

# EMERALD TOURS

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## SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS

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### ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR

Sri Lanka is known for its marvellous history and heritage, where great kings, brave hearts and creative souls done wonders during the Sri Lankan time line. Later the Portuguese, Dutch and the British left traces of their colonial rule which will intrigue and mesmerize you.

#### Day 01

##### **AIRPORT - NEGOMBO**

Arrival at Colombo International Airport will be met by a representative and transfer to Negombo. Check in at the hotel.

Afternoon visit the Dutch Fort, Dutch Church and go for a boat ride in the Hamilton Dutch canal and visit some of the old Churches in Negombo.

[Overnight stay in Negombo](#)

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#### Day 02

##### **NEGOMBO - COLOMBO - NEGOMBO**

After breakfast leave for Colombo, visiting Kelaniya Buddhist Temple on the way. Visit Wolvendaal Dutch Church, remains of Portuguese & Dutch fortifications in the Fort area, Kayman's Gate and the flight of steps at the Commercial Bank Building, the Dutch Period Museum, the Dutch Hospital and other sites.

Thereafter visit the National Museum.

After visiting Gotami Vihara (Borella) to see the use of modern art forms (cubism) in Buddhist Paintings.

On completion return to Negombo

[Overnight stay in Negombo](#)

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#### Day 03

## NEGOMBO - ANURADHAPURA

After breakfast leave for Anuradhapura via Giriulla, Narammala & Kurunegala.

Visit Dambadeniya, the Capital of Sri Lanka from 1232 A.D. - 1282 A.D. See the remains of the Moat, Walls, Palace & other buildings of the Fort. Visit Wijayasundararama Temple to see the well preserved Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, the murals, Dagaba, Sacred Bo-tree etc. At Kurunegala visit Ibbagala Temple and see the rock-cut Foot-Print of the Buddha, constructed as a replica of the foot print at the Temple at Adam's Peak, to satisfy the desire of the mother of the King. Visit "Maligawa" premises and see the remains of the Palace etc. of the Kurunegala Kingdom (1293 - 1341 A.D.)

Afternoon proceed to Padeniya (Puttalam road). Visit the Temple - to see beautiful Kandy period murals, wood carvings and a rare "Welipilla" - a raised plinth covered with sand used for teaching the alphabet to novices and pupils.

Visit Yapahuwa (capital for 12 years 1272-1284 A.D.) Fortress to see murals, moats & walls, Tooth Relic Temple and the exquisitely carved staircase. Also visit the Haththikuchcha Temple at Rajangane to see the remains of a Monastery complex. Then leave for Anuradhapura.

[Overnight stay at Anuradhapura](#)

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### Day 04

#### KITHULGALA - KNUCKLES

After breakfast visit Abayagiriya Monastery complex, Jetavanarama Monastery complex and Archaeologists.

Afternoon see the monuments at Anuradhapura including the Old Stone Bridge, Western Monasteries, Asokaramaya, Alms Hall at Abayagiriya, the Museum, Royal Palace, (old) Temple of the Tooth Relic, Vessagiriya caves, Sacred Bo-Tree, Ruwanveliseya, Isurumuniya, Jetawanaramaya, Abhayagiriya and the Thuparama Dagabas

[Overnight stay at Anuradhapura](#)

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### Day 05

#### ANURADHAPURA - MIHINTALE - POLONNARUWA - GIRITALE

After breakfast proceed to Mihintale - the "Cradle of Buddhism in Sri Lanka", Climb 1840 steps and see the Ambastala Dagaba, Aradhana gala, Maha Thupa, Kantaka Cetiya, Naga & Kaludiya Pokuna, Indikatu Seya, the old Hospital etc. Then proceed to Habarana.

Afternoon proceed to Polonnaruwa. See the monuments including the Royal Palace & Audience Halls of King Parakramabahu I (1153 - 1186 A.D) and King Nissankamalla (1187-1196). Thuparama, Vata-da-ge, Heta-da-ge, Pabalu Vehera, Siva Devala, Menik Dagaba, Rankot Vehera, Baddhasimaprasada, Lankatilaka, Gal Vihara - to see the 4 rock-cut Buddha statues, Tivanka Image House - beautiful 12th C.A.D. murals on the walls etc. and the old Hospital where surgical instruments were found.

Then visit "Pothgul Vehera" and Parakrama statue.

[Overnight stay at Girithale](#)

### Day 06

## **GIRITALE - SIGIRIYA**

After breakfast leave for Sigiriya. On the way proceed to Medirigiriya to see the most beautiful Circular Relic House (Vata-da-ge) in the island - a unique design of Sinhala architects; two shrine rooms in ruins with their statues and the remains of an old hospital.

Afternoon visit and Climb the Sigiriya - the "Fortress in the Sky" and see the remains of the Palace on the summit, Lion-staircase, Sigiri Graffiti (5th -13th C.A.D.) the Mirror Wall, Paintings of the Damsels-Light coloured (Vijjulatha) and Dark coloured (Meghalatha) in "fresco-en-secco" and the beautifully designed Pleasure Garden (Water garden, boulder garden), the caves with pre-Christian inscriptions, remains of inner & outer fortifications.

Also visit Pidurangala Temple. See the caves with inscriptions, old statue, ponds, remains of dagabas on the top of the rock, a pillared hall and a large stupa, supposed to be the cremation site of King Kassapa. (477-495 A.D.)

[Overnight stay at Sigiriya](#)

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### **Day 07**

## **SIGIRIYA - DAMBULLA - SIGIRIYA**

After breakfast proceed to Avukana via Kekirawa. Visit Vijithapura Temple and see the large number of ruins there. See the beautiful 46 ft. high standing Buddha at Avukana (5th C.A.D) and proceed to Resvehera Temple via Negampaha. See the standing statue in high-relief in a niche of the rock, the shrine room with paintings, and large reclining Buddha statue and several caves with inscriptions from pre-Christian time. After proceed to Dambulla.

Afternoon visit the Dambulla Cave Temple. (5 caves) dating from 1st C.B.C. to 18th C.A.D. These Temples contains the largest painted surface of 22,000 sq .ft. of Buddhist murals, large number of Buddha statues (more than 130), statues of Gods and Kings in the caves.

Then proceed to Ibbankatuwa a "Megalithic" Burial site, spread in an area of more than 10 acres. See more than 10 graves excavated and conserved.

On completion return to Sigiriya

[Overnight stay at Sigiriya](#)

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### **Day 08**

## **SIGIRIYA - KANDY**

After breakfast proceed to Kandy. On the way visit Gedige Temple at Nalanda. At Matale visit the Alu-Vihara Temple where the doctrine of the Buddha was caused to writing in the 1st C.B.C for the first time. See the caves with paintings and the method used for writing on Ola-leaf books. Visit a Spice Gardens in Matale where you can get the Herbal Oils & Medicines.

Afternoon visit the Royal Palace of Kandy (now a museum), Vishnu Devala, Natha Devala, Audience Hall, other buildings used by the Queens and Ministers. Visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic in the evening to witness the "Pooja" (offerings).

[Overnight stay at Kandy](#)

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## Day 09

### KANDY - NUWARA ELIYA

After breakfast proceed to visit the Craftsmen's Village at Nattarampotha - 'Kalapuraya' to see various craftsmen at work, and also to buy items they produce. See the Galmaduwa Temple, a unique Buddhist Temple in the architecture of a Hindu Temple, Degaldoruwa, the best example for the Kandyan style of paintings in a cave Temple and Medawala Temple - a small temple on pillars. The entire structure is of wood and inside, the walls and the ceilings are painted with Buddhist stories.

Afternoon leave for Nuwara Eliya. On the way visit the Temple at Gadaladeniya - Hindu architecture used by a South Indian Craftsman. See the beautiful carvings of Dancers, Drummers and Musicians, Siva Nataraja and Krishna.

Lankatilaka Temple in Sinhala architecture and Embekke a "gem" in wood carving.

See Ramboda Falls (329 ft. high) and a Tea factory & Tea Plantation on the way to Nuwara Eliya. Evening visit the Market, Victoria Park and drive round the Lake.

[Overnight stay at Nuwaraeliya](#)

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## Day 10

### NUWARA ELIYA - TISSAMAHARAMA

After breakfast proceed to Tissa via Ella - Wellawaya. Visit the quaint little Sita Kovil at Seetha Eliya, Dowa Temple at Bandrawela and see the monument at Randeniwela to commemorate the battle King Senerath (1604 - 1635 A.D.) won with a Portuguese army of 700 soldiers and 13,000 mercenaries. Visit Buduruwagala to see the tallest rock-cut Buddha statue (51 ft.) dating to 8th C.A.D. and 6 other statues of Mahayana Buddhists carved on a rock.

Afternoon leave for Buttala. Visit Maligawila to see the only free-standing Buddha statue in the world; Dambegoda to see the 25 ft. Bodhisathva Avalokiteswara statue, Demata-mal-Viharaya (3rd C.B.C) Temple and then leave for Tissa via Kataragama. At Kataragama visit Kiri-Vehera and Kataragama Devala Complex. [Overnight stay at Tissamaharama](#)

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## Day 11

### TISSAMAHARAMA - YALA - GALLE

Early morning proceed to visit Yala National Park by Jeep, to see wild animals including Elephants, Deer, Sambhur, Crocodile, Wild Boar, Wild Buffalo, other animals and large number of bird species. At Tissa see the Sandagiriya, Yatala and Menik Dagabas and at Ambalantota, Ussangoda pre-historic open air habitation

After breakfast leave to visit Wevurukannala Temple (largest Buddha statue in the Island) Mulkirigala Buddhist Temple (5 caves) Matara Dutch Fort, Weligama statue etc. Then leave for Galle. On the way see the Temple at Dondra and the remains of the Old Vishnu Devala that existed before 9th C.A.D.

[Overnight stay at Galle](#)

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## Day 12

## **GALLE - COLOMBO**

After breakfast proceed to visit the Galle Dutch Fort, one of the best preserved Forts in Sri Lanka. Galle Fort is a "World Heritage Site". See the Zwart, Akeshloot, Aeloes, Aurora, Neptune, Triton, Sun, Moon, Star and other Bastions of the Dutch Fort and also visit the private museum.

Afternoon leave for Colombo. Visit Kalutara Dagaba on the way then leave for Bulathsinhala via Neboda & Mahagama.

Visit "Pahiyangala" Temple where pre-historic man had lived in a cave more than 30,000 years ago, and in the 5th C.A.D. a Chinese Traveller "Fa-Hsien" lived in the same cave. See various stratas in which, skeletal remains, Lithi Facts, micro-liths, Zoo-facts and food remains were found. Then return to Colombo via Ingiriya.

[Overnight stay at Colombo](#)

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**Day 13**

### **COLOMBO**

After breakfast proceed for the discussion with Archaeologists. Listen to a lecture on other archaeological sites in Sri Lanka.

Afternoon free for shopping

[Overnight stay at Colombo](#)

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**Day 14**

### **COLOMBO - AIRPORT**

After breakfast transferred to Colombo International Airport for Departure