



INDO ASIA TOURS

## HIGHLIGHTS OF INDIA – NEPAL – BHUTAN & SRI LANKA

Delhi - Agra - Fatehpur Sikri - Jaipur - Kathmandu - Paro - Thimpu - Paro - Delhi - Colombo - Negombo -  
Pinnawala - Dambulla - Sigiriya - Dambulla - Matale - Kandy - Nuwara Eliya - Yala - Hambentota - Colombo  
21 Nights / 22 Days

Travel Proposal

Ref No. 31897





INDO ASIA TOURS

## Program at a glance

Day	City	Hotels		
		HOTELS	Room Type	MEALS
Day 01: Wed, 03 Oct, 2018	Arrive at Delhi	<u>Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel (New Delhi)</u>	Deluxe	--/--/--
Day 02: Thu, 04 Oct, 2018	Delhi	<u>Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel (New Delhi)</u>	Deluxe	B/--/--
Day 03: Fri, 05 Oct, 2018	Delhi / Agra	<u>ITC Mughal, A Luxury Collection Hotel</u>	Mughal Room	B/--/--
Day 04: Sat, 06 Oct, 2018	Agra / Fatehpur Sikri / Jaipur	<u>Samode Haveli (Rajasthan)</u>	Deluxe	B/--/--
Day 05: Sun, 07 Oct, 2018	Jaipur	<u>Samode Haveli (Rajasthan)</u>	Deluxe	B/--/--
Day 06: Mon, 08 Oct, 2018	Jaipur / Kathmandu	<u>Soaltee Crown Plaza</u>	Club Room	B/--/--
Day 07: Tue, 09 Oct, 2018	Kathmandu	<u>Soaltee Crown Plaza</u>	Club Room	B/--/--
Day 08: Wed, 10 Oct, 2018	Kathmandu	<u>Soaltee Crown Plaza</u>	Club Room	B/--/D
Day 09: Thu, 11 Oct, 2018	Kathmandu / Paro / Thimpu	Le Meridien	Classic	B/L/D
Day 10: Fri, 12 Oct, 2018	Thimpu	Le Meridien	Classic	B/L/D
Day 11: Sat, 13 Oct, 2018	Thimpu / Paro	Le Meridien	Classic	B/L/D
Day 12: Sun, 14 Oct, 2018	Paro	Le Meridien	Classic	B/L/D
Day 13: Mon, 15 Oct, 2018	Paro / Delhi	<u>Pullman New Delhi Aerocity (New Dehi)</u>	Deluxe	B/--/--
Day 14: Tue, 16 Oct, 2018	Delhi / Colombo / Negombo	Jetwing Blue	Deluxe	B/--/--
Day 15: Wed, 17 Oct, 2018	Negombo / Pinnawala / Dambulla	<u>Heritance Kandalama</u>	Superior	B/L/--



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Day 16: Thu, 18 Oct, 2018	Dambulla / Sigiriya / Dambulla	Heritance Kandalama	Superior	B/L/--
Day 17: Fri, 19 Oct, 2018	Dambulla / Matale / Kandy	Stone House	Ran room	B/L/--
Day 18: Sat, 20 Oct, 2018	Kandy / Nuwara Eliya	Heritance Tea Factory	Superior	B/L/--
Day 19: Sun, 21 Oct, 2018	Nuwara Eliya	Heritance Tea Factory	Superior	B/L/--
Day 20: Mon, 22 Oct, 2018	Nuwara Eliya / Yala	Cinnamon Wild	Jungle Retreat	B/L/--
Day 21: Tue, 23 Oct, 2018	Yala / Hambentota / Colombo	Cinnamon Grand	Standard	B/--/--
Day 22: Wed, 24 Oct, 2018	Colombo Departure			B/--/--

\*Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

## Program Details

### Day 01:

#### Arrive at Delhi

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Arrive Delhi. On arrival, you will be greeted and assisted by our representative and transferred to the hotel.

**(Rooms will be available from 1400 hrs)**

**DELHI** - It is a city that bridges two different worlds. Old Delhi, once the capital of Islamic India, is a labyrinth of narrow lanes lined with crumbling havelis and formidable mosques. In contrast, the imperial city of New Delhi created by the British Raj is composed of spacious, tree-lined avenues and imposing government buildings. Delhi has been the seat of power for several rulers and many empires for about a millennium. Many a times the city was built, destroyed and then rebuilt here. Interestingly, a number of Delhi's rulers played a dual role, first as destroyers and then as creators.

On arrival in Delhi, transfer to hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

## Day 02:

### Delhi

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After breakfast enjoy visit of Delhi including following:

#### **Jama Masjid**

This great mosque of Old Delhi is the largest in India, with a courtyard capable of holding 25,000 devotees. It was begun in 1644 and ended up being the final architectural extravagance of Shah Jahan, the Mughal emperor who built the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort. The highly decorative mosque has three great gates, four towers and two 40 m-high minarets constructed of strips of red sandstone and white marble. The interior of the prayer hall is divided into aisles by arches. The walls and floors are of marble inlay panels.

#### **Rickshaw Ride**

Rickshaw ride (Paddy cab) around Jama Masjid. Enjoy Rickshaw ride through the narrow streets of Old Delhi. The humble cycle rickshaw is not only the common man's beast of burden, but it also serves to generate considerable employment. Most of all however, in an age when our cities are beset by the pollution menace of the automobile, it provides perhaps the only viable alternative for the short-haul

Enjoy the visit of the **spice market called Khari Baoli**. Khari Baoli is known as the largest wholesale spice market in Asia and one will find a number of unique spices and condiments of high quality and reasonable priced nuts and herbs in this Market place. Numerous Shops are fringed on either side of the lanes that is really congested due to its wholesale prices and abundance in availability.

This interesting spice market allows you to choose from a variety of spices both local as well as exotic. There are shopkeepers who will proudly tell you about the origin of certain spices. Some have prunes and dried mulberries which are bought from as far as Afghanistan and some have dried plums bought from nearby home, Kashmir. You will be mesmerized once you enter the market with the sight of various spices and dry fruits accompanied with a rich smell of each. Here are few of the spices that you will get among millions – chili, nuts, unrefined spices, grains, unrefined pink salt, black salt, pulses, rice, herbs, dry fruits and grains of diverse shapes and colors.

#### **Red Fort**

The Red Fort, Shah Jahan's elegant citadel in red sandstone, was built on the western bank of the river Yamuna.

Shahjahan, started the construction of this massive fort in 1638, when he shifted the capital from Agra to Delhi. The Red sandstone walls of the massive Red Fort rise 33-m above the clamor of Old Delhi as a reminder of the magnificent power and pomp of the Mughals. Inside is a veritable treasure trove of buildings, including the Drum House, the Hall of Public and Private Audiences, the Pearl Mosque, Royal Baths and Palace of Color. (It remains closed on Mondays).

### **Raj Ghat**

Raj Ghat is a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. It is a black marble platform that marks the spot of Mahatma Gandhi's cremation, on 31 January 1948, a day after his assassination. It is left open to the sky while an eternal flame burns perpetually at one end. It is located on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi on Ring Road officially known as Mahatma Gandhi Road. A stone footpath flanked by lawns leads to the walled enclosure that houses the memorial.

### **Photo stop at the India Gate**

At the centre of New Delhi stands the 42 m high India Gate, an "Arc-de-Triumph" like archway in the middle of a crossroad. Almost similar to its French counterpart, it commemorates the 70,000 Indian soldiers who lost their lives fighting for the British Army during the World War I. The memorial bears the names of more than 13,516 British and Indian soldiers killed in the Northwestern Frontier in the Afghan war of 1919. Under the arch, the Amar Jawan Jyoti commemorating Indian armed forces' losses in the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971.

### **Humayun Tomb**

Humayun's Tomb is probably one of the most innovative and experimental monuments of its time, incorporating within it Indo-Islamic architectural styles. This magnificent garden tomb is the first substantial example of Mughal architecture in India. It was built in 1565 A.D. nine years after the death of Humayun, by his senior widow Bega Begam. Inside the walled enclosure the most notable features are the garden squares (Charbagh) with pathways water channels, centrally located well proportional mausoleum topped by double dome.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/--/--

### **Day 03:**

**Delhi / Agra (205 Kms / 4 ½ hrs)**

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After breakfast drive to Agra.

**AGRA - The city of the inimitable "TAJ MAHAL".**

The architectural splendour of the mausoleums, the fort and the palaces is vivid reminder of the opulence of the legendary Mughal Empire. While its significance as a political center ended with the transfer of the capital to Delhi in 1634 by Shah Jahan, its architectural wealth has secured its place on the international map. A pleasant town with a comparatively slow pace, Agra is known for its superb inlay work on marble and soapstone by craftsmen who are descendants of those who worked under the Mughals.

On arrival in Agra, transfer to hotel.

Later enjoy visit of Agra including following:

### **Agra Fort**

The great Mughal Emperor Akbar commissioned the construction of the Agra Fort in 1666, A.D. although additions were made till the time of his grandson Shahjahan. The forbidding exteriors of this fort hide an inner paradise. There are a number of exquisite buildings like Moti Masjid - a white marble mosque akin to a perfect pearl; Diwan-I-Am, Diwan-I-Khaas, Musamman Burj - where Shahjahan died in 1666 A.D. Jahangir's Palace; Khaas Mahal and Shish Mahal. The massive Agra fort is 2.5 km long and is considered as the predecessor of the Delhi Red fort.

Enjoy **sunset visit of Taj Mahal from Mehtab Bagh.**

### **Mehtab Bagh**

Mehtab Bagh is located on the left bank of river Yamuna opposite to the Taj Mahal. The garden complex is a huge square measuring approximately 300m X 300m and in straight alignment with the Taj Mahal. The excavation has revealed a huge octagonal tank on the southern periphery: baradaris or pavilion on the east and west: a small octagonal tank at the center and a gateway at the northern wall. The garden provides excellent views of the Taj Mahal.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/--/--

### **Day 04:**

#### **Agra / Jaipur (245 Kms / 5 ½ hrs)**

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After leisurely breakfast enjoy visit of Taj Mahal

### **Taj Mahal**

Taj Mahal or Crown of Palaces is a white marble mausoleum, built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan as a memorial to his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. A world-renowned wonder, Taj Mahal looks the same from all the four sides and is widely recognized as "the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's

heritage". The Taj Mahal is phenomenal not in the beauty alone but in the deep planning and design that went into its making. This enchanting mausoleum started in 1631 and it took 22 years to complete with the help of an estimated 20000 workers. (It remains closed on Fridays).

After sightseeing, drive to Jaipur.

### **JAIPUR - The fascinating capital of the marvellous state of Rajasthan.**

Jaipur is popularly known as the Pink City, thanks to the colour of its buildings. It was built in 1727 A.D by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, followed a grid system, which made it the only planned city of its time. A young Bengali architect Vidhyadhar Bhattacharya designed the city in accordance with Shilp Shastra - an ancient Hindu treatise on architecture. There are innumerable sagas and stories of culture, traditions, practices and valour. This diverse land of rich cultural heritage is a royal treat for tourists all over the world.

On arrival in Jaipur, transfer to hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/--/--

### **Day 05:**

#### **Jaipur**

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After breakfast enjoy visit of Jaipur including following:

#### **Photo stop at the Hawa Mahal Palace**

The poet king Sawai Pratap Singh built this palace of winds. This is easily the most well-known landmarks of Jaipur and is also its icon. This five-storey building overlooking the busy bazaar street is a fascinating example of Rajput architecture and artistry with its delicately honeycombed 953 pink sandstone windows known as 'jharokhas'. It was originally built for the ladies of the royal household to watch everyday life and processions in the city from their veiled comfort.

#### **Amber Fort**

The Amber Fort set in picturesque and rugged hills is a fascinating blend of Hindu and Mughal architecture. Constructed by Raja Man Singh I in 1592 and completed by Mirja Raja Jai Singh, the fort was made in red sand stone and white marble. Amber is the classic and romantic fort-palace with a magnificent aura. The interior wall of the palace depicts expressive painting scenes with carvings, precious stones and mirror settings. Built mainly for the warring enemies as a safe place, the heavily structured walls could defend the residents within the ramparts of

the fort.

### **Elephant / Jeep ride at Amber Fort**

Enjoy Elephant ride up to the Amber Fort like the royalty of Rajasthan once did. Mount the animal from a raised platform and sit comfortably in a specially designed, secure seat as the majestic animal winds its way up the ramparts of the fort. The Elephants look beautiful as the mahouts (the person who drives the elephants) decorate them, especially the trunk, with floral and geometric patterns using coloured chalk and powders.

### **City Palace**

Located in the heart of the walled city, the City Palace Complex gives you an idea about the farsightedness of the founder of Jaipur Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh. He left behind a legacy of some of the most imposing and magnificent architecture in the city. Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh built many buildings but some of the structures were also built by later rulers. The palace is a blend of Mughal and Rajput architecture and the ex-royal family still lives in a part of the palace.

### **Jantar Mantar**

The Jantar Mantar is a collection of architectural astronomical instruments, built by Maharaja (King) Jai Singh II between 1727 and 1734. It is modeled after the one that he had built for him at Delhi. He had constructed a total of five such facilities at different locations, including the ones at Delhi and Jaipur. The Jaipur observatory is the largest and best preserved of these. It has been inscribed on the World Heritage List as "an expression of the astronomical skills and cosmological concepts of the court of a scholarly prince at the end of the Mughal period".

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/--/--

### **Day 06:**

#### **Jaipur / Kathmandu (9W - 1055 / 1615 hrs) Via Delhi**

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After breakfast, transfer to the Airport to connect flight to Kathmandu.

**Kathmandu** – It is the capital city of Nepal. Kathmandu is a valley surrounded by four hills- Fulchowki, Chandragiri, Shivapuri and Nagarjun. Kathmandu valley has three major cities Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Patan. Situated at the altitude of 4500 feet above sea level. Kathmandu is home to seven UNESCO World Heritage sites- Kathmandu Durbar Square, Bhaktapur Durbar Square, Patan Durbar Square, Pashupatinath Temple, Changu Narayan Temple, Swoyambhunath Stupa and Bouddhanath Stupa. Before the unification of Nepal in the 18th Century, the three cities were independent states ruled by the Malla Kings.

On arrival in Kathmandu, transfer to hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/--/--

## Day 07:

### Kathmandu

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After leisurely breakfast enjoy sightseeing of Kathmandu including the following.

#### Kathmandu City

Kathmandu, a city which looks like a living museum. Visit the Durbar Square, it used to be the palace of the kings with several buildings with unique architecture, monuments and temples are found here. The most important temple to visit here is the **Kumari Bhal, or the Temple of the Living Goddess**. The worship of the goddess in a young girl represents the worship of divine consciousness spread all over the creations. This complex also has an idol of Kal Bhairava, the image of Bhairav represents god Shiva in his destructive manifestation. This icon is from the 7th or 8th century, The Kal Bhairav is one of the most famous of all the Bhairavs in Kathmandu and a remarkable fact about this icon is that it was made from one rock.

**Rickshaw ride in Kathmandu:** Enjoy Rickshaw ride in the narrow and bustling lanes of Thamel, a neighbourhood of Kathmandu teeming with locals, travellers and mountaineers.

#### Swayambhunath

Located approximately 3km from the center of Kathmandu, this Buddhist stupa is said to be 2000 years old. The stupa which forms the main structure is composed of a solid hemisphere of brick and earth which supports a lofty conical spire capped by a pinnacle of gilt copper. Painted on the four-sided base below the spire are the all-seeing eyes of Lord Buddha. The whole area around the Stupa contains an array of small stupas and temples. This is one of the best places from which to view the Kathmandu valley, as it is situated on a small hillock.

#### Patan

It is located 5 Km away from Kathmandu city. Patan, also known as Lalitpur, is a city of fine arts, enclosed within 4 stupas, which are said to have been built in the 3rd century A.D. by Emperor Ashoka. You will see Durbar square, the Patan durbar (palace), which houses a bronze collection, the Krishna temple built by King Siddi Narsingh Malla, Hiranya Varna Mahavihar, and Mahaboudha Temple.

Also visit **Patan industrial Estat** - This tourist-oriented crafts complex boasts a number of workshop showrooms selling high-quality carpets, woodcarvings and metalwork.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/--/--

## **Day 08:**

### **Kathmandu**

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After breakfast enjoy visit of Kathmandu including following:

#### **Pashupatinath**

Lying 6 Km from central Kathmandu, Pashupatinath temple is one of the holiest Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva. Situated amidst a lush green natural setting on the bank of the sacred Bagmati River, the temple, which was built in pagoda style, has a gilded roof and beautifully carved silver doors. Visitors will be permitted to view the temple from the east bank of the Bagmati River, as entrance into the temple is strictly forbidden to all non-Hindus. Pashupatinath is the centre of an annual pilgrimage on the day Shivaratri, which falls in February or March. Behind the temples are the cremation grounds.

#### **Boudhnath**

This stupa, situated 11 Km. from the center of Kathmandu, is one of the biggest in the world of its kind. It stands with four pairs of eyes in the four cardinal directions, keeping a lookout for righteous behavior and human prosperity. This Buddhist stupa was built by King Man Deva at the advice of the Goddess Mani Jogini. It is built on an octagonal base and is contains inset prayer wheels. The shrine is surrounded by the homes of Lamas, or Buddhist priests.

#### **Interaction with a local monk at Bouddhanath.**

#### **Bhaktapur**

It is also known as Bhadgaon meaning the city of devotes, this place is the home of medieval art and architecture. This place was founded in the 9th century and is shaped like a conch shell. The city is at the height of 4600 ft. above sea level. You will visit the Durbar Square with its array of temples overlooked by the palace of 55 Windows built by King Bupatindra Malla, the Nyatapola Teple. This temple, which was also built by king Bhupatindra Malla, is the best example of the Pagoda style and stands on five terraces, on each of which stands a pair of figures, famous strong men, elephants, lions, griffins and goddesses.

In the evening, enjoy **Nepalese Dinner with Cultural show** at a local restaurant in Kathmandu.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/--/Dinner

**Day 09:**

**Kathmandu / Paro (Flight) Paro / Thimphu (55 Kms / 1 ½ hrs drive)**

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The flight to Paro is one of the most spectacular in entire Himalayas. Whether flying along the Himalayan range from Kathmandu or over the foothills from Kolkatta, the journey offers fascinating views and an exciting descent into the Kingdom. Bhutan's first gift to you as you disembark from the aircraft will be cool, clean fresh mountain air. After immigration formalities and baggage collection, you will be met by our representative, and afterwards drive to Thimphu, the capital town of Bhutan with en-route stop at **Chuzom**, the confluence of Thimphu and Paro rivers. Three different style of stupas ; Tibetan, Nepalese and Bhutanese adorn this confluence.

The capital town of Bhutan and the centre of government, religion and commerce, Thimphu is a unique city with unusual mixture of modern development alongside ancient traditions. Although not what one expects from a capital city, Thimphu is still a fitting and lively place. Home to civil servants, expatriates and monk body, Thimphu maintains a strong national character in its architectural style.

On arrival in Thimphu, check into the hotel.

Later drive to visit **Buddha Point (Kuensel Phodrang)**. Located at a short drive from Thimphu city centre, visitors can get a good overview of the Thimphu valley from the Buddha point (Kuensel Phodrang). You can pay your obeisance and offer prayers to the Buddha, the largest statue in the country and then walk around and take a glimpse of the valley.

Afterwards an exploratory walk around Thimphu main street and market area.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Day 10:**

**Thimphu**

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After breakfast, take a short drive (15 km) to **Pangri Zampa**, the 16th century monastery, located just north of Thimphu. It has a monastic school where Buddhist students monks learn Lamaism and astrology based on Buddhist philosophy. Guests can also interact with monks.

Then proceed for a tour of some of city's main highlights:

**Changangkha Lhakhang** : It is a fortress like temple and monastic school perched on a ridge above Thimphu, south of Motithang. The temple was established in 12th century on a site chosen by Lama Phajo Drugom Shigpo, who came from Tibet. The central statue here is Chenrezig in a manifestation with 11 heads. From temple courtyard, there is fascinating view of Thimphu valley.

**Textile Museum:** is worth a visit to experience the living national art of weaving. Exhibitions introduce the major weaving techniques, styles of local dress and textiles made by women and men.

**Folk Heritage Museum** : The Museum is dedicated to connect people with the rich Bhutanese Folk heritage and rural history through exhibits, demonstrations, educational programs and documentation of Bhutanese rural life.

Lunch is followed by a city tour that includes:

**Memorial Chorten** : The stupa built in the memory of Bhutan's third King, His Late Majesty, King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk, who is popularly regarded as Father of modern Bhutan. The paintings and statues inside the monument provide a deep insight into Buddhist philosophy.

Conclude the tour of the day with a visit of **Trashichhoe Dzong**, "fortress of the glorious religion". This is the center of government and religion, site of monarch's throne room and seat of Je Khenpo or Chief Abbot. Built in 1641 by the political and religious unifier of Bhutan, Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, it was reconstructed in 1960s in traditional Bhutanese manner, without nails or architectural plans.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

### **Day 11: Thimpu / Paro (55 Kms – 1 ½ hrs drive)**

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After leisurely breakfast Drive back to Paro

Upon arrival check in at the Hotel. After some rest visit **Ta Dzong**: once a watchtower, built to defend Rinpung Dzong during inter-valley wars of the 17th century, Ta Dzong was inaugurated as Bhutan's National Museum in 1968. It holds fascinating collection of art, relics, religious thangka paintings and Bhutan's exquisite postage stamps. The museum circular shape augments its varied collection displayed over several floors

Afterwards, **walk down a hillside trail to visit Rinpung Dzong**, which has a long and fascinating history. Built in 1646 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal , the first spiritual and temporal ruler of Bhutan, the Dzong houses the



monastic body of Paro, the office of the Dzongda (district administrative head) and Thrimpon (judge) of Paro district. The approach to the Dzong is through a traditional covered bridge called Nemi Zam. A walk through the bridge, over a stone inlaid path, offers a good view of the architectural wonder of the Dzong as well as life around it. It is also the venue of Paro Tshechu, held once a year in the spring.

Also visit nearby visit traditional **Bhutanese Farm House** which offers good insight into lifestyle of local people.

Dinner & Overnight in the Hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

#### **Day 12:**

##### **Paro**

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After breakfast enjoy an excursion to **Taksang Monastery**, the most famous of Bhutanese monasteries. It is said that Guru Rinpoche arrived here on the back of a tigress and meditated at this monastery hence it is called "**Tiger's Nest**". The excursion to monastery takes about 5 hours for round trip

Also visit **Drukgyel Dozng**. From this fort Bhutanese repelled several invasions by Tibetan armies.

While return to Paro town visit en route **Kyichu Lhakhang**, one of the oldest and most sacred shrines of the Kingdom.

Dinner & Overnight in the Hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

#### **Day 13:**

##### **Paro / Delhi (Flight)**

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After breakfast, transfer to the Airport to connect flight to Delhi

On arrival in Delhi, transfer to hotel. rest of the day is at leisure at the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/--/--



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#### Day 14:

**Delhi / Colombo (AI 281 – 1230 / 1605 hrs) Colombo / Negombo (12 Kms / 30 Min.)**

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After leisurely breakfast transfer to the Airport to connect flight to Colombo. On arrival in Colombo, drive to Negombo.

**Negombo** – Negombo is a charismatic fishing town north of Colombo. The Sinhalese refer to Negombo as Meegamuwa “The village of honey” (or bees) due to story about a swarm of bees that had settled in a boat pulled ashore here. However, it was not honey or bees that made this town know but cinnamon. Discovered by the Moors (a term first used during the Portuguese period to refer to Muslims) who settled on the west coast cinnamon trade. Due to its significant Catholic population, Negombo is dominated by shrines and picturesque churches. Apart from this, Negombo offers some better beached on the west coast of Sri Lanka, coral reefs and a 50 years old shipwreck (Kudapaduwa) that serves as an artificial reef for many varieties of fish.

On arrival in Negombo, transfer to hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/--/--

#### Day 15:

**Negombo / Pinnawala / Dambulla (170 Kms / 4 ½ hrs)**

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After breakfast drive to Dambulla. Enroute visit Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage.

**Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage:** “Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage” is situated approx 90 km from Colombo. The orphanage was originally founded in 1975 by the Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife Conservation. It is aimed at providing care and protection for many of the orphaned baby wild elephants found wondering in the forests of Sri Lanka. Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage also places an emphasis on breeding and ongoing research for these gentle giants

Enjoy Lunch at local restaurant, later continue drive to Dambulla.

**Dambulla** – The 1st century B.C. Dambulla Rock Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site (149 km from Colombo, 16 km west of Sigiriya) is a complex of five cave shrines. Among its highlights are pre-Christian rock inscriptions, sculptures (including a 47 ft long rock-cut reclining Buddha) and Buddhist murals which cover more than 20,000 sq.

ft. of cave walls and ceilings, the largest antique painted surface in the world.

Ancient drip-ledge drainage still keeps the caves free of seeping water. Dambulla cave temple is a treasure trove containing valuable images. The Mural Paintings at the Dambulla Rock Temple belong to different periods, traces of which can be seen today.

On arrival in Dambulla, transfer to hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/Lunch/--

#### **Day 16:**

#### **Dambulla / Sigiriya / Dambulla (17 Kms / 45 Min. Drive one way)**

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After leisurely breakfast drive to Sigiriya and enjoy visit to **Sigiriya Rock Fortress**

**Sigiriya** – Also known as 8th wonder of the world, Sigiriya, the stupendous 5th century A.D. rock-fortress citadel of a fugitive king, where history merges with melodrama. The Royal Pleasure Gardens are considered to be one of the earliest extended landscaped gardens in Asia. It is evident that these gardens have been geometrically planned and the ancient hydraulic system which supplied water to the fountains in the garden was discovered recently and restored by local engineers. The fountains are now functioning as smoothly as they did 1500 years ago. A gallery of frescoes of shapely be-jewelled maidens still glows with vibrant colour and the water. It is believed these paintings depict the "apsaras" or goddess and some say it represents the lightning and clouds. Another distinctive feature of Sigiriya is the Mirror Wall which is located just below the paintings. The surface of this wall is well polished and covered with writings known as "Sigiri Graffiti" which are a form of poems. The Lion Staircase leads to the summit and the special feature of this is the massive Lion Paw which carved out of rock. The brick wall is still preserved in original form. Sigiriya is being currently excavated and restored by UNESCO under the Cultural Triangle Project and according to sources is most likely to be declared as a wonder of the world.

Enjoy Lunch at local Restaurant.

Rest of the day is at leisure at the hotel

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/Lunch/--

#### **Day 17: Dambulla / Matale / Kandy (102 Kms / 03 hrs)**

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After breakfast drive to Kandy. Enroute visit **Dambulla cave temple & Matale Spice gardens**

**Dambulla Cave Temple:** Dambulla cave temple is part of the Golden Triangle of Sri Lanka and is encrusted into a magnificently large rock. It sits more than 160m above the surrounding land and spans for more than 1.5 km around the base. Also known as the “Golden Temple” it was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1991. This ancient complex was initially established in 3rd Century BC and is truly a wonder as it is the largest and best preserved cave temples in Sri Lanka. The cave temples are home to numerous religious and cultural paintings and sculptures.

**Matale Spice Garden:** Visit a Matale Spice Gardens which is located at Matale (in the Hill Country of Kandy). Sri Lanka is well renowned for its spices and natural ayurvedic remedies and Matale spice garden delivers it all! Stroll through the hand reared and harvested plantations of natural spices to satisfy the three main senses. See the large tropical trees and take in the fragrant aromas. Touch and learn about the popular and exotic spices that are so readily used in Sri Lankan cuisines and ayurvedic treatments. You will also have the opportunity to try some Sri Lankan cuisine using the popular spices, have a healing massage, purchase medicinal and cosmetic products created using the natural spices (at own cost).

Enjoy Lunch at local restaurant. Later drive to Kandy

**Kandy** –Sri Lanka's picturesque highland capital, last stronghold of Sri Lankan kings against European conquest from the 16 th to the 19 th centuries. It is the sanctuary of traditional culture, and the island's most visited tourist resort. Its diverse charm offer a feast of memorable sight-scenery and exciting experiences. Kandy is set amidst tea and spice gardens, mountains, lake and a river, 490 metres above sea level. Road and rail access from Colombo through the Kadugannawa and Balane passes is picturesque, dramatic and befitting a medieval mountain stronghold.

On arrival in Kandy, transfer to hotel.

**Temple of Tooth:** The Temple of Tooth Relic (“Dalada Maligawa” as known to the locals) is located in Kandy. This sacred temple is also home to the palm-leaf transcripts and its history dates back to 1687. This stunning piece of architecture is instantly recognised by its octagonal shape and golden roof. Although you are not able to view the actual tooth itself, the casket within which it is held is displayed twice a day.

**Cultural Show/Dance:** A combination of up country & low country dance performances.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/Lunch/--

**Day 18:**

**Kandy / Nuwara Eliya (92 Kms / 03 hrs)**

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After breakfast drive to Nuwara Eliya. Enjoy scenic toy train ride in between (kandy to Nanu Oya)

**Scenic Train ride:** A ride in the scenic carriage gives you an unparalleled view and penetrating glimpse both of the scenic beauty and culture of the hill country as you travel along.

Enjoy Lunch at local restaurant.

**Tea Factory Visit:** Observe the process of manufacturing tea. You will also learn about how tea is graded and taste a cup of pure Ceylon tea in the factory. Opportunity to purchase some of the finest teas will also be available (at own cost).

On arrival in Nuwara Eliya, transfer to hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/Lunch/--

**Day 19:**

**Nuwara Eliya / Horton Plains / Nuwara Eliya**

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After leisurely breakfast visit Horton Plains National Park.

**Horton Plains National Park:** Located approx 32 km from Nuwara Eliya, Horton Plains is Sri Lanka's highest plateau at an elevation of 7,200 ft. Horton Plains became a Nature Reserve in 1969 and was upgraded as a National Park in 1988, due to its unique watershed and bio-diversity features. Its flora has high level of endemism. The hills are covered with diverse wet low evergreen forest with even large trees flattened to the ground on the higher windswept slopes.

The two escarpments “Little World’s End” and “World’s End” falling from the Horton Plains 1000 feet and 4000 feet respectively to the land below and the Baker’s Falls, are recommended places to visit. The central mountain is known as the “Cloud Forest”.

Enjoy Lunch at local restaurant / hotel

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/Lunch/--

### **Day 20:**

#### **Nuwara Eliya / Yala (180 Kms / 5 ½ hrs)**

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After breakfast drive to Yala and experience a Wildlife Safari at Yala National Park.

On arrival at Yala, enjoy lunch at the hotel.

**Yala National Park Wildlife Safari:** Embark on an adventure of a lifetime with a Wildlife Jeep Safari at the Yala National Park! It is located approximately 24km Northeast of Tissamaharama. Yala is the best location to sight and photograph the rare and remarkable leopards. Other highlights of Yala include the herd of wild elephants, bears, wild boars, buffalos, deer, crocodiles and many species of birds. The vegetation ranges from open parkland to dense jungle. There are also an abundance of water supply for animals and birds ranging from waterholes, streams, small lakes to lagoons.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/Lunch/--

#### **Day 21: Yala / Hambantota (70 kms / 02 hrs) Hambantota / Colombo (Flight – 1200 / 1345 hrs)**

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After early breakfast, drive to Hambantota and connect flight to Colombo.

On arrival in Colombo, transfer to hotel.

Enjoy short orientation tour of Colombo

**Tour of Colombo:** Colombo tour includes a drive through the city taking you to the busy commercial areas as well as the tree-lined residential, Cinnamon Gardens. Visit Fort, the former British administrative centre and military garrison, Sea Street - the Goldsmith’s quarters in the heart of Pettah, the Bazaar area, a Hindu Temple with



elaborate stone carvings and the Dutch Church of Wolfendhal dating back to 1749. If time permits, you may also see the replica of Avukana Buddha & the Independence Square.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals : Breakfast/--/--

**Day 22:**

**Colombo Depart**

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After breakfast, transfer to the Airport to connect flight for onwards journey..

Meals : Breakfast/--/--

**End of Services**

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