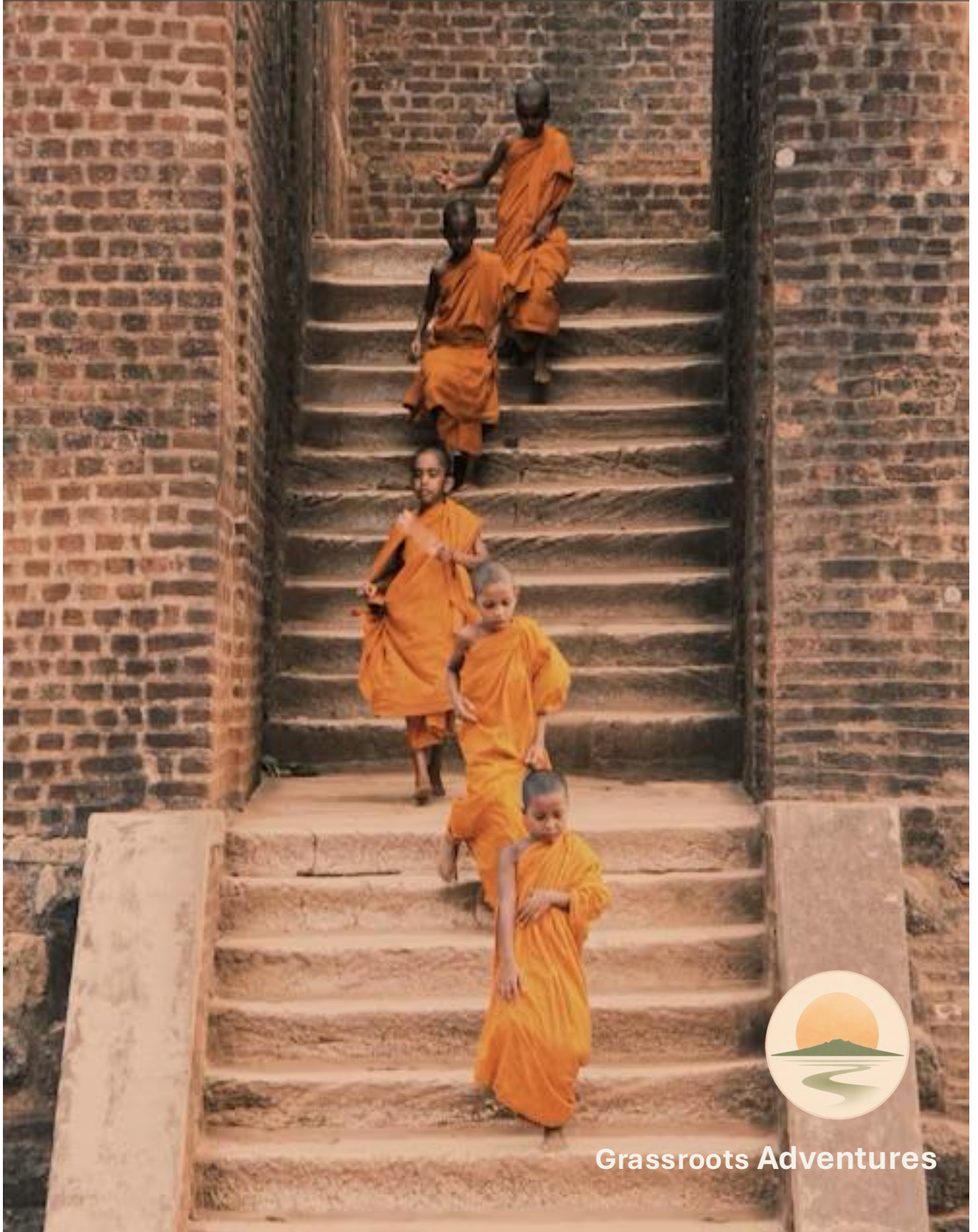


SRI LANKA

Culture, Wildlife & Everyday Sri Lanka

Late December 2027



Grassroots Adventures

YOUR SRI LANKAN JOURNEY

Sri Lanka is wonderfully varied. Travelling in a small, friendly group allows us to stay flexible when needed and spend more time experiencing each place, rather than simply ticking off sights.

Alongside Sri Lanka's major highlights, there is time for everyday encounters, hands-on experiences, scenic journeys, wildlife, relaxed meals and time to enjoy each place properly.

We avoid an overly commercial style of touring and aim to make the journey feel personal, warm and easygoing.



GRASSROOTS
ADVENTURES



SRI LANKA JOURNEY MAP

24 February – 11 March 2027

- 1 Negombo
- 2 Anuradhapura
- 3 Sigiriya / Dambulla
- 4 Kandy
- 5 Nuwara Eliya
- 6 Ella
- 7 Udawalawe
- 8 Hiriketiya / Southern Coast
- 9 Galle
- 10 Colombo



DAY 1

ARRIVE IN SRI LANKA — NEGOMBO

On arrival at Bandaranaike International Airport, we will be welcomed by our local guide and transferred to Negombo, a coastal town conveniently located near the airport.

As we arrive late in the evening, tonight is kept deliberately simple. After checking into our hotel, there will be time to settle in and rest before our Sri Lankan journey begins the following morning.

STAY

Jetwing Sea or similar, Negombo — 2 nights



DAY 2

NEGOMBO & LAGOON EXPERIENCE

Today we explore Negombo, a lively coastal town shaped by fishing, trade and its colonial past. We will visit the historic canal area, local fishing communities and some of the town's landmarks, gaining an introduction to everyday life in this busy coastal centre.

Later, we enjoy a relaxed boat journey through Negombo Lagoon and its mangrove waterways. Along the way, we may see a variety of birdlife and learn more about the traditional livelihoods connected with fishing and life around the lagoon.

STAY

Jetwing Sea or similar, Negombo — second night

MEALS

Breakfast included



DAY 3

NEGOMBO to ANURADHAPURA

After breakfast, we visit Negombo's bustling fish market, where the morning catch is brought ashore and prepared for sale. This lively scene offers an authentic glimpse into one of the town's most important traditional industries.

From there, we leave the coast behind and travel inland to Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka's first ancient capital and one of the country's most historically significant cities.

STAY

The Lake Forest or similar, Anuradhapura — 1 night

MEALS

Breakfast and dinner included



DAY 4

ANCIENT ANURADHAPURA TO SIGIRIYA

We spend the morning exploring the ancient city of Anuradhapura, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its towering stupas, ancient monasteries and remarkable reservoirs built more than two thousand years ago. Many of its sacred sites remain active places of worship today, giving the city a strong sense of living history.

After our visit, we continue into the Cultural Triangle and travel to our hotel near Sigiriya. We settle in for three nights, giving us a comfortable base for exploring the region's ancient sites, local communities and wildlife.

STAY

Occidental Paradise Dambulla or similar — 3 nights

MEALS

Breakfast and dinner included



DAY 5

SIGIRIYA FORTRESS & POTTERY WORKSHOP

This morning, we visit the magnificent Sigiriya Rock Fortress, one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated ancient sites. Those who wish to climb can make their way past the frescoes, Mirror Wall and Lion Platform to the summit, where there are sweeping views across the surrounding countryside.

In the afternoon, we visit local artisans for a hands-on pottery experience. We will learn about traditional clay preparation and shaping techniques, with the opportunity to create a simple piece of our own.

STAY

Occidental Paradise Dambulla or similar – second night

MEALS

Breakfast and dinner included



DAY 6

DAMBULLA CAVE TEMPLE & SAFARI

After breakfast, we visit the remarkable Dambulla Cave Temple, a complex of five ancient caves filled with Buddhist murals and more than 150 statues. Set beneath a dramatic rock overhang, the temple has been an important place of worship for more than two thousand years.

Later, we set out by jeep for a wildlife safari in Minneriya or Kaudulla National Park, depending on where the elephants are gathering at the time. The open grasslands, forests and reservoirs provide excellent opportunities to see wild elephants, along with deer, monkeys, crocodiles and a variety of birdlife.

STAY

Occidental Paradise Dambulla or similar — third night

MEALS

Breakfast and dinner included



SIGIRIYA TO KANDY

Today we leave the Cultural Triangle and travel south to Kandy, Sri Lanka's cultural capital, set among the green hills of the central highlands.

On arrival, we visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, one of the country's most revered Buddhist sites. The temple stands beside Kandy Lake and is known for its distinctive architecture, religious ceremonies and deep importance to Sri Lankan Buddhist culture.

STAY

Earl's Regency Kandy or similar — 2 nights

MEALS

Breakfast and dinner included



KANDY GARDENS & HELGA'S FOLLY

This morning we visit the Royal Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya, renowned for its magnificent collection of tropical plants, orchids, towering palms and giant bamboo. We will have time to wander through and explore the spacious grounds.

Later, we enjoy lunch at Helga's Folly, an extraordinary 1930s family home transformed into a colourful living artwork. Filled with murals, antiques, family photographs and theatrical décor, it offers a fascinating glimpse into the imagination of its owner and the history of one of Sri Lanka's notable families.

STAY

Earl's Regency Kandy or similar — second night

MEALS

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included



KANDY TO NUWARA ELIYA

We leave Kandy and travel into Sri Lanka's cooler central highlands, where the tropical landscape gradually gives way to tea plantations and crisp mountain air. Our destination is Nuwara Eliya, often called "Little England" for its colonial-era architecture, gardens and cool climate..

Along the way, we visit a working tea estate for a closer look at how Ceylon tea is grown and produced. We meet local tea workers, walk through the plantation and finish with a tasting of freshly made tea.

STAY

Mirage Kings Cottage or similar, Nuwara Eliya — 1 night

MEALS

Breakfast & dinner included



SCENIC TRAIN JOURNEY TO ELLA

This morning, we travel to Nanu Oya railway station and board one of Sri Lanka's most iconic train journeys. The route winds through misty tea-covered hills, passing tea pluckers at work, small villages and scenes of everyday rural life.

On arrival in Ella, we take some time to explore this lively hill-country town, known for its relaxed atmosphere, cafés and dramatic setting, before continuing to our hotel.

STAY

Newburg Ella or similar — 1 night

MEALS

Breakfast & dinner included



NINE ARCH BRIDGE & UDAWALAWE

We begin the day at the iconic Nine Arch Bridge, one of Sri Lanka's best-known landmarks,

We then travel south to Udawalawe and visit the Elephant Transit Home, where orphaned calves are cared for and prepared for their eventual return to the wild.

Watching them gather for milk is a lively and memorable experience, while also offering a fascinating insight into the centre's conservation work.

STAY

Grand Udawalawe Safari Resort or similar — 1 night

MEALS

Breakfast & dinner included



UDAWALAWE SAFARI & SOUTHERN COAST

We set out early for a jeep safari in Udawalawe National Park, one of Sri Lanka's best places to see wild elephants. The park's open grasslands, forest and reservoir also support water buffalo, deer, crocodiles, monkeys and a wide variety of birdlife.

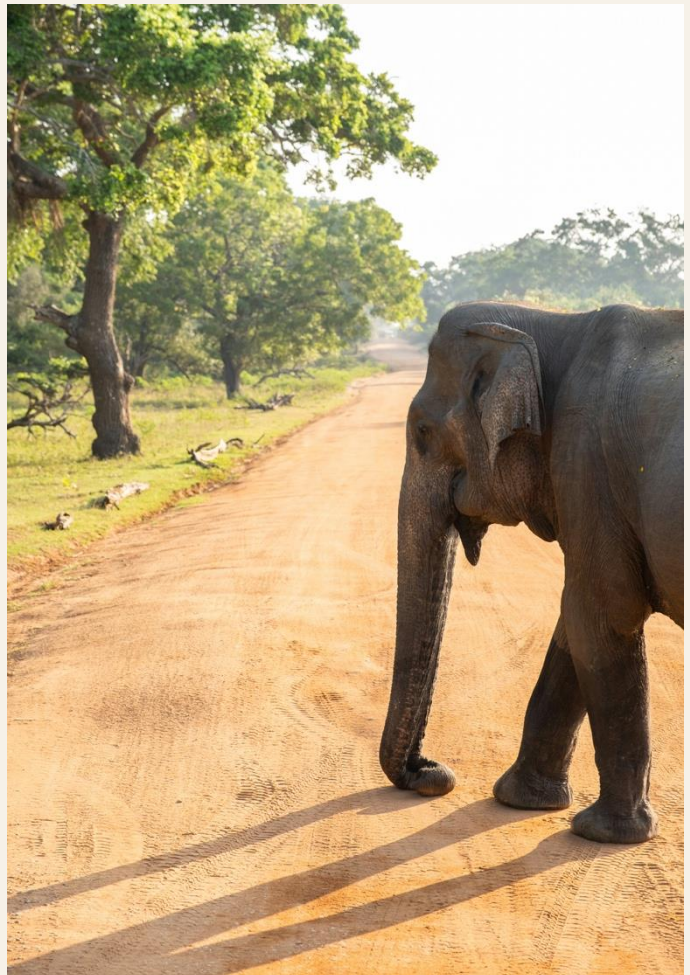
After the safari, we continue to Sri Lanka's southern coast and settle into the relaxed surroundings of Hiriketiya. The remainder of the day is free to enjoy the coastal town atmosphere.

STAY

Hiriketiya Beach Resort or similar — 2 nights

MEALS

Breakfast & dinner included



A DAY ON THE SOUTHERN COAST

Today is free to enjoy the relaxed surroundings of Hiriketiya at your own pace. You may choose to spend time at the beach or explore the local cafés and nearby fishing villages.

There are no scheduled group activities, allowing everyone time to slow down and enjoy this beautiful part of Sri Lanka in whichever way you please.

STAY

Hiriketiya Beach Resort or similar — second night

MEALS

Breakfast included, dinner left open to explore the towns many options



DAY 14

GALLE

We leave Hiriketiya and travel west along Sri Lanka's scenic southern coastline towards Galle.

Along the way, an option for a cycling experience through quiet village roads, paddy fields and cinnamon-growing countryside. This relaxed ride offers a closer look at everyday rural life away from the busier tourist areas. A non-cycling option will be available for anyone who prefers not to ride.

STAY

KK Beach or similar, Galle — 1 night

MEALS

Breakfast & dinner included



GALLE FORT & DEPARTURE

This morning, we explore historic Galle Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site shaped by centuries of Portuguese, Dutch and British influence. Within its old ramparts are narrow streets, colonial buildings, churches, boutiques, galleries and cafés, all overlooking the Indian Ocean.

We then travel north to Colombo, with time for a brief city visit and an early dinner before continuing to Bandaranaike International Airport for our departure.

MEALS

Breakfast included



READY TO JOIN US?

Designed for travellers who value genuine experiences, small groups and a relaxed, non-commercial style of travel.

Departure after Christmas 2027

Exact dates to be confirmed.

NZD \$6,995 per person, twin share

International flights additional · Single supplement available

NZD \$500 deposit per person

Fully refundable until the first invoice due date

REQUEST A PLACE

Complete the Tour Registration form at
www.grassroots.net.nz

QUESTIONS? WE LOVE TALKING TRAVEL

We are always happy to discuss the journey and whether it is the right fit for you.

Adriana Hayde — 027 371 2712

Jayson Hayde — 027 443 9475