

Programme : Culture & Nature
Duration : 9 Days / 8 Nights
Validity : 1st November 2009 to 30th April 2010

Tour Itinerary

Day 01 : [Airport or Beach Hotel / Pinnawala / Kandalama](#)

Pick up from the Airport or from the Beach hotel in Negombo or Ahungalla.

Thereafter transfer to Pinnawala.



Visit the Elephant Orphanage at Pinnawala established in 1975 and commenced with seven orphans. Today, some of these orphans enjoy the fortune of seeing their grandchildren born in the same location. The original objective of establishing the orphanage inclined more towards tourism, but soon it became a conservation and an educational centre. With the help of local and foreign elephant experts, Pinnawala started a scientific captive-breeding programme for elephants. The free movement of the herd enhanced the chances for individuals of both sexes to get together and mate. The nearby river played a dominant role in this regard and in 1984, the first baby of Pinnawala was born.

The success story of Pinnawala has drawn the attention of scientists from all over the world. A considerable number of books and research articles on Pinnawala have been published in several languages. The members of the Pinnawala herd have been filmed, videoed and photographed thousands of times by professionals.

Thereafter transfer to Kandalama.

Dinner and overnight stay at Heritage Kandalama, Kandalama.

Web Site : www.aitkenspencehotels.com
Address : Dambulla, Sri Lanka
E-mail : kandala@slt.net.lk
Tel : 066 5555 000
Fax : 066 2284109

Day 02 : [Kandalama / Anuradhapura / Mihintale / Kandalama](#)

Breakfast at Heritage Kandalama.

Thereafter, transfer to Anuradhapura.

Do a city tour of Anuradhapura. It was the first capital and undoubtedly the grandest city of the ancient Ceylon. Two of the World Heritage Sites are situated here and many places of historical and archaeological interest could be visited. Sri Maha Bodhi (Sacred Bo-Tree) was brought as a sapling of the tree under which Prince Siddhartha attained to enlightenment. It is over 2200 years old and is the oldest historically documented tree in the world. The Brazen Palace (2nd century B.C), the 1600 stone columns are all that is left of a magnificent multi-storied residence of monks. Ruwanweliseya (2nd century B.C) is the most famous of all the Dagobas. It originally depicted the perfect 'bubble shape' that modern restoration has not been able to accurately reproduce. 'Samadhi' Buddha statue (4th century AD) is one of the most famous statues, depicting

the Buddha in a state of 'Samadhi' or deep meditation and Isurumuniya rock temple (3rd century B.C) which is well known for its rock carvings.

Then transfer to Mihintale.

Mihintale is where Buddhism was first introduced to Sri Lanka. Mihintale is regarded as the cradle of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. The rock is riddled with shrines and rock dwellings. A grand stairway of 1,840 steps made out of granite slabs of 15' wide leads to the summit from where one could get a splendid view of the surrounding countryside.



On completion, transfer to Kandalama.

Dinner and overnight stay at Heritage Kandalama, Kandalama.

Day 03 : [Kandalama / Sigiriya / Polonnaruwa / Kandalama](#)

Breakfast at Heritage Kandalama.

Then transfer to Sigiriya.

Climb 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 metres 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, transfer to Polonnaruwa.

Do a city tour of Polonnaruwa which is a world heritage site and the 2nd capital city of Sri Lanka built in the 11th and 12th centuries AD. See the ruins of the Royal Palace, the Gal Viharaya where four splendid statues of the Buddha in 'Upright', 'Sedentary' and 'Recumbent' postures carved out of rock, the Audience Hall, the Lotus Bath, the statue of king Parakramabahu, and the Parakrama Samudraya - a 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, transfer to Kandalama.

Dinner and overnight stay at Heritage Kandalama, Kandalama.

Day 04 : [Kandalama / Dambulla / Matale / Kandy](#)

Breakfast at Heritage Kandalama.

Then transfer to Dambulla.

Visit Dambulla rock temple which has been built by king Walagambahu in the 1st century B.C. It is a World Heritage Site. It is the most impressive of Sri Lanka's cave

temples. The complex of five caves with over 2000 sq. metres of painted walls and ceilings, is the largest area of paintings found in the world. It contains over 150 images of the Buddha of which the largest is the colossal figure of the Buddha carved out of rock and spanning 14 metres.

Thereafter transfer to Matale.

In Matale, visit a spice garden to see different spices for which Sri Lanka is famous for. You could see different spices and how some of these spices are grown and processed. Also, witness a Cookery demonstration.

On completion, transfer to Kandy.

Dinner and overnight stay at Earl's Regency Hotel, Kandy.

Web Site : www.aitkenspencehotels.com
Address : Kandy, Sri Lanka
E-mail : erhotel@slt.net.lk
Tel : 081 2422122
Fax : 081 2422133

Day 05 : [Kandy / Peradeniya / Kandy](#)

Breakfast at Earl's Regency Hotel.

Thereafter transfer to Peradeniya.

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

Transfer from Peradeniya to Kandy.

Do 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 splendour 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 and crafts centre, a gem museum and a lapidary. Also, visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy. Thereafter witness a cultural show.



Dinner and overnight stay at Earl's Regency Hotel, Kandy.

Day 06 : [Kandy / Nuwara Eliya / Kandapola](#)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Thereafter transfer to Nuwara Eliya.

Nuwara Eliya, because of its invigorating mountain climate and scenery, is Sri Lanka's most popular hill resort. Nuwara Eliya is also the heart of Sri Lanka's tea country producing a significant share of the world's best tea. Sri Lanka's highest mountain Pidurutalagala (8282 feet) is located here. One of the finest 18 hole golf courses in South Asia is also situated in Nuwara Eliya.

Then transfer to Kandapola.

Dinner and overnight stay at Tea Factory Hotel, Kandapola.

Web Site : www.aitkenspencehotels.com
Address : Kandapola, Sri Lanka
E-mail : tfactory@slt.lk
Tel : 052 2229605
Fax : 052 2229606

Day 07 : [Kandapola / Horton Plains / Kandapola](#)

Breakfast at Tea Factory Hotel.

Thereafter transfer to Horton Plains.



Visit Horton plains which is located on a high windswept saddle at about 2134 meters above the sea level. The plains are an expanse of misty grassland with scraggy trees and ice-cold rivulets. Visit the World's End, considered to be the finest view in all of Sri Lanka. The awesome escarpment drops vertically for about 4,000 feet, hence its name. You can also see the beautiful Backer's falls. (walk is about 14 km).

The park shelters mammals such as Sambhur, Leopard and endemic Bear Monkeys. This area is a home for over 20 endemic bird species including Sri Lanka's Whistling Thrush, Orange-billed Babbler and Yellow-eared Bulbul.

On completion transfer to Kandapola.

Dinner and overnight stay at Tea Factory Hotel, Kandapola.

Day 08 : [Kandapola / Yala](#)

Breakfast at Tea Factory Hotel.

Thereafter transfer to Yala.

Do a safari of the Yala National Park by jeep. Yala is the largest National Park in Sri Lanka which is the home for wild elephants, wild boars, wild buffaloes, leopards, bears, deers and crocodiles. Large flocks of migratory and indigenous birds are also found here.

Dinner and overnight stay at Yala Village, Yala.

Web Site : www.johnkeellshotels.com
Address : Kirinda, Tissamaharamaya, Sri Lanka.
Tel : 047 2239450
Fax : 047 2239450

Day 09 : [Yala / Galle / Airport or Beach Hotel](#)

Breakfast at Yala Village.

Thereafter transfer to Galle.

Galle was once the chief port of Ceylon. It is still well known for hand-made lace. Visit the Galle Fort (spanning 90 acres) which has been originally built by the Portuguese and later extended by the Dutch in 1663. This is a World Heritage Site.



On completion, transfer to the Airport for departure or to a Beach hotel.

Cost : (In U.S. Dollars)

Cost of the Tour from 01/11/09 – 30/04/10	:	1110.00 per person sharing double room
Single room supplement	:	340.00
Compulsory supplements :		
X'mas eve dinner on 24 th December 2009	:	50.00 per person
New year's eve dinner on 31 st December 2009	:	60.00 per person
Compulsory High Season supplement for arrivals between 15 th December 2009 and 15 th January 2010	:	155.00 per person
Discount for the 3 rd person sharing a triple room	:	10% on the per person sharing double room rate

**** Please note that the extra bed in a triple room will be a foldable and rollaway bed.**

Cost of this tour include :

- Accommodation in standard rooms at hotels specified above or of similar standard on half board basis for 8 nights from dinner on day 01 to breakfast on day 09.
- Transportation in an air-conditioned vehicle throughout the tour.
- Entrance fees to the sites mentioned in the itinerary.
- Cost of jeep safari at the Udawalawe National Park.
- Services of an English Speaking Chauffeur Guide throughout the tour.

Cost of this tour does not include :

- Video and Camera permits.
- Lunch throughout the tour.
- Entrance fees to sites not specified in the itinerary.
- Christmas eve supplement on 24th December 2009 if on tour on this date.
- New Year's eve supplement on 31st December 2009 if on tour on this date.
- Beverages throughout the tour.
- Tips and Porterage.
- Expenses of a personal nature.

- Any other cost which is not mentioned in the 'Cost of this tour includes' field above.

Important points to note :

- **It is not possible to cancel any booking after making the payment. Therefore, payments once made will not be refunded.**
- Optional excursions and additional services could be provided for which an additional charge will be applicable.
- The official check-in time at all hotels will be 12:00 hrs.
- The official check-out time at all hotels will be 11:00 hrs.
- Visits to wild life parks will be at client's own risk. Jeeps available are non air-conditioned and very basic with basic insurance covers (not comprehensive as in the case of vehicles that will be used for tours).

