

# Northern Sri Lanka Motor Cycle Tour

7 nights tour Including Jaffna

*“Embark on the adventure of a life time as you explore the pearl of the Indian Ocean! “*

Sri Lanka has long since been a destination full of allure to the eager explorer. The island is a treasure trove of amazing landscapes, culture, wildlife and history all accessible within a day's ride. On this trip you will have the unique opportunity of riding from the famous northern town of Jaffna and maneuver the winding roads of the islands hill country.



## **Trip Summary:**

- **Duration:** 07 nights / 08 days in SL, Negombo to Negombo
- **Distance covered:** 875 miles (1,400 kms) approx
- **Roads:** grades A, B and gravel
- **Eligibility:** At least one year experience of riding a motorcycle. Valid International Riders License

## Day 01

On arrival at International Airport you will receive a warm Sri Lankan welcome. Thereafter you will be transferred to the hotel in Katunayake.

Negombo is a major city in Sri Lanka, located on the west coast of the island and at the mouth of the Negombo Lagoon. It is the second largest city in Western province after Colombo. It is one of the major commercial hubs in Sri Lanka of about 128,000 inhabitants in the city limits, approximately 37 km north of Colombo city. Negombo is known for its huge and old fishing industry with busy fish markets and sandy beaches.

Once you have checked in and rested briefly, meet outside and get acquainted with your Motor Bike. Once you are comfortable with your bike you are free to ride your bike and get accustomed to riding on the left side of the road with the support of an experienced guide rider.

Once you are confident with the arrangement you could make your way back to the hotel for some rest before the big day!

Standard: Dinner and Overnight Accommodation at Golden Star Hotel, Negombo or similar (2 Star+)

Superior: Dinner and Overnight Accommodation at Goldi Sands Hotel, Negombo or similar (3 Star)



## Day 02

Approximate riding Distance 140 km

After Breakfast make your way to the lobby in your riding gear along with your luggage which will be transferred direct to the next hotel. You may use a small day bag to store your necessities which you could have on your person and access whilst on the days ride.

\*(Note: This will be the morning schedule for the days to come.)

Fire up your engines, toot your horns and roar away along the coastal road to Kalpitiya! Riding will be on 'A' roads with occasional use of 'B' roads.

En route you will have the opportunity to stop at the Anawilundawa wetland which is a small bird sanctuary protected by the RAMSAR treaty. Proceed to Kalpitiya which is a peninsula extending 40 Km off mainland Sri Lanka and home to a large lagoon. Check-in to your hotel and rest.

In the afternoon you could ride to the furthest point of the peninsula where you will find a sleepy town which is home to a historic Dutch church.

Rich in natural beauty, Kalpitiya's history is no less interesting. Records going far back reveal that the peninsula was associated with maritime trade and smuggling escapades since ancient times. It was first colonised by the Portuguese in early 17th Century. The arrival of the Dutch eventually resulted in the ousting of the Portuguese from here and elsewhere in the island. Historical records show that during the Dutch period of the island's colonial history, the northern end of the peninsula was used as a strategic base for a military garrison and naval outpost to monopolise trade supplies to the mainland.

Standard & Superior: Dinner and Overnight Accommodation at Palagama Beach, Kalpitiya or similar



## Day 03

Approximate riding Distance 280 km

Wake up to the sound of the ocean and have breakfast at your leisure and commence riding north to the coastal town of Mannar. The days riding will mostly be on a road that runs along the Wilpattu National park. This is an experience to look forward to.

The unique feature of this park is the existence of "Willus" (Natural lakes) - Natural, sand-rimmed water basins or depressions that fill with rainwater. Wilpattu is among the top national parks world renowned for its Leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*) population.

(\*Note: rainfall could cause swelling of a river that crosses the Wilpattu jungle road and in case this event does occur the route will be altered and a main road running through Anuradhapura will be used.)

After clearing the Wilpattu stretch ride on to Jaffna along the coastal road For over 3 decades Jaffna has been the center stage of Sri Lanka's civil crisis. Much has changed but the iconic landscape still welcomes visitors. You will notice that the coconut trees that were predominant in the south have almost vanished and been replaced completely by Palmyra tree.

Upon reaching Jaffna setout exploring this culturally rich town. A few key land marks to look out for are the Nallur Kovil (Hindu Temple) and the famous Rio Ice Cream Parlor which is a welcome treat in the sizzling Jaffna heat.

The majority of the city's population are Sri Lankan Tamils. Most Sri Lankan Tamils are Hindus followed by Christians, Muslims and a small Buddhist minority. The city is home to number of educational institutions established during the colonial and post-colonial period. It also has number of commercial institutions, minor industrial units, banks, hotels and other government institutions such as the hospital. It is home to the famous Jaffna library.

Standard: Dinner and Overnight Accommodation at Tilco Hotel, Jaffna or similar (2 Star)

Superior: Dinner and Overnight Accommodation at Expo Pavillion, Jaffna or similar (Guest House)



## Day 04

Approximate riding Distance 270 km

After Breakfast ride on to Habarrana via Anuradhapura on the A9 highway. This is the main artery that connects Jaffna to the rest of the island. It was closed and guarded on both sides for many years inhibiting free movement and is now a testament to the lasting peace in the island.

Anuradhapura was Sri Lanka's first capital established over two millennia ago is a testament to the grand civilization that existed in the time.

The city, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was the center of Theravada Buddhism for many centuries. The city lies 205 km north of the current capital Colombo in Sri Lanka's North Central Province, on the banks of the historic Malvathu Oya. It is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and one of the eight World Heritage Sites of Sri Lanka.

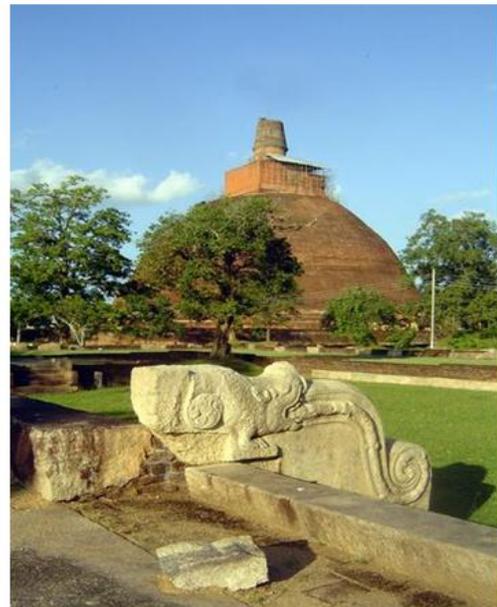
Head on to Habarana

If time permits Optional Afternoon Safari of the Minneriya National park famous for the Gathering of Elephants that takes place between July and October.

Large numbers of Sri Lankan elephants are attracted to grass fields on the edges of the reservoir during the dry season. The Minneriya tank contributes to sustain a large herd of elephants. Individuals of elephants gathered here is numbering around 150-200. Some reports account number of elephants to as high as 700. They migrate here from Wasgamuwa National Park and benefited from food and shelter of the park's forest. Tourists visit Minneriya largely because of elephants, especially in dry season.

Standard: Dinner and Overnight Accommodation at Kassapa Lions Rock, Habarana or similar (3 Star)

Superior: Dinner and Overnight Accommodation at Chhaya Village, Habarana or similar (4 Star)



## *Day 05*

Approximate riding Distance 220 km

Wake up afresh and get excited! You will see some drastic changes today as you leave the flat land behind you and ascent to the central hills.

Ride past the towns of Minneriya, Giritale Hasalaka and head on to Kandy through the scenic 18 bend road for a test of your cornering capabilities which you will need in the days to come.

Kandy was the last capital of the ancient kings' era of Sri Lanka. The city lies in the midst of hills in the Kandy plateau, which crosses an area of tropical plantations, mainly tea. Kandy is both an administrative and religious city and is also the capital of the Central Province. Kandy is the home of The Temple of the Tooth Relic (Sri Dalada Maligawa), one of the most sacred places of worship in the Buddhist world. It was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO in 1988.

Explore the historic city of Kandy.

Standard: Dinner and Overnight Accommodation at Senani Hotel, Kandy or similar (3 Star)

Superior: Dinner and Overnight Accommodation at Cinnamon Citadel, Kandy or similar (4 Star)



### *Day 06*

Approximate riding Distance 140 km

After breakfast bid farewell to the hill country and depart for Negombo. The day will consist mainly of descending and busy roads on certain sections. Bid farewell to Kandy and ride through the town of Kurunegala to Negombo.

### *Day 07*

Relax at hotel

### *Day 08*

Transfer to the airport for Departure.