

HIGHLIGHTS OF SRI LANKA

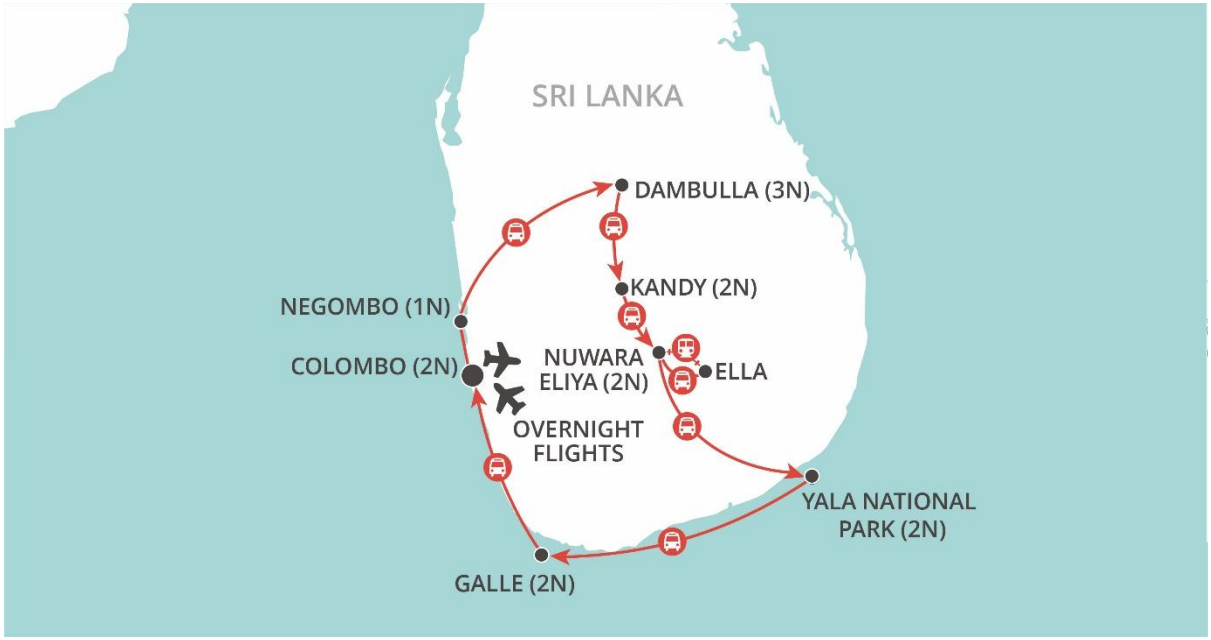
Classic Tour | 16 Days | Physical Level 2

Negombo – Sigiriya – Kandy – Nuwara Eliya – Yala– Galle - Colombo

Marvel at magnificent temples, see the World Heritage Rock Fortress at Sigiriya, search for elephants and other wild animals at Yala National Park, discover the fascinating caves at Dambulla and explore the ruined cities of Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura.

- Climb the spectacular Sigiriya rock fortress
- Explore the ruins of medieval Polonnaruwa
- Visit Kandy's sacred temple
- Safari in the national park
- Wander the historic city of Colombo
- Immerse yourself in the colonial history of Galle Fort

TOUR MAP



HIGHLIGHTS OF SRI LANKA TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Sri Lanka visa fees for New Zealand passport holders (please see visa section below for further information)
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Sri Lanka on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully inclusive basis, so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escort/Local Guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Highlights of Sri Lanka' is rated 2 on the physical level scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time
- Sightseeing at nearly all of the palaces, fortresses and some temples involve climbing quite a number of steps, often without handrails
- You will be required to get on and off a boat, train and tuk tuk (rickshaw) and will experience a bumpy jeep safari over uneven terrain
- Sigiriya Rock involves climbing approximately 1,200 steps via a combination of stone stairways and metal staircases. The return climb, including time at the summit, can take up to two hours. There are some steep and narrow sections, and parts of the climb have limited or no handrails

Of course, our National Escorts and Local Guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of our tours, please contact our Reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 16 days in duration including international flight. Please note that flight from New Zealand arrives very late on day 1 of the tour, so you might consider adding an additional night prior to the tour starting. The departure flight from Colombo to New Zealand leaves in the very early hours of day 16, so you will be transferred to the airport on day 15 after dinner.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to Reservations so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Colombo and end the tour on Day 16 also in Colombo. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

Day 1-2 **Arrive Negombo** Meals: D

Arrive in Colombo where you are greeted by your Local Guide from Wendy Wu Tours, to be transferred 45 minutes, to your hotel. You have the rest of the day to relax or explore as you wish.



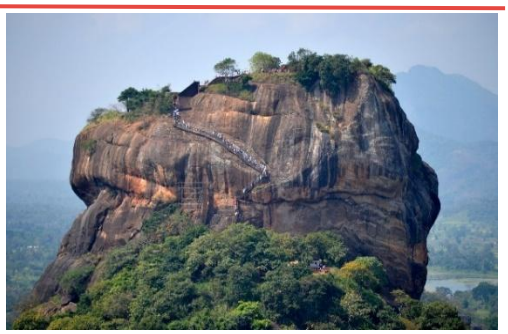
Early check-in is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.

Destination Information

Negombo - Negombo was once an important commercial trade centre, well known for offering the best cinnamon in the world. Negombo was one of the first towns taken by the Portuguese, only to be captured by the Dutch in 1640 and then recaptured by the Portuguese some months later. The British eventually took control of the town in 1796.

Day 3: **Sigiriya Rock Fortress** Meals: B, L, D

Following breakfast, embark on a 4-hour journey to reach Sigiriya.



Upon arrival, explore the renowned Rock Fortress, also known as Lion Rock. The ascent involves climbing many steps, most of which have railings, leading to the top of the Rock Fortress. This climb is quite steep, demanding extra caution. Remember to carry an ample water supply and wear a sun hat for protection.

Please note: Climbing Sigiriya Rock involves approximately 1,200 steps over a combination of stone stairways and metal staircases. The return climb can take up to two hours and includes some steep, narrow sections where handrails may not be available. Guests who choose not to climb can explore the landscaped gardens at the base of the rock, relax at the visitor centre or nearby café, and enjoy views of this UNESCO World Heritage Site from ground level.

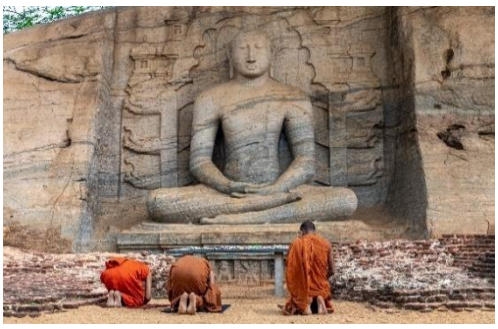
Destination Information

Sigiriya - The ancient city of Sigiriya lies at the 180m summit of the granite peak known as the 'Lion's Rock'. One of the most dramatic sites in Sri Lanka, it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1982.

Rock Fortress - Built by King Kashyapa, the rock fortress is also known as the 'Lion Rock' because a massive lion carved out of the rock once sat at the entrance to the palace.

Today only the lion's paws remain. On the summit are the foundations of the Royal Palace built for King Kashyapa, along with a pool, sunrise-facing throne constructed from solid rock and panoramic views of the town below. You will also see the three distinct landscaped gardens, the Water Gardens, Boulder Gardens and Terrace Gardens.

Day 4: Polonnaruwa Meals: B, L, D



After breakfast travel 2 hours to explore the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka's medieval capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Wander among remarkably preserved palaces, temples and towering Buddha statues as you uncover the stories of the kings who ruled from this magnificent city nearly 1,000 years ago. Enjoy lunch before travelling to Minneriya National Park, heading out on an exciting jeep safari in search of Sri Lanka's remarkable wildlife. The park is known for its large herds of Asian elephants, and is also home to deer, crocodiles, monkeys and an abundance of birdlife.

Please note: Shoes must be removed when entering religious sites, so wearing socks is recommended.

Destination Information

Polonnaruwa - Polonnaruwa was the capital of Sri Lanka from the 11th to the 13th centuries and is a well-preserved city of stupas, frescoes and statues. Visit the ruins of the Royal Palace, Audience Hall and the Bathing Pool in the Royal Palace group, along with the Thivanka Image House, which possesses the best frescoes from the Polonnaruwa period.

Minneriya National Park - Well known for its large population of elephants in herds of 100 to 150 roaming in the jungle and seen in the catchment area of the lake. Other wildlife that can be sighted include wild buffaloes, wild boar, spotted deer, sloth bear, Sāmbhar, leopards, crocodiles, jackals, and numerous species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish and butterflies.

Day 5: Anuradhapura Meals: B, L, D



Today you will visit the ancient city of Anuradhapura, travelling approximately 2 hours to reach Sri Lanka's first royal capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore its impressive collection of ancient temples, towering stupas and archaeological treasures as you uncover over 2,000 years of history. Your visit includes the sacred Sri Maha Bodhi, a revered fig tree grown from a cutting of the original tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment. Return to Sigiriya this afternoon.

Please note that exploring the site involves approximately four hours on foot.

Destination Information

Anuradhapura - One of Sri Lanka's most ancient cities. The city's greatest treasures are its dagobas; domes enshrining sacred relics. The most notable is the Ruvanveliseya Dagoba, dating back to the 2nd century BC. Also, visit the Jetavanaramaya, the largest dagoba in the world, and the Thuparamaya, said to contain the collarbone of Buddha, and the first dagoba built in Sri Lanka.

Bo Tree - The most renowned Buddhist relic is the sacred Bo Tree. It is said that Emperor Asoka's daughter brought Anuradhapura a branch of this tree, under which Buddha is said to have gained enlightenment. Planted over 2,250 years ago, it is the oldest surviving historical tree in the world.

Day 6: Kandy

Meals: B, L, D



This morning, travel towards Kandy, stopping to visit the UNESCO-listed Dambulla Cave Temple. Discover a remarkable complex of ancient cave shrines adorned with vibrant Buddhist frescoes and hundreds of statues, including a magnificent 14-metre reclining Buddha carved into the rock. Continue to a spice garden in Matale, where you'll learn about Sri Lanka's famous spices during a cookery demonstration before enjoying a traditional lunch. Afterwards, continue to the hill city of Kandy.

Travel time to Kandy is approximately 3 hours.

As this is an active religious site, modest clothing is recommended, and shoes must be removed before entering, so wearing socks is advised.

Destination Information

Dambulla Rock Temple - Dating back to the 1st century BC, the famous Dambulla Rock Temple is made up of five caves that have been converted into shrine rooms containing around 150 Buddha statues and colourful frescoes. In the first cave you will see the 14m statue of Buddha cut out of the rock. At the Buddha's feet are Ananda, the most loyal disciple, as well as other seated Buddhas nearby. The second cave is the largest, also known as the Cave of the Great Kings, where there are 16 standing and 40 seated statues of Buddha. The frescoes on the ceiling depict scenes from Buddha's life and important events from the country's history.

Spice Garden - Sri Lanka is famous for its spices, and today you will visit a spice garden where cinnamon, cardamom, pepper creepers and other spice trees are planted.

Kandy - Kandy is situated 500m above sea level and is known for its culture and beauty. It is a sacred Buddhist city, famous for the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, Dalada Maligawa. Each year the tooth relic is honoured in Esala Perahera, a religious parade with elephants, drummers and dancers performing in the streets.

Day 7: Explore Kandy Meals: B, L, D



Set out on a 1-hour drive to reach the expansive Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens, renowned as Sri Lanka's largest botanical haven. After wandering through the picturesque grounds, enjoy a picnic lunch before a city tour of Kandy that encompasses roughly two hours of sightseeing.

Pay a visit to the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, and proceed to the remnants of the Royal Palace. Do note that the temple can be bustling during daily prayer sessions. As evening descends, indulge in a cultural dance performance.

Destination Information

Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens - The largest botanical gardens in Sri Lanka. Here you will see a collection of ornamental plants used to produce spices.

Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic - The temple houses an important Buddhist Relic, a tooth of the Buddha. Stolen at his funeral, the tooth was smuggled into Sri Lanka hidden in the hair of a princess who fled from India. The relic of the tooth is kept in a two-storey shrine fronted by large elephant trunks.

Remains of the Royal Palace - Now the National Museum, the primary exhibits are in the Palle Vahala, the former Queen's Palace, and consist of weapons, jewellery, tools and other artefacts.

Day 8: Travel to Nuwara Eliya Meals: B, L, D



Bid farewell to Kandy as you travel into Sri Lanka's scenic hill country to Nuwara Eliya. En route, visit a tea plantation to discover how world-famous Ceylon tea is grown, processed and graded, before enjoying a freshly brewed tasting.

Explore this charming colonial-era town, taking in its elegant architecture, the historic Hill Club, the old racecourse, picturesque Gregory Lake and the colourful Sita Amman Kovil. Later, round off the day with a traditional afternoon high tea.

Your journey between Kandy and Nuwara Eliya will take approximately 3 hours.

Destination Information

Hill Club Hotel - Founded in 1876 by a British Coffee Planter, as a "Home" Away from home, and today a privately operated club. It is one of the few remaining monuments that remind you of the colonial occupation of Sri Lanka. Over a Century old, this cozy, comfortable holiday home once catered only to the British on the island and has an interesting history behind it.

Gregory Lake - Lake Gregory was constructed during the period of British Governor Sir William Gregory in 1873.

Seetha Amman Kovil - This is the only Seetha Amman Kovil in the world and is built according to South Indian architecture. Legend has it that Seetha was held captive and hidden in this spot by king Rama to protect her from the demon king Ravana according to the Epic Ramayana.

Day 9: **Scenic Rail** Meals: B, L, D

Board one of the world's most scenic rail journeys, travelling 3 and a half hours Ella. Wind through mountains, emerald tea plantations and dramatic valleys, taking in the spectacular landscapes of Sri Lanka's hill country. Transfer by tuk tuk to the iconic Nine Arch Bridge, an impressive colonial-era railway bridge surrounded by lush jungle. Enjoy lunch before making your way back to Nuwara Eliya by road, which lasts approximately 2 and a half hours.



Please note: *Train schedules in Sri Lanka are subject to delays and beyond anyone's control. While every effort is made to secure train tickets, travel by road may be substituted if tickets are unavailable. orning explores a tea plantation and factory, gaining insight into the tea manufacturing process.*

Destination Information

Nuwara Eliya - Situated at 2,000m above sea level, Nuwara Eliya is the main hill station of Sri Lanka and is known as 'Little England', as it resembles an English country town. It is considered to be an excellent location for tea production due to the cool climate, which creates tea with a unique flavour.

Ella - Nestled in Sri Lanka's lush hill country, Ella is a laid-back mountain town renowned for its cool climate, sweeping tea plantations and spectacular scenery. Surrounded by dramatic peaks and waterfalls, it is home to the iconic Nine Arch Bridge and offers some of the country's most breathtaking railway views.

Day 10: Yala National Park Meals: B, L, D



After breakfast, journey south to Yala National Park, travelling through Sri Lanka's ever-changing landscapes. En route, visit the Elephant Transit Home at Udawalawe, learning about the nurturing of orphaned and abandoned baby elephants. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before continuing to Yala for your two night stay.

The total journey from Nuwara Eliya to Yala takes approximately 6 hours.

Destination Information

Udawalawe Elephant Sanctuary - The home cares for abandoned and orphaned baby elephants, providing them with food, shelter and medical care before they are released into the Udawalawe National Park.

Day 11: Yala National Park Meals: B, L, D



Rise early this morning for a game drive through Yala National Park. Explore its diverse landscapes in search of elusive leopards, sloth bears, wild elephants, crocodiles, deer, buffalo and an impressive variety of birdlife. Return to the hotel for lunch and time to relax before heading back into the park for an afternoon safari, when wildlife is once again at its most active.

Destination Information

Yala National Park - Yala is the largest national park in Sri Lanka and is most famous for its herds of elephants. It is also home to many other wild animals, including boars, buffalos, leopards, bears, dears and crocodiles.

Day 12: Travel to Galle Meals: B, L, D



Leave Yala behind as you set out on an approximate drive of 3 hours to Galle. En route, make captivating stops at the Hummanaya Blowhole, the Mulkirigala Rock Temple, and the Dikwella Wewurukannala Temple. Following a satisfying lunch, continue your journey to Weligama, renowned for its iconic stilt fishermen.

Destination Information

Hummanaya Blowhole - The second largest of the six large blowholes in the world, located at the top of a fissured cliff about 20m above sea level.

Mulkirigala Rock Temple - This cave temple contains Buddha figures surrounded by wall paintings depicting scenes from the life of Buddha.

Dikwella Wewurukannala Temple - One of the most remarkable Buddhist temples in Sri Lanka. The temple is dominated by the largest Buddha statue in the country, which stands at 160ft high.

Weligama - Stop to view the iconic stilt fishermen of Sri Lanka. A tradition kept alive by only 500 families, the fishermen balance 2m above the water on a cross bar tied to a vertical pole, planted underwater. With one hand, they hold the stilt and with the other their fishing rod. A truly remarkable sight!

Day 13: Galle Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before travelling to the UNESCO-listed Galle Fort. Enjoy lunch within the historic fort before exploring its atmospheric streets, where centuries of Portuguese, Dutch and British influence are reflected in the elegant colonial architecture, churches, ramparts and charming boutiques. As one of Sri Lanka's best-preserved colonial landmarks, Galle Fort offers a fascinating glimpse into the island's rich maritime history.



Destination Information

Galle Fort - Built by the Portuguese in 1588, it was fortified by the Dutch during the 17th century. Covering 36 hectares, the fort contains an amazing number of buildings from over the years. Considered one of the best examples of a fortified city built by Europeans in Asia, it was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage listed site in 1988.

Galle Lighthouse - Stunningly located on the edge of Galle Fort, the lighthouse is one of 14 left in Sri Lanka and is considered the oldest.

The Dutch Reformed Church - Originally founded in 1640, the present building dates from 1752 to 1755. The floor of the church is covered with granite tombstones and there is a small graveyard on the premises.

Day 14: Colombo Meals: B, L, D



After breakfast, travel to Colombo, stopping en route at the Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery. Located on one of Sri Lanka's most important turtle nesting beaches, the conservation centre works to protect endangered sea turtles by rescuing vulnerable eggs, caring for hatchlings and releasing them safely into the ocean. Learn about the life cycle of these remarkable creatures and the vital conservation efforts helping to safeguard their future.

Destination Information

Colombo - The formal capital city and the business and commercial centre of Sri Lanka. Originally a small seaport, Colombo became prominent in the 15th century with the arrival of the Portuguese. The Dutch later arrived in the 16th century, but it wasn't until the British arrived in the late 18th century that Colombo developed into a major city.

Day 15: Colombo City Meals: B, L, D



Explore the dynamic city of Colombo today. Immerse yourself in the Fort District, take a leisurely stroll through the bustling Pettah Market, and pay a visit to the historic Dutch Church of Wolvendaal.

Additionally, delve into the cultural richness of the Kelaniya Buddhist Temple, as well as the Colombo and Natural History Museums. This morning's activities will involve relaxed sightseeing, spanning approximately three hours. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at your own pace.

Destination Information

Fort District - Having been ruled by the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British, the Fort District is a treasure trove of grand old colonial architecture. Now, the city's cosmopolitan central business district, the Fort District was the centre of both the British and the Dutch administrations of Sri Lanka. Many of the grand old buildings built during these times are dotted throughout the area and are still in use as government buildings today.

Pettah Market - A colourful series of open-air markets and bazaars located in the Pettah district, selling everything from fruit, vegetables, and fabrics to household goods.

Dutch Church of Wolfendhaal - Built in 1749, the Dutch Church is one of the most important Dutch Colonial era buildings in Sri Lanka. The church is in the form of a cross, with walls 1.5m thick and the floor includes intricate tombstones to Dutch colonists.

Kelaniya Buddhist Temple - A major pilgrimage site for Buddhist devotees, who believe that the Lord Buddha visited this site on the 8th year of enlightenment.

Colombo and Natural History Museums - Located closely together, the Colombo National Museum tells the story of ancient Sri Lanka, with collections including the regalia of Sri Lanka. The Natural History Museum displays the natural history of Sri Lanka.

Day 16: **Depart Colombo** Meals: B

Anytime before your flight is free to further explore the vibrant city of Colombo independently. Later, transfer to Bandaranaike Airport to board your onward flight home.

Late check-out is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.



SRI LANKA - TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Entry visas are required by all visitors to Sri Lanka and Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in a group, although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

EATING IN SRI LANKA:

Sri Lanka is home to a melting pot of cuisine. Throughout years of colonisation and influence from other countries and a history of spice trading, Sri Lanka has cultivated its own distinct flavour. Meals as outlined in the itinerary (excluding drinks) are included in our tour. Please be aware that dishes selected for your meals reflect the cooking styles and signature dishes of the local area you are in.

Dishes served in restaurants on our tours are varied. Some will be vegetable-based and some meat-based. Our restaurants are aware of the western palate – there are plenty of non-spiced options. Dishes will usually be served either as a set menu with a few choices, or in a buffet style to allow you to sample many different options.

We recommend that when it comes to Sri Lankan food, you stay open-minded and try to be adventurous!

PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING

ACCOMMODATION:

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, TV, and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide or National Escort.

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort, or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand and Sri Lanka. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

Please be aware that there are heightened security measures being carried out at all hotels, on guests and vehicles entering the properties.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Sri Lanka is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. To avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides and drivers) throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

PORTAGE:

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in Sri Lanka. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner-city roads in Sri Lanka have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner.

Roads in Sri Lanka have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20 kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

When visiting temples or mosques, both men and women should dress in conservative, non-revealing clothing. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and pants or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women. Women might also consider carrying a ‘modesty shawl’ in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable while sightseeing at mosques.

Religious sites and homes throughout Sri Lanka – for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Muslims, or Buddhists to name a few – require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes.

You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove your shoes, you will have to remain outside. We recommend shoes that easily slip on and off, and carry a pair of thick, old socks in your daypack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces. The itinerary above will indicate when you need to consider this.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your doctor or Health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Updated: July 2026