



Sri Lanka

Island adventures in the Indian Ocean

Sparkling sea blue, lush jungle green, a gleaming white dagoba that rises to the sky, and glowing sandy beaches where everyday life is as far away as it could possibly be. Discover the island of Buddha in the Indian Ocean, visit a wildlife protection facility for baby elephants, and cook with Ayesha – Sri Lanka is an enticing mix of thousands of years of culture and authentic tropical scenery! And as the grand finale of our round trip through this island country, spend a few days relaxing days on the beach.

- Through the highlands by train
- Cave temple complex in Dambulla
- Observe elephants in Udawalawe
- Relaxing days on the Indian Ocean

13 days

27 Jan. – 8 Feb. 2025

from € **2589**

Day 1, Mon, 27.01.2025: Arrival in Colombo

Individual arrival in Colombo (flights not included in this Marco Polo tour). Transfer from the airport to the hotel in Colombo. Our Marco Polo guide welcomes us to Sri Lanka and takes us on a late afternoon stroll through the neighbourhood of Colombo Fort where we watch the sun set over the Indian Ocean. Afterwards, we enjoy a **welcome dinner** at the venerable **Galle Face Hotel**. D

Day 2, Tue, 28.01.2025: Colombo – Sigiriya

Off we go in the direction of Kurunegala. We stop at the Monaragala Temple and learn how modern temples differ from their ancient counterparts. Absolutely idyllic and luxurious – this best describes our hotel in Dambulla for the next two nights! It's perfectly situated on the shore of a lake surrounded by lush greenery. In the soft afternoon light, we climb up to see the Cloud Girls of the **Sigiriya rock fortress**. A true highlight! B

Day 3, Wed, 29.01.2025: Sigiriya

A very special programme awaits you in the early morning: at dawn, we cross elephant country on the way to **Polonnaruwa**. Keep your eyes wide open – pachyderms are on the move at this time of day. A catamaran, flanked by sea eagles and pelicans, takes us to a somewhat different spot for breakfast: an island in Lake Bendiwewa where we enjoy a picnic with spectacular views of the water and forests. Back on land, we explore the palace and the Reclining Buddha in Polonnaruwa. In the evening, we meet up with musicians and dancers for a **private performance**. Singing along and asking questions are expressly permitted! B/D

Day 4, Thu, 30.01.2025: Sigiriya – Kandy

We set off on a discovery tour to the **cave temple complex in Dambulla**. Polychrome Buddhas smile from the ceilings and walls. Back on the road, we encounter something particularly interesting: a Hindu temple in a predominantly Buddhist country! We finally reach the mountain town of Kandy. B

Day 5, Fri, 31.01.2025: Kandy

We whizz down to the city in tuk-tuks and reverently join the pilgrims streaming into the **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic**. We then look forward to seeing over 4,000 plant species, including a myriad of orchids, in the **Royal Botanical Gardens of Peradeniya**. Afterwards, you can enjoy a coffee in the dignified Royal Bar and Hotel. B

Day 6, Sat, 01.02.2025: Tamarind Gardens in Digana

Onwards to Digana where Ayesha and Nalin welcome us to their village. Life on the edge of the arid zone is a challenge; nevertheless, they are bursting with optimism.



Ayesha and Nalin Perera have a vision: to help the people of Sri Lanka. They returned to their home country after having worked in the UK to offer people here alternatives to the harsh and unhealthy labour conditions in the quarry. We lend them a hand in the kitchen where real Sri Lankan food, which is more than just curry and rice, is being prepared – but we can also milk the cows or help with the planting and harvesting.

Back in Kandy, you can explore the city on your own. If you like, you can attend a Kandyan dance performance – our guide is happy to give you tips. B/L

Day 7, Sat, 02.02.2025: Nuwara Eliya

After breakfast, it's time to get moving: as soon as we hop off the bus, an easy hike awaits us. Over a distance of 3.5 kilometres, we take in the unique landscape and walk through household gardens and spice plantations, before ending up in front of a rice field where our driver is already waiting for us. On the way to **Nuwara Eliya**, once a British summer resort, we see tea bushes on both sides of the road as far as the eye can see.

We learn about the process of transforming the leaves into strong, caramel-coloured Ceylon tea at a tea factory. B

Day 8, Mon, 03.02.2025: Nuwara Eliya – Bandarawela

The bus takes us to Nanu Oya. From here, we get on the train. On the **spectacular train ride**, we weave through the cloud forest that surrounds the Horton Plains National Park. Our luggage is waiting for us at the hotel in Bandarawela. In the afternoon, we receive a lesson in Sri Lankan cooking from the hotel chef and prepare our evening meal together. B/D

Day 9, Tue, 04.02.2025: Pekoe Trail – Ella

Lace up your boots and off we go to tackle a stretch of the famous Pekoe Trail (distance approx. 8 km). Have your cameras ready! We start in Ella near the famous Nine Arches Bridge where we watch the old trains slowly cross the river. The hike continues through tea plantations and small villages and terminates at the Demodara Railway Station. Back at the hotel, take some time to relax. Our guide accompanies us back to Ella. We take a leisurely stroll through the city with its bars and cafés and get a feel for the city's vibe. Return journey either by bus or on your own by tuk-tuk back to Bandarawela. B

Day 10, Wed, 05.02.2025: Bandarawela – Udawalawe

Back to the lowlands. Before we get to **Udawalawe National Park**, another wildlife hotspot beckons us: the Elephant Transit Home. Several times a day, a herd of young, orphaned elephants are fed here and made fit for the wild as they happily wave their trunks. We'll see more of this on a Jeep safari through the national park later! Thrilling! B

Day 11, Thu, 06.02.2025: Udawalawe – Galle – Beruwala

Today, we head southwest to the beach resort of Beruwala. Along the way, we take a stroll through the alleyways of the colonial town of Galle. Mighty ramparts, gleaming white churches and stately merchants' homes – at Galle Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, we discover a piece of Old Holland in the tropics. At our hotel **right by the sea**, plenty of beach life awaits us for our last two days on the Indian Ocean. B

Day 12, Fri, 07.02.2025: Relax

Take a dip and relax – an adventurous and eventful trip is slowly coming to an end. B

Day 13, Sat, 08.02.2025: Return journey

Transfer to the airport for your return flight (not included in this Marco Polo tour). B

B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner



Flights

Arrival and departure flights are not included in the tour price. We'd be happy to provide you with a flight offer.

Hotels

Place	Nights	Hotel	Local rating
Colombo	1	Ramada	****
Dambulla	2	Jetwing Lake	****
Kandy	3	The Thilanka	****
Nuwara Eliya	1	Mirage Kings Cottage	****
Bandarawela	2	Bandarawela Hotel	***
Udawalawe	1	Centauria Wild	***
Beruwala	2	Cinnamon Bey	****

Subject to change

Travel documents and vaccinations

Citizens of most countries require a passport and a visa, which you can apply for online from the Sri Lankan embassy (approx. €45). You can also obtain a visa upon your arrival (approx. €55). No vaccinations required. Current information on entry requirements and vaccination regulations can be found on the internet.

Included in the tour price

- Transfers, excursions, and round trip in good local coaches
- 12 nights in a single room
- Breakfast, 1 x lunch, and 2 x dinner
- English-speaking Marco Polo tour guide
- Entrance fees according to the itinerary

Climate-friendly travel with Marco Polo

This tour is carbon neutral thanks to CO₂e offsetting (www.agb-mp.com/co2).

Price per person from €

Date	SGL	DBL disc.
27.01. – 08.02.	2589	450

Minimum number of participants: 6 people; maximum number of participants: 16 people. If the minimum number of participants is not reached, the Tour Operator reserves the right to withdraw from the travel contract no later than 21 days before the start of the tour. **Tour Operator:** Marco Polo Reisen GmbH, Riesstrasse 25, D-80992 Munich. **General travel conditions and suitability of travel for persons with reduced mobility:** www.agb-mp.com. **Payment/secured payment certificate:** Payment is only due upon presentation of the secured payment certificate (sent with the travel confirmation) in accordance with Section 651 r (3) of the German Civil Code (BGB). A deposit of 20% of the tour price, up to a maximum of €1000 per person, is due upon conclusion of the contract. The remaining travel price is due on the 20th day before departure or at the latest upon receipt of the travel documents. **Travel insurances:** No travel insurance is included in the tour price. We recommend purchasing travel cancellation insurance from the following provider: www.agb-mp.com/versicherung. **Package travel rights:** The standard notification form on your rights in relation to a package holiday can be found at www.agb-mp.com/pauschalreiserechte. **Data protection:**

Marco Polo Reisen processes customer data for the purpose of travel implementation and contract execution (Art. 6 (1) (b) of the European Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)) and for the purpose of advertising its own services (Art. 6 (1) (f) GDPR). Detailed information and the contact details of our Data Protection Officer: www.agb-mp.com/datenschutz. You may withdraw your consent to the use of your data for advertising purposes at any time: Marco Polo Reisen GmbH, Riesstrasse 25, D-80992 Munich, Tel.: +49 (0)89/50060-411, E-mail: guys.travel@marco-polo-reisen.com.

Booking

Guys.travel

A trademark of Zusammen.reisen UG (limited liability)
Wintersteinstrasse 1
D-61440 Oberursel

www.guys.travel

E-mail: info@guys.travel

Telephone & WhatsApp: +49 151 4204 0196