

# Kandy Esala Perahera Tour

## OVERNIGHT TOURS

### Kandy Esala Perahera Tour on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025

The Kandy Esala Perahera is one of Sri Lanka's grandest and most vibrant religious festivals, held annually in the city of Kandy. It honors the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha, housed in the Temple of the Tooth (Sri Dalada Maligawa). This year, the procession starts on 30<sup>th</sup> July and lasts for ten nights, culminating in a grand finale known as the Randoli Perahera on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

The festival showcases traditional Kandyan dancing, drumming, fire performers, and ornately decorated elephants, including the revered Maligawa Tusker who carries the golden casket containing a replica of the Tooth Relic. Rooted in both Buddhist and Hindu traditions, the Esala Perahera symbolizes the island's spiritual heritage and cultural unity.

Thousands of spectators—locals and tourists alike—gather to witness this dazzling display of devotion and artistry. The Kandy Esala Perahera is not only a religious celebration but also a profound expression of Sri Lankan identity.



# Tour Highlights

## Kandy Esala Perahera



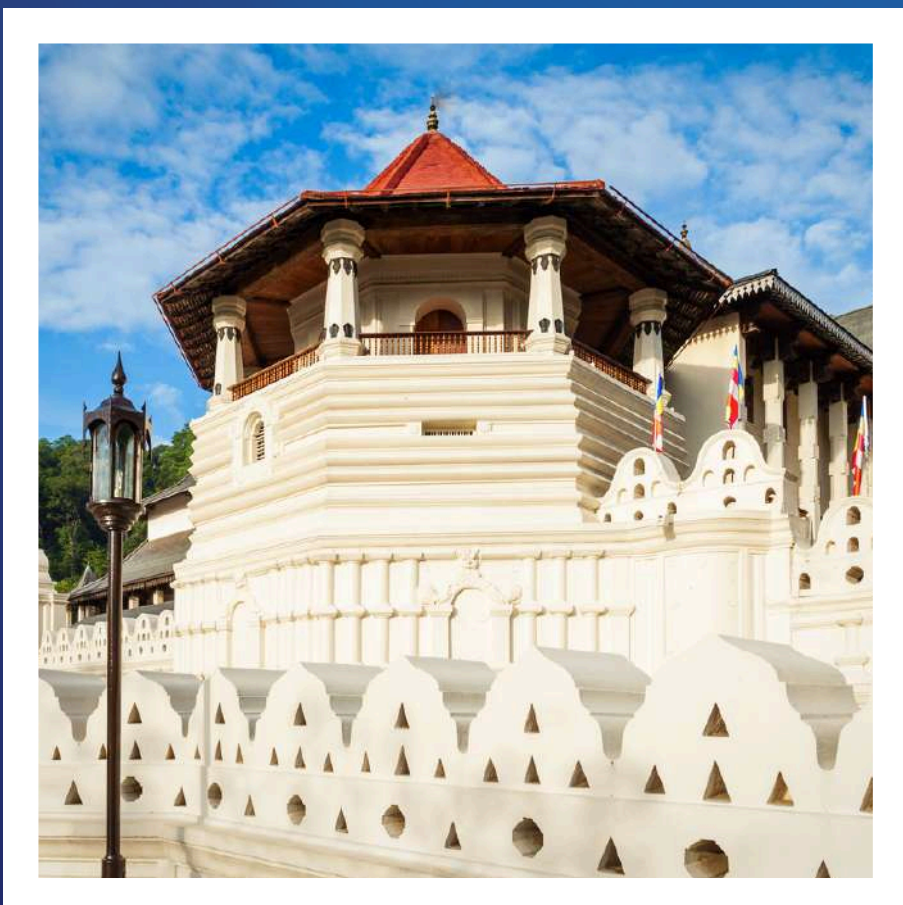
The Perahera is a grand procession held annually in Kandy, Sri Lanka, as part of the Esala festival. It features a vibrant display of traditional Sri Lankan culture, including Kandyan dancers, fire breathers, whip crackers, and drummers. The most iconic aspect is the parade of decorated elephants, especially the Maligawa Tusker, which carries a sacred replica of the Buddha's Tooth Relic. The Perahera includes rituals from both Buddhist and Hindu traditions, reflecting the island's religious harmony.

## Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage



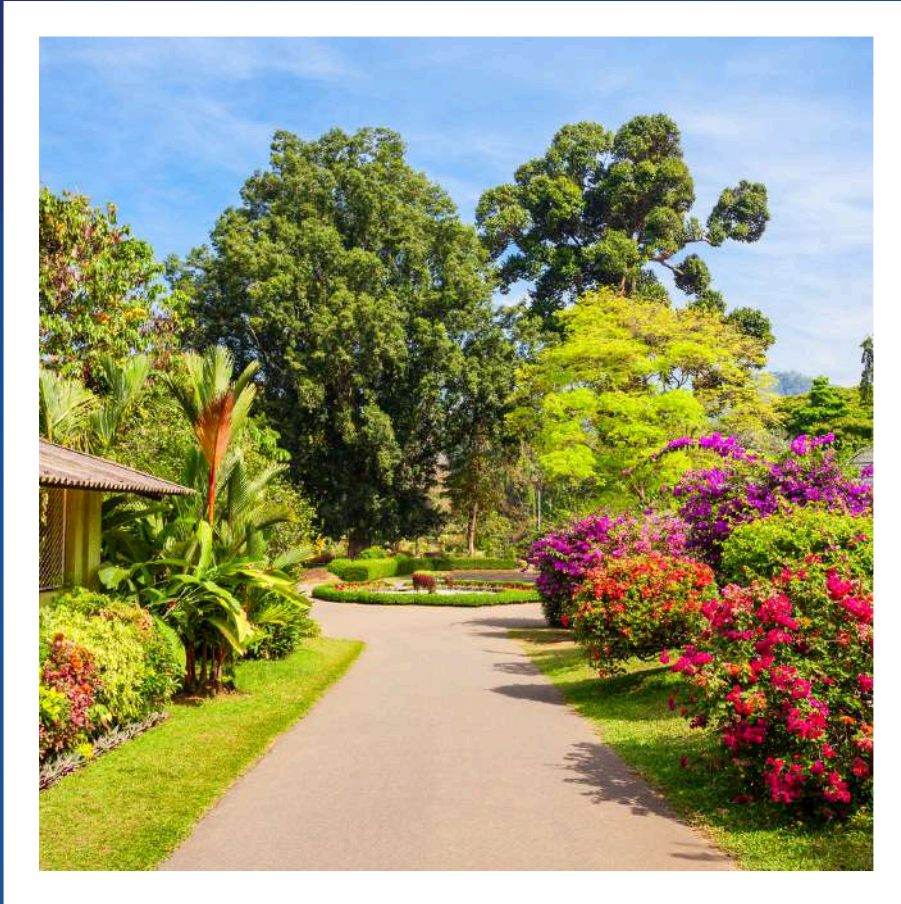
A haven for orphaned and injured elephants, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage provides care, protection, and rehabilitation for these gentle giants. Established in 1975, it is renowned for its large herd of elephants, which visitors can observe up close during feeding and bathing times in the Maha Oya River. Pinnawala plays a vital role in elephant conservation and breeding programs, making it a must-visit for wildlife lovers.

## Temple of the Tooth Relic (Sri Dalada Maligawa)



One of Sri Lanka's most sacred Buddhist sites, the Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy enshrines a revered tooth relic of Lord Buddha. Set within the royal palace complex, the temple showcases exquisite Kandyan architecture and intricate carvings. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it attracts thousands of pilgrims and visitors who come to witness its sacred rituals and ceremonies, reflecting the country's deep-rooted Buddhist heritage.

# Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya



The Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya, spanning 147 acres, is Sri Lanka's largest and most renowned botanical garden. Established during the British colonial period, it is famous for its towering palm avenues, vibrant orchid collection, sprawling bamboo groves, and the massive Javan fig tree. A paradise for nature enthusiasts, the garden offers scenic landscapes, lush greenery, and a peaceful retreat. Visitors can explore highlights like the Great Lawn, spice gardens, and the suspension bridge over the Mahaweli River, making it a top attraction near Kandy.

## Tour Itinerary

### 8th August 2025

- Travel to Kandy, enroute visiting Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage. In Kandy visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic (Sri Dalada Maligawa) and proceed on a City Tour of Kandy.
- In the night witness the Grand Randoli Procession.
- Overnight stay in Hotel Cinnamon Citadel Kandy or similar.

### 9th August 2025

- Buffet breakfast in the hotel.
- Proceed to Peradeniya and visit Royal Botanical Gardens.
- On completion, proceed to Colombo.

## Cost

US\$ 300 Per person, sharing double room basis.

Single room supplement – US\$ 75/- per room

\*Minimum 2 persons on tour

Cost includes:

1. Air-conditioned luxury vehicle with guide services
2. Entrance tickets to Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Temple of the Tooth Relic (Sri Dalada Maligawa) and Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya and Perahera Tickets
3. Accommodation in Cinnamon Citadel hotel in Kandy or similar.
4. Dinner and breakfast in the hotel.

Cost does not include:

1. Lunch during the tour
2. Camera/Video permits at places of interest
3. Expenses of personal nature.

### Host:

Institute for Research and Development in Health and Social Care  
& The Sri Lankan Twin Registry



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