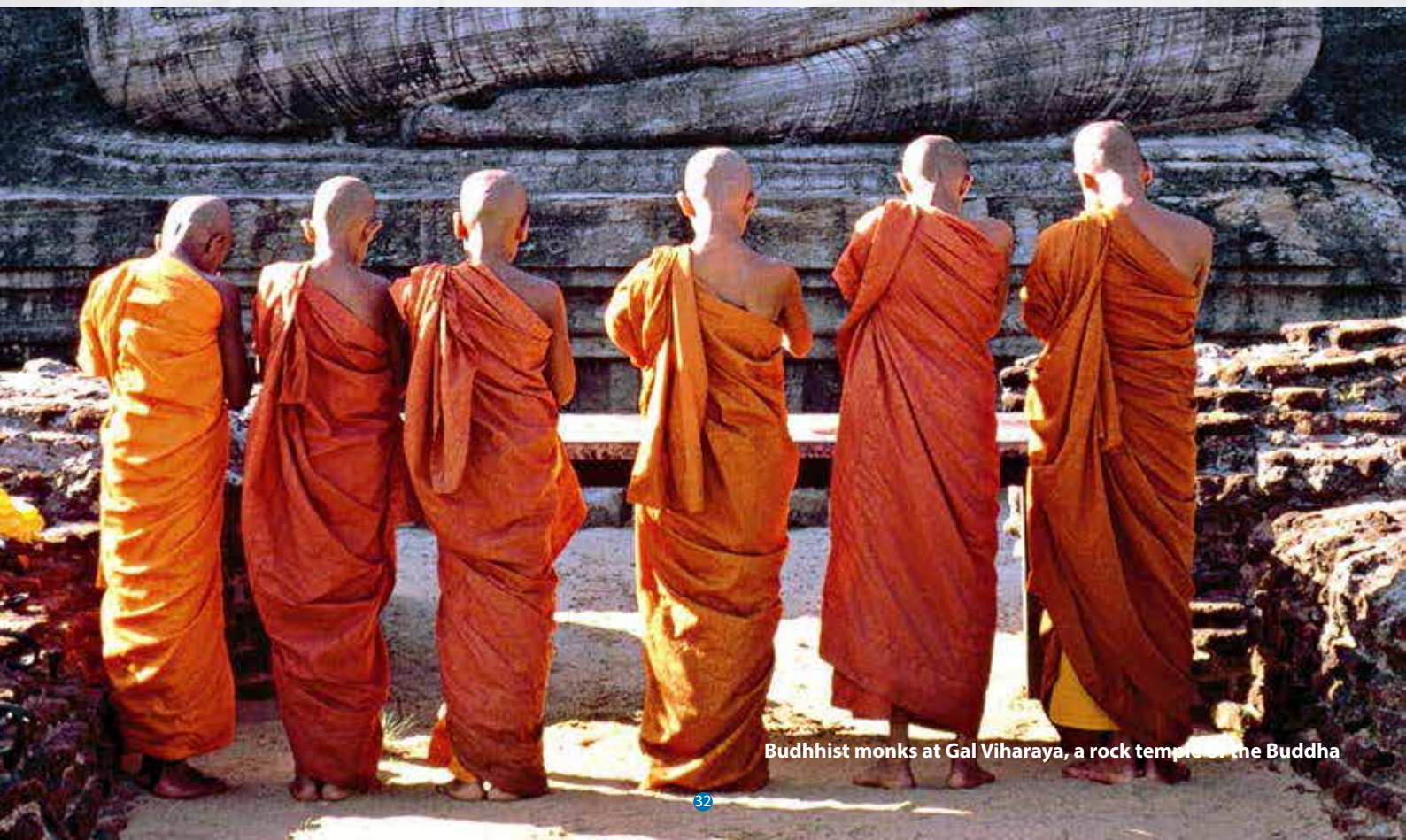


# The Emerald Isle

A gentle pace, amazing beauty and the unexpected in the land of serendipity.

**E**xplore the glorious ruins of Sri Lanka's ancient civilizations, spend time observing the wildlife or immerse yourself in the culture of the country. There is always something in the country for you to gain new and real experiences. Why on earth would you not want to visit Sri Lanka!



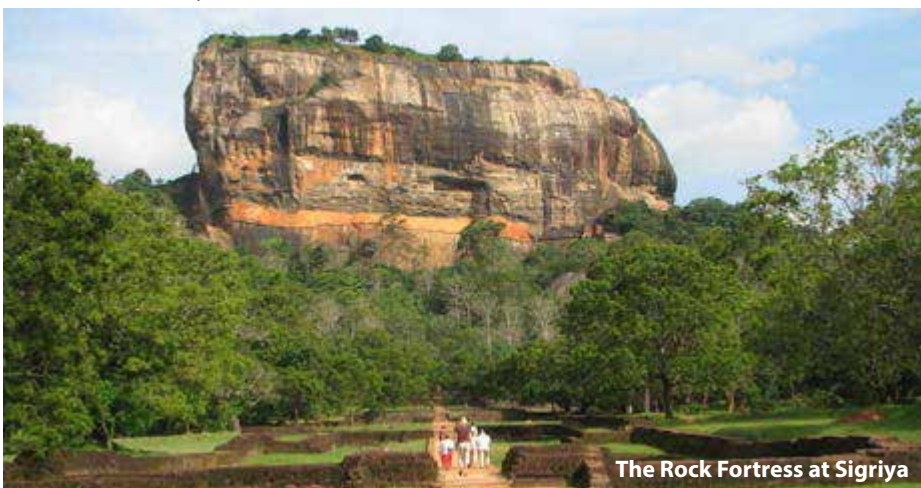
Buddhist monks at Gal Viharaya, a rock temple of the Buddha



Feeding time in Pinnawala

**PINNAWALA**

Pinnawala is home to some 60 or more elephant orphans. A place you will really enjoy and never forget. Most orphans are accustomed to their curious human visitors are harmless. See baby jumbos wondering around their foster home or bottle fed and bathed by their human foster fathers.



The Rock Fortress at Sigiriya

**SIGRIYA**

Sigiriya is an ancient rock fortress and palace ruin in the central Matale District of Sri Lanka, surrounded by the remains of an extensive network of gardens, reservoirs, and other structures. A popular tourist destination, Sigiriya is also renowned for its ancient paintings and is one of the seven World Heritage Sites of Sri Lanka.



A tea plantation near Nuwara Eliya

**NUWARA ELIYA**

Nuwara Eliya, in the central highlands of Sri Lanka, is a picturesque landscape and temperate climate. It is located at an altitude of 1,868 m (6,128 ft) and is considered to be the most important location for Tea production in Sri Lanka. The town is overlooked by Pidurutalagala, the tallest mountain in Sri Lanka.

**ITINERARY**

- DAY 1** Arrive Colombo. Drive to Habarana for overnight visiting Pinnawala en route.
- DAY 2** Excursions to Polonnaruwa and Sigriya. Overnight at Habarana.
- DAY 3** Drive to Kandy for overnight stay via Dambulla Rock Cave Temple and Spice Garden in Matale.
- DAY 4** Excursion to Paradeniya Botanical Gardens. Overnight in Kandy.
- DAY 5** Drive to Nuwara Eliya for overnight stay visiting a tea garden and factory on the way.
- DAY 6** Drive to Colombo via Kitulgala.
- DAY 7** Fly out from Colombo.

**TAILOR MADE TRAVEL**

*Our private, tailor-made journeys offer complete freedom of choice. The itineraries shown are designed to give you a flavour of what is possible and can be customised to suit your preferences. Prices vary according to selection of accommodation and season.*

**WHAT, WHEN, WHERE**

**Best time to travel**

West coast, the south coast and the Hill Country: December to March.

Ancient cities region and the east coast: April to September.

**Distances**

Colombo - Habarana: 173km/107miles.

Habarana - Kandy: 96km/60miles.

Kandy - Nuwara Eliya: 72km/45miles.

Nuwara Eliya - Colombo: 163km/101miles.

**Weather**

Colombo and the low-lying coastal regions average 27°C. Kandy, at an altitude of 500m, averages 20°C. Nuwara Eliya, 1889m high, averages 16°C.

**A plethora of names**

In ancient times, Sri Lanka was known in India as Lanka or Singhala; ancient Greek geographers called it Taprobane and Arabs referred to it as Serendib (the origin of the word "serendipity"). Ceilão was the name given to Sri Lanka by the Portuguese which was transliterated into English as Ceylon. In Sinhala the country is known as Shri Lamka, and the island itself as Lamkava. The name derives from the Sanskrit Sri (venerable) and Lanka (island)

**Sri Lanka, the Pearl of the Indian Ocean**

The country is famous for the production and export of tea, coffee, coconuts, rubber and cinnamon, the last of which is native to the country. The natural beauty of Sri Lanka has led to the title The Pearl of the Indian Ocean. The island is laden with lush tropical forests, white beaches and diverse landscapes with rich biodiversity. The country lays claim to a long and colorful history of over three thousand years, having one of the longest documented histories in the world.

**LOCATION MAP**

