

CULTURAL TOUR OF SRI LANKA

Day 01 ARRIVE COLOMBO

Arrive Colombo by International flight Meeting on arrival by your chauffeur at the airport and later transfer to hotel in Colombo (40 km/ approx. 45 minutes drive)

Colombo- the trade and commercial capital has long been the traditional gateway to the Orient. Sri Lanka's largest city, it is located on the west coast and draws together all the cultures, religions and influences of foreign lands into a pot-pourri of sounds, smells and a kaleidoscope of colour. The original traders and settlers - the Arabs, Portuguese, Dutch and the British have left in their wake churches and monuments, names and religions, costumes and food and smatterings of their languages which have been absorbed into the speech of the Sri Lankan. Today, Colombo is a fascinating city - a happy blend of east & west, past & present, with a charm of its own. A less known but amazingly true fact is that Colombo has a superb range of high quality restaurants serving food from all over the world and some of the best shopping opportunities in Asia. The main seaport of Sri Lanka is in Colombo & adjoining it, is Pettah, a local bazaar & trading area. Other places of interest are the beautiful Buddhist temples, Hindu temples, mosques, the historic Wolfendhal church, (1749) residential areas where you find the stately homes of the affluent, the Colombo Museum, the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, the New Parliament in Sri Jayawardenepura, the Folk Art Centre, Art Galleries, Parks, Independence Square, the Ceramic Corporation famous for its well known brand "Noritake" and ODEL the renowned shopping centre, and MC.

Overnight in Colombo



Day 02 COLOMBO / KANDY

After Breakfast at the airport, proceed for Kandy by car en route visiting Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage (95 km/ approx. 2hrs). The Elephant Orphanage, located on the banks of the Maha Oya, is mainly to house young elephants who find themselves displaced and lost from their natural habitats for various reasons - environmental changes due to development projects, being abandoned by their parents when they fall into pits & ravines, etc. The most interesting times to visit is at feeding or bathing time.

Art is an important historical site due to the amalgamation of the material from many eras.

After visiting the Elephant Orphanage, drive on to Kandy (40 km/ approx. 1 ½ hrs drive). On arrival, check in at hotel. Kandy - a lovely city and the Hill Capital besides the last stronghold of the Sinhala Kings, retains an aura of grandeur, which was not affected by time. Encircled by hills, with a tranquil lake in its center, it is the site of the renowned "Temple of the Tooth" and the Royal Botanical gardens, home to one of the best collections of Orchids. Kandy and its satellite villages is the center of the islands handicraft industry. Its traditional dances are the most spectacular in the country.

Later in the evening, tour of Kandy city visiting Temple of the Tooth, Tea Museum, shopping tour followed by cultural dance show.

Overnight in Kandy



Day 03

KANDY / GALLE

After Breakfast at the hotel, proceed for Galle by car (250 km/ approx. 4-5 hrs drive) en route visiting the city of Galle. On arrival, check-in at the hotel. Galle, said to be the famous Tarshish of the Bible where King Solomon obtained gems and spices, this "Living" UNESCO World Heritage Site is the port where the Portuguese first landed in Sri Lanka in 1505. Captured and fortified by the Dutch who ruled maritime Sri Lanka in the 17th and 18th centuries, the city still retains the air of old Holland. Within the well preserved 90 acre fort and ramparts built in 1663 are Old Dutch churches and monuments with armorial bearings, an imposing crested and monogrammed gateway dated 1669, many well preserved Old Dutch houses and narrow alleys still bearing Dutch names. The New Oriental Hotel, built for a Dutch governor in 1684, a colonial gem now converted to the internationally renowned Amangalle Hotel and several other excellent boutique hotels are testimony to the importance of this location.

Overnight in Galle



Day 04

GALLE / COLOMBO

Breakfast at the hotel

Vehicle returns to the hotel and transfer to Airport by car (190kms / 3hrs drive) in time to board flight

For onward destination

END OF SERVICES



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