

SRI LANKA WITH ESNA HOLIDAYS

7 Nights 8 Days



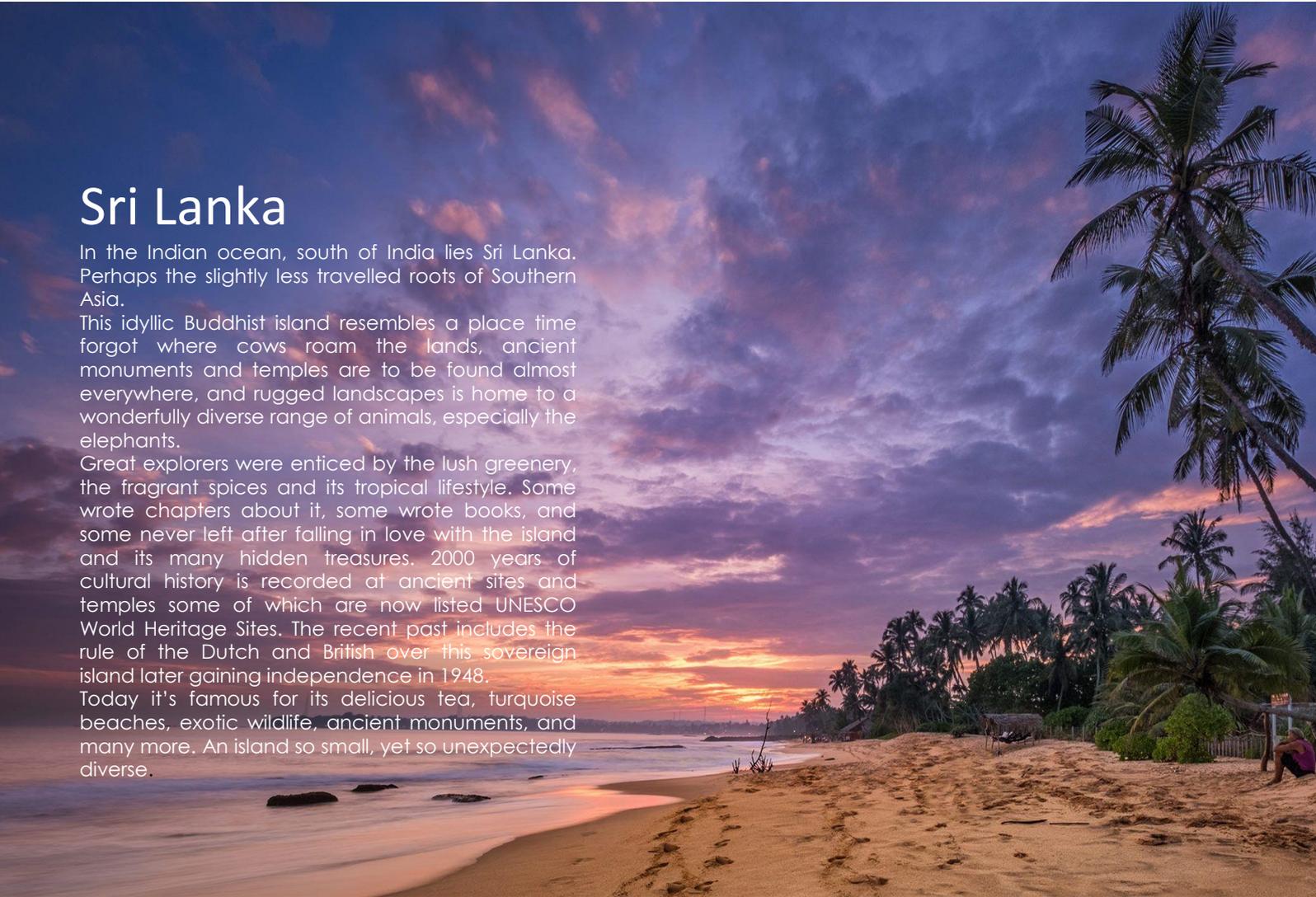
Sri Lanka

In the Indian ocean, south of India lies Sri Lanka. Perhaps the slightly less travelled roots of Southern Asia.

This idyllic Buddhist island resembles a place time forgot where cows roam the lands, ancient monuments and temples are to be found almost everywhere, and rugged landscapes is home to a wonderfully diverse range of animals, especially the elephants.

Great explorers were enticed by the lush greenery, the fragrant spices and its tropical lifestyle. Some wrote chapters about it, some wrote books, and some never left after falling in love with the island and its many hidden treasures. 2000 years of cultural history is recorded at ancient sites and temples some of which are now listed UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The recent past includes the rule of the Dutch and British over this sovereign island later gaining independence in 1948.

Today it's famous for its delicious tea, turquoise beaches, exotic wildlife, ancient monuments, and many more. An island so small, yet so unexpectedly diverse.



EXPLORE

Sri Lanka is an out of this world tropical island which is blessed with an exciting piece of everything possible on earth. Escape to a paradise on earth where you can trot along the golden sands sipping a fresh king-coconut, safari through the lush jungle to see mighty elephants and elusive leopards and perfect your golf swing on a stunning green golf course.

This is an outdoor paradise somewhere to totally escape and fall completely off the grid. Buses, tuk-tuks and mopeds all noisily hurtling along the busy streets. Once known as Ceylon, Sri Lanka was a country that

Sri Lanka is a country whose Buddhist past is as prevalent today as it was thousands of years ago. So, with such a lengthy heritage there's a great array of temples, ancient monasteries and monuments to explore, both in the town and hidden away in the islands' dense forests.

Here you'll find local artists taking their inspiration from Sri Lanka's wildlife. Sri Lankan craftsmanship has a long and vibrant history. Over the centuries the islanders have produced everything from lace work, elaborate metal works & carvings in wood. Buddha's Hindu Gods, traditional Sri Lankan masks and elephants are among the most popular carvings.

The people in Sri Lanka are what makes this wonderful island what it is. The smiles, the ever-so-helpful attitude, the laid-back lifestyle and the rustic architecture all tastefully lingers in your mind every step of the way.

WEATHER & BEST TIME TO VISIT

The weather in Sri Lanka is dictated by two monsoon seasons which bring rain to the west and south-west coasts from May to September; and the east coast and northern region between October and February. The rest of the year is sunny and dry. Temperatures are constant year-round, with coastal regions enjoying average temperatures of 25-30C and the highlands 15-18C on average.

Sri Lanka is a year-round destination since there is something for every discerning traveler. From pilgrim experiences to adventure, culture, honeymoon, or even special interest experiences, there is something you can do in Sri Lanka anytime of the year. With recent weather pattern changes, it is hard to predict when it would rain and when the sun is out, however, making a note that Sri Lanka is a tropical destination and rain is to be expected anytime of the day, any time of the year; always helps.

Our recommended best time of the year to travel is between Novembers to April. However, its best to keep in mind that this period is also quite expensive to travel as the European winters and the festive year end generally attracts a lot of travelers to Sri Lanka.

VISA

VISA can be obtained online via the government e-visa website – www.eta.gov.lk. If you are a citizen of Singapore, Maldives or Seychelles, you are exempt from the requirement of obtaining visa for 1 month. It could take up to 5 working days for a VISA to process depending on where you are from

DAY 01: AIRPORT – NEGOMBO

Arrive to Colombo International Airport. Here, you will be met by a designated chauffer guide from Esna Holidays. After the formalities at the airport you will be escorted to your air-conditioned vehicle and proceed to Negombo. (Travel Time: 30 to 45 minutes).

Check into the hotel and relax.

Overnight stay in Negombo
Meals Include: Dinner

DAY 02: NEGOMBO – DAMBULLA – SIGIRIYA/HABARANA

After breakfast, check-out the hotel and proceed to Sigiriya. (Travel Time: 3½ to 4 hours). En-route visit the Dambulla Cave Temple.

The Dambulla Cave temple has five caves and 157 statues of the Lord Buddha, many paintings on the ceilings and walls that emphasis the artistic talent of ancient days. The history of the caves, rock and temple dates from the 1st century BC. The fascination of these caves is not only the statues but also the many intricate and delicate paintings that cover the ceiling and walls, created with indigenous traditional paints. Because of the history, archaeological and artistic implications, the premises were declared as one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites in 1991. The temple has been in use for over 22 centuries and still holds a sense of benevolence and spirituality.



On arriving Sigiriya, check-in to the hotel and relax.

Evening visit the Sigiriya Rock Fortress. (Excursion time: 2 to 3 hours)

Sigiriya Rock Fortress: Called by many names including "The Lion Rock" for its initial name of "Sinhagiri", Sigiriya is near the town of Dambulla and is a colossal column of rock nearly 200m high. It was a royal citadel for 18 years (477-495) when it was fortified by King Kasyapa. The architectural and irrigational technologies of Sigiriya, such as the Water Gardens, still baffle engineers. The climb up steep steps of metal with railings passes a wall decorated with frescoes of bare-breasted women. Art experts consider them unique.



Overnight stay in Sigiriya/Habarana
Meals Include: Breakfast / Dinner

DAY 03: SIGIRIYA/HABARANA

Early morning goes on a Safari at Minneriya / Kaudulla National Park with packed breakfast.



Minneriya / Kaudulla National Park: One of the main reasons for visiting the beautiful country of Sri Lanka was to see the Sri Lankan elephant in the wild. Both Kaudulla & Minneriya National Parks are the best national parks to spot Elephants in Sri Lanka. It is home to 200+ elephants, monkeys, crocodiles and even a handful of leopards. The Gathering around the water reservoir takes place in the dry season from July to October. Besides from elephants, there is so much more to see. Peacocks, small black bears, crocodiles, deer, many monkeys and beautifully colored birds.

Evening engage with a village safari in Hiriwadunna village.



Get a chance to go on an oxen cart ride and experience the world from the view of a village farmer. Have a relaxing catamaran safari through a calm lake. Walk through the golden fields ripe with their harvest of paddy. Watch an enjoyable traditional cooking demonstration that teaches you the basics of Sri Lankan cuisine. Delight your taste buds with a home-cooked lunch; made over a wood-fire and served on fragrant lotus leaves placed over woven trays. Enjoy the life of a Sri Lankan villager, just this day.

Overnight stay in Sigiriya/Habarana
Meals Include: Breakfast / Dinner

DAY 04:

SIGIRIYA/HABARANA – KANDY - NUWARAELIYA

After breakfast proceed to Kandy (Travel Time: 1.5 hours). En-route visit Spice garden in Matale.



Spice Garden: See why Sri Lanka became a globally popular country for its herbs and spices. The environment possesses excellent conditions for growing cinnamon, vanilla, nutmeg, peppercorn, and other flavorful delights. Learn about the process of growing these natural products using ecologically friendly methods. At the end of your visit, stop in the souvenir shop to purchase some exotic spices from the source. The attraction offers free transport wherever needed between the city and the estate. Note that the law strictly forbids harming cinnamon trees.

Thereafter, visit the famous Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy.



Temple of the Tooth Relic: The Temple of the Sacred Tooth (Sri Dalada Maligawa) was originally built by the Kandyan Kings in 1595, to house and honor the sacred tooth relic of the Buddha. Attracting crowds of white-clad pilgrims bearing lotus flowers for means of worship, the Maligawa features a myriad of intricate carvings that speak volumes of the architectural values of Kandy. Today the City of Kandy is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in part because of the Temple of the tooth relic.

Evening proceed to Nuwaraeliya (Travel Time: 2.5 hours) with visiting a tea factory with tea tasting.

On arriving Nuwara Eliya, check-in at the hotel and relax.



Morning explore the city of Nuwara Eliya and enjoy dinner at a venue of your choosing. Visit the highland city that was the premium holiday resort town of the British in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Enjoy walking through the streets with their pretty little cottages, quaint villas and beautiful mansions. Make a memory in the old red-bricked post office as you purchase a postcard to take home or send to your friends. Relax at Queen Victoria Park and on the shores of Lake Gregory.

Overnight stay in Nuwaraeliya
Meals Include: Breakfast / Dinner

DAY 05:

NUWARA ELIYA – ELLA- YALA

Breakfast at the hotel proceed to Yala via Ella. (Travel Time: 5 hours)

Yala via Ella. Stop in Ella to explore. During your time in Ella this morning, explore the amazing Little Adam's peak which is a 30 min hike and then descend to Nine Arch Bridge and the Demodara Railway Station. There after stop for lunch at a place of your choice in Ella and the proceed to Yala. You will also stop at Ravana Falls on the way.

Little Adams Peak whether considering the word 'Little', it is named after the sacred Adams Peak (Sri Pada –where the foot print of Lord Buddha is preserved) regarding the similarity between the two mountains. Therefore, the mountain was called as Little Adams Peak

"Punchi Sri Pada" is another name for this peak. It is 1141 m in height. Little Adam's Peak attracts many travelers who come to Sri Lanka. Gradually with an easy hike up to the mountain of Little Adams Peak you can consummation a worth panoramic view. You have to walk through lush green tea plantations, waterfalls and paddy fields while enjoying the sceneries



Nine Arch Bridge is one of the best examples of colonial-era railway construction in the country. The construction of the bridge is generally attributed to a local Ceylonese builder, P. K. Appuhami, in consultation with British engineers. The chief designer and project manager of the 'upcountry railway line of Ceylon' project was D. J. Wimalasurendra, a distinguished Ceylonese engineer and inventor. The designer of the viaduct was Harold Cuthbert Marwood of Railway Construction Department of Ceylon Government Railway. The 1923 report titled "Construction of a Concrete Railway Viaduct in Ceylon" published by the Engineering Association of Ceylon has details of all the records including the plans and drawings.



Thereafter proceed to Yala.

Overnight stay in Yala.

Meals Include: Breakfast / Dinner

DAY 06:

YALA - GALL – WELIGAMA/BENTOTA (BEACH)

Early morning goes on a Safari at Yala National Park with packed breakfast.



Yala is Sri Lanka's most famous national park. Forming a total area of 1268 sq. km of scrub, light forest, grassy plains and brackish lagoons, it's very rich in wildlife and you're virtually certain to encounter elephants, crocodiles, buffaloes and monkeys. The highlight of a successful safari in Yala is the sight of the Sri Lankan Leopard: very elusive yet such a majestic sight. Morning safari goes have a better chance in getting a glimpse of the leopards as they come out to go in search of water and food. (Please keep in mind the safety guidelines provided by Esna Holidays before the safari)

There after Check-out the hotel and proceed to Galle. (Travel Time: 2 to 2½ hours) En-route you will be stopping by to see Stilt Fishermen at Koggala.



Stilt Fishing is one of the most interesting traditional fishing methods of Sri Lanka. Records indicate that it came into being just after World War II. The beautiful sight of fishermen perched branched poles as they fish skillfully during dawn, noon and dusk; can now be commonly seen along the southern coast in towns such as Koggala, Kaththaluwa and Ahangama. You will be able to see them fishing and learn how they do it by speaking to one of the fishermen.



and endless blue waters.

Galle is a historical jewel to Sri Lanka wonderful to explore on foot. Among the endlessly exotic old trading port blessed with imposing Dutch-colonial buildings, ancient mosques and churches, grand mansions and museums the ancient Dutch fort which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site attracts the hearts of tourists. Stroll around the ancient city where you will find a gourmet of fancy restaurants and coffee shop to chill and relax. The beach side is surely a bliss which will make you want to lock yourself up in this sun kissed island and indulge in the sea breeze

On arriving beach, check-in at the hotel and evening relax on the beach.

Overnight stay in Weligama /Bentota

Meals Include: Breakfast / Dinner

DAY 07: WELIGAMA / BENTOTA (BEACH)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Full day leisure on the beach.



Bentota broad and attractive beach called the "Golden Mile" is a pristine beach of golden sand, well sheltered by the palm groves that spread along the coastal stretch. The wide beach that basks in the glorious tropical sun from the direction of the ocean is well shaded with the lush greenery of the landside. Shaded by tall trees, the beach brims with a spectrum of water-sport activities from diving, snorkeling and windsurfing to deep sea-fishing, water skiing, and para-sailing, ideal for adrenaline junkies.

Overnight stay in Weligama /Bentota

Meals Include: Breakfast / Dinner

DAY 08: WELIGAMA / BENTOTA (BEACH) – COLOMBO - AIRPORT

After breakfast proceed to airport.

Don't forget to recollect the memories of your trip with your chauffeur and write your feedback.

--- END OF SERVICES ---

Hotels

3 Star Hotels	Website
Beacon beach, Negombo (1 Night)	http://www.beacon.lk/
Danawwa Resort & Spa, Habarana (2 Nights)	http://www.danawwaresort.com/
Heaven Seven, Nuwaraeliya (1 Night)	https://www.heavensevenhotels.com/
Oak Ray Wild, Yala(1 Night)	https://www.oakrayhotels.com/wildyala/
Coco Royal Beach hotel, Waskaduwa (2 Nights)	https://cocoroyal.luxhotels.club/

4 Star Hotels	Website
Goldi Sands, Negombo (1 Night)	http://www.goldisands.com/
Habarana Village by Cinnamon, Habarana (2 Night)	https://www.cinnamonhotels.com/
Black Pool, Nuwaraeliya (1 Night)	http://www.blackpool.lk/
Charya Resort & Spa, Yala(1 Night)	http://chaaryaresorts.com/
Cinnamon Bay, Beruwala (2 Nights)	https://www.cinnamonhotels.com/

5 Star Hotels	Website
Jetwing Blu, Negombo (1 Night)	https://www.jetwinghotels.com/jetwingblue/#gref
Cinnamon Lodge, Habarana (2 Nights)	https://www.cinnamonhotels.com/
Grand, Nuwaraeliya (1 Night)	https://thegrandhotelnuwaraeliya.com/
Cinnamon Wild, Yala(1 Night)	https://www.cinnamonhotels.com/
Weligama Bay Marriott Resort and Spa (2 Nights)	https://www.marriott.com/hotels/

TOUR Cost IN USD - Per Person Sharing DBL room on HB basis

	<u>3 Star Hotels option</u>	<u>4 Star Hotels option</u>	<u>5 Star Hotels option</u>
2 PAX by car	630	750	1010
4 PAX by van	550	675	930
6 PAX by van	515	640	895
	SGL room supplement – 320 USD TPL room discount – 20 USD <u>Peak supplement</u> (15 th December – 25 th January 2020) 40 USD NETT per person	SGL room supplement – 440 USD TPL room discount – 20 USD <u>Peak supplement</u> (15 th December – 25 th January 2020) 275 USD NETT per person	SGL room supplement – 690 USD TPL room discount – 20 USD <u>Peak supplement</u> (15 th December – 25 th January 2020) 440 USD NETT per person
Compulsory supplements	24th December x' mas Gala dinner – 45 USD NETT per person 31st December New year Gala dinner – 55 USD NETT per person	24th December x' mas Gala dinner – 105 USD NETT per person 31st December New year Gala dinner – 115 USD NETT per person	24th December x' mas Gala dinner – 115 USD NETT per person 31st December New year Gala dinner – 125 USD NETT per person

(above rates are valid from 1st of November 2019 to 31st of March 2020)

Tour Includes

- Accommodation for 7 nights in hotels as per the itinerary (Subject to availability).
- Meals on Half board Basis.
- Transport in an Air-Conditioned well-maintained vehicle with the service of an English-Speaking Chauffer Guide at your disposal always.
- Entrance Fees to: Dambulla cave temple, Sigiriya, Minneriya National Park jeep safari, Kandy Temple of Tooth Relic, Tea factory visit with tea tasting, Hiriwadunna village track, Yala National Park jeep safari.
- All Paging, Parking, Fuel Costs & Highway Tolls.
- Guided Visits to all entrance sights.
- All Taxes and Service Charges.

Tour Excludes

- International Flights & VISA (Visit www.eta.gov.lk for VISA)
- Lunch
- Tips and Porterage.
- All beverages.
- Camera & Video Permit Charges if applicable.
- Any other expense not mentioned in the includes section.
- Complimentary
- 1 Liter Bottle of Water Per Person Per Day
- Local SIM Card (On Request)

Complimentary

- 1 Liter Bottle of Water Per Person Per Day
- Local SIM Card (On Request)

General Terms & Conditions

www.esnaholidays.com/terms-and-conditions/