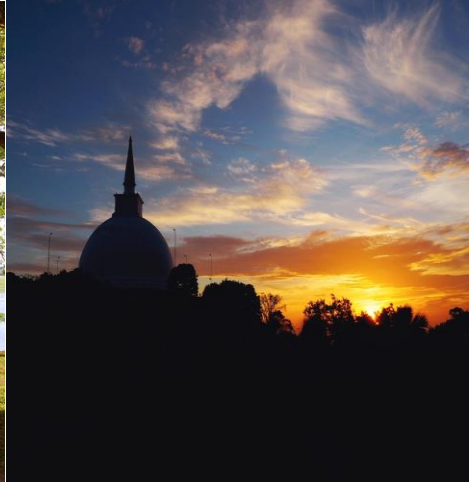


Discover North Central Sri Lanka

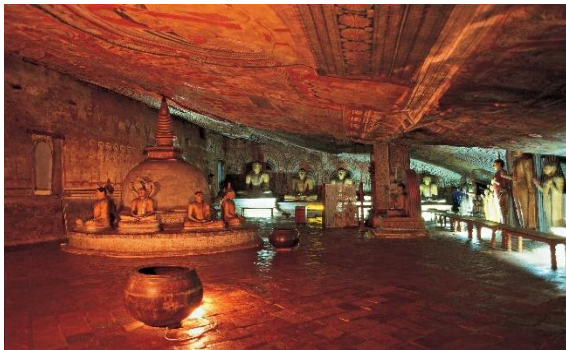


Day 1

- Early wake up and get ready
- Travel to Habarana (Packed Breakfast from Lakeside)
- Cinnamon Lodge Habarana
- Visit Ibbankaduwa and Dambulla



Dambulla – located in the north central province this UNESCO World Heritage Site which dates back to the 01st century BC, is an amazing complex of 05 caves, first used as a refuge by an ancient king who on regaining his throne, commissioned magnificent carved images within the living rock. Later kings made further improvements and the caves contain over 150 images of the Buddha of which the largest is a colossal figure spanning 15 meters. Cave inscriptions from the 2nd Century BC are found and on the walls are many paintings most of which belong to the Kandy period (early 19th century). This temple is a perfect location to view evolution of ancient Sri Lankan art and is an important historical site due to the amalgamation of the material from many eras.



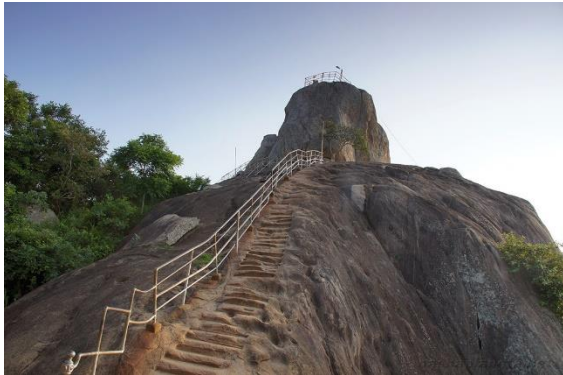
- Pro Bar Session
- Cinnamon Lodge Habarana – Ice cream tasting

Day 2

- Cinnamon Lodge Habarana
- Travel Anuradhapura
- Tour of Anuradhapura
- Lunch in Anuradhapura (Hotel Corp)
- Visit Mihintale and travel back to hotel

Mihintale Mountain, with the arrival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, began to serve as a residential area for the venerable monks headed by Arahath Mahinda Mahathera. But soon, with the royal patronage, the sanctuary housed a multitude of with monastic buildings-stupas, uposathgharas, bodhigharas- to serve

the monks. Sixty eight cave dwellings provided the monks shade and shelter. Mihintale, the sanctuary for many thousands of laymen as well as holy men, had all the facilities and amenities for basic living



- **Back to Cinnamon Lodge Habarana**

Day 3

- **Wakeup early and travel to Sigiriya for Sunrise shot**
- **Have packed breakfast from Lodge**
- **Climb Sigiriya and travel to Hotel**

Sigiriya – this UNESCO World Heritage Site, a spectacular Rock Fortress, is one of Sri Lanka’s major attractions. The most impressive facets of the unique complex are the Water Gardens, the Frescoes of beautiful maidens, the Mirror Wall with ancient graffiti, the Lion platform and the Summit of 1.6 hectares, which was completely covered by buildings during the period of Sigiriya’s glory. Built by King Kashyapa (477-495 A.D), the “Lion Rock” is a citadel of unusual beauty rising 200m from the scrub jungle. The rock was the innermost stronghold of the 70 hectare fortified town and the base is ringed by a moat, rampart, and extensive gardens. The world-renowned frescoes (originally 500, of which only 19 remain today) which are in a sheltered pocket of the rock approached by a spiral stairway are painted in earth pigments on plaster. The old stairway to the top led through the mouth of a crouching lion but today only the huge paws remain giving an indication of the massive proportions of the head. Remains of the handsome royal citadel are on the summit and several caves for meditation, audience platforms and baths complete the unique site.”





Polonnaruwa – this medieval city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, rose to fame as the capital (10th - 12th century AD) after the decline of Anuradhapura. The entire landscape of the region is punctuated by huge man-made reservoirs, the most famous of which is the Parakrama Samudra or the Sea of Parakrama, larger in size than the Colombo harbour. The monuments are relatively well preserved and give clear evidence of the glory of Sri Lanka's past. Highlights are the Royal Palace complex including the Kings Palace and Audience Hall, the Quadrangle with its concentration of ancient heritage and the spectacular Gal Vihare complex

of four massive images of the Buddha, cut from a single slab of granite - a highlight of ancient Sri Lankan rock carving. Some of the best examples of the Hindu influence – the Temples of Shiva, intricate statues of Hindu Gods, fascinating Buddhist temples, the Lankatilleka and Watadage, the Galpotha, the Lotus bath, the Kiri Vihare Dagaba and the remains of a former Temple of the Tooth are other impressive sights.



- Cinnamon Lodge Habarana
- Downtime/Cookery demonstration with chef
- Minneriya Safari

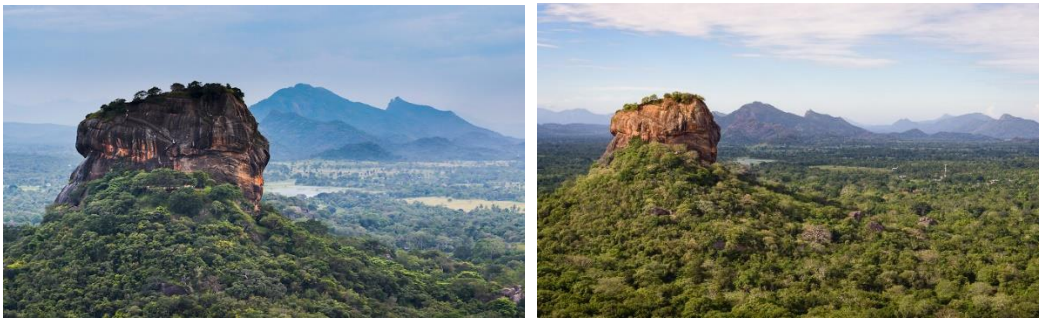


- **Pro Bar Session**
- **Back to Cinnamon Lodge Habarana**

Day 4

- **Visit Pidurangala for Sunrise shot**

Pidurangala Rock is adjacent to Sigiriya Rock and is the best viewing spot of Sigiriya Rock as it is only slightly lower. Pidurangala is a popular spot for sunrise as you can enjoy 360-degree views of not only the valleys but also Sigiriya Rock. There is no need to choose between the two. Many travelers wake up for the sunrise at Pidurangala and then head to sunset on top of Sigiriya Rock. This is exactly what I did and I highly recommend it



Hiriwaduna Village Trail

Just a 15 minute drive away from the comforts of Cinnamon Lodge Habarana, lies a scenic Native village with its unpaved gravel paths and humble village folk. Shaded on either side by dry zone shrub forest, the dusty gravel path and subsequently the red soil of the tank bund will lead the visitors to an indigo reservoir which sets a stunning contrast of colors. A line of cormorants flying in formation will eventually stop to rest on a





cormorant tree and the butterflies and dragonflies found at the edge of the shrubs create a kaleidoscope of color that rivals the equally vibrant wild flowers.

As you walk further along the Lake bund witness the silent and still waters of the reservoir rippled by a lone fisherman mounted on his catamaran. Experience the reservoir as the fishermen would do by taking a catamaran ride on the reservoir, and glide through the still waters and abundant lotus plants. At the end of the catamaran ride, experience another form of ancient village transport and take a ride in a bullock cart to end the experience of a life time.

- **Back to Cinnamon Lodge Habrana**
- **Downtime**
- **Pro Bar session**

Day 5

- **Travel to Katunayake**
- **Tamarind Tree**
- **Airport simulation center visit.**
- **Travel to Colombo and check in to Cinnamon Lakeside.**