PCC: Jewels of Dubai and Sri Lanka
March 4 – 15, 2019
12 Days / 11 Nights

March 4: Dubai Arrival
Welcome to Dubai! Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel. Dubai is a bustling, modern city and one of the seven emirates that encompass the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Dubai offers visitors a unique blend of modernity and traditionalism, as well as the most luxurious hotels and attractions in the world. Evening at leisure and overnight.

March 5: Dubai
After breakfast, enjoy a joint tour of Dubai. Modern Dubai offers visitors a diverse experience from the unforgettable charm of traditional souks to inspiring modern skyscrapers. Start at the Burj Khalifa, the world’s tallest building, situated right next to the one of the world’s largest shopping malls, Dubai Mall. Begin your vertical ascent to the observation deck in a high-speed elevator, traveling at 10 meters per second. As the doors open, floor-to-ceiling glass walls provide a breathtaking and unobstructed 360-degree view of the city, desert, and ocean. Then drive towards Dubai Marina district, offering an exclusive environment for living, leisure, and business, followed by the world’s largest man-made island, The Palm Jumeirah. Stop at Atlantis The Palm Hotel, a magnificent, oceanic tribute to a mythological age. A vast waterscape, Atlantis The Palm is a place of sunken aquatic chambers, submerged ruins, and exhilarating water rides. Conclude your tour in SOUK MADINAT JUMEIRAH, a colorful and vibrant market. Endless paths lead visitors through a bazaar-like atmosphere in which open fronted shops and intimate galleries spill onto the paved walkways. The sound of craftsmen and women working mixes with the aroma from street cafes and spice shops. At Souk Madinat Jumeirah, the emphasis is on unique brands, crafted quality, and an interactive experience. Return to your hotel for an evening at leisure. (B)

March 6: Dubai
Morning at leisure. Later, enjoy a cultural brunch at the Sheikh Mohammed Center for Cultural Understanding (SMCCU). The non-profit organization was established to increase awareness and understanding of the various cultures that live in Dubai. The SMCCU strives to remove barriers among people of different nationalities and raise awareness of the local customs and religions in the United Arab Emirates.

In the evening, enjoy a 4x4 desert safari at sunset. Continue to a Bedouin Campsite, right in the heart of the desert, where henna design, local dresses, and refreshments are available. Guests can enjoy camel rides and Hubbly Bubbly (water pipe) in different flavors that suit your taste. Adding to the atmosphere of the night, an enchanting belly dancer performs during a traditional BBQ dinner. Return to your hotel and overnight. (B, L)

March 7: Colombo Arrival
Today, fly from Dubai to Colombo. Welcome to Sri Lanka! Upon arrival, meet our representative and transfer to your hotel. Sri Lanka, the island nation home to more than 20 million people, is a strategic naval link between West and Southeast Asia. The nation famously exports tea, coffee, and coconuts and boasts a rich cultural heritage. Colombo, the commercial capital of
Sri Lanka, is a vibrant mix of modernity and colonial ruins. Because of its natural harbor and positioning along East-West sea trade routes, Colombo was known to ancient traders from 2,000 years ago. Evening at leisure and overnight.

March 8: Colombo – Dambulla
After breakfast, enjoy an orientation tour of Colombo that includes the Kelaniya Temple where Lord Buddha preached a sermon over 2000 years ago. Also visit Town Hall, Independence Square, and Wolvendaal Church.

Continue to Dambulla (3.5 hours) and visit the Dambulla Cave Temple. The name Dambulla derives from Damba - Rock and Ulla - Fountain. You will view the incessant drip of water from the fountain within the main image house. Ibbankatuwa prehistoric burial site near Dambulla is the latest archaeological site of significant historical importance found in Dambulla, providing evidence of the presence of indigenous civilizations long before the arrival of Indian influences in Sri Lanka. Transfer to your hotel for an evening at leisure and overnight.

March 9: Dambulla – Sigiriya – Dambulla
After breakfast, drive to Sigiriya, an ancient palace located in the central Matale District. The name refers to a site of historical and archaeological significance that is dominated by a massive column of rock nearly 200 metres (660 ft) high. According to an ancient Sri Lankan chronicle, the site was selected by King Kasyapa (477 – 495 CE) for his new capital. He built his palace on the top of this rock and decorated its sides with colorful frescoes. On a small plateau, he built a gateway in the form of an enormous lion. The name of this place is derived from this structure — Sīhāgiri, the Lion Rock. The capital and the royal palace were abandoned after the king’s death and it was used as a Buddhist monastery until the 14th century. It is considered one of the best-preserved examples of ancient urban planning.

Later, enjoy a special village safari to meet and interact with the locals. Experience an elephant safari/boat ride/bullock cart ride and a walk in the paddy fields followed by a traditional dinner with lanterns and villagers. Rice and curry with meats and fish will be served on a lotus leaf. Return to your hotel and overnight.

March 10: Dambulla – Matale – Kandy
After breakfast, drive to Kandy. En-route, visit a spice plantation in Matale. Situated beside a lake in the hills, Kandy is considered Sri Lanka’s cultural center. The city houses the Temple of the Tooth Relic (Sri Dalada Maligawa), considered one of the most sacred places of worship in the Buddhist world. In the evening, visit the temple and then enjoy a cultural dance performance. Overnight in Kandy.

March 11: Kandy
Day at leisure and overnight.

March 12: Kandy – Nuwara Eliya
After breakfast drive to Nuwara Eliya, located in the heart of Sri Lankan hill country. It is the home of the famous Ceylon Tea and the rolling mountains are a carpet of velvety green tea plantations interspersed with tumbling waterfalls. The city is overlooked by Pidurutalagala, the tallest mountain in Sri Lanka. In the evening, visit a tea plantation and working factory. Overnight in Nuwara Eliya.
March 13: Nuwara Eliya – Horton Plains – Nuwara Eliya
In the morning, drive to Horton Plains by jeep for a picnic breakfast. Horton Plains National Park is a protected area in the central highlands of Sri Lanka and is covered by montane grassland and cloud forest. The Horton Plains are the headwaters of three major Sri Lankan rivers - Mahaweli, Kelani, and Walawe. In Sinhala, the plains are known as Maha Eliya and stone tools dating back to Balangoda culture have been found on site. The vegetation is grasslands interspersed with montane forest and includes many endemic woody plants. Large herds of Sri Lankan Sambar Deer feature as typical mammals, and the park is also an important birding region with many species not only endemic to Sri Lanka but restricted to Horton Plains. Return to Nuwara Eliya and enjoy an evening stroll around Gregory Lake. Overnight.

March 14: Nuwara Eliya – Galle
After breakfast, drive to Galle (5 hours) and transfer to your hotel. Galle is known for Galle Fort, the fortified old city founded by Portuguese colonists in the 16th century. Stone sea walls, expanded by the Dutch, encircle car-free streets with architecture reflecting Portuguese, Dutch, and British rule. Now a World Heritage Site, it is a lovely place to wander and explore. Continue to your beachside resort and overnight.

March 15: Departure
Today, drive to Colombo and transfer to the airport for your onward flight. Bon Voyage!

Proposed Accommodations

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<th>Nights</th>
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<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Dubai</td>
<td>Hilton Garden Inn Mall of the Emirates</td>
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<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Colombo</td>
<td>Galadari Hotel</td>
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<td>02</td>
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<tr>
<td>02</td>
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<td>02</td>
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<td>01</td>
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<td>Temple Tree Resort and Spa</td>
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**Inclusions**

- 11 nights of hotel accommodations
- Daily breakfast buffet
- Economy airfare from Dubai - Colombo
- Transport by private A/C mini-coach
- Comprehensive touring, including a private English-speaking guide and entrance fees to the monuments
- Cultural performance in Kandy
- Airport transfers with representative
- Road/Interstate taxes and fuel surcharges
- Hotel and government taxes

**Exclusions**

- International Airfare
- Tourism Dirham Fee / Dubai
- Any items of a personal nature
- Gratuities
- Travel Insurance
- Sri Lanka Visa Fees

**Price**

$2618.00, based on double occupancy  
Single Supplement: $849.00

**About Sodha Travel**

**Remember: Not all tour companies are created equal! What is the Sodha Travel difference?**

- A team of destination specialists that exclusively caters to South Asia with insider access to unique experiences

- Extensive on-the-ground support in the destinations we serve, ensuring our clients have 24-hour access to our local representatives and emergency services

- Private guides and local, licensed historians
- An elite fleet of vehicles
- Our DMC awards include the following:
  - 6 years in succession in 1st Position and total 24 times winner of the India Ministry of Tourism’s “National Award for Excellence in Service”
  - PATA Gold Award
  - World Travel Awards – World’s Leading Destination Management Company
  - National Tourism Award for Responsible Tourism Project/Initiative - Empowerment of Women through Literacy India and Fair Trade