

Highlights of the Pekoe Trail, Sri Lanka *New*

Walk the best sections of the new long-distance Pekoe Trail that winds through enchanting hill country and perfectly manicured tea estates.



Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

Holiday overview

Style	Walking
Accommodation	Hotels, Lodge, Bungalow
Grade	Moderate / Vigorous
Duration	16 days from London to London
Trekking / Walking days	Walks on: 10 days
Min/Max group size	4 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 4
Trip Leader	Local Leader Sri Lanka
Land only	Joining in Colombo, Sri Lanka
Max altitude	2,170m/7,119ft, Horton Plains, Day 12

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available



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Departures

Group departures

2024 Dates:

Sat 27 Jan - Sun 11 Feb

Sat 30 Nov - Sun 15 Dec

Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday. If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

Your guide



The trip will be led by an experienced English-speaking local guide, selected on the basis of their experience, levels of spoken English and helpfulness. Like the culture from which they come they are all very welcoming and have a love of showing you their country.

Pictured here is one of our Pekoe Trail guides, Sujan Weerakoon. Sujan has been leading walking and tour groups in Sri Lanka for more than 25 years. He holds a Diploma in Archaeology and Cultural tourism and is passionate about the natural environment in his home country.

Your trip highlights

- Follow the most scenic sections Sri Lanka's new long-distance trail in the verdant highlands
- Stay overnight in characterful accommodation with panoramic views
- Enjoy the extensive vistas from Sri Lanka's most celebrated viewpoint at Ella Gap
- Walk to 'World's End' and discover the rich bio-diversity of Horton Plains National Park
- Learn how tea is traditionally made and sample the delicious local cuisine
- Explore the cultural sights and lively streets of Kandy

At a glance itinerary

Days 1-2	Fly to Colombo. Transfer to Kandy.
Day 3	Sightseeing and time at leisure in Kandy.
Day 4	Walk Stage 1 of the Pekoe Trail from Hanthana to Galaha. Continue to Deltota for the first part of Stage 2.
Day 5	Continue Stage 2 walking to Loolecondera and to summit of Kondagala Peak.
Day 6	Follow Stage 3 of the Pekoe Trail to Thawalamthena.
Day 7	Walk the Upper Ramboda Falls.
Day 8	Walk Stage 7 from Kotagala to Norwood via Dickoya.
Days 9-10	Walk from Norwood to Bogawanthalawa and on to Dayagama - Stages 8 and 9.
Day 11	Visit Pedro tea estate. Time at leisure.
Day 12	Walk to World's End in Horton Plains National Park. Continue on Stage 11 of the Pekoe Trail to Udaeriya.
Day 13	Walk Stage 12 to Haputale. Drive to Makulella.
Day 14	Walk Stage 15 from Makulella to Ella. Continue to Nine Arches Railway Bridge - part of Stage 16.
Days 15-16	Drive to Colombo. Fly to London.

Trip summary

Sri Lanka is a small island with an astonishing variety of scenery, flora and fauna and a rich cultural heritage. This walking holiday offers a chance to explore the atmospheric hill country in the heart of the island, utilising local footpaths and trails, and getting thoroughly off-the-beaten-track following the most scenic sections of the recently developed Pekoe Walking Trail.

The Pekoe Trail was designed by avid adventurer Miguel Cunat who is passionate about trekking in Sri Lanka's highlands. With the backing of the EU, Miguel has created 22 individual stages to form a single 300km/186mile long-distance walking path. The route explores diverse eco-systems, delves into Sri Lanka's history and culture, and is designed to encourage more sustainable travel and help bring economic opportunity to remote rural communities.

This holiday features the best stages of the trail passing through immaculate tea plantations, dense forests, open plains and expansive grasslands - all set against mesmerising mountain backdrops. You'll explore well away from the beaten track discovering old tea estates, historic hill-towns and remote villages where you're sure to meet curious locals. Each night you'll stay in handpicked accommodation in a variety of small hotels, lodges and original bungalows, all chosen for their charm and location.

The trip starts in the hustle and bustle of Kandy, with a sightseeing tour and time to relax before the action begins at nearby Hanthana. Each walking day you'll cover between 8 and 11 miles at a steady pace with plenty of time to rest, take photos and enjoy the beautiful scenery. You'll also visit the historic tea factory in San Pedro, walk to waterfalls, and have the chance to explore Nuwara Eliya, also known as 'Little England' and the centre of the tea industry. The trail takes you to Horton Plains National Park, renowned for its bio-diversity and stunning scenery, before finally reaching Ella with its English-village charm and world famous viewpoint at Ella Rock. As you reach journey's end you will no doubt enjoy a celebratory cup of finest Pekoe tea, to mark your achievement.

Your trip itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Colombo

Depart London by overnight flight for Colombo.

Overnight: In flight

Day 2: Arrive Colombo. Group transfer to Kandy - 3-4 hours.

You will be met at the airport and driven to the bustling city of Kandy - Sri Lanka's second city and its cultural capital. Your accommodation takes you away from the vibrant, busy streets into the steep wooded hills that surround the city. It's a great vantage point to look down from onto Kandy and its central lake. You'll have the rest of the day to relax before your adventure begins.

Overnight: Hotel Thilanka or Similar, Kandy (Meals: D)

Day 3: Sightseeing in Kandy. Afternoon at leisure.

This morning you will take a tour of Kandy's key sights, including a visit to the much revered Buddhist shrine, The Temple of the Tooth. Said to have been brought to Sri Lanka over 2,000 years ago in the hair of a Princess, the tooth is the island's most important Buddhist relic housed in a temple dating from 1687. Situated on the lakeside, the temple was once part of the Royal Palace complex, of which significant sections still survive but are nowadays mainly used to house various museums.



Your tour will include a walk around the lake which was created in 1807 and is now one of Kandy's defining landmarks. There are several buildings of note dotted around the lakeside such as the Malwatta Monastery and the colonial-style Queen's Hotel. From the lake you may visit Kandy's bustling Central Market, see some of the city's handicraft stores or make the short journey out of the centre to the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens - a beautiful and tranquil contrast to the busy city streets.

Following your sightseeing you will have a chance to explore Kandy further on your own or relax at the hotel.

Overnight: Hotel Thilanka or Similar, Kandy (Meals: BLD)

Day 4: Walk Stage 1 from Hanthana to Galaha. Transfer through Galaha and walk Stage 2 to Deltota. Time walking: 6 hours, distance: 11 miles, total ascent: 569m, total descent: 368m.

This is the start of your Pekoe Trail trek and you begin at the Ceylon Tea Museum on the Hanthana Estate, just south of Kandy. If open it is worth visiting. From here you climb upwards through small tea estates to the ridge line and, as you reach the top, you are greeted with sublime views of Kandy and the valley below. To the right of you lies the Katusu Konda also known as the 'Lizard's Back', a steep narrow jagged mountain that looks akin to a lizard's spiny backbone. Today's walking is on a mixture of small tracks and paths, winding through villages where local children come to greet you. There are also fine views of the valleys below. You will stop along the way in one of these villages to enjoy some tasty homemade snacks and a welcome cup of tea. You will then continue on the trail, towards Galaha, until you meet the road head. From here you will be driven through Galaha to reach your second starting point of the day at the Deltota Estate.

Starting off from a Hindu temple you pass a large school, where the noise of the classroom can be heard, before entering the Deltota Estate. A steady climb takes you up through the estate and past a station where the leaves plucked by the tea workers are weighed. Soon after you stop at the house of a local family for lunch. This helps support the community, gives you chance to meet some Sri Lankans, and to gain a little understanding of their lives. After a traditional meal of curry and rice you continue on to the small, hill country town of Deltota where your first days walking on the Pekoe Trail ends.

You finish the day by being driven to your accommodation, a short distance from Deltota. Tomorrow you will resume walking from Deltota.

Overnight: Windloft Retreat or Similar, Kandy (Meals: BLD)

Day 5: Walk Stage 2 from Deltota to Loolecondera via Kondagala. Time walking: 7 hours, distance: 10 miles, total ascent: 395m, total descent: 319m.

The walk today starts with a steep ascent through dense forest before emerging into open land and some truly sublime views of the verdant, hilly landscape. You climb a series of switchbacks and at each turn there is another glimpse down the valley. This path sees little foot traffic and therefore areas can be overgrown. Continuing you reach the top of the ridge and contour along the valley's edge to the pristine Loolecondera Estate.

Loolecondera was the first commercial tea plantation in Sri Lanka established in 1867 by a young Scotsman James Taylor who had studied the basics of tea growing in India and went on to introduce the large-scale tea production that we know today. He spent the rest of his life here and the remains of his cottage can still be seen. You will stop at Taylor's seat, a large granite seat, where it is said that Taylor sat and planned the future of Loolecondera whilst gazing out over the valley. From this point, on a clear day, you can see Victoria Reservoir and the Knuckles Mountain Range amongst many other things.

After time to savour the views, you continue steeply up for around 30-40 minutes reach the summit of Kondagala mountain and further far-reaching vistas. You then descend back to Loolecondera where you will be given a cup of tea made with leaves from the estate before being transferred back to your accommodation in Deltota.

Overnight: Windloft Retreat or Similar, Kandy (Meals: BLD)

Day 6: Walk Loolecondera to Thawalamthena - Stage 3. Time walking: 6½ hours, distance: 11.32 miles, total ascent: 594m, total descent: 767m.

After a hearty breakfast you will drive to the start of the third stage of the Pekoe Trail back at Loolecondera. There is a small store at the start of the walk should you wish to buy any treats for the day. You begin with a steady ascent towards the Loolecondera Estate Bungalow and shortly afterwards pass a very colourful Hindu Kovil - a distinctive Tamil style of Hindu shrine. From here you start zig zagging through beautiful green-hued tea plantation scenery, and then through cool trees. As you emerge out of the forest the path widens and you begin to walk on the old Dimbula Road, previously used by horses and bullock carts to connect Kandy to the many tea planting valleys. You will pass through the historic Stellenberg Estate and through small tea plantation villages where you are warmly welcomed by the curious villagers. You end the day heading downhill for around 500m before you meet the road and your driver at Thawalamthena to transfer to your hotel a short drive away.



Overnight: Oak Ray Tea Bush or Similar, Ramboda (Meals: BLD)

Day 7: Ramboda Falls walk - 4km. Transfer to Kotagala - 40km drive.

You'll be taking a little detour away from the Pekoe Trail this morning to enjoy a walk to the waterfall that you could see from the Tea Bush hotel.

Ramboda Falls is Sri Lanka's 11th highest waterfall at 109m, and it is divided into three sections: Lower Ramboda, Ramboda, and Upper Ramboda Falls. The starting point of your walk is a bridge that spans the Ramboda Oya, conveniently located just after the Ramboda tunnel. You'll see the middle falls near the tunnel as well; a popular bathing spot for visitors. The path to the Upper Falls is well-paved for the most part and about three-quarters of it is stepped, although not too steep.

The views of the Upper Falls at the end of the trail are delightful and you'll be able to stop and rest to enjoy them. Returning down the path, you continue in your vehicle to your hotel near Kotagala.

Overnight: Hotel Argyle or Similar, Kotagala (Meals: BLD)

Day 8: Walk Stage 7 from Kotagala to Norwood. Walking time: 6 hours, distance: 10 miles, total ascent: 423m, total descent: 523m.

This morning you will be driven to the start of your walk in the colourful town of Kotagala. Walking through the town you will note the many brightly painted houses and buildings before branching off through the gates to the Drayton Tea Estate. Shortly after you pass by the old Kotagala tea processing factory. As you continue up the trail make sure you look back for some great views of Kotagala. Next you trek to Chryslers Farm Estate and, after a short stretch of tarmac, you cross the railway before heading up to towards Singamalai Lake, a lovely spot to take a break. From the lake you meander through the rolling hills of the tea plantations to Dickoya Village, passing the prestigious Dickoya and Maskeliya Cricket Club.

Climbing once more to the top of the valley, the path passes several Roman Catholic churches and tea plantation villages. Soon after the Castlereagh Reservoir comes into full view and you start to descend into the valley below and the town of Norwood. Here you meet your driver and transfer to your accommodation.

Overnight: Royal Majesty Bungalow or Tea Bungalow or Similar, Norwood (Meals: BLD)

Day 9: Walk Stage 8 from Norwood to Bogawanthalawa. Walking time: 6 hours, distance: 9.1 miles, total ascent: 582m, total descent: 358m.

A short drive takes you back to Norwood where you will start Stage 8 of the Pekoe Trail. You begin with a long but rewarding ascent through the Norwood Tea Estate, the trail weaving its way towards the ridgeline that divides the Bogawantalawa Valley and the Maskeliya Valley. Upon reaching the ridge you are greeted with (weather permitting) spectacular views of the Maskeliya Valley dominated by the distinctive cone of Adams Peak (Sri Pada) looming over Maussakelle Reservoir in the distance. A short walk further and you will leave the trail descending on quiet tracks before making your way down to Bogawanthalawa Village. En route you will pass the brilliant blue Mary's Church where Julia Margaret Cameron, a renowned portrait photographer of the 19th century, rests.



Overnight: Royal Majesty Bungalow or Tea Bungalow or Similar, Norwood (Meals: BLD)

Day 10: Walk from Bogawanthalawa to Dayagama - Stage 9. Walking time 6½ hours, distance: 11 miles, total ascent: 529m, total descent: 411m.

You return to the bustling village of Bogawanthalawa and continue on Stage 9 of the Pekoe Trail. Originally the Bogwanthalawa Valley, and many other regions of Sri Lanka, were known for their coffee but in 1869 the production of coffee came to an end due to the 'blight'. This epidemic forced the coffee producers to turn to tea as an alternative crop. The valley is now home to many well-known tea estates dotting the slopes of the green hills.

As you leave the village you will pass the Bogawanthalwa Tea Factory before reaching 'Jacob's Ladder', a short but steep path that zig-zags up to a pass. At first glance, Jacob's Ladder may look slightly daunting but with the help of your guide you will safely ascend before crossing over the pass to what seems another world. The change in scenery is dramatic with open lands similar to Horton Plains. This hidden valley is a place where locals come to camp and you may see them ascending Haritha Kanda - also known as the Green Mountain - in the distance. You will then pass through one of two dairy farms where your guide will obtain the permit needed to walk through this area. You continue along the farm track for some time, past vast open fields, before branching off into the woods. The forest track takes you to a small village before turning left and down to Dayagama where today's walk ends and you drive to Nuwara Eliya for your overnight stay.

Overnight: Hotel Black Pool or Similar, Nuwara Eliya (Meals: BLD)

Day 11: Visit Pedro Tea Estate. Rest of the day at leisure.

Today you will take a break from the trail and visit the Pedro Tea Estate and factory. This is one of the oldest in the country and is where the first of many tea bushes was planted by James Taylor in 1885. Here you will be shown the full process of tea production from start to finish. You will see how the freshly picked green leaves are withered, rolled, oxidised, dried, fired and sorted to become the small, black, loose leaves that we are so familiar with. It is a method that has remained little-changed and some of the machinery that is still used today dates back to the 19th century.

The rest of the day will be spent at leisure. You may wish to explore Nuwara Eliya, an English settlement considered the epi-centre of Sri Lanka's tea growing region. The town was founded by Samuel Baker in 1846 and grew throughout the 19th century as a popular resort, especially after the arrival of the railway. British influence can be seen in the architecture and famous golf course, and the town is often referred to as 'little England'. The modern town is still a focus for the tea industry as well as a tourist town for the local people.

Overnight: Hotel Black Pool or Similar, Nuwara Eliya (Meals: BLD)

Day 12: Walk in Horton Plains National Park. Complete Stage 11 of the Pekoe Trail to Udaweriya. Walking time on the trail: 5½ hours, distance: 8 miles, Total ascent: 45m, total ascent: 434m.

Before returning to the Pekoe Trail today, you will enjoy a circular walk that encompasses the main views and incredibly rich biodiversity of Horton Plains National Park - an area of mountain moorland and cloud forest. From the park visitor centre a broad track leads you onto the plains and via locations with evocative names such as 'Chimney Pool' or 'Leg of the Mutton Pool' to reach Baker's Falls. Although not especially high at 20m, Baker's Falls is a picture postcard spot where the rushing waters of the Belihul River plunge into a gorge filled with rhododendrons. You can view the falls first from an observation deck and then after a short climb down, from their base. Your next viewpoint will be the dramatically named World's End, where the plateau drops away in a vertical drop of some 1,000m/3,300ft to the plains below.



Following your walk in the Horton Plains National Park you will pick up the Pekoe Trail once more from the visitor centre. This is the highest point of the entire trail at 2,170m. As you make your way to Udaweriya a picnic lunch will be provided by local people.

Leaving the national park your path descends gently for a couple of kilometres before reaching the 'Devil's Staircase', the steepest descent on the trail. The entire staircase is 14km long but you will only be tackling the top section. The views are fantastic as you zig zag your way down to the small village of Udaweriya where your lodge for the night will be. The accommodation is basic, but what it may lack in modern facilities it is made up for in abundance with its beautiful location.

Overnight: Misty Mountain or Similar, Ohiya (Meals: BLD)

Day 13: Walk Stage 12 from Udaweriya to Haputale. Transfer to Makuella. Walking time: 5½ hours, distance: 8.12 miles.

This morning's breakfast will have the added benefit of a beautiful backdrop as you look south across hills and valleys to the plains. Much of the route today is slowly downhill through some very remote countryside on old, narrow tea trails, walking paths and even a section of rail tracks. You pass through both tropical forest and pine forest as well as a few small settlements, some of which are long abandoned, and you will no doubt attract the attention of the locals who aren't used to seeing many visitors here.

Along with the rail lines, an historical point of interest today is Adisham Hall (or Bungalow) which is in the Tangamale Nature Reserve, on the latter part of the trail. Named after a village in Kent it was built in 1931 by Sir Thomas Villiers, an English aristocrat and tea planter, who hosted many prominent people of the time. It changed ownership several times over the next few decades until it was donated to the Ampitiya Benedictine Monastery in the 1960s. It remains very well preserved with many of its original fittings and furnishings and you may be able to visit if open (payable locally).

From Adisham Hall the trail carries on down to a road and rail track before ending in Haputale. Your driver will meet you here and take you to your overnight accommodation in Makuella.

Overnight: Hideaway Trails or Hideaway or Similar, Ella (Meals: BLD)

Day 14: Walk from Makuella to Ella and on to Nine Arches Bridge - Stage 15 and part of 16. Walking time: 4½ hours, distance: 8½ miles, total ascent: 294m, total descent: 500m.

After a short transfer you will start today's walk through eucalyptus forest and tea bushes for a few kilometres, before you reach Ella Rock and its two viewpoints. The first point is a small deviation from the trail that opens up to some magnificent views of the valley below. Following this you make your way to the second viewpoint, again providing what can only be described as awe inspiring views of the valley. Once you've had time to grab those all-important photos you descend, steeply at first, towards Ella. As you draw closer to Ella the remainder of the walk is on rail tracks, although alternative routes may be suggested by your guide.



In Ella you will stop for lunch before continuing to the one Sri Lanka's must-see sights, the Nine Arches Railway Bridge. This aptly named viaduct, built in the 1920s, has an impressive span of 91 metres, and stands about 30 metres tall. It is both a feat of engineering and design with its graceful arches evenly distributing the weight of the passing trains despite any steel reinforcement. It is also in a very photogenic setting. Having spent time at the bridge you will retrace your footsteps before transferring to your accommodation.

Overnight: Morning Dew or Similar, Ella (Meals: BLD)

Day 15: Transfer to Colombo.

This morning you will bid a fond farewell to Ella and return to Colombo, where you will have a chance to relax in the hotel or head out to explore.

Overnight: Galle Face Regency or Similar, Colombo (Meals: BLD)

Day 16: Transfer to airport. Fly to London arriving the same day.

(Meals: B)

Our grading system

Highlights of the Pekoe Trail is graded as a Moderate/Vigorous walking holiday, as described below.

Moderate

Holidays in this grade typically involve 5 to 10 days of walking or trekking. They will often venture into more remote country and can cross mountain passes. Altitudes though are still relatively low, going no higher than around 4,300m/14,000ft. Accommodation can include simple hotels, tea houses, lodges and camping.

Vigorous

Typically these trips involve 8 to 14 days (occasionally more) walking or trekking in relatively remote landscapes. High passes up to 4,900m/16,000ft may be crossed (sometimes snow-covered) and there may also be glacier travel and peak ascents. Walking days can be between 5 and 8 hours with considerable ascents and descents. This grade also covers some European treks of shorter durations. Overnight stops on trek could be in tea houses, mountain huts or camping.

These holidays would suit enthusiastic hill/mountain walkers.

Trip altitude

Important - please be aware that this trip involves travel at altitude. Whilst all our itineraries are carefully designed to optimise acclimatisation to high altitudes, participants on this trip are likely to experience some symptoms of being at altitude. The Dossier pack we provide when you book your holiday includes comprehensive advice on safe travel at altitude. If you require further information or advice on travel at altitude prior to booking please contact the office to speak to an experienced member of our team. Alternatively we recommend www.medex.org.uk as a good source of information.

What the price includes

Mountain Kingdoms aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

What's included:

- ✓ Experienced walking guide
- ✓ All accommodation as specified
- ✓ All meals included from dinner on Day 2
- ✓ All transport and transfers by private vehicles
- ✓ Carbon offset with the Ecoan Tree Planting Project for clients taking our flight inclusive option
- ✓ Sightseeing where specified
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK & UK Departure Tax (flight inclusive only)
- ✓ Single, timed group airport transfers for international flights on arrival and departure
- ✓ A free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle

Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

What's not included:

- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Tips
- ✗ Visa fees

Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit [For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>](https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign).

Your accommodation

We will endeavour to secure the hotels named in the itinerary but if our first choice of hotel is not available we will book a suitable alternative of a similar standard.



Hotel Thilanka or Similar, Kandy

The Thilanka is nestled into the wooded hillside overlooking the city of Kandy. Rooms are spacious with modern facilities including mini fridges and coffee machines and all have balconies from where you can enjoy far reaching views across the lake and town of Kandy. The hotel has its own bar and restaurant as well as a fabulous infinity pool and terrace for some extra relaxation.



Windloft Retreat or Similar, Kandy

Simple but stylish the Windloft Retreat has been chosen for its stunning location, sitting high above the Deltota Valley and surrounded by mountains often cloaked in mist. This property has just nine cosy rooms with simple facilities and each has a balcony to make the most of the superb views. There is a small library and games room and the hotel has its own organic tea estate and vegetable garden which provides fresh organic produce for the kitchen.



Oak Ray Tea Bush or Similar, Ramboda

Situated between the Ramboda Falls and Kotmale Dam, the Tea Bush Hotel enjoys a scenic and tranquil location in the heart of Sri Lanka's Hill Country. The expansive glass walls, French windows and private balconies provide ample opportunity for savouring the views whilst the bright, modern rooms bring both comfort and style to a stay here. The hotel's bar and restaurant has inside and outdoor seating options looking across to the falls.



Hotel Argyle or Similar, Kotagala

A modern hotel set across 12 acres of land near Hatton, the Argyle offers a high standard of accommodation and the chance to relax after a day on the trails. The hotel reflects the heritage of the region and takes its inspiration from a Scottish tea planter, with all of its rooms and facilities aptly named. Rooms are large with luxurious modern facilities as well as outdoor seating areas. There are also landscaped gardens, a pool, spa, bar and restaurant serving international dishes.



Royal Majesty Bungalow or Tea Bungalow or Similar, Norwood

The Royal Majesty is an original colonial-era bungalow situated close to the town of Norwood in the tea-growing highlands of Sri Lanka. The hotel's heritage is reflected in its decor and furnishings. Rooms are simple with original fireplaces and free Wi-Fi. All have a balcony or patio for sitting out and enjoying the views. The hotel has its own restaurant and pretty gardens. Alternatively we may use the neighbouring Tea Bungalow. Built more recently it has a similar standard of facilities.



Hotel Black Pool or Similar, Nuwara Eliya

Hotel Black Pool is located in the heart of Nuwara Eliya. It is surrounded by vast tea estates, carefully tended vegetable plantations and beautiful mountainous terrain. All the rooms are decorated with traditional Sri Lankan designs. The hotel has 50 rooms, each with air-conditioning, a safe, and free Wi-Fi.



Misty Mountain or Similar, Ohiya

The Misty Mountain is a tranquil trekking lodge situated in Ohiya, close to Horton Plains, with far-ranging views. There are eight basic rooms, although each has its own private shower room and an outdoor terrace. Breakfast and a home-cooked dinner is served daily.



Hideaway Trails or Hideaway or Similar, Ella

A home away from home and set in a stunning location, this small guesthouse-style hotel offers a picture-perfect setting and a friendly welcome. Rooms are comfy with outdoor seating and gorgeous views. An alternative property in this area is the Hideaway Ella which offers a similar level of facilities.



Morning Dew or Similar, Ella

This boutique hotel is ideally situated for visiting the nearby Nine Arches Bridge and the tea estates of Ella. It has an eye-catching outdoor pool and modern, well-equipped rooms with large picture windows framing impressive vistas. Some rooms also have a private balcony or terrace. There is a restaurant on site as well as a garden and Wi-Fi throughout the property.



Galle Face Regency or Similar, Colombo

The Galle Face hotel is Sri Lanka's most historic hotel being built in 1864. It is situated on Colombo's seafront facing the Galle Face green. Rooms are comfortable and well-appointed. The hotel has a swimming pool and a spa.

Meal arrangements

All meals included.

Flight arrangements

Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

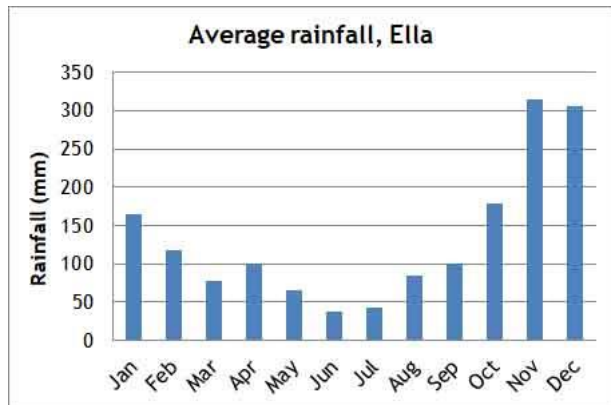
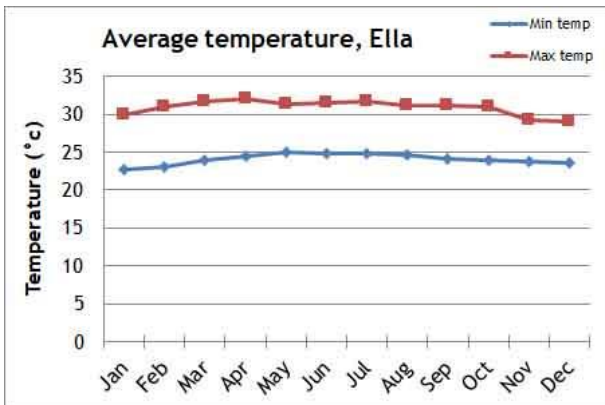
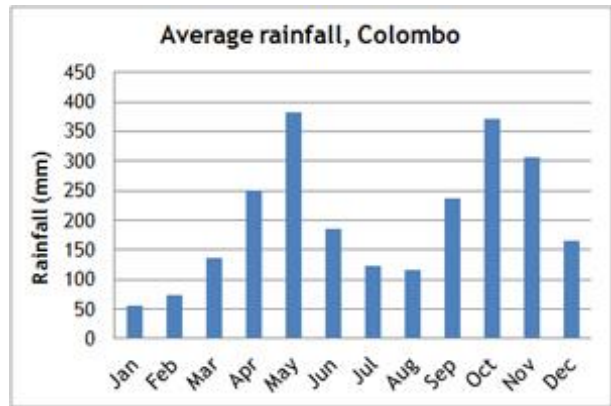
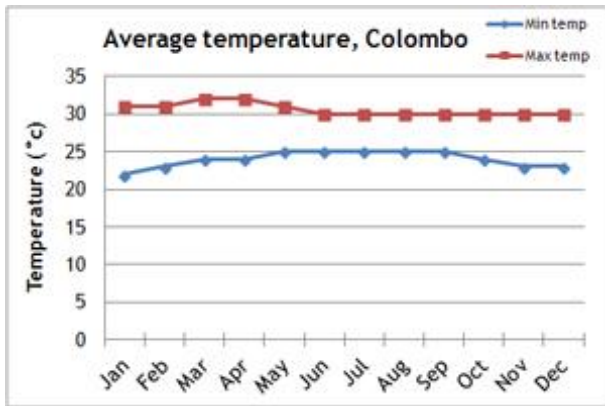
Further information

When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

The nature of adventure travel

Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

Climate information



Extensions

Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400. Alternatively, you can download a range of extension information sheets on our website, at www.mountainkingdoms.com.



There are many ways you can extend your holiday with Mountain Kingdoms: you could book extra nights at a hotel, relax at a beautiful beach resort, arrange a personal sightseeing tour or enjoy some other exciting activities such as a safari, rafting or birdwatching. In fact whatever's available, we can help make it happen. We're happy to suggest ideas, provide quotes and make all the arrangements.

We can also assist with flight and hotel upgrades.

Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

- We are supporting the Pekoe Trail which aims to promote sustainable tourism and support communities in rural Sri Lanka
- We have carefully selected accommodation of character with great views, a short drive from the trail.
- We use excellent, knowledgeable, English-speaking walking guides.
- The itinerary includes walks and experiences away from the trail to enrich your enjoyment
- We have a maximum group size of 12 for this trip which provides for a genuine small group experience and helps reduce the negative aspects often associated with larger groups.
- Several members of the Mountain Kingdoms team have travelled in Sri Lanka including Harry who walked the Pekoe Trail in 2023. If you have any questions about any aspect of this holiday please don't hesitate to give us a call, on 01453 844400.
- We offer a flexible service and can extend your holiday with extra hotel nights, upgrades and exciting activities.
- As part of our commitment to 'Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency', we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.
- We are an IATA accredited agent and work directly with some of the world's major airlines. If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights Manager, April, for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: www.mountainkingdoms.com or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

What we say



We very much enjoyed this in-depth exploration of Sri Lanka's hill country. The walking was a mixture of fairly easy tracks through the iconic tea estates and some more challenging sections so the overall trip grading is about right. The scenery, from plantations to grasslands and forests was lovely and meeting so many local villagers on the way was a particular highlight. Our guide, Sujan, was excellent, very knowledgeable on history and wildlife, and our driver, Vigitha, was always reliable.

-John & Judith, Glos



This was my first time to Sri Lanka and definitely not my last. This trip has a combination of rewarding walking and comfortable accommodation. Highlights included getting away from the beaten track and being able to visit villages that had very rarely seen tourists. The abundance of flavoursome food and, last but not least, a great cup of tea to start the day.

-Harry Gray, Operations Manager, Mountain Kingdoms

Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

Truly independent

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

Complete financial security

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

No Surcharge Guarantee

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

Award winning Responsible Tourism

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at www.mountainkingdoms.com.

Genuine small group travel

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

Loyalty Discount

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

Comprehensive information

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN



For over 33 years, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now offer trips to all corners of the world, but we are conscious that inevitably our holidays have a detrimental impact on the world around us, and we want to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions. We are a signatory to Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency, along with a growing number of like-minded, reputable tour operators. For more information, please visit www.tourismdeclares.com

From 2020 onwards, we will be focusing on how we can reduce the carbon emissions that our holidays produce, and how to counterbalance this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole:

Carbon Offsetting

Already doing:

- ✓ We have been offsetting carbon since 2007, but will be increasing our donations to the [Ecoan tree planting project](#) in Peru this year. This is with a trusted partner where the funds go directly to a project where the community plants trees on its own land.

Will do:

- ✓ We are working on making our carbon offsetting more accurate and targeted.
- ✓ In future, we will add to that a further estimate for carbon produced by hotels, local road travel, trains and internal flights to arrive at a carbon offset sum for each trip we operate.
- ✓ Carbon offsetting will be included in our holiday prices. For our Flight Inclusive holidays it will include the international flight and any emissions produced by inland travel and accommodation. Our Land Only prices will include the cost of offsetting emissions caused by inland travel and accommodation.

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Already doing:

- ✓ We already offer the majority of our customers a free filtered water bottle which means they can instantly cut down on their single-use plastic consumption. This will be an ongoing project.
- ✓ We already predominantly use locally owned hotels, but will continue to ensure that, where possible, we use these rather than multinational chains.
- ✓ We have joined the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside like-minded travel companies, to work together to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.

Will do:

- ✓ We will re-evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We will stop offering unnecessary optional flights – for example our Everest sightseeing trip.
- ✓ We will eliminate unnecessary staff flights wherever possible.
- ✓ We will look at minimising internal flights.
- ✓ We will be asking all our worldwide agents and suppliers to look at their own carbon footprint and encourage them to reduce it.
- ✓ We will promote our more low impact trips to give customers an informed choice.

As part of our wider commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will continue to support a number of charities with whom we have had a long standing relationship over many years. These include: Shiva Charity in Nepal (Ginette Harrison School), Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service and Porter Welfare, as well as setting aside a sum for emergency disaster relief should the need arise.

