

Comprehension - Sri Lankan Tour.

Day 1

We depart from London Heathrow on our overnight flight to Colombo. Arriving in the afternoon of day 2 - Sri Lanka is 4.5 hours ahead of UK time - and transfer to the sumptuous five star Colombo Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel, which enjoys stunning views over the Indian Ocean. We take in a sightseeing coach tour of the island's capital, Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte.

Day 3

We take a sight seeing tour of Colombo, Sri Lanka's largest city. Here, the old blends effortlessly with the new; there are beautiful temples and open green spaces amongst the grand colonial architecture and towering skyscrapers. We visit the city's most popular attraction - the chic Cinnamon Gardens, which is home to superb museums and fashionable cafes. In the afternoon we travel by rail to Kandy in central Sri Lanka where we spend the next two nights at the elegant Elephant Stables Hotel.

Day 4

In the morning of day 4, we take a guided tour of the Temple of the Tooth Relic which is said to house the tooth of Buddha. We then go on to visit Peradeniya Botanic Gardens. Previously reserved for Royalty, these beautiful gardens are Sri Lanka's largest and most impressive. This afternoon there will be an excursion to the Elephant Orphanage in Pinnawela, a remarkable project that protects and cares for the island's abandoned elephants.

Day 5

On day 5, we drive to Dambulla, where we visit the Cave Temples. These are a magnificent series of five caves dating back to the 1st century BC - and all cleverly concealed by a vast overhanging rock. Each cave is brimming with detailed watercolour frescoes and beautiful carvings and the largest cave features 150 statues of Buddha.

Day 6

Today we travel by rail on the Rajadhani Express to Nanu Oya, along the route which is widely regarded as one of the world's most scenic train journeys. From the train we admire the splendid panoramas as we pass through plains of paddy fields lined with palm trees. On arrival we transfer to Nuwara Eliya which is known locally as 'Little England' - set against a backdrop of soaring mountains, verdant valleys, and mighty waterfalls. We spend the next two nights at the iconic Grand Hotel, a landmark of the town, set in an Elizabethan-style mansion with beautiful landscaped gardens.

Day 7

On day seven we take a guided tour of the Pedro Tea Estate, 2 miles east of Nuwara Eliya. Established in 1885, we will see how tea is processed, right from picking to grading and packing. After lunch, we transfer to Yala National Park, the largest park in Sri Lanka with a wonderfully diverse landscape, including monsoon forests, dusty plains and marine wetlands. Here we take a game drive, pursuing elephants, leopards and wild boar amongst many other rare species, including a number of reptiles and aquatic birds. To increase our chances of spotting the animals, we take a second game drive in the early evening.

Day 8

Today we transfer to Beruwela which is famed for its white sandy beaches and whale-watching trips. This stretch of coastline boasts the highest concentration of Blue Whales in the world and is also a great location for spotting dolphins.

Day 9

We take our twelve hour non-stop return flight to London, arriving at 20:00 local time.

1 In which ocean does the island of Sri Lanka lie?

- A The Atlantic Ocean.
 - B The Pacific Ocean.
 - C The Arctic Ocean.
 - D The Indian Ocean.
-

2 What is the capital of Sri Lanka?

- A Colombo.
 - B Kandy.
 - C Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte.
 - D Beruwela.
-

3 Whereabouts on the island is the city of Kandy?

- A In the centre of Sri Lanka.
 - B To the north of the island.
 - C On the most southernmost tip of Sri Lanka.
 - D To the south-east of the island.
-

4 “From the train we admire the splendid panoramas as we pass through plains of paddy fields lined with palm trees.”

What does ‘panoramas’ mean in this context?

- A Carriages.
- B Wide views.
- C Atmosphere.
- D Forests.

5 What attracts the most visitors to Colombo?

- A The Cave Temples.
 - B The Thomas Lipton Tea Plantation.
 - C The Cinnamon Gardens.
 - D The Temple of the Tooth Relic.
-

6 What do you think the frescoes at the Cave Temples at Dambulla are?

- A Sculptures.
 - B Models.
 - C Engravings.
 - D Paintings.
-

7 Where is Nuwara Eliya in relation to the Pedro Tea Estate?

- A To the east.
 - B To the north.
 - C To the west.
 - D To the south.
-

8 How will the tour boost the likelihood of spotting exotic animals on the game drive?

- A They will wear special, camouflaged clothes.
- B They will start their drive very early in the morning when rare animals are more likely to be out looking for food.
- C They will be travelling in a specially adapted vehicle which will allow them to venture much deeper into the monsoon forests.
- D They will have a repeat game drive the same evening.

9 Which of the following statements is true?

- Option 1 The botanic gardens at Peradeniya were once only open to Kings and Queens.
Option 2 The Cave Temples at Dambulla were established over 2000 years ago.
Option 3 The return flight to London will take-off at 20:00 from Colombo.
Option 4 Colombo is noted for its whale-watching boat trips.

- A Option 1 only.
B Options 1 and 2.
C Options 1, 2 and 4.
D Options 1, 2 and 3.
-

10 Which of the following statements is true?

- Option 1 The tour will enjoy a three night stay at the Elephant Stables Hotel.
Option 2 Nuwara Eliya is famous for its Victorian architecture.
Option 3 Yala National Park is the biggest park on the island.
Option 4 The tour will enjoy an overnight stay at a luxury hotel in Colombo.

- A Options 3 and 4.
B Option 3 only.
C Options 1, 3 and 4.
D Option 4 only.
-

Emotions

Please can you put all the adjectives in the table below into the correct boxes?

Words that mean 'sad'.

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| 7 | |
| 8 | |
| 9 | |

Words that mean 'annoyed'

| | |
|----|--|
| 10 | |
| 11 | |
| 12 | |
| 13 | |
| 14 | |

| |
|-------------|
| afraid |
| amazed |
| blue |
| cross |
| staggered |
| alarmed |
| disgruntled |
| depressed |
| astonished |
| irritated |
| frightened |
| horrified |
| despondent |
| incredulous |
| unhappy |
| vexed |
| panicky |
| gloomy |
| wrathful |
| astounded |
| glum |
| petrified |
| miserable |
| stunned |
| sorrowful |
| terrified |
| tearful |
| shocked |

Words that mean 'scared'.

| | |
|----|--|
| 15 | |
| 16 | |
| 17 | |
| 18 | |
| 19 | |
| 20 | |
| 21 | |

Words that mean 'surprised'.

| | |
|----|--|
| 22 | |
| 23 | |
| 24 | |
| 25 | |
| 26 | |
| 27 | |
| 28 | |

Synonyms in context - Great Wall of China

中国的长城

One of the largest engineering and **building**¹ projects ever carried out is the construction of the Great Wall of China. Originally a defensive system, today it is a major tourist attraction and a national symbol of China.

In olden times, China was **divided**² into many smaller, separate states which were often at war with each other and the rulers of the smaller states **began**³ building defensive walls as early as 400 BC. The first Qin emperor, Shihuang, **united**⁴ seven different states into one China in about 221 BC and **ordered**⁵ that the existing sections of the walls be **connected**⁶ to form one long wall to **protect**⁷ the new empire from potential invasions. The Qin Dynasty reigned until 206 BC.

During the Qin Dynasty, **major**⁸ work took place on the Great Wall and hundreds of thousands of soldiers and workers and even criminals were drafted in for the project. Many people died during its construction, due to the heavy work, short time limits and **tough**⁹ conditions.

During subsequent dynasties, the Great Wall was extended and **modified**¹⁰. The section built during the Han Dynasty (206 BC –220) is the longest. During the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) the wall was substantially repaired on more than twenty occasions.

The wall is simple in structure. Different sections were built of dirt, stone, or brick, depending on the local availability of materials. The height of the wall ranges from 5 to 9 metres, with towers rising at **regular**¹¹ intervals above it. The towers were used as **watchtowers**¹² and signal towers. The wall is 8 metres wide and its total length is 8,851 kilometres.

Further¹³ extensive restoration took place in the twentieth century and in 1987, the Great Wall was made a World Heritage Site.

For many years, the Chinese people **enjoyed**¹⁴ the honour of having built the only manmade object on Earth that can be seen from the moon. However, this was a popular misconception; Yang Liwei, China's first astronaut, who travelled to outer space on the spacecraft Shenzhou on 15th October 2003 was asked on his return to Earth if he could see the Great Wall and his answer was a **definite**¹⁵ "No".



| | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| separated | joined | lookouts | amended | hard |
| even | appreciated | construction | clear | started |
| safeguard | unified | more | commanded | important |

Words

| | |
|----|------------|
| 1 | gadget |
| 2 | garment |
| 3 | generation |
| 4 | genius |
| 5 | geology |
| 6 | geometry |
| 7 | glider |
| 8 | gradual |
| 9 | granite |
| 10 | grammar |
| 11 | grate |
| 12 | grind |
| 13 | hazard |
| 14 | hoard |
| 15 | hostile |
| 16 | humble |
| 17 | hollow |
| 18 | havoc |
| 19 | hinder |
| 20 | haggle |

Synonyms

| | |
|----|--------------|
| 1 | construction |
| 2 | separated |
| 3 | started |
| 4 | unified |
| 5 | commanded |
| 6 | joined |
| 7 | safeguard |
| 8 | important |
| 9 | hard |
| 10 | changed |
| 11 | even |
| 12 | lookouts |
| 13 | more |
| 14 | appreciated |
| 15 | clear |

Emotions

| | |
|----|-------------|
| 1 | blue |
| 2 | depressed |
| 3 | despondent |
| 4 | gloomy |
| 5 | glum |
| 6 | miserable |
| 7 | sorrowful |
| 8 | tearful |
| 9 | unhappy |
| 10 | cross |
| 11 | disgruntled |
| 12 | irritated |
| 13 | vexed |
| 14 | wrathful |
| 15 | afraid |
| 16 | alarmed |
| 17 | frightened |
| 18 | horrified |
| 19 | panicky |
| 20 | petrified |
| 21 | terrified |
| 22 | amazed |
| 23 | astonished |
| 24 | astounded |
| 25 | incredulous |
| 26 | shocked |
| 27 | staggered |
| 28 | stunned |

Comprehension

| | |
|----|--|
| 1 | D The Indian Ocean. |
| 2 | C Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte |
| 3 | A In the centre of Sri Lanka. |
| 4 | B Wide views. |
| 5 | C The Cinnamon Gardens. |
| 6 | D Paintings. |
| 7 | C To the west. |
| 8 | D They will have a repeat game drive the same evening. |
| 9 | B Options 1 and 2. |
| 10 | A Options 3 and 4. |