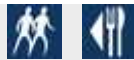


Art & Architecture



Approximately 6½ Hours



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Sri Lanka is home to many forms of art. Today you will break with tradition and sneak a peek at the very topical **contemporary art scene**, which came into its own in the early 1900s. The country's colorful and turbulent past is often portrayed through the emotive forms of sculpture, painting and even the performance arts. Step off the bustling streets, where ox-drawn carts are still seen, and into a well-known **gallery**. After an interesting visit that will tantalize and stimulate, you delve into the world of Sri Lanka's most famous architect, **Geoffrey Bawa**, affectionately known as the father of Tropical Modernism. Visit Bawa's **private residence** to learn about his many accomplishments. This architectural treasure is a masterpiece of *bricolage*—a culmination of creative sculpting by its owner, where countless verandahs, gardens, courtyards and rooms meld together. Stop for **lunch** at the Gallery Café; before visiting Barefoot. **Barefoot** began more than 40 years ago and is the pioneering shop set up by artist and writer Barbara Sansoni in the 1980s. It features a fantastic courtyard gallery where the products are handmade and the natural yarns used have been dyed and woven by hand. All the materials, including dyes, are safe and eco-friendly. Barbara Sansoni was initially invited to design cloth for women learning to weave in a convent workshop north of Colombo; today the company she founded has a small team of dedicated designers who work with their own dyers, weavers and skilled needlewomen.

Colombo Private Touring - Full Day (Car)



Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



\$\$\$\$



Be the first to [write a review](#)

Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations. Capacity: 2 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

Private cars are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Colombo Private Touring - Full Day (Minibus)



Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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Be the first to [write a review](#)

Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations. Capacity: 14 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

Private minibuses are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Colombo Private Touring - Full Day (Minivan)



Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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Be the first to [write a review](#)

Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations. Capacity: 6 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

Private minivans are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Contrasts of Colombo



Approximately 3½ Hours



\$\$



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Like many capital cities in developing countries, **Colombo** is changing rapidly. Almost overnight, skyscrapers arose from where old buildings once stood; yet, in some parts of the city, the old-world charm of yesteryear is still readily apparent. You'll see the 100-year-old clock tower and several British-built colonial buildings. Other places of interest are the Pettah Bazaar, Hindu and Buddhist temples, residential areas that accommodate the stately homes of the affluent, and the **Colombo Museum**, where you'll have 45 minutes to explore the exhibits. Amazingly, the Bandaranayake Memorial International Conference Hall was an outright gift to Sri Lanka from the people of China. Your guide will point out the Old Parliament, the University of Colombo, the Royal College—possibly the largest school in Asia with 7,500 students—and Independence Square. Step inside the **Gangarama Temple** to discover an unusually elaborate collection of kitsch artifacts—a complete contrast to the normally austere atmosphere of Buddhist temples.

Notes:

Modest attire is required; knees, shoulders and midriffs must be covered (women). Shorts are not allowed. Shoes must be removed before you enter the temple(s). Bring along a pair of thick socks to protect your feet from the hot pavement. Only small bags are permitted within the temple.

Contrasts of Colombo with Refreshments



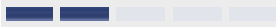
Approximately 4½ Hours



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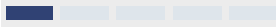


Enjoyed it?



2 out of 5

Value



1 out of 5

0 out of 1(0%) reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

[Read 1 review](#)

|

[Write a review](#)

Like many capital cities in developing countries, **Colombo** is changing rapidly. Almost overnight, skyscrapers arose from where old buildings once stood; yet, in some parts of the city, the old-world charm of yesteryear is still readily apparent. You'll see the 100-year-old clock tower and several British-built colonial buildings. Other places of interest are the Pettah Bazaar, Hindu and Buddhist temples, residential areas that accommodate the stately homes of the affluent, and the **Colombo Museum**, where you'll have 45 minutes to explore the exhibits. Amazingly, the Bandaranayake Memorial International Conference Hall was an outright gift to Sri Lanka from the people of China. Your guide will point out the Old Parliament, the University of Colombo, the Royal College—possibly the largest school in Asia with 7,500 students, and Independence Square. Step inside the **Gangarama Temple** to discover an unusually elaborate collection of kitsch artifacts—a complete contrast to the normally austere atmosphere of Buddhist temples. Finally, you will stop at a local hotel for non-alcoholic refreshment before returning to the ship.

Notes:

Modest attire is required; knees, shoulders and midriffs must be covered (women). Shorts are not allowed. Shoes must be removed before you enter the temple(s). Bring along a pair of thick socks to protect your feet from the hot pavement. Only small bags are permitted within the temple.

Cooking with Color



Approximately 4 Hours



\$\$\$



Be the first to [write a review](#)

Meet Mohara Dol--a remarkable woman who has stood at the forefront of Sri Lanka's food industry for 30 years. Today you will join her in cooking up a delightful array of traditional Malay/Sri Lankan dishes--a brilliant way to spend a morning in Colombo while becoming acquainted with the culinary flavors of the area. Mohara welcomes you into her home, where you'll join her at the cooktop. Drawing inspiration from her Malay heritage and the rich traditions of her Sinhalese and Tamil friends and neighbors, she has devised a repertoire of rice, curry, sambol and salad dishes that are distinct in taste, aroma, color and flavor. You'll watch a demonstration on the terrace, during which she shows you how to prepare a range of delicious Sri Lankan dishes. Her no-fuss approach means that the art of curry making is made simple and is easy to replicate at home. After cooking, sit down together to enjoy lunch accompanied by fresh fruit juice.

Elephants of Pinnawela by Train



Approximately 9½ Hours



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Be the first to [write a review](#)

Transfer from the pier to the railway station, where the **Viceroy Heritage train** (exclusive to Holland America Line guests) awaits. Board the train for your **journey to the Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage**. Established in 1975, the facility began with seven orphaned elephants. Today, some of these original orphans enjoy seeing their grandchildren born in the same location. The original objective of establishing the orphanage was inclined more towards attracting tourism, but it soon became a conservation and educational center. With the help of local and foreign elephant experts, Pinnawela started a scientific captive-breeding program for elephants. Freedom of movement for the herd increased the chances for individuals of both genders to get together and mate, and in 1984, the first Pinnawela baby was born. The success story of Pinnawela has drawn the attention of scientists from all over the world. A considerable number of books and research articles on Pinnawela have been published in several languages. The members of the Pinnawela herd have been filmed, videoed and photographed thousands of times by professionals. During your time at the orphanage, you will watch these gentle giants playing, eating and bathing in the river before enjoying your own riverside **lunch**.

Notes:

Travel time to Pinnawela is approximately 2½ hours each way by train. Shade is limited; please dress accordingly. Bring a hat and wear sunscreen. Travel time to Pinnawela is approximately 2½ hours each way by train. Shade is limited; please dress accordingly. Bring a hat and wear sunscreen.

Exploring Old Colombo



Approximately 4 Hours



\$\$\$



Enjoyed it?



5 out of 5

Value



5 out of 5

2 out of 2(100%)reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

[Read all 2 reviews](#)

|

[Write a review](#)

Meet Mark and Ruvy Forbes at the pier for a ride to the outer streets of Pettah, where your **walk** through the city will commence. Mark is an intrepid city explorer, who will unlock the **backstreets and colorful alleyways** of **Colombo** for you on a vibrant and history-rich journey through the city. This is truly a wonderful way to immerse yourself in a bygone era and awaken your senses as you experience the city in all its beauty—both raw and polished. The **Pettah District** is one of the oldest regions in Colombo, just east of the city center—an absolute hive of activity. Take in the incredible bazaars, where once the streets were teeming with ox carts and alive with the sounds and smells of the sea as rubber, tea, cinnamon, kittul treacle, rope and peacocks were loaded aboard ships. Explore hidden architectural treasures such as the marvelous **Jami Ul-Alfar Mosque** and the **Khan Clock Tower**, built by the Khan family of Bombay. You will also see the Dutch colonial mansions of the spice era, as Mark brings these buildings to life and tells the stories of the old, influential families. Your walk will take you away from the typical tourist hotspots and allow you to truly experience the history of the port town that has evolved into Colombo. Along the way, you will explore lively street stalls that sell everything from textiles and electronics to spices. Hidden within these streets you will find

the **Old Dutch Museum**. Enjoy the pristine architecture of the mansion that was built in the latter part of the 17th century, initially the residence of Count August Carl van Ranzow. You will then proceed to the commercial hub of **Colombo Fort**, where you will find another colonial gem—the **Old Dutch Hospital complex**, once a functioning hospital during the 17th century and now host to high-end restaurants, bars and shops. Your tour ends at the Grand Oriental Hotel which overlooks the port. From here you may be able to catch a glimpse of your ship.

Holy Colombo



Approximately 4¼ Hours



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Be the first to [write a review](#)

Sri Lanka has a diverse, multi-religious society. Although Buddhism is the major religion, other religions such as Hinduism, Christianity and Islam are also followed. Today you will visit temples, mosques and churches as the religious history of Colombo unfolds before you. You will marvel at the unique architecture at the respective places of worship and learn about the customs and influences—this is the holy Colombo experience. Your journey begins with the **Gangarama Buddhist Temple**. The temple's architecture demonstrates an eclectic mix of Sri Lankan, Thai, Indian, and Chinese architecture in its several imposing buildings. It is situated not far from the placid waters of Beira Lake on a plot of land that was originally a small monastery. The **Captain's Garden Temple** is an ancient Hindu temple with a recorded history of more than 400 years. It has a beautiful colorful roof with hundreds of godly depictions. View the **Jami Ulfar Mosque**, also called the Red Mosque, in the Pettah Bazaar area of Colombo. It dazzles you with its candy-striped red and white brickwork. For sailors of the high seas, this mosque was the longed-for beacon signaling that they had reached the safety of Colombo Harbour. The Islamic community comprises nearly 7% of Sri Lanka's population. The construction of the oldest Protestant Church still functioning in Sri Lanka started in 1749, during the tenure of Governor Julius Valentijn Stein van Gollenesse (1743-51). The **Wolvendaal Church** or the Dutch Reformed Church, now renamed the Christian Reformed Church, still bears the initials J.V.S.V.G. and was finally completed in 1757. After an insightful look into the many influences and religions that make Colombo so interesting, you'll make your way back to the pier.

Notes:

Modest attire is required for visiting churches, mosques and temples; knees, shoulders and midriffs must be covered; shorts are not allowed. You must remove your shoes at one or more location(s). Bring along a pair of thick socks to protect your feet from the hot pavement. The mosque will be viewed from the outside only.

Incredible India Overland Adventure (Double)



3 days/2 nights



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Be the first to [write a review](#)

Day 1 (D)

Transfer to the airport for your **flight to Delhi**. Upon arrival in Delhi you will check-in at your hotel. Delhi is the capital of India and its third-largest city. The city actually consists of two parts: **Old Delhi** was the capital of Muslim India between 17th and 19th century and has many mosques, monuments and forts; **New Delhi**, the Imperial city, was created as the capital of India by the British. In 1911, Edwin Lutyens, the most renowned English architect of the day, was chosen to design New Delhi. Lutyens' architectural conceptions were totally different from the Hindu or Mughal architecture. The city center has wide, straight avenues in a strict layout, plenty of parks and low colonial buildings with spacious gardens. **Dinner** and overnight at the hotel.

Day 2 (B/L/D)

Transfer to the railway station to board the early **Shatabdi Express train** bound for **Agra**. Two great Mughal monarchs, Akbar and Shah Jahan, transformed the little village of Agra into a the second capital of the Mughal Empire during the 16th and 17th centuries. Today, Agra is caught up in a world of contrasting edifices of red sandstone and white marble, narrow allies, quaint buggies, wealth and poverty side by side. Modern Agra still reflects its Mughal heritage quite conspicuously. A walk down the narrow bustling streets of the city will introduce the visitor to the wafting aroma of Mughali cuisine. Transfer to your hotel for **breakfast**. Then, you will visit the **Taj Mahal**. Little needs to be said about the architectural wonder that is the Taj Mahal—the heart and soul of every tourist's visit to Agra. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan, the Taj is a white

marble memorial to his beautiful wife, Mumtaz Mahal. This monument took 22 years to complete and was designed and planned by Persian architect Ustad Isa. Apart from its stunning design balance and perfect symmetry, the Taj is also noted particularly for its elegant domes, intricately carved screens and some of the best inlay work ever seen. Next, continue to **Agra Fort**, built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in AD 1565. The fort is made predominantly of red sand stone. The vast halls echo the voices of a bygone era and transport the visitor back through time. Ensnared within is the picture-perfect Pearl Mosque. Return to your hotel for **lunch**. This afternoon, visit a local **handicraft shop** before driving back to **Delhi** for **dinner** and an overnight stay.

Day 3 (B)

After an early **breakfast**, transfer to the domestic airport for your **flight to Mangalore**. Once in Mangalore you will transfer to the ship.

Notes:

Luggage on all flights is limited per person to a check-in bag weighing not more than 55 lbs and one carry on weighing not more than 15 lbs. Due to this tour's popularity, exclusivity, and strict booking conditions, tour bookings must be confirmed 60 days prior to the actual call at Mumbai, with no cancellations allowed thereafter. **Important:** It is each guest's sole responsibility to obtain (before traveling) any visas, vaccinations and/or tourist cards that are required for participating in overland adventures or overnight tours, unless noted otherwise in the description. Please be aware that you may need a visa for any and/or all countries that you will depart from and travel through as part of your overland adventure or overnight tour, and for the country in which you will re-join the ship.

Incredible India Overland Adventure (Single)



3 days/2 nights



\$\$\$\$



Be the first to [write a review](#)

Day 1 (D)

Transfer to the airport for your **flight to Delhi**. Upon arrival in Delhi you will check-in at your hotel. Delhi is the capital of India and its third-largest city. The city actually consists of two

parts: **Old Delhi** was the capital of Muslim India between 17th and 19th century and has many mosques, monuments and forts; **New Delhi**, the Imperial city, was created as the capital of India by the British. In 1911, Edwin Lutyens, the most renowned English architect of the day, was chosen to design New Delhi. Lutyens' architectural conceptions were totally different from the Hindu or Mughal architecture. The city center has wide, straight avenues in a strict layout, plenty of parks and low colonial buildings with spacious gardens. **Dinner** and overnight at the hotel.

Day 2 (B/L/D)

Transfer to the railway station to board the early **Shatabdi Express train** bound for **Agra**. Two great Mughal monarchs, Akbar and Shah Jahan, transformed the little village of Agra into a the second capital of the Mughal Empire during the 16th and 17th centuries. Today, Agra is caught up in a world of contrasting edifices of red sandstone and white marble, narrow allies, quaint buggies, wealth and poverty side by side. Modern Agra still reflects its Mughal heritage quite conspicuously. A walk down the narrow bustling streets of the city will introduce the visitor to the wafting aroma of Mughali cuisine. Transfer to your hotel for **breakfast**. Then, you will visit the **Taj Mahal**. Little needs to be said about the architectural wonder that is the Taj Mahal—the heart and soul of every tourist's visit to Agra. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan, the Taj is a white marble memorial to his beautiful wife, Mumtaz Mahal. This monument took 22 years to complete and was designed and planned by Persian architect Ustad Isa. Apart from its stunning design balance and perfect symmetry, the Taj is also noted particularly for its elegant domes, intricately carved screens and some of the best inlay work ever seen. Next, continue to **Agra Fort**, built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in AD 1565. The fort is made predominantly of red sand stone. The vast halls echo the voices of a bygone era and transport the visitor back through time. Ensnared within is the picture-perfect Pearl Mosque. Return to your hotel for **lunch**. This afternoon, visit a local **handicraft shop** before driving back to **Delhi** for **dinner** and an overnight stay.

Day 3 (B)

After an early **breakfast**, transfer to the domestic airport for your **flight to Mangalore**. Once in Mangalore you will transfer to the ship.

Notes:

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Kandy by Seaplane



Approximately 8½ Hours



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Be the first to [write a review](#)

Fly from Colombo by seaplane into the heart of the Kandy plateau, landing on a lake in the charming foothill city of Kandy. Nestled in a valley surrounded by hills, Kandy was the last capital of the Sinhalese monarchy—an appropriately regal location surrounded by a ridge of mountains and dense jungle that borders the city's gardens, tea and rice fields. The town's focus is a beautiful artificial lake with a pagoda in its center. The Temple of the Tooth stands here. On arrival, you'll enjoy a **panoramic drive** around the lake, past some well-preserved colonial buildings and the local street markets. A visit to the **Temple of the Tooth** will be the highlight of your day. Built to house the precious relic of the Buddha, which is enshrined in an inner chamber, the temple is a work of art in itself. Behind a gilt railing, the golden reliquary rests on a silver table and the famous Buddha tooth lies within. Ritual prayers by the local monks are accompanied by beating drums, blaring trumpets and hypnotic chants.

Next, **lunch** awaits you at Earl's Regency Hotel; then, you will visit the **Royal Botanic Garden**, originally built for the pleasure of Sinhalese queens in the 14th century. Beautifully manicured, with huge trees and bright bougainvillea, it contains a wide variety of tropical and temperate flora—4,000 species in all. There is also a spice garden with centuries-old nutmeg trees, cinnamon, cardamoms, vanilla and clove trees, a medicinal herb garden with plants used in Ayurvedic medicine, and an orchid house which houses 450 hybrid species. Drive to the Pollgolla reservoir to board your flight back to Colombo, where you will re-join the ship., originally built for the pleasure of Sinhalese queens in the 14th century. Beautifully manicured, with huge trees and bright bougainvillea, it contains a wide variety of tropical and temperate flora—4,000 species in all. There is also a spice garden with centuries-old nutmeg trees, cinnamon, cardamoms, vanilla and clove trees, a medicinal herb garden with plants used in Ayurvedic medicine, and an orchid house which houses 450 hybrid species. Drive to the Pollgolla reservoir to board your flight back to Colombo, where you will re-join the ship.

Notes:

Modest attire is required; knees, shoulders and midriffs must be covered and shoes must be removed before you enter the temple(s). Shorts are not allowed. Bring along a pair of thick socks to protect your feet from the hot pavement. Shoes and hats must be removed prior to entering temples. For security reasons, all bags must be checked at Temple of the Tooth. A charge of \$3 (subject to change) applies for using video cameras at Temple of the Tooth. You may encounter a delay here for entering the Temple. Tour operates weather permitting. Guides

are provided locally in Colombo and Kandy—the seaplane flight is unescorted. Due to this tour’s popularity, exclusivity, and strict booking conditions, tour bookings must be confirmed 60 days prior to the actual call to Colombo with no cancellations allowed thereafter.

Kelaniya Buddhist Temple



Approximately 2½ Hours



\$



Be the first to [write a review](#)

Kelaniya is an active **Buddhist temple**, built on a site believed to have been visited by Buddha himself more than 2,000 years ago. It is said that Buddha preached his doctrine here to a gathering of serpent kings. Today, human worshippers come to lay sprigs of lotus flowers around the great white *dagoba*, light oil lamps, and sprinkle the base of the Tree of Enlightenment with purifying water. Artistic highlights of the temple include fine carvings and lovely frescoes, fascinating geometrically patterned ceiling paintings, and three important images of Buddha—two in a sitting position and one in a reclining pose. Adorning the outer walls is more light-hearted work—rows of whimsical dwarfs and elephants in bas-relief.

Notes:

Modest attire is required; knees, shoulders and midriffs must be covered (women). Shorts are not allowed. Shoes must be removed before you enter the temple(s). Bring along a pair of thick socks to protect your feet from the hot pavement. Only small bags are permitted within the temple. Photography is allowed inside the temple for a small fee (at your own expense).

Panoramic Colombo



Approximately 2 Hours



\$



Enjoyed it?



3 out of 5

Value



3 out of 5

0 out of 1(0%) reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

[Read 1 review](#)

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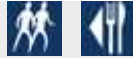
[Write a review](#)

Depart the pier on a **panoramic drive** to explore the unique and interesting city of **Colombo**. You will head past Colombo Fort in the heart of the city. The Portuguese built and extended their fortress here during more than a century of conquest and resistance. It was taken over by the Dutch and finally demolished by the British after they completed their conquest of Ceylon in the mid-19th century. Today, the area is the city's financial and commercial heart and houses Colombo's main international hotels, as well as Sri Lanka's seat of government. Continue past the colorful bazaars of Pettah to the Old Parliament building and Galle Face—a promenade that stretches for a quarter mile along the coastline of the financial and business district of Colombo. The promenade was initially laid out in 1859 by Sir Henry Ward, the Governor of then-British Ceylon. Interestingly, it was also used for horse racing and as a golf course, although the original Galle Face Green extended over a much larger area than is seen today. Your scenic journey ends with a drive past the Town Hall, Gangarama Temple, Independence Square, Cinnamon Gardens, Bandaranayke Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), the University of Colombo, and the Royal College, which may be the largest school in Asia with 7,500 students, and Independence Square. As you make your way back to the pier, you will view the incredible Jami Ul-Alfar Mosque—the landmark by which sailors approaching the port recognized Colombo.

Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage by Motor Coach



Approximatel 8½ to 9 Hours



\$\$\$



Enjoyed it?

3 out of 5

Value

2.7 out of 5

1 out of 3(33%)reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

[Read all 3 reviews](#)

|

[Write a review](#)

An air-conditioned motor coach is your transportation for the three-hour journey to the **Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage**. Established in 1975, the facility began with seven orphaned elephants. Today, some of these original orphans enjoy seeing their grandchildren born in the same location. The original objective of establishing the orphanage was inclined more towards attracting tourism, but it soon became a conservation and educational center. With the help of local and foreign elephant experts, Pinnawela started a scientific captive-breeding program for elephants. Freedom of movement for the herd increased the chances for individuals of both genders to get together and mate, and in 1984, the first Pinnawela baby was born. The success story of Pinnawela has drawn the attention of scientists from all over the world. A considerable number of books and research articles on Pinnawela have been published in several languages. The members of the Pinnawela herd have been filmed, videoed and photographed thousands of times by professionals. During your time at the orphanage, you will watch these gentle giants playing, eating and bathing in the river before enjoying your own riverside **lunch**.

Notes:

Travel time to Pinnawela is approximately three hours each way. Shade is limited; please dress accordingly. Bring a hat and wear sunscreen.

Tea Time: Sri Lanka's Favorite Beverage



Approximately 5 Hours



\$\$



Be the first to [write a review](#)

Head out from the pier to the **tea plantation at Ingiriya**, where a special welcome awaits as you are presented with a garland of tealeaves. Visit the tea plantation and the rubber plantation area for a chance to see firsthand the tea plucking and rubber tapping processes. At a nearby **tea factory**, where the workers claim the best tea in the world is produced, you will observe the manufacturing process and learn about how tea is graded. **Taste a cup of pure Ceylon tea** before returning to the ship.

Tee Time: Sri Lanka's Favorite Golf Course



Approximately 6½ Hours



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Be the first to [write a review](#)

If you've never thought of Sri Lanka as a premium golf destination, you may be surprised to learn that this little country boasts three of the finest 18-hole courses in all of Asia. In fact, Sri Lanka's association with golf dates back more than a century. The Sri Lanka Amateur Golf Championship—founded in 1891—is second only to the British Amateur Golf Championship as the oldest national championship in the world. Depart the pier for a 45-minute transfer to the **Royal Colombo Golf Club**, whose course is 6,310 yards long (par 71). This is a flat course

with broad, tree-lined fairways. It looks deceptively simple, but you'll encounter your fair share of water hazards and well-guarded bunkers that can quickly change up the game.

Notes:

Golf/regular sports shoes with dress shorts or long trousers and a shirt with collar are required. T-shirts, vests, beach shorts or running shorts are not allowed. Smart-casual is the dress code for other areas and the restaurant. Golf kits can be rented from the club (at your own expense). An early start is recommended to avoid the heat. Shade is limited; please dress accordingly. Bring a hat and wear sunscreen. Bring plenty of water with you.

The Taj Mahal & Pink City of Jaipur Overland Adventure (Double)



6 days/5 nights



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Be the first to [write a review](#)

Day 1 (L, D)

Transfer to the airport in Colombo and board your flight to **Delhi**. Enjoy a light **lunch** during your flight. Upon arrival in the Indian capital, you'll transfer to your hotel and check in. The third-largest city in the country, Delhi contains two distinct parts. Old Delhi was the capital of Muslim India between the 17th and 19th centuries and boasts many mosques, monuments and forts. The British colonists created New Delhi, the Imperial city, in 1911 to serve as the capital of India. Edwin Lutyens, a renowned English architect of the day, designed New Delhi. Lutyens' architectural concepts were totally different from the Hindu or Mughali architecture. The city center has wide avenues in a strict layout, plenty of parks and low colonial buildings with spacious gardens. **Dinner** will be served at your hotel tonight.

Day 2 (B, L, D)

After breakfast, take an **orientation drive** along the majestic boulevards of **New Delhi** for views of Parliament house, the India Gate and the Rashtrapati Bhawan Presidential Palace. The India

Gate is a 138-foot-tall stone arch of triumph. It bears the names of 85,000 Indian army soldiers who died in the campaigns of World War I, the North-West Frontier Operations and the 1919 Afghan Fiasco. Below the arch is the memorial to the Unknown Soldier, and is surrounded by green lawns and trees. Continue to **Humayun's Tomb** built in the mid-16th century by Haji Begum, senior wife of Humayun, the second Mughal Emperor, this is an early example of Mughal architecture. The squat building of white marble and red sandstone, with a dome and high arched entrances, surrounded by formal gardens, was a great influence on later Mughal architecture. It is generally regarded as a prototype of the famed Taj Mahal of Agra. Humayun's wife is buried in the red-and-white sandstone, black-and yellow marble tomb. Proceed to hotel for lunch. After lunch embark on a journey through Old Delhi. A **panoramic drive** takes you through the old city, passing the Red Fort, built in 1648 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jejan. Continue to Jama Masjid—one of the largest mosques in India. Also, watch for Raj Ghat and Shantivana—the cremation sites of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. Finally you'll drive past Chandni Chowk—the traditional shopping center of Old Delhi, enjoy a cycle rickshaw ride before returning to the hotel in time for dinner.

Day 3 (B, L, D)

After **breakfast**, you'll drive to **Agra**, covering a distance of 127 miles in approximately four hours. Check in at the hotel in Agra and enjoy **lunch**. This afternoon you're headed to **Agra Fort**. Built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in AD 1565, the fort is predominantly made of red sand stone. The vast halls echo the voices of a bygone era and transport the visitor back through time. Two great Mughal monarchs, Akbar and Shah Jahan, transformed the little village of Agra into a second capital befitting the Mughal Empire. Today, Agra is caught up in a world of contrasting edifices of red sandstone and white marble, narrow alleys, quaint buggies, and that irresistible charm that this favorite city of the Mughals still retains. Modern Agra still reflects its Mughal heritage most conspicuously—a walk down the narrow bustling streets of the city will introduce the visitor to the wafting aroma of unique and delicious Mughlai cuisine. The highlight of your day will be a visit to the **Taj Mahal** at sunset. The Taj Mahal is an enduring monument to love. Experience its splendor graced by the rays of the setting sun. This beautiful mausoleum in pure white marble is an architectural marvel. Return to the hotel for **dinner**.

Day 4 (B, L, D)

After breakfast at the hotel relax for the five hours of driving time to Jaipur. The origins of the beautiful city of **Jaipur** can be traced back to the 18th century, during the reign of Jai Singh II who ascended the Amber Throne in 1699. Despite growing into a bustling metropolis, Jaipur still retains its character and history—a beautiful fusion of yesterday and tomorrow. It will thrill you with its massive forts, magnificent palaces, exquisite temples and lush gardens. **Lunch** will be served at your hotel. After lunch take a **city tour** of Jaipur, stopping to visit the amazing **Jantar Mantar Observatory**. This is the largest and the best-preserved of the five observatories built by Jai Singh II. Still in use today, it houses a range of outsized astronomical instruments. It's quite fascinating. At the nearby **City Palace**, you'll find a delightful blend of Mughali and traditional Rajasthani architecture. It sprawls over one-seventh of the area in the walled city and houses the Chandra Mahal, Shri Govind Dev Temple and the City Palace Museum. Return to hotel for dinner.

Day 5 (B, L, D)

After **breakfast**, proceed to the Amber Fort with a photo stop at Hawa Mahal along the way. The ornamental façade of this Palace of Winds is a prominent landmark in Jaipur. It is a five-story structure of sandstone, plastered in pink and encrusted with fine trellis work and elaborate balconies. The palace has 953 niches and windows. Built in 1799 by Pratap Singh, the Mahal was a royal grandstand for the palace women. The **Amber Fort** (pronounced "Ammer"), high atop a hill on the edge of town, is the classic romantic Rajasthani fort/palace. Its construction was begun in 1592 and a forbidding exterior hides an inner paradise where a beautiful blend of Mughali and Hindu styles finds its ultimate expression. Continue to Dera Amer and enjoy an elephant safari followed by lunch by a lunch of Rajasthani delicacies. On arrival enjoy a welcome drink and an opportunity to feed these majestic animals before mounting them and enjoying a trek along a picturesque track following a local tribal guide passing by village hutments, fields, medieval fortress and monument finally arriving back at the camp. Lunch will be served at the camp before returning back to Jaipur and your hotel for some time to relax before dinner at the hotel.

Day 6 (B)

Early this morning, you will transfer to Jaipur airport for a **flight to Dubai** to re-board the ship. Please note: Luggage on all flights is limited per person to a check-in bag weighing not more than 33 lbs and one carry-on item weighing not more than 15 lbs. Not advisable for guests using a wheelchair. Due to this tour's popularity, exclusivity, and strict booking conditions, tour bookings must be confirmed 60 days prior to the actual call to Colombo with no cancellations allowed thereafter. **Important:** It is each guest's sole responsibility to obtain (before traveling) any visas, vaccinations and/or tourist cards that are required for participating in overland adventures or overnight tours, unless noted otherwise in the description. Please be aware that you may need a visa for any and/or all countries that you will depart from and travel through as part of your overland adventure or overnight tour, and for the country in which you will re-join the ship.

The Taj Mahal & Pink City of Jaipur Overland Adventure (Single)



6 days/5 nights



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Day 1 (L, D)

Transfer to the airport in Colombo and board your flight to **Delhi**. Enjoy a **lightlunch** during your flight. Upon arrival in the Indian capital, you'll transfer to your hotel and check in. The third-largest city in the country, Delhi contains two distinct parts. Old Delhi was the capital of Muslim India between the 17th and 19th centuries and boasts many mosques, monuments and forts. The British colonists created New Delhi, the Imperial city, in 1911 to serve as the capital of India. Edwin Lutyens, a renowned English architect of the day, designed New Delhi. Lutyens' architectural concepts were totally different from the Hindu or Mughali architecture. The city center has wide avenues in a strict layout, plenty of parks and low colonial buildings with spacious gardens. **Dinner** will be served at your hotel tonight.

Day 2 (B, L, D)

After breakfast, take an **orientation drive** along the majestic boulevards of **New Delhi** for views of Parliament house, the India Gate and the Rashtrapati Bhawan Presidential Palace. The India Gate is a 138-foot-tall stone arch of triumph. It bears the names of 85,000 Indian army soldiers who died in the campaigns of World War I, the North-West Frontier Operations and the 1919 Afghan Fiasco. Below the arch is the memorial to the Unknown Soldier, and is surrounded by green lawns and trees. Continue to **Humayun's Tomb** built in the mid-16th century by Haji Begum, senior wife of Humayun, the second Mughal Emperor, this is an early example of Mughal architecture. The squat building of white marble and red sandstone, with a dome and high arched entrances, surrounded by formal gardens, was a great influence on later Mughal architecture. It is generally regarded as a prototype of the famed Taj Mahal of Agra. Humayun's wife is buried in the red-and-white sandstone, black-and yellow marble tomb. Proceed to hotel for lunch. After lunch embark on a journey through Old Delhi. A **panoramic drive** takes you through the old city, passing the Red Fort, built in 1648 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jejan. Continue to Jama Masjid—one of the largest mosques in India. Also, watch for Raj Ghat and Shantivana—the cremation sites of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. Finally you'll drive past Chandni Chowk—the traditional shopping center of Old Delhi, enjoy a cycle rickshaw ride before returning to the hotel in time for dinner.

Day 3 (B, L, D)

After **breakfast**, you'll drive to **Agra**, covering a distance of 127 miles in approximately four hours. Check in at the hotel in Agra and enjoy **lunch**. This afternoon you're headed to **Agra Fort**. Built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in AD 1565, the fort is predominantly made of red sandstone. The vast halls echo the voices of a bygone era and transport the visitor back through time. Two great Mughal monarchs, Akbar and Shah Jahan, transformed the little village of Agra into a second capital befitting the Mughal Empire. Today, Agra is caught up in a world of contrasting edifices of red sandstone and white marble, narrow alleys, quaint buggies, and that irresistible charm that this favorite city of the Mughals still retains. Modern Agra still reflects its Mughal heritage most conspicuously—a walk down the narrow bustling streets of the city will

introduce the visitor to the wafting aroma of unique and delicious Mughlai cuisine. The highlight of your day will be a visit to the **Taj Mahal** at sunset. The Taj Mahal is an enduring monument to love. Experience its splendor graced by the rays of the setting sun. This beautiful mausoleum in pure white marble is an architectural marvel. Return to the hotel for **dinner**.

Day 4 (B, L, D)

After breakfast at the hotel relax for the five hours of driving time to Jaipur. The origins of the beautiful city of **Jaipur** can be traced back to the 18th century, during the reign of Jai Singh II who ascended the Amber Throne in 1699. Despite growing into a bustling metropolis, Jaipur still retains its character and history—a beautiful fusion of yesterday and tomorrow. It will thrill you with its massive forts, magnificent palaces, exquisite temples and lush gardens. **Lunch** will be served at your hotel. After lunch take a **city tour** of Jaipur, stopping to visit the amazing **Jantar Mantar Observatory**. This is the largest and the best-preserved of the five observatories built by Jai Singh II. Still in use today, it houses a range of outsized astronomical instruments. It's quite fascinating. At the nearby **City Palace**, you'll find a delightful blend of Mughali and traditional Rajasthani architecture. It sprawls over one-seventh of the area in the walled city and houses the Chandra Mahal, Shri Govind Dev Temple and the City Palace Museum. Return to hotel for dinner.

Day 5 (B, L, D)

After **breakfast**, proceed to the Amber Fort with a photo stop at Hawa Mahal along the way. The ornamental façade of this Palace of Winds is a prominent landmark in Jaipur. It is a five-story structure of sandstone, plastered in pink and encrusted with fine trellis work and elaborate balconies. The palace has 953 niches and windows. Built in 1799 by Pratap Singh, the Mahal was a royal grandstand for the palace women. The **Amber Fort** (pronounced "Ammer"), high atop a hill on the edge of town, is the classic romantic Rajasthani fort/palace. Its construction was begun in 1592 and a forbidding exterior hides an inner paradise where a beautiful blend of Mughali and Hindu styles finds its ultimate expression. Continue to Dera Amer and enjoy an elephant safari followed by lunch by a lunch of Rajasthani delicacies. On arrival enjoy a welcome drink and an opportunity to feed these majestic animals before mounting them and enjoying a trek along a picturesque track following a local tribal guide passing by village hutments, fields, medieval fortress and monument finally arriving back at the camp. Lunch will be served at the camp before returning back to Jaipur and your hotel for some time to relax before dinner at the hotel.

Day 6 (B)

Early this morning, you will transfer to Jaipur airport for a **flight to Dubai** to re-board the ship. Please note: Luggage on all flights is limited per person to a check-in bag weighing not more than 33 lbs and one carry-on item weighing not more than 15 lbs. Not advisable for guests using a wheelchair. Due to this tour's popularity, exclusivity, and strict booking conditions, tour bookings must be confirmed 60 days prior to the actual call to Colombo with no cancellations allowed thereafter. **Important:** It is each guest's sole responsibility to obtain (before traveling) any visas, vaccinations and/or tourist cards that are required for participating in overland adventures or overnight tours, unless noted otherwise in the description. Please be aware that you may need a visa for any and/or all countries that you will depart from and travel through as part of your overland adventure or overnight tour, and for the country in which you will re-join the ship.

The Taj Mahal & the Pink City of Jaipur Overland Adventure (Double)



Approximately 84¼ Hours



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Day 1 (L, D)

Transfer to the airport in Colombo and board your flight to **Delhi**. Enjoy a light **lunch** during your flight. Upon arrival in the Indian capital, you'll transfer to your hotel and check in. The third-largest city in the country, Delhi contains two distinct parts. Old Delhi was the capital of Muslim India between the 17th and 19th centuries and boasts many mosques, monuments and forts. The British created New Delhi, the imperial city, in 1911 to serve as the capital of India. Edwin Lutyens, a renowned English architect of the day, designed New Delhi. Lutyens' architectural concepts were totally different from the Hindu or Mughali architecture. The city center has wide avenues in a strict layout, plenty of parks and low colonial buildings with spacious gardens. **Dinner** will be served at your hotel.

Day 2 (B, L, D)

After breakfast, you'll take an **orientation drive** along the majestic boulevards of **New Delhi** for views of Parliament house, the India Gate and the Rashtrapati Bhawan Presidential Palace. The India Gate is a 138-foot-tall stone arch of triumph. It bears names of 85,000 Indian army soldiers who died in the campaigns of World War I, the North-West Frontier Operations and the 1919 Afghan Fiasco. Below the arch is the memorial to the Unknown Soldier, and is surrounded by green lawns and trees. After enjoying the sights of Delhi, you'll settle into your motor coach seat for the long (five-hour) drive to **Agra**. Two great Mughal monarchs, Akbar and Shah Jahan, transformed the little village of Agra into the second capital of the Mughal Empire during the 16th and 17th centuries—giving it the name Dar-ul-Khilafat (Seat of the Emperor). Today, Agra is caught up in a world of contrasting edifices of red sandstone and white marble, narrow allies, quaint buggies, and that irresistible charm that this favorite city of the Mughals still retains. Not surprisingly, modern Agra still reflects its Mughali heritage quite conspicuously. A **walkdown** the narrow bustling streets of the city allows the wafting aroma of sensational Mughali cuisine to tempt you. This afternoon you will visit the **Agra Fort**, built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in AD 1565. The fort is made predominantly of red sandstone. The vast halls echo the voices of a

bygone era and transport the visitor back through the passage of time. Enconced within is the picture-perfect **Pearl Mosque**. You'll visit a local handicraft store before dinner at the hotel.

Day 3 (B, L, D)

At sunrise, you will visit the **Taj Mahal**—quite simply an architectural wonder at the heart and soul of every visit to Agra. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan, the Taj is a white marble memorial to his beautiful wife, Mumtaz Mahal. This monument took 22 years to complete and was designed and planned by Persian architect Ustad Isa. Apart from its stunning design balance and perfect symmetry, the Taj is also noted particularly for its elegant domes, intricately carved screens and some of the best inlay work ever done. Return to your hotel for **breakfast**; then you'll relax for the five hours of driving time to Jaipur. The origins of the beautiful city of **Jaipur** can be traced back to the 18th century, during the reign of Jai Singh II who ascended the Amber Throne in 1699. Despite growing into a bustling metropolis, Jaipur still retains its character and history—a beautiful fusion of yesterday and tomorrow. It will thrill you with its massive forts, magnificent palaces, exquisite temples and lush gardens. **Lunch** will be served at your hotel. The remainder of the day is free and you will meet up for **dinner** this evening.

Day 4 (B, L, D)

After **breakfast**, proceed to the Amber Fort (pronounced "Ammer") with a photo stop at Hawa Mahal along the way. The ornamental façade of the Palace of Winds is a prominent landmark in Jaipur. It is a five-story structure of sandstone, plastered pink and encrusted with fine trellis work and elaborate balconies. The palace has 953 niches and windows. Built in 1799 by Pratap Singh, the Mahal was a royal grandstand for the palace women. The **Amber Fort**, high atop a hill on the edge of town, is the classic romantic Rajasthani fort/palace. Its construction was begun by Man Singh I in 1592, and completed by his descendent Jai Singh I. Its forbidding exterior hides an inner paradise where a beautiful blend of Mughali and Hindu styles finds its ultimate expression. After **lunch** you'll take a **city tour** of Jaipur, stopping to visit the amazing **Jantar Mantar Observatory**. This is the largest and the best-preserved of the five observatories built by Jai Singh II. Still in use today, it houses a range of outsized astronomical instruments. At the nearby **City Palace**, you'll find a delightful blend of Mughali and traditional Rajasthani architecture. It sprawls over one-seventh of the area in the walled city and houses the Chandra Mahal, Shri Govind Dev Temple and the City Palace Museum. An evening flight will return you to the ship in Mumbai, where you will re-board the ship.

Notes:

Luggage on all flights is limited per person to a check-in bag weighing not more than 55 lbs and one carry-on item weighing not more than 15 lbs. Not suitable for wheelchairs. Due to this tour's popularity, exclusivity, and strict booking conditions, tour bookings must be confirmed 60 days prior to the actual call to Colombo with no cancellations allowed thereafter.

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The Taj Mahal & the Pink City of Jaipur Overland Adventure (Single)



Approximately 84¼ Hours



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Day 1 (L, D)

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Day 2 (B, L, D)

After breakfast, you'll take an **orientation drive** along the majestic boulevards of **New Delhi** for views of Parliament house, the India Gate and the Rashtrapati Bhawan Presidential Palace. The India Gate is a 138-foot-tall stone arch of triumph. It bears names of 85,000 Indian army soldiers who died in the campaigns of World War I, the North-West Frontier Operations and the 1919 Afghan Fiasco. Below the arch is the memorial to the Unknown Soldier, and is surrounded by green lawns and trees. After enjoying the sights of Delhi, you'll settle into your motor coach seat for the long (five-hour) drive to **Agra**. Two great Mughal monarchs, Akbar and Shah Jahan, transformed the little village of Agra into the second capital of the Mughal Empire during the 16th and 17th centuries—giving it the name Dar-ul-Khilafat (Seat of the Emperor). Today, Agra is caught up in a world of contrasting edifices of red sandstone and white marble, narrow allies, quaint buggies, and that irresistible charm that this favorite city of the Mughals still retains. Not surprisingly, modern Agra still reflects its Mughali heritage quite conspicuously. A **walkdown** the narrow bustling streets of the city allows the wafting aroma of sensational Mughali cuisine to tempt you. This afternoon you will visit the **Agra Fort**, built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in AD 1565. The fort is made predominantly of red sandstone. The vast halls echo the voices of a

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Day 4 (B, L, D)

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