

Sri Lanka Travel Notes

s/v Soggy Paws - March / April 2025

1.1 Money

The Sri Lankan Rupee is given as LKR.

Currently (3/2025) \$1 USD = 295 LKR

Like most places, Sri Lankan ATMs have per transaction limits. We tried 150K LKR at the airport and did not succeed, but 100K worked. (about \$340 USD).

1.2 Visas

From the government website:

Submission of ETA application by the applicant.

http://www.eta.gov.lk/slvisa/visainfo/apply.jsp?locale=en_US#byapp

If you are planning a short visit to Sri Lanka, you can submit your ETA application online to the Department of Immigration & Emigration.

Steps to be followed:

Click on the Apply button and fill in the ETA application. Pay the relevant ETA processing fee using your electronic payment cards (credit card/e-commerce enabled debit cards) and submit the application.

Only Visa, Master and American Express Cards are accepted. If you are unable to pay by electronic payment cards (credit card/e-commerce enabled debit cards), you have to select one of the alternative options. If your application is successfully submitted, you will receive an acknowledgment promptly.

To check your ETA application status you may log onto the ETA website or contact 24/7 dedicated ETA call centre on 0094 71 99 67 888

ETA Application Page: <https://eta.gov.lk/etaslvisa/etaNavServ>

Mar 2025 – US Citizens: Cost \$52 each, answered in a couple of hours, used a US Visa card for payment.

1.3 Time Zones

Time Zone is UTC +5:30

Sunrise is around 6:10am and sunset 6:20pm

1.4 Internet & Sim Cards

Research ahead of time indicated that there was one favored cell operator – Dialog, and the line around the Dialog kiosk at the airport was really long (but they went pretty fast). We got 2 Dialog sims with 30 day validity and 40GB data for about \$15. They worked all over, sometimes with 5G, except in very out of the way places—on the train in the mountains, far out in Yala National Park.

SLK is a newer operator, but has apparently invested a lot of money in infrastructure, including Fiber. Many of the places we stayed in were using SLK or Dialog hotspots for their hotel wifi. Every hotel and homestay we stayed in offered free wifi.

1.5 Power Plugs

Research ahead of time indicated that Sri Lanka uses 2 types of plugs, the 3-prong round plug, and the 3-prong heavy rectangular plug (common in many countries including Australia and Malaysia).

Our “adapts to everything” adapter did NOT work on the 3-prong round plug, as it has no 3rd prong. We had a 2-prong round plug in our kit that did not work either. Fortunately, many places either have an adapter they can loan you, or have either the “universal” plug or the more common 3-prong rectangular plug. Older buildings have very few plugs, so we carry a small extension cord with 3 American plugs. This helps a lot in overnight charging for 2 people’s worth of electronic gear (2 laptops, 2 cell phones, a

power brick, 2 watches, and camera batteries!). This will accommodate a rapid charger, a multi-charger (2 A and 2 C recepticals), and one computer charger, all in one wall plug with one adapter

1.6 Culture

From comments on Youtube

The island is majority Buddhist who speak Sinhalese. There is also the minority Hindu and Muslim groups, who speak Tamil.

Though we were there at the end of Ramadan, the country didn't shut down like predominately Muslim countries do for Hari Raya. However, the end of Ramadan also coincides with a (I think) Hindu holy period (the new moon??), and we were in Ella (a busy tourist destination at any time) and the place was mobbed by local tourists in addition to the normal foreign tourist mob.

There are plenty of places to eat during the day during Ramadan.

Foodies: We are not fond of "spicy" food, so had a hard time enjoying the local variations on curries. We did manage to find some local dishes that weren't too hot for us, as well as a the occasional restaurant that caters to the foreign tastebuds.

Check out dishes like mutton kothu roti, and hoppers. The tea is also world famous. Check out Galle for old town vibes, Mirissa for beaches, Ella for mountains, and Sigiriya for culture. These are well known places. If you want some underrated places go check out Trinco, Arugam Bay; these places are great beaches and best for surfing. Also check out Jaffna for Tamil and Hindu culture and an authentic food experience.

Sri Lanka is clean and they don't like to be compared with India. Our Sinhalese Buddhist culture is totally different than India and Hindu culture.

1.6.1 Eating with Hands

It is common for even educated upper class people to eat with their hands, even in the privacy of their homes. But we are told that there is a specific way to do it. Every eating establishment has a sink for washing hands before and after in the dining area.

(As foreigners, we were always supplied with forks, spoons, and knives).

From comments on a Youtube video

When you're eating with hands in Sri Lanka, there are some habits to follow

- 1) We normally use our right hand to eat food. But if you use your left hand normally like if you write with left hand or use left hand to do your daily things, you can eat with your left hand.
- 2) When you mix food, you should not let food to be touched the upper parts of your fingers and the middle of the palm. Because it is not pleasant to eat food like that. Untidy and unpleasant
- 3) Correct way of putting food into your mouth is not just grabbing them and putting them in your mouth 😊 You have to mix some rice with curries and grab them with the edges of your fingers and push into your mouth by only using your thumb.

Then you can feel the real taste of our food.

1.7 Getting Around

We used a combination of PickMe cars in each local area, and Hired Cars to make major jumps to the next town.

There is a SixT rental car company in Colombo, and booking.com was always prompting us to rent a car. The driving is so crazy, with buses and tuk tuks and motorcycles and cars, we did NOT want to drive ourselves. And parking is always an issue.

Buses are everywhere, but to us, the routes were confusing, and buses were always crowded and not air conditioned. We weren't staying long enough to figure out the bus system.

Our research on getting around before the trip:

1. Private Cabs like Kangaroo Cabs. The drivers are permanent employees of Kangaroo and are trained and very reliable. Higher price for a higher service.
2. PickMe / Uber - Ride hailing apps in Sri Lanka. Price is shown upfront and you can set your route on the app. In my experience PickMe is more responsible because it's a Sri Lankan company and they have a human help desk unlike Uber.
3. Meter Taxi - tuk tuks with meters in them. When you stop a tuk ask if they have meter. Most of these tuks have an LED sign that says "taxi" on their windscreen. The fare will be calculated based on the initial fare, travel distance and waiting time so you don't have to negotiate any prices.
4. Normal tuks. No meters or apps. Most unreliable. As a Sri Lankan I never use these because their prices are unfair and they argue with you a lot. And they run tuk tuk mafias. That's why they all say the same price. They are against ride hailing apps.

1.7.1 Ride Sharing

In Sri Lanka, the primary ride-sharing service available is called "**PickMe**", which allows users to book various types of vehicles like tuk-tuks, cars, and vans through a mobile app, providing a convenient way to get around the country, particularly in the Western Province.

Key points about ride sharing in Sri Lanka:

Dominant platform: PickMe is the most popular ride-sharing option in Sri Lanka.

Vehicle variety: You can choose from tuk-tuks, small cars, sedans, and even vans depending on your needs.

App-based booking: All rides are booked through the PickMe app, allowing for easy access and tracking.

Payment options: Most often, you can pay with cash or credit card through the app.

Uber is also possible.

We tried to set up PickMe before we left on our trip, but the app crashes if you put in a foreign telephone number, so we had to wait until we had a sim card to set up PickMe. We started out paying cash for the rides, but I eventually got one of my credit cards to be accepted by the app.

1.7.2 Route Mini-Vans

12Go lists private mini-vans on short popular routes, at around \$20 pp

1.7.3 Private Transport

One site we found on Trip Advisor that advertised one-way transport, had this for general pricing.

One Way Taxi (Door to Door): The service can extend up to a maximum of 12 hours, with an additional USD 5 per hour for extra time.

Duration: 2 hours: 50 km distance and a duty period of 2 hours. For additional distance, an extra charge of USD 0.40 per kilometre applies.

Sedan OR Shuttles: Comfortable Japanese Ex: Sedan (Toyota Prius) Ex: Shuttle (Honda Fit Shuttle GP2) Very good Condition cars.

Recommended: This service caters to solo travellers and small groups of up to three passengers and pieces of luggage.

Pickup included

So a 4 hour trip from Colombo to Dambulla for 3 p with this formula prices out at:

2 Hrs / 50 km = 40.56

+2 hrs = \$10

109km x .40 = \$43

Total \$93

Websites used to book private car hire:

<https://srilankacaranddriverhire.com/single-day-hire/>

This is a great website for “build your own tour” and for 1-day point to point transfers. Basically you put in date and to/from and they list companies that service that route, with ratings and prices. You can commit for the route on the website.

After getting quotes from several operators, we settled on TravelbeingDom +94 77 115 5777 (WA)

This option worked out very well for us.

1.8 Greetings / Language

"Ayubowan" meaning "may you live long" or "may you have a long life" ((Ayu=life span) + (bowan=mening " a lot ")) added together it gives the meaning of "may you live long"/ Thank you = stūtiyi and "hello" is "hello" as it's universal.

Ayubowan (අයුබෝවන්) is a greeting that is mostly used in formal settings in Sri Lanka. In everyday life, most Sri Lankans prefer to use 'Hi' or 'Hello'. When you used 'Sthuthiyi' (ස්තූතියි) to say thank you, it felt unusual to me, as I typically use the word 'Thanks.' In fact, most Sri Lankans use 'Thanks' in casual conversations.

For greetings, 'Good Morning' is translated to 'සුබ උදෑසනක්' (Suba Udæsanak), 'Good Night' is 'සුබ රාත්රියක්' (Suba Rātriyāk), and 'Good Evening' is 'සුබ සන්ධ්‍යාවක්' (Suba Sandhyāvāk). However, in informal situations, Sri Lankans tend to stick with 'Hello', 'Hi', 'Good Morning', 'Good Evening', 'Good Night', and 'Thanks' for their day-to-day interactions.

Maggi nama – My name is...

1.9 Whale Watching

Seasonal. Never got time to research it. Achintha told us that the season is Nov-Mar. We saw a whale watching boat docked in Galle harbor, but it didn't look active.

1.10 Transport between Pangkor and KLIA

There are several ways to get to and from KLIA.

1. Arwana Bus – 4.5 hrs ~\$10 USD per person
2. Hired car. Going rate is about \$100 USD each way. Nice if on a tight schedule, going late, or you are hauling lots of luggage. We use a guy named Zali (+60 19-567-6486 recommended by someone else). He is retired from the Malaysian Navy, has an OK card and passable English. Not a great communicator. Super Clean car rental people also will do this for just slightly more than Zali.
3. Train?

1.10.1 Arwana Bus Direct Express

We normally book the Arwana bus on an app/website called Redbus. They only release seats 20-30 days out. You can pick your seat number and pre-pay with a credit card, then present your printed booking confirmation at the bus station

Arwana buses were showing “none available” on the RedBus website if more than 25 days out, but the app shows 30 days out.

This time, because I was anxious about Hari Raya, we ended up booking our Arwana bus through 12Go.Asia (an app and a website, because Redbus wasn't showing any buses.

1.10.2 Alternative to Pre-booked Arwana Bus, getting back.

From KLIA1 or KLIA2:

Train KLIA Transit (no Ekspres) to Bandar Tasik Selatan

- 3 minutes walk

- TBS Terminal Bersepadu Selatan => bus to Seri Manjung bus station (app Red Bus)

- Grab to marina

Train from KLIA to TBS: Runs every 15 minutes during peak hours and every 30 minutes during off-peak hours and weekends. (Fri 4/5 17:15, 17:35, 17:55, 18:15)

Stops at KLIA T1, KLIA T2, Salak Tinggi, Putrajaya & Cyberjaya, Bandar Tasik Selatan, and KL Sentral

Air-conditioned carriages

Wheelchair and stroller accessible

Digital infotainment

Fares and discounts: 55 Rm per adult to go from KLIA to TBS w 10% discount if purchased thru app

You can buy tickets at the counter or self-service kiosk, or go contactless directly at the gate

1.11 Our Detailed Itinerary

1.11.1 Day 1 – Bus to Kuala Lumpur – March 20

Take the Arwana Express bus to KL from Sitiawan Bus Station

Booked tickets through Redbus, departing Seri Manjung at **9:15am**

Hotel: Booked cheaper Tune Hotel Aeropolis (\$30 per nite) vs Tune Hotel KLIA2 (\$70 per nite). There's a free shuttle from Tune Hotel KLIA2 to Aeropolis that runs periodically, about every 2 hrs.

At KLIA2, get off bus and walk to Tune Hotel, to get shuttle to Tune Hotel Aeropolis (if it is before 2pm)

Shuttle runs every 2 hours roughly on even hours (2pm, 4pm), takes 15 minutes. Shuttle back in the am, be sure to check the schedule and pre-book your seat on the shuttle back to the Tune KLIA2. I think first shuttle is about 5 or 5:30am.

Alternative: Grab? (but Aeropolis is so remote that likely it will take awhile to get someone willing to do the run).

Aeropolis is way out on the other side of the airport, in the freight area of the airport. Nothing else nearby that we could see. We ate dinner at the hotel (or eat at the airport before shuttling).

1.11.2 Day 2 – Fly to Colombo, Sri Lanka – March 21

Plane takes off at 08:25, so we needed to be at the airport by around 0530.

Shuttle from Aeropolis left at 0500.

05:15 Arrive at KLIA2 & Get checked in (long walk)

Typical Air Asia mob scene

Breakfast in the airport after check-in.

Flight 3 hours and 15 minutes to Colombo.

At the airport we got Sri Lankan Rupees (SLK)—there is a bank of several ATM's with a LOOOONG line. Fortunately we had changed some Malaysian money into SLK, so could go get our sim cards had to try several cards before one worked. Be sure to notify your bank that you will be in Sri Lanka.

Colombo things to see

- Independence Square
- Pettah Market (locals market)
- ? Park (used to be Victoria Park)
- Gangaramaya Temple
- Lotus Tower \$20 USD accept credit card

- The Good Market – Organic stuff, jewelry
- Restaurant: Culture Colombo

1.11.3 Day 3-5 – Move to Dambula – March 22-24

Private Car & Driver from Colombo to Dambulla, booked TravelBeingDom by Whatsapp: +94 77 115 5777 – Trip is approx. 160 Km, 4 hrs \$60 USD

March 22nd – Homestay in Colombo to Homestay in Dambulla

- Short stops as needed for snacks, bathroom, quick stop to take a picture

Pickup time: 08:30

Pickup Location No. 23 Norris Canal Road, 01000 Maradana

Drop-Off location: Pawana Rest, 26 2nd Lane, Sampatha Waththa, 21100 Dambulla

3 Adults, 3 pc luggage + backpacks

- Possible stop at Pinnawalla Elephant Orphanage (More \$\$) adds 30 minutes to drive. (not booked) <http://nationalzoo.gov.lk/elephantorphanage/> (we did not stop there)

Hotel: Stayed at Pawana Rest (free breakfast) booked on Booking.com CASH ONLY \$45.90 for 3 nights, 1 rm private bath for 2p. This place does NOT have air conditioning, and Dambulla is NOT in the “hill country”. It does cool off at night, and there is a big fan over the bed, but it’s hot and sticky during the day. Would probably be OK Dec-Feb. We had them prepare dinner for us one night and it was a huge meal, very delicious. Breakfast was also good.

Tours: We ended up hiring our Travelbeingdom driver to stay and drive us around for an afternoon visit the Dambulla Cave Temple on our arrival day, and then a full day out to Polonnaruwa and up to see Sigiriya (but not climb it). At Polonnaruwa, it can be done walking around, but the places to see are pretty far apart (for us old folks), so we hired a guide with a Tuktuk who took us around and gave us the spiel on each site. I think 7K LKR for the Tuktuk and \$35 for the guide. On the 3rd day, we got up early and to do a half-day Kaudulla National Park Safari (our driver arranged for the safari jeep), and then drive us to Kandy.

Eating: Breakfast was provided at our homestay. We ended up eating lunch at 2 tourist places that had big buffets for the bus tours. On our first day, we ate dinner at Pawana Rest (must be arranged in advance).

1.11.4 Day 6-7 – Move to Kandy – March 25-26, Tue-Wed

Private Car & Driver to Kandy from Dambulla, booked TravelBeingDom by Whatsapp: +94 77 115 5777 – 72 Km, 2.5 Hrs \$45 USD

March 25 – Homestay in Dambulla to Skylight Villa in Kandy

Pickup time: 09:00

Pickup location: Pawana Rest, 26 2nd Lane, Sampatha Waththa, 21100 Dambulla

Drop-Off location: Skylight Villa, 87/5, Sri Dhamma Dhassi Mawatha, 20000 Kandy

3 Adults, 3 pc luggage + backpacks

Hotel: Stayed in Skylight Villa (free breakfast) booked on Booking.com. This is a very large and modern house of 3-4 stories. The owner is retired and renting out 2 (soon to be 3 rooms). It is in a fairly upscale neighborhood on a hill about 20 minutes walk to the city. Rooms were clean, showers hot, beds good, rooms a bit sparsely furnished. Breakfast was good but not lavish. Owner was very nice and helpful, helping us book tickets to the Cultural Dance and arranged a day tour around Kandy. He gave us a ride into town a couple of times when it suited him. PickMe was easy to get rides to/from town to this villa at about \$1.50 USD per trip.

Day 1

- Visit the Temple of the Tooth.

- Walk around Kandy Lake & explore the city.

Day 2

- Peradeniya botanical garden (25 minutes S from Kandy)
- Enjoy a Kandyan Cultural Dance performance.
- Visit the Bahirawakanda Buddha Statue for city views.

Other Things to see near Kandy:

- Ambuluwawa tower, in Gampola <https://ambuluwawa.com/> (1:15 drive SW from Kandy)

1.11.5 Day 7-8 – Move to Nuwara Eliya – March 27-28, Thu-Fri

Train to Nuwara Eliya – booked on 12Go.Asia - 8:13am to 12:02pm

Tuktuk from train station in Nanu Oya to Nuwara Eliya

Staying 2 nights at Nuwara Eliya Luxury Apartment booked on Booking.com – Accepts CASH ONLY \$51.45

1.11.6 Day 9-11 – Move to Ella – March 29-31, Saturday-Monday

Train to Ella – booked on 12Go.Asia - 12:02pm to 14:21pm

Tuktuk from our hotel to Nanu Oya to catch the train.

Staying 3 nights at Freedom Guest Inn (includes breakfast) booked on Booking.com (Card OK) ~\$45/nite for 2 rooms. Linda booked 1st 2 nights, Sherry booked 3rd night.

Day 1

- Train trip, arriving 2:30
- Tuktuk to hotel
- Visit Nine Arches Bridge
Nine Arches Bridge Photo Point is closer than “viewpoint” and says it is a better view. 10 minutes from our Guesthouse by car/tuktuk

Or

From the “Trailhead” “Easy trail, from this point you need 15-20 min mostly downhill to the bridge. There are some steps and it's very slippery after rain. The path is well marked! We didn't see any snakes, only squirrels and monkeys. There is a viewing spot just 1 min before you reach the bridge. They sell coconuts on the way and at the viewing spot.”

“Very easy way to get to the bridge. Less than 10min walking from the downtown to the beginning of the trail, and more 15min walking on the trail, which is quite easy, to the view point of the bridge. Just 2-3min more to the bridge itself.”

From our hotel, only 5 minutes walk to trailhead!

Day 2

- Hike Little Adam’s Peak (6 minute drive from our Hotel, and then 2 hr r/t hike)
“Little Adam’s Peak can be accessed on a well-formed, winding footpath through the tea plantations of Ella.”
“Somewhat easy trail. Many steps so not accessible to everyone. The first part is the least interesting one, as all the activities going by seem too much and clashes with the surrounding nature: loud pool club, a swing where you can rent a dress and take pictures with the mountains as a background, climbing, zip lining... it seems too much, it immediately cancels the “let’s take a walk surrounded by nature” vibe.
But, when you pass all that, and you continue climbing, then you have a beautiful scenery from the top. I didn’t go during sunrise as I wanted to sleep and read that at that time there are usually lots of people up there, so I went at around 13:00-13:30 and it was great. Some tourists but not that many, and I could enjoy the vistas and take pictures without being bothered.
Bring good hiking shoes and water (but you can buy it on the way if needed).
I spent around 2 hours here but with lots of time to take pictures, etc.

I would recommend this hike”

“Overall it is going to take 1-2 hours for the entire hike.

Parking is quite costly here 500LKR, if you want for lesser price, then go and ask for the nearby shops where they have enough parking”

- Visit Ravana Falls. (16 minutes drive from hotel)

Day 3

- Optional: Lipton’s Seat or Ella Rock hike.
- Relax at a café with a view.

1.11.7 Day 12 – Private Car Hire from Ella to Yala National Park & Afternoon Safari – April 1

Private Car & Driver from Ella to Yala National Park, booked TravelBeingDom by Whatsapp: +94 77 115 5777 – **Remind the day before** 92 Km, 2 Hrs \$45 USD

April 1st – Freedom Guest Inn in Ella to Safari Lodge in Kataragama \$45 USD

- Short stops as needed for snacks, bathroom, quick stop to take pictures

Pickup time: 08:30

Pickup Location: Freedom Guest Inn, 132/1, Passara Road, Ella, 90090 Ella

Drop Off Location: Safari Lodge, No. 101/18 Wallimathagama Manikpuragama, 10500 Kataragama

3 Adults, 3 pc luggage + backpacks

Safari Lodge Yala booked on Booking.com CASH ONLY \$129.20

- Book Safaris!

“We would be happy to arrange a safari tour for you. The morning/evening half day safari is Rs.11,500 (Morning Time:05.45am-10:30am, Evening Time:02:00pm-05:30pm). The full day safari is Rs.22,000 (Time:05:45am-05:30pm). The above price is for the safari tour and the jeep for both persons. The entrance tickets have to be purchased at the entrance before starting the safari. Entrance tickets are Rs.13,000 per person (kindly note that ticket prices are regulated by park authorities and not by us).”

1.11.8 Day 13 – Morning Safari & Relaaax – April 2

5:45am – 10:30am Morning Safari

Lunch

Naps

1.11.9 Day 14 – Private Car Hire from Yala to Colombo w stop in Galle – April 3

April 3 – Safari Lodge near Yala National Park to The Airport Villa in Colombo \$110 USD

Remind the day before!

- With a stop for lunch and a sightseeing stop at the Dutch Fort in Galle \$110 USD

Pickup time: 08:30

Pickup Location: Safari Lodge, Safari Lodge, No. 101/18 Wallimathagama Manikpuragama, 10500 Kataragama

Drop-Off Location: The Airport Villa, Liver Brother Road, Seeduwa,, 11410 Katunayaka

3 Adults, 3 pc luggage + backpacks

1.11.10 Day 15 – Fly to KL and Taxi to Marina – April 4

PickMe/Uber to Airport, by 08:30am

Air Asia flight 10:40a to 16:45p

Zali to pick us up at KL and Taxi Back to Marina. ~17:15 to ~21:15

Dave arranged for Zali pickup KLIA2-Pangkor \$100 USD **Remind a few days ahead!**

1.12 Achintha's Original Suggested Schedule

1.12.1 Day 1: Arrival in Sri Lanka – Negombo (March 21)

- Arrive at Bandaranaike International Airport (CMB), Katunayake.
- Transfer to Negombo (20 min from the airport).

Boat ride in the Dutch Canal.

Dutch fort at Negombo

Visit Negombo Fish Market & St. Mary's Church.

Enjoy a seafood dinner by the beach.

Overnight in Negombo

1.12.2 Day 2-3: Sigiriya & Dambulla (March 22-23)

Day 2: Travel to Sigiriya (4 hrs).

Visit the Sigiriya Rock Fortress (UNESCO site).

Optional: Minneriya/Kaudulla National Park Safari (Elephants).

1.12.3 Day 3: Explore Dambulla Cave Temple (UNESCO site).

- Visit Pidurangala Rock for a scenic sunset.

Overnight in Sigiriya/Dambulla

1.12.4 Day 4-5: Kandy (March 24-25)

Day 4: Drive to Kandy (2.5 hrs).

- Visit the Temple of the Tooth.
- Walk around Kandy Lake & explore the city.

1.12.5 Day 5: Visit Peradeniya Botanical Gardens.

- Enjoy a Kandyan Cultural Dance performance.
- Visit the Bahirawakanda Buddha Statue for city views.

Overnight in Kandy

1.12.6 Day 6-8: Nuwara Eliya (March 26-28)

Day 6: Take the scenic train from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya (4 hrs).

- Visit a tea plantation & factory.
- Relax at Gregory Lake.

Day 7: Morning hike at Horton Plains & World's End.

- Stroll through Victoria Park.
- Enjoy high tea at The Grand Hotel.

Day 8: Relaxing day or optional waterfall visit (Lover's Leap or St. Clair's Falls).

Overnight in Nuwara Eliya

1.12.7 Day 9-11: Ella (March 29-31)

Day 9: Take the train from Nanu Oya to Ella (one of the most scenic rides in the world).

- Visit Nine Arches Bridge.

Day 10: Hike Little Adam's Peak.

- Visit Ravana Falls.

Day 11: Optional: Lipton's Seat or Ella Rock hike.

- Relax at a café with a view.

Overnight in Ella

1.12.8 Day 12-13: South Coast – Mirissa (April 1-2)

Day 12: Travel to Mirissa (4 hrs).

- Relax at Mirissa Beach.
- Visit Coconut Tree Hill for sunset.

Day 13: Go whale watching (seasonal).

o Visit Weligama for surfing or Secret Beach for a quiet day.

Overnight in Mirissa

1.12.9 Day 14: Galle & Bentota (April 3)

Visit Galle Fort (UNESCO site).

Explore Galle's Dutch architecture & lighthouse.

Travel to Bentota (1.5 hrs).

Enjoy a Madu River boat safari or relax at the beach.

Overnight in Bentota

Day 15: Colombo & Departure (April 4)

Travel to Colombo (1.5 hrs).

Quick city tour:

- o Gangaramaya Temple.
- o Independence Square.
- o Shopping at One Galle Face Mall or Pettah Market.

Depart for Katunayake Airport.