

Touring Holidays in Sri Lanka

Expressions



North and North East of Sri Lanka Touring Holiday



North and North East of Sri Lanka

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

Colombo

Jaffna

Trincomalee



Jaffna Temple

This tour ventures to the lesser explored northern Sri Lanka to uncover the secrets and rich heritage of Jaffna, the beautiful coastlines of the north-east, and the natural harbour of Trincomalee. This area of Sri Lanka, cut off to tourists, until recently, due to years of unrest, welcomes visitors into its collection of Hindu temples, colonial treasures, and mangrove lagoons with open arms. Heavily influenced by the Tamil culture of southern India, the city of Jaffna offers insight into its turbulent past, with its diverse and contrasting religions, as well as its bright future. Trincomalee on the north-eastern coast is popular with dolphin- and whale-watchers (an excursion can be added to your trip) as well as those looking to explore the rich colonial history of the harbour and the picture-perfect beaches.

ABOUT THIS TOUR

This tour takes you first from London to Bandaranaike International Airport. Your private chauffeur-guide will take you first to your Colombo hotel, the Uga Residence, where you spend your first night. In the morning, travel north to Jaffna for three nights at the Jetwing Jaffna in the heart of this culturally unique city. Visit Nagadeepa, reputedly visited by Lord Buddha himself and home to a series of Hindu Kovils, and the forts at Delft. On Day Five, travel from Jaffna to Trincomalee, and spend three nights at the Jungle Beach Hotel. During the day, visit the harbour, the hot springs, the famous Pigeon Island, and perhaps take a whale- and dolphin-watching trip. On your eighth day, return to Colombo for your flight home.

PRICES

From £2,590 per person

Based on double occupancy in hotels mentioned in the back of this document, with flights to and from Colombo, and private chauffeur-guide.

DATES

This holiday can be arranged throughout the year. Timings can vary depending on the month and day of the week.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flights with Sri Lankan Airways from London Heathrow to Bandaranaike International Airport and back
- Entrance fees to the sites and monuments listed in the itinerary (optional excursions are charged at a supplement)
- Private English-speaking chauffeur-guide in an air-conditioned Japanese car for duration
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in Colombo
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Jaffna
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Trincomalee

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Visa
- Meals and drinks, unless specified
- Personal travel insurance
- Additional nights in any destination

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Colombo - Jaffna - Trincomalee

Expressions

Day one: Arrive in Colombo

You will be met on arrival and driven by your English-speaking chauffeur guide who will accompany you throughout your tour of Sri Lanka. Transfer to Uga Residence in Colombo for one night (approximately 1 hour). Spend the day at leisure perhaps with some sightseeing and shopping in Colombo. The Pettah area, which is in the heart of Colombo, is a beehive of activity with traders and hawkers selling some great bargains. It may also be possible to visit one of the world's leading tea auctions, seasonal Buddhist and Hindu pageants or a cricket tournament.

Day two: Colombo to Jaffna

After breakfast, depart for Jaffna in the far north of Sri Lanka. It is possible to get to Jaffna by private flight or by road with an overnight stop. We will go through these options with you to discuss your preference at the time of booking. Jaffna has remained a mysterious destination. Very little was known about this iconic city due to the 30 year civil war. Jaffna is etched with a rich heritage and history with breath-taking scenery and monuments. Sightseeing will include Jaffna Fort, the library and Nilawari, a bottomless well where it is said that the Hindu God, Rama, shot an arrow to get water. Stay at the Jetwing Jaffna for three nights.

Day three: Nagadeepa

In the morning, take a public ferry trip with your guide to Nagadeepa. This is one of the most recognised landmarks in the area. It is believed that Lord Buddha had visited Nagadeepa to settle a dispute between two Naga Kings, Chulodara and Mahodara. After hearing Lord Buddha's sermon, they offered him the throne. You will have the chance to visit a few Hindu Kovils in Nagadeepa, and in the afternoon head to the Keerimalai natural pond. Return to the Jetwing Jaffna for the evening.

Day four: Delft and Jaffna

Today you will be taken by public ferry to Delft, which was named by the Dutch after the town in The Netherlands. This island still has evidence of the Dutch and Portuguese presence in the area. Sightseeing on a trishaw will include the Dutch and Portuguese forts, Hindu temple, Delft hospital and the baobab tree. If you are lucky enough, you will also get the chance to see wild horses. In the afternoon, visit Casuarina Beach which is one of the best beaches in the Jaffna area.



Pigeon Island

Day five: Jaffna to Trincomalee

Today you will be taken to Trincomalee by road (approximately 6.5 hours). Later, enjoy some sightseeing in one of the world's best natural deep water harbours that has attracted sea farers such as Marco Polo. Visit Trinco's harbour, Swami Rock and the seven hot springs of Kanniya. Check-in to the Jungle Beach Hotel for three nights, 30 minutes from Trincomalee.

Day six: Pigeon Island

In the morning, enjoy a boat trip to Pigeon Island. This rocky islet got its name from the large number of blue rock pigeons that breed here. It is famous for its corals and colourful fish. Spend the afternoon at leisure on the beach before returning back to the Jungle Beach Hotel.

Day seven: Trincomalee

Early in the morning, embark on a whale and dolphin-watching trip by boat (from May to October only). Spend the afternoon at leisure on the beach.

Day eight: Trincomalee to Colombo for departure

Depart Trincomalee by private flight or road with an overnight stop. We will discuss these options with you at the time of booking depending on your preference. Catch your flight to your onward destination from Colombo airport.

OPTIONAL

It is possible to add extra nights in the south of Sri Lanka, perhaps Galle, Tangalle, or even Yala National Park.

HOTELS

Our selection of hotels in Colombo, Jaffna, and Trincomalee are described below.

Expressions

COLOMBO

Uga Residence

The Uga Residence is a former prominent Moslem family's residence on a leafy street in the heart of Colombo, boasting a colourful history dating back over 250 years. Restored and opened as a luxury boutique hotel in 2007, The Uga Residence now offers a combination of old-world charm and modern, stylish design. The restaurant, terrace and bedrooms are arranged around a pleasant courtyard garden where an inviting swimming pool takes pride of place. The eleven suites are airy and spacious with striking modern art adorning the white walls. The two plush suites are resplendent with original teak floors and antique furniture, each having their own sitting room and patio garden. The restaurant is popular with Colombo residents for its al fresco dining and its delicious modern continental and Asian cuisine. A stay at the Uga Residence offers a taste of Colombo's vibrant culture and lifestyle, both past and present. The atmosphere here is intimate and personal and a charming alternative to Colombo's larger hotels. [read more](#)

JAFFNA

Jetwing Jaffna

In the heart of Jaffna, Jetwing Jaffna offers an authentic taste of traditional northern Sri Lanka. Guests are introduced to the style of the interior through the intricately shaped pattern of the façade, and then through the golden teardrop design that sits behind the reception desk. Public rooms are dominated by dark browns and greens, which hark back to the agricultural traditions of inland Sri Lanka, Kandy, and the Cultural Triangle, but with the refined touches of the cosmopolitan city that Jaffna is quickly becoming. The bar is shaped out of carved wood, with red material tiles across the ceiling, and large dark-framed windows that look out through the intricate carving that dominates the façade. The restaurant incorporates this enormous carving and rustic colour scheme. Low wooden benches, which have a distinctly antique feel, add character to the high-ceilinged, exceptionally modern room, as does the food, which refines the popular flavours of the



Jungle Beach, Trincomalee

north, including dosai, roti, string hoppers, and pittu, and utilises only the freshest seafood. The rooms themselves are all classified as deluxe. When taking in the unique features, including the carved wooden headboards, the low-hanging silver lamps that seem to mimic the teardrop shape of Sri Lanka, and the subtly ornate wallpaper, it becomes apparent why this classification exists. Every amenity in the rooms and each different fabric enhances the sumptuous, exotic feel. Guestrooms also have balconies with stunning views across the rooftops, and with the Jaffna clock tower and the sea in the distance visible on one side. The Jetwing Jaffna offers touring guests the opportunity to stay in a Sri Lankan hotel that sets itself apart from the others, offering both exotic design and urban atmosphere.

[read more](#)

TRINCOMALEE

Jungle Beach

Nestled between the immense Indian Ocean and a lagoon teeming with tropical bird and plant life on a ten-acre private estate in the small hamlet of Kuchchaveli, 30 minutes north

of Trincomalee, lies the recently-opened, upmarket eco-resort of Jungle Beach. An ecological wonderland of tropical mangroves, pristine sandy beaches and bountiful flora and fauna, Jungle Beach provides the ultimate getaway retreat amongst nature at its absolute finest. Offering optimum privacy and seclusion amidst luscious jungle foliage, the resort features 48 spacious luxury cabins, modern in design yet crafted from indigenous materials to ensure a harmonious fusion with their environment, not to mention the most amazing ocean and lagoon views. And with their timeless natural authenticity comes the latest amenities to satisfy the demands of the modern era, luxuriously appointed with top-of-the-range entertainment systems, complimentary WiFi, king-size beds, private decks and an outdoor rain shower. Jungle Beach also features a spa, gym, swimming pool and an open-air restaurant offering glimpses to the ocean and signature dining options from traditional Sri Lankan favourites to international cuisine. [read more](#)



Jetwing Jaffna, Jaffna



Jetwing Jaffna, Jaffna

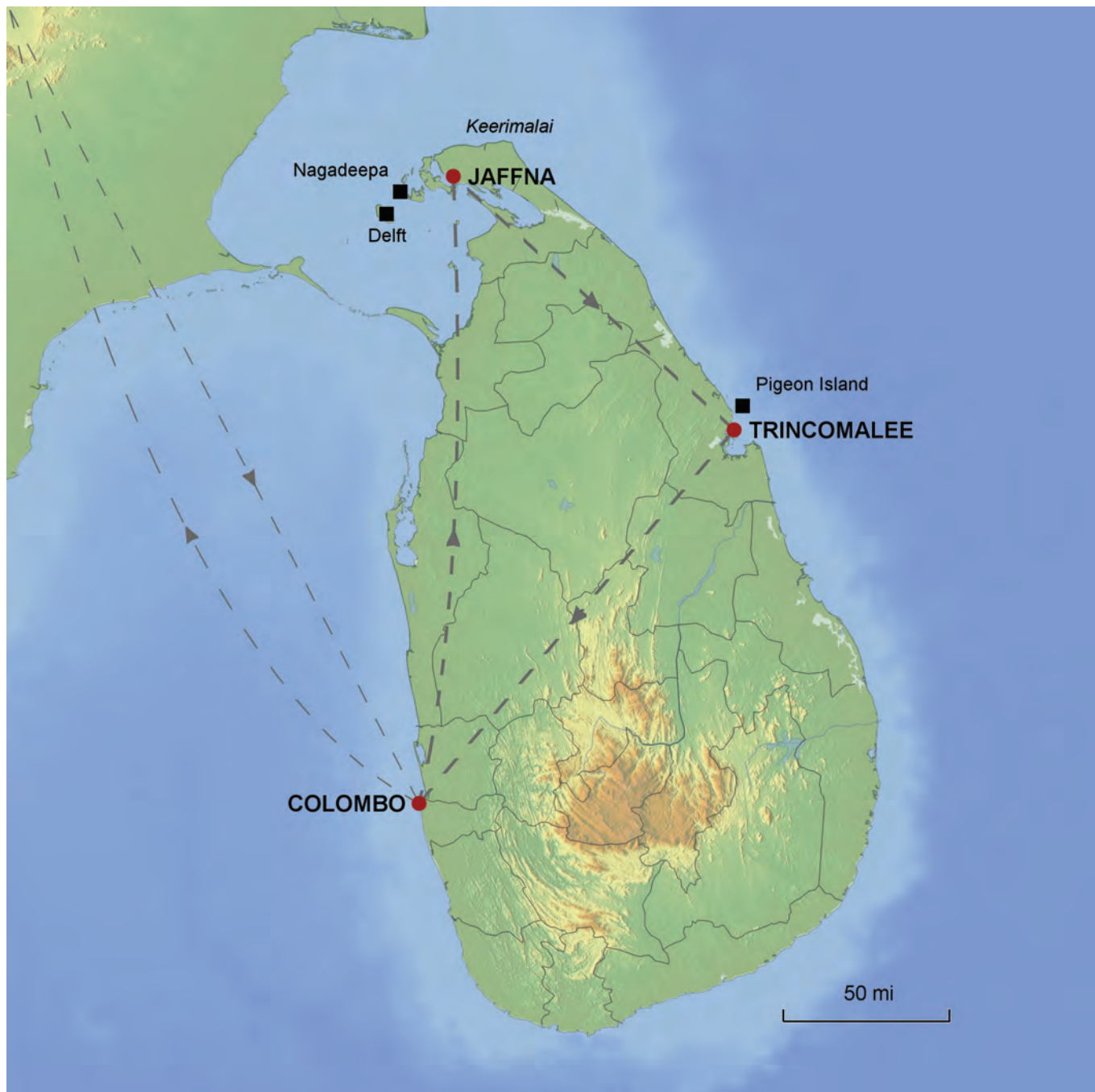


Uga Residence, Colombo

MAP OF NORTH AND NORTH EAST OF SRI LANKA TOURING HOLIDAY

Expressions

The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with overnight stops and places of interest highlighted.



GENERAL INFORMATION

This touring holiday is one of several suggested holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want, including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one location too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

The logo for Expressions Holidays, featuring the word "Expressions" in a white, elegant cursive font on a dark blue rectangular background.

OUR TOURS

Our touring holidays are for individuals travelling on their own or in their own family group. You do not join a group, but are escorted by your own private English-speaking chauffeur-guide.

FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements are very flexible in that you choose to travel on any day you want, subject to availability of flights and hotels. As mentioned above, additional nights can be added at any point.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

Sri Lankan Airways operates daily flights to Colombo from London Heathrow. Most flights leave London in the afternoon or evening. Flight time is about 11 hours. There is economy and a business class cabin. In recent years, the business class cabins have been upgraded to fully reclining flat-beds. From Colombo you can also take the Sri Lankan air taxi to regional centres throughout the country. Sri Lankan Airways also operates flights to the Maldives via Colombo, making Sri Lanka and the Maldives a perfect two-centre combination.

TRAVEL WITHIN SRI LANKA

We include private transfers with all our holidays to Sri Lanka, and a personal chauffeur with all our touring holidays. Your English-speaking chauffeur-guide will meet you on arrival at Colombo airport, then accompany you on your journey around the island. All our holidays are for individuals, so you travel as your own party and do not join a group. It is also possible to hire a car in Sri Lanka, which can be arranged locally or in advance. A more popular option is to hire a car with driver for day trips or excursions, which, again, can be arranged by us in advance or by the hotel locally.

TOURING HOLIDAYS

A touring holiday of Sri Lanka is at the heart of what many of our clients want to experience from this fascinating country, and it is where we excel at using our personal knowledge and experience to tailor a holiday that is a perfect match for you. Stay in several different locations around Sri Lanka, allowing time to explore and relax in each. Combine a few nights on the beach with stays in the Kandy Hills, in the Cultural Triangle, on a high tea estate or in a national wildlife park, in Galle, Negombo, or Colombo. It makes sense to factor in a night or two in Colombo, Negombo, Wadduwa, or at the Wallawwa near the airport, at the beginning and/or end of your holiday to coincide with flight times.

REGIONS OF SRI LANKA

Roughly only half the size of England, yet packed with a whole continent's worth of temples, ruins, wildlife reserves, and luxury beach resorts, Sri Lanka is a beautiful, bite-sized slice of paradise offering a whole world of diverse escapes. Littered with elegant colonial hotels and enchanting boutique lodges, Sri Lanka also offers luxury at a relative snip. Young or old, family or couple, beach-bound or culture-vulture – a visit to Sri Lanka satisfies everyone. Formerly an Arab trading port, the commercial capital Colombo is a bustling, colourful town, with a fabulous bazaar, colonial churches, and craft markets. To the north of Colombo lies Negombo and the beaches of the west coast, whilst to the south Wadduwa is the start of a string of fabulous beaches running all the way down and around Sri Lanka's southwest coast, with a collection of intimate, exquisite beach resorts. Further southward lies historic Galle, a reminder of the Dutch presence on the island. Inviting as Sri Lanka's coastline is, however, the island's interior is worth the airfare alone, with forest parks sheltering leopards and wild Asian elephants, a verdant hill country carpeted in tea plantations with lovely boutique planter's house hotels, and no visitor to Sri Lanka should be allowed to miss the Cultural Triangle, boasting five UNESCO World Heritage Sites in an area no bigger than Kent. New to tourism is the north and north east of Sri Lanka, strewn with Hindu temples, colonial gems and long white beaches offering spectacular snorkelling.

THINGS TO SEE IN SRI LANKA

Cricket is a national sport, played on every dusty maidan and patch of grass from Jaffna to Galle. A real highlight of any trip to the south is Galle Fort, where you can wander round the ancient ramparts at sunset, watching cricket games below, or stroll along the narrow streets in search of antiques in tiny, friendly shops. Local festivals such as Vesak full moon in May and Poson full moon in July, as well as the famous Esala Festival in Kandy in July and August, when Buddha's tooth is taken out from the temple and paraded through the streets. Visiting national parks, sheltering an abundance of wildlife including leopards, elephants, bears and hundreds of species of birds. Buying tea, gems, jewellery, spices for a local bazaar. Fantastic spicy local cuisine, specialising in fish dishes, and delicious 'egg hoppers.' Tea-tasting in the hill country. Sigiriya Rock Fortress. The Cave temples of Dambulla. The medieval capital and ruins of Polonnaruwa. The sacred city of Anuradhapura. The west coast beaches flanked by palm trees, including Negombo, Beruwela, Bentota and Galle. The elephant orphanage at Pinnawela. The tea plantations near Nuwara Eliya, a region known locally as Little England. Ayurvedic massage. A warm welcome wherever you go.

OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, flight and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

PRICE INFORMATION IN MORE DETAIL

Scheduled return flights from London Heathrow to Bandaranaike International Airport with Sri Lanka Airways and accommodation at the Uga Residence, Jeting Jaffna, and Jungle Beach.

From £2,590 per person.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators) and ABTA.



Expressions Holidays
Lynx House, Pynes Hill, Exeter EX2 5JL

HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

01392 441224

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process. A deposit is required to confirm the arrangements and this can be paid by debit or credit card over the phone. No handling fee is charged on deposits up to £1000. The level of the deposit will be confirmed at the point of booking and will depend on the ticketing deadlines involved in your booking.