

INSPIRING
VACATIONS

12 Day Sri Lanka & The Maldives

Colombo

Galle

Yala National Park

Nuwara Eliya

Kandy

Sigiriya

Maldives

www.inspiringvacations.com

13 Day Sri Lanka & The Maldives

FROM

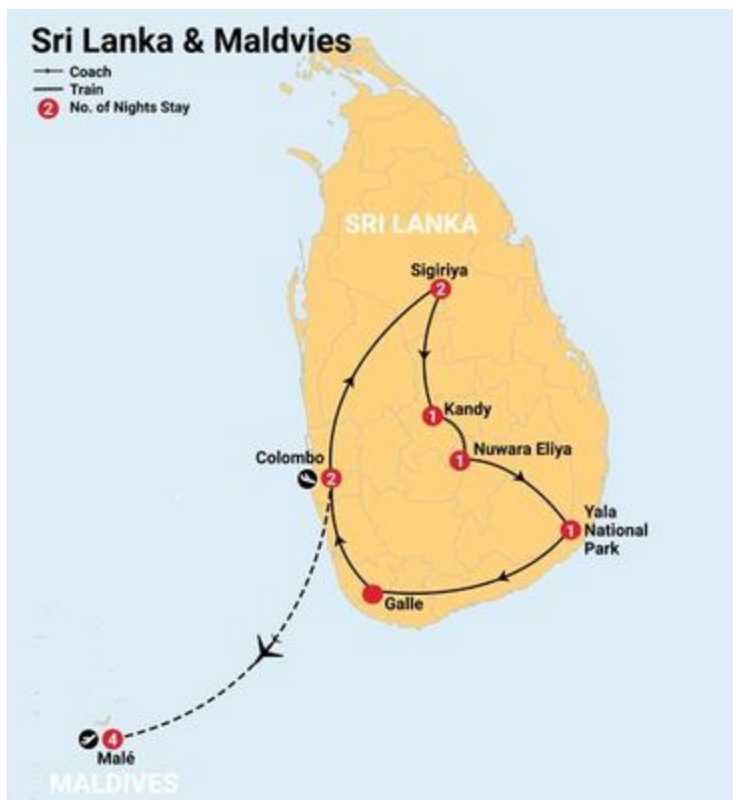
\$5,299 NZD

PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE

Endowed with an idyllic palm-fringed coastline, a whopping eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites & a host of national parks that feature all manner of creatures great and small – Sri Lanka is slowly emerging as a holiday hotspot that's not to be missed. Combine this with a relaxing stay in the Maldives.

[Book Now](#)

TOUR ITINERARY



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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	Colombo
Meals included	
Hotel	4 ★ Goldi Sands Hotel, or similar

Welcome to Colombo! Check in and relax after your international flight, ready for a big day of touring tomorrow.

Please note - most flights arrive into Colombo after midnight. To maximise suitable rest time before the tour starts on Day 2, we suggest departing the day before Day 1.

Check-in: Passengers will be arriving at various times throughout the day from as early as 6am through to late evening. If arriving prior to standard check-in time, which is generally 3pm local time, you are welcome to leave your luggage with hotel reception and explore your surroundings until check-in becomes available, as there are generally no scheduled activities on Day 1 of the itinerary.

DAY 2

Destination	Colombo 🚗 Sigiriya
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel	5 ★ Sigiriya Jungles, or similar

Today enjoy a late start, taking time to relax and prepare for an exciting first day of touring. We'll leave the hotel around 9.30-10am, bound for Sigiriya, or Lion Rock. En route we'll spend the afternoon on a private jeep safari at either Minneriya or Kaudulla National Park to witness the unique phenomenon of elephant 'gathering'. During the dry season – from June to September – hundreds of elephants travel to ancient reservoirs located within the parks for water. Minneriya and Kaudulla are two of the best places in the country to see wild elephants. Outside of the dry season (and depending on the elephant migration patterns) the safari will be conducted in one of the surrounding parks.

This evening, enjoy a pre-dinner nip of *arrack* (a potent local spirit made from the fermented sap of coconut flowers), or a glass of something else to suit your taste.

DAY 3

Destination	Sigiriya 🚗 Lion Rock 🚗 Sigiriya
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel	5 ★ Sigiriya Jungles, or similar

This morning we'll climb the ancient rock fortress of Sigiriya, or Lion Rock – one of the highlights of any visit to Sri Lanka.

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A dramatic rocky outcrop that rises from the surrounding plains like a mirage, the 200-metre tall rock column is topped by the ruins of a 5th-century citadel. Reaching the top of the rock requires a little leg work, but is well worth the effort. The stunning stone facade has been weathered over many centuries and the panoramic view from the top is awe-inspiring.

On our climb we'll explore the beautiful water garden, the boulder garden, the colourful frescoes and the so-called 'mirror wall'. Once we pass the lion's paws, hewn from solid rock, it's a steep climb with plenty of steps and walkways. Those who don't wish to venture to the top can rest at the lion's paws until the rest of the group return.

Then, later in the morning take part in a Cooking Demonstration of Sri Lankan rice and curry preparation and enjoy a typical Sri Lankan lunch overlooking the paddy fields.

This evening, enjoy another round of arrack before dinner.

OPTIONAL TOUR - COOKING DEMONSTRATION AND LUNCH - 9 DAY TASTE OF SRI LANKA

Late morning take part in a Cooking Demonstration of Sri Lankan rice and curry preparation and enjoy a typical Sri Lankan lunch overlooking the paddy fields.

OPTIONAL TOUR - MEDIEVAL CAPITAL CITY OF POLONNARUWA - 9 DAY TASTE OF SRI LANKA

This afternoon enjoy a sightseeing tour of the Medieval Capital City of Polonnaruwa. This was declared as a UNESCO heritage site in 1982. After the demise of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa became the middle historic capital of Sri Lanka (1017 – 1235 AD)

DAY 4

Destination	Sigiriya 🗺️ Kandy
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel	5 ★ Earl's Regency, or similar

This morning we leave for Kandy. En route, visit the Matale Spice Garden to learn more about Sri Lanka's agricultural heritage. We then continue on to the Sacred City of Kandy, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988. The second

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TOUR ITINERARY

largest city in the country, and the capital of the central hill regions, Kandy remains a very peaceful place that's centred around a lake. It's home to a famous Buddhist pilgrimage site, the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic (Sri Dalada Maligawa), not to mention well-preserved ruins of the royal palaces.

Spend your afternoon in Kandy exploring or relaxing as you wish.

Late afternoon saunter around the Kandy Lake, the atmosphere alone will intrigue you to spend a few moments here. Visit the Temple of Tooth, with its guardian elephants is a deeply significant Buddhist site that contains a tooth of Buddha collected from his funeral pyre and this draws thousands of pilgrims from across the world.

DAY 5

Destination	Kandy 🚆 Nuwara Eliya
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel	The Blackpool Hotel, or similar

After breakfast we bid farewell to Kandy and hop on what is widely recognised as one of the world's most scenic train rides, winding around mist-shrouded hilltops, through vivid green valleys and past waterfalls, on our way to Nuwara Eliya. Apart from taking in the breathtaking scenery of tea country, this is a great opportunity to mingle with locals.

Often referred to as 'Little England', Nuwara Eliya, is a genteel highland community with a British country village feel to it thanks to the resident colonial-era bungalows, which come courtesy of its British roots.

Upon arrival to Hill Country, visit a tea plantation and factory. Here you will enjoy the absolute tea experience, taking you to the moment the young tea leaves are plucked from the plantation to being processed in the factory to make a steamy cup of tea. If you are interested, the tea factory is the best place to purchase good quality tea.

Please note: it is not possible to confirm the train ticket reservation due to the fact that Sri Lanka Railway has a manual system for reservations. Tickets can only be booked 30 days prior to departure. The 1st and 2nd class carriages are basic, but have air-conditioning. On the rare occasion that the train is fully booked we'll travel by road instead.

DAY 6

Destination	Nuwara Eliya 🚆 Yala
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel	Mandara Rosen, or similar

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This morning we make our way to Yala/Tissamaharama.

After checking in to your hotel spend your afternoon on a guided game drive spotting the abundant flora and fauna of Yala National Park. As one of the largest national parks in the country Yala is the ideal place to spot the rare Sri Lankan leopard.

Please note that Yala National Park closes for a period between the months of September and October. The exact closure dates are made clear closer to the time. The closure is due to the prevailing dry weather prior to this time and taking into consideration the well-being of the wildlife in the reserve. For departure dates that fall over this period (please refer to dates in Fine Print section under Yala National Park Closure), Yala National park will be replaced with a visit to Udawalawe National Park.

Although smaller in size to Yala National Park, Udawalawe National Park is considered one of the world's best places to see wild elephants. Largely comprised of grasslands and bush forest, Udawalawe is also one of the best national parks in Sri Lanka for game spotting and being far less crowded than Yala, it makes for a more enjoyable experience for travellers and therefore, we believe is a more than suitable alternative.

DAY 7

Destination	Yala 🚗 Galle 🚗 Colombo
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel	5 ★ Galle Face Hotel, or similar

This morning we leave for Colombo. En route we explore the Galle Fort and its fortifications. Galle is a carefully preserved colonial city, which features an interesting blend of European architecture (Portuguese, Dutch and English) as well as South-Asian traditions. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988.

As we continue on to Colombo we'll also visit a turtle hatchery. There are only seven species of marine turtles in the world and five of them are found in the warm, clear waters off Sri Lanka's coast: the hawksbill, loggerhead, green, leatherback and olive ridley.

DAY 8

Destination	Colombo ✈ Male Airport - Maldives
Meals included	Dinner
Hotel	4 ★ Adaaran Club Rannalhi, or similar

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TOUR ITINERARY

Welcome to Paradise! A visit to the Maldives is truly a dream come true. This stunning tropical nation lies within the Indian Ocean and is composed of 26 colourful coral atolls composed of hundreds of idyllic islands. The Maldives is world famous for its beautiful beaches, sapphire blue lagoons and extensive coral reefs. Upon arrival you will be welcomed and then transferred to your hotel by speed boat. After checking in, the rest of the day is yours to spend at leisure, taking in the gorgeous tropical landscape.

DAY 9

Destination	Maldives
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	4 ★ Adaaran Club Rannalhi, or similar

This morning enjoy a delicious breakfast while admiring the surrounding low-lying islands that make up the utopian Maldives. Every atoll here is formed by centuries of coral reef growth, and each is encircled by a shallow lagoon, protected by the surrounding reef systems. The islands here have tropical castaway qualities: tall coconut palms, white sandy beaches and crystal clear lagoons. Today you may enjoy an entire day of leisure, participating in some of the many exciting activities that the islands have to offer.

Our hotel offers some phenomenal snorkeling opportunities, where you can explore the shallow oases at the islands edge. You may also choose to enjoy some exciting optional water sport activities, such as catamaran sailing where you can experience the thrill of riding the winds and speeding through the crystal waters. Canoeing may also appeal to those who seek tranquility while they enjoy the surrounding natural beauty. Windsurfing is also an activity available to the more adventurous. There really is no end to the adventures you may seek as you explore the wonderful Maldives - jet-skiing, parasailing, and scuba diving may also be on your list.

DAY 10

Destination	Maldives
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	4 ★ Adaaran Club Rannalhi, or similar

Following another delicious breakfast this morning, you may enjoy yet another day of leisure in the dreamy Maldives. Enjoy any number of the incredible activities available to you, and make the most of your fantastic adventure here. Alternatively, relax on the beach and take in the picture-perfect surroundings while dipping your toes in the warm, luscious waters of the Indian Ocean. You will have never known true relaxation until you set foot on this luxurious white sandy beach.

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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 11

Destination	Maldives
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	4 ★ Adaaran Club Rannalhi, or similar

Enjoy your morning today with a scrumptious breakfast while taking in the fresh breeze as you are serenaded by the sound of the waves lapping the beach. Admire the view beyond the horizon of the Indian Ocean and prepare for another day of leisure and exciting optional activities in the Maldives.

DAY 12

Destination	Male ✈ Home
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Following breakfast this morning we must leave our island paradise as we check-out from our hotel and proceed to the airport via speed boat. Here you will board your flight home. We hope your tour has ended with sweet and happy memories of worlds beyond your wildest dreams.

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TOUR ITINERARY

Inclusions

SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

- Colombo - Enjoy a tour of Pettah Bazaar, Independence Square, Red Mosque and the Dutch Reformed Church
- Sigiriya - Climb the magnificent rock fortress of Sigiriya, also known as Lion Rock
- Kandy - Visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, a famous Buddhist site within the royal palace complex of the former Kingdom of Kandy
- Kandy - Enjoy a traditional cultural performance
- Nuwara Eliya - Embark on a famous train ride through Sri Lanka's tea country
- Yala National Park - Wildlife game drive exploring the dynamic wildlife and the most luxuriant plant life in this epic national park
- Galle - Walk along the old stone fortifications that surround this historic coastal town
- Galle - Visit the Turtle Hatchery on route to Colombo; there are only seven species of marine turtles in the world and five are found off Sri Lanka's coast.
- Maldives - Relax on one of the 1000 blissful islands that make up the Maldives

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Economy class flight from Colombo to Male with full-service airline
- 7 nights deluxe accommodation in 4 to 5-star hotels throughout Sri Lanka
- 4 nights in the Maldives staying at the stunning Adaaran Resort, in an iconic overwater bungalow
- Breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 6 dinners in Sri Lanka, plus all meals in Maldives
- All inclusive drinks at your Maldives resort
- Return Speed Boat transfer Male to Maldives
- The services of a professional English-speaking guide throughout Sri Lanka
- In-depth sightseeing & all entry fees as per the itinerary
- Dedicated private transportation throughout

Fine Print

EXCLUSIONS

- Visas
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Tipping
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses

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TOUR ITINERARY

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payments

- Book now and secure your package with only a \$100 deposit per person.
- Pay a 2nd instalment of \$2149 per person within 28 days.
- You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.

Booking Process

- Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)
- Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
- Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
- Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
- Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
- Your booking is confirmed once your Booking Form is submitted and you can begin the countdown to your Inspiring Vacation!
- You will then be allocated and contacted by one of our Dedicated Support Agent's (within 48 hours) who will support you right up until you return from your journey

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EXTRA SERVICES

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour, adding a stopover package en-route or booking a tour extension. On this tour you can choose from the following options:

Pre and post-tour accommodation (deviating from group flights forfeits your group airport transfers)

- Pre-tour accommodation (Goldi Sands): \$238 per room per night for double/twin/single including breakfast and transfer
- Post-tour accommodation (Galle Face): \$329 per room per night for double/twin/single including breakfast and transfer
- Post-tour accommodation in the Maldives - \$999 per room per night for double/twin/single including transfer and meals

Arrival and departure airport transfers

- Arrival/Departure Transfers (Colombo): \$64 per vehicle per direction

Please specify in the 'Special Request' field when making your purchase your preferred travel arrangements and if you would like our team to book additional nights' accommodation and/or airport transfers. The additional cost for these land arrangements will be added to your final payment invoice and are subject to availability.

Please note, the transfers are not private and you may be grouped with other Inspiring Vacations customers.

OPTIONAL TOURS

- Cooking Demonstration and Lunch - \$24 per person
- Medieval Capital City of Polonnaruwa - \$49 per person

Optional tours can be selected once you have finalised your tour purchase and paid your deposit. When completing your Passenger Booking Form, you will be asked if you would like to add Optional Tours, where the applicable cost will be added to your final balance. If you choose not to select them at this time, you can choose to add them later by logging in to your Account online or speaking with your Dedicated Support Agent for assistance.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Fitness Requirements

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TOUR ITINERARY

While the tour itinerary should give you some guidance and overview to the expected requirements, to determine if this tour is right for you we categorise each of our tours in terms of their intensity. These guidelines are to ensure that each tour group is conducted as expected and to ensure the overall satisfaction of all Inspiring Vacations customers.

As a general rule, portorage is not included, therefore at all times you are expected to handle your own luggage where help may not be available.

This particular tour is categorised as a "3":

3 – Moderate Tour: A good level of fitness and mobility is required, as this tour includes a moderate level of physical activity and is considered a medium-fast paced tour. You should be able to walk up and down stairs, get on and off the coach and able to walk reasonable distances of approximately 2 kilometres per day or more with ease. Any physical ailments you may have must be disclosed at the time of booking to determine your suitability. If you have any form of walking aids, other than a walking stick or hiking poles, then this tour is not suitable.

Tipping

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. At the commencement of your tour you will be asked to provide tipping to your guide towards a 'kitty', which is then used towards the guide tipping for the services of helpers, hotel staff, restaurants and airport portorage. You will be asked for NZD\$40 per person. Please note that this tipping is not for the guide or driver, merely for the guide to tip the services of other local workers during your tour. While not made compulsory, if you choose not to contribute to the kitty it means that the guide is tipping for these services out of their own pocket. Your cooperation in this instance is most appreciated.

Further, tipping for your guide and driver will be collected at the conclusion of their services. To remove the uncertainty and stress of not knowing how much is appropriate to tip we recommend NZD\$8 per person per day for your guide and NZD\$5 per person per day for your driver to be paid in local currency. The amount you wish to contribute is dependent on the services received and at the complete discretion of the guest. Thank you for your understanding.

Accommodation

The accommodation listed 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.

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Single Supplement

Single supplement is \$2,442 per person in addition to the twin share price.

Triple Share

Available. If you wish to purchase triple-share please phone 0800 475 025. The third person will also be charged the twin-share price.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

Visa & Passport information

It is the traveller'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 your return.

You must arrange a Visa before your arrival into Sri Lanka. The best way to apply for your Visa is The Department of Immigration and Emigration 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 apply for your visa online.

You do not require a Visa when visiting the Maldives prior to your departure. A tourist visa will be issued upon arrival and is valid for 30 days of entry.

Please note that these details are subject to change without notice. We recommend visiting <https://safetravel.govt.nz/> for up to date information in terms of entry requirements.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

Group Size

2-16 people.

Trip Style - Small Group Tour

These tours are our proudest creations. They have been crafted for Inspiring Vacations travellers exclusively, with personal and unique experiences in mind. You will travel with only a maximum of 20 other guests. Enjoy choice features such as hand-picked accommodation, a sampling of the region's best culinary delights and a range of optional activities to choose from to best suit your travel style.

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Children

Children must be 2 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 inflight and is subject to change, depending on the flight schedule. Please refer to the day-by-day itinerary for the time spent in your destination(s).

Train Journey - Day 5

Please note that it is not possible to confirm the train ticket reservation due to the fact that Sri Lanka Railway has a manual system for reservations. Tickets can only be booked 30 days prior to departure. The 1st and 2nd class is basic but has air-conditioning. The non-airconditioned 3rd class sometimes is the only option based availability. On the rare occasion the train is fully booked we'll conduct the route by road.

YALA NATIONAL PARK CLOSURE

Please note that Yala National Park closes for a period between the months of September and October. The exact closure dates are made clear closer to the time. The closure is due to the prevailing dry weather prior to this time and taking into consideration the well-being of the wildlife in the reserve. For departure dates that fall over this period, as defined in the departure dates listed below, Yala National park will be replaced with a visit to Udawalawe National Park.

Although smaller in size to Yala National Park, Udawalawe National Park is considered one of the world's best places to see wild elephants. Largely comprised of grasslands and bush forest, Udawalawe is also one of the best national parks in Sri Lanka for game spotting and being far less crowded than Yala, it makes for a more enjoyable experience for travellers and therefore, we believe is a more than suitable alternative.

Affected dates:

14 SEP 2019
28 SEP 2019
12 OCT 2019

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