

CULTURE AND HERITAGE TOUR

10 NIGHTS/11 DAYS

1st Day. AIRPORT - COLOMBO

On arrival at the Colombo International Airport you will be Welcomed by a representative of Taprobane Tours and Travels and transferred to a Hotel in Colombo.

In the evening city tour of Colombo.

Dinner and overnight stay at a Hotel in Colombo.

2nd Day. COLOMBO – YAPAHUWA – ANURADHAPURA

After breakfast leave for Anuradhapura. En route visit the Yapahuwa rock fortress. Yapahuwa served as the capital of Sri Lanka in the latter part of the 13th century (1273-1284). Built on a huge, 90 meter high rock boulder in the style of the Sigiriya rock fortress, Yapahuwa was a palace and military stronghold against foreign invaders.

Dinner and overnight stay at a Hotel in Anuradhapura.

3rd Day. ANURADHAPURA – MIHINTHALE – AVKANA – SIGIRIYA

After breakfast, commence a sightseeing tour in the ancient city of Anuradhapura. From the 4th century BC, it was the capital of Sri Lanka until the beginning of the 11th century AD. The ancient city, considered sacred to the Buddhist world, is today surrounded by monasteries covering an area of over sixteen square miles (40 km²). Anuradhapura is a City of archaeological and historical interest including Isurumuniya - the first temple to be built in the island, Sri Maha Bodhi Tree- with an authenticated history of more than 2300 years which has been planted from a sapling from the original tree under which Lord Buddha attained enlightenment, Ruwanveliseya - the largest stupa in the island, Jethawanaramaya and Abhayagiriya - which in their original form have been equivalent in size to the Great Pyramids in Giza and have thus been declared as World Heritage Sites , Twin Ponds, Thuparamaya- the first Stupa to be built in Sri Lanka enshrining the

left collar bone of Lord Buddha, the Samadhi Statue - meditating posture etc thereafter drive to Sigiriya. En-route visit Mihinthale&Avkana temple.

Dinner and overnight stay at a Hotel in Sigiriya.

4th Day. SIGIRIYA – HABARANA – POLONNARUWA – SIGIRIYA

After breakfast leave for Polonnaruwa via Habarana. In Habarana, if you wish, visit a place for an elephant back ride.

Then do a sightseeing tour in the ancient city of Polonnaruwa (11th Century AD), visit the many sites of archaeological and historical interest in the Sacred City including the Grate Statue, Quadrangle, Royal Palace, Gal Viharaya, Kumara and Lotus Ponds, Thiwanka Image House and many more, and see one of the country's biggest water reservoirs, ParakramaSamudraya.

Dinner and overnight stay at a Hotel in Sigiriya

5th Day. SIGIRIYA – DAMBULLA – NALANDA – MATALE – KANDY

After breakfast leave for Kandy via Dambulla, Nalanda and Matale. First visit the Dambulla cave Temple which is the largest and best preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka. The rock towers 160 m over the surrounding plains. There are more than 80 documented caves in the surrounding. Major attractions are spread over 5 caves, which contain statues and paintings. These paintings and statues are related to Lord Buddha and his life. There are a total of 153 Buddha statues, 3 statues of Sri Lankan kings and 4 statues of gods and goddesses.

Then visit the Gedige at Nalanda one of the remarkable archaeological sites in Sri Lanka & visit a Spice garden at Matale and take part in a conducted tour to get some knowledge about the growth and use of spices in the day to day life of Sri Lankans.

Evening relax in the hotel and late evening witness a Cultural Show by traditional Kandyan Dancers and Drummers including "Fire Walking".

Dinner and overnight stay at a Hotel in Kandy.

6th Day. KANDY – PINNAWALA – KANDY

After breakfast, do an excursion to Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage. This is an orphanage and breeding ground for wild elephants.

Evening city tour of Kandy including Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic of Buddha - by far the most important place of worship for Buddhists world over. Visit the Upper Lake drive, a place where one could have a bird's eye view of the city below.

Evening visit the Botanical gardens at Peradeniya, It is the largest botanical garden on the island and is renowned for the collection of Orchids, spice trees, medicinal plants and palms trees.

Dinner and overnight stay at a Hotel in Kandy

7th Day. KANDY – PERADENIYA – ADAMS PEAK

After breakfast drive to Adams peak. Sri Pada or Adam's Peak as it is known to the Westerners, is a mountain 2237, meters high situated in the South- West corner of the Central Highlands. Thousands of pilgrims from many faiths climb the mountain to pay homage and make observances, commencing from full-moon day of December to the full moon day of April the following year. Buddhist believes that it enshrines the foot print of Gauthama Buddha at the summit. Hindus, Muslims and Christians also make pilgrimages for their own religious reasons. The sunrise from the mountain top is an unforgettable sight. After dinner – At mid night start to climb the holy mountain of Adams Peak.

8th Day. ADAMS PEAK – NUWARA ELIYA

After breakfast leave for NuwaraEliya. On the way visit a Tea Factory and a Plantation to witness the manufacturing process of the world famous "Ceylon Tea" and to taste a pure unblended cup of factory fresh tea. Also pass by eye-catching views with waterfalls.

Evening city tour of NuwaraEliya Including Victoria Park, Gregory Lake and Golf Course, the 119 year old club is situated within the city limits. Established in 1891. One of Asia's finest Golf Clubs.

Dinner and overnight stay at a Hotel in NuwaraEliya

9th Day. NUWARA ELIYA – YALA

After breakfast leave for Yala. In the evening do a jeep safari to Yala National park. Yala National Park is the second largest and most visited national park in Sri Lanka. The park covers 979 square kilometers and is best known for its variety of wild animals and is vital for the conservation of Sri Lankan Elephants and other wild life.

Dinner and overnight stay at a Hotel in Yala

10th Day. YALA – GALLE – NEGOMBO

After breakfast leave for Negombo via Galle. En route visit the Galle fort which was built first by the Portuguese, and then modified by the Dutch during the 17th century. Even today, after 400 years of existence, it looks new and polished with reconstruction work done by the Archaeological Department of Sri Lanka. Inside the Galle fort is a Dutch Colonial building on Church Street where the Cultural Museum is located.

Dinner and overnight stay at a Hotel in Negombo

11th Day. NEGOMBO – AIR PORT

After Breakfast departure to Air Port

END OF TOUR

This tour can be fully tailor made!

