**Kandy**

**About Tooth Relic Temple**

You will then be taken to visit the monumental Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy. Enclosed by a parapet of white stone dating to the beginning of the 19th century, are the city's official religious monuments, the Royal Palace and the Temple of the Tooth. The 18th Century BCE temple which is built on a base of granite is associated with the history of the dissemination of Buddhism and is one of the most venerable places for the Buddhist community all around the world; it was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO in 1988. A relic belonging to the Lord Buddha is said to be resting within the temple and apart from being heavily guarded, it is deeply venerated by the Buddhist community all across and during the months of July/August aprocession called the Esala Perahera weaves through the streets of the city where one of the inner caskets used for covering the tooth relic of the Lord Buddha is taken on display. This casket is carried on a grandly attired royal tusker elephant and the procession includes traditional dancers and drummers, flag bearers of the provinces of the old Kandyan kingdom, the Nilames (lay custodians of temples) wearing their traditional dresses and torch bearers. Explore and understand why the temple is one of the most venerable places for the Buddhist community all around the world before you continue your journey.​

**About Royal Botanicle Garden**

Next we will take you one of Kandy's oft visited places called the Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya. It was formally established in 1843 and its origins date as far back as 1371, the Botanical gardens was developed towards the enlightenment of concepts of floriculture conservation, birdlife conservation, butterfly conservation, biodiversity and sustainability of the island and is situated on approximately 150 acres of land with an artificial lake in the centre of the Gardens. There are 4000 labelled species of flora some of which were planted by visiting dignitaries including King Edward VII who planted a Peepal tree in 1875; the King of Greece who planted the Brownea Grandiceps tree and the Czar of Russia who planted a Ceylon Ironweed tree in 1891, the Emperor of Austria who planted the "Asoka" tree in 1893, Prince Henry of Prussia who planted the Amherstia Nobilis, and the "Flamboyante" of Madagascar in 1898 and 1899 respectively. There is also a Spice Garden which abounds with exotic spices like Cardamom, Cloves, and Pepper & Vanilla as well as Suspension Bridge that stretches across the River Mahaweli and links to the School of Tropical Agriculture at Gannoruwa hill, where research is carried out into various important spices & medicinal herbs as well as into tea, coffee, cocoa, rubber, coconuts and varieties of rice and other cash crops.​

**Evening Cultural Dance**

The Kandy Dance cultural show is one of the most famous evening events in this city of heritage, and is a major highlight of any trip. Starting in the evening, show captivates your ears and eyes with spectacular displays of local culture and art. Covering various aspects of Sri Lanka’s traditions, expect to see drummers, fire dancers, and more in a cultural spectacle that should not be missed.

​**Gem Museum**

Known as the "Island of Gems" since ancient times, Sri Lanka's Gem industry has a history of over 2500 years. The world’s rarest gemstones are found in this wonderful island which is most famous for its blue sapphires. Sri Lankan blue sapphires are world-renowned and are highly priced because of its pleasing tone of color, flawlessness, very high transparency, clarity etc.