



## Why should you book this trip?

- The Centre for Art and Culture SURIYAKANTHA is an unforgettable landmark at the heart of Sri Lanka's cultural capital, Kandy.
- The house of a Village Chief has been transformed into a functional art centre with all the facilities needed while keeping intact its Dutch-style architecture dating back to the 18th century.
- Its collection reflects the interests of its founders Rohan de Silva and Jacques Soulier – traditional furniture, art items, antique books, photographs, and postcards covering two cultures – Sri Lankan and French.
- Professor Jacques Soulier speaks English and French and will take you through the arts and culture gallery with in-depth explanations over lunch.
- Suriyakantha is located 10km from Kandy city centre, on the road leading to religious and historical sites of the Gampola Period (14th Century AD). We will take you to these spectacular locations as well.

- The center has Pali, Sinhala, English and French documentation and resources for research work on Sri Lankan history, specifically the Kandyan period (18th Century).
- Suriyakantha contributes to the recognition of Sri Lankan contemporary art, particularly photography. The centre plans to display its collection of historical printings while celebrating new talents with dedicated temporary exhibitions and publishing.

## Quick Facts

- Available around the year
- Preferred starting time of the tour is during lunch (12 noon to 2 p.m.), where Professor Jacques Soulier is mostly available
- Not recommended for children below 12
- Duration: 2 to 3 hours
- Return transfers could be arranged to any hotel/destination upon request

## You will meet



### **Professor Jacques Soulier**

Professor Jacques Soulier, born in Toulouse, France, is the Director of the Alliance Française (French Cultural Centre) in Kandy. Soulier is a psychiatrist by profession and has been based in Sri Lanka for several years. He is considered to be one of the great contributors to Franco-Sri Lankan relations as he has served several years teaching the French language in his adopted country. He has also worked at the University of Peradeniya, as a visiting French language lecturer.

Although he is French, Soulier speaks and understands the Sinhalese language. He has been the catalyst for several arts and literary events in the Kandy area over the years.

## Included in the price

- Lunch
- Tour of the Arts & Culture Gallery
- Discussion with Professor Jacques Soulier
- All Government taxes and service fees

## Exclusions

- The cost of any extra beverages and food (including snacks) consumed during the tour
- The cost of any optional activities
- Any tips or gratuities given to the attending staff
- Any other expenses not mentioned in the “included in the price” section

## Tour in brief

You will set off on your educational journey from Kandy to the Suriyakantha heritage home where you will meet the charismatic Professor Jacques Soulier. He will welcome you personally to the centre and provide you with a brief introduction to it. He will show you around the centre and give you detailed accounts of its exhibits and the time period they are from over lunch. You will be free to wander around the house and garden to witness its Dutch-style colonial architecture and its beautiful surroundings. After pampering the elephants, you will say goodbye to your new-found friends – your own personal elephant and mahout – and you will be directed to have your traditional Sri Lankan lunch in a village house.

## Important

- When the Professor Jacques Soulier is not available, we would try our best to have a suitable replacement