



17 nights / 18 days DUTCH HERITAGE TOUR ITINERARY

Day 01 AIRPORT – NEGOMBO

Arrive at the Bandaranayake International Airport and transfer to the first hotel in Negombo. In the afternoon go on a boat ride tour through the Dutch canal. The boat ride/safari that takes you along the old Dutch canal which runs through Waikkal, gives you snapshots of birdlife, essentially comprising waders, stunning kingfishers, rare pied kingfishers, bee-eaters, Brahminy kites, etc. Water monitors, bearing an uncanny resemblance to crocodiles, are also bound to make an appearance, so keep your eye out for a glimpse! You can prolong your boat journey by following the canal onto the sea.

Overnight at the Goldi Sands Hotel <http://www.goldisands.com>

Day 02 NEGOMBO – COLOMBO – NEGOMBO

After breakfast leave for Colombo. Visit the Dutch Hospital and Dutch Church. Built as a hospital by the Dutch, it has been used for several different purposes, over the years. It is believed to have existed since 1681, as recorded by German Christopher Schweitzer. The Dutch established the Colombo hospital to look after the health of the officers and other staff serving under the Dutch East India Company. The hospital's close proximity to the harbour allowed it to serve Dutch seafarers.

The Dutch word Wolvendaal means the 'Dale of Wolves' and it relates to an area outside the Fort of Colombo in Sri Lanka which was in the 17th century covered with swamps and marshland. Animals identified as wolves (in fact they were jackals!) used to roam here unhindered. In the middle of this area, on a hill overlooking Colombo, stands the majestic Wolvendaal Church. Built in 1749, it is one of the oldest Protestant churches still in use on the island and considered one of the most beautiful and historically interesting churches of South Asia. Proceed back to your hotel.

Overnight at the Goldi Sands Hotel <http://www.goldisands.com>

Day 03 NEGOMBO – WILPATTU – MANNAR

After breakfast leave for Mannar. On the way visit the Wilpattu National Park. Wilpattu National Park (Willu-pattu; Land of Lakes) is a park located on the island of Sri Lanka. The unique feature of this park is the existence of "Willus" (Natural lakes) - Natural, sand-rimmed water basins or depressions that fill with rainwater. Located in the Northwest coast lowland dry zone of Sri Lanka. The park is located 30 km west Anuradhapura and located 26 km north of Puttalam (approximately 180 km north of Colombo). The park is 1,317 square kilometers (131, 693 hectares) and ranges from 0 to 152 meters above sea level. Nearly sixty lakes (Willu) and tanks are found spread throughout Wilpattu. Wilpattu is the largest and one of the oldest National Parks in Sri Lanka. Wilpattu is among the top national parks world-renowned for its leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*) population. A remote camera survey was conducted in Wilpattu from July to October 2015 by the Wilderness & Wildlife Conservation Trust. A sample of forty nine individual leopards were photo-captured in the surveyed area and the core area density was between that of Yala National Park's Block I and Horton Plains National Park. Proceed to Mannar.

Overnight at the Palmyrah House <https://www.palmyrahhouse.com/>

Day 04 MANNAR

Breakfast at the hotel. Today you will be visiting the Mannar Fort. The fort was built by the Portuguese in 1560, they surrendered to the Dutch on 22 February 1658, and the fort was rebuilt by them in 1686. On 5 October 1795 the Dutch surrendered to the British. The fort has four bastions and it's still in good condition and are intact, though the interior is largely destroyed

Overnight at the Palmyrah House <https://www.palmyrahhouse.com/>

Day 05 MANNAR – JAFFNA



After breakfast leave for Jaffna. Visit the Jaffna Fort. The Portuguese built in 1560 the fortress of Nossa Senhora dos Milagres. Jaffna was the last place in Portuguese hands in Ceylon, they lost it in 1658. The Dutch strengthened the fort about in 1680. The old Dutch fort, of considerable size, with its ramparts, bastions and gateways was still in good preservation before the civil war. Within it was the Governors residence and the Dutch church (Kruys Kerk or Grooteker) dated 1706 inside there were beautiful tombstones. In the Jaffna peninsula there are (or better there were) the remains of several Portuguese-Jesuits churches at Chankanai (1641), Atchueli, Myliddi, Vaddukodai. A Dutch church is (was) at Chundikuli.

Overnight at the North Gate by Jetwing <https://www.jetwinghotels.com/northgate/#gref>

Day 06 JAFFNA

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit the Fort Hammenhiel. Standing on a rock at the entrance to Jaffa lagoon and surrounded on all sides by the sea; Hammenhiel stood on the north, guarding the passage by water to the Key Fort in Jaffa. Built initially by the Portuguese in the seventeenth century on a small island between the island of Kayts and Karaitiu of Jaffa Peninsula, Fort Hammenhiel was later captured, rebuilt and renamed by the Dutch in memory of a 'heel of the ham'. In the recent history it served as a correction facility for naval personnel but had been refurbished into a resort and restaurant where Old Dutch prison cells had been converted into rooms to provide a prison cell experience.

Overnight at the North Gate by Jetwing <https://www.jetwinghotels.com/northgate/#gref>

Day 07 JAFFNA – TRINCOMALEE

After breakfast leave for Trincomalee. You will visit Fort Fredrick, also known as Trincomalee Fort or Fort of Triquillimale, is a fort built by Portuguese colonials at Trincomalee, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka, completed in 1624 CE, built on Swami Rock-Konamamalai from the debris of the world famous ancient Hindu Koneswaram temple (Temple of a Thousand Pillars). The temple was destroyed by the Portuguese colonial Constantino de Sá de Noronha under Phillip III, occupier of the Jaffna kingdom and Malabar country on the island. On the Konamalai cape was also built a new village of Portuguese and Tamil people, 50 Portuguese soldiers and inside the fort, a church named after "Nossa Senhora de Guadalupe". The Fort of Triquillimale was dismantled and rebuilt by the Dutch in 1665, renamed Fort Fredrick.

Overnight at the Trinco Blu <http://www.cinnamonhotels.com/en/trincoblubycinnamon/>

Day 08 TRINCOMALEE

After breakfast leave for Pigeon Island. Pigeon Island National Park is one of the two marine national parks of Sri Lanka. The national park is situated 1 km off the coast of Nilaveli, a coastal town in Eastern Province, encompassing a total area of 471.429 hectares. The island's name derives from the rock pigeon which has colonized it. The national park contains some of the best remaining coral reefs of Sri Lanka. Pigeon Island was designated as a sanctuary in 1963. In 2003 it was redesignated as a national park. This national park is the 17th in Sri Lanka. The island was used as a shooting range during the colonial era. Pigeon Island is one of the several protected areas affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004. Proceed back to your hotel.

Overnight at the Trinco Blu <http://www.cinnamonhotels.com/en/trincoblubycinnamon/>

Day 09 TRINCOMALEE – POLONNARUWA – HIRIWADUNA – SIGIRIYA

After breakfast leave for Sigiriya. On the way visit the Polonnaruwa Heritage City. The second most ancient of Sri Lanka's kingdoms, Polonnaruwa was first declared the capital city by King Vijayabahu I, who defeated Chola invaders in 1070 to reunite the country once more under a local leader. In Polonnaruwa you can see traces of a great kingdom that once existed and historically valuable in Sri Lanka. Today the ancient city of Polonnaruwa remains one of the best planned archaeological relic cities in the country, standing testimony to the discipline and greatness of the Kingdom's first rulers. Its beauty was also used as a backdrop to filmed scenes for the Duran Duran music video Save a Prayer in 1982. The ancient city of Polonnaruwa has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO.



Next visit a traditional local village. Hiriwaduna is just 02 Km (05 minutes - drive from Sigiriya, Trek through the archetypal Sri Lankan Typical village. The trek begins with an awesome walk along a bund of a Wewa or manmade reservoir. The reservoir itself, the surrounding scrub jungle, marshland and village are a hive of early morning or evening activity. The amazing birdlife, butterflies and possible sightings of crocodile only add to the charm of seeing the villagers as they go about their early morning tasks of fishing, or washing clothes at the periphery of the lake. Initially one wades through a shallow stream and thereafter crosses a wider tributary in a catamaran of an obliging farmer to inspect Chena cultivation (slash and burn agriculture). Enjoy the farmer's humble hospitality. With the guidance of the farmer, pick some fresh vegetables from the plot and join in the preparation of a simple meal prepared in the traditional method using earthenware pots and firewood as fuel. This is great opportunity to sample the authentic local cuisine. The journey continues through dense shrub forests, home to many forest birds and other wildlife including monkeys, bear, python and even elephants. In Hiriwaduna you can do a bicycle trip, oxcart trip or boat trip. Proceed to Sigiriya.

Overnight at the Kassapa Lions Rock <http://www.kassapalionsrock.com/>

Day 10 SIGIRIYA

In the morning climb the UNESCO World Heritage site Sigiriya Rock, part of Sri Lanka's 'Cultural Triangle', where you will have a chance to gaze over the stunning views of Central Sri Lanka. Sigiriya (sometimes called Lion's Rock) is the ruins of an ancient palace in a 200m high rock fortress, overlooking the beautiful plains of North-Central Sri Lanka. Built for an exiled Indian prince, the breath-taking ruins are one of Sri Lanka's main tourist attractions and date back to AD 477. Despite its age, Sigiriya still retains much of its former beauty and features some of the finest examples of ancient art in the form of wall paintings, as well as a network of attractive gardens and reservoirs, and Sigiriya's namesake – a gigantic pair of lion's paws cut into the rock. With its fascinating history and unerring beauty, Sigiriya is often referred to as the 8th wonder of the world and the UNESCO-sponsored Central Cultural Fund has even restored Sigiriya's 5th century Water Gardens, so that you can get a glimpse of what Sigiriya might have been like thousands of years ago.

Overnight at the Kassapa Lions Rock <http://www.kassapalionsrock.com/>

Day 11 SIGIRIYA – MATALE – KANDY

After breakfast leave for Kandy. On the way visit the Spice Garden in Matale. During past history Sri Lanka known as Taprobane, was world renowned for its Quality Spices. In the 16th century Ceylon, as it was then known, was discovered by Portuguese who soon began trading in cinnamon and other spices. The Dutch and British followed bringing with them their own history and influences, forming a strong Western presence which created a history of food expressed with spices which can be tasted in the dishes today. Spices are an essential element of the cuisine of Sri Lanka and the Ayurvedic tradition and a visit to a garden specializes in the cultivation of these substances and an excellent way for purposes of new uses of certain ingredients that perhaps though they knew well. Find cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, vanilla, cardamom and black pepper, to name a few. Europeans can buy the products in their natural state or in the form of oils and potions that are used by Ayurvedic medicine, during the Dutch, very famous spices of Sri Lanka. Proceed to Kandy.

Visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy. Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy is the most prominent and sacred Buddhist shrine in Sri Lanka, even in the world. The relic of the tooth is kept in a two-story inner shrine fronted by two large elephant tusks. The relic rests on a solid gold lotus flower, encased in jeweled caskets that sit on a throne. The temple is joined to the Pattiripuwa (Octagon) tower, built in 1803, that was originally a prison but now houses a collection of palm-leaf manuscripts. The king's palace is also in the temple compound.

Overnight at the Suisse Hotel <http://www.hotelsuisse.lk/>

Day 12 KANDY – ELLA

After breakfast leave for Ella by train.

Overnight at the morning Dew Hotel



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Day 13 ELLA

Breakfast at the hotel. Today you will go sightseeing in Ella. Visit the Little Adam's Peak & Nine Arches Bridge. Whether considering the word 'Little', it is named after the sacred Adams Peak (Sri Pada –where the foot print of Lord Buddha is preserved) regarding the similarity between the two mountains. Therefore the mountain was called as Little Adams Peak. It is 1141 m in height. Little Adam's Peak attracts many travelers who come to Sri Lanka. Gradually with an easy hike up to the mountain of Little Adams Peak you can consummation a worth panoramic view. You have to walk through lush green tea plantations, waterfalls and paddy fields while enjoying the sceneries. It will be priceless if you could visit the place in the morning when the clouds roll in. Further places like Little Adams Peak deliberates 'How far Sri Lanka is worth and rich with beautiful natural destinations of Sri Lankan tourism'. It will feel like a neck exercise for the visitors as you have to rotate your body to seek the views outstanding for 360 degrees.

The Nine Arches Bridge also called The Bridge in the sky is one of the most iconic bridges in Sri Lanka and is one of the best examples of British railway constructions when Ceylon was yet a colony of the British Empire. It is located in Demodara, between Ella and Demodara railway stations. As of the past decade the surrounding area has seen a steady increase of tourism due to the bridge's architectural ingenuity and the profuse greenery in the nearby hillsides. Loosely founded, albeit popular rumours suggest that when construction work commenced on the bridge, the Great War began between the empires of Europe and the steel consignment assigned for this site was reallocated to Britain's War related projects at the battlefield. As a result when the work came to a standstill the locals came forward and built the bridge with solid stone bricks and cement without steel.

Overnight at the morning Dew Hotel

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Day 14 ELLA – YALA

After breakfast leave for Yala. On the way visit the Ravana Waterfall. This waterfall measures approximately 25 m (82 ft) in height and cascades from an oval-shaped concave rock outcrop. During the local wet season, the waterfall turns into what is said to resemble an areca flower with withering petals. But this is not the case in the dry season, where the flow of water reduces dramatically. The falls form part of the Ravana Ella Wildlife Sanctuary, and is located 6 km (3.7 mi) away from the local railway station at Ella. Proceed to Yala.

Visit the Yala National Park. Yala National Park is famously known for its highest concentration of leopard in the world and this is the second largest national park in Sri Lanka. The park is primarily shrub jungle with rocky outcrops that dot the park, along with several salt and fresh water lagoons. Rain is received mainly during the northeast monsoon usually from May to September. At the Yala national park visitors could spot leopards, elephants, sloth bear, Sambar and spotted deer, jackal, mongoose, wild boar, wild buffaloes, langur and macaque monkeys. Yala is also famous for its bird life. There are around 130 species of birds that have been spotted at the premises including black necked stork, sandpipers, pelicans, egrets, hoopoes, parakeets and bulbuls. One could spot peacocks as soon as they enter the park unlike the evasive jungle fowl, the national bird of Sri Lanka.

Overnight at the Hibiscus Garden <http://www.hibiscus-garden.com/>

Day 15 YALA – DONDARA – MATARA – THALPE

After breakfast leave for Thalpe. On the way visit the Dondra Head Lighthouse and Matara Fort. Dondra Head Lighthouse was designed by Sir James Nicholas Douglass, with construction, by William Douglass of the Imperial Lighthouse Service, commencing in November 1887. All the building materials including the bricks and steel were imported from England. The granite rock was supplied from quarries at Dalbeattie in Scotland and Penryn in Cornwall. The lighthouse was completed and commissioned in March 1890.



Matara Fort was built by the Portuguese about 1550 but the actual fort was built by the Dutch when they took Matara, after the capture of Galle. The remains of the fort (a rampart and a gateway) are in good preservation. Inside the fort there are several old Dutch houses and a church with gravestone on the floor dated from 1686. After the Matara rebellion in 1761-1762, a beautiful fort called redoubt "Van Eck" was built in 1763-1765, on the right bank of the river. This fort is the unique star shaped fort in Ceylon, over the gate of the fort is the Dutch coat of arms. It's still in good preservation. Proceed to Thalpe.

Overnight at the Apa Villa <https://www.apavillathalpe.com/>

Day 16 THALPE – GALLE – THALPE

After breakfast visit the Galle Fort. Galle is a bustling provincial capital and administrative centre for the South. Once a port, Galle was Sri Lanka's first international commerce and trade centre, and the streets are still awash with a cosmopolitan range of goods available to buy in exotic markets and quirky art galleries. The Dutch presence is still visible in Galle, and should you want to retrace the footsteps of the Dutch rule, let our guide give you the tour of the Old Dutch fort (a UNESCO World Heritage site), the Dutch Government House, the former New Oriental Hotel (built in 1684), the old bell tower, and the Dutch tide-based sewage system. Proceed back to your hotel.

Overnight at the Apa Villa <https://www.apavillathalpe.com/>

Day 17 THALPE

Breakfast at the hotel. Relax on the beach.

Overnight at the Apa Villa <https://www.apavillathalpe.com/>

Day 18 THALPE – AIRPORT

After breakfast transfer back to the airport.

PACKAGE INCLUSION

- ✓ Accommodation at selected hotels with breakfast and dinner (half-board)
- ✓ Private transportation for 18 days
- ✓ Experienced, English-speaking chauffeur guide with required guiding permit and safe & secure certification.
- ✓ Driver Accommodation & Meals
- ✓ Transport by fully insured a/c vehicle by Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd as shown in the tour itinerary.

PACKAGE EXCLUSION

Entrance fees
Flights and visa
Personal travel insurance
Personal expenses
Tips

For Reservations:



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