13 Day Sri Lanka & The Maldives

Colombo
Sigiriya
Kandy
Nuwara Eliya
Yala National Park
Galle
Maldives

www.inspiringvacations.com
13 Day Sri Lanka & The Maldives

FROM
NZ $5,299 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

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be effected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.
DAY 1
Destination: Home ➔ Colombo
Meals included
Hotel: The Gateway Hotel, or similar

A warm welcome awaits you at the arrival lounge of the Bandaranaike International Airport. You will be met by our local representative and transferred to your hotel. Check in and relax after your international flight.

Please note: Most flights into Sri Lanka arrive late in the evening of day 1.

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, Lunch, 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. 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.

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be effected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.
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.

For lunch today, take part in a cooking class of Sri Lankan rice and curry, enjoying five to six typical curried dishes while overlooking the paddy fields.

In the afternoon we’ll visit the Ancient City of Polonnaruwa and its fascinating Archaeological Museum. The second most ancient of Sri Lanka’s kingdoms, the ruins of this city were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982 and used as a backdrop for some scenes for the Duran Duran music video *Save a Prayer*.

This evening, enjoy another round of arrack before dinner.

**DAY 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Sigiriya to Kandy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meals included</td>
<td>Breakfast, Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>5★ Earl’s Regency, or similar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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.

**DAY 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Kandy to Nuwara Eliya</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meals included</td>
<td>Breakfast, Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>The Blackpool Hotel, or similar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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/Tissamaharama
Meals included Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel Mandara Rosen, or similar

While making our way to Yala/Tissamaharama, we’ll stop en route at the ancient Buddhist Buduruwagala Temple, which belongs to the Mahayana school of thought. The complex consists of seven statues, which date back to the 10th century. One Buddha statue, which measures 16m from its head to its toes, still bears traces of its original stuccoed robe and a long streak of orange suggests that it was once brightly painted.

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: sections of Yala National Park close due to conservation efforts each year between September and October. The closure dates are advised by the Sri Lankan government one to two months prior and differ each year. As Yala National Park is made up of multiple sections, if one section is closed due to conservation works we will visit one of the open sections.

DAY 7
Destination Yala ➔ Galle ➔ Colombo
Meals included Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel 4 ★ 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.

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be effected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.
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**  
★ Adaaran Club Rannalhi, or similar

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**  
★ 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.

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be effected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.
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.

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
Hotel: 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.
TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 13
Destination  Home
Meals included
Hotel  N/A

Arrive home today, with memories to last a lifetime.
Inclusions

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- Return international airfares with Singapore Airlines
- Return flight from Colombo to Male with Sri Lankan Airlines
- Return airport transfers throughout
- 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

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

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be effected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.
SINGAPORE STOPOVER PACKAGE

You may wish to stop over in Singapore before or after your tour.

Includes:

- 3 nights at the 4 star Furama Riverfront or similar
- Breakfast daily
- Return airport transfers

Cost - $550 per person Twin Share ($1,100 Single Share)

If you wish to book the Singapore stopover package before or after your tour, please select this under 'Upgrade Options' before completing your booking. You will then be invoiced for this in your final payment.

The $150pp extension supplement does not apply if selecting this option.

Fine Print

DEPOSIT & PAYMENT

Secure your package with a deposit of $500 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.

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be effected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.

Call 0800 475 025 Email support@inspiringvacations.com www.inspiringvacations.com
BOOKING PROCESS

1. Select the purple ‘Sign Up For Full Details’ tab to begin your booking (you must sign up first by entering your email and creating a password)
2. Then select the purple ‘Book now’ tab
3. Select your Departure Date, Departure City, number of Passengers, Room Configuration, and enter any Special Requests
4. Click the purple ‘Proceed to Secure Checkout’ tab
5. Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment
6. Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a booking form so that we can fulfil your booking
7. Your booking is confirmed once your booking form is submitted and you can begin the countdown to your Inspiring Vacation!

TOUR ITINERARY

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be effected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.

Call 0800 475 025 Email support@inspiringvacations.com www.inspiringvacations.com
HOW TO EXTEND YOUR STAY

Some customers like to enhance their holiday by extending their stay pre- and/or post-tour. If you wish to do so, please follow these steps:

1. Follow the ‘Book Now’ prompts after signing up, until you reach the ‘Special Requests’ field
2. Here, please specify your preferred flight arrangements and if you require additional accommodation, with the number of nights needed.
3. After finalising your purchase and submitting your booking form, a member of our team will be in contact with you via email to verify your request.

Please note, a supplement of $150 per person (plus any applicable fare and tax differences) applies to deviate from the standard itinerary. We will contact you via email with a quote and proposed flight itinerary, and then proceed with collecting the additional payment required to confirm your request.

All additional accommodation and sightseeing is at your own arrangement, or alternatively we can offer the following rates:

- Pre-tour accommodation Sri Lanka (Colombo): $175 per room per night (single or double/twin) including breakfast
- Post-tour accommodation Sri Lanka (Galle): $240 per room per night (single or double/twin) including breakfast

Please note, if you are not arriving or departing as per the group itinerary, airport transfers are no longer included. If you would like us to arrange this service for you, an additional cost will apply:

- Airport Transfers (Colombo): $70 per vehicle each way (1-2 people)

The additional cost for these land arrangements will be added to your final payment invoice, due 120 days prior to departure, and is strictly subject to availability.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOUR ITINERARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIRFARE INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Full service airline used will be Singapore Airlines (or similar if unavailable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Internal airfares with Sri Lanka airlines or similar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Flights will require a minimum of 1 transit (maximum 2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All tickets will include 20 kilos checked baggage per person, along with 7 kilos of hand luggage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Despite the airlines baggage allowance, we recommend travelling with 20 kilos per person due to restrictions with internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train transportation. Also, you will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters is not included. If travelling over this amount, you will be liable for any excess baggage fees enforced by the airline, payable direct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Once ticketed, flights are non-refundable. Any changes will be subject to the airline rules and change fees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Full names as per passport (including all middle names) are required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Any airline schedule changes or cancellations are beyond our control.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREMIUM ECONOMY OR BUSINESS CLASS UPGRADES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Premium Economy - Not available.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Business Class upgrade available from an additional $5,200 per person (subject to availability).

Please specify this as a ‘Special Request’ when completing your booking and you will be quoted for the additional fare. In the event your selection is unavailable, or that you are dissatisfied with the quote, you will be provided with a full refund.
### 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 on availability. On the rare occasion the train is fully booked we’ll conduct the route by road.

### LAND-ONLY DISCOUNT

A $1,100 per person reduction from the twin share price applies if you wish to arrange your own airfares. Should you wish to purchase land only, please select this option in the booking process, under ‘Departure City’. Internal airfares from Sri Lanka to the Maldives are still included when selecting this option.

Please note, if you are not arriving or departing as per the group itinerary, airport transfers will not be included. Should you wish to book airport transfers to match your own flights (in Sri Lanka), the cost is $70 per vehicle, per direction.

### EXCLUSIONS

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

### SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Single supplement is $2,300 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOUR ITINERARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**GROUP SIZE**

2-16 people

**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.

**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 return to New Zealand.

New Zealand passport holders will require an e-visa to enter Sri Lanka.

Please note the e-visa is limited to 30 days validity from the date of arrival and is only valid for three months from the date of issue.

You must make sure that the same travel document that was used for applying online is used for entering Sri Lanka.


Information required:

- Purpose of visit (sightseeing/holidaying/tourist)
- Entry type (single)
- Arrival date and departure date (no specific flight details are required)
- Passport information
- The name and address of your first hotel in Sri Lanka

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be effected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.
Pay US$35 per person by credit card. Wait for it to be approved and you will be notified via email within approximately 48 hours. Please note, you will be transferred to an external site when completing your payment online.

Once approved, please ensure that you travel with the following documentation, which is required at customs upon arrival in Sri Lanka:

- Passport with six months validity
- E-visa printout
- Travel itinerary (provided 30 days before departure)
- Hotel list (provided 30 days before departure)

Please note that these details are subject to change without notice. We recommend visiting https://smartraveller.gov.au for up to date information in terms of entry requirements. Visas should not be applied for until you receive your final documentation.

OTHER INFORMATION

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