



SRI LANKA

THE TOUR OF
LOCAL ENGAGEMENT & CULTURAL AWARENESS





ABOUT THE LOCAL ENGAGEMENT TOUR

Traveling, exploring new places, engaging with new people, and discovering the beauty of the world are extraordinary leisure activities. Sri Lanka is a captivating kaleidoscope of tradition, culture, and natural charm. The remarkable unity exemplified by the people of Sri Lanka, who represent a wide array of cultures, religions, languages, and customs, is truly inspiring. Our local engagement and cultural awareness tour package offers an opportunity to create unforgettable memories in Sri Lanka. You'll immerse yourself in the lifestyle of its locals, participate in their daily activities, and experience the authentic local way of life firsthand, all while enjoying your travels. This enriching journey promises to deepen your appreciation for diverse cultures and provide you with experiences that will stay with you long after your trip has ended.



THE ADVANTAGES OF TRAVELING WITH US

Travel Photographers As Drivers: Our drivers are not just chauffeurs; they are trained photographers, capturing stunning images of your travel experiences. You'll receive high quality photos of each destination visited.

Modern Transportation Options: Whether you prefer a comfortable car, spacious van, or accommodating minivan, we offer modern and well-maintained vehicles specifically tailored to suit your travel needs.

Tourist Board Approved Drivers: Our drivers are officially approved by the Sri Lankan tourist board, ensuring professionalism, adherence to safety standards, and exceptional service throughout your journey.



EXPERIENCE AUTHENTIC SRI LANKAN LIFE

Our main goal is to help travelers experience the everyday life of the people in the places they visit in Sri Lanka. We believe the best way to understand a culture is by joining in with the things locals do every day. This involvement not only makes the trip more interesting for travelers but also helps them connect with the people and customs that make each place special. And it's not just about learning; it's also a lot of fun! Our tours are all about giving travelers moments of happiness, new discoveries, and a better understanding of how diverse Sri Lanka can be. By engaging deeply with local life, travelers return home with enriching experiences and a lasting connection to the vibrant essence of Sri Lanka.



EFFORTLESS DRONE PERMISSION SERVICES

Experience the hassle-free solution to obtaining official clearance for drone flights in Sri Lanka. We understand the complexities involved in navigating regulations from multiple authorities such as the civil aviation authority, central cultural fund, and department of archaeology. With our streamlined process, we take the burden off your shoulders, handling all the paperwork and coordination to ensure swift approval for your drone operations. Navigating drone permissions for archaeological sites in Sri Lanka, such as Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa, can be a daunting task. With strict regulations in place to preserve these historical treasures, obtaining clearance for drone flights can be challenging. However, our dedicated service focuses in securing permissions from the relevant authorities on your behalf.



TRAVEL PHOTOS AND TRAVEL VIDEOS

This tour is also an excellent option for travelers who prefer to have someone else capture their travel photos and videos. If you'd rather not lug around bulky, complicated, and heavy cameras everywhere you go but still desire professional quality visuals of your journey, then this tour is perfect for you. Our photographer, Saman, will accompany you, capturing stunning photos and videos of the places you visit. This way, you can share the joy of your holiday experiences through beautifully managed images and videos. This photography and videography service is completely free of charge, capturing a fair amount of photos and videos.



ABOUT THE TOUR LEADER

Saman Weeratunga is a travel and portrait photographer based in Kandy, the central part of Sri Lanka. Travel and photography are his passion, and he has traveled to some truly remarkable countries, including Switzerland, Austria, France, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Singapore, and Malaysia. Each journey has been a unique experience, filled with breathtaking sights and unforgettable moments for him. However, his thirst for exploration remains unquenched, and he's constantly adding new destinations to his ever growing list of places to visit. Whether it's capturing amazing local portraits, the vibrant streets of a bustling city, or the serene beauty of a remote landscape, he's always ready to pack his camera bags and set off on another unforgettable travel photo journey.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Vedda Indigenous People In Dambana

Experience local engagement with the Vedda, an indigenous group in Sri Lanka. The Vedda people are one of the oldest ethnic groups in Sri Lanka, known for their unique culture and traditions. Walk to their village, visit a mud hut, and enjoy a healthy Ayurvedic drink with jaggery. Learn how they hunt using bows and arrows, and observe their traditional method of making fire by rubbing stones. Witness their ritual dances accompanied by songs. This session is held away from typical tourist areas, offering a unique opportunity to engage with their lifestyle without other tourist groups around.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Cultural Dancing Academy In Gadaladenyia

Experience local engagement with a traditional dance instructor by learning traditional Sinhalese dances. There are three main styles of Sri Lankan classical dance: the Kandyan dances of the hill country region, the low country dances of the southern region, and the Sabaragamuwa dances of the Ratnapura region. These classical dance forms differ in their body movements, gestures, and the shape and size of the drums used. You'll have the opportunity to master the basic steps of these significant dance styles, and additionally, you'll learn to play the relevant drum rhythms for each.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Bonding With An Elephant In Sigiriya

Experience local engagement with a mahout, the elephant handler, in caring for a captive elephant. Assist in feeding these majestic creatures, enjoy the bonding experience of bathing them, and take a memorable walk alongside the elephant. These domesticated elephants are incredibly friendly and offer wonderful opportunities for memorable photos with these magnificent animals. However, we do not encourage riding the elephants, as we prioritize their well-being and comfort. Instead, we invite you to engage with them in respectful and enriching ways, ensuring a positive experience for both you and the elephants



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Tea Workers' Village In Dambethenna

Experience local engagement with Tamil tea workers' villages by strolling around their colorful, quaint houses. Sri Lankan tea workers are primarily Indian Tamils, brought by the British during the colonial period to work on plantations. These villages are among the most economically deprived in Sri Lanka. Walking through the village, you may encounter underprivileged children; offering chocolates, sweets, or school stationery can bring them joy, and witnessing their smiles in response to your kindness is gratifying. Additionally, you can visit a nearby Hindu temple to admire statues of gods and other deities.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Tea Pluckers On Tea Field In Dambethenna

Experience local engagement with traditional tea pluckers by witnessing how they expertly pick young green tea leaves each morning. The task of plucking tea is traditionally done by women, who carefully hand-pick the leaves to ensure the highest quality. Hand-plucking allows workers to select only the top two leaves and a bud from the tea plant, which are the freshest and tenderest parts. You can dress in traditional sarees, just like the tea pluckers, and step into the lush, green tea fields, where you'll be introduced to the age-old skill of selecting only the most tender tea leaves.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Rural Hindu School In Dambethenna

Experience local engagement with underprivileged Hindu school students by visiting a rural school and witnessing firsthand the challenges they face due to a lack of learning facilities. These schools serve communities with limited resources, where families may struggle to meet basic needs. With permission from the school principal, you can visit a classroom, share a small, entertaining English lesson, sing with the students, and enjoy a joyful time in their classroom. Offering school stationery and educational aids can bring immense happiness to these children, who face financial constraints in their education.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Child Monks Piriven Education Temple In Kandy

Experience local engagement with young Buddhist monks by visiting a monastic Pirivena school, which provides education for little monks and novices, focusing on spiritual and academic subjects. The main function of the Pirivena is to teach classical subjects such as Sinhala, Pali, and Sanskrit, as well as Buddhism, history, and Logic. At the school, you can observe how they learn the Pali language, literature, culture, and traditions. Additionally, you can share a small, entertaining English lesson with the young monks to bring joy to their day. You can also engage in serving breakfast among them by adding your own food.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Stilt Fishermen In Koggala

Experience local engagement with traditional stilt fishermen by visiting a roadside fishing spot during sunrise or sunset. Stilt fishermen are a unique sight found along the southern coast of Sri Lanka. This traditional fishing method involves fishermen sitting on wooden poles, known as stilts, anchored in shallow waters. The fishermen maintain a balanced position on the stilt while casting their lines to catch fish. You can also try this ancient fishing method yourself by sitting on perched vertical poles with crossbars, using a traditional fishing rod to catch small fish and truly immerse in the experience.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

A Tuk Tuk Ride Through Green Valley In Haputale

Experience local engagement with a Tuk Tuk driver by traveling in his vibrant vehicle while taking in the spectacular views of the mountains and tea fields. The small, open vehicle provides an up close view of landscapes, from mist covered mountains to neatly arranged tea plantations. As the Tuk Tuk winds through narrow roads, you feel a cool breeze, and with every turn, a picturesque scene is revealed. The gentle bouncing over uneven roads adds to the thrill while the driver shares stories about the area. If you build rapport, you might even get the exciting opportunity to try your hand at driving the Tuk Tuk yourself



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Clay Pottery Family In Menikhinna

Experience local engagement with a clay pottery maker and learn the art of transforming raw clay into beautiful pottery using traditional methods and equipment. The roots of pottery in Sri Lanka trace back to ancient times, and traditionally, pottery was functional, with items created for daily use, including cooking pots. Small families are involved in the pottery industry, with practices passed down through generations. These families have a long-standing tradition of pottery-making, where skills are taught from parents to children. You can try your hand at shaping raw clay using hands and a pottery wheel.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Sinhalese Traditional Village In Sigiriya

Experience local engagement with villagers and village life by taking a leisurely walk through the village. Agriculture is the backbone of village life, and families work together to cultivate land. Food in Sri Lankan villages is simple yet flavorful, often prepared using fresh ingredients from local gardens. Rice and curry form the staple diet, accompanied by lentils and fish. In the village, you can participate in a cooking demonstration and try your hand at preparing traditional dishes. Enjoy the rewarding experience of savoring the meals you've created while gaining a deeper understanding of culinary traditions.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Scenic Train Journey From Ella To Kandy

Experience a scenic train journey through the beautiful mountains of tropical Sri Lanka. The views on both sides of the tracks are spectacular, showcasing lush landscapes and vibrant greenery. The train winds through hills, providing glimpses of farms, villages, and vast tea plantations. If you step into third class, you will have the chance to interact with locals who enjoy chatting. Leaning out of the train door provides some of the best views and an exhilarating feeling, but be cautious. Avoid extending your limbs outside the train at the wrong moment, as low-hanging trees and tunnels pose danger.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Giragama Tea Factory In Pilimathalawa

Experience learning everything about Ceylon tea while witnessing the step-by-step manufacturing process. Sri Lanka is famous for its high-quality tea and has a long history of cultivation dating back to the 19th century. Inside the tea factory, the step-by-step tea-making process can be seen. Fresh tea leaves are first withered to reduce moisture, then rolled to release natural oils. The leaves are fermented to develop flavor and color before being dried to stop oxidation. After drying, the leaves are sorted by quality. High-quality factory-made Sri Lankan tea, known for its rich taste and aroma, can be purchased.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Wild Elephant Jeep Safari In Minneriya

Experience the wild elephant jeep safari in Minneriya National Park, where you'll witness the splendid sight of around 150 to 200 majestic Sri Lankan elephants gathering in wide grass fields. As you traverse the park's landscapes, you'll encounter herds of elephants, often led by protective matriarchs, surrounded by playful calves who stick close to their mothers for guidance and safety. As evening falls, the elephants become more active, engaging in playful displays, trumpeting, and socializing with one another. This unique safari offers an unforgettable opportunity to observe these magnificent creatures in their habitat.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Ancient Ruined City In Polonnaruwa

Experience walking through the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, a site rich in historical significance. Polonnaruwa was once the capital of Sri Lanka from the 11th to 13th centuries and is now recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore ancient Buddha statues, massive stupas, and fascinating structures from the era of kings. You can accompany a young monk from a nearby temple, capturing photographs of the monk in front of grand statues and stupas, adding life to these backdrops. Many local devotees visit these temples, and you can also engage with friendly locals who are happy to share their experiences.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

Ancient Rock Fortress In Sigiriya

Experience climbing the ancient rock fortress of Sigiriya. This site of historical significance is dominated by a massive granite column approximately 180 meters high. Sigiriya features the ruins of an upper palace on the flat top, a mid level terrace with the Lion Gate and mirror wall frescoes, and lower palaces clinging to the slopes below. As you ascend, you'll encounter beautifully preserved frescoes depicting celestial maidens, providing a glimpse into the artistic talent of the time. The views from the summit offer a unique perspective of the lush jungles and distant mountains, creating a sense of tranquility.

