TOUR NUMBER : GTT – 04

SEE THE PRECIOUS SPARKLING JEWELS OF RATNAPURA
DAY EXCURSION TO THE CITY OF GEMS

08:00 Hrs  Depart from the pier to The City of Gems Ratnapura.
10:30 Hrs  Arrive and visit the Gem Mines and see how precious gem stones are dug out washed and polished. Visit the Gem Factory to see the cutting and polishing of Gems by hand and how it is brought to its glittering form.
12:00 Hrs  Proceed to Ratnaloka Tour Inn for Lunch.
12:30 Hrs  Arrive at Ratnaloka Tour Inn and have a Rice and Curry Buffet Lunch.
13:30 Hrs  After lunch, proceed to the Gem Museum / Show Rooms.
13:45 Hrs  Arrive and visit the Gem Museum / Show Rooms. (Opportunity to purchase Gems)
14:45 Hrs  Return to Pier. Enroute, drive past patches of Tea and Rubber Plantations.
17:30 Hrs  Arrive at Pier / Ship Side

"Excursion Ends"

THE PRICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO. OF PAX</th>
<th>RATE</th>
<th>TYPE OF VEHICLE</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 PAX</td>
<td>US$.180 Nett Per Person</td>
<td>By A/C Car</td>
<td>With an English Speaking Chauffeur Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>02 PAX</td>
<td>US$.120 Nett Per Person</td>
<td>By A/C Car</td>
<td>With an English Speaking Chauffeur Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>03 - 05 PAX</td>
<td>US$.110 Nett Per Person</td>
<td>By A/C Micro Van</td>
<td>With an English Speaking Chauffeur Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>06 - 16 PAX</td>
<td>US$.105 Nett Per Person</td>
<td>By A/C Mini Coach</td>
<td>With an English Speaking Accompanying Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 - 35 PAX</td>
<td>US$.85 Nett Per Person</td>
<td>By A/C 40 Seater</td>
<td>With an English Speaking Accompanying Guide</td>
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- 3 to 10 years Children will be charged 50% from Adult Rate.
- 15 Pax and above group, TOUR LEADER will be on FOC

SERVICE INCLUDES

- Approximate Duration : 09 Hours and 30 Minutes
- Activity Level (Easy, Moderate, Strenuous) : Moderate
- List of Sites Visited : Gem Mines, Gem Museum, Showrooms and Ratnaloka Tour Inn
- Meals : Included Rice and Curry Buffet Lunch [Please inform us if GLUTEN FREE Meals are Required]
- Refreshment : Included (Either a bottle of 500ml Mineral Water or a Bottled Soft Drink
- Meal / Refreshment Venue : Ratnaloka Tour Inn - Ratnapura
- Entrance Fee : Included in Tour Cost
- Accompanying Tour Guide Supplement Where applicable : Included in Tour Cost
- Porterage & Tips : Not included (Optional)

PARTICIPATION RESTRICTIONS

- Dress Code : Casual
- Min Age to Participate - | Max Age to Participate : Nil
- Min Height to Participate - | Max Height to Participate : Nil
- Min Weight to Participate - | Max Weight to Participate : Nil
- Medical Restrictions (if applicable) : No
- Wheelchair Access : Not Recommended
SRI LANKA has been known for over 2500 years for gemstones unique in quality and variety and today, they are the country's most renowned and important mineral resource. Gemstone deposits lie within a geologically narrow zone. Recent geological surveys suggest that the potential for gemstones is about 50 percent higher than hitherto expected and many new gem fields have been located in the central highlands and southwestern geological formations. Gem minerals are obtained from eluvial, alluvial and residual formations.

The best known and most prolific gem producing area in the Island is the Ratnapura district of the Sabaragamuwa province, the most extensively gemmed areas being the neighborhood of Etheliyagoda, Kuruwita, Ratnapura, Pelmadulla, Balangoda, Kalawana and Rakwana. The Sabaragamuwa catchment drained by the Kalu ganga, the major river in the area, has an area of approximately 4 500 square kilometers. It is also of interest that this region is an area of heavy rainfall, and is subject to serious flooding during the wet seasons. Smaller extensions of the Sabaragamuwa gem fields are found in the Western and Southern provinces.

All these areas are the traditional gem areas where gem mining has been going on for centuries but mining activity in the past three decades or so in the upper reaches of the Menik ganga in the neighborhood of Buttala and Okkampitiya in the Uva province and still more recently in the Elahera area in the Matale district of the Central Province indicate that the gem bearing areas are not confined to the south-west sector of the Island. Further prospecting operations in these new regions are likely to reveal gem bearing gravels though they are unlikely to be as extensive or as prolific as the Sabaragamuwa gravels. Other locations which have produced some stones in the past are the Nuwara Eliya basin, the Horton Plains, Maskeliya and the Kandy district. With the exception of moonstones, which are obtained from partly altered pegmatites near Ambalangoda, all other gem material is obtained from alluvial deposits of rivers and streams or in abandoned channels draining regions containing gem bearing crystalline rocks.

**BLUE SAPPHIRE**
Sri Lanka sapphires are universally renowned for their magnificent quality and the large sizes in which these sometimes occur. Every possible shade of blue is represented among sapphires of Sri Lanka, the various shades ranging from the palest to the darkest. High quality blue sapphires from Sri Lanka are reputed for having pleasing tone of colour of whatever the shades are of remarkable transparency. In superior quality material the Degree of transparency are very high and its clarity is excellent. The most desired colour for a sapphire has been described as an corn flower blue with a "Velvety" luster. The combination of such rare features is the pride of Sri Lanka.

**RUBY**
Corundum of a red colour are identified as Rubies. Most Sri Lankan varieties are of a pinkish red and display a tint of purple. These purplish tints are attributed to the presence of iron in addition to chromium oxide in the composition. Such stones when subject to intense heat would either lose or diminish the purplish tint thereby highlighting the principle colour, red. This colour is referred to in gem circles as “Pigeon Blood Red”. As a rule, Ruby deposits as such have not been specifically localized in Sri Lanka and are found in association with other members of the Corundum family. However, as indicated earlier, the stones of better quality have been more often found within the Embilipitiya Region.

**YELLOW SAPPHIRE**
Among Yellow Sapphires, various shades are noted varying from pale yellow to saffron yellow and from yellow slightly tinted red to a deep citron yellow. In local terminology the Yellow Sapphires are identified as “Pushparaja”. Yellow sapphires are widespread and are found in all Corundum producing areas, one of the most reputed areas being places around Aluthnuwara in the Balangoda region.