

# SRI LANKA

Look Beyond the Ordinary – 6 Seriously Special Reasons to Visit

**U**nderestimated and in many ways undiscovered, Sri Lanka is one of the world's most intriguing, complex and beautiful countries.

Beyond the idyllic palm fringed beaches, there is a never-ending explosion of colour, warm hospitality, verdant jungles, lush landscapes and impossibly scenic train rides.

Not overlooking the sheer abundance of wildlife, Sri Lanka has the highest density of leopards in the whole of Asia. Experience majestic elephants, sloth bears and a dizzying assortment of scaled amphibians. With whales and dolphins breaching the water line the ecological stage is a crowded one.

This small island holds a wealth of undiscovered experiences. Within a few hours, travel through different eco-systems, experience breath taking landscapes, walk in ancient cities and feel the vibrant culture in a small island that has a huge personality. Where else in the world can you visit a 3000BC city in the morning and take a safari in the afternoon? Coupled with traditions, festivals, 8 UNESCO World Heritage sites and taste popping food, this destination is undeniably magical.

## WALK IN A 3000-YEAR OLD ANCIENT CITY

Visit some of the cultural capitals and relive some of the seminal episodes of the islands past. Colossal monuments and serene rocking carvings in sprawling city ruins showcase the islands rich history. Better known as the Cultural Triangle, a stay at the luxurious Water Garden Sigiriya will reward its visitors to magnificent views of the islands most awe-inspiring archaeological site – Sigiriya Rock.



This 200m Fortress is a UNESCO World Heritage site that is an elaborately planned royal township complex with the ruins of a palace on top.

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hotels that boast stunning locations and striking designs has emerged. Kalundewa Retreat in the Cultural Triangle is no exception. A secluded eco retreat hidden away in a lush 100-acre land. Stay in spacious villas with private pools or the romantic floating villa in the hotel's lake. Natural springs, cycle paths and an open-air restaurant make for a haven for those wanting something truly different.

## EXPERIENCE HEART-STOPPING VISTAS ACROSS VERDANT TEA PLANTATIONS

Find mist-shrouded mountains, rolling tea plantations and cascading waterfalls in the islands central heartland known as the Hill Country. With cool climes and a rich heritage, the landscape of Sri Lanka from coast to peak are nothing short of spectacular.

Stay in luxuriously converted tea planter bungalows that proffer a rich heritage with infinity pools overlooking terraces blanketed in emerald fields of green tea interrupted only by splashes of colour from the local Tamil women's saris.

## GET OFF THE GRID

Gal Oya Lodge is perfect for those with tech filled, hectic schedules who want to press pause. Expect complete signal loss within two hours radius and prepare to immerse yourself in a nature experience in one of Sri Lanka's remotest areas.

Bordering one of the island's untouched national parks, experience boat safaris that discover wildlife from a whole new perspective and trips to meet the forest dwelling indigenous Veddha people of Sri Lanka. This is a real treat for those who want to experience nature and wilderness at its best.

## UNRIVALLED WILDLIFE

A stay at one of Sri Lanka's unique safari boutiques bordering one of the island's national parks is a wildlife stay that is nothing short of immersive and starts with your hotel stay. It's not surprising to wake up to elephants crashing around in the hotel's lily pond, or chattering monkeys playing at the edge of the swimming pool. Take a private safari into a national park and spy a sleek leopard camouflaged on a branch. Or witness up to 300 elephants emerging at the end of a dry season. Stay in stunning boutiques such as Chena Huts – super luxe safari residences that nestle among dunes and luscious jungle at the ocean's edge.

## LIE UNDER SEAWARD LEANING PALMS

Karpaha Sands is arguably one of the island's most luxurious beach stays. Decompress in luxury tented suites carefully tucked between palm trees. Unwind on private loungers on pristine shores and enjoy the divine culinary journey that makes this hidden gem extra special. With a spa, library and fully equipped games room it's impossible not to recharge and deeply relax.

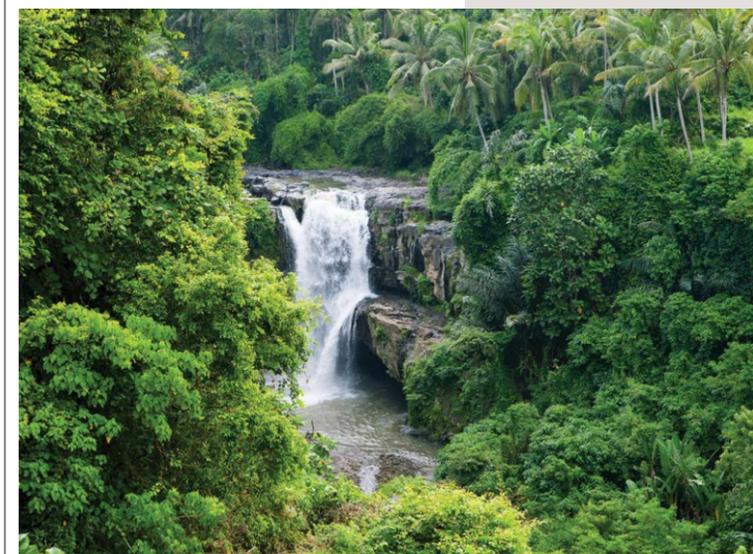


## TRAVEL IN WIDESCREEN WILDERNESS

Soar by helicopter over jungle covered hills, board the most beautiful train ride, whale watch from above in a seaplane, take technicolour road trips with dramatic pit stops and just so much more. Sri Lanka has an astonishing amount of experiences with many still under the radar. This country is full of well-kept secrets and hidden gems and quite simply has something incredible for everyone.

Travel with Sri Lanka Bespoke – a team of Sri Lankan's with utterly unique access and insights offering something a little more special. We have Sri Lanka in our hearts and souls. We create highly tailored holidays around our clients delivering an incredibly personalised service every step of the way to ensure that your trip is a lifetime experience. ■

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Infinity pool views at Dunkeld Lake at Ceylon Tea Trails

