

## **10 Nights & 11 DAYS** **THE BEST OF THE INDIAN OCEAN – SRI LANKA & MALDIVES**

### **Day 01 - Negombo / Kalpitiya / Puttalam / Chilaw**

On arrival at Colombo International Airport our representative will meet and greet you. Depending on your time of arrival you will be transferred to Wilpattu National Park. En route visit Puttalam, which is home to one of Sri Lanka's largest lagoons, also called Puttalam lagoon. Here we will visit one of the saltans and then a salt factory. We travel to Chilaw which is a coastal fishing town with a strong Roman Catholic influence. The heart of the city offers elaborate statues to religious figures and local cardinals. Just on the outskirts of this town is Munneswaram Hindu Temple which is a prominent center for pilgrims from both Hindu and Buddhists alike. Travel to Wilpattu.

Dinner and overnight in Wilpattu (Note: This is one of the most rural regions of Sri Lanka and the supplies such as electricity and running water is scarce. Details of accommodation will be communicated at the time of booking).

### **Day 02 - Wilpattu National Park**

Visit the Wilpattu National Park (Willu-pattu; Land of Lakes) for a thrilling 4x4 safari ride at dawn. This 131, 693 hectare park is Sri Lanka's largest and best preserved. Due to the park being a strategic border during the conflict many area of the park was out of reach from tourists. This greatly aided in preserving most of the park and protected the animal habitats. This is best described as dense jungle scattered with scrub and salt grass. Elephants here are far shyer compared to its 'tourist-friendly' siblings in Yala making it a thrilling adventurous experience. Travelers can expect to see Leopard, Sloth Bear, Deer, Crocodiles and a range of endemic and migratory birds. Optional – Enjoy an evening safari ride into the park. Dinner and overnight in Wilpattu

### **Day 03 - Anuradhapura/ Mihintale**

After breakfast travel to Anuradhapura. The city was the first capital city of Ancient Lanka and the ruins stand testament to the great powers of its era. The entire area houses a well preserved historical park with many ruins of monasteries, citadels and stupas. A short drive from Anuradhapura is Mihintale, which is the birth place of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. This peaceful hill, houses a quaint monastery with captivating views of the entire region. Visitors to Mihintale can also explore the remains of the ancient Ayurvedic hospital that once stood here.

Dinner and Overnight stay in Anuradhapura

### **Day 04 - Polonnaruwa/ Dambulla Rock Cave**

After breakfast enjoy a captivating city tour of Polonnaruwa. Polonnaruwa was the 2nd ancient capital of Lanka, after the fall of Anuradhapura. The area is home to ruins that date back over a 1000 years and visitors can explore ancient Buddhist sculptures and monasteries. In the evening visit Dambulla Rock Cave Temple. The first 03 caves are better, older and larger than the other two. Some caves date to 1st Century B.C. All the 5 cave walls and ceilings are covered with Buddhist murals. There are more than 130 Buddha statues and statues of Gods and Kings are also found here.

Dinner and Overnight stay in Dambulla

### **Day 05 - Sigiriya/ Spice Gardens/ Kandy**

After an early breakfast travel to Sigiriya Rock Fortress, known by the locals as the 'Eighth wonder of the world'. Afterwards visit a Batik Factory where you can experience the manufacture of this beautiful traditional art form of making Batik prints. Sigiriya is home to the 5th Century 'Fortress in the Sky' which is undoubtedly the most fantastic single wonder of Sri Lanka. Locals in the area also refer to it as the 'Lion Rock' because of the huge lion that use to stand at the entrance to the fortress. Today sadly only its giant paws remain. Within its triple-moat defense system, the huge rock rises to a sheer height of 500ft. On its summit are the foundations of what was once King Kashyapa's great and sumptuous palace and gardens complete with swimming pool and cooling systems. On one of the stairways the only known ancient work of Sinhala secular painting survived in the form of frescoes of life sized damsels in all the freshness and delicacy of their original color. It is important to state that Sigiriya was never conquered by any of the invading forces that had such an effect on the island of Sri Lanka. It was however, abandoned by the British during the colonial rule which further added to the citadel's neglect and deterioration. Proceed to Kandy via Matale Spice Gardens. At the Spice Garden at Matale witness the luscious Cinnamons,

Cardamoms, Pepper plants and other endemic herbs of Sri Lanka. This is a perfect place to stock up on your Sri Lankan spices.

Enjoy the evening at leisure in Kandy

Dinner and overnight in Kandy

### **Day 06 - Kandy/ Temple of the Tooth/ Nuwara Eliya**

After breakfast visit the sacred 'Temple of the Tooth' - Ever since 4th Century A.D, when Lord Buddha's Tooth was brought to Sri Lanka hidden from sacrilegious hands in an Orissan princess' hair, the Relic has grown in repute and holiness in Sri Lanka and throughout the Buddhist world. It is considered Sri Lanka's most prized possession and every year in offering to the gods for blessings and prosperity, the tooth is paraded in the back of the Royal Elephant of the country in the grand Kandyan Perahera Pageantry.

Thereafter proceed to Nuwara Eliya, visiting a tea estate and a factory en route.

Nuwara Eliya is home to some of the islands most picturesque gardens and landscapes. In the evening enjoy a stroll on the banks of the Nuwara Eliya lake or a visit to the Nuwara Eliya park. Dinner & overnight stay in Nuwara Eliya

### **Day 07 - Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage/ Colombo**

After breakfast travel back to Colombo via Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage. PINNAWALA ELEPHANT ORPHANGE was initially established in 1972 and was relocated to its present site in 1975. Situated en route to Kandy. It is built on an extent of 25-acres, on an old coconut plantation on the banks of the Maha Oya river. The orphanage was initially created to house the many orphaned elephants that are found in the wild, as young elephants abandoned in the jungle without the proper care and survival skills, invariably die. This orphanage is now home to over 84 elephants with the number increasing regularly. Enjoy a city tour of Colombo and if time permits visit some of the popular shopping haunts in the city. Dinner and overnight in Colombo.

### **Day 08 - Depart to Maldives**

Transfer to Colombo International airport for your flight to Maldives.

On arrival your local representative will meet you at the airport and you will be transferred by speed boat to your select resort.

Enjoy you day at leisure in Maldives.

### **Day 09 - Maldive Resort – Hotel – Budget / Luxury / Meal plan –All Inclusive**

Enjoy the day at leisure at your selected beach resort in Maldives on Half Board Basis (Breakfast & Dinner included)

### **Day 10 - Maldive Resort – Hotel – Budget / Luxury / Meal plan –All Inclusive**

Enjoy the day at leisure at your selected beach resort in Maldives on Half Board Basis (Breakfast & Dinner included)

### **Day 11 - Maldive Resort / Airport**

After breakfast enjoy the morning at leisure. Transfer by speed boat to the airport for your flight. You could stay longer at the resort after checking out & will be transferred to the airport according to your flight departure times.