



UNWTO CONFERENCE ON TOURISM: A CATALYST FOR DEVELOPMENT, PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Passikudah, Sri Lanka, 11 -14 July

GENERAL INFORMATION NOTE

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) and the Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs in association of World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) are organizing a Conference on “Tourism: A Catalyst for Development, Peace and Reconciliation” at Passikudha which is situated in liberated Eastern Province development tourism zone in Sri Lanka.

Dates: 11th – 14th July, 2016

Venue: Amaya Beach Resort, Passikudha

Distance: 299 Km from Colombo

Objectives of the Conference

The conference themes consider how to optimally define contributions framed by reconciliation process to enhance the image in the tourism in North and East Provinces, and branding aimed at a range of below objectives:

To identify the factors to be considered in North and East Provinces to brand those as tourism destination in future and attract more tourist inflows

To use ‘sea, sand and sun’ concept within a business context to meet demands associated with eco-tourism underpinned by new media for the promotion of nature and culture in North and East Provinces, linked to tourists’ network associations that can be accessed and levered to stimulate demand.

To revitalise neighbourhood communities and local economies to capture initiatives to stimulate employment, improve tourism productivity, quality of service, preservation of environment and other hospitality facilities in these Provinces.

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1. About Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka formerly known as Ceylon (during the British settlement from 1796 to 1948), an island in the Indian Ocean is located to the South of the Indian subcontinent. The total land area is 65,610 km² encompasses beautiful tropical beaches, verdant vegetation, ancient monuments and a thousand delights to please all tastes. The relief features of the island consist of a mountainous mass somewhat south of the centre, with height exceeding 2,500 metres, surrounded by broad plains. The Island consists with 8 world heritage sites and dozens of wildlife parks to offer so much of excitement to the visiting travellers.

A tropical climate all year round ensures that a colourfully dense population of flora and fauna inhabit this jewel of a land. Testament to this is the fact that Sri Lanka has the highest biodiversity in the whole of Asia, with many species endemics to the land.

Moreover, multi religious and multi-cultural festivities have adorned the beauty of Sri Lankan life for centuries. Religious celebrations together with festivals of art, music and culture ensure that the spirit of festivity is alive all year round.

Sports and adventure is another exhilarating dimension to the country. Surfing, rafting, air-ballooning, golf, cricket and other soft sports and adventures like mountain climbing, trekking, cycling, canyoning are some of the popular activities available to those that relish a chance to tackle the great outdoors.

1.1 Economic Background

The country is moving towards upper middle income levels and the private sector continued to play a major role in the growth of the economy. Mid-year population of the country recorded as nearly 21 million in 2014 and economic growth reported as 7.5 per cent as a percentage change in Gross National Product in Report of Central Bank of Sri Lanka, 2014. Going forward, the Sri Lankan economy is projected to reach upper middle income levels and sustain the favourable high growth and low inflation nexus in the medium term, supported by appropriate economic policies.

1.2 Social Background

The country reported highest literacy rate of 92.5% in South Asian region and rank among 73rd country in Human Development Index (HDI=0.75) in 2013. Government expenditure on education is around 1.9% as a percentage of GDP. However, the Sri Lankan government provides free education and free health services to all the citizens to ensure the goal of equity.

1.3 History of Tourism in Sri Lanka

In 1966, the Government decided to develop tourism in a planned and a systematic manner, after identifying the need to set up an institutional framework. The Ceylon Tourist Board which was created by the Ceylon Tourist Board Act No. 10 of 1966.

The Ceylon Tourist Board (CTB) was a statutory body that allowed greater freedom in decision making and flexibility in financial management which created to promote rapid economic development, through the development of foreign tourism.

The legislation also covered the establishment of a national holiday resorts, which planned various types of accommodation and resort areas. The Act conferred powers for the Protection of Highways and Places of Scenic Beauty and vested authority in the Ceylon Tourist Board for the Registration and Classification of Tourist Hotels and all other tourist services including travel agencies. The Tourist Development Act of 1968 provided the Ceylon Tourist Board with the statutory authority to develop tourism on a planned, controlled and sustainable basis. The

Tourism Act No 38 of 2005 came into effect in October 2007. With the circulation of the new Tourism act, the Sri Lanka Tourist Board Act No 10 of 1966, which was in effect for the past 41 years, was replaced. The Act provided for the setting up of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, thereby replacing the Sri Lanka Tourist Board. The national celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Tourism will be held on 27th May 2016.

2. Venue of the Conference – Passikudah

Passikudah or Passikuda is a Tamil translation of 'Green-Algae-Bay' which becomes a coastal resort town located about 35 kilometres Northwest of Batticaloa District in Sri Lanka. It used to be a popular tourist destination, however due to 2004 Indian Sri Lankan Civil War and Ocean Tsunami reduced number of tourist arrivals. Since the end of the civil war in 2009 and the completion of Tsunami rehabilitation projects, Passikudah has become a popular tourist destination amongst locals and foreigners alike. This is because Passikudah is known to have one of the longest stretches of shallow coastline in the world. In other words, people walk kilometres into the sea because the water is only a few inches deep and the current is relatively weak compared to the rest of other Sri Lanka's beaches.



Passikudah is easily accessible from Trincomalee and Batticaloa, both of which cities have star class accommodation. Passikudah is fast becoming an investor's hub as foreign and local investors have shown interest in developing tourism along the beach. Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority is in the process of building National Resort in Passikudah. The nearest airport to Passikudah is Trincomalee Airport, which has scheduled flights operating from Colombo Bandaranaike International Airport.

3. Transfer Arrangements and Airport Meeting Service

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) and the Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs will warmly welcome all registered delegates arriving to Sri Lanka to participate for the conference **who are requested to contact Sri Lanka Tourist Information Counter after the custom formalities in Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA)**. Delegates will be initially transferred from Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) to The Gateway Hotel Airport Garden and thereafter ground transportation is arranged to the respective resorts/hotels in Passikudah for holding confirmed bookings.

There will be a special train on Jul 11 from Colombo to Passikudah:

Upon your arrival at the Bandaranaike International Airport, please kindly visit the Sri Lanka Tourist Information Counter which will be operating 24 hours. You will be transferred to The Gateway Hotel Airport Garden, where scheduled ground transportation is arranged to the Conference resorts/hotels in Passikudah. Please kindly refer

to the latest transfer schedule (**train and bus**) as below, **the original buses scheduled at 3:00 / 6:00/ 9:30 from Colombo to Passikudah on 11th have been replaced by the VIP TRAIN at 11:00:**

For those who have checked in at the Gateway Hotel Airport Garden on 10th or 11th July

10:00 & 10:30 - Shuttle service from the hotel to train station

11:00 – Train departs from Colombo

17:30 – Train arrives at Passikudah

For those who will arrive at the airport on the night of 10th July or on the early morning of 11th July (originally plan to take the bus at 3:00am or 6:00am), you will be transferred to the Gateway Airport Hotel Garden and stay in the changing rooms arranged by the host organizer.

10:00 & 10:30 - Shuttle service from the hotel to train station

11:00 – Train departs from Colombo

17:30 – Train arrives at Passikudah

For those who cannot catch the 11:00 am train to Passikudah due to the flight schedule

Private transfer will be arranged at 01:00PM to Passikudah (depend on number of arrivals) departing from the Gateway Hotel Airport Gard

For local support at the airport, please kindly contact the focal points:

Mr. Nishantha Alahakoon at +94 71 444 0 888 (nisantha@srilanka.travel)

Ms. Kumudu Heenadige at +94 71 48 805 70

Mr. Lesly David at 94 773442094

Return transport from respective hotels in Passikudah to Colombo / Airport will be as follows:

	Departure Date	Departure Time from Passikudah to Colombo / Airport
Shuttle Service I	13 July 2016	15:00 PM (On request)
Shuttle Service II	14 July 2016	15:00 PM (On request)

If return shuttle service is necessary, please indicate preferred time in the registration form.

In order to organise this service, delegates are requested to complete and return the **registration form** indicating their arrival, departure and accommodation details latest by **29th June 2016**.

Please note that those who will take part in the technical tour to Jaffna will be transferred to Colombo / Airport from Jaffna by train on 14 July which will take approximately 6 hours. (See 6. Technical Tour)

Contact points of ground arrangement:

Shuttle Service and Airport Reception Desk	Registration Desk at Amaya Hotel
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Ms. Kumudu Heenadige

Tel: +94 71 48 805 70

Mr. Nishantha Alahakoon

Email: nisantha@srilanka.travel

Tel: 94 71 444 0 888

Lesly

Tel: 94 773442094

Mr. Indrajith De Silva

indrajithdesilva226@gmail.com,

Tel: +94712214219

Mr. Masitha De Thabrew

Tel: +94714723205

masithat@srilanka.travel/ masitha01@gmail.com

4. Accommodation

The hotels listed below offer the participants special discounted rates, in limited numbers and on a **first come, first served basis**. Payment by credit card and bank transfer is acceptable. **It is requested to contact respective hotels/ resorts for further details**. Rooms will be blocked for delegates from 11th to 14th July 2016. Participants are encouraged to book accommodation as early as possible.

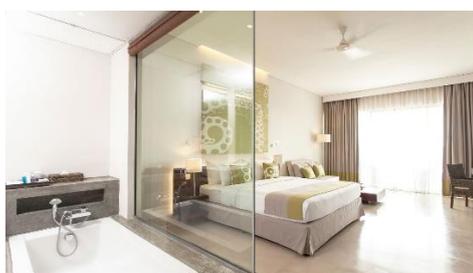
4.1 The Gateway Hotel Airport Garden (Airport hotel in Colombo)



ROOM TYPE	SINGLE (USD) BB	DOUBLE (USD) BB
Standard Room	USD 120	USD 135
Superior Room	USD 135	USD 145
Executive Room	USD 145	USD 155
Deluxe Suite	USD 280	USD 300
Gateway Suite	USD 350	USD 375

- **ADDRESS OF THE HOTEL:** No. 234, Colombo – Negombo Road, Seeduwa. Sri Lanka
- **NAME OF THE CONTACT PERSON:** Ms. Taniya Tissera
- **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** +94 717256276 / +94 713200928
- **FAX:** Attn Taniyaa / Ashwika +94 11 225 2953
- **EMAIL:** taniyaa.tissera@tajhotels.com / ashwika.nadarajah@tajhotels.com / airport.colombo@tajhotels.com
- **WEBSITE:** <https://gateway.tajhotels.com/en-in/airport-garden-colombo/>

4.2 Amaya Beach Resort, Passikudah (at Conference Venue)



ROOM TYPE	SINGLE (USD) BB	DOUBLE (USD) BB
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Standard	USD 165	USD 170
Deluxe	USD 175	USD 180
Premium Deluxe	USD 200	USD 210
Deluxe Suite	USD 210	USD 215
Deluxe Family Resident	USD 260	USD 265
Executive Suite	USD 310	USD 315
Premium Deluxe Spa Suite	USD 415	USD 420

- **ADDRESS OF THE HOTEL:** Amaya Beach, National Holiday Resorts, Passikudah, Sri Lanka
- **CONTACT PERSON:** Mr. Hakeem Farook, Group Manager Sales & Marketing (Head Office) OR Mr. Michael Armstrong, Hotel Manager
- **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** +94773-228611
- **FAX:** +94114-767867
- **EMAIL:** hameem@amayaresorts.com
- **WEBSITE:** www.amayaresorts.com

4.3 Anilana Hotel, Passikudah



ROOM TYPE	SINGLE (USD)	DOUBLE (USD)
Deluxe	USD 165.00	USD 165.00
Beach Chalets	USD 205.00	USD 205.00

- **ADDRESS OF THE HOTEL:** 14, Hotel Development Road, Passikudah
- **CONTACT PERSON:** Sanjaya Bandara /Nuwan Fernando
- **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** +94770747222 / +94773209041
- **EMAIL:** sanjaya.bandara@anilana.com; nuwan.fernando@anilana.com
- **WEBSITE:** <http://www.anilana.com/pasikuda/>
- **Virtual Tour Link:** <http://www.panomatics.com/nextgen/srilanka/anilanapasikuda/>

4.4 Uga Bay Resort



ROOM TYPE	SINGLE (USD)	DOUBLE (USD)
Beach Studio	USD 170.00	USD 200.00
Ocean Studio	USD 208.00	USD 245.00

- **ADDRESS OF THE HOTEL:** Coconut Bard Road, Kalkudah, Passikudah
- **CONTACT PERSON:** Mr. Marcelline Paul
- **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** + 94 777 691 575
- **FAX:** + 94 115 371 200
- **EMAIL:** gm-sales@ugaescapes.com
- **WEBSITE:** www.ugaescapes.com

4.5 Anantaya Resort and Spa Passikudah



ROOM TYPE	SINGLE (USD)	DOUBLE (USD)
SUPERIOR	USD 170 .00	USD 200.00
DELUXE	USD 210.00	USD 230.00

- **ADDRESS:** Coconut Cultivation Board Road Passikudah
- **CONTACT PERSON:** Musthaq Ahamed
- **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** + 0094772225349 / +0094115566295
- **FAX:** + 0094115577824
- **EMAIL:** musthaq.ahamed@laugfs.lk
- **WEBSITE:** www.anantaya.lk

4.6 Passi Villa (LSR Hotels)



ROOM TYPE	SINGLE (USD)	DOUBLE (USD)
Deluxe (Villa Type)	USD 150.00	USD 160.00

- **ADDRESS:** No 12, Beach Road, Kalkudah, Passikudah
- **CONTACT PERSON:** Nalin Nanayakkara
- **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** +94112824500/ +94770110903
- **FAX:**+9411 2829734
- **EMAIL:** gm@lsrhotels.com
- **WEBSITE:**www.lsrhotels.com

4.7 Marina Passikudah (LSR Hotels)



ROOM TYPE	SINGLE (USD)	DOUBLE (USD)
Deluxe	135	145

- **ADDRESS:** No.7, Coconut Board Road, Kalkudah, Passikudah
- **NAME OF THE CONTACT PERSON:** Nalin Nanayakkara
- **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** +94 112824500/ +94 770110903
- **FAX:** +9411 2829734
- **EMAIL:** gm@lsrhotels.com
- **WEBSITE:** www.lsrhotels.com

4.8 The Calm Resort & Spa



ROOM TYPE	SINGLE (USD)BB	DOUBLE (USD)BB
Deluxe	140.00	145.00
Premium	160.00	165.00
Garden Collection	200.00	205.00

- **ADDRESS OF THE HOTEL :** The Calm Resort & Spa, Coconut Cultivation Board Road, Passikudah
- **NAME OF THE CONTACT PERSON:** Adrian Jansz
- **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** + 94 777530166
- **EMAIL:** adrianj@brownshotels.com
- **WEBSITE:** www.brownshotels.com

4.9 Sunrise by Jetwing



ROOM TYPE	SINGLE (USD) BB	DOUBLE (USD) BB
Deluxe	70	75

- **ADDRESS OF THE HOTEL :** SUNRISE BY JETWING, PASSIKUDAH
- **NAME OF THE CONTACT PERSON:** Mr. Satheesh
- **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** +94652058865
- **EMAIL:** satheesh@jetwinghotels.com
- **WEBSITE:** www.jetwinghotels.com

5. Technical Tour

5.1 Technical Visit to Trincomalee (13 July 2016)

Ultimate experience in tour to Trincomalee in passenger vessel of Sri Lanka Navy. You will sail in the Indian Ocean, the turquoise lagoons, fascinating resorts, and more vibrant schools of fish with playful dolphins as they dip and vault through the crystal clear waters beneath.

Technical visit in Trincomalee target on places of Koneswaram Temple is dedicated to Siva found on Swami Rock, situated just above Fort Frederick and Trincomalee Natural Harbour and enjoy dinner in the beach setting.



5.2 Technical Visit to Jaffna (14 July 2016)

Jaffna is situated on the northern tip of Sri Lanka and has a predominantly Tamil population and considered as a cultural capital of Tamils in Sri Lanka. The locals of Jaffna are indeed wonderful and friendly people and making a trip to this beautiful part of Sri Lanka should be a priority on anyone's travel plan.

Technical visit in Jaffna target on places such as Jaffna Fort which is situated on the south side of the Jaffna peninsula at the water's edge of the lagoon, the ancient fort in Jaffna is the second largest existing fort in the Island, Nallur Temple which is Jaffna's premier place of Hindu worship, characterized by a golden arch and elaborate Gopuram attracts thousands of pilgrims and worshippers and the Kovil goes back to the eighteenth century.



Please note that those who will take part in the technical tour to Jaffna will be transferred to Colombo / Airport from Jaffna soon after the lunch by train on 14 July. This railway journey will take approximately 6 hours.

6. Pre and Post Tours

Please note that the dates for the pre and post tours can be decided by participants. In order to book a tour, participants will have to **contact the agency directly** at **Mr. Lesly David** (Email: tropicalmktg@slt.net.lk, Mobile: +94773442094) and provide their **copy of registration form** with copy to a conference organiser **Ms. Dilrukshi Hewage** (dilrukshin@srilanka.travel).

6.1 Colombo – Nuwara Eliya (2 Nights, 3 Days)

Itineraries

Day 01 Colombo – Kandy

Welcome by a Representative and transfer to **Kandy** - "The Hill Capital" via **Pinnawala**.

En route visit the **Elephant Orphanage in Pinnawala** to see the world's largest herd of domestic Elephants including babies who are still being fed by bottle thrice a day and other places of interest.

Kandy: literally the "City on the Hills" so named as it was protected by the nature - water, rocks and jungles. The last capital of Sri Lankan kings before falling to the British in 1815 AD which is a World Heritage Site. The name Kandy conjures vision of splendor of magnificence. Many of the legends, traditions and folklore are still lovingly kept alive. The center of attraction is the golden roofed Temple of the Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha. The Kandy Lake built by the last King Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe in 1806 holds a prominent view of the City. It is a City for arts and crafts as well culture and history

Undertake a City Tour including - the **Upper Lake Drive** - a place where one could have a bird's eye view of the city below, the **Royal Botanical Gardens** - one of the best of its kind in Asia with more than 5000 species of different varieties of flora which incidentally was the Headquarters of Lord Louise Mountbatten - the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces during the 2nd World War, a **Gem Museum** - to see how the valuable gems that you see on a shop shelf are turned out from a raw stone with the back ground history.

In the evening watch a **Cultural Performance** by traditional Kandyan Dancers and Drummers including devotional "Fire Walking" and walk across in the star lit night to the **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic** of Buddha - by far the most important place of worship for Buddhists world over.

Overnight stay at Hotel Topaz or a similar hotel

Day 02 Kandy – Nuwara Eliya

After breakfast,

Leave for **NuwaraEliya** -"Little England" through the Hill Country surrounded by "Green Carpets"- hills covered with Tea and cascading Water Falls amidst breathtakingly beautiful landscapes.

En route visit a **Tea Factory and a Plantation** to witness the manufacturing process of world famous "**Ceylon Tea**" and to taste a pure unblended cup of factory fresh tea before being sent to the Tea Auctions in Colombo leading to Export.

Sightseeing in the city- the important places being the **Victoria Park, Gregory Lake, Golf Course and Market** etc.

Overnight at Glenfall Reach Hotel or a similar hotel

Day 03 Nuwara Eliya – Colombo / Airport

After breakfast,

Proceed to **Colombo** – “The Commercial Capital”

Undertake a **City Tour** of Colombo including a Buddhist Temple, Dutch Wolvendhal Church, a Hindu Temple, Town Hall, BMICH (Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall), Cinnamon Gardens - Prime residential area, the Nelum Pokuna – the newly opened Performing Arts Theatre, the recently developed New Parliament Area etc.

Drop off at the airport / respective hotel.

Cost

01 Pax	Single Occupancy	USD 465
02 Pax	Double per-person sharing rate (BB basis)	USD 249
03 - 07 Pax		USD 232
08 - 14 Pax	*Single supplement: USD 80	USD 175
15 - 25 Pax	*Triple reduction: USD 10	USD 149

Cost Includes:

- Accommodation in Double Occupancy with the bed & breakfast basis.
- Transport in an A/C vehicle with the services of an English speaking Chauffeur / Guide as per the itinerary except during free times.

Cost does NOT include:

- Lunch
- Entrance fees to the sights mentioned
- All beverages, Tips and portages.
- Video and Camera Permits
- Any supplements that may incur due to events taking place in those localities
- All expenses of personal nature such as Telephone Calls, Laundry and Tipping etc.
- Additional transfers: all additional transfers will be charged; mileage will be calculated from office to office.
- Bank Transfer Charges to Sri Lanka

Note:

- Rates are net and non-commissionable.
- Change of hotels will be taken as a cancellation on the original booking/change of hotels while on tour will result 100% cancellation on the original booking
- Check-in time 14:00 / Check-out time 11:00
- Hotels to be confirmed on availability basis
- Peak period supplements will apply during the month of July & August

Disclaimer: Should the hotels come up with supplements due to events taking place in those localities the offered rates will be subject to change.

Cancellation charges: 21 Days 100% Cancellation / 01 Month 50% Cancellation

Please note that the rates are subject to change based on any increase / decrease of the taxes imposed by the government at the time of the booking. Also the confirmation of the rooms will be subject to availability at the time of the booking.

For further information, please contact **Ms. Dilrukshi Hewage** at: dilrukshin@srilanka.travel.

6.2 Colombo – Yala (2 Nights, 3 Days)

Itineraries

Day 01 Colombo – Yala

Welcome by a Representative and transfer to **Yala**.

Jeep safari at the Yala National Park.

YALA

This National Park is located in the South-East and offers you the chance of seeing animals such as wild boar, deer, leopards, elephants, monkeys, and crocodiles in their natural environment. The best times to spot these animals are in the early morning hours, or at dusk when they come out of the seclusion of the jungle to drink water at the edge of the tank.

Overnight stay at Kithala Resort or a similar hotel

Day 02 Tissamaharama - Bentota

After breakfast, transfer to Galle

GALLE

This southern seaport was the 17th Century center of Dutch rule. The town is full of Dutch monuments, ramparts and forts, to bear witness to this fact. Galle is also famous for its ebony carving and delicate handmade lace. It has a pleasant atmosphere and a fine view of the sea.

Afterwards transfer to Bentota& visit a turtle hatchery en route.

Overnight at Centara Ceysands Resort or a similar hotel

Day 03 Bentota – Colombo / Airport

After breakfast,

Proceed to **Colombo** – “The Commercial Capital”

Undertake a **City Tour** of Colombo including a Buddhist Temple, Dutch Wolvendhal Church, a Hindu Temple, Town Hall, BMICH (Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall), Cinnamon Gardens - Prime residential area, the Nelum Pokuna – the newly opened Performing Arts Theatre, the recently developed New Parliament Area etc..

Drop off at the airport / respective hotel.

Cost

01 Pax	Single Occupancy	USD 585
02 Pax	Double per-person sharing rate (BB basis) *Single supplement: USD 105	USD 320
03 - 07 Pax		USD 299
08 - 14 Pax		USD 220
15 - 25 Pax		USD 189

Cost Includes:

- Accommodation in Double Occupancy with the bed & breakfast basis.
- Transport in an A/C vehicle with the services of an English speaking Chauffeur / Guide as per the itinerary except during free times.

Cost does NOT include:

- Lunch
- Entrance fees
- All beverages, Tips and portages.
- Video and Camera Permits
- Any supplements that may incur due to events taking place in those localities
- All expenses of personal nature such as Telephone Calls, Laundry and Tipping etc.
- Additional transfers: all additional transfers will be charged; mileage will be calculated from office to office.
- Bank transfer charges to Sri Lanka

Note:

- Rates are net and non-commissionable.
- Change of hotels will be taken as a cancellation on the original booking/change of hotels while on tour will result 100% cancellation on the original booking
- Check-in time 14:00 / Check-out time 11:00
- Hotels to be confirmed on availability basis
- Peak period supplements will apply during the month of July & August

Disclaimer: Should the hotels come up with supplements due to events taking place in those localities the offered rates will be subject to change.

Cancellation charges: 21 Days 100% Cancellation / 01 Month 50% Cancellation

Please note that the rates are subject to change based on any increase / decrease of the taxes imposed by the government at the time of the booking. Also the confirmation of the rooms will be subject to availability at the time of the booking.

For further information, please contact **Ms. Dilrukshi Hewage** at: dilrukshin@srilanka.travel.

6.3 Colombo – Pinnawala – Dambulla – Nuwara Eliya (3 Nights, 4 Days)

Itineraries**Day 01****Colombo – Pinnawala – Dambulla**

Welcome by a Representative and transfer to **Sigiriya** via **Pinnawala**.

En route visit the **Elephant Orphanage** to see the world's largest herd of domestic Elephants including babies who are still being fed by bottle thrice a day and other places of interest.

Visit the **Dambulla Cave Temple** considered being the largest painted caves in the world with more than 22,000sq ft painted surfaces with many paintings, sculptures, statues of Lord Buddha, his disciples, Kings, Gods etc.

If time permits, go for an elephant back ride.

Overnight stay at Rangiri Resort or a similar hotel

Day 02 Dambulla – Sigiriya – Kandy

After breakfast,

Climb the **Rock Fortress of Sigiriya**, a Royal Citadel for 20 years in the 5th Century AD built by King Kasyapa, contemporary with the paintings of Ajantha and Ellora Caves in India, highlights being the Frescoes, Mirror Wall and the Lion's Paw, considered as the 8th Wonder of the modern world, thought to be equivalent to the "Alakamanda" - Celestial Palace of God Kuvera.

Afterwards transfer to Kandy via Matale.

Visit to a **Spice Garden** and take part in a conducted tour to get some knowledge about the growth and use of spices in the day to day life.

Arrive in Kandy and;

Undertake a City Tour including - the **Upper Lake Drive** - a place where one could have a bird's eye view of the city below, the **Royal Botanical Gardens** - one of the best of its kind in Asia with more than 5000 species of different varieties of flora which incidentally was the Headquarters of Lord Louise Mountbatten - the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces during the 2nd World War, a **Gem Museum** - to see how the valuable gems that you see on a shop shelf are turned out from a raw stone with the background history.

In the evening watch a **Cultural Performance** by traditional Kandyan Dancers and Drummers including devotional "Fire Walking" and walk across in the star lit night to the **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic of Buddha** - By far the most important place of worship for Buddhist world over.

Overnight stay at Topaz Hotel

Day 03 Kandy – Nuwara Eliya

After breakfast,

Leave for **Nuwara Eliya** - "Little England" through the Hill Country surrounded by "Green Carpets" - hills covered with Tea and cascading Water Falls amidst breathtakingly beautiful landscapes.

En route visit a **Tea Factory and a Plantation** to witness the manufacturing process of world famous "**Ceylon Tea**" and to taste a pure unblended cup of factory fresh tea before being sent to the Tea Auctions in Colombo leading to Export.

Sightseeing in the city- the important places being the **Victoria Park, Gregory Lake, Golf Course and Market** etc..

Overnight at Glenfall Reach Hotel or a similar hotel

Day 04 Nuwara Eliya – Colombo / Airport

After Breakfast at the Hotel,

Proceed to **Colombo** – “The Commercial Capital”

Undertake a **City Tour** of Colombo including a **Buddhist Temple, Dutch Wolvendhal Church, a Hindu Temple, Town Hall, BMICH (Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall) , Cinnamon Gardens - Prime residential area, the NelumPokuna – the newly opened Performing Arts Theatre , the recently developed New Parliament Area** etc.

Drop off at the airport / respective hotel.

Cost

01 Pax	Single Occupancy	USD 575
02 Pax	Double per-person sharing rate (BB basis)	USD 310
03 - 07 Pax		USD 289
08 - 14 Pax	*Single supplement: USD 103	USD 225
15 - 25 Pax	*Triple reduction: USD 10	USD 195

Cost Includes:

- Accommodation in Double Occupancy with the bed & breakfast basis.
- Transport in an A/C vehicle with the services of an English speaking Chauffeur / Guide as per the itinerary except during free times.

Cost does NOT include:

- Lunch
- Entrance fees
- All beverages, Tips and portages.
- Video and Camera Permits
- Any supplements that may incur due to events taking place in those localities
- All expenses of personal nature such as Telephone Calls, Laundry and Tipping etc.
- Additional transfers: all additional transfers will be charged; mileage will be calculated from office to office.
- Bank transfer charges to Sri Lanka

Note:

- Rates are net and non-commissionable.
- Change of hotels will be taken as a cancellation on the original booking/change of hotels while on tour will result 100% cancellation on the original booking
- Check-in time 14:00 / Check-out time 11:00
- Hotels to be confirmed on availability basis
- Peak period supplements will apply during the month of July & August

Disclaimer: Should the hotels come up with supplements due to events taking place in those localities the offered rates will be subject to change.

Cancellation charges: 21 Days 100% Cancellation / 01 Month 50% Cancellation

Please note that the rates are subject to change based on any increase / decrease of the taxes imposed by the government at the time of the booking. Also the confirmation of the rooms will be subject to availability at the time of the booking.

For further information, please contact **Ms. Dilrukshi Hewage** at: dilrukshin@srilanka.travel.

7. Registration and Badges

Participants are requested to **complete the registration form** and to return it to the meeting coordinators of **both UNWTO and host government of Sri Lanka** indicated below under item 12, latest by **15th June 2016**. Badges and information kits will be distributed to participants on arrival or at the registration desk at the conference venue from 9:00 to 17:00 on 11th and 12th July, 2016.

8. Social Programme

The Minister of Tourism and Christian Affairs of Sri Lanka, H. E. Mr. John Amaratunga will host a welcome reception on 11th July 2016 at 19:00. On 13th July 2016 at 19:00, the Closing Dinner will be hosted by the tourism industry in Sri Lanka.

9. Travelling to Sri Lanka

9.1 Airline Connections

For information on all major airlines travelling to Sri Lanka, please visit at:
http://www.airport.lk/flight_info/list_of_airlines.php

9.2 Visa Requirements

Prior visa is required to arrive to Sri Lanka for certain countries. Please apply VISA through ETA (Electronic Travel Authorization System) website. ETA is an official authorization for a short visit to Sri Lanka and is issued electronically. The ETA is introduced with the intention of providing an efficient, reliable and simplified service to those who visit Sri Lanka. ETA holders will be issued a 30 day Short Visit visa at the port of entry in Sri Lanka. The ETA will be effective from 1st of January 2012. The ETA is issued through an on-line system.

Upon arrival, produce your passport to the immigration officer at the port of entry to obtain the necessary clearance. It is advisable for you to bring a copy of the ETA approval notice along with you. For more information:
<http://www.eta.gov.lk/slvvisa/visainfo/weta.jsp>

9.3 Customs Regulations

For more Information regarding restricted items please visit the following website:
<http://www.customs.gov.lk/passenger.html>

10. Practical Information

10.1 Exchange Rate

The “Sri Lankan Rupees” (SLR) is the Sri Lankan Currency. United State Dollars (USD) are widely used and accepted in Colombo and throughout the Sri Lanka. However, Sri Lankan Rupee denomination notes are relatively new with no marking or tears.

The exchange rate of United State Dollars is 1 USD = SLR 145 on the date of 8/3/2016. For update of exchange rates, please refer the website of http://www.cbsl.gov.lk/htm/english/cei/er/e_1.asp

10.2 Credit Cards

Major credit cards such as AMEX, Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted at resorts, hotels, restaurants and shopping malls. Automated Teller Machines (ATM) are available at Bandaranaike International Airport and in island wide but not in tourist resorts.

10.3 Climate

Sri Lanka climate is tropical and consists of distinct wet and dry seasons. The Yala monsoon brings abundant rainfall to the country's western and southern regions from May to September; the area experiences its dry season during December through March. For more information about weather in Sri Lanka, please visit; http://www.meteo.gov.lk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13&Itemid=132&lang=en

10.4 Time Zone

Sri Lanka is 5 1/2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (UTC+05:30)

10.5 Clothing

Participants are advised to bring tropical wear. However, formal attire (Business Suit) is required at the conference. Compulsory Dress Code for temple and Kovil is Light colour clothing that cover your legs. If you come in a short skirt or a trouser, a sarong will be loaned to you to be worn during the visit in temple. (Note: nudity in any public area or beaches in the Sri Lanka is against the Sri Lankan Law, offenders will be punished according to Law and regulations of Sri Lanka.)

10.6 Official Language

The Official language of the Sri Lanka is Sinhalese, however, English is widely spoken and understood. The official language of the conference and the meeting will be English.

10.7 Business Hours

Banks are open from 8:30 am to 2:00pm from Monday to Friday.

Banks and the Government offices are closed on the weekends and Public Holidays. (Note: Saturday and Sunday are the Weekends in Sri Lanka). Shops, restaurants and cafes in Sri Lanka are generally opened from 8:00am to 10:00pm.

10.8 Health

Member States in the region of South Asia are not required to have any vaccinations to enter Sri Lanka. However, if a delegate or participant is arriving from yellow fever and cholera, Malaria infected countries, they would require an international certificate of inoculation against yellow fever, Malaria and cholera to enter the country.

10.9 Safety and Security

The Government of Sri Lanka will ensure the safety and security of all participants and delegates. All necessary precaution will be taken to ensure that the Conference and the Meeting will proceed efficiently.

11. Meeting Coordinators

For further information, please contact the meeting coordinators both from UNWTO and the host country or visit our website at: <http://asiapacific.unwto.org/event/save-date-unwto-conference-tourism-catalyst-development-peace-and-reconciliation>.

UNWTO Secretariat	Host Country
<p data-bbox="373 752 587 786">Ms. Hyeon-Jin Lee</p> <p data-bbox="237 801 724 835">Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific</p> <p data-bbox="432 853 528 887">UNWTO</p> <p data-bbox="320 902 643 936">Tel: +34 91 567 93 12 (Direct)</p> <p data-bbox="325 954 635 987">Email: asiastudy@unwto.org</p>	<p data-bbox="962 752 1209 786">Ms. Dilrukshi Hewage</p> <p data-bbox="799 801 1366 835">Assistant Director, Research and International Affairs</p> <p data-bbox="1046 853 1126 887">SLTDA</p> <p data-bbox="831 902 1342 936">Tel: +94 11 24 400 09 / +94 11 24 370 55/59/60</p> <p data-bbox="1046 954 1126 987">Ext:151</p> <p data-bbox="954 1005 1219 1039">Fax: 00 94 11 23 279 99</p> <p data-bbox="911 1057 1262 1090">Email: dilrukshin@srilanka.travel</p>