Sri Lanka by Cycle

We believe your experience of Sri Lanka begins from the moment you step foot off your flight. We find that your journey in search of Sri Lanka’s hidden treasures is just as important as seeing them. This program is designed for anyone of any age, but most importantly of moderate or high fitness.

**Day 1**

**Airport - Negombo: About 30 Minutes Drive + 1 Hour Cycling**

Jetwing Sea

Having arrived in Sri Lanka you will be greeted by both our Jetwing representative and your chauffeur guide at the airport itself. Take a leisurely drive, just under 30 minutes into Negombo, a fishing village.

Once at the comforts of your hotel, relax and recover from any jet lag. At a convenient time, your chauffeur guide will familiarize you with what to expect whilst cycling on Sri Lankan roads, which may differ from your country of residence. We encourage you to ride about Negombo town and discover some of its curious sites such the Dutch churches.

If you have spare time, perhaps take a boat ride along the Dutch canals or laze on the golden sands.
Day 2

Negombo – Kurunegala – Dambulla - Giritale: About 5 Hours
Cycling + 3 Hours Drive

Deer Park Hotel

Set off from coastal Negombo to experience the inland delights of Sri Lanka. Cycle to the town of Kurunegala covering over 35km along a picturesque route past rice paddy fields. Look out for the towering Lord Buddha statue upon a rock which from afar is the town’s landmark. You will find that the fairly straight roads are of soft and moderate standard.

Enjoy lunch at a delightful local restaurant in Kurunegala after which you would back your cycles away and continue in the comforts of your car. Why not make a stop along your drive at one of the more unusual temples buried in a maze - the UNESCO Golden Cave Temple and learn about ancient Ceylon’s turbulent past.

The rock caves at Dambulla are 150 metres above the road and have a history that is thought to date back as far as the 1st century BC when King Valagam Bahu took refuge here, having been driven out of Anuradhapura. Upon regaining his throne he converted the caves into a rock temple, with further improvements being made over the years by subsequent rulers. You will be able to explore these and also visit the rock temple on the vast, sloping rock. Some of the caves have fine frescoes and there is a 15 metre long reclining Buddha image in one cave. From the level of the caves you will have superb views over the surrounding countryside.

Finally, you will arrive at the jungle of Giritale where you will check in to your hotel.
Day 3  
Giritale - Polonnaruwa - Giritale: About 4 Hours Cycling + about 1 Hour Drive  
Deer Park Hotel

Explore the cultural triangle and head out in the morning to the UNESCO World Heritage City of Polonnaruwa. This is one of the better kept ruins of ancient Ceylon.

Polonnaruwa was the medieval capital of Sri Lanka from the 11th - 13th century A.D. During this time, great revival was achieved in the country, politically, economically as well as socially. During your walking tour you will sight the ruins of the Royal Palace, the Gal Viharaya - where 3 splendid statues of Buddha in ‘Upright’, ‘Sedantry’, and ‘Recumbent’ postures are carved out of the rock, the Audience Hall, and the Parakrama Samudraya lake built by King Parakramabahu the Great. Today you will be cycling about 40km on soft surfaces as you whizz between the ruins. If you wish you may return to you hotel in time to grab a bite for lunch.

On your return venture by car and then by jeep to the Minneriya or Kadvullah National Park, a vast sanctuary home to about 250 wild elephants, wild buffaloes, spotted deer, sloth bear and more. The Gathering of probably the largest herd of elephants occurs here annually September - October.
Enjoy a hearty breakfast as today your endurance will be challenged. Begin by cycling towards the towering rock fortress of Sigiriya - a 5th Century "Fortress in the Sky". Over these 55km of moderate standard, you will be passing the Minneriya jungles, the dry zone farms as well as observing village life.

After a cool drink of king coconut thambili, mount the Sigiriya rock. This 5th century fortress in the sky is perhaps the most fantastic single wonder of the island. It is also referred to as Lion’s Rock because of the huge crouching lion image that is carved at the entrance to the fortress. Don’t forget to view the fresco paintings at the ancient Sigiriya Lion’s Rock fortress and take a deep breath as you enjoy the splendid view on top. Sigiriya is a well known icon for its toadstool of golden-hued granite, protruding into the searing blue sky from a hot, flat wilderness of scrubland, which is transformed in the rainy season to a water garden. In the 5th century King Kashyapa domesticated the Lions Rock, by building a palace atop its summit. Hence you will find that Sigiriya commemorates some of the turbulence of Sri Lanka’s history.

Continue by car and en-route enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Shortly afterwards you will arrive in the relaxing hill station of Kandy, surrounded by virgin forests broken by the great Mahaweli River. Kandy is also well known as the centre of Buddhism and the capital of the last Sinhalese kingdom.

Having checked in to your hotel, rest and relax after what must be an eventful day.
At last you will enjoy a lazy morning. Today, you can take a city tour of Kandy including the market place *polla* and the Temple of the Tooth Relic, which houses Sri Lanka’s most sacred relic, a tooth of the Lord Buddha. The Temple itself dates from the 16th century and is entered via 2 doors showing mythical beasts.

Do steal some time in the day to stroll through the Royal Peradeniya Botanical Gardens of over 60 hectares. Prior to the arrival of the British in Sri Lanka his was a royal park and it is today the largest botanical garden in the nation. There is a fine collection of orchids and a stately avenue of royal palms that were planted in 1905. If you would like your chauffeur guide we will help you organize a lunch or tea picnic at the gardens.

For a spoonful of adventure in the afternoon, venture to the outskirts of Kandy to the Hantana Hills. Feel the uphill cycle route through the forests full of rivulets, streams, animal and plant life. Hantana is a popular destination for etymologists, nature lovers, bird-watchers as well as trekkers.

Late evening view a dance performance in the Kandy city centre featuring traditional dances from the different regions of Sri Lanka.
Today you will be returning to the coast and why not drop by the Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage on your way. Started back in 1975, the elephant orphanage houses the abandoned and the wounded elephants. We recommend timing your visit for when the elephants are being fed or as they all march to the river close by to be bathed.

After lunch, continue to the capital city Colombo. Once at the comforts of your hotel, relax and freshen up. If you have some spare time, your chauffeur guide will introduce you to some of Colombo’s curious such as the old city of Fort, the main markets of Pettah, the Hindu Temple at Sea Street, the Dutch Church at Wolfendal, the historic Davatagaha Mosque, the Colombo Museum amongst others. Perhaps indulge in some shopping whether it is value for money clothes or impressive antiques. We would recommend ending the evening by dropping by the Checkerboard at the Galle Face Hotel for drinks while watching a picturesque sunset over the Indian Ocean.

As all good things must come to an end, your chauffeur guide with comfortably take you to the international airport in time for your return flight.

Alternatively, you could always soak up some sun on Sri Lanka’s pristine beaches which are as close as an hour away from Colombo.
Your Holiday includes:
- Per person cost of twin-sharing accommodation
- Transport by private air-conditioned car or van and services of English speaking chauffeur guide for the entire duration
- Local government taxes & service charges
- Meals: Dinner & Breakfast
- Entrances: Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage, Sigiriya Rock Fortress, Ancient City of Polonnaruwa, Golden Cave Temple of Dambulla, Kandy Tooth Relic Temple, Royal Botanical Gardens of Peredeniya & cultural dance
- Elephant safari to Minneriya or Kavdullah National Park (1 trip including entrances, jeep hire and services of a wildlife tracker)

Your Holiday excludes:
- Visas
- Travel Insurance
- Optional tours & activities
- Flights
- Airport taxes
- Activities & highlights
- Camera & Video permits at cultural sights
- All expenses of personal nature
- Tips and portage
- Spa and Wellness treatment

Reservation, Cancellation Policy & Notes:
- All reservations subject to availability at time of booking
- Quote is subject to availability of rooms, tax increases, price fluctuations and any peak season supplements.
- The cost is based on cash basis. For any other method of settlement whether it be cheques, drafts, credit cards or debit cards we will entail a service charge.
- For cancellations within 30 days before the date of arrival 100% of the holiday program will be charged
- For further details about the cancellation policy please refer www.jetwingtravels.com
- The standard check in time in Sri Lanka is 14:00 hours and standard check out time is 11:00 hours
- All drive times are approximate and are subject to change