

Sri Lanka Trek

Journey through the Hill Country of the teardrop of Asia



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Sri Lanka

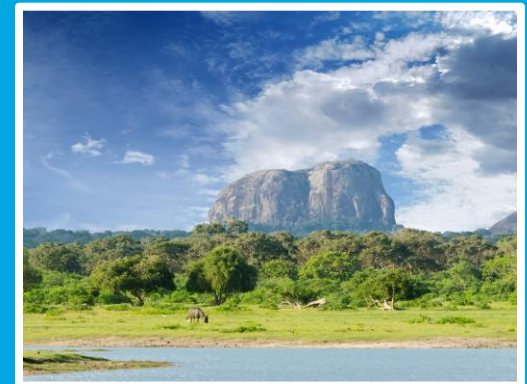
Discover the teardrop of Asia

From the tea plantations that cling to the hillsides, to the white palm-fringed beaches of the coast, Sri Lanka is an isle of extraordinary natural beauty. The glorious variety of flora and fauna, the cool hill stations and the serene grace that permeates all aspects of the Sinhalese way of life make a visit to this island kingdom a fascinating adventure from the modern world.

Our trek takes us on a truly spiritual adventure. Firstly, we will enjoy an incredible elephant safari and then continue our journey through this truly wonderful country taking in some of the best trekking spots the island has to offer.

From climbing the 5th century rock fortress of Sigiriya which rises 180m from the plains overlooking the surrounding countryside giving far-reaching views.

We then journey to the spectacular 2,000m plateau of Horton Plains, overlooked by the second highest peak of Sri Lanka – Kirigalpoththa at 2,395m. After summiting this stunning mountain, our final challenge is to conquer the hikers stairways to heaven, Adam's Peak at 2,224m, it is Sri Lanka's 5th highest and the holiest of mountains.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Day 1: Depart London

Depart London on overnight flight to Colombo.

Day 2: Arrive Colombo - Girtale

From Colombo we transfer to Girtale (approx.175kms) on a scenic drive passing through small villages interspersed with paddy fields, coconut and rubber plantations. Check in to hotel and enjoy our first Sri Lankan sunset.

Day 3: Girtale - Ritigala trekking – Kaudulla National Park (safari) 3hrs trekking

Our challenge begins in the Ritigala mountain range, with a short trek through jungle, passing man-made lakes and into local farmland, with villagers going about their daily life, protecting their plots from wild elephants. We visit an ancient Buddhist monastery before we have lunch in a local restaurant, before entering Kaudulla National Park for our afternoon wildlife safari! The park allows for a fantastic opportunity to see wild elephant at close range, as well as sambar deer, leopards and the occasional sloth bear. Overnight Girtale Hotel.

Day 4: Girtale – Sigiriya – Dambulla - Knuckles

2-3hrs trekking

After breakfast we transfer to Sigiriya. We will hike the Rock Fortress of Sigiriya, one of Sri Lanka's major attractions which has UNESCO World Heritage status. With the afternoon to also explore Dambulla Cave complex, we then transfer to the Knuckles mountain range for our next stage of the trek. Overnight hotel in Knuckles.



Day 5: Knuckles Mountain range 5-6hrs trekking

We hike through the cloud forest to the Kumbukgolla Village, where we will meet the village elders and enjoy a cup of tea with Kithul Juggery and learn about the local ancient legends. We continue our trek towards Duwili Ella for where we will have a picnic lunch, with a chance to dip our toes in the crystal clear, but chilly water! The area is a haven for wildlife and we should encounter barking deer, deer monkeys and various lizards! Overnight camp in Knuckles.



Detailed itinerary

Day 6: Horton Plains

4-5hrs trekking

We break camp and drive to Horton Plains National Park, a large plateau over 2,000m high, overlooked by the second and third highest peaks in Sri Lanka. The scenery is beautiful and the best way to explore is on foot! We trek through the rolling grasslands, seeing forest, unusual wildlife, such as the purple faced monkey. Overnight hotel in Nuwareliya, where we will stay for 2 nights.

Day 7: Horton Plains – Kirigalpothatha climb

7-8hrs trekking

A long day today as we head to Mt Kirigalpothatha, and at 2395m is the second highest peak in Sri Lanka. The trail to the summit is arguably the best nature trail in Horton Plains, with endemic birds, large herds of sambar deer and interesting plant life. Today is one of the most diverse we will experience on the whole trip.

Transfer back to our hotel in Nuwareliya for a well earned supper.

Day 8: Adam's Peak

6-7hrs trekking

Opportunity to rest today and a chance to enjoy some local tea at a tea plantation before we tackle Adams Peak tonight! We transfer to a guest house late afternoon for dinner and a short rest before we wake up at 11pm to start the trek! We cross the boulder-strewn river at various different points as well as enjoy jungle trails. We continue to climb the steps to Adams Peak which stands at 2243 metres and has a great significance in the local area.

The huge footprint at the summit is believed by Buddhists to be that of Lord Buddha, whilst Christians suggest it was where Adam first set foot on earth and Hindus claim that it belongs to Lord Shiva. As a result the peak has been a pilgrimage for over 100 years.

Whatever it's religious significance the famous landmark has some breath-taking views over the hill country at sunrise. We descend back down for breakfast before we transfer the 5hrs to our beach hotel and a well earned rest. Tonight we will celebrate our achievements with a special dinner. Overnight hotel in Hikkaduwa for 2 nights.

Day 9: Free day

A free day to relax on the beach or take some optional tours. Overnight hotel.

Day 10: Depart for London

After an early breakfast, we check out and transfer to the airport for our flight back to the UK. Arrive early evening back into London.

*Itinerary complex and subject to change
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Challenge grade

Moderate

Best time of year

November to February