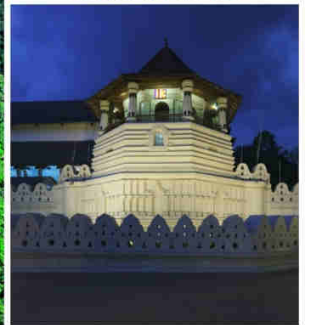
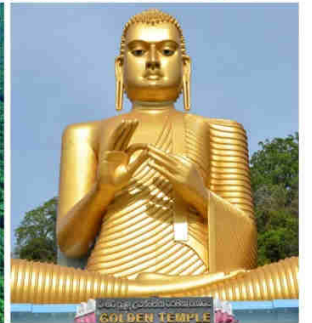
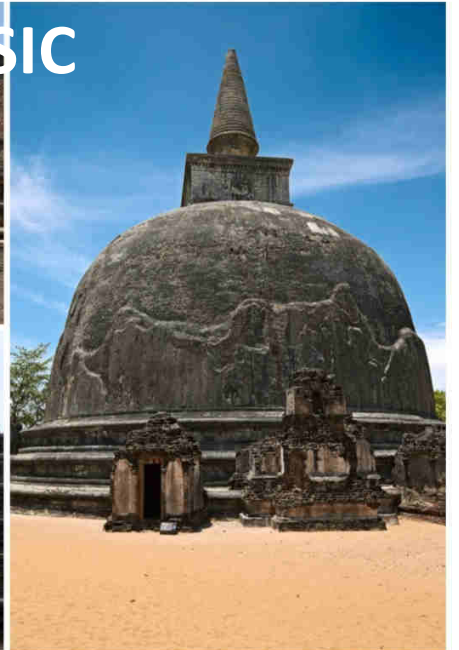
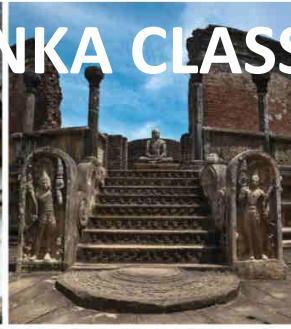


# SRI LANKA CLASSIC







# Sri Lanka Classic – 8 days / 7 nights by GVSL

DAY 01

AIRPORT–COLOMBO

(D)

Arrive in Sri Lanka. You will be met by our representative on arrival and transferred to Colombo.

Afternoon at around 16.30 hrs commence a city tour of Colombo.

**City tour of Colombo** - like many capital cities in developing countries is fast changing its face. Almost overnight, skyscrapers arise from where old buildings once stood. Yet in some parts, the old world charm is retained. For example, there is a 100-year-old clock tower and several British built colonial buildings. Other places of interest are the Pettah bazaar - where one can shop for bargain, a Hindu and a Buddhist temple (Gangarama), Independent square, Galle Face Green, Habar and the residential areas where you find the stately homes of the affluent. **Dinner & overnight stay in Ramada Colombo (4\*), Colombo or similar**

DAY 02

COLOMBO–ANURADHAPURA–HABARANA

(B/D)

After breakfast leave for Anuradhapura via Puttalam Road. Commence a city tour of Anuradhapura.

**Anuradhapura** is the first capital of Sri Lanka from 5th C.B.C to 10th C.A.D. The remains of 15 centuries as a capital are found in a vast area. The city, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was the center of Theravada Buddhism for many centuries. From smaller monuments such as Thuparama and Lankarama to gigantic, 400 foot high Jetavana Dagaba, Abhayagiriya and Ruwanwelisaya and the most sacred Bo-tree, (Ficus Religiosa) well-guarded up to this day, are found here. There are statues, remains of Palaces, Ponds, Temples, Shrines, Alms Halls, Meditation Centres, Old statues, Monasteries, Pleasure gardens and large number of other monuments are found at Anuradhapura.

**Dinner & overnight stay at Chaaya Village (4\*), Habarana or similar**

DAY 03

HABARANA–SIGIRIYA ROCK–POLONNARUWA–HABARANA

(B/D)

After breakfast leave for Sigiriya & climb Sigiriya Rock.

**Sigiriya** today is a UNESCO listed World Heritage Site. It is one of the best preserved examples of ancient urban planning. It is the most visited historic site in Sri Lanka. King Kassapa (477-495 A.D) who shifted the Capital from Anuradhapura to Sigiriya made a fortress to surround his palace, which was constructed on the summit of a 500ft high rock, with necessary facilities. The Palace was surrounded by an outer-moat and wall and Inner - moat and Wall, pleasure garden, Mirror-wall, light coloured and dark coloured damsel's frescoes, to cover the western wall and a beautiful staircase through the body of a Crouching Lion are some of the attractions here.

The boulder garden consists of caves where Buddhist Bhikkus lived and meditated. After Kassapa Sigiriya was given back once again to the Bhikkus.

Afternoon proceed to Polonnaruwa & commence a city tour of Polonnaruwa.

**Polonnaruwa** was the medieval capital of Sri Lanka from the 11th - 13th C.A.D Great revival was achieved in the country, politically, economically and socially during the period of Kings Vijayabahu Parakramabahu and Nissankamalla of the Polonnaruwa period. The ancient city of Polonnaruwa has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO.

**Dinner & overnight stay at Chaaya Village (4\*), Habarana or similar**

DAY 04

HABARANA–DAMBULLA–MATALE–KANDY

(B/D)

After breakfast leave for Dambulla & visit Dambulla Rock Temple.

**Dambulla** is famous for the five cave Temples on a rock, which is a UNESCO listed World Heritage Site. The first 03 caves are better, older and larger than the other two. Some caves dates to 1st C.B.C. All the 5 cave walls and ceilings are covered with Buddhist murals and there are more than 130 Buddha statues, statues of Gods and Kings are also found here.

Thereafter proceed to Kandy visiting a Spice Garden.

**Spice Garden at Matale** and see the luscious, Cinnamons, Cardamoms, Pepper plants etc. You can also purchase your requirements of spices.

In the afternoon commence city tour of Kandy, including Upper Lake Drive, Market Square and the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic.

**Kandy**, the last stronghold of the Sinhalese Kings was finally ceded to the British in 1815. Kandy is an example of the Buddhism's influence in Sri Lanka today. Temple's shrines and monasteries keeping alive Buddhist traditions are everywhere.

**Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic.** Ever since 4<sup>th</sup> Century A.D, when the Buddha's Tooth was brought to Sri Lanka hidden from sacrilegious hands in an Orisons 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. Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic had been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO.

**Dinner & overnight stay at Hotel Topaz (3+\*), Kandy or similar**

**DAY 05****KANDY–PINNAWELA–PERADENIYA–KANDY****(B/D)**

After breakfast leave for Pinnawela visit the Elephant Orphanage in Pinnawela.

**Pinnawela** - App. 90 km's from Colombo, off Colombo-Kandy road is Pinnawela, where an orphanage was started in 1975 to house the abandoned and the wounded elephants. The number of elephants has increased now, including baby elephants brought from various parts, as well as the babies born, as a result of the captive breeding program. The best time to visit is the feeding time from 0930-1000 hrs and 1330-1400 hrs and the bathing time from 1000-1030 hrs and 1400-1430 hrs when all the elephants are taken to the river close by.

Thereafter return to Kandy. En-route visit Royal Botanical Garden in Peradeniya.

**The Royal Botanical Gardens** - 147 acres in extent; Started in 1374 as a pleasure garden of the Kings of Kandy. There are more than 5000 species of trees and plants. Some rare and endemics as well as flora from the tropical World. Spice Garden and Orchid House are popular with tourist's.

Visit a Gem Studio & witness art & the craftsmanship.

**Dinner & overnight stay at Hotel Topaz (3+\*), Kandy or similar**

**DAY 06****KANDY–NUWARA ELIYA****(B/D)**

After breakfast leave for Nuwara Eliya.

Sight walk to the city area. Visit a **Tea Plantation & Factory**.

**Nuwara Eliya** – 180 km's from Colombo, 6200ft. above sea level. In 1826 some British Officers 1828 a road constructed over the ridge at Ramboda Pass and a station for convalescent Soldiers was established was Sir Samuel Baker who fell under the spell of Nuwara Eliya, brought hounds, horses, cattle, sheep etc; and started a typical English farm here. Flowers and vegetable were brought from England and planted.

**Dinner & overnight stay at Jetwing St. Andrews (3\*), Nuwara Eliya or similar**

**DAY 07****NUWARA ELIYA–YALA SAFARI****(B/D)**

After breakfast leave for Yala.

Leaving Nuwara Eliya behind and enjoying the drive to the south with passing **Ella** and the **Ella Gap** which allows a great view across the Southern plains of Sri Lanka. The Rawana Ella Falls are on the way always great to do a photo stop to have scenic picture card motives.

Afternoon safari to Yala National Park by jeeps.

**Yala National Park** - is an important national park in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka.

This popular reserve has more than 400 wild Asian Elephants, which are relatively easy to see in this open habitat. Yala also has a dozen or so Leopards, although seeing this largely nocturnal carnivore requires

considerable luck. There are good numbers of Crocodiles, Golden Jackals, Water Buffalo and Grey langurs amongst other large animals. The open parkland attracts birds of prey such as White-bellied Sea Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Fish Eagle, Booted eagle, Changeable Hawk Eagle and the wetlands have waders and Painted Storks. Land birds are in abundance, and include Indian Roller, Indian Peafowl, Malabar Pied Hornbill.

**Dinner & overnight stay at Jetwing Yala (3+\*), Yala or similar**

**DAY 08**

**YALA-AIRPORT**

**(B)**

After breakfast leave for Airport.

**(Tour vehicle will reach Colombo around 1900 hrs)**

**\*\*\* End of Program \*\***

**B – Breakfast x 07**

**D – Dinner x 07**