

## **Sri Lanka – Island of Serendipity**

*Pilgrimage with Dharmacharya Shantum Seth: January 5 to January 17, 2026*

### **Sri Lanka – Island of Serendipity: Pilgrimage led by Dharmacharya Shantum**

*Colombo, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Dambulla, Sigiriya, Aluvihara, Kandy and Galle* (13 days, beginning and ending in Colombo) January 5, 2026 to January 17, 2026 – US\$ 7500 (Single room supplement US\$ 2500)

**Sri Lanka Extension** January 17 to January 19, 2026 (3-days): US\$ 1500\* (\$520 single room supplement\*\*)

### **PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION INFORMATION & TRAVEL FACTS**

**The cost for the 13-Day Island of Serendipity journey:** *Sri Lanka Pilgrimage: Experience the ancient and living Buddhist culture in Colombo, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Dambulla, Sigiriya, Aluvihara, Kandy and Galle* (beginning and ending in Colombo) January 5 to January 17, 2026 – US\$ 7500 (based on twin-sharing hotel rooms)

**Travel Insurance:** It is recommended that you take out travel insurance for your journey. The range of coverage can vary significantly from policy to policy, and travelers are encouraged to speak with a travel agency to identify a policy that suits their needs. Things to consider are travel delays, trip cancellation or interruption, medical coverage, and baggage loss or delay. Before purchasing insurance, you may wish to check with your health insurance carrier to see if your policy includes medical care overseas. Please note that many insurance carriers require that insurance be purchased at the time a deposit or final payment is made; check with your carrier for details.

### **ARRIVAL**

Arrival and departure are to and from Colombo, Sri Lanka. Participants are responsible for making their own round-trip flight arrangements from their point of origin to Colombo, Sri Lanka and back. **For international flights, tickets should be booked as early as possible.** You may check with us before you confirm your flight bookings (we could also help you book your international flights).

We will arrange a **complimentary airport transfer** on arrival.

The pilgrimage will begin at 12:00pm (noon) on 5th January, 2026.

### **DEPARTURE**

We will arrange a **complimentary airport transfer** for your departure on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

### **EXTRA NIGHTS**

For those wishing an extra day or two to recover from air travel before the pilgrimage begins, or who wish to stay longer after the pilgrimage ends, we would be happy to arrange extra nights and extensions. Please make your requests well in advance, as January is a peak season for visitors.

### **SINGLE ROOM**

Single rooms are available and there is a single room supplement.

For single travelers who do NOT want to opt for a single room, we will try and room them with someone suitable. A forced single room supplement (in case we are not able to room you with anyone else) will be 50% of the single supplement).

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR THIS TRIP

You will need a valid passport and visa for Sri Lanka. You should apply for an E-Visa (ETA) to visit Sri Lanka for up to 30 days by paying US\$40 for nationals of most countries. Please visit <http://www.eta.gov.lk/slvisa/>

**Please Note:** Visas are available on arrival but costs US\$5 extra.

The Sri Lankan visa is valid for 90 days upon approval. It is a double-entry visa where you can enter the country twice with the same visa. You can stay for up to 30 days at each entry. Further extension is possible, but the fee varies according to nationality.

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Each participant must provide the following details: Name, gender, date of birth, passport number, date of issue of passport, date of expiry of passport, place of issue of passport, and emergency contact information.

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE, ACCEPTANCE OF CREDIT CARDS & TIPPING

The local currency is the Sri Lankan Rupee, divided into 100 cents (you rarely come across cents today). Currency notes are Rs.5000, Rs.2000, Rs.1000, Rs.500, Rs.100, Rs.50, Rs.20 and Rs.10. Beware of mistaking the Rs.500 note for the somewhat similar Rs100 one. To check whether notes are genuine when not given at a bank, look for a lion watermark. Coins, should you have received them, will be in denominations up to Rs.10.

Banks are open from 0900 hrs to 1300 hours Monday to Friday. Some city banks close at 1500 hrs, while some are open on Saturday mornings. It is easy to withdraw money across the island at ATMs using international credit cards or debit cards. Most hotels, restaurants and shopping centers accept credit cards. Some establishments may try to add a surcharge, which is illegal.

Sri Lanka Standard Time is five and a half hours ahead of GMT. (Allowance should be made for summer-time changes in Europe.)

Electricity: 230-240 volts, 50 cycles AC.

Travelers often have questions about **tipping**. In the last few years, we have developed a system where a kitty is collected at the beginning, and the tips are distributed from it (contributing is optional). Thus far, this has worked well. We estimate tips come to about US\$ 200 per person for the whole trip.

We suggest that you pick up a **local SIM card** for your mobile phone on your arrival in Sri Lanka if you want connectivity at a low cost.

## **WEATHER & CLOTHING NEEDS**

It is pleasant weather in Sri Lanka in January, with day temperatures ranging from 18°C to 29°C. ( 64 F to 84F) The evenings are cooler and if you take the Nuwara Eliya extension, there the temperatures are lower with temperatures going down to 10°C (50F). There is a small possibility of rain so please come equipped with windcheater, umbrella and warm clothes. We would also recommend you to carry ample protection from the sun in the form of a sunscreen lotion, sunglasses and hat/cap for the day.

There is no need to bring formal clothing. However, please bring one set of modest white clothing for the visit to the Temple of the tooth.

Cotton clothes are useful at any time of the year but you will need light woolens for the hills and waterproof clothing or an umbrella. Modest dress for men and women is advisable especially off the beach and when visiting religious sites. Please bring comfortable sneakers or sandals (which you can wear with socks if it gets cold). We will do some trekking (optional). We also visit a number of temples where you will need to remove your shoes, so it is helpful to bring a pair of socks (the airline slip-ons are very convenient). It is always useful to have a hat or cap to protect you from the sun. Laundry facilities are available at all the places we stay, and laundry is usually returned within 24 hours.

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEMPLES:**

**Clothing:** Temples and Cultural Sites are considered sacred. Visitors are not allowed to wear the following when entering. See through clothes, Sleeveless shirts, Sportswear, Tights/ Leggings, Shorts, Short Skirts, Three-quarter length trousers and Swimwear/Beachwear

While taking **photographs** in cultural sites, please refrain from standing in front of the historical icons, showing your back to the religious statues, monuments, etc or posing in any other inappropriate manner (or dressed inappropriately) which is considered disrespectful to the Sri Lankan culture & its many religions. These guidelines are strictly enforced in Sri Lanka.

## **HEALTH CONCERNS**

We stay in excellent hotels that are aesthetic, clean, safe, and the food in the places we stay will be clean, fresh and prepared to suit a delicate digestive system. You will be provided bottled mineral water for drinking. If you are coming from Africa or some parts of Latin America, a certificate of yellow fever inoculation is required by the Sri Lanka authorities. There is no other medical restriction upon your entry into Sri Lanka. We recommend a Typhoid shot and a Tetanus shot. If you prefer to be more careful, then please speak to your physician.

We do carry a first-aid kit with us, but many people prefer to bring their own supply of medicines. If you have any special diet needs or medical needs, please do let us know.

**TRAVEL SERVICES** We provide all the transport services during the pilgrimage, including having you met on arrival in Colombo. There is no extra charge for meeting people at the airport.

## **DISCLAIMER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

Seth Consultants Pvt. Ltd. while undertaking tours, transportation, hotel accommodation and other services only act on the clear understanding that they shall not be in any way responsible or liable for any accident, damage, loss, delay or inconvenience caused in connection with travel and other facilities arranged by the company, their employees or agents. All bookings are accepted and executed with utmost care, yet no responsibility is taken for any change or deviation on account of factors beyond their control.

By making a deposit for the tour, participants acknowledge that they have read and understood this document in its entirety, and have consented to all conditions herein, including the Disclaimer and Release of Liability. For participants under age 18, their parent or legal guardian shall sign on their behalf and the same Disclaimer and Release shall apply.