



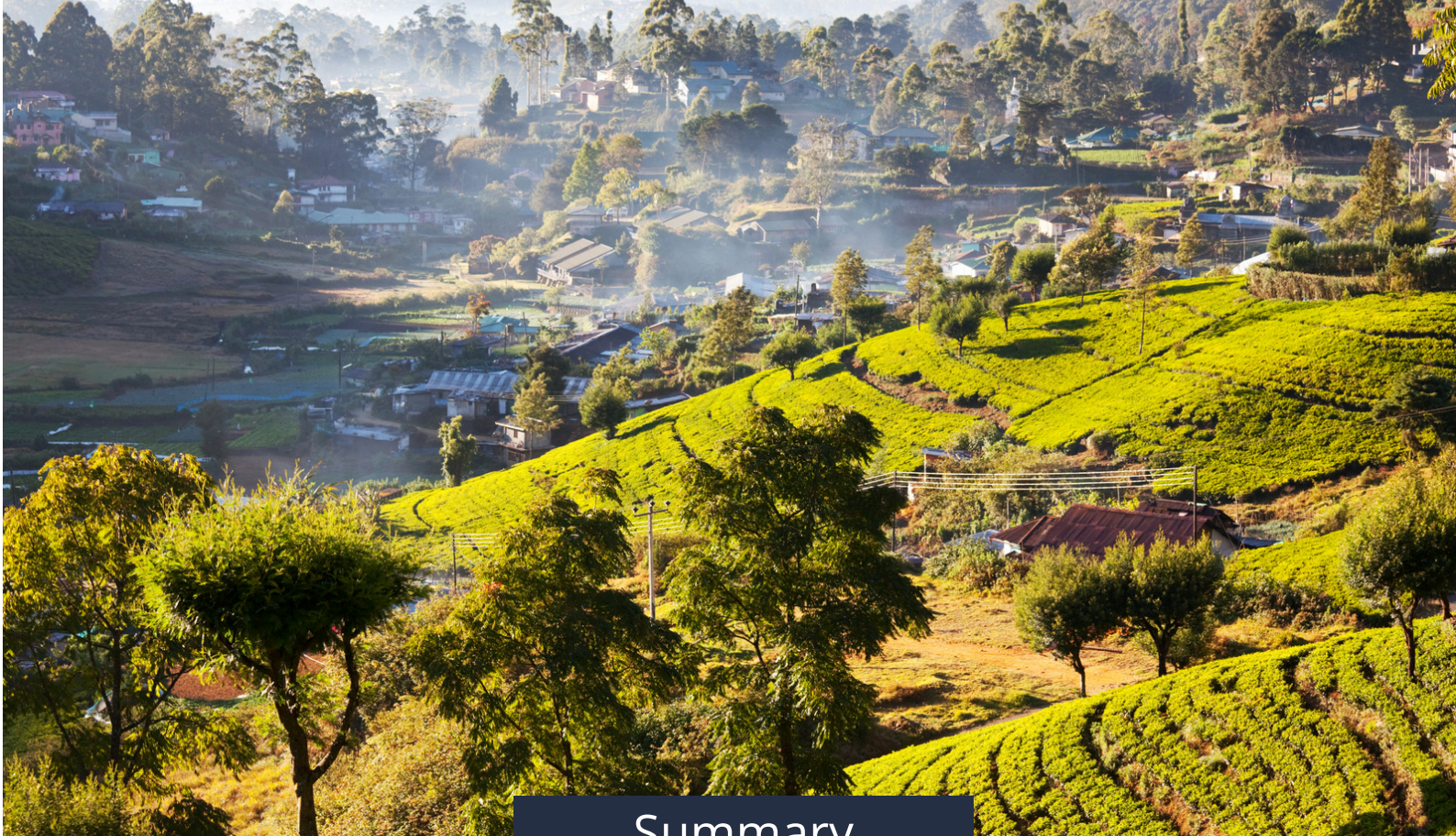
HIKING & CULTURAL TOUR SRI LANKA



**With optional
India and Singapore
Add-ons**

**22 March to
4 April 2025**

**14 Day/13 Night
Hiking, & Cultural Tour**



Summary

Explore Sri Lanka's charm on a hiking, cycling & cultural tour through ancient temples, lively markets and lush landscapes.

With endless beaches, timeless ruins, friendly people, oodles of wildlife, famous tea, scenic trains and flavourful food, Sri Lanka is simply irresistible.

Join us on this 14-day Sri Lanka hiking, cycling and cultural tour to explore Sri Lanka's iconic sights and hike some of the most spectacular trails in the country.

Our professional tour guide will expertly guide us around the country to visit the iconic sights. Imagine climbing Sigiriya Rock, marvelling at the ancient ruins of Polonnaruwa City, searching for leopards at Yala National Park and riding one of the world's most scenic railways through tea plantations.

In usual ICON Adventures style, we will detour off the beaten track to hike from village to village on sections of the Pekoe Trail. Recently opened, this picturesque hiking route takes us through the heart of the island's lush tea plantations, misty hills, and charming villages, offering an immersive experience of Sri Lanka's natural beauty and cultural heritage.

Tour Highlights...

Sigiriya Hike | Cycle Polonnaruwa City | Spice Garden Walk | Minneriya Game Drive | Kandy City Walk | Peko Trail | Nuwara Eliya City Walk | World's End Trek | Hill Country Train Ride | Yala Safari | Galle Walking Tour | Stilt Fisherman | Agriculture Village

ICON Adventures, PO Box 11406, Toowoomba QLD 4350

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Day 1 Meet and Greet - Welcome to Sri Lanka

You've landed in Colombo, the vibrant and eclectic capital of Sri Lanka. We will be met and greeted by our guide at the airport and transferred to our hotel in the nearby town of Negombo. Relax this evening and enjoy a good night sleep before heading off tomorrow on our Sri Lankan Adventure.

O/N 1 night Negombo at Goldi Sands (or similar)

Day 2 Negombo, Dambulla & Polonnaruwa (B,D) Cycling Tour

Today, we depart from Negombo and journey to Dambulla and check into our hotel for the next 2 nights. This afternoon we head to Polonnaruwa to explore this UNESCO World Heritage site by bike. Once the splendid capital of the island, Polonnaruwa offers well-preserved ruins that showcase Sri Lanka's medieval grandeur. With our guide we will cycle around the remains of royal palaces marvelling at the sprawling grounds, intricately carved temples, magnificent rock-cut Buddha statues and towering stupas.

O/N Dambulla 2 nights Occidental Paradise Hotel (or similar)

Day 3 Sigiriya & Minneriya (B,D) Climb & Game Drive

After an early breakfast, we head to the UNESCO World Heritage listed Sigiriya fortress to climb the rock. This iconic 5th-century rock fortress, rising majestically from the surrounding landscape, is not just a testament to ancient engineering prowess but also a masterpiece of art and culture. We will have plenty of time to explore the extensive network of gardens, admire the ancient frescoes, and marvel at the urban planning skills of ancient Sri Lanka. After a little rest we will head out for a game drive in Minneriya National Park later in the day. Known for its abundant wildlife, with herds of deer and diverse birdlife, it also hosts the largest elephant gathering in the world. We will park the jeep by the reservoir and watch as over 300 elephants gather on the grass-covered banks to feed - what an unforgettable experience!

Day 4 Matale & Kandy (B,D) Walking Tour

Another early breakfast, but there is plenty to see today. On our way to Kandy we visit the Matale Spice Garden to learn about the therapeutic properties of spices. Explore Matale, a vibrant agricultural hub known for its rubber, tea, vegetables, and spices. It is then onto Kandy to check into our hotel. In the late afternoon we set off on a walking tour of Kandy City, the cultural heart of Sri Lanka. Visit the revered Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, stroll around Kandy Lake, and explore the bustling Kandy Market where you can browse a variety of local crafts, fresh produce and spices.

O/N Kandy 2 nights Fox Kandy (or similar)

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Day 5 Kandy (B,D) Hike: 13kms

After an early breakfast, we embark on the first stage of The Pekoe Trail, from Hanthan to Galaha. Starting at the Ceylon Tea Museum this trek takes us through the picturesque Hanthana Tea Estate, one of Sri Lanka's oldest and largest plantations. Highlights include the rocky ridge of Katusu Konda, offering panoramic views of the Hanthana and Knuckles Mountain ranges, and spotting black eagles. Along the way, we'll see the dramatic mountain facade from 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom' and pass through charming villages like Kithulmulla, known for its delicious avocados. The trek ends near the post office in Galaha, where we'll board a bus back to the hotel. Spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 6 Nuwara Eliya (B,D) Walking Tour

Today we travel onto Nuwara Eliya, a charming town in the central highlands renowned for its cool climate and picturesque landscapes. Embark on a walking tour to explore the town and see its iconic Golf Club and historic colonial buildings, including the Tudor-style post office. We will walk through Victoria Park, visit the racecourse, stroll around Lake Gregory and enjoy paddle boating amidst stunning mountain views. Afterwards, we visit the Sita Amman Temple and Hakgala Botanical Gardens with a stop at a strawberry farm for fresh treats. Discover why Nuwara Eliya is often referred to as 'Little England'. The rest of the day is at leisure.

O/N Nuwara Eliya 2 nights Hill Club (or similar)

Day 7 Nurwara Eliya (B,D) Hike: 10kms

Fuel up with a hearty breakfast before we head off on the 'World's End' trek. Breath-taking views are a highlight of this moderately strenuous trail which takes approx. 3 hours to complete. As you hike, you'll traverse through the lush greenery of Horton Plains National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The trek leads you to the dramatic cliff of World's End, where you'll be greeted by stunning panoramic views of the valley below and, on clear days, the Indian Ocean in the distance. Along the way, you'll also pass Baker's Falls, a picturesque waterfall cascading down the rocks, and have the opportunity to spot various wildlife, including sambar deer and numerous bird species. Upon completion return to the hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 8 Demodara & Ella (B,D) Hike: 8kms

This morning we embark on the most scenic train ride in Sri Lanka, a captivating train journey from Nanu Oya to Demodara. This popular journey winds through the lush landscapes of Sri Lanka's central highlands offering breath-taking scenery of rolling tea plantations, colourfully clad tea pickers, hazy blue mountains, cascading waterfalls and quaint villages. After we catch our breath it's time to do some exercise. We set out on one of the most popular sections of The Pekoe Trail. Starting at Demodara train station, the trail traverses through tea plantations and local villages, into valleys flanked by chena cultivations, across the Nine Arches Bridge and into the Ella Forest Reserve. The hike ends in Ella where we are transferred to our hotel for a relaxing evening.

O/N Ella 2 nights Mountain Heaven (or similar)



Day 9 Ella (B,D) Free Day With Options

Today the choice is yours - relax and enjoy a down day by the resort pool or join one of the optional activities on offer. Option 1 - Participate in a hands-on cooking class where you'll immerse yourself in the rich aromas of a traditional Sri Lankan kitchen (\$45pp). Option 2 - Take a 10km hike to Ella Rock, a dramatic peak with impressive views from the summit. And if you are super keen you can choose to do both.

Day 10 Yala National Park (B,D) Wildlife Safari

Today we say goodbye to the Highlands and head towards the coast, to the Yala National Park and our luxury stay at the Jetwing Safari Camp. After a brief rest we embark on an exciting evening safari into the national park to spot a diverse array of wildlife, from majestic elephants to elusive leopards. Feel the thrill as your jeep navigates the rugged terrain across the grasslands and dunes.

O/N Yala area 1 night Jetwing Safari Camp (or similar)

Day 11 Yala National Park, Galle (B,D) Wildlife Safari

If the leopards eluded us last night, or you would like to experience more of Sri Lanka's wildlife, we have the option to take another safari into the national park this morning - additional costs apply.

This afternoon we depart Yala for the drive to Galle. On the way we have the unique opportunity to witness the stilt fishermen. Balancing on slender poles planted in the shallow waters, these fishermen demonstrate a traditional and captivating method of fishing that has been passed on for generations.

O/N Galle 3 nights Le Grand Galle

Day 12 Galle (B,D) Walking Tour

Discover the charm of Galle City and the historic Dutch Fort on this engaging walking tour. Start at the iconic Galle Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its well-preserved 17th-century architecture. Stroll along cobblestone streets, taking in the blend of European and South Asian influences. Visit the Galle Lighthouse for stunning views of the Indian Ocean and explore other significant sites to learn about the region's history. Now for a something a little special...this afternoon you will indulge in a Sri Lankan-style high tea by the Galle Fort. Relax and savour an array of delightful treats, including Ceylon tea, finger sandwiches and traditional Sri Lankan sweets while overlooking the Indian Ocean.

SRI LANKA



Day 13 Galle (B,D) Free Day

Today you have some free time to explore more of Galle at your leisure. Beyond its historical allure, Galle is a cultural hub with charming boutiques, art galleries, and cafes that showcase local crafts and cuisine. Its scenic coastal setting, with nearby beaches like Unawatuna, makes it a popular holiday destination. Your time is your own to explore.

Day 14 Bandaragama, Colombo (B,L) Walking Tour & Departure

It's been a blast but all good things must come to an end. But before it does, we have one more wonderful experience for you. The Bandaragama Agro Village is a little corner of heaven in a tranquil, rustic setting. Our walking tour showcases the farm's many facets - you can tour the farm's pineapple and cinnamon plantations, wander through the tea gardens, watch a traditional sweet-making demonstration or learn about the many uses of coconuts.

We will enjoy our final meal all together of a delicious homemade village-style rice and curry, followed by fresh local fruits. We then head onto Colombo where we will enjoy dinner in a local restaurant before heading to the airport for a late evening departure (flight dependent).

Want to see more? Check out our optional add-ons below for India & Singapore.

The Details:

PRICE INCLUDES

- Small-Group - Min 10 - Max 15
- Australian Host Suzanne Holden
- English-speaking guide
- 13 nights good quality (4-5 Star) accommodation
- Meals as per itinerary 13B, 1L & 12D
- Private transport and public train
- Tours and admission tickets as mentioned

ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OFFERED:

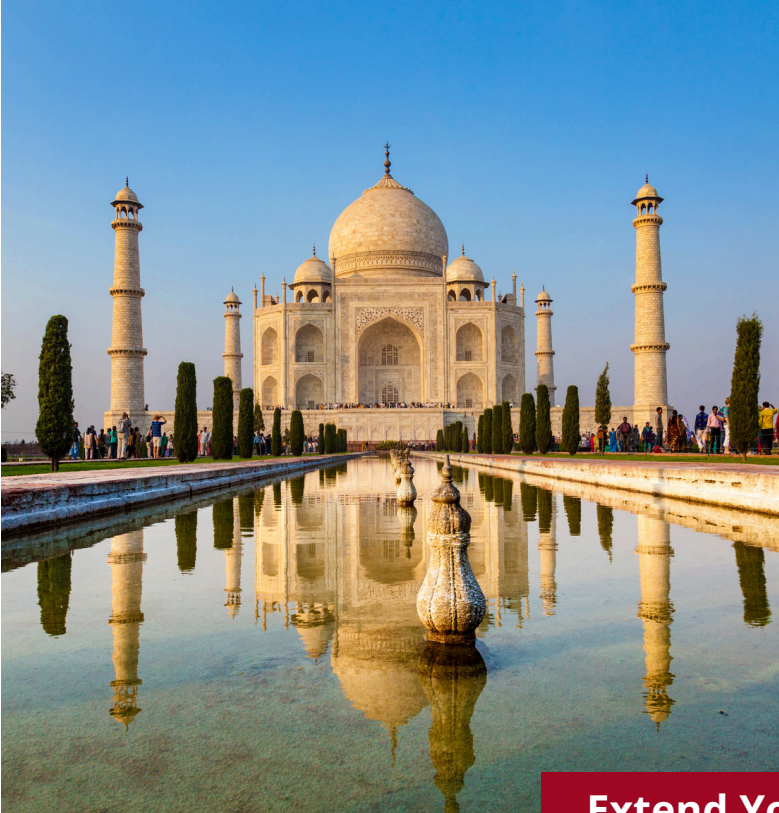
- Booking flights
- Travel insurance
- Pre or post tour travel

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Optional tours not included in itinerary
- Flights & visas
- Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- Tipping for driver & guide (allow \$100 - 150pp)
- Meals not mentioned on itinerary
- All expenses of a personal nature

COST PER PERSON

- Twin or double share: \$4,995/person
- Single supp: \$1,695/person (own room)



Extend Your Holiday

Singapore Stopover 4D/3N (self guided)

Singapore is a vibrant and multicultural city-state known for its stunning modern architecture, lush green spaces, traditional neighbourhoods and efficient urban planning. Our stopover package offers 4 days exploring the highlights.

- ✓ Return private airport transfers
- ✓ 3 x nights accommodation in a 4 star hotel, 3 x breakfasts
- ✓ Half day city tour - choose from City Walking Tour or City Bike Tour
- ✓ Entrance tickets to the Cloud Forest and Flower Dome at Gardens by the Bay
- ✓ Premium 'Sunset in the Sky' tickets to SkyPark Observation Deck at Marina Bay Sands
- ✓ Art Science Museum entry ticket

**Ask us for
more
details**

Cost per person from \$1,260 (twin/double)

Single supplement \$925

India's Golden Triangle Tour 8D/7N (guided tour)

This brief yet vibrant Indian adventure will take you through three distinct northern cities and the colourful rural landscapes of Rajasthan. This classic journey is perfect for photographers and culture enthusiasts, offering an unforgettable taste of India's diverse charm.

- ✓ Return private airport transfers
- ✓ 6 x nights accommodation in 3 star hotels, 1 x night comfortable camp
- ✓ Delhi city tour
- ✓ Taj Mahal and Red Fort
- ✓ Jaipur Pink City tour
- ✓ Dhula Village stay

Cost per person from \$1,299 (twin/double)

Single supplement \$319

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