafes sit alongside old colonial architectural monuments and local eateries. The city tour will take you pass the Colombo harbour to the area known as the Fort, the islands administrative and main banking quarter adjoining the famous Dutch Hospital and the esplanade known as the Galle Face. The colourful religious edifices that adorn the different zones in the city reflect the country's multi-ethnic, religious and cultural diversity. The Cinnamon Gardens, the 'chic' residential section of Colombo with its numerous villas and mansions blends well with the recently restored Race Course and Victoria Park. The Gangaramaya Temple with its collection of oriental antiquities and Buddhist manuscripts offers visitors a completely different turn-around from the rich and grand archeological monuments of Sri Lanka.

On completion, check in to your hotel.

Accommodation: OZO Colombo Hotel (Double/Twin share)

Day 8/17 August
Colombo / Departure Transfer
Meals Included: Breakfast
Breakfast at hotel.

Leave for the airport to connect with your flight home.



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Important Information

YOUR NAME MUST MATCH YOUR PASSPORT

It is your responsibility to provide and check that the name of all travellers exactly matches the First, Middle (if shown on itinerary) and Last Names as per passports. Any change (even minor) will result in charges and may not allow the seat booked in the incorrect name to be transferred. There will be no refund for altered names.

- Check in time at **Domestic** terminals is recommended **TWO hours prior** to scheduled departure time.
- Check in time at **International** terminals is recommended **THREE hours prior** to scheduled departure time.
- Please reconfirm all reservations with airlines at least 72 hours prior to departure.
- Keep your boarding passes and ticket stubs for verification of frequent flyer points if applicable.
- Please ensure your passport has a minimum of 6 months validity and at least 2 blank facing pages.

Passenger Information

PASSPORT DETAILS:

A copy of all traveller's passports will be required prior to ticketing the flights.

Airfare Conditions

AIRLINE

Changes : *Changes may be permitted subject to seat availability, airline fees and any applicable reissue fees and fare upgrade required.

Cancellations : Cancellation fees may apply.

*Changes are subject to seasonality, booking class availability and ticket validity. Changes resulting in a different booking class, seasonality, routing, travel validity, departure date or cabin upgrade will be subject to reassessment with any fare or tax difference applicable. All changes are subject to availability and fees are per person per ticket.

Any changes/cancellations may be subject to additional local fees.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is an important part of your holiday, and IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE FOR ALL OVERSEAS TRAVEL. Teresa Mills, Your MTA Travel Specialist will provide a quote for you to consider. Please confirm if you already have insurance in place and a quotation is not required.

Zero Flight Risk Guarantee

ZERO FLIGHT RISK™ is a cast iron, financial travel guarantee when you purchase travel products and services through MTA Mobile Travel Experts. Any client purchasing travel products and services through an MTA Travel Expert, can rest assured MTA Mobile Travel Agents will reimburse their funds in the event of any approved travel intermediary or end supplier becoming insolvent and being unable to deliver the product or service.

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THE BEST THING ABOUT ZERO FLIGHT RISK™? It's free when you book your travel with us. No, ifs or buts about it this is a 100% money back guarantee.

ZERO FLIGHT RISK™ is not a replacement for travel insurance, but does provide protection and peace of mind to travellers booking with MTA Travel Experts.

Passports & Visas

Passports & Visa requirements are the responsibility of all individual travellers.

You must ensure your passport has a validity of six months after your return date to Australia and 2 blank facing pages. Please advise us if you wish us to make any necessary visa application on your behalf. Please ensure you have a valid resident return visa for Australia if not travelling on an Australian passport.

Disclosure:

In the event that you are travelling to a country or countries which do not require a visa for Australian passport holders, you must tell us if you have been arrested or convicted in respect of any offence or breach of law. Non-disclosure of this information may lead to your being refused entry on arrival in certain countries. In that event, we take no responsibility whatsoever.

If you do not wish to disclose such information to us, then you must contact the embassy of each country of destination and make your own arrangements in regard to entry to that country

Please ensure all visa requirements have been met for your journey. If you require assistance with this please let me know.

Frequent Traveller / Special Requests

FREQUENT TRAVELLER INFORMATION / MILEAGE MEMBERSHIP DATA:

- Should you belong to a program not shown on your itinerary please advise me of details prior to travel. Many fare types and discounted airfares do not accrue frequent flyer points. Please check with your consultant on your fare type and if points can be accrued if this is a requirement.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

- Please advise your consultant of any special requirements you may have: special meals, seating requests or medical requirements. Requests are subject to airline/supplier confirmation and cannot be guaranteed.