Travel with Scott and Curtis

Sri Lanka: From Colombo & Kandy to the Wildlife of Yala

January 2029

🐘 **Sri Lanka:** Negombo • Habarana • Kandy • Nuwara Eliya • Yala National Park • Matara • Colombo

Sri Lanka is a land of extraordinary beauty, ancient wonders, and rich cultural traditions. From lush tea plantations and mist-covered mountains to golden coastlines and wildlife-filled national parks, this enchanting island offers something to discover at every turn. Explore the ancient rock fortress of Sigiriya, marvel at sacred Buddhist temples, and journey through the scenic Hill Country. Set off on thrilling game-viewing drives in Yala National Park in search of elephants, leopards, and other exotic wildlife. Along the way, stroll through historic colonial towns, savor authentic local cuisine, and experience the warmth and hospitality of the Sri Lankan people through meaningful encounters with local families and communities. It's a captivating blend of history, culture, nature, and unforgettable experiences.

What to Expect On This Incredible Trip

An immersive journey through Sri Lanka's ancient wonders, breathtaking landscapes, and vibrant culture, where you will experience…

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites, ancient rock fortresses, and sacred Buddhist temples
- Thrilling wildlife safaris in Yala National Park, home to elephants, leopards, and exotic wildlife
- Scenic journeys through misty mountains, lush tea plantations, and picturesque villages
- Authentic cultural exchanges, including visits to local villages, schools, and family homes
- Traditional Sri Lankan cuisine, home-hosted meals, and warm local hospitality
- Historic coastal towns, colonial architecture, and bustling local markets
- A blend of guided exploration, meaningful encounters, and time for personal discovery

It balances:

- Ancient history and Buddhist spiritual traditions
- Untamed wilderness and unforgettable wildlife encounters
- Lush mountain landscapes and tranquil tea country
- Colonial heritage and colorful coastal charm
- Authentic village life and personal cultural connections
- Natural beauty, adventure, and relaxation



📌Trip Overview

Sri Lanka: *Negombo • Habarana • Kandy • Nuwara Eliya • Yala National Park • Matara • Colombo*

Exact site order and itinerary subject to final O.A.T. itinerary for the year.

Dates: January 2029
Trip Price (includes airfare from DTW): $8,449 per person*
Duration: 16 Days

!!Please note: *Prices are subject to change**

🗓️ Expected Itinerary Overview

Day 1: Depart USA

Depart the United States for your international flight to Sri Lanka, connecting through Doha, Qatar.

Begin your journey to an island filled with ancient history, breathtaking landscapes, and unforgettable cultural experiences.

Day 2: Arrive Colombo, Sri Lanka • Transfer to Negombo

Arrive at Colombo International Airport and transfer to the coastal resort town of Negombo.

- *Meet your local representative at the airport*
- *Transfer to your hotel in Negombo*
- *Settle in and relax after your international journey*
- *Meet fellow travelers arriving from the optional pre-trip extension*

Depending on flight schedules, arrival may be late on Day 2 or early on Day 3.

Evening at leisure.

Day 3: Negombo • Canal Boat Tour

Begin exploring Negombo, a coastal town known for its colonial heritage, fishing traditions, and scenic waterways.

Morning:

- *Leisure time to recover from international travel*
- *Welcome Briefing with your Trip Experience Leader*
- *Welcome Lunch at a local restaurant*

Afternoon exploration:

- *Visit St. Sebastian's Church, a beautiful Gothic-revival landmark*
- *Orientation drive through historic Negombo*
- *Discover the town's Dutch, Portuguese, and British colonial influences*
- *Scenic boat tour along canals originally built by the Dutch for transporting spices*

Evening free for independent exploration or relaxation.

Meals: *Breakfast & Lunch*

Day 4: Negombo • Dambulla Cave Temple • Sigiriya

Travel inland toward Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle, an area rich in ancient kingdoms and sacred landmarks.

Morning:

- *Visit Negombo's bustling fishing village and open-air fish market*
- *See traditional outrigger fishing boats*
- *Scenic drive through the countryside toward Sigiriya*

Afternoon highlights:

- *Explore the UNESCO-listed Dambulla Cave Temple*
- *Discover ancient Buddhist cave sanctuaries*
- *Admire impressive Buddha statues and sacred artwork*
- *Learn about Buddhism's influence on Sri Lankan history and culture*

Continue to Sigiriya and check into your hotel.

Dinner at the hotel.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 5: Sigiriya • Local Village & Cultural Exchange

Experience authentic Sri Lankan village life through meaningful encounters with local residents.

Cultural discoveries:

- *Visit a local school, when in session, supported in part by Grand Circle Foundation*
- *Meet students and learn about Sri Lanka's educational system*
- *Spend time with villagers and learn about traditional rural life*
- *Participate in a local farming activity*
- *Visit a family home and help prepare traditional Sri Lankan dishes*

Enjoy a community lunch with local villagers.

Afternoon free to relax or explore independently.

Dinner at the hotel.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 6: Sigiriya Rock Fortress • Optional Anuradhapura

Explore one of Sri Lanka's most iconic landmarks, the magnificent Sigiriya Rock Fortress.

Morning exploration:

- *Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as Lion Rock*
- *Discover the remains of the ancient royal fortress*
- *See the enormous carved lion paws guarding the stairway*
- *Explore terraced gardens, the Water Garden, and Boulder Garden*
- *Discover ancient frescoes and the famous Mirror Wall*
- *Enjoy sweeping views of the surrounding jungle*

Afternoon free for independent exploration.

Optional Anuradhapura excursion:

- *Visit the ruins of one of Sri Lanka's ancient capitals*
- *Explore historic Buddhist temples and monuments*
- *See the revered Sri Maha Bodhi tree*

Dinner at the hotel.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 7: Sigiriya • Kandy • Temple of the Tooth

Journey to Kandy, Sri Lanka's historic royal capital, surrounded by mountains and lush scenery.

Morning discoveries:

- *Explore Dambulla's colorful local produce market*
- *Travel through the scenic countryside toward Kandy*
- *Visit Aluvihare Rock Temple, an important Buddhist sanctuary*
- *Meet student monks and learn about their traditions*

Enjoy lunch at an open-air kitchen operated by local female chefs.

Afternoon and evening:

- *Arrive in Kandy and settle into your hotel*
- *Take an orientation walk with your Trip Experience Leader*
- *Visit the sacred Temple of the Tooth, located within the former royal palace complex*
- *Learn about the revered relic believed to be a tooth of the Buddha*

Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Meals: *Breakfast & Lunch*

Day 8: Kandy • Royal Botanic Gardens • Home-Hosted Dinner

Discover Kandy's lush botanical beauty and enjoy an intimate cultural experience with a local family.

Morning visit to Peradeniya Botanic Gardens:

- *Explore 150 acres of tropical gardens*
- *Discover approximately 4,000 plant species*
- *Admire hundreds of orchid varieties*
- *Stroll along beautifully manicured, palm-lined pathways*
- *Learn about exotic plants and flowers from a local guide*

Afternoon free to explore Kandy independently.

Exclusive Cultural Experience:

- *Visit the home of a local Kandyan family*
- *Enjoy an authentic home-hosted dinner*
- *Share stories and conversations with your hosts*
- *Learn firsthand about Sri Lankan customs, family life, and traditions*

Meals: *Breakfast & Dinner*

Day 9: Kandy • Tea Plantation • Nuwara Eliya

Travel into Sri Lanka's beautiful Hill Country, famous for its emerald-green tea plantations and mist-covered mountains.

Morning highlights:

- *Scenic drive toward Nuwara Eliya*
- *Visit a working tea plantation*
- *Learn how world-famous Ceylon tea is grown and processed*
- *Observe traditional tea harvesting*
- *Tour a tea factory and sample locally produced tea*

Afternoon:

- *Arrive in Nuwara Eliya, nicknamed "Little England"*
- *Discover the town's British colonial character*
- *Enjoy the cool mountain climate and surrounding scenery*
- *Free time to relax or explore independently*

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: *Breakfast & Dinner*

Day 10: Scenic Train Journey • Ella • Yala National Park

Experience Sri Lanka's spectacular mountain landscapes before traveling south toward its wildlife-rich national parks.

Morning:

- *Board a train for a scenic journey to Bandarawela, weather permitting*
- *Travel through the beautiful Hill Country*
- *Continue to Ella, a charming mountain village*
- *Enjoy views of tea plantations, waterfalls, and lush green hills*

Free time in Ella:

- *Explore local shops and cafés*
- *Take in the sweeping mountain scenery*
- *Enjoy lunch independently*

Afternoon drive to Yala National Park.

Check into your lodge near the park and enjoy dinner.

Meals: *Breakfast & Dinner*

Day 11: Yala National Park • Wildlife Safari

Discover Sri Lanka's extraordinary wildlife and learn about the challenges of protecting both local communities and wild elephants.

Morning Cultural Discovery:

- *Visit a farming family near the village of Tissa*
- *Learn about traditional chena farming practices*
- *Discuss Sri Lanka's human-elephant conflict*
- *Hear firsthand how wildlife encounters affect local families*
- *Explore the surrounding gardens and agricultural fields*

Afternoon Wildlife Safari:

- *Set off on a game-viewing drive through Yala National Park*
- *Search for wild elephants, leopards, and sloth bears*
- *Look for crocodiles, deer, monkeys, buffaloes, and colorful birdlife*
- *Discover the park's diverse landscapes of forests and grassy plains*

Return to your lodge for dinner.

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Day 12: Morning Wildlife Safari • Galle

Enjoy another opportunity to spot Sri Lanka's remarkable wildlife before continuing to the historic southern coast.

Early Morning Safari:

- *Return to Yala National Park for a second game-viewing drive*
- *Explore a different area of the park*
- *Watch for elephants, leopards, exotic birds, and other wildlife*
- *Experience the park's natural beauty in the early morning*

Return to the lodge for breakfast and relaxation.

Afternoon:

- *Depart Yala and travel toward the coastal city of Galle*
- *Stop for lunch along the way*
- *Arrive at your hotel in Galle*

Dinner on your own. Evening at leisure.

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 13: Galle Fort • Optional Sri Lankan Heritage Tour

Explore Galle, a historic coastal city known for its beautifully preserved colonial architecture and tropical charm.

Morning walking tour:

- *Discover UNESCO-listed Galle Fort*
- *Explore the impressive 17th-century Dutch fortifications*
- *Learn about Galle's history as an important spice-trading port*
- *Admire colonial architecture and atmospheric historic streets*
- *Discover the city's vibrant artistic heritage*

Enjoy lunch at a local sustainable farm that supports traditional craftsmanship and agricultural practices.

Afternoon free for independent exploration.

Optional Sri Lankan Heritage Highlights Tour:

- *Discover the history and traditions of Sri Lankan cinnamon*
- *Visit the moonstone gem mines at Meetiyagoda*
- *Explore the Tsunami Museum and learn about the devastating 2004 disaster*

Evening at leisure.

Meals: *Breakfast & Lunch*

Day 14: Matara • Buddhist Meditation • Farewell Dinner

Experience a peaceful spiritual tradition and reflect on your journey through Sri Lanka.

Morning:

- *Visit a hilltop Buddhist temple*
- *Learn about the temple's role as a refuge during the 2004 tsunami*
- *Opportunity to participate in a 20-minute meditation session led by a resident monk*

Afternoon:

- *Return to Galle*
- *Free time for independent exploration, shopping, or relaxation*

Evening Farewell Celebration:

- *Gather with fellow travelers for a special Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant*

- *Share memories and celebrate the experiences of your Sri Lankan adventure*

Meals: *Breakfast & Dinner*

Day 15: Galle • Colombo

Travel to Colombo, Sri Lanka's bustling commercial capital, for the final stop on your journey.

Morning:

- *Depart Galle and travel to Colombo*
- *Visit Independence Square*
- *Discover the monument commemorating Sri Lanka's independence from British rule in 1948*

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon:

- *Check into your hotel*
- *Free time to explore Colombo independently*
- *Relax or enjoy the city's shops and dining options*

Dinner on your own.

Meals: *Breakfast & Lunch*

Day 16: Colombo • Return Home

Transfer to the airport for your international flight home.

Travelers continuing their adventure may begin the optional Malaysia & Singapore post-trip extension.

Depending on flight schedules, airport transfers and departures may take place late on Day 15 or early on Day 16.

Meals: *Breakfast*

***Exact details for this tour will be updated on the O.A.T. travel site once the official itinerary is confirmed. This more detailed O.A.T. itinerary can be found by clicking here.*



✅ What's Included

- 14 nights' accommodations
- 30 meals—14 breakfasts, 8 lunches, and 8 dinners (including 1 Home-Hosted Dinner)
- All transportation and transfers
- International airfare, airport transfers, taxes, fees, and fuel surcharges
- Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- 16 activities, including a visit to a GCF-supported school and 2 game-viewing drives
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers

✈️ Flight Booking Notes

When confirming your deposit, please specify:

- Travel class preference (Coach, Premium Select, Business)
- Aisle or window seating
- Any special requests or meal preferences

ℹ️ Additional Notes

- **Prices subject to change**, especially airfare and fees.
- Customizations and optional extensions are available.
- Physical Requirements: Activity level is **moderately easy (Level 2 out of 5)**





Online Reservations: www.TravelwithScottandCurtis.com
Phone Reservations: (269) 209-5889