



TOUR REFERENCE
LK2E4PBCRD

Dive On Excitement (20 Days)

18 days · 17 nights

Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This 20-day tour runs from the south coast to the east coast of Sri Lanka, taking in the beaches and colonial streets of Galle, the rainforest of Sinharaja, the dry-zone parks of Yala and Minneriya, the hill country around Ella and Nuwara Eliya, the cultural sites of Kandy, Dambulla, Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa, and the beaches of Trincomalee and Negombo.

Travellers get a mix of wildlife safaris, hiking, a scenic train ride, tea and spice visits, water sports and ancient monuments, alongside time to relax on the coast at the start and end of the trip. The pace allows for two or more nights in most places, so there is time to explore each region without constant repacking.

The tour is run with a private vehicle and driver throughout, covering the long stretch from the southern tip of the island up through the hill country and cultural triangle to the east coast.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Galle (days 1–3)

The tour begins on the south coast, with a stop en route to Galle to learn about sea turtle conservation and a boat trip on the Madu River before exploring the colonial old town.



Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery

Visit the hatchery on the southwestern coast to learn about the five endangered sea turtle species that nest on Sri Lanka's shores and how the Kosgoda Turtle Care Program protects their nests. Visitors can see, touch and feed baby turtles and injured adults in care.

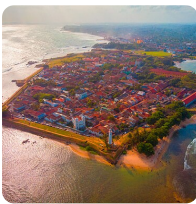
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Madu River Safari

Take a two-hour boat ride along the Madu River through mangrove channels, spotting basking crocodiles and water monitors. The trip includes a stop at a small island for cinnamon harvesting, a fish massage, and views of waterbirds in their habitat.

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Ancient Colonial City of Galle

Explore Galle Fort, one of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia, built up by the Portuguese and Dutch. Walk the cobblestoned streets with their Dutch names, visit the museums and lighthouse, and stop for a king coconut or tea.

Rovin Shanila · CC BY-SA 4.0

Day 4 Sinharaja (days 4–5)

Travelling inland, the day takes in a tea factory and stilt fishermen before reaching the Sinharaja rainforest for a wildlife safari.



Handunugoda Tea Factory

Visit the Handunugoda Tea Factory, known as the Virgin White Tea Factory, to learn how this tea is plucked and processed without being touched by hand. A tasting session with tea and chocolate cake follows, with tea leaves available to buy.

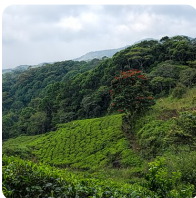
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Stilt Fishermen

Watch fishermen perched on stilts in the waters off Koggala, a craft practised here for generations. Learn how the technique works and photograph the fishermen silhouetted against the shoreline.

Bernard Gagnon · CC BY-SA 3.0



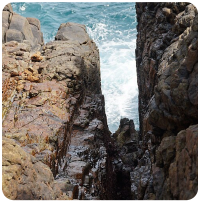
Sinharaja Rain Forest

Go on a jungle safari through the Sinharaja Forest Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site of dense evergreen vegetation. Listen for monkeys, spot colourful forest birds, and look out for green pit vipers in the foliage.

Dan Lundberg · CC BY-SA 2.0

Day 6 Yala (days 6–7)

The route follows the coast to the southeast, stopping at a blowhole before a jeep safari in Yala National Park.



Hummanaya Blow Hole

Visit the Hummanaya near the village of Kudawella, possibly the second largest blowhole in the world, and listen to the deep humming noise that gives it its name.

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Yala National Park

Spend a full day on safari in Yala National Park, the second largest in Sri Lanka, with a chance to see leopards, wild water buffalo, sloth bears and large herds of elephants, along with many other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Ranmith Welikala · CC BY-SA 4.0

Day 8 Ella (days 8–9)

In Ella, the focus is on the area's natural landmarks, from a waterfall linked to local legend to a hike for hill-country views.

Rawana Ella

Visit Rawana Ella (Ravana Falls) near the village of Udunuwara, where a cave behind the falls is said to be one of the places Rawana hid Sita after her abduction.



Little Adams Peak

Take the three-hour hike up to Ella Rock, one of the highest viewpoints in the area, passing views of the Namunukula Range and Little Adam's Peak. From the top, landmarks such as the Bandarawala Range, Poonagala Hills, Narangala, the Ella Gap and the Badulla train tracks can be seen.

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Day 10 Ella → Nuwara Eliya (days 10–11)

A scenic train ride through the central highlands connects Ella to Nuwara Eliya, where the days continue with a city tour and a visit to Horton Plains.



Scenic Train Ride

Travel by train from Ella to Nuwara Eliya through misty mountains and tea estates, passing colonial-era bungalows and mansions, Gregory Lake, Queen Victoria Park and a tea estate and factory, with a stop at Ramboda Falls on the return.

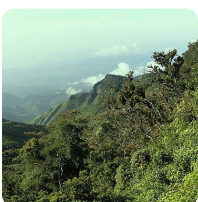
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Nuwara Eliya City Tour

Walk through the former British hill resort town, with its cottages, villas and mansions, the old red-brick post office, Queen Victoria Park and the shores of Lake Gregory.

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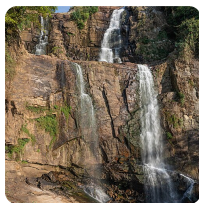
Horton Plains

Visit Horton Plains National Park for its montane grasslands and cloud forest, with views from World's End and the spray of Baker's Falls, plus endemic fauna and some archaeological finds in the area.

Faslan at en.wikipedia · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 12 Nuwara Eliya → Kandy

Heading to the hill capital of Kandy, the day takes in a waterfall, a tea factory and the option of white water rafting.



Ramboda Falls

See Ramboda Falls, the 11th highest waterfall in Sri Lanka, near Pussellawa. The middle section is visible from the A5 highway above the bridge, while reaching the top section requires a climb along a pathway near the bridge.

A.Savin · FAL

Tea Factory Visit

Observe tea pluckers at work on the hillsides, then take a guided tour of a tea factory covering fermentation, rolling, drying, cutting, sieving and grading, finishing with a tea tasting.



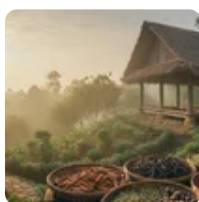
White Water Rafting

Raft a 5km stretch of rapids on the Kelani River, with safety measures in place throughout.

Jimfbleak at English Wikipedia · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 13 Kandy → Dambulla

On the way to Dambulla, the day includes a spice garden, the cave temples, and a safari in Minneriya National Park.



Matale Spice Gardens

Take a guided tour of a spice and herbal garden covering coriander, chilli, cinnamon, cardamom and nutmeg, with a traditional cooking demonstration and a chance to make roti or curry powder.

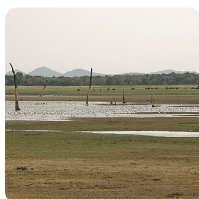
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Dambulla Cave Temples

Enter the Golden Temple of Dambulla, dating to the 1st century BC, to see murals of the life of Buddha and hundreds of figurines across the five main caves, including the Cave of the Divine King and Cave of the Great King, plus the golden Buddha statue outside the complex.

Lankapic · CC BY 2.5



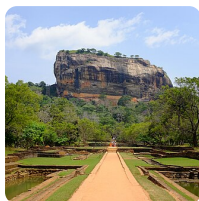
Minneriya National Park

Take a three-hour safari through Minneriya National Park, known for the Great Elephant Gathering of over 150 elephants between May and October, alongside other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Stuart Pinkney · CC BY 2.0

Day 14 Trincomalee (days 14–17)

En route to Trincomalee, the itinerary stops at Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa before time on the coast includes a whale watching safari.



Rock Fortress of Sigiriya

Climb the 5th-century rock fortress of Sigiriya, entering through the lion's paw staircase, viewing the famous frescoes, and walking through the terraced gardens, cisterns and tunnels to the former palace.

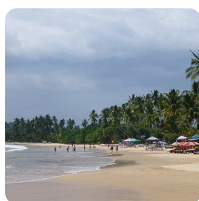
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Polonnaruwa Ancient City

Walk through the ruins of Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka's second major ancient capital, seeing monuments such as Gal Vihara, Vatadage, the lotus bath, Lankathilaka Temple and the statue of King Parakramabahu.

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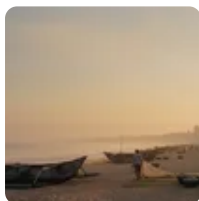
Whale Watching Safari

Spend five hours at sea off Trincomalee looking for blue whales, sperm whales and fin whales, with a naturalist on hand to help identify species.

Ji-Elle · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 18 Negombo

The tour ends on the west coast at Negombo, with time to relax on the beach before departure.



Negombo Beach

Spend time on Negombo's sandy beaches, watching the long-established fishing industry, trying water sports, or diving around the corals and a 50-year-old shipwreck just offshore.

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Departure

After breakfast, check out and transfer to the airport for departure.

What's included

INCLUDED

- Service of an English-Speaking Chauffeur Guide throughout the tour.
- All prevailing taxes and service charges (Except for Credit Card Charges).
- Transport in a Private Vehicle, inclusive of, cost of fuel, parking & highway tolls.

NOT INCLUDED

- Entry Visa Fees.
- International / Domestic Airfare.
- Any expenses of personal nature.
- Tips & Portages.

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