

Sigiriya & Dambulla

One day tour

ITINERARY



SIGIRIYA

SIGIRIYA ROCK FORTRESS

After pickup from Colombo, you will proceed to Sigiriya is a historic rock stronghold in the northern Matale District of Sri Lanka's Central Province, near the town of Dambulla. It is a historical and archaeological site that is dominated by a gigantic granite rock column. According to the ancient Sri Lankan chronicle the Cavasa, this location was once a huge forest, but due to storms and landslides, it was transformed into a hill and chosen by King Kashyapa (AD 477-495) as his new capital.



SIGIRIYA MUSEUM

You will then visit the museum in Sigiriya which is well known to be the most attractive in South Asia, managed by the Central Cultural Fund. Sigiriya Museum represents its cultural, technological and archaeological value. Three decades of archaeological research on Sigiriya, the famous UNESCO world heritage site, can be explored at the Sigiriya Museum. The design of the museum was inspired by the sophisticated design of Sigiriya itself.



DAMBULLA CAVE TEMPLE

On the second day, you will visit Dambulla cave temple, also known as the Golden Temple of Dambulla which is a World Heritage Site. Dambulla is the largest and best-preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka. The rock towers 160 m over the surrounding plains. There are more than 80 documented caves in the surrounding area. Major attractions are spread over five caves, which contain statues and paintings. These paintings and statues are related to Gautama Buddha and his life. There are a total of 153 Buddha statues, three statues of Sri Lankan kings and four statues of gods and goddesses.



MINNERIYA NATIONAL PARK

Wildlife & Attractions

- Elephants - Home to 200-300 wild elephants, especially during the dry season.
- Leopards & Sloth Bears - Occasionally spotted.
- Birdlife - Over 160 bird species, including eagles, storks, and kingfishers.
- Other Animals - Deer, crocodiles, monkeys, and water buffalo.

Best Time to Visit

- July to October - Peak season for the elephant gathering at the reservoir.
- Afternoon Safaris (2:30 - 5:30 PM) offer the best elephant sightings.

Safari Experience

- Duration: 3-4 hours by 4x4 Jeep.
- Entry Fee: ~\$30 per person + Jeep rental (\$40-\$50 per vehicle).
- Starting Points: Sigiriya, Habarana, or Dambulla.