



Sri Lanka

 **Tour Length:** 17 Days

 **Tour Departs:** 1 March 2027

Journey into the heart of Sri Lanka, where ancient kingdoms, sacred temples, mist-shrouded mountains and tropical coastlines come together to create an unforgettable travel experience. From the moment we arrive, discover an island rich in history, culture, flavour and natural beauty, with time to slow down and savour the journey along the way.

From ancient wonders and vibrant traditions to encounters with wildlife, spectacular scenery and moments of pure relaxation, discover the many captivating faces of Sri Lanka on a journey filled with colour, culture and unforgettable experiences.

Highlights

- Dambulla – Dambulla Rock Temple, Polonnaruwa, Minneriya Nat. Park and Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Kandy – Temple of the Tooth Relic, Royal Botanical Gardens
- Nuwara Eliya – tea plantation and factory, and High Tea experience at the stunning Grand Hotel
- Scenic train from Nuwara Eliya to Ella
- Yala National Park, Galle and Colombo
- Galle – incl. city tour, and Galle Dutch Fort
- Turtle hatchery and conservation centre visit in Kosgoda
- Colombo touring and free time

Tour Costs Per Person

Per Person Share Twin/Double Room

\$14,250

Per Person Single Room

\$18,350

Call us now to find out
more about this tour

0800 500 518



*Creating memories through
travel for over 40 years*

mahertours.co.nz



Tour Costs

Inclusions

- Economy Class travel from Auckland - Upgrade to Premium or Business Class available at additional cost
- Prepaid government and airport taxes, security and fuel surcharges (as at 01/09/2026)
- Superior accommodation throughout
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Air-conditioned coach and rail transportation for all touring
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary
- English speaking local hosts and guides as appropriate
- Baggage handling of one suitcase per person – where possible
- Tips to local guides and coach drivers
- Fully escorted by a Maher Tours Leader (subject to minimum numbers)

Exclusions

- Any meals and sightseeing not specifically mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance – advice and assistance offered
- Items of a personal nature such as room service, laundry, drinks, telephone charges etc.

Booking Conditions

- Initial deposit due at time of booking: NZD \$3,000 per person
- Second Deposit due Wednesday 4 November 2026: NZD \$3,000 per person
- Final Payment Balance due Tuesday 5 January

To register for this tour please contact us at 0800 500 518 or tours@mahertours.co.nz

Call us now to find out
more about this tour

0800 500 518



*Creating memories through
travel for over 40 years*

mahertours.co.nz

Tour Itinerary

17 Days

Day 1 | Auckland – Singapore - Colombo

MONDAY 01 MARCH

We commence our journey with an early afternoon flight to Singapore. On arrival into Singapore late evening, we transfer on to our connecting flight to Colombo. Arrival time is just before midnight, and we are transferred directly to our hotel accommodation.

Day 2 | Colombo - Dambulla

TUESDAY 02 MARCH (B,D)

Mid-morning, we check out and travel to the historic city of Dambulla, home to one of Sri Lanka's most remarkable cultural treasures. Here, we visit the magnificent Dambulla Rock Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and sacred complex dating back to the 1st century BC. Accompanied by a local guide, we explore the five atmospheric cave temples, beautifully adorned with intricate murals and home to more than 150 statues of Lord Buddha. Discover the fascinating history of this ancient sanctuary, which has been treasured by generations of Sri Lankan kings, while admiring the exquisite paintings that cover the walls and ceilings of the caves. Above the temple complex stands the striking golden Buddha statue, providing a spectacular introduction to this important cultural and spiritual site. Following our visit, we continue to our hotel and check in, with time to relax and settle into our new surroundings before meeting for dinner.

Day 3 | Dambulla (Polonnaruwa & Minneriva Nat. Park)

WEDNESDAY 03 MARCH (B,D)

After breakfast, we travel to the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka's medieval capital and one of the country's most fascinating World Heritage Sites. On arrival, enjoy a guided tour through this remarkable archaeological city, where magnificent ruins offer a glimpse into the grandeur of a once-powerful kingdom. Explore the remains of ancient palaces, stupas and temples, with beautifully carved stonework and impressive Buddhist statues scattered throughout the site. Admire the exquisite carvings of the Vatadage and the extraordinary rock-carved Buddha figures at Gal Vihara, while discovering the subtle Hindu influences woven into Polonnaruwa's architecture and sculptures. We'll also see the remains of the Nissankamalla Council Chamber, with its distinctive pillars overlooking the vast Parakrama Samudraya, an immense ancient reservoir and remarkable feat of irrigation. Later this afternoon, venture into the wild on a safari through Minneriya National Park. Covering around 8,800 hectares, the park is renowned for its large herds of wild elephants, particularly around the shores of the Minneriya Reservoir. Keep watch for elephants gathering on the grasslands, along with deer and an abundance of birdlife, as we experience one of Sri Lanka's most memorable wildlife encounters. Following our safari, return to the hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure to relax and unwind.

Day 4 | Dambulla (Sigiriya Day Tour)

THURSDAY 04 MARCH (B,D)

After breakfast, we travel to Sigiriya, home to one of Sri Lanka's most extraordinary UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Rising dramatically above the surrounding landscape, the magnificent Sigiriya Rock Fortress was built in the 5th century by King Kasyapa and remains an astonishing testament to ancient Sri Lankan engineering, artistry and ingenuity. Pass through the enormous Lion Paws and discover the remains of this remarkable royal citadel, once protected by moats and ramparts and surrounded by beautifully designed gardens. Along the way, admire the celebrated Sigiriya frescoes and the ancient Mirror Wall, before discovering how an ingenious system of ponds, gardens and hydraulic engineering once carried water throughout the complex and even to the summit of the rock. A visit to the Sigiriya Museum provides further insight into the fascinating history and construction of this ancient masterpiece, bringing to life the grandeur of the kingdom that once stood high above the plains. Following our visit, return to the hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure. Relax, unwind and enjoy the hotel's beautiful natural surroundings.

Call us now to find out
more about this tour

0800 500 518



Creating memories through
travel for over 40 years

mahertours.co.nz

Day 5 | Dambulla – Matale - Kandy

FRIDAY 05 MARCH (B,D)

After breakfast, we check out of our hotel and set off towards Kandy, travelling through the picturesque landscapes of Sri Lanka's lush Central Province. En route, stop in Matale to visit a traditional Spice Garden and discover the fragrant ingredients that are an integral part of Sri Lankan life and cuisine. Learn about the cultivation and traditional uses of some of the island's best-known spices and herbs, including cinnamon, pepper, cardamom, cloves and nutmeg. Take in the wonderful aromas as you explore the gardens, followed by a refreshing cup of herbal tea and an opportunity to browse the selection of locally produced spices and products. We continue our journey through the scenic countryside to Kandy, Sri Lanka's cultural capital, where we check in to our hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax and enjoy the hotel.

Day 6 | Kandy

SATURDAY 06 MARCH (B,L,D)

Today we enjoy a relaxed morning at leisure at the hotel. Later in the day, take part in an interactive cookery demonstration at the hotel, offering an introduction to the flavours, spices and traditional cooking techniques of Sri Lankan cuisine. Following the demonstration, sit down and enjoy lunch featuring the dishes prepared during the experience. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure until we meet for dinner this evening.

Day 7 | Kandy

SUNDAY 07 MARCH (B,D)

We begin the day with a visit to the revered Temple of the Tooth Relic, one of Sri Lanka's most important Buddhist sites. Beautifully situated beside the tranquil waters of Kandy Lake, the temple is believed to house a sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha and remains an important place of pilgrimage. Explore the richly decorated temple complex and learn more about the traditions, history and deep spiritual significance this remarkable site holds for the people of Sri Lanka. We then travel to Peradeniya to discover the magnificent Royal Botanical Gardens, originally established as a royal pleasure garden before being expanded during the British colonial period. Spread across approximately 147 acres, the gardens are home to an extraordinary collection of tropical and exotic plants. Enjoy a leisurely stroll through the beautifully landscaped grounds, taking in towering palms, vibrant orchids, magnificent tropical trees and expansive lawns. With its peaceful pathways and lush surroundings, the gardens provide a delightful opportunity to appreciate the natural beauty of Sri Lanka. Following our visit, return to the hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure to relax and enjoy our surroundings.

Day 8 | Kandy – Nuwara Eliya

MONDAY 08 MARCH (B,D)

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and journey into the cool, misty highlands of Sri Lanka, continuing towards the picturesque town of Nuwara Eliya. Along the way, we visit a traditional tea plantation and factory to discover the story behind one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated exports – Ceylon Tea. Surrounded by rolling hills carpeted in vibrant green tea bushes, learn about the cultivation and careful processing of the leaves that have made Ceylon Tea famous around the world. Step inside the tea factory and observe the traditional methods still used to transform freshly picked leaves into the fragrant tea we know and love. Take in the rhythmic sounds of the machinery and the wonderful aroma of freshly processed tea before enjoying a perfectly blended cup of pure Ceylon Tea – the perfect way to savour the experience. We continue through the spectacular hill country to Nuwara Eliya, often referred to as 'Little England' for its cool climate, colonial architecture and beautifully landscaped surroundings.

Day 9 | Nuwara Eliya

TUESDAY 09 MARCH (B,D)

Today we enjoy a guided city tour of Nuwara Eliya. Augmented by an English countryside atmosphere, the city of light - once governed by English & Scottish planters - is still studded with colonial bungalows, hedgerows & one of the finest 18-hole golf courses in the world. A walk through the green grass and red-brick walls should present breathtaking views of a buzzing countryside hamlet. Drive through green valleys of the hill country pierced by endless waterfalls & dotted by tea plucker's draped in bright-coloured saris. In the evening, we enjoy a High Tea experience at the stunning Grand Hotel.

Day 10 | Nuwara Eliya – Ella - Yala

WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH (B,D)

After breakfast, we check out from the hotel and transfer to Nanu Oya Railway Station to board one of Sri Lanka's most scenic train journeys. Settle back and enjoy the spectacular ride through the heart of the island's hill country as the train winds its way towards Ella. Watch as the scenery unfolds beyond the carriage windows, with rolling carpets of tea plantations, mist-shrouded mountains, lush forests and picturesque hill-country villages creating a wonderfully atmospheric journey. Travelling by rail offers a unique perspective of Sri Lanka's beautiful highlands and is a memorable way to experience the changing landscapes of the island. Upon arrival at Ella Railway Station, we meet our guide and continue by road towards Yala, descending from the cool, misty highlands into the warmer landscapes of Sri Lanka's southern region. Enjoy the changing scenery as we travel towards the coast and the gateway to one of the country's renowned wildlife regions. On arrival in Yala, we check in and settle into our surroundings. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax and enjoy the resort.

Day 11 | Yala

THURSDAY 11 MARCH (B,D)

We enjoy a relaxed morning at leisure at the hotel. Later this afternoon, set out for an exciting safari through Yala National Park, one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated wildlife destinations. Covering more than 1,200 square kilometres, Yala's diverse landscapes of open grasslands, dense scrub, forests, lagoons and rocky outcrops provide a haven for an abundance of wildlife. We climb aboard our safari jeeps and venture deep into the park, keeping watch for herds of elephants, spotted deer, sloth bears, wild buffalo and an impressive variety of birdlife. Yala is also renowned for its leopard population, so keep your eyes peeled as we explore the park in search of these elusive big cats. As the jeep winds along the rugged tracks and through the varied landscapes, enjoy the thrill of being immersed in Sri Lanka's untamed wilderness. With every turn offering the possibility of another wildlife encounter, our safari promises to be a memorable highlight of the journey. Following our safari, we return to the hotel.

Day 12 | Yala - Galle

FRIDAY 12 MARCH (B,D)

After breakfast, we check out from the hotel and continue our journey along Sri Lanka's scenic southern coastline towards the historic city of Galle. On arrival, we check in to our hotel and enjoy some time to relax and settle into our new surroundings. Later this afternoon, we travel to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Galle Dutch Fort for a guided walking tour. Step inside the impressive fortified walls and wander through a fascinating blend of colonial history and Sri Lankan life. Explore the atmospheric streets lined with historic buildings, boutiques and cafés, while discovering landmarks including the Old Gate, Dutch Reformed Church, former Dutch Hospital and iconic Galle Lighthouse. Take a leisurely walk along the ancient ramparts, where the fortifications meet the sparkling waters of the Indian Ocean. As the heat of the day fades, enjoy the wonderfully relaxed atmosphere of the Fort in the late afternoon, when the warm light and sea breezes create a particularly memorable setting. Following our visit, we return to the hotel, and the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 13 | Galle

SATURDAY 13 MARCH (B,D)

Enjoy a full day at leisure. Take the opportunity to make the most of the hotel's stunning coastal setting. Relax beside the pool, soak up the sunshine, admire the sweeping views across the Indian Ocean or simply enjoy a leisurely day at your own pace. Today provides the perfect opportunity to slow down, recharge and savour the relaxed atmosphere of the southern coast.

Day 14 | Galle – Kosgoda - Colombo

SUNDAY 14 MARCH (B,D)

After breakfast, we check out from the hotel and continue along Sri Lanka's scenic southern coastline towards Colombo, the island's vibrant capital city. En route, stop at a turtle hatchery and conservation centre in Kosgoda, where we learn about the important work being carried out to protect Sri Lanka's sea turtles. During our visit, gain an insight into the hatchery's work and the journey from nesting beaches to the eventual release of young turtles into the ocean. Continuing our journey to Colombo, we arrive mid-afternoon and there is time at leisure prior to meeting for dinner this evening.

Day 15 | Colombo

MONDAY 15 MARCH (B,D)

Today we enjoy a guided city tour of Colombo, discovering the fascinating contrasts of Sri Lanka's vibrant commercial capital. Explore the city's diverse neighbourhoods and landmarks, passing through the historic Fort and Pettah districts, where colonial-era architecture meets the energy of modern Colombo.

Continue past Independence Square, BMICH and the leafy avenues of Cinnamon Gardens, taking in the changing character of the city along the way. From its colonial heritage to its contemporary developments, Colombo offers a fascinating glimpse into Sri Lanka's past, present and future. Following our tour, return to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. This evening, come together for a memorable farewell dinner at the renowned Ministry of Crab, located within Colombo's beautifully restored Old Dutch Hospital precinct. Enjoy a delicious seafood dinner and raise a glass to the wonderful experiences, places and memories shared throughout our journey. Following dinner, return to the hotel for our final overnight stay in Sri Lanka.

Day 16 | Colombo - Singapore

TUESDAY 16 MARCH (B,D)

Today is completely free until we are transferred to Colombo airport to start the journey home. Rooms have been held for late check out and we will enjoy dinner en route to the airport. Take the opportunity to relax, perhaps do some last-minute shopping or simply savour our final afternoon in Sri Lanka. Note, our flight departs just after midnight on 17 March.

Day 17 | Singapore - Auckland

WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH

Arrival time in Singapore is early morning. We have a short transit before joining our onward flight to Auckland. Arrival time in Auckland is just before midnight.

Call us now to find out
more about this tour

0800 500 518



Creating memories through
travel for over 40 years

mahertours.co.nz



Sri Lanka

WANAKA, NEW ZEALAND
P: 0800 500 518
E: tours@mahertours.co.nz
W: www.mahertours.co.nz

FULLY ACCREDITED



To register for this tour please contact us at
0800 500 518 or tours@mahertours.co.nz

Call us now to find out
more about this tour

0800 500 518



*Creating memories through
travel for over 40 years*

mahertours.co.nz