

EMERALD TOURS

FAMILY ESCAPE

SOMETHING OLD SOMETHING NEW

This is an itinerary specifically made to fit in your busy lifestyle. With all the fascinations and scenic wonders of Sri Lanka, make these eight days and seven nights a period that will never be forgotten.

Day 01

ARRIVAL TRANSFER/ NEGOMBO

You will be met & assisted upon arrival at the International Airport and be transferred to Dambulla.

Overnight stay at **Negombo**

Day 02

NEGOMBO / PINNAWALA / DAMBULLA

After breakfast proceed to Dambulla. En route visit the Elephant Orphanage in Pinnawala. This orphanage is the home for about 80 elephants, out of which some are baby elephants found abandoned or orphaned in the wild. They are being cared, fed and trained by the wild life authorities. The best time to visit is during the feeding times, when one will have the opportunity of seeing the baby elephants being bottle-fed. Also could accompany the elephants to a river close-by and see them having their daily bath.

Check in upon arrival at the hotel. Evening proceed to Minneriya for a memorable safari by Jeep in the Minneriya National Park and date with the wild in their natural surroundings.

On Completion return to hotel

Overnight stay at **Dambulla**

Day 03

DAMBULLA / SIGIRIYA/POLONNARUWA/ DAMBULLA

After breakfast proceed to Sigirya and visit the 5th century Sigiriya rock fortress which is a world heritage site, built by King Kashyapa (477-495 AD). The 'Lion Rock' is a citadel of unusual beauty rising 200 meters from the scrub jungle. The rock was the innermost stronghold of the 70 hectare fortified town. A moat, rampart, and extensive gardens including the renowned water gardens ring the base of the rock Visit the world-renowned frescoes of the 'Heavenly Maidens' of Sigiriya, which are in a sheltered pocket of the rock approached by a spiral stairway. These frescoes are painted in earth pigments on plaster.

Thereafter proceed to Polonnaruwa, which was the 2nd capital city of Sri Lanka, built in the 11th and 12th centuries AD, and which is a world heritage site. Here you can see the ruins of the Royal Palace, the Gal Viharaya where 4 splendid statues of the Buddha in 'Upright', 'Sedentary' and 'Recumbent' postures carved out of rock, the Audience Hall, the Lotus Bath, king Parakramabahu's statue, and the Parakrama Samudraya Lake built by King Parakramabahu the great. There are also monuments of famous places of worship such as the Shiva Temple, the Lankathilake, the Watadage, the Galpotha, the Kiri Vehera and the remains of a former Temple of the Tooth Relic.

On completion return to hotel Overnight stay at **Dambulla**.

Day 04

DAMBULLA / MATALE / KANDY

After breakfast visit Dambulla Rock Cave temple. Climb up to the 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 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.

Thereafter proceed to 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

Afternoon proceed on a city tour of Kandy. Kandy was the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings, and is a World Heritage Site. The name Kandy conjures visions of splendor 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 center, a gem museum, a lapidary and Batik factory.

Also visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic and thereafter proceed to an auditorium and witness a cultural show featuring traditional Sri Lankan dancing.

Overnight stay at Kandy

Day 05

KANDY / NUWARAELIYA

After breakfast visit Peradeniya Botanical Gardens. This botanical garden was first built as a pleasure garden by a Sinhala king and was expanded by the British. It is 147 acres in extent and provides an amazing variety of trees, plants and flowers.

Thereafter proceed to Nuwara Eliya en route visit a tea factory where the best tea in the world is produced. You will be told all about the process of manufacturing tea. You can also see how tea is graded. Taste a cup of pure Ceylon tea in the factory.

Evening proceed on a Sightseeing tour of Nuwara Eliya. This town situated at an elevation of 1890 meters. This town was the most popular hill station of the British during their rule. You will see their influence as you pass through areas very much reminiscent of the countryside of England which has earned Nuwara Eliya the name "Little England". This is also the very centre of the Tea Growing regions of the island. The golf club of Nuwara Eliya has an excellent 18 hole course.

Overnight stay at Nuwara Eliya.

Day 06

NUWARAELIYA / BERUWALA

After breakfast proceed to Beruwala. Check in upon arrival at the hotel & rest of the day is free for leisure.

Overnight stay at Beruwala.

Day 07

BERUWALA

After breakfast spend day at leisure on the beach.

Overnight stay at Beruwala.

Day 08

BERUWALA / DEPARTURE TRANSFER

After breakfast leave in time to connect with departure flight.