

## **Discover Sri Lanka & Kerala Itinerary**

### 21 Days from 23<sup>rd</sup> October – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2026

#### Day 1 – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026 - Arrive Colombo:

On arrival into Bandaranaike International Airport Colombo, you are met directly off flight by our VIP/FAST TRACK

airport staff at the aerobridge providing assistance with arrival and visa formalities, before being escorted to a reserved lounge with refreshments, while your luggage is collected from the belt. Here you will meet with your National Guide/escort, who will accompany you throughout your stay in Sri Lanka. Depart the Airport and depart to Colombo and check in to your hotel.

Meals Included: None

Accommodation: Overnight at The Kingsbury | Deluxe rooms



#### Day 2 - Saturday 24th October 2026 - Colombo:

After breakfast, we meet with local resident and guide Mark Forbes (or one of his collaborators) as they take you through the glory days of the Colombo Fort, on a journey back in time where we learn about the days of colonization of Ceylon and the spice route trade network. The walk places focus on photography, architecture and history in two stages; stage one covers the Fort while stage two covers the Pettah markets. The walk includes a break for tea and stops along the way to sample street food. Water will be provided if required along the way. The walk ends at the Old Dutch Hospital.

Afterwards, make your way to the Barefoot Gallery, an iconic brand in the Sri Lankan textile industry started by Barbara Sansoni over 50 years ago. Working almost exclusively with women in small workshops throughout Sri Lanka, Barefoot products are all made and designed in Sri Lanka by local artists and craftsmen. There are no

factories and no production lines. Sit down at their garden cafe for an alfresco lunch.

Return to hotel and time at leisure.

Early evening, depart for your welcome dinner at the famous 'Ministry of Crab' to enjoy a scrumptious dinner.

The Ministry of Crab is a renowned restaurant in Colombo, Sri Lanka, known for its focus on crab dishes with an emphasis on fresh and high-quality ingredients. The Ministry of Crab is known not only for its delicious food but also for its stylish and unique ambiance. Enjoy the modern and chic decor while indulging in your meal.

Return to the hotel.

Meals Included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight at The Kingsbury | Deluxe rooms







#### Day 3 - Sunday 25th October 2026 - Colombo - Dambulla:

After breakfast, depart Colombo and begin the journey to Dambulla.

Upon arrival, we check-in at Amaya Lake Resort.

Mid-afternoon, depart hotel and drive to Minneriya National Park and enjoy a private 4x4 game drive to see Wild Elephants in their natural habitat.

Minneriya National Park is renowned for the incredible sight of large herds of Asian Elephants in their natural

surroundings. The best park to visit depends on the movement of the elephant herds during a specific period. Getting up close to these majestic creatures is a truly unforgettable experience. In addition to the elephants, Minneriya National Park often offers sightings of diverse bird species like painted storks, pelicans, and little cormorants, adding an extra layer of excitement. Depending on the day's elephant sightings, your chauffeur guide will coordinate with our local experts to take you to one of the nearby parks—Minneriya National Park, Hurulu National Park, or Kaudulla National Park—all located adjacent to each other, providing ample space for elephants to roam freely.

Return to the hotel and dinner. **Meals Included:** Breakfast | Dinner

**Accommodation:** Overnight at Amaya Lake Resort (Signature Suite)



#### <u>Day 4 – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2026 – Dambulla – Polonnaruwa-Sigiriya:</u>

Post breakfast, drive to Sigirya, and visit the Rock Fortress one of the seven world heritage sites on the Island. Spend time exploring the grounds of the fortress and if interested, climb this remarkable 5th century archeological site which is made unforgettable by its dramatic setting. A moat, rampart and extensive gardens including the renowned

water gardens ring the base of the rock and the frescoes of the 'Heavenly Maidens' of Sigiriya.

When you are back at the base of Sigiriya you will be served with fresh fruits, water and wet/dry towels to refresh yourself after the climb.

Next, enjoy a very pleasant drive through a forest reserve to the medieval city of Polonnaruwa and UNESCO world Heritage site. Stop for lunch at lake side restaurant- famous for once having the Queen stay there!

For a relaxed exploration, bicycles are available to navigate these archaeological wonders.

Return to the hotel.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner **Accommodation:** Overnight stay at Amaya Lake

Resort.(Signature Suite)





#### <u>Day 5 – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2026 - Dambulla – Matale</u>:

After breakfast, check-out and make our way towards Kandy. Along the way visit the World Heritage Dambulla, known for its richly painted cave temples.

The Dambulla Cave Temples are the largest and best-preserved rock cave temple complex in Sri Lanka, towering 160m over the surrounding plains with more than 80 documented caves in the complex.

Afterwards we will be making a stop in Matale, at our own private spice garden, which is exclusive to our guests only. Here, you will learn about fragrant clove, cinnamon, cardamom, nutmeg, mace and pepper, and many other favourites such as cocoa and vanilla. Your guide will explain the different spices and show how some of these spices are grown, processed, and practically applied for cooking and medicinal purposes. After a tour of the garden, enjoy a delicious traditional rice and curry lunch, enriched with local spices served by the paddy fields.

Continue to Kandy...Kandy was once the capital of the venerated 16th-century Kandyan Kings, who fiercely and successfully defended their kingdom against Portuguese and Dutch invaders for 300 years. Upon arrival in Kandy, check in to hotel and leisure time.

Late afternoon, visit the Sacred Temple of Tooth for Pooja ceremony.

The famous Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy, is one of the most venerated places of worship for Buddhists. Built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, this temple houses the sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha brought to Sri Lanka during the

reign of King Meghavarna (301-328).

The Pooja Ceremony at the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is a deeply spiritual and culturally significant ritual that takes place three times a day. It is held to honor the sacred tooth relic of the Buddha, which is enshrined in the temple. We partake in the evening Pooja Ceremony (6.30-7.30pm)

Return to hotel.

Meals Included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight stay at The Trees, Kandy -

Deluxe Superior with lake view room



#### Day 6 - Wednesday 28th October 2026 - Kandy:

Post breakfast, we visit a traditional dancing foundation. Here you will witness a private traditional Kandyan dancing and drumming performance. This experience is very engaging as our local dancing master will also teach you the basics of dancing and drumming after the performance and, if you are interested, you could also pose for some photographs clad in the traditional Kandyan Dancing attire.

We then stop by 'Ancient craft artisans', engaging in the process of traditional brass making, producing brassware using traditional methods and techniques and whose dedication for arts, sculptures and crafts go back to the ancient Kandyan Kingdom period.

Next leisure time to do some shopping in the city.

Mid-afternoon, we make our way to Helga's Folly to enjoy a delightful afternoon tea which becomes a journey through art, history, and imagination. Set in the misty hills of Kandy, this enchanting retreat surrounds you with surreal decor, vintage charm, and sweeping views—offering a tranquil yet otherworldly escape.

Return to the hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure.

Meals Included: Breakfast | High Tea | Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight stay at The Trees, Kandy



#### Day 7 - Thursday 29th October 2026 - Kandy - Peradeniya - Nuwara Eliya:

After an early breakfast, we visit the impressive Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya.

The Royal Botanical Gardens of Peradeniya is one of the largest botanical gardens on the island and one of the finest of its kind in Asia. Before it was declared a Botanical Garden, it used to be a pleasure garden for the Kings of Kandy and during WWII the gardens were used as the headquarters of the allied command for the pacific.

Afterwards, drive to Kandy train station to board your train for a 3-hour ride through spectacular tea plantation and

village scenery.

"Travelling by train is probably the most attractive way to get about in the lush green Sri Lankan hill country. The ride gives you the opportunity to witness magical landscapes and views. A packed lunch will be provided to you to enjoy on board the train. Upon arrival, you will be picked up from the train station and transferred to The Grand Hotel. Later this afternoon, proceed towards Nuwara Eliya for Panoramic sightseeing.

Nuwara Eliya is known as the 'Little England' of Sri Lanka, set against the beautiful backdrop of mountains, valleys, waterfalls, and tea plantations. It is supposed to be one of the coldest places on the island, but is really just like an English spring day,



although the temperature does drop slightly towards evening. All around Nuwara Eliya, you will see evidence of the British colonial influence, including public buildings such as the post office, as well as many bungalows, cottages, and hotels.

Meals Included: Breakfast | Packed Lunch | Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight stay at Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya - Deluxe rooms

#### Day 8 - Friday 30th October 2026 - Nuwara Eliya:

Post breakfast, we drive to a local tea plantation of Nuwara Eliya.

We visit a local Tea Factory and learn about the history of Ceylon Tea. We will be taken through the processing of tea – tea plucking techniques and procedures at the tea factory. Tea was first introduced to Sri Lanka in the mid-19th century and Nuwara Eliya has always been the tea capital of the country. On the way to this colonial town, we will be able to see acres and acres of tea plantations, whether you are riding the train or travelling by car.

During the tea factory visit, we will learn how the raw green tea leaf is plucked and then later converted to the popular dark brown product through the process of drying, cutting, rolling and fermentation. We will have the opportunity of also learning how to properly 'taste' tea and to identify the subtle differences in the varieties. Sri Lanka is one of the world's largest exporters for tea and together with Cinnamon it has made the island quite popular! Return to the hotel for some leisure time.

Mid-afternoon, we enjoy a high tea that will be served to you at the hotel. High tea in Nuwara Eliya is a quintessential

experience that transports you back to the colonial era, blending the charm of British traditions with the serene beauty of Sri Lanka's lush tea country. Often referred to as "Little England," Nuwara Eliya is known for its cool climate, misty hills, and picturesque tea plantations, making it an ideal setting for a relaxing and indulgent high tea experience.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast | High Tea **Accommodation:** Overnight stay at Grand

Hotel, Nuwara Eliya





## <u>Day 9 – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026 - Nuwara Eliya – Yala:</u>

This morning, after enjoying and early breakfast at the hotel, approximately at 1000 hours we check-out and make our way towards Yala.

YALA – Welcome to a world with no rules, no restrictions... welcome to Yala – untamed, mysterious, and magical. For

centuries, this incredible destination has been revered as an unparalleled testament to the beauty of the wilderness, nature in its purest and rawest form. Probably the best place in the world to spot leopards, sloth bears, elephants, and a whole host of birdlife, Yala promises unforgettable discoveries and exciting adventures.

At approximately, 02:00 PM you will engage in your first wildlife safari with a naturalist guide in the park this afternoon. Yala National Park boasts the highest density of leopard in Asia and home to innumerable wildlife.

Afterwards, make way and check-in at Cinnamon Wild where you'll have the evening to relax and dine.

Meals Included: Breakfast | Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight at Cinnamon Wild - Jungle Chalets



This morning, approximately by 0545hrs we leave the hotel after an early snack with Tea Coffee for an exciting game drive at Yala National Park, which boasts of the highest density of leopard in Asia and home to innumerable wildlife. Yala National Park consists of dry-mixed evergreen forests and scrublands along with open grasslands, water holes, brackish water lagoons and riverine forests. This park's diverse habitat supports large numbers of mammals, such as spotted, barking and mouse deer, Sambhur, wild boar, water buffalo and the endangered sloth bear. This is also one of the best places in the country to see wild elephant, and the rare Sri Lankan Leopard, having one of the highest Leopard densities in the world... Large water holes and lagoons support the high density of endangered crocodiles. You can also see large flocks of migratory and resident birds—142 species of birds have been recorded in the park. Return to the hotel for a late breakfast.

Meals Included: Breakfast | Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight at Cinnamon Wild

#### <u>Day 11 – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026 - Yala –</u> Udawalawe - Galle:

Early breakfast, then we will be heading towards Galle via Udawalawe while making a stop at the Elephant Transit home to witness the feeding of these gentle giants at 1030 hours.

Transfer time to Udawalawe – Approximately 2 hours and 10 minutes

The Elephant Transit Home takes care of orphaned elephant calves – until they are independent and able enough to be released back to the wild. The Transit Home

is a lively place. Feeding the calves with milk happens every three hours throughout the 365 days of the year Enroute, you will have the unique opportunity to learn Stilt Fishing from the local fishermen in the area. Stilt fishing, termed as 'Ritipanna', is a traditional fishing method practiced by fishermen along the Southern coast.

Transfer from Udawalawe to Galle – Approximately 02 hours & 10 minutes

Upon arrival into Galle, check-in at hotel.

Late afternoon, we explore Galle Fort on foot with local resident and guide Shanjei.

Meet resident guide Shanjei, a former advertising executive from Colombo who succumbed to the mysteries and magic of Galle Fort. Your guide today will bring an interesting spin to your tour, fusing the historical significance of Galle along with the interesting stories and legends of this unique area as together you explore the Galle Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site originally built by the Portuguese and later extended by the Dutch in 1663. Today, Shanjei is leading curious tourists into one of Sri Lanka's most beloved UNESCO World Heritage Sites, helping them decode the fort's magic and mystery.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at Jetwing Lighthouse- Luxury room





#### Day 12 - Tuesday 3rd November 2026 - Galle:

Post breakfast, we visit a local fish market, you'll see how vibrant and busy a local fish market can get. The night trawlers come to shore at dawn with their fresh catch ranging from Yellow Fin Tuna, Seer fish, Crab, Prawn, and Calamari to many other varieties of fish. The marketplace is buzzing with the public and wholesalers who are waiting to get their hands on the fresh catch. Witness how the selling & trading takes place.

Afterwards, we visit a Cinnamon Plantation and learn about the story of Ceylon Cinnamon. Ceylon Cinnamon is the finest Cinnamon in the world, and Sri Lanka is responsible for over 70% of the world's



Cinnamon. Today, you will visit a cinnamon plantation in the area and learn about the history and nutritional properties of Ceylon Cinnamon. You will also be able to see the process of Cinnamon peeling and how Cinnamon quills are packed and dried.

Return to Galle for leisure and shopping time!

Late afternoon, in time for sunset, we make way towards Jungle Beach for a farewell beach dinner! Nestled between the lush jungle and the golden shores of Ahungalla, Jungle Beach Camp offers an unforgettable outdoor dining experience. Guests can enjoy candlelit dinners right on the beach, with the sound of the waves and a canopy of stars setting the mood.

Meals Included: Breakfast | Dinner daily

Accommodation: Overnight at Jetwing Lighthouse

#### Day 13 – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2026 – Galle – Colombo International Airport:

Today, post breakfast, proceed to the airport (BIA) in conjunction with your international departure flight. (Please see on quotation details/costing for day use room before flight in Negombo)

Transfer time to the Airport (BIA) – Approximately 2 hours & 20 minutes

Meals Included: Breakfast

#### Day 14 - Thursday 5th November 2026 - Arrive **Cochin (Flight from Colombo TBA):**

Vip meet and greet airport arrival service

Pick up & transfer to Heritage hotel with Welcome drink.

Meals Included: Dinner

Accommodation: Forte Kochi (Imperial Room)



#### Day 15 - Friday 6th November 2026 - Cochin:

Morning Fort Kochi heritage walk; Kathakali make up session & Harbour cruise.

Welcome sea food dinner at rice boat seafood restaurant at Taj Malabar.

Meals Included: Breakfast | Dinner

**Accommodation:** Forte Kochi (Imperial Room)



#### <u>Day 16 – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2026 – Cochin / Houseboat:</u>

Drive to Alleppey, embark houseboat, Enjoy lunch aboard the houseboat.

Cruise and afternoon activities, Listen to twice the bliss bank performance on board.

Meals Included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**Accommodation:** Premium Houseboat (AC Cabin)

#### <u>Day 17 – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2026 – Houseboat /</u> Munnar:

Disembark houseboat and drive to Munnar.

Check in at the Hotel Windermere Estate & Afternoon Tea

Tour.

Dinner at Hotel.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast | Afternoon Tea | Dinner **Accommodation:** Windermere Estate (Estate Room)



#### Day 18 - Monday 9th November 2026 - Munnar:

Visit tea plantation & Shristi NGO
Private tea tasting session at hotel

Meals Included: Breakfast | Dinner

Accommodation: Windermere Estate (Estate Room)

# <u>Day 19 – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2026 – Munnar / Kumarakom:</u>

Drive to Kumarakom Check in at resort.

Evening at Leisure.

Meals Included: Breakfast | Dinner

Accommodation: Kumarakom Lake Resort (Meandering Pool

Villa)

## <u>Day 20 - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2026 - Kumarakom:</u>

Morning Shirkara Boat ride in nearby canals, Return back to hotel for breakfast.

Mid-morning depart for Philip Kutty farm for a farm walk, & Cooking dame

Cooking demo.

Return to resort and rest of day at leisure.

Meals Included: Breakfast | Lunch

**Accommodation:** Kumarakom Lake Resort (Heritage Villa with Private pool)





#### Day 21 - Thursday 12th November 2026 - Kumarakom / Cochin (Hotel, Airport):

Check out & transfer to Cochin.

Departure VIP airport meet and greet service.

Meals Included: Breakfast



### **Discover Sri Lanka & Kerala**

### 21 days - Departing 23rd October - 12th November 2026

#### Highlights include:

- Colombo Heritage Walk
- Private game drive at Minneriya National Park
- Climb Rocka Fortress, Sigiriya
- Dambulla Cave temples
- Visit spice farm and cooking class
- Temple of Tooth night ceremony, Kandy
- Scenic train ride Kandy to Nuwara Eliya
- Tea plantation tours
- Hi tea at Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya
- Private game drives Yala Heritage walk
- Galle fort Heritage Walk
- Overnight deluxe houseboat backwaters cruise
- Stay on Tea & spice plantation, Munnar
- Farm visit and cooking class, backwaters



Experience the wonder of Sri Lanka & Kerala with Caroline on one of Panorama Cruise and Travel's exclusive Small Group holidays!

#### Inclusions: \*Conditions are outlined in the costing

- All transfers, flights and hotels as noted in the itinerary from Bathurst to Bathurst
- All accommodation as per itinerary
- Excursions as noted in the itinerary
  Private services of a national English-speaking guides
  Entrance fees to the sites mentioned in the itinerary
- Meals as noted (20 breakfast, 8 lunch, 14 dinner)
- Transport in Air-Conditioned Mini Coach
- All International and Domestic flights
- Airline & airport taxes that can be prepaid with air tickets
- Gratuities / Tips for drivers and guides
- Sri Lanka & India Visa's



\$17,479.00 Per Person \*Based off twin share \*Single supplement available at an additional cost







#### Cost: \$17,479.00 Per Person

\*Based off twin share

\*Single Supplement available at an additional cost

#### Included

- All transfers, flights and hotels as noted in the itinerary from Bathurst to Bathurst
- All Accommodation as per itinerary.
- Meals: B (20) L (8) D (14) as indicated in itinerary.
- All-inclusive tipping.
- In Sri-Lanka following Special Meals/special activities are included.
- Heritage cities walk with local resident Mark Forbes, Colombo
- Lunch at Barefoot café, Colombo
- Welcome dinner at Ministry of Crab, Colombo
- Lunch at Lake restaurant, Polonnaruwa
- Visit & lunch at private Spice Farm, Matale
- A scenic train ride from Kandy to Nanu Oya (Nuwara Eliya)
- Packed Snack lunch on Board the train.
- Afternoon tea at Helga's folly, Kandy
- Tea Plantation tour, Nuwara Eliya
- Hi-Tea at Grand hotel, Nuwara Eliya
- 02 x Private Jeep Safaris, Yala National Park
- Galle Fort heritage walk with local resident, Galle
- Farewell dinner, Galle.
- Ground Transportation by Air-Conditioned car.
- Services of Accompanying Sri-Lankan National Tour Guide throughout the tour.
- VIP Silk-route fast track services on arrival/departure at airport
- Entrance Fee to Monuments.
- Porterage at Airport & hotel.
- Amenities in the vehicle
- All applicable taxes

#### Not included

- Personal nature like Laundry, Telephone, Internet, and Drinks etc.
- All alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Travel and medical Insurance.
- All expenses arising out of voluntary or involuntary re-routing of the program.
- Movie camera Fees at monuments









A place on the tour can only be held by a <u>non refundable</u> deposit of \$2000 per person – which covers airfare and tour deposit.

A progress payment of \$5000.00 per person will be due by 28th April 2026.

Payment of the balance is due on or before 28<sup>th</sup> August 2026. (100% cancellation fees will apply from 28<sup>th</sup> August 2026)

#### **Payment Options**

You have multiple payment options:

1. Direct Debit:

Bank - NAB account name Springshore Pty Ltd BSB - 082 441 Account number - 68231 3628 Reference - Your surname

2. Credit Card - Pay online via secure link:

https://pay.travelpay.com.au/panoramtc

3. In store via EFTPOS, CHEQUE or CASH

To book, or if you require any further information, please contact Caroline at Panorama Cruise and Travel, phone 02 6331 7044 or email Caroline@panoramacruiseandtravel.com.au