

Cultural Triangle Tour Summer 2008

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Day 01 Arrival at the Colombo Airport. You will be met by our Driver/Guide and Airport Staff and offer assistance. Thereafter Leave to Habarana with a comfort stop en route. (168km – transfer time 4 hours)

Habarana. This small village is a central location for all the ancient city sites and has a hotel complex principally for package tourist; also many better-heeled independent visitors also use it.

P.M. at leisure **Or** optional elephant back safari through the jungles of Habarana **Or** Jeep safari to Minneriya National Park to witness the Wild Elephants.

Minneriya National Park . Sitting in the centre of the cultural triangle, Minneriya is a good alternative to the busier parks in the south and it's easy to weave in a day here between visiting the ancient cities. The dry season, preferably from June to September, is the best time to visit the 8,890 hectare park when the ancient tank, the lake that dominates the area, dries out and the grasses and shoots push through. During this time it is possible to see herds of up to 150 elephants feeding and washing, as well as toque macaques, sambar deer and leopards. The hungry bird flocks include cormorants and painted storks. Minneriya, closest by car to the ancient city Polonnaruwa, was upgraded from a nature reserve to a national park because of the increased number of tourists coming to see the elephants.

Dinner & Overnight The Cinnamon Lodge Habarana. (4 star)

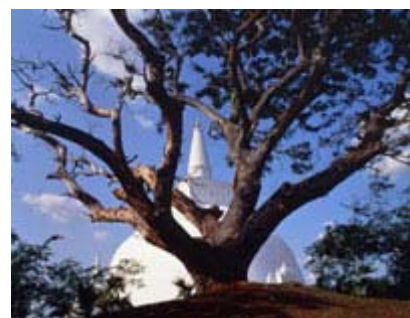
Website: www.cinnamonhotels.com

Day 02 After breakfast excursion to Anuradhapura. (One way 60km – transfer time 1 hour 15 minutes)

Anuradapura. Sri Lanka's first capital, founded in the 5th century B.C. is situated 206 km. from Colombo. Attractions worth seeing are:- The Sacred Bo Tree, Abhayagiri Dagaba, Jetavanaramaya, Brazen Palace, Thuparama Dagaba, Samadhi Buddha, Kuttam Pokuna and Mirisavati Dagaba

Thereafter visit Mihintale.

Mihintale The temple of Mihintale is where Thero Mahinda, the son of Great Indian Emperor Asoka introduced Buddhism to the king of Sri Lanka Thissa. Mahinda's sister Theri Sangamitta carried a off shoot of the the ' , the holy Bo tree that gave shelter to Buddha to attain Nibbana. Sri Maha Bodhi' The Bo tree was planted at Anuradhapura, where it still grows as the oldest tree with a recorded history in the world.



Dinner & Overnight The Cinnamon Lodge Habarana



Day 03 After breakfast excursion to Polonnaruwa. (One way 46km – transfer time 45 minutes)

Polonnaruwa. The island's medieval capital is situated 216 km. from Colombo and rose to fame after the decline of Anuradhapura. There is the largest of the man made reservoirs, the huge Parakrama Samudra. See also the ruins of the King's Council Chamber, the Royal Citadel, the Kumara Pokuna, Royal Pavilion, the Vatadage Relic House , Kiri Vehera - the best preserved of all Sri Lanka's un-restored dagabas; Gal Vihare - the most impressive sculptures are the colossal Buddha images



P.M. excursion to Ritigala (One way 20 k.m transfer time approx. 40 minutes)

Ritigala Sri Lanka has many varied sites of historical and cultural importance. While the ruins of the ancient cities of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa have a grandeur that is hard to surpass, there are lesser-known sites with an ambience all of their own. One such site is the monastic complex on the lower slopes of Ritigalakanda the Ritigala mountain-situated 40 Kilometers south-east of the ancient city of Anuradhapura. These ruins are some of the most distinctive Sri Lanka has to offer. Here at Ritigala you will not find the Buddhist dagobas (domed relic chambers) of the sanctuary of Anuradhapura and elsewhere. Instead the monastery at Ritigala largely consists of meditation platforms and walkways that are in perfect harmony with the huge boulders, trees and streams of the sylvan environment. The Ritigala summit-which has an unusual mini plateau – possesses a pocket of vegetation that is distinct from the dry zone flora of the lower slopes and surrounding plain.



Dinner & Overnight The Cinnamon Lodge Habarana

Day 04 After breakfast excursion to Sigiriya. (One way 25km – transfer time 30 minutes)

Climb the Rock Fortress of Sigiriya.

Sigiriya, a massive monolith of red stone rises 600 feet from the green scrub jungle to accentuate the lucid blue of the sky. How overpowering, then, this rock fortress of Sigiriya must have been when a palace crowned it 15 centuries ago. Sigiriya (say see-gih-REE-yah) was no gloomy and forbidding fortification, as many other citadels are. At the brief height of its glory, a flowering of only 18 years in the



late 5th Century, it was one of the loveliest royal cities that ever graced the earth.

P.M. at Leisure by the pool.

Dinner & Overnight The Cinnamon Lodge Habarana



Day 05 After breakfast proceed to Colombo while visiting the Dambulla Rock Caves Temple en route.

Dambulla, the greatest of Sri Lanka's cave temples, dates from the first century BC and contains over 150 Buddha images, subtly lit for maximum atmosphere. Actually a series of five caves, the temple is called Raja Maha Vihara by locals, but known simply as Dambulla to visitors. The entrance is marked by a large white dagoba along a long sloping rock face, from where there are views of the rock fortress of Sigiriya, about 20km away. Most of the caves were carved out by hand and some of the amazing arrays of Buddha statues are still attached to the wall.

Transfer timings will be as follows,

Habarana - Dambulla 28 kms – transfer time approx. 30 Minutes one way)

Dambulla – Colombo 145 kms – transfer time approx. 3&1/2 Hour one way)

P.M. city tour of Colombo including last minute shopping.

Colombo is a metropolitan city with a population of nearly one million. It is the commercial Capital of Sri Lanka, which keeps pace with modern developments while preserving the Old World charms. Among the many places of interest in the City are the Fort, the Old Parliament House (presently the Presidential Secretariat), Buddhist temples, Old Churches, Hindu temples, Mosques, the National Museum, Independence Hall, Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall and the Zoological Gardens. 'Five Star' international chain hotels and a large number of other hotels and guest houses provide comfortable accommodation to the visitors at affordable prices. Several specialty restaurants serving international cuisine, karaoke bars, and discotheques keep the visitors happy late into the night.

Dinner & Overnight The Cinnamon Grand. (5 star)

Website: www.cinnamonhotels.com.



Day 06 After breakfast transfer to the Airport for the connecting Flight. (Departure)

Costing - Cultural Triangle Tour

Cost valid from Cost valid from 01 st May.'08 to 30 th Oct.'08

(Based on 02 pax traveling in a Private Car)

	(US\$)
Cost per person sharing double	525.00
Single Supplement	160.00

Cost for single person traveling would be US\$ 920/- in total.

Child Policy -

- 0 – 5 years Free of charge
- 6 – 12 years Sharing room with parents including extra bed would be 50% discount from the sharing double price

Cost includes -

- Accommodation on Half board basis thought
- Transport in an air-conditioned private car with arrival/departure transfers and all sightseeing as per the itinerary.
- All applicable entrance fees and portorage.
- Services of an English speaking Driver/Guide for the entire tour.
- 15% V.A.T.

Cost does not include -

- Tips of personal nature.

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