



## SRI LANKA ESCAPE

2024 - Private Tour | 9 Days | Physical Level 2  
Colombo – Dambulla - Kandy - Nuwara Eliya -  
Negombo

Embark on an enchanting journey to Sri Lanka, where diverse landscapes, rich cultural heritage, abundant wildlife and warm hospitality await. This journey is ideal for those short of time, who want to experience the highlights of Sri Lanka. Perfect fusion of exploring ancient cities, lush tea plantations and vibrant wildlife.

- Summit Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Safari through Minneriya National Park
- Interact with the locals at Hiriwaduna Village
- Traverse the epic landscapes by train
- Explore the Horton Plains' highest plateau

To book call **0800 936 3998** or visit your local travel agent

Visit [wendywutours.co.nz](https://wendywutours.co.nz)

## TOUR MAP

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### SRI LANKA ESCAPE PRIVATE TOUR INCLUSIONS:

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- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (B – Breakfast / L – Lunch / D – Dinner)
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Transportation and transfers as per itinerary
- English speaking Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

**NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR:** international flights, visas, drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, meals not included early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

### PRIVATE TOURS:

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These tours are designed for those who want some independence and flexibility. They offer the choice to explore local cuisine, leisure time for optional activities or excursions, and travel when it suits you. Our Private Tours offer excellent value holidays alongside the assurance that most of your arrangements are taken care of. You will also be accompanied by a dedicated and professional guide whose knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

## PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

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All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. ‘Sri Lanka Escape’ is rated 2 on the physical level scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it’s more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You’ll be getting on and off boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time
- Sightseeing at nearly all of the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite several steps, often without handrails
- You will be required to get on and off various sizes of boats and rickshaws throughout the tour

Of course, our guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of our tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

## ITINERARY CHANGES:

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It is our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### **Day 1: Arrive Colombo**

Meals n/a

Upon arrival in Colombo, a representative from Wendy Wu Tours will meet you at the airport in the Arrivals Hall and transfer you to your hotel, which takes around 45 minutes. The rest of the day is at leisure.



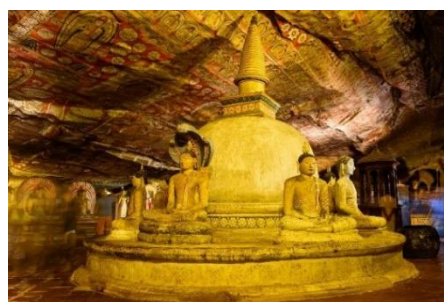
#### **Destination Information**

**Colombo** – Sri Lanka’s vibrant capital exudes a captivating blend of modernity and tradition. Its bustling markets, colonial architecture, and rich cultural heritage make it a fascinating destination. From historical landmarks to aromatic cuisine, Colombo offers a delightful immersion into the heart of the island's urban charm.

### **Day 2: Travel to Dambulla**

Meals: B

Enjoy your breakfast, and after check-out travel to Dambulla, which will take approximately 3 hours. Check-in to your hotel and relax for the rest of the day enjoying hotel facilities.



#### **Destination Information**

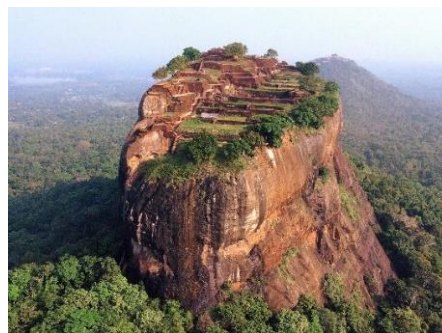
**Dambulla** – Well known for its ancient cave temple complex, this captivating city also offers scenic landscapes and lush greenery. Based in the central part of Sri Lanka it is the perfect base for exploring other nearby attraction.

**Day 3: Sigiriya and Minneriya**

Meals: B

Enjoy an early breakfast before transferring 30 minutes to Sigiriya Rock Fortress. Built by King Kashyapa to protect him from his rivals, it is also known as 'Fortress in the Sky'.

This afternoon you visit Minneriya National Park, a 40-minute drive away. While the elephants are a highlight, a variety of other animal species can also be observed. Look out for the rare bamboo trees.

**Destination Information**

**Sigiriya** - The majestic Lion Rock that rises 200 meters above the ground, with remnants of an ancient royal palace at the top. The name 'Lion Rock' comes from the enormous lion-shaped gateway that once guarded the palace, however only the paws remain today.

**Minneriya National Park** – This enchanting sanctuary is known for its magnificent elephant herds, however it also boasts a rich biodiversity with various species of birds, reptiles and mammals thriving in its lush vegetation.

**Day 4: Hiriwaduna and Polonnaruwa**

Meals: B,L

This morning you'll visit the village of Hiriwaduna, located 30 minutes away. Enjoy a catamaran ride on the reservoir before a traditional tuk-tuk to a village house to prepare an authentic Sri Lankan lunch.

Continue one hour to Polonnaruwa, an ancient city home to many significant archaeological sites. You have the rest of the day at leisure.

**Destination Information**

**Hiriwaduna** – A rural village renowned for its scenic beauty surrounded by lush green paddy fields, small lakes and hills. Its main attraction is Hiriwaduna Wewa - a manmade reservoir that sustains agriculture.

**Polonnaruwa** – Kings ruled the central plains of Sri Lanka from Polonnaruwa 800 years ago, when it was a thriving commercial and religious centre. The glories of that age can be found in the archaeological treasures that offer an excellent insight into the city's golden era.

**Day 5: Dambulla to Kandy**

Meals: B

Today begins with a 2.5 hour drive to Kandy. Enroute you will stop at Dambulla Cave Temple, which forms part of Sri Lanka's Golden Triangle. Within the caves admire a stunning collection of over 150 Buddha statues of various sizes.

Relax in the afternoon before visiting the sacred Temple of the Tooth Relic, home to the palm-leaf transcripts with a history dating back to 1687. Enjoy a cultural dance show in the evening.

**Destination Information**

**Dambulla Cave Temple** – Dating back to the 1st century BC, the famous Dambulla Cave Temple consists of five caves converted into shrine rooms. The caves are home to around 150 Buddha statues and colourful frescoes. In the first cave, observe the 14m statue of Buddha cut out of the rock. At the Buddha's feet are Ananda, the most loyal disciples, and more seated Buddhas nearby. The second cave is the largest, also known as the Cave of the Great Kings, with 16 standing and 40 seated statues of Buddha. The frescoes on the ceiling depict scenes from Buddha's life and important events from the country's history. Inside the cave is a spring created from the drips from its roof, which is said to have healing powers and is used in sacred rituals.

**Kandy** - Kandy is 500m above sea level and known for its culture and beauty. It is a sacred Buddhist city famous for the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, Dalada Maligawa. Each year the tooth relic is honoured in the Esala Perahera - a religious parade with elephants, drummers and dancers performing in the streets.

**Day 6: Kandy to Nuwara Eliya**

Meals: B

Say goodbye to Kandy as you travel approximately 4 hours by train to Nanu Oya station - one of the most scenic journeys in the world. On arrival, you will visit a tea estate and tea factory. Check in at your hotel and relax for the rest of the day.

**Destination Information**

**Nuwara Eliya** - Situated at 2,000m above sea level, Nuwara Eliya is the main hill station of Sri Lanka and is known as 'Little England', as it resembles an English country town. It is an excellent location for tea production due to the cool climate, which creates tea with a unique flavour.

**Tea Factory and Tea Plantation** - During your visit, you will learn about the tea grading process. You will also have the opportunity to taste a cup of pure Ceylon tea.

**Day 7: Horton Plains**

Meals: B

Today, embark on an exciting journey to Horton Plains, where you will witness a truly awe-inspiring sight as the land dramatically plunges into a sheer precipice known as World's End. The rest of the day is yours to do with as you wish.

**Destination Information**

**Horton Plains** – This region is known for its unique geological features, stunning landscapes and natural wonders. Baker's Falls adds to the park's charm with its cascading beauty, while the cloud forest ecosystem and diverse wildlife are a haven for nature lovers.

**Day 8: Nuwara Eliya to Negombo**

Meals: B

After breakfast it's a 5.5 hour transfer back to Negombo. Check in and enjoy the day at your leisure.

**Destination Information**

**Negombo** - Negombo was once an important commercial trade centre renowned for producing the best cinnamon in the world. Negombo was one of the first towns taken by the Portuguese, only to be captured by the Dutch in 1640 and then recaptured by the Portuguese some months later. The British eventually took control of the town in 1796.

**Day 9: Depart Negombo**

Meals: B

Transfer to the airport, where your arrangements end.



## SRI LANKA ESCAPE PRIVATE TOUR TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS:

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New Zealand passport holders currently do require a visa to enter Sri Lanka. Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your intended return date to New Zealand.

Please note: The Sri Lanka Visa cost is not included in our Private Tours pricing. Please contact our reservations team if you would like the Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department to assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Full details will be advised by Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

### INSURANCE:

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We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

### EATING IN SRI LANKA:

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Sri Lanka is home to a melting pot of cuisine. Throughout years of colonisation and influence from other countries and a history of spice trading, Sri Lanka has cultivated its own distinct flavour.

Dishes served in restaurants are varied. Some will be vegetable-based and some meat-based. Many restaurants are aware of the western palate – there are plenty of non-spiced options. Breakfast is included in this tour, and there are plenty of options for you to choose from when it comes to lunch and dinner.

We recommend that when it comes to Sri Lanka, you stay open-minded and try to be adventurous!

**PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS  
AT TIME OF BOOKING**



### DEVELOPMENT IN SRI LANKA:

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Although Sri Lanka is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in New Zealand. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in New Zealand; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday, so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your guide.

### ACCOMMODATION:

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Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort, or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand and Sri Lanka. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

All hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort or Local Guide.

### SOUVENIRS:

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We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

### TIPPING POLICY:

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Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world with Sri Lanka being no exception. Please see our tipping guide lines below:

**Restaurants and Cafes:** In restaurants and cafes, a service charge is often included in the bill, ranging from 5% to 10%. However, if the service charge is not included, leaving a tip of around 5% to 10% of the total bill is customary. If you receive exceptional service, consider leaving a higher tip.

**Hotels and Resorts:** Tipping is common in hotels and resorts, especially for hotel staff who provide direct services. It is customary to tip hotel staff who assist with carrying luggage, room cleaning, and other personal services. A tip of around 50 to 100 Sri Lankan rupees per bag is common for porters.

**Tour Guides and Drivers:** When taking guided tours or using the services of drivers, it is common to tip them as a show of appreciation for their services. For tour guides, a tip of around 500 to 1000 Sri Lankan Rupees per day per person is standard practice. A tip of around 500 to 1000 Sri Lankan rupees per day is typical for drivers.

**Spa and Wellness Services:** If you receive spa or wellness services, the therapists or attendants appreciate tipping around 10% to 15% of the service cost.

**Miscellaneous Services:** Tipping is also customary for other services, such as in local markets or when receiving assistance from locals. A small tip of a few Sri Lankan rupees or rounding up the bill can be a polite gesture of appreciation. It's essential to consider the level of service provided and the local customs when determining the appropriate tip amount. Tipping in a foreign currency is not customary. Using the local currency (Sri Lankan Rupees) for tipping is best. Remember that while tipping is appreciated, it should not be a financial burden and is entirely at your discretion.

#### TRANSPORT:

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**Vehicles:** Vehicles with air conditioning are used for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Road conditions in Sri Lanka have improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of the road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

#### APPROPRIATE DRESS:

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When visiting temples or mosques, both men and women should dress in conservative, non-revealing clothing. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and pants or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women. Women might also consider carrying a 'modesty shawl' in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable while sightseeing at mosques. When visiting Jain temples, you must not wear or take in any leather items such as belts, watches, camera straps, purses and shoes.

Religious sites and homes throughout Sri Lanka require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot, or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near a site's entrance where it is customary to leave your shoes near the threshold. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory; you can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove your shoes, you will have to remain outside.

We recommend shoes that easily slip on and off and carry a pair of thick, old socks in your daypack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces.

#### VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

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We recommend that you contact either your Doctor or Health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz)

#### BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz) as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

#### AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

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Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: May 2024