

An inspiring Sri Lankan Holiday – 2027

Culture, Heritage, UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Natural Beauty!



12 Days – dates tbc

The tour is organised by Amita Weerakoon, (Director of Cricket -Takapuna District Cricket Club, Director of Cricket- Rosmini College, Regional Director - Auckland Cricket Association Regional Development, Harbour Hubs) and supported by his Kiwi wife, Jodi Weerakoon.

DAY 01: Travel day / Recommended day to arrive in Sri Lanka. Hotel: Goldi Sands Hotel, Negombo.

Recommended flights (best connections):

Singapore Airlines via Singapore, Cathay Pacific via Hong Kong,
Malaysian Airlines via KL and Qantas/Sri Lankan Airlines via MEL or SYD.

Upon arrival, you will be met by our Travel rep and
driven to the Goldi Sands Hotel (25 mins drive) and
checked-in to your room.



Negombo – things to do options in Negombo, for the early arrivals.

Optional – visit **St Mary's church**, one of the largest cathedrals in Sri Lanka. Negombo, often referred to as 'Little Rome' due to its many churches and Portuguese-Dutch influence and was built from 1874 to 1922.



R&R by the beach by the day and enjoy the beautiful sunset by the pool.



For the early arrivals – lunch (user pays).
R&R by the pool.

Evening – enjoy the sun set by the pool
(middle photo taken by Raj P during my April 2024 tour. Dinner from 7pm for the early arrivals at the Hotel Restaurant.



DAY 02: Breakfast at Goldi Sands Hotel. Check-out, travel to Dambulla. Hotel: Cinnamon Lodge in Habarana, Dambulla.

En-route to Dambulla, stop for refreshments (light lunch)/ restrooms. Encourage people to pack snacks as option also.

Arrive at the hotel, check in, rest & relax, swim, freshen up.



5-7pm – (optional) : Discover the awe-inspiring **Dambulla Cave Temple**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** renowned for its rich cultural and religious significance. Carved into a massive rock formation, this sacred site boasts a labyrinthine complex of caves adorned with intricate Buddhist murals and over 150 stunning statues of Lord Buddha.



Recommended – an Ayurvedic massage in Dambulla (user pays). Breakfast (B) (from 7am) and Dinner (D) (from 7pm) at the respective Hotel Restaurants.

DAY 03: visit the ancient city of Polonnaruwa and Jeep safari at Minneriya National Park. Hotel: Cinnamon Lodge, Habarana.

Optional - 8am to 1pm - Embark on a journey through time in **the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site** nestled in the heart of Sri Lanka. Once the splendid capital of the island, Polonnaruwa boasts a wealth of well-preserved ruins that offer a glimpse into the grandeur of Sri Lanka's medieval past.

Must do - 4pm to 7pm – Visit the Minneriya National park in a Jeep Safari. A safari in **Minneriya National Park** offers a thrilling wildlife experience, highlighting the iconic “Gathering” of elephants. Visitors can explore the park’s diverse ecosystems, spotting elephants, leopards, monkeys, and various bird species. The safari also takes you through scenic landscapes, including the picturesque Minneriya Tank and surrounding forests. Photo right – from my July 2025 tour.



Recommended – an Ayurvedic massage in Dambulla (user pays). B (from 7am) and D (from 7pm) at the Hotel Restaurant.

DAY 04: AM - Walk up the Sigiriya rock. PM – check-out and travel to Colombo (the Commercial Capital).

6am to 9am – Sunrise, travel to and walk up **the Sigiriya Rock (Lions Rock)**
UNESCO World Heritage listed Sigiriya fortress and walk the steps to the top.

Immerse yourself in the captivating history and breathtaking scenery of Sigiriya, the iconic 5th-century rock fortress of King Kasyapa in Sri Lanka. Rising majestically from the surrounding landscape, Sigiriya is not just a testament to ancient engineering prowess but also a masterpiece of art and culture.

After the Sigiriya walk up, return to the Hotel for breakfast, swim and R&R.

12noon – check-out and travel to Colombo (3 hrs drive). Will stop enroute for refreshments.

3.30pm – check-in to Taj Samudra Hotel.

Evening – at leisure and shopping options available.



Recommended – an Ayurvedic massage at the Cinnamon Hotel after the Sigiriya walk-up. B and D at the respective Hotel Restaurants.

DAY 05: COLOMBO. Hotel: Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo

After breakfast, **the Colombo City tour**. Colombo has a good collection of iconic attractions and shopping options (shopping options on next page).

B and D available at the Hotel Restaurant.

In the evening – a very special visit to the world famous Gangaramaya temple, which is one of the oldest Buddhist temples in Colombo, started in the late 19th Century. The temple's architecture demonstrates an eclectic mix of Sri Lankan, Thai, Indian, and Chinese architecture and this is the most iconic Buddhist temple in Colombo. The entire city is enlivened by the annual **Navam Maha Perahera**, which parades around the Gangaramaya Temple and Navam Road. Crowds throng in large numbers to witness this vibrant event.



Photos (L to R) – The Simamalakaya (part of the Gangaramaya temple), Middle photo – The Nilame, Mr Richard Weerakoon (Amita's dad - front of the group) leading the Navam Perahera in 1987. Photo left - Amita (closest to the camera) at the 1988 Navam Perahera (photo from the Sri Lankan Tourism Board official Calander for 1989).

Shopping options in Colombo (options below in clockwise) – Barefoot (handlooms), The Poster Shop, The Spa Ceylon (body care), Premadasa Jewellers, One Galle Face Shopping mall and Ceylon Tea Shop.



DAY 06: Tavel to Dickwella. Hotel: Dickwella Resort & Spa.

After breakfast, check-out and travel to Dickwella (2.5 hours drive). En-route, stop at a Service Centre for a light lunch and refreshments. Check-in to Dickwella Spa & Resort and afternoon, R&R by the pool. B and D at the respective Hotel Restaurants.



Options – to swim in the Ocean or Surf by the Hotel. For any keen Golfers, a round at the Shangri La Resort Golf Course (user pays).

DAY 07: – Elephant Orphanage and Jeep Safari at the Udawalawe National Park. Hotel – Dickwella Resort & Spa.

This might surprise you: Sri Lanka is one of the world's best places to go on a safari outside of Africa. Famed for its amazing wildlife, known as the 'Sri Lanka Big Four' (elephants, leopards, sloth bears, and blue whales), it's no wonder that safari in Sri Lanka is popular!

The Elephants await you! Udawalawe Park is a home to over 400 wild elephants which are permanent residents and so the concentration is quite high. Here is only one Sri Lankan Park where elephants GUARANTEED to spot. But not only elephants: crocodiles, buffaloes, monkeys, peacocks, mongoose... And many bird species like red-faced malkoha, grey hornbill, Sri Lankan junglefowl, and more are residing in the biodiversity of Udawalawe National Park.



B and D available at the respective Hotel Restaurants.

DAY 08: Ella, Nine Arch Bridge, . Hotel – EKHO Ella.

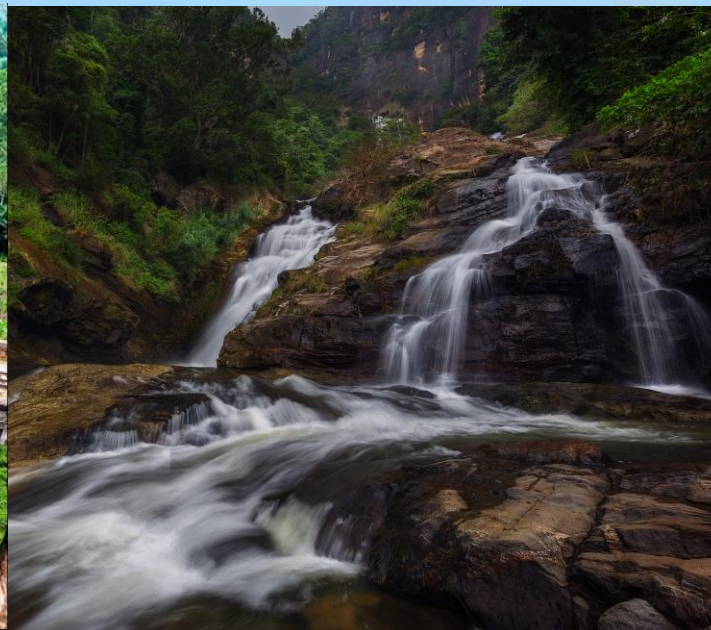
Ella is situated at an elevation of 1,041 metres above sea level. The area has a rich bio-diversity, dense with numerous varieties of flora and fauna. Ella is surrounded by hills covered with cloud forests and tea plantations. The town has a cooler climate than surrounding lowlands, due to its elevation. The Ella Gap allows views across the southern plains of Sri Lanka.

En route visit the Ravana Falls. The falls have been named after the legendary king [Ravana](#), who is connected to the famous [Indian](#) epic, the Ramayana.

Visit the famous Nine Arch Bridge, completed by the local Engineers in 1919.

Photo below – room view from the EKHO Ella Boutique Hotel.

B and D available at the respective Hotel Restaurants.



DAY 9 : ELLA – Little Adam’s Peak, Tea Factory & R&R. Hotel - EKHO

6-7.30am - Either sleep in or a Hike. Hike the Little Adams Peak to see the sun rise.

To do options -you can explore quaint town of Ella by foot for lots of cafes, bars and local shops well catered for tourists

Options to do the Calypso train through the tea plantations (subject to the train services started by July, after the train tracks were damaged by the recent Cyclone (Dec 2025)).

Sri Lanka is one of the highest producers of tea in the world and if you are traveling in Sri Lanka, visiting a tea plantation is a must. The best place to go is the hill country near Nuwara Eliya and Ella – where the majority of the plantations are located.

B and D available at the Hotel Restaurant.



DAY 10: Ella to GALLE. Hotel: Raddison Blu, Galle.

Sleep-in, breakfast: Check out from the hotel and proceed to Galle. Enroute – stop at a beachfront Café for a light lunch and refreshments.

Afternoon – check-in to Radisson Blu Hotel.

B and D available at the respective Hotel Restaurants.

5-7 PM - Visit the Galle Dutch Fort (UNESCO World Heritage site - was built first in 1588 by the [Portuguese](#), then extensively fortified by the [Dutch](#) during the 17th century from 1649 onwards). Great place to watch the sunset. Back to the hotel for dinner or rooftop bar!

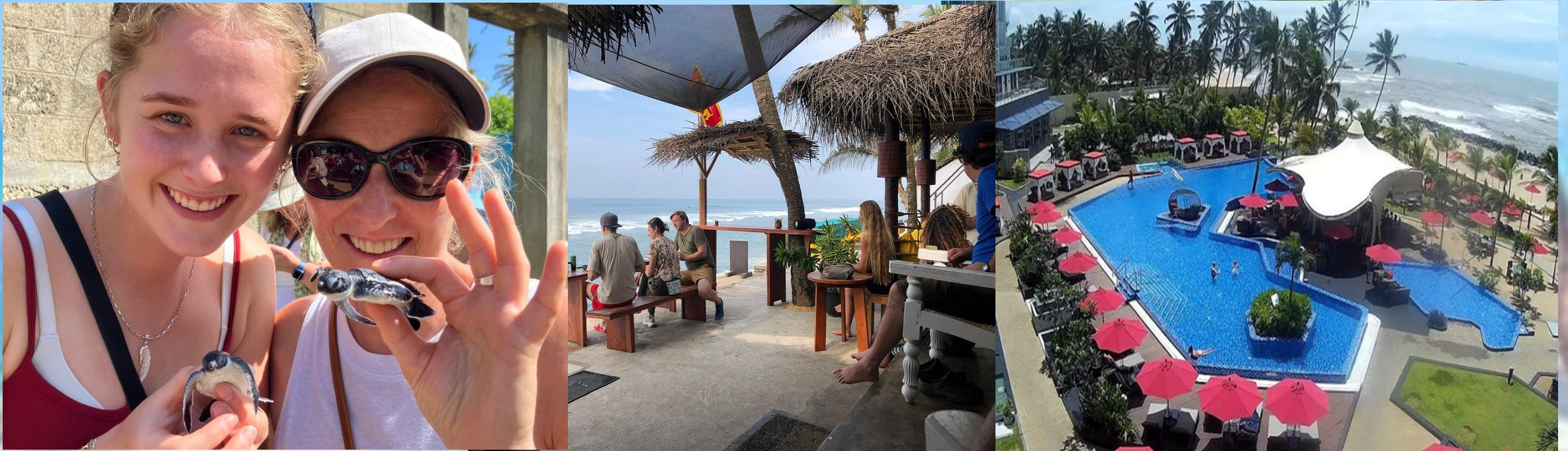


DAY 11: GALLE and Hikkaduwa Beach. Hotel: Raddison Blu, Galle

Sleep-in. After breakfast – Explore the wonders of Sri Lanka's coastal treasures with a visit to Kosgoda's renowned turtle hatchery, where you can witness the incredible journey of hatchlings to the sea (photo on the left, from Amita and Jodi's July 2025 tour).

12-2pm – relax by the Hikkaduwa beach. Explore swimming with the turtles, snorkeling or surfing. Hikkaduwa is home to several beachfront cafes that offer a perfect blend of relaxation and refreshment (middle photo).

Then finish your day at the Radisson Blu Hotel pool or at the Roof top bar watching the stunning sun set.



B and D available at the Hotel Restaurant.

DAY 12: Final day in Sri Lanka. Bespoke tour options to Maldives.

Check-out from Radison Blu and travel to Colombo (2.5 hrs drive). Afternoon options – final shopping opportunities.

Subject to flight departure times, either sit down for a High Tea or dinner at a Hotel in Colombo.

Options available to fly across to Maldives. The flight time from Colombo to Maldives (Male) is approximately 1 hour 30 minutes and the distance between the two locations is 485 kms.

For bespoke and Great value Maldives packages, please contact Amita on doc@takapunacricket.co.nz.



Please note – Can arrange extended stay anywhere in Sri Lanka.

Tour package details:

LAND PACKAGE COST INCLUDES

- Accommodation at 4.5 star and 5-star hotels.
- Half board meals – buffet breakfast and dinner provided throughout the tour (day 2 to Day11).
- Overnight stays at six provinces - Negombo, Dambulla, Colombo, Dickwella, Ella and Galle.
- Excursion options (user pays) to visits to UNESCO World Heritage sites – Dambulla Cave (Rock) Temple, Polonaruwa ancient City, the Sigiriya Fortress (Lion Rock) and the Dutch Fort in Galle.
- Visit the Elephant Orphanage at Udawalawe, two Jeep Safari's – Minnariya National Park and Udawalawe National Park.
- Other notable visits to - Gangaramaya Temple, Nine Arch Bridge and Tea Factory visit at Ella, the Turtle Hatchery
- Transport provided throughout the tour as per the itinerary. Local tour guide available.
- Amita Weerakoon (has been organising cricket and leisure tours to Sri Lanka since 2014).

ABOVE COST EXCLUDES

- All tips for guide, driver & assistant and porter charges. Lunches and priced beverages at breakfasts and dinners.
- Optional excursions to – Dambulla Cave (Rock) temple, Polonnaruwa ancient city, the Sigiriya Fortress.
- Any future taxes can be implemented by the local government.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

- Tour organizer Amita and his wife Jodi to accompany the group during this tour.
- Travel insurance is RECOMMENDED for all people travelling and to be organized by the individuals/families.
- Group members to purchase their own airfares.

PAYMENT DETAILS:

- Land package costs: NZ\$3,950 pp (twin share). NZ\$4,950 (single supplement).
- Account name for payee match is Mr A B Weerakoon

NZSL Cricket Management & Tours (NZBN: 9429048049788):

These Sri Lankan tours are organised by Amita Weerakoon (SL born, Kiwi since 1988).
Director of Cricket – Takapuna District Cricket Club (NZC Club of the Year 2025/26 winner).
Regional Director – Auckland Cricket Association - RDP Harbour
Director of Cricket – Rosmini College
Director – NZSL Cricket & Golf Tours (Auckland and Colombo).
Contacts for Amita – Email. doc@takapunacricket.co.nz, Ph. 0064273363363.

Disclaimers - *Itinerary, pricing and all terms and conditions are subject to change and any changes will be notified in advance to the group, either before departure or after commencement of the program.*



2025-2026 SEASON

**CLUB OF
THE YEAR**

AMITA WEERAKOON



**NZ SL CRICKET & TOUR
MANAGEMENT**