Exotic Global Holidays





EXOTIC GLOBAL HOLIDAYS · DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY · SRI LANKA

Island Bliss Honeymoon

Twelve days across one island for two — a night by the lagoon on arrival, ancient cities and living temples, leopards in the wild, mist and tea gardens above the clouds, and a slow, romantic finish on the palm-fringed southern coast.

02 · THE ROUTE

Your journey at a glance



01 · WELCOME

Ayubowan

Thank you for choosing Exotic Global Holidays to shape your honeymoon in Sri Lanka. As the island's premier destination management company, we build authentic, unhurried travel around the two of you — your interests, your pace, your comfort and your budget.

Twelve days are given to celebrating the start of your life together. You begin with a quiet night by the Negombo lagoon, then head into the Cultural Triangle for gathering elephant herds at Minneriya and the climb to Sigiriya Rock Fortress. Beyond that: drums and dancers at a Kandyan cultural performance, mist and tea gardens above Nuwara Eliya, leopard country in Yala, and three unhurried nights to finish on the South Coast.

On the pages that follow you will find the journey day by day — sights, suggested timings, our insider tips, accommodation and everything included. Optional add-ons are marked and guidance given throughout, but the rhythm of each day remains yours to set.

We look forward to welcoming you to the island. Until then, may you travel safely and with great anticipation.

03 · DAY BY DAY

The journey, day by day

DAY	ROUTE	OVERNIGHT	NIGHTS
01	Airport — Negombo	Negombo	1
02	Negombo — Habarana	Habarana	2
03	Habarana	Habarana	↳
04	Habarana — Kandy	Kandy	2
05	Kandy	Kandy	↳
06	Kandy — Nuwara Eliya	Nuwara Eliya	2
07	Nuwara Eliya	Nuwara Eliya	↳
08	Nuwara Eliya — Yala	Yala / Tissamaharama	1
09	Yala — South Coast	South Coast	3
10	South Coast	South Coast	↳
11	South Coast	South Coast	↳
12	South Coast — Airport	Departure	—

DAY 01 · ARRIVAL — NEGOMBO

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Ayubowan, and congratulations! On arrival at Bandaranaike International Airport, you are met by your Exotic Global Holidays chauffeur-guide and assisted with a smooth transfer to your hotel in nearby Negombo — just 20 minutes away, so there is no long drive standing between you and your first evening together. Check in to a room already prepared for the two of you and spend the rest of the day at leisure by the lagoon. In the evening, a relaxed seafood dinner along the beach eases you into the island's pace.

TRAVEL TIP *Sri Lanka can be humid on arrival — keep a change of light cotton clothing and a local SIM card in your hand luggage, and change a small amount of currency at the airport for tips and tuk-tuk fares. Let your hotel know in advance that you are travelling on your honeymoon — most are glad to arrange a small welcome touch.*

⌂ Overnight: Negombo

DAY 02 · NEGOMBO — HABARANA



After a relaxed breakfast, check out and drive north into the Cultural Triangle, where the coconut coast gives way to dry-zone farmland and ancient reservoirs. En route, stop at a spice and herb garden for a fragrant walk through cinnamon, pepper and cardamom, and break the journey with a village-style lunch of rice and curry cooked over an open hearth. Arrive at your Habarana hotel — set among lakes and forest — in the afternoon, with time to settle in before a quiet dinner together.

TRAVEL TIP THE DRIVE NORTH TAKES AROUND THREE HOURS — LEAVE NEGOMBO BY MID-MORNING TO REACH HABARANA COMFORTABLY BEFORE DUSK, WHEN THE RESIDENT ELEPHANTS SOMETIMES WANDER CLOSE TO THE LAKESIDE GROUNDS.

⌂ Overnight: Habarana · night 1 of 2

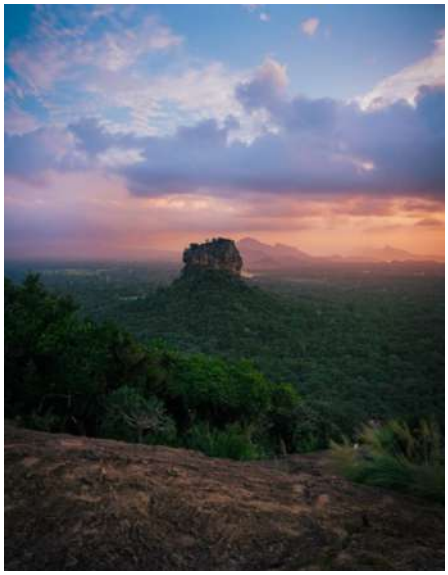
DAY 03 · HABARANA

A full day from your lakeside base, given to the Cultural Triangle's two icons. Climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress, the fifth-century citadel raised on a 200-metre column of rock, passing the water gardens, the mirror wall and the celebrated frescoes of the Sigiriya maidens on the way to a summit view over the plains. At Dambulla, a stairway leads to the Royal Rock Temple, five caves holding more than 150 Buddha images beneath ceilings painted continuously for over two thousand years. In the late afternoon, a jeep safari into Minneriya National Park brings you to The Gathering, where herds of wild elephants converge on the receding reservoir — a quietly moving sight to share.

TRAVEL TIP START SIGIRIYA BY 7 AM, BEFORE THE STEPS GROW HOT AND CROWDED, AND KEEP DAMBULLA FOR THE COOLER LATE AFTERNOON JUST BEFORE THE SAFARI. DEPENDING ON WATER LEVELS, YOUR GUIDE MAY SWITCH THE ELEPHANT SAFARI TO NEIGHBOURING KAUDULLA OR ECO PARK — TRUST THE CALL.

⌂ Overnight: Habarana · night 2 of 2

SIGIRIYA ROCK FORTRESS



DAY 04 · HABARANA — KANDY

Check out after breakfast and head south towards the hills, breaking the drive at a Matale-area spice garden for a fragrant walk through cinnamon, pepper, cardamom and vanilla. Continue to the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya, sixty hectares of avenue palms, an orchid house and a giant Javan fig held in a loop of the Mahaweli River — an unhurried spot for a photograph together. Arrive in Kandy in the afternoon with time to walk the lake path as the light softens.

TRAVEL TIP ASK YOUR CHAUFFEUR-GUIDE TO TIME THE PERADENIYA VISIT FOR LATE MORNING, WHEN THE GARDENS ARE COOLER AND QUIETER. KANDY LAKE'S WESTERN SIDE, OPPOSITE THE TEMPLE, IS THE BEST STRETCH FOR AN EVENING WALK.

⌂ Overnight: Kandy · night 1 of 2

ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS, PERADENIYA



DAY 05 · KANDY

A day given to the last capital of the Sinhalese kings, ringed by hills around its lake. The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is the spiritual centre of the island and of the Buddhist world beyond it; time your visit for one of the daily pooja ceremonies, when drummers and horn players lead the opening of the shrine and pilgrims press forward with lotus flowers. Add the covered market and craft workshops of the old town, the white Bahirawakanda Buddha looking down over the rooftops, a gem museum and lapidary, and the shaded forest paths of Udawattakele behind the temple. In the evening, a Kandyan cultural performance brings drummers, masked dancers and fire-walkers to the stage.

TRAVEL TIP THE TOOTH RELIC TEMPLE ENFORCES IT DRESS CODE STRICTLY — WHITE OR LIGHT CLOTHING SHOULDERS AND KNEES COVERED, SHOES AND HATS LEFT AT THE COUNTER. POOJA TIMES ARE ROUGHLY 5.30 AM, 9.30 AM AND 6.30 PM, AND THE EVENING O IS THE MOST ATMOSPHERIC; ARRIVE THIRTY MINUTES EARLY FOR THE CULTURAL SHOW TO GET A SEAT NEA THE FRONT.

⌂ Overnight: Kandy · night 2 of 2

TEMPLE OF THE SACRED TOOTH RELIC



DAY 06 · KANDY — NUWARA ELIYA

After breakfast, check out and climb from the low country into the hills. The road is the attraction for much of the morning: a stop at a tea centre en route, viewpoints over the Kothmale valley, and Ramboda Falls dropping in two tiers beside the highway. Continue up through mile after mile of tea, arriving in Nuwara Eliya — the hill town the British built to feel like home — by the afternoon, with time to settle into your room and stroll the gardens before dinner.

TRAVEL TIP FOR A HIGHLIGHT RATHER THAN A TRANSFER, ASK US TO PUT YOU ON THE HILL-COUNTRY TRAIN FOR PART OF THE CLIMB AND HAVE YOUR VEHICLE MEET YOU FURTHER ALONG THE LINE — RESERVED SEATS SELL OUT WEEKS AHEAD, SO TELL US EARLY. KEEP A LIGHT JACKET TO HAND; THE TEMPERATURE DROPS NOTICEABLY ABOVE 1,500 METRES.

⌂ Overnight: Nuwara Eliya · night 1 of 2



DAY 07 · NUWARA ELIYA

A full day in the highlands, in the town the British built to feel like home — hedged gardens, a racecourse, a golf course and mock-Tudor bungalows in the mist. Visit a working tea factory and plantation to follow the leaf from plucking through withering, rolling and firing to the cup, then taste the difference between grades in the tasting room together. Add a stroll or a pedal boat on Gregory Lake, the cool terraces of Hakgala Botanical Gardens, and Seetha Amman Temple with its painted gopuram above the stream. Those willing to rise very early can drive up to Horton Plains for the cloud-forest walk to World's End, a sheer 880-metre drop that clears only in the first hours after dawn.

TRAVEL TIP IF YOU GO TO HORTON PLAINS, LEAVE BY 5.30 AM — AFTER ABOUT 9.30 AM THE ESCARPMENT IS USUALLY SWALLOWED BY CLOUD AND THE VIEW IS GONE. BRING WARM LAYERS AND CLOSED SHOES; THE NINE-KILOMETRE LOOP IS EASY BUT OFTEN WET UNDERFOOT.

⌂ Overnight: Nuwara Eliya · night 2 of 2



DAY 08 · NUWARA ELIYA — YALA / TISSAMAHARAMA

After breakfast, check out and descend from the tea country toward the edge of the hills. Break in Ella for the photogenic stone span of the Nine Arch Bridge, the short and genuinely easy walk up Little Adam's Peak for a view straight down Ella Gap, and the cool spray of Ravana Falls beside the road — plenty of quiet spots for a photograph together. Continue down into the dry lowlands, arriving at Tissamaharama, an ancient tank-and-dagoba town on the edge of leopard country, in time for an optional afternoon jeep safari into Yala National Park.

TRAVEL TIP IF YOU TAKE THE AFTERNOON SAFARI, CARRY A HAT, SUNGLASSES AND A LIGHT WINDPROOF LAYER — OPEN JEEPS ARE DUSTY AND SURPRISINGLY COLD ON THE DRIVE BACK. LEAVE THE DRONE AT HOME; THEY ARE PROHIBITED IN ALL NATIONAL PARKS.

⌂ Overnight: Yala / Tissamaharama

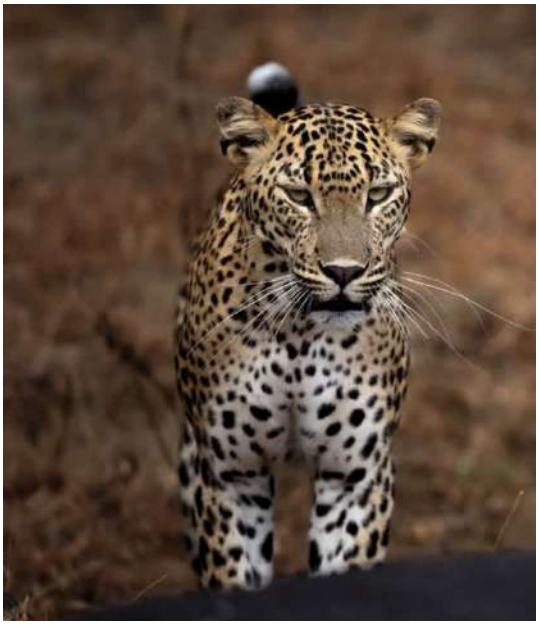
NINE ARCH BRIDGE, ELLA



DAY 09 · YALA — SOUTH COAST

An early start for a morning jeep safari in Yala National Park, the island's best chance of a wild leopard and home to elephant, sloth bear, crocodile and a long list of birds across its scrub, lagoons and rock outcrops. Back at the hotel for a late breakfast, then a relaxed drive west along the coast road to your beach hotel for the final stretch of your honeymoon. There is time to stop at Hummanaya, the island's only natural blowhole, and at the rock temple of Mulkirigala on the way. Arrive on the south coast by the afternoon, with three nights of sea, sand and slow mornings ahead.

YALA NATIONAL PARK

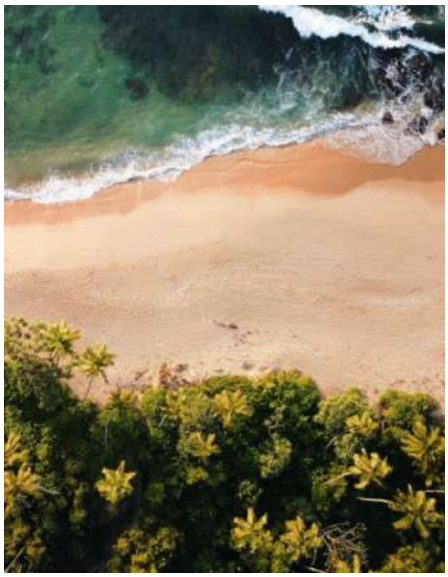


TRAVEL TIP YALA'S GATES OPEN AT 6 AM AND THE LEOPARDS ARE MOST ACTIVE IN THE FIRST TWO HOURS, SO ACCEPT THE EARLY ALARM — YOU CAN RE ON THE DRIVE TO THE COAST AFTERWARDS. ASK YOU CHAUFFEUR-GUIDE TO TIME ARRIVAL FOR CHECK-IN S YOUR ROOM IS READY.

⌂ Overnight: South coast beach hotel · night 1 of 3

DAY 10 · SOUTH COAST

A full day on the coast, shaped however you like it. Galle Fort is the obvious draw — a walled Dutch town of ramparts, coral-stone churches and shaded verandah cafes that is best walked hand in hand in the cooler light of early morning or late afternoon, finishing at the lighthouse as the sea turns gold. Closer to the hotel, a boat safari on the Madu River threads mangrove tunnels and tiny island hermitages, and the stilt fishermen of Koggala still perch above the surf at dawn and dusk.



TRAVEL TIP THE INDIAN OCEAN HERE HAS A REAL UNDERTOW — SWIM BETWEEN THE FLAGS WHERE LIFEGUARDS ARE POSTED, AND ASK YOUR CHAUFFEUR-GUIDE WHICH BEACH IS SAFEST ON THE DAY, AS IT CHANGES WITH THE MONSOON.

⌂ Overnight: South coast beach hotel · night 2 of 3

DAY 11 · SOUTH COAST



Your last full day together, kept deliberately unhurried. Between November and April, an early boat from Mirissa gives you a strong chance of blue whales and spinner dolphins — a memorable way to spend a morning as a couple. Return for a late breakfast and while away the afternoon by the pool or on the sand. In the evening, mark the close of your honeymoon with a private dinner on the beach, arranged by your hotel.

TRAVEL TIP WHALE-WATCHING BOATS LEAVE AROUND 6 AM AND SELL OUT IN SEASON, SO ASK US TO BOOK THE DAY BEFORE. GIVE YOUR HOTEL A DAY'S NOTICE FOR THE BEACH DINNER SO THEY CAN PREPARE THE SETTING PROPERLY.

⌂ Overnight: South coast beach hotel · night 3 of 3

DAY 12 · SOUTH COAST — AIRPORT

Breakfast at leisure, and depending on your flight time perhaps a last swim or a walk along the beach together. Your chauffeur-guide then transfers you to Bandaranaike International Airport for your onward flight, with assistance at check-in. We hope you leave with the start of a lifetime of memories — and we would be glad to welcome you both back.

TRAVEL TIP ALLOW AT LEAST THREE HOURS BEFORE AN INTERNATIONAL DEPARTURE — THE DRIVE FROM THE SOUTH COAST TO THE AIRPORT TAKES AROUND TWO TO TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS DEPENDING ON THE EXACT HOTEL, SO PLAN YOUR LAST SWIM ACCORDINGLY.

⌂ Overnight: — Departure

14 · ACCOMMODATION

Where you will stay

The hotels below are offered at two comfort levels for the same itinerary. Please confirm which category you would like us to quote.

DESTINATION	NTS	4-STAR OPTION	5-STAR OPTION
Negombo	1	Goldi Sands Hotel	Jetwing Blue
Habarana	2	Habarana Village by Cinnamon	Cinnamon Lodge Habarana
Kandy	2	Cinnamon Citadel Kandy	Earl's Regency
Nuwara Eliya	2	Araliya Green Hills	Araliya Green City
Yala / Tissamaharama	1	Chaarya Resort & Spa	Jetwing Yala
South Coast (Beach)	3	Turyaa Kalutara	Cinnamon Bey Beruwala

The itinerary comprises 11 nights and 12 days. All hotels are subject to availability at the time of confirmation; should a listed property be unavailable, we will do our very best to secure a similar alternative of the same category at the same cost; where that is not possible, an alternative will be offered with any supplement advised to you in advance. See The Fine Print for full hotel terms.

15 · PRICING & TERMS

Pricing & terms

Please contact us for pricing and terms and conditions.

READY WHEN YOU ARE

Ayubowan — and safe travels

Tell us what you would like changed and we will rework the journey around it. Nothing here is fixed until you say so.