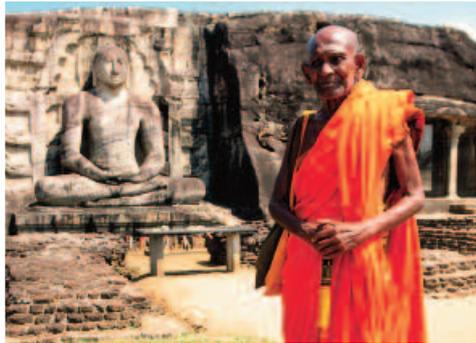


JEWELS OF SRI LANKA

Dambulla, Kandy, Yala, Galle & Mount Lavinia



Your 9 day, 7 night tour allows you to experience the beauty of Sri Lanka, exploring the delights of Dambulla, Sigiriya Rock and the colonial cities of Kandy and Galle. Visit ancient temples of past civilisations, wonder at the beautiful botanical gardens in Peradeniya, meet the elephants at the Pinnawala Orphanage and take a safari through Yala National Park.

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Sri Lanka. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Colombo

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Colombo International Airport.

DAY 2: Colombo to Dambulla D

On arrival you will be met by your local guide and transferred to Dambulla with the rest of your evening at leisure.

DAY 3: Dambulla B/L/D

Depart in the morning to explore the stunning Sigiriya Rock Fortress, a World Heritage Site dating back to the 5th century AD. Also known as the 'Lion Rock', it is a citadel of unusual beauty rising 200 metres from the jungle. Following lunch continue on to the ancient city of Polonnaruwa which was once a royal capital of the Sinhalese kingdom and is over 1000 years old. It was chosen as the capital as it was advantageously positioned to safeguard against possible attacks from the southeast, as well as supposedly having fewer mosquitoes! Here you can admire the ruins of the Royal Palace and wander round the Gal Vihare, famous for its splendid carved Buddha statues.

DAY 4: Dambulla to Kandy B/L/D

After breakfast visit the Dambulla Rock Temple, where the impressive caves contain over 2000sq

metres of painted walls and ceilings which were once gilded by the ancient King to mark his place of worship. You will then travel to Kandy en route visiting a spice garden followed by lunch and check in at your hotel. Continue to the famous Temple of Tooth Relic in the afternoon – Sri Lanka's most important Buddhist relic and one of the holiest shrines in the Buddhist world. After dinner relax whilst watching an eclectic cultural show, where performers will dazzle you with ornate costumes and traditional dances.

DAY 5: Kandy B/L/D

Today you will travel to the beautiful botanical gardens in Peradeniya, boasting more than 4,000 species of trees, plants, orchids and creepers. Next a highlight of this tour is a trip to the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, established in 1975 to care for abandoned and wounded elephants. Witness these magnificent creatures in close quarters and see young elephants being fed, bathed and trained by the wildlife authorities. This evening enjoy a city tour of Kandy, including the bazaar and arts and crafts centre and a gem museum. Kandy was the last capital of the ancient kings and after defending themselves for over three centuries from the Dutch and Portuguese it finally fell to the hands of the British in 1815.

DAY 6: Kandy to Yala B/L/D

Leave Kandy for Nuwara Eliya en route visiting a tea plantation/factory. On arrival in Nuwara Eliya participate in a short walking tour of the town. Your journey continues through Sri Lanka's striking scenery with lunch on the way to your hotel near Yala.

DAY 7: Yala B/L/D

The morning is at leisure before your exciting jeep safari around the magnificent Yala National Game Park, the largest national park in Sri Lanka with a unique ocean front setting. The park is home to elephants, wild boars, buffaloes, bears, deer and crocodiles as well as a number of migratory and indigenous birds. You may even spot a leopard!

DAY 8: Yala to Mount Lavinia B/L/D

Following breakfast, you will arrive in Galle, once the chief port of Ceylon and the centre of the Dutch regime in the 17th century. A city tour lets you discover the majestic Galle Fort and the surrounding historic buildings which reflect the Dutch heritage which once reined the country. Travel north for your final night at the world famous Mount Lavinia Hotel. This 200 year old hotel was once the Governor's Residence when Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) was under British rule.

DAY 9: Colombo to the UK or Extension B

Transfer to the airport for your flight to the UK, or continue on to your chosen extension.

Itinerary Changes: The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day to day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

Hotels

Dambulla (2 nights): 4★ Amaya Lake - Kap Ela, Kandalama
Dambulla, Contact number: 0094 114 767 888

Kandy (2 nights): 4★ Amaya Hills - Heerassagala Road, Kandy,
Contact number: 0094 81 223 3521

Yala (2 nights): 4★ Mandara Rosen - 57 Detagamuwa, Kataragama,
Yala, 0094 47 223 6030

Mount Lavinia (1 night): 4★ Mount Lavinia Hotel - Hotel Road
Dehiwala, Mount Lavinia, 0094 12 143 575 522

All accommodation is 4★ and features an en suite bathroom, heating/air-conditioning, satellite TV and tea/coffee facilities. Mercury Holidays has visited and inspected all of the hotels to ensure that they meet the high standards of service which we require for our clients. If the hotels detailed are not available alternatives will be used of a similar standard. Final confirmation of your hotels will be sent in a document approximately two weeks before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch will be taken in local Sri Lankan restaurants with dinner at your hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

On your arrival

On your arrival in Colombo you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Aitken Spence**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Aitken Spence representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any queries. However, if you need to contact Aitken Spence during your stay the details are:

Aitken Spence Travel (Colombo)
04th Floor
Aitken Spence Towers 02
315, Vauxhall Street
Colombo 02
Sri Lanka
Contact number: 0094 112 499623

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Aitken Spence Travel

Contact	Telephone number
Rizmika	0094 772 916461
Anil	0094 777 270500

Visas

A visa is required for entry into Sri Lanka. We work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa for you on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury Holidays". The cost of the visa is from £35. The visas take around 10 working days to issue and are only valid for 3 months from the date of issue. We therefore recommend that you apply for your visa 8 weeks before travel, however please be aware that your passport will be required for the application so make sure that you will not need it during this time. Alternatively you can visit The High Commission of Sri Lanka at 13 Hyde Park Gardens, London, W2 2LU. **Please note:** If you have chosen to add the 'Kerala Beach Stay' or 'Highlights of Kerala' extension to the end of your tour, you will need to obtain an Indian visa prior to your UK departure. The Travel Visa Company offers a service which takes can take up to 15 working days at busy times. The cost is approximately £129. Alternatively you can apply for your own visa. You can apply in person or by post to the Indian Embassy in London: 142-148 Goswell Road, London, EC1V 7DU. There are also regional centres elsewhere in the UK. Full details on the process can be found on the Indian Embassy website www.in.vfsglobal.co.uk.

Insurance

You must obtain suitable travel insurance prior to departure. Mercury Holidays is partnered with Holiday Extras which offer insurance at the following prices:

Age in years	Up to 64	65-74	75-85
Up to 10 days cover	£37	£72	£104
Up to 17 days cover	£42	£79	£135

Prices are for worldwide insurance, excluding USA. For all persons 86 years and over, please contact us for insurance prices. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24

hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

We recommend that you consult your local GP for advice on vaccinations & travel health before departure. It is not advisable to drink the tap water.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves full days of sightseeing, often on foot, & includes some climbing of stairs and getting on and off coaches. **This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.**

Group Size

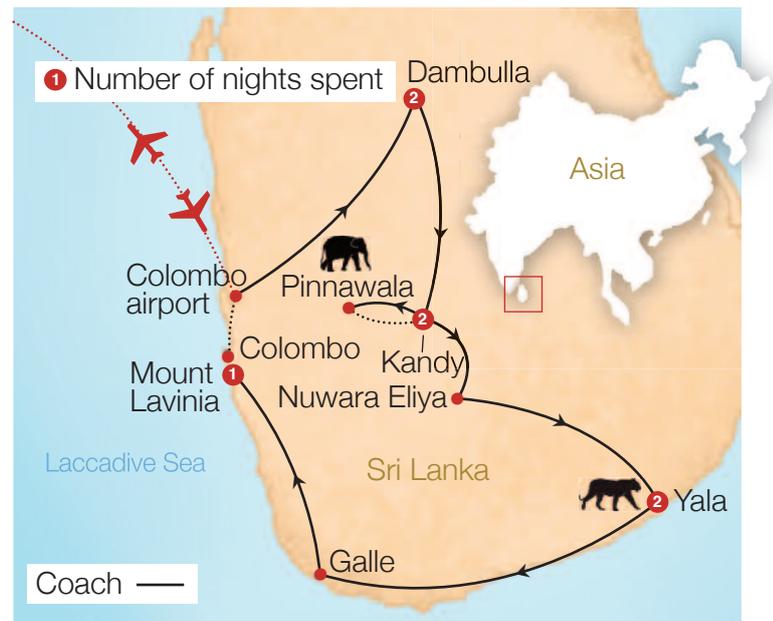
The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 25. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date then you may be asked to change to a different date. A full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip. You will also be joined by a local guide in each of the cities which you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory and is at your discretion. Should you wish to tip, this will be collected by your guide at the end of your tour for your convenience. We would recommend approximately £10 for the duration of your tour for the driver and guide. It is asked that if you do not tip in the local currency, please do not give coins as these are difficult to exchange.



Currency Exchange

The currency in Sri Lanka is the Rupee, LKR. The Rupee is a closed currency and officially you are not allowed to take any cash out of Sri Lanka. US Dollars and GBP are also widely accepted in Sri Lanka should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £100 - £200 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour.

Please note: Yala Game Park is closed for 30 days from September to October. During this period the safari will be to Udawalawe Game Park which is located approximately 50 miles inland from Yala Safari Park with appropriate accommodation.

What to Pack

- Sunscreen and hat in summer
 - Warm clothing and thermals in winter
 - Comfortable walking shoes
 - Camera and charger
 - An electric plug converter - the electricity in Sri Lanka is 230 volts and is a 3 round pin plug or a UK plug
 - Loo paper for public WCs
 - Binoculars
- Leave plenty of space in your case for shopping!

Flight and Airport Information

Your flight is to Colombo International Airport with Sri Lankan Airlines (UL), departing from London Heathrow Terminal 3.

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
London Heathrow-Colombo	21:30	12:45	10 hours 35 mins	UL504
Colombo-London Heathrow	13:05	19:30	12 hours	UL503

IMPORTANT: Please note that all flight times/numbers are given for guidance and are subject to change. Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance

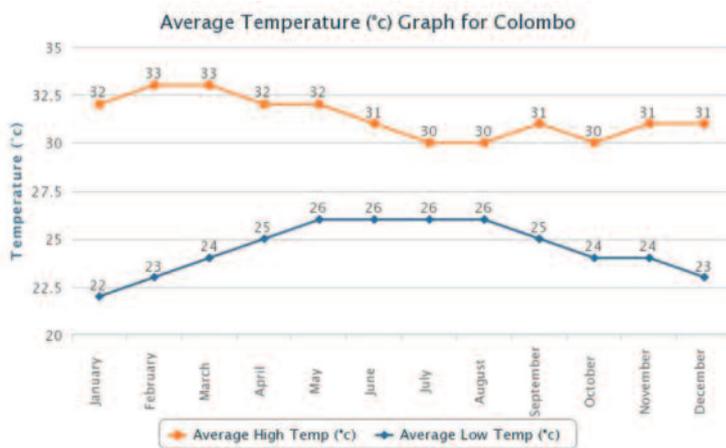
Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 30KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage of 5kg not exceeding 56cm x 36cm x 23cm in size and 1 personal item such as a handbag, briefcase or laptop case. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure. If you have booked an optional add on please contact us for more information.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras - Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

Weather and Climate

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate chart below.



Sigiriya Rock

HIGHLIGHTS OF KERALA

Kochi, Thekkady & Kumarakom



Your 4 night/5 day tour highlights some of the wonders of Kerala. This tour gives an exciting insight into the fascinating culture of this beautiful Indian state.

This document aims to give you all the information that you require during your chosen add-on to Kerala.

Highlights of Kerala Tour (4 nights)

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 9: Colombo to Kochi (Cochin) (B)

Depart Sri Lanka in the morning for your flight to Kochi, in India's beautiful southern state of Kerala, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

DAY 10: Kochi to Alleppey (B)

Transfer to Alleppey to board an authentic houseboat, journeying through the scenic backwaters.

DAY 11: Alleppey to Thekkady (B)

Disembarking your houseboat after breakfast, your tour continues with a drive through the spectacular countryside arriving at the Thekkady Hill Station, home to a stunning wildlife sanctuary.

DAY 12: Thekkady to Kochi (Cochin) (B)

After an early morning boat ride on Periyar Lake, proceed to Kochi for a city tour.

DAY 13: Kochi to the UK (B)

Depart after breakfast for your return flight to the UK.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Kerala is the Rupee or Rs. US Dollars and GBP are also widely accepted, should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

Tour guides

This add-on to Kerala is fully escorted.

Visas

A visa is required for entry into India. British Citizen Passport Holders will need to obtain an e-Tourist Visa (eTV) for travel to India. We work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury Holidays". The cost of the visa is approximately £72 per person. The Travel Visa Company can only apply for this 30

days before your proposed travel date and takes around 10 working days to issue. It is only valid for a 30 day single entry stay from the date of arrival. When calling the Travel Visa Company they will advise you of any changes to the fees or the procedure, they will also advise you of all information they will require in order to apply for the visa.

Hotel Information

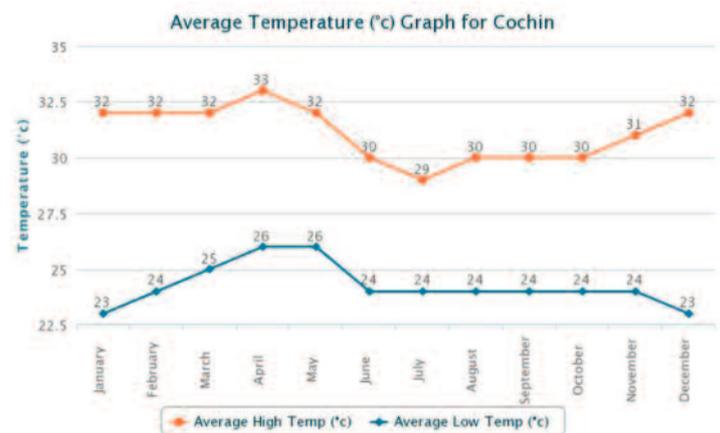
Kochi (2 nights): 3★ Sreeragam Luxury Villa Retreat - Kairali Nagar, BTC Road Cochin, 682304. Contact number: 0091 484 2706365/27073681

Alleppey (1 night): Traditional houseboat

Thekkady (1 night): 4★ Aranya Nivas - Kumily Thekkady Road, Kerala, Contact number: 0091 486 922 2023

Weather and Climate

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Flight and Airport Information

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
Colombo-Cochin	14:05	15:25	1 hour 20 minutes	UL167
Cochin-Colombo	09:45	11:00	1 hour 15 minutes	UL166
Colombo-London Heathrow	13:05	19:30	11 hours 30 minutes	UL503

IMPORTANT: Please note that all flight times are subject to change. Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage allowance

Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 30KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage of 5kg not exceeding 56cm x 36cm x 23cm in size and 1 personal item such as a handbag, briefcase or laptop case. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure. These timings are for the Grand tour of Sri Lanka tour only and may vary. If you have booked an optional add on please contact us for more information.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on 0843 224 0723