

**EXPLORE
ADVENTURE
PHOTOGRAPHY SRI
LANKA IN 13 DAYS 12
NIGHTS**



Unforgettable journey to the wild and serene corners of Sri Lanka, where every moment offers a chance to capture breathtaking photographs and create lasting memories. This enchanting island paradise is brimming with incredible photography opportunities – from pristine beaches and vibrant underwater worlds to ancient cities and rich cultural landmarks. Experience the breathtaking hill country, diverse wildlife, lush rainforests, and captivating local communities.

We've meticulously crafted photography excursions that guide you to the most picturesque locations, ensuring you snap some of the most extraordinary shots of your life. Get ready for unique encounters and experiences that promise to deliver award-winning photographs. Join us for an adventure that will ignite your passion for photography while exploring the stunning beauty of Sri Lanka.

Custom designed Itinerary

Day 01: -Airport - Negombo

Upon your arrival, you will be greeted by our dedicated Birdwing Holidays representative, who will be holding a sign with your name in the arrivals hall, just after you pass through baggage claim and customs. If you need to exchange currency or purchase a local mobile SIM card, our representative will be able to assist you with these arrangements before your journey begins.

Next, you will enjoy a comfortable transfer from the airport to your hotel in Negombo, where you can unwind and relax after your long flight.

Negombo is the nearest city to Bandaranaike International Airport and serves as a popular starting or ending point for your Sri Lankan adventure. This vibrant city boasts beautiful beaches lined with coconut palms and mangroves. Nestled at the mouth of the Negombo Lagoon, it is one of the largest cities in Sri Lanka and features one of the island's busiest fishing centers. In addition to its natural beauty, Negombo is steeped in cultural history, with remnants of its colonial past woven throughout the area.

Day 02: - Negombo - Wilpattu

After enjoying breakfast, you will head to Wilpattu National Park. Wilpattu National Park is among the oldest and largest national parks in Sri Lanka. Located on the island's northwest coast, it is conveniently situated near popular tourist destinations such as Anuradhapura, Puttalam, and Kalpitiya. The park derives its name from the abundance of small lakes known as villus, with over 50 scattered throughout the area. These lakes serve as natural reservoirs, providing a reliable water source even during the dry months.

Day 03: - Wilpattu

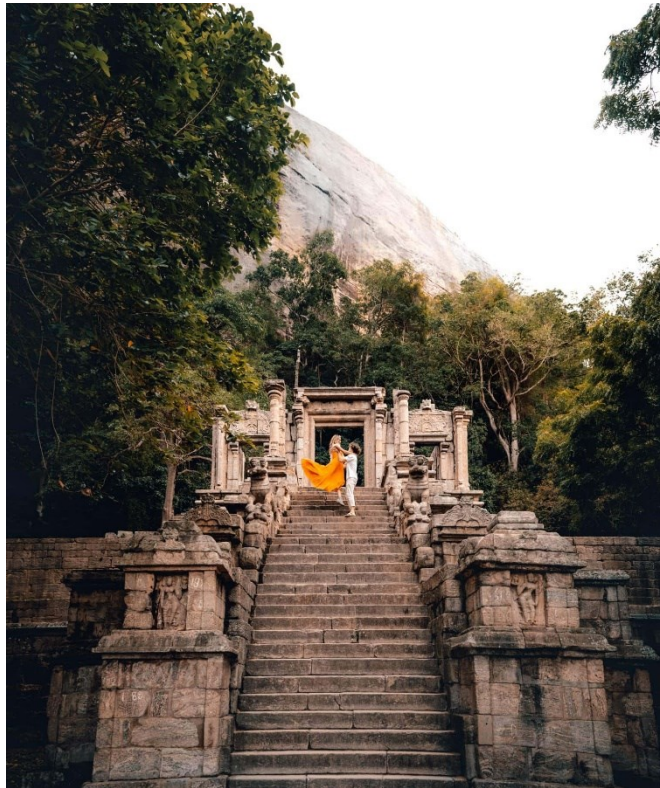
Witness the rare Sri Lankan leopards, which are known for having one of the highest population densities in the world. Full day safari in the park allows you to explore lush landscapes, diverse flora and fauna, and enjoy guided tours to spot various wildlife species. Wilpattu, Sri Lanka's oldest and largest national park with an area of 131,693 hectares, was designated as a wildlife sanctuary in 1905 and upgraded to a national park in 1938. It has a unique eco system consisting of natural lakes, Scrubland jungle, Grassland and dense forest and it provides a habitat for 31 species of mammal, including elephant, sloth bear, water buffalo, leopard, spotted deer, mongoose, sambar, moose deer



Day 04: Wilpattu - Sigiriya

On your way, prepare to explore the historic Yapahuwa Palace and Fortress, constructed by King Buvanekabahu I in 1273. This remarkable site still showcases remnants of ancient military defenses, with the highlight being a beautifully decorated stairway. At the summit of Yapahuwa Rock, you'll find the remains of a stupa, an enclosure for a Bodhi tree, and a rock cave that once served as a Buddhist monastery, indicating the site's rich spiritual heritage. Notably, Yapahuwa was once the temporary home of the Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha before it was taken to South India by the Pandyas. It was later recovered in 1288 by King Parakkramabahu III of Sri Lanka.

In the late afternoon, prepare for an exhilarating mud safari in Habarana. These specially designed 4x4 safaris offer an exciting off-road experience through diverse terrains, ensuring a thrilling adventure. You'll be guided by a skilled expert who is not only passionate about the jungle but also dedicated to making your experience unforgettable. After your adventure, you can unwind for the rest of the day at your leisure, perhaps relaxing by the pool and enjoying the serene surroundings.



Day 05: - Sigiriya

Towering almost 370 meters above sea level, the Sigiriya Rock Fortress is home to the ruins of a royal palace dating back to the 5th century AD. As you make your way to the summit, you'll ascend 1,200 steps – but don't worry; the climb is thoughtfully broken up by terraces, allowing you to pause and take in the scenery.

About halfway up, you'll encounter a flight of stairs leading to the famous Sigiriya maidens' paintings. These stunning frescoes capture the beauty and grace of the maidens who once adorned the walls of this ancient site. Nearby, the Mirror Wall, covered in ancient graffiti, offers a glimpse into the past, showcasing the messages left by visitors long ago.

The final leg of your ascent takes you up a narrow metal staircase, known as the Lion's Paw, with railings to assist you. The breathtaking views from the summit are well worth the effort, providing a panoramic look at the surrounding landscape. If the climb seems daunting, you can opt for a visit to the Sigiriya Museum, which is highly recommended for its fascinating exhibits on the site's history.

Explore the Village of Habarana

After your adventure at Sigiriya, you'll head to the charming village of Habarana for an immersive cultural experience.

A short tuk-tuk ride will take you to Hiriwaduna Lake, where your journey continues aboard a local boat. As you glide across the serene waters, keep your eyes peeled for a variety of dry zone birds and vibrant vegetable plots tended by local farmers.

Next, you'll witness the traditional slash and burn (Chena) cultivation method as you travel by a hand tractor. From a treehouse vantage point, learn about the farmers' techniques and daily lives, gaining insight into their sustainable practices.

To add to the experience, hop onto a bullock cart (ox cart) for a scenic ride along a dirt track, leading you to a local village hut. Here, you'll observe the traditional cooking methods of the locals as they prepare rice and curry using earthenware pots and firewood. Finally, enjoy a delicious lunch served on a lotus leaf, a true taste of local cuisine.

Afternoon Leisure

After your enriching village tour, you can unwind and enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure. Relax by the pool, taking in the serene surroundings and reflecting on the unforgettable experiences of the day.



Day 06: Sigiriya - Knuckles

After breakfast you will proceed to Knuckles En-route and you will Tamarind Gardens Village Experience. Tamarind Gardens, a 10-acre farm, is a community development project based in Digana near Kandy. The project concentrates on agricultural and livestock farming, community support projects and villa-based accommodation. The ultimate objective is for the project to be viable and sustainable in the long-term. Ayesha and Nalin will show you around their farm and you may interact with the locals and observe their daily chores of a rural village such as milking cows, caring for livestock etc. to give you a different perspective of village. This Mountain Range has been aptly named as the Knuckles Mountain Range, since it bears resemblance to the knuckles of a clenched fist when viewed from several locations and was named so by British surveyors after realizing the resemblance. It is also known as Dumbara Kanduvatiya, which means mist laden mountain range. The Knuckles massif is in central Sri Lanka; in the districts of

Matale and Kandy and spreads out over an area of 155 square kilometers. It is one of the major eco- tourism spots on the island and is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Spend the rest of the day at leisure & relax.



Day 07: Knuckles

After enjoying a delightful breakfast, get ready for an exciting adventure at the Black Pool Waterfall

You will embark on a moderate downhill trek through picturesque landscapes, passing lush tea fields, serene valleys, charming villages, and ancient temples. As you stroll through the enchanting forest filled with stunning trees, the distant sound of cascading water will guide you towards your destination.

Upon reaching the Black Pool, hidden away in the heart of the forest, you'll be greeted by a breathtaking sight. For those who arrive early, the morning sun casts a magical glow on the water, creating an unforgettable experience. If you're a confident swimmer, take a refreshing dip in the pool, or simply unwind by the waterfall as you soak in the tranquil surroundings.

We will prepare a selection of coffee, tea, and snacks for you to enjoy while you relax at the Black Pool. Afterward, a brief trek uphill will lead you to a secluded spot where a delicious outdoor lunch awaits, providing the perfect setting to savor your meal amidst nature.

To continue your adventure, you'll embark on an exhilarating 4x4 jeep drive uphill, where you'll meet your chauffeur guide. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at your leisure, allowing you to unwind and soak in the beauty of your surroundings.



Day 08: Knuckles - Gal Oya

After enjoying a delightful breakfast, you'll set off towards **Gal Oya National Park**, a hidden gem that's often overlooked by tourists. This pristine sanctuary, established in 1954, is celebrated for its rich biodiversity and stunning aquatic life, particularly in the serene waters of **Senanayake Samudraya**, Sri Lanka's largest reservoir.

Spanning an impressive 25,900 hectares, Gal Oya National Park is home to approximately 32 species of mammals, including majestic elephants, wild boar, deer, jackals, sloth bears, and marsh mugger crocodiles. Birdwatchers will also find delight here, as the park is a haven for a variety of exotic bird species. What truly sets Gal Oya apart, however, is that it offers the unique opportunity for a **boat safari**, allowing you to experience wildlife in a manner unlike any other in Sri Lanka.

Afternoon Adventure: Boat Safari

This afternoon, prepare for an unforgettable **boat safari** in Gal Oya National Park. This distinctive adventure will allow you to observe wildlife from the water, navigating through tranquil lakes dotted with small, forested islands. These islands serve as a sanctuary for both elephants and a plethora of bird species.

As you glide through the water, keep an eye out for elephants grazing peacefully on the banks, often without a care for human presence. If you're fortunate, you may witness these magnificent creatures swimming across the lake, making their way toward one of the many lush islands.

Day 9: Gal Oya - Yala

Early Morning you will proceed to experience a Trek to Monkey Mountain. For the intrepid ones, a 2-hour uphill trek first thing in the morning to the top of the cliffs facing the lodge is rewarded with stunning 180 degrees views over the large, forested valley we are in. If you set off early enough you can watch the sun rise over the hills in the distance and observe the seemingly never-ending jungle canopy below. Return for a well-earned breakfast and enjoy the view looking back up what you just climbed. On completion you can head to the hotel in Yala and enjoy the rest of the evening at your leisure.

Day 10: Yala

In the morning embark on a delightful cycle ride through the peaceful lanes of a rural village, where you'll be welcomed into a local home to uncover the time-honored art of making authentic buffalo milk curd. Guided by skilled locals, you'll not only observe but also participate in the process, gaining hands-on experience. Once the curd is ready, indulge in a serving of this creamy delicacy, paired with rich, sweet kithul treacle – a dessert that captures the essence of traditional Sri Lankan flavors.

As part of this immersive experience, savor a sumptuous farmer's lunch, prepared fresh right before your eyes. The meal will be a feast of local favorites, offering a taste of the finest country cooking. Enjoy a menu that includes traditional rice, tangy coconut sambal, freshly caught fish curry, creamy lentils, young jackfruit curry, and garden-fresh greens, all made with love and care.

Before you sit down for this delightful banquet, stretch your legs with a short trek led by our resident naturalist, who will take you on a journey through the surrounding countryside. Along the way, you'll have the chance to spot some of the area's fascinating bird species, perfect for bird-watching enthusiasts and nature lovers alike. This day offers not just a meal but a truly immersive cultural and natural experience.

Yala National Park renowned for its high concentration of leopards and a rich diversity of wildlife including Asian elephants, wild buffalo, sloth bears, jackals, sambar deer, and an array of magnificent bird species. Morning and evening safari will be arranged in the evening and morning.



Day 11: - Yala - Galle- Bentota

Continue to the ancient city of Galle, where you can admire stunning architectural masterpieces. Wander through the well-preserved Galle Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and enjoy the blend of European and South Asian architectural styles. Discover the charm of the narrow streets, boutique shops, and coastal beauty. You can also explore the fascinating **Mask Museum**, showcasing Sri Lanka's rich tradition of mask-making, and visit a **Turtle Hatchery** where, if you're fortunate, you might have the opportunity to release a baby turtle into the ocean for a small contribution.

Located around 65 kilometers from Colombo, **Bentota** is one of the most sought-after beach destinations along the Colombo-Galle coastline. Known for its luxurious resorts and excellent tourist amenities, Bentota is the perfect place for an extended beach vacation. The best time to visit is during the season from **December to April**, when the sea is calm and ideal for swimming, and a variety of water sports are available.

In addition to its immaculate beaches, Bentota also boasts a scenic river and lagoon, providing even more opportunities for adventure. From **water skiing, snorkeling, and scuba diving** to **windsurfing, parasailing, and wakeboarding**, there's something for every water enthusiast. You can also try your hand at **canoeing** along the river or enjoy a quiet afternoon of **fishing**. With so many options, Bentota ensures that your beach holiday will be anything but ordinary. Overnight stay at a hotel in Bentota.



Day 12: Bentota

Spend the entire day at leisure & relax by the pool.

Day 13: Bentota-Airport

Price includes:

- Accommodation sharing double / Twin on Half board basis in hotels as specified above.
- Entrance Fees to all the tourist sites that are included in the programme – Jeep hire & entrances fees to Wilpattu National Park, Yapahuwa Palace and Fortress, Off the road Mud safari, Sigiriya Rock, Hiriwaduna Village trek, Tamarind Gardens Village Experience, Blackpool Adventure in Knucks range, Jeep Safari to the Nitro Caves, Boat safari to Gal Oya National Park, Jeep hire with picnic lunch to Gal Oya Lodge, Trek to Monkey Mountain, Pottery Making Experience, Buffalo Curd Making Experience, Jeep Hire & entrance fees to Yala National Park, Galle Fort , Mask Museum & Turtle Hatchery
- Lunch on the way
- Private air-conditioned Vehicle with an English-speaking Chauffer Guide
- Local government taxes & service charges

Tour excludes:

- Airfares
- Lunches
- Visas (required to apply before the arrival date)
- Compulsory Christmas & new year Supplements
- Insurance (Travel)
- Optional tours and activities
- Camera & Video permits at Cultural sights
- All expenses of personal nature such as Telephone Calls, Laundry and Tipping etc.

- Meals not stated in the itinerary
- Tipping for driver guide
- All beverages, Tips and Portages.
- Any supplements that may incur due to events taking place in those localities

Reservation, Cancellation Policy & Notes:

- The quoted price is based on current availability of rooms and may change due to tax adjustments, price fluctuations, or peak season supplements.
- Prices are based on cash payments. A service charge will apply for payments made via cheques, drafts, credit cards, or debit cards.
- Cancellations made within 45 days of the arrival date will incur a 100% charge of the total holiday cost.
- Standard check-in time is 2:00 PM, and check-out is at 11:00 AM, though some hotels may have slightly different policies.
- All travel times mentioned are estimates and may vary depending on conditions.