



INSTANT EXPERT

a travel professional's guide to Sri Lanka

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SRI LANKA

There is travel and there is Abercrombie & Kent.

Sri Lanka, historically known as "Ceylon", is called the pearl of the Indian Ocean by everyone who visits and for good reason; it truly is a paradise island with a diverse mix of culture, white sand beaches and wildlife only second to Africa. The Sri Lanka office opened in 2013 and we are delighted to welcome this stunning country into the A&K fold.

The island covers an area of 25,000 sq. miles and boasts a heritage and history stretching back 2,500 years. It is home to seven world heritage sites, miles of golden sandy beaches, wildlife and game parks, mountainous tea plantations and rich cultural and heritage sites that show the country's ancient engineering and architecture in all its glory.

Aside from the above, a main reason for visiting Sri Lanka is the people. The country is known for its warm, smiling, friendly hospitality where every visitor is welcomed with the traditional "Ayubowan" greeting.

We look forward to welcoming your clients to Sri Lanka and are sure that they will love it as much as we do.

Geoffrey Kent
Founder, Chairman & CEO



Abercrombie & Kent in Sri Lanka

The latest addition to Abercrombie & Kent's worldwide network of DMCs, Sri Lanka was established in 2013 in order to handle the growing number of requests to this increasingly popular country.

Abercrombie and Kent Sri Lanka is the 51st DMC to join the group with the firm endorsement of its world renowned service. The team, based in Colombo, consists of over 25 professionals whose experience goes back 35 years in Destination Management services. Not only are they multilingual, but also committed to be on call 24/7 to ensure operations run smoothly on the ground. We also have close relationships with local suppliers and hotels, allowing for a greater flexibility, the best rates and added value for your clients.

Our team is further strengthened by highly professional tour guides, lecturers and naturalists who take clients through the country's fascinating attractions in detail while sharing their knowledge and experience in a friendly yet professional manner.

We have a fleet of passenger vehicles, with cars ranging from Mercedes and BMW to Hyundai, and the ability to charter private planes. Aside from conventional tour handling we can also arrange meetings, incentives, special events and shore excursions for passenger cruise lines.

A&K Sri Lanka has built up an impressive array of Insider Access opportunities, giving clients a deeper insight into this fascinating country. We can open doors that others can't, and give our clients access to people and places that are usually out of bounds for the regular tourist.

The untold stories of Colombo and Galle: Embark on walking tours in the company of famous historians to discover the "real" Colombo and Galle cities.



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PROFESSIONALISM IN CONFERENCE, INCENTIVES & SPECIAL EVENTS

CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT

Sri Lanka's wealth of history, culture and nature enables us to conduct Incentives, Conferences or Special Events to the desired effect. Our expertise over the years has given us the confidence in handling groups of varying calibre and size, from 50 to even 200 handled with the same amount of attention to detail. Along with some world-class conference halls, Colombo also offers an interesting and varied social scene, as there are many nightclubs, pubs, casinos, restaurants, musical events for the delegates to enjoy after a long day at a conference. Our services also include manning help

desks, personalized souvenirs, spouse programmes and optional excursions to maximize the leisure time available.

INCENTIVE MANAGEMENT

We are in a position to guide you on some imaginative incentive ideas from luxurious pampering to cultural interaction or adventure and team building activities. Our exotic theme nights are well thought out from ancient martial arts, fisherman's nights on the beach, vintage train rides, torchlit paddy fields or simply re-creating Las Vegas in Colombo.

EVENT MANAGEMENT

We blend in with our customers' thoughts and vision to plan the dream event. From event coordinators to wedding planners, we will enhance your concept with a superb, creative supply team.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

World renowned luxury cruise liners continue to think of Sri Lanka as an important port of call. We can provide skillful ground handling and an interesting array of shore excursions.

FESTIVALS IN SRI LANKA

Festival	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Navam Perahera		Colombo										
Thaipongal Festival	Island wide											
Sinhala & Tamil New year celebration				Island Wide								
Nuwara Eliya Season				Nuwara Eliya								
Vesak Festival				Island wide								
Poson Festival						Island wide						
Kataragama Perahera								Kataragama				
Devundara Perahera								Dondra				
Kandy -Esala Perahera								Kandy				
'Vel' Festival								Colombo				
Madu & St Anns Feast								Jaffna & Puttalam				
Munneswaram Festival								Chilaw				
Nallur Festival								Jaffna				
National Festivals of Kites										Colombo		
Deepavali Festival											Island wide	
Christmas												Island wide

**Due to auspicious timings, some sacred festivals may even take place the preceding/following month from the above mentioned.

& We create private, interactive sessions with veteran tea planters on the island who will regale guests with tales of James Taylor, the British citizen who introduced tea plantation in Sri Lanka.
Join a renowned architect who will teach you all about Sri Lankan architecture and its history.

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SRI LANKA - 'THE WONDER OF ASIA'

A landmark destination on the ancient Spice Trail, Sri Lanka is full of exciting surprises. This tropical Island is famous for its diverse landscape, from the blue coastal belt to green mountains within just hours of each other, and the island's lush greenery ranging from coconut palm groves to paddy fields and from green mountains to tea plantations, embellished by over 200 natural waterfalls. It is blessed with a rich culture and recorded civilization that spans as far back as 380 BC. The advent of Buddhism during the 3rd Century BC brought the rich aspect of ancient civilizations to Sri Lanka which in turn helped to form the great Kingdoms with their magnificent Dagobas (relic chambers) - one taller than the third Pyramid of Giza and another the largest stupa in the whole Buddhist world - colossal monuments, pleasure gardens, art, and architecture.

LURE OF SPICES & GEMS

Spices, blue sapphires and elephants have been synonymous with Sri Lanka, otherwise known as "Ceylon", for centuries as the unique location of the island in the Indian Ocean once served as a hub for trading. The aromatic cinnamon (the best in the world), cardamom, nutmeg and pepper were plentiful and the natural sparkle of gems with their multitude of hues iconic to their colourful land. The country lured traders and colonizers from the west which resulted in the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British governing the Island for over 150 years from the 16th Century. This resulted in the island being called the "Pearl of the Indian Ocean".

COLOMBO - THE COMMERCIAL HUB

The present commercial capital is an interesting blend of varying influences and is over 600 years old. Almost one million out of the entire 20 million

strong population of Sri Lanka resides in Colombo, and the country prides itself on having one of the highest literacy rates in Asia. The people of Sri Lanka are of diverse races and faiths, with the majority being Sinhalese - mainly Buddhists who harmonise with the Tamils, Muslims, Burghers and other ethnic groups. Although well on the road to modernisation, the country and its people still cherish their traditional values and take pride in their rich culture, an aspect that continues to attract visitors.

Experience a private and spiritual moment with Buddhist, Hindu, Christian or Muslim spiritual leaders.



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SRI LANKA AS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE DESTINATION

The documented history of Sri Lanka dates back to the 3rd Century BC when the island was amongst the most advanced and developed nations of the pre-modern world and the seat of an important historical civilization. The ruined cities such as Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Sigiriya record a grandeur unsurpassed from 3rd Century BC to 12th Century AD. The gentle sway of Buddhism was introduced in 247 Century BC which transformed the Indo Aryan Sinhalese, and has produced magnificent feats of architecture and construction.

SIGIRIYA ROCK FORTRESS

The rock fortress built by King Kassapa I in the 5th Century AD was a royal citadel for more than 18 years. It is a complex of buildings: part royal palace and part self-contained town with the famous Lion Gate, water gardens, boulder gardens, walls and moats on par with the best in the ancient world. In a sheltered pocket approached by a spiral stairway are the famous Sigiriya frescoes, some of the earliest surviving pictures in Sri Lanka. The summit of the rock boulder, which is almost two and a half acres, was once the fortified palace.

DAMBULLA ROCK CAVE TEMPLE

Dating back to the 1st Century BC, Dambulla is a vast rock temple complex consisting of five main caves. The rock ceiling is one large sweep of colourful paintings, the largest collection of paintings in Sri Lanka within a cave temple. The temple also boasts the largest number of Buddha statues found in a single place.

ANURADHAPURA - THE SACRED CITY

Sri Lanka's first capital was founded in the 5th Century BC according to the ancient Sinhalese Chronicle 'Mahavamsa'. The unique feature of Buddhism in Sri Lanka are the Stupas (Dagoba) and the ancient city of Anuradhapura has preserved many of them. The Abhayagiri Stupa (1st Century BC) and the Jethavana Stupa (3rd Century AD) were taller than the 3rd Pyramid of Giza, whereas the strikingly white Ruwanwelisaya Stupa from 2nd Century BC is by far the most beautiful. The 'Samadhi' Buddha statue (4th Century AD) of the Buddha in a meditative pose is a masterpiece. The 'Sri Maha Bodhi' grown from a sapling of the Bo tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment is considered the oldest documented tree in the world.

POLONNARUWA - THE MEDIEVAL CAPITAL

Polonnaruwa rose to prominence between the 11th and 12th Centuries. The "Gal Vihare" complex is comprised of four colossal statues of the Buddha cut in stone reflecting peace, serenity and strength; the Parakrama Samudra, or sea of Parakrama, is one of the largest manmade lakes in the world; and the Tivanka Pilimage (image house) has some of the best preserved wall paintings of the era. Lankathilake Temple and Rankot Vihara are also worthy of mention

GALLE - THE WALLED CITY

Believed to be "Tarshis" of the Bible, Galle is a natural harbour and was once a famous port in

days gone by. The Dutch built the impressive 17th Century Galle Fort which still exists today and contains a large number of public administrations, trade establishments, a light house, a clock tower and the oldest Protestant church in Sri Lanka. Today the city is famous for its atmospheric streets, plush boutique hotels and stylish stores.

KANDY - THE LAST CITADEL

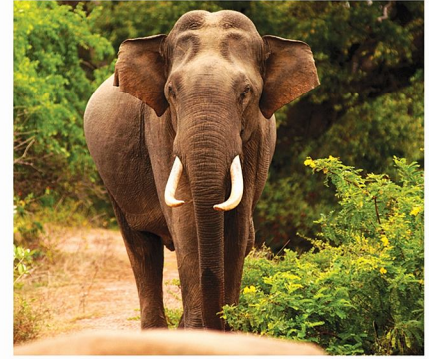
Kandy remained preserved as the last seat of the Sinhalese Kings until 1815, and today is a repository of Sri Lankan arts & crafts. What brings sanctity to Kandy is the golden roofed Dalada Maligawa, otherwise known as the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha. Other highlights include the Royal Palace complex, Audience Hall, the 'Devalas' or Hindu Shrines, Kandy Lake, Udawattakele forest reserve and the Royal ponds. Lankathilake, Embekka and Gadaladeniya temples (14 AD) embody Kandyan architecture, wood carving and pictorial art, and the Royal Botanic Gardens of Peradeniya (14 AD) is easily one of the best of its kind.

SINHARAJA RAIN FOREST RESERVE

Sinharaja is the largest rain forest reserve in Sri Lanka covering 24,215 acres. More than half of the trees are endemic and rare, and out of a total of 830 indigenous flowering plants found in the Island, Sinharaja is home to over 500 species. It is also home to more than half of Sri Lanka's endemic species of mammals, birds and butterflies.

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THE BIG 5 & WILD LIFE IN SRI LANKA

According to wildlife experts both local and foreign, Sri Lanka is the best place for Big Game Safaris outside Africa. Although difficult to imagine, it is possible to see and photograph the elephant, leopard, sloth bear, sperm whale and blue whale within a two week safari on this small island. Described as "one of Asia's top wild life destinations", Sri Lanka boasts several National Parks that promise fantastic encounters with wildlife. Some of the well known parks are the Ruhuna or Yala, Udawalawe, Minneriya, Bundala, Wilpattu and Horton Plain National Parks. As well as these, though less frequented, the Wasgomuwa, Galoya, Maduru Oya and Kumana National Parks are also protected sanctuaries for wildlife in Sri Lanka.

WHALES, DOLPHINS & SEA TURTLES

The sea off Mirissa, Dondra, Trincomalee and Kalpitiya are important areas for whale and dolphin watching. Dondra, Mirissa and Trincomalee are famous for their sightings of blue whales and sperm whales and spinner dolphins. Kalpitiya, however, is the most well known

for its spinner dolphins. Five out of eight species of the remaining sea turtles in the world frequent the sandy beaches of Sri Lanka's South Western coastal areas such as Induruwa, Kosagoda and Rekawa.

WILPATTU NATIONAL PARK

The largest and the oldest game park in Sri Lanka is Wilpattu National Park, located in the northwest of the country. The park derived its name from the unique topographical feature of lakes, which attract thousands of water birds. It is also the domain of the elusive leopard, sloth bear, herds of spotted deer and wild buffaloes..

YALA NATIONAL PARK

The Yala National Park has one of the richest ecosystems on the island. The park has gained world recognition as a nature reserve that protects one of the highest densities of leopards in the world with excellent visibility throughout the year. The park is also famous for elephant, sloth bear, crocodiles and host of migratory birds.

MINNERIYA NATIONAL PARK

The park is located in the north central district where every year, from August to October, "The Gathering" takes place. This is an incredible wildlife spectacle whereby 300 elephants are seen making their way to the Minneriya tank on a daily basis as the ancient tank slowly dries up giving way to fresh grass and shoots - a magnificent feast.

BUNDALA NATIONAL PARK

Declared as a Ramsar site, the park is also a bird sanctuary where over 167 species of birds have been sighted including the Greater Flamingo (November/ December).

UDAWALAWE NATIONAL PARK

Udawalawe National Park is most popular for seeing its elephant population in their natural habitat, who can even be observed during the day. In addition, 39 species of mammals and 183 species of birds have been recorded.

BIG 5 CHART	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Leopards in Yala	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Leopards in Wilpattu	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Blu whales off the west coast	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Blu whales off the east coast	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Blu whales off the South coast	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Dolphins off the West Coast	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Dolphins off the east Coast	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Dolphins off the South Coast	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Elephants at Yala	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Elephants at Udawalawe	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Elephants gathering in Minneriya	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Bird Migration	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Endemic Birds	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Turtle nesting in Rekawa	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Sloth Bear season in Yala	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

■ Excellent Visibility ■ Fair Visibility ■ Off Season

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SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

A HERITAGE UNSURPASSED

This tour takes you on a journey from Sri Lanka's ruined cities to tea trails and tropical beaches in the southwestern coastal belt.

Day 1	Negombo	Day 6	Dickoya
Day 2	Sigiriya	Day 7	Dickoya
Day 3	Sigiriya	Day 8	Beach
Day 4	Kandy	Day 9	Beach
Day 5	Kandy	Day 10	Beach

THE ESSENCE OF SRI LANKA

From the grandeur of the ancient cities to the mystique of the central highlands of Sri Lanka, this tour takes in the highlights of the country, ending with relaxation on the beach.

Day 1	Sigiriya	Day 7	Ella
Day 2	Sigiriya	Day 8	Yala - Campsite
Day 3	Sigiriya	Day 9	Yala - Campsite
Day 4	Kandy	Day 10	Beach
Day 5	Kandy	Day 11	Beach
Day 6	Ella	Day 12	Beach

THE EXOTIC WILDERNESS

Explore the largest rain forest reserve in Sri Lanka followed by the ultimate camping experience in the wilderness and the most exciting game drives that the Island has to offer.

Day 1	Negombo	Day 6	Yala
Day 2	Sinharajah	Day 7	Beach
Day 3	Sinharajah	Day 8	Beach
Day 4	Udawalawe	Day 9	Beach
Day 5	Yala		

THE BOUTIQUE CEYLON TOUR

This tour provides the opportunity to experience the unique boutique properties and indulge in their luxurious comforts. Each property has its own unique style and ambience.

Day 1	Negombo	Day 8	Dickoya
Day 2	Anuradhapura	Day 9	Galle
Day 3	Anuradhapura	Day 10	Galle
Day 4	Anuradhapura	Day 11	Beach
Day 5	Kandy	Day 12	Beach
Day 6	Kandy	Day 13	Beach
Day 7	Dikoya		

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