



LIMITED EDITION SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS

Sri Lanka: Secrets of the Spice Island 2020-21

14 days from \$7,595 per person

Limited to 18 guests

This journey is a unique opportunity to travel with other international guests on a limited-edition itinerary operated by A&K Australia.

Sri Lanka is a world apart, a deeply spiritual place where Buddhist values and a rich cultural heritage are interwoven with enduring colonial influences. On this extraordinary journey, we peel back the layers of this beguiling island nation and uncover its many treasures: a serene and gentle people, fragrant and flavorsome cuisine, fascinating ruins and diverse terrain — from golden beaches and arid plains to lush tea plantations and mist-covered mountains — everything suffused with a warm tropical glow, something you will bring with you upon your return from this exquisite destination.

Included With Every Limited edition Small Group Journey

- Limited-edition Journey Offered in Partnership with the A&K Australia Office
- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director® and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

A&K Advantages

- Stay in a number of specially selected boutique accommodations
- Wander through the streets of old Colombo
- Discover the secrets of Sri Lankan home cooking at a curated dinner in Colombo
- Admire the tropical modernist aesthetic of Sri Lanka's most influential architect, Geoffrey Bawa
- Explore UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the Cultural Triangle, and climb the Sigiriya rock fortress
- Seek out elephants and endemic wildlife at Minneriya National Park
- Join the pilgrims for a nightly prayer ritual at the Temple of the Sacred Tooth
- Learn the secrets of Ceylonese tea in the plantations of Sri Lanka's famous tea country
- Meander through Galle Fort with a heritage expert on foot

Itinerary

DAY 1 ARRIVE COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

Land in Colombo, enjoying fast-track on-arrival, and transfer to your hotel. Spend the rest of your day at leisure.

Uga Residence

DAY 2 COLOMBO

This morning, meet with your Resident Tour Director and fellow travellers for a tour briefing before exploring the island's capital in the quintessential way — by *tuk-tuk*. Weave your way through the city's bustling bazaars and markets, past landmark monuments and newly restored buildings to Galle Face Green for breathtaking views of the Indian Ocean. Take a breather back at the hotel before meeting Colombo locals — along with passionate photographer Mark Forbes, your escort — on a captivating walk through the old town, who brings the city's multifaceted history to life. See the 17th-century Dutch Hospital, Colombo Fort, charming colonial mansions, and wind up at a speakeasy for *arrack*-themed cocktails. Tonight, gather for a welcome dinner at Culinary Ceylon, where a culinary curator introduces you to Sri Lankan home cooking through a series of tasting plates.

Uga Residence | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 3 COLOMBO

Before leaving the city, make a short stop at No. 11 Bawa Residence, designed and built by the great Geoffrey Bawa — a Sri Lankan architect — during the 1960s. An essay in architectural bricolage, the house was built from four smaller bungalows that Bawa bought and combined over a period of years. Continue on to the Cultural Triangle, located in the center of the country.

Ulagalla | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4 CULTURAL TRIANGLE

A healthy start to the day as you visit the organic garden to pick fresh produce for use in a cooking demonstration at the resort's traditional hearth kitchen. Watch as your fresh herbs and vegetables are transformed into lip-smacking Sri Lankan delicacies, which you'll savor over lunch. This afternoon, enjoy one of these

Design Your Day[®] activities.

Travel like a local on a village *tuk-tuk* experience.

Take to the waters of the Wannemaduwa Tank in a kayak.

Learn how to craft and fly a classic Sri Lankan kite.

Ulagalla | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5 CULTURAL TRIANGLE

Discover a world of ancient ruins today in the Cultural Triangle. Start at one of Southeast Asia's most impressive sites, Anuradhapura, the country's first ancient capital that dates from the fifth century BC. Marvel at giant *stupas* (dome-shaped structures erected as shrines); a colossal statue of Buddha; and receive a blessing near the sacred Bodhi tree, the oldest recorded, planted in 236 BC. This afternoon, climb to the spot where Buddhism was introduced to Sri Lanka — at the summit of Mihintale — and admire the religious monuments and views.

Ulagalla | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 CULTURAL TRIANGLE

Delve further into the Cultural Triangle at UNESCO-listed Polonnaruwa, an interesting blend of Buddhist and Hindu archaeological monuments. Don't miss the famous rock temple of Gal Vihara, which comprises four colossal statues of Buddha cut into the stone. If you're feeling energetic, the best way to see the ruins is by bike. This afternoon, visit Minneriya National Park for a chance to see elephants and, if you're lucky, the purple-faced langur and toque macaque, which are endemic to Sri Lanka.

Water Garden | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 SIGIRIYA

Rise early for an exhilarating hot air balloon ride over the surrounding landscape, glimpsing Sigiriya from above (additional cost, paid locally). Then, challenge yourself with a steep climb 656 feet up through the Lion Gate to the top of the imposing fifth-century rock fortress, admiring the water gardens, moats and ancient frescos on the way. Soak up the unparalleled 360-degree views of the surrounding jungle and hills before returning to the hotel. Afterward, meet a farmer and his family for a home-cooked curry lunch.

Water Garden | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8 DAMBULLA

Get an early start to visit the extraordinary Buddhist cave temples at Dambulla, with statues and murals dating back to the third century BC representing Sinhalese Buddhist art at its best. Continue south to Kandy, the country's cultural capital, with sundowners and a traditional Kandyan cultural performance this evening.

Kings Pavilion | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9 KANDY

Join a professor at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya for a guided walk through the extraordinary botanical collection, comprising over 4,000 plant species, including a priceless collection of 300 varieties of orchids. Relax for the remainder of the day before a *pooja* ceremony this evening at the Temple of the Sacred Tooth, the city's most famous landmark, which houses the Sacred Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha. Amid scents of lotus and jasmine, join monks and pilgrims



who gather to make offerings to the Buddha.

Kings Pavilion | Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 NUWARA ELIYA

Travel through the misty highlands into hill country, past lush green tea estates and scenic waterfalls. Lunch in Nuwara Eliya before an afternoon tea experience. Visit tea plantations and a factory to learn from an expert about the journey from planting and plucking to manufacturing, grading and processing, the auction system, and finally, a tasting. Afterward, savor a tea-themed dinner in your converted tea factory hotel.

Heritage Tea Factory | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 11 NUWARA ELIYA

Part hotel, part museum, Heritage Tea Factory is where you'll unwind today. Select one of these **Design Your Day**[®] activities.

Spot sambar deer and endemic monkeys, and take in the view from World's End on a trek in Horton Plains National Park.

Take the scenic train ride through the heart of tea country to Ella.

Ramble through the tea fields on a plantation tour.

Heritage Tea Factory | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 12 GALLE

Journey south to the colonial seaside city of Galle, arriving in time for sunset at the ramparts of the fort. Dine in a local home for an evening of Sri Lankan family cuisine and warm hospitality.

Le Grand | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 13 GALLE

Join a local archaeologist and heritage expert on an absorbing walking tour of Galle Fort. Built by the Dutch in 1663, the fort is the largest remaining European fortress in Asia. Walk clockwise from the Old Dutch Church to the Old Gate, bearing the British coat of arms: the Zwart Bastion and lighthouse. Refuel on tea and refreshments at an old Dutch house, and meet the family who has lived there for generations. Seek out local arts and crafts, textiles, jewelry, homewares and Sri Lankan delicacies as you wander the cobbled streets. In the afternoon, meet traditional mask makers and admire the skill of their carving before trying your hand at this age-old craft. A farewell dinner is planned this evening at your hotel.

Le Grand | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 14 DEPART COLOMBO

Transfer to Colombo Airport for your departure flight.

Program Note: Travel in this remote region entails long travel days; best available accommodations; and limited access to Western cuisine.

Dates & Prices

Prices are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy.

Dates	Prices	Single Supplement	Availability
Sep 23 - Oct 06, 2020	\$7,595	\$1,995	Available
Nov 04 - Nov 17, 2020	\$7,595	\$1,995	Available
Jan 13 - Jan 26, 2021	\$8,195	\$2,695	Available

Journey Details

Minimum number of guests to guarantee operation: Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Maximum number of guests: Limited to 18 guests.

Tour inclusions: All accommodations as detailed on a double/twin-share basis with private facilities; meals as specified; bottled water during transfers and touring; airport welcome; assistance with luggage and group transportation by private air-conditioned vehicle; services of English-speaking A&K Resident Tour Director; economy flights only if specified as included in itinerary; all entrance fees, planning, handling, operational and communication charges; and all tipping.

Tour exclusions: International flights not specified as included; visas; insurance coverage of personal loss, injury, illness or damages incurred during your trip; items of a purely personal nature such as drinks, laundry, dry cleaning, Internet, fax or phone charges; transfers, sightseeing or meals not specified in itinerary; and excess baggage charges.

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Internal and international air not included. See complete terms and conditions [here](#).