

TOUR REFERENCE
LK2J4BB2FK

Colors of Sri Lanka (20 Days)

20 days · 19 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This 20-day tour runs the length of Sri Lanka's most visited regions, from the west coast through the Cultural Triangle, the central highlands, and on to the southern coast. It moves at an easy pace, with several two and three-night stays that allow time to explore each area without constant packing and unpacking, from the cave temples and rock fortresses around Dambulla and Sigiriya to the tea country around Nuwara Eliya and Ella, then down to the beaches and fort town of Galle.



Travellers get a broad cross-section of what the island offers: ancient Buddhist sites and UNESCO-listed ruins, a tea estate visit with insight into how Ceylon tea is grown and processed, hikes to viewpoints and waterfalls in the hill country, a safari in search of elephants and leopards, and extended time to relax on the south coast beaches. There is also a built-in rest day at the midpoint and several free days at the end for swimming, diving or simply unwinding.

The tour is arranged as a private journey with a chauffeur guide who drives throughout and handles the day-to-day logistics, leaving the traveller free to focus on the sights rather than the schedule.

Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Negombo (days 1–2)

Two days to settle in on the west coast at Negombo, known for its beaches and long-standing fishing industry.



Negombo Beach

Spend time on the sandy beaches of Negombo, with the option of water sports such as diving among corals and a 50-year-old shipwreck just off the coast.

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Negombo Fish Industry

Watch the town's centuries-old fishing tradition still at work along the coast.

Day 3 Negombo → Dambulla

Travel inland to Dambulla to visit its cave temple complex, one of the oldest religious sites on the island.



Dambulla Cave Temple

Enter the historic caves of the Golden Temple of Dambulla, dating back to the 1st century BC, and view ancient murals depicting the life of Lord Buddha alongside hundreds of Buddha figurines across the five main caves, including the Cave of the Divine King, the Cave of the Great King, and the Great New Monastery.

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Golden Buddha Statue

See the giant golden Buddha statue a short distance outside the cave complex.

Day 4 Dambulla → Sigiriya → Dambulla

A day combining the climb to the Sigiriya rock fortress with a taste of rural village life nearby.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Climb the 5th-century rock fortress built for King Kasyapa, entering through the lion's paws that give the site its name, and see the famous unfading murals, the steep staircase, terraced gardens, still-working cisterns and tunnels leading to the palace.

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Village Experience

Take an oxen cart ride, a catamaran safari on a calm lake, and a walk through paddy fields, followed by a traditional cooking demonstration and a home-cooked lunch served on lotus leaves.

Day 5 Dambulla → Polonnaruwa → Minneriya → Dambulla

A full day covering the ruins of Sri Lanka's second ancient capital and a safari in search of elephants.



Polonnaruwa Ancient City

Walk through the ruins of Polonnaruwa, which flourished as Sri Lanka's second major capital between the 10th and 13th centuries, taking in monuments such as Gal Vihara, Vatadage, the lotus bath, Lankathilaka Temple and the statue of King Parakramabahu.

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Minneriya National Park Safari

Take a safari through Minneriya National Park, known in the dry season between May and October for large gatherings of elephants, along with other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

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Day 6 Dambulla

A free day at leisure in Dambulla.

Day 7 Dambulla → Matale → Kandy

Travel to Kandy via Matale, stopping at a spice garden before visiting the city's most sacred Buddhist site.

Euphoria Spice and Herbal Garden

Visit a spice and herbal garden near Matale, the spice capital of Sri Lanka, to learn about local spices, herbs and the uses of Ayurveda through a guided spice tour.



Temple of the Tooth Relic

Visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 16th century to house and protect Lord Buddha's sacred tooth, with its painted halls, carved pillars and golden statues.

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Day 8 Kandy → Peradeniya → Kandy

A day trip to the Royal Botanical Gardens just outside Kandy.



Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya

Walk through the Royal Botanical Gardens, established in the early 19th century and home to over 4,000 species of plants, including orchids, spices and medicinal plants, as well as the cannonball tree and a wobbly suspension bridge.

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Day 9 Kandy → Nuwara Eliya

Head up into the hill country, stopping at a waterfall and tea estate on the way to Nuwara Eliya.



Ramboda Falls

Visit Ramboda Falls, the 11th tallest waterfall in the country.

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Mackwoods Tea Estate

Take a guided tour through Mackwoods Tea Estate to learn about the varieties, processing methods and qualities of Ceylon tea, a tradition introduced to the island in the 19th century.



Hakgala Botanical Gardens

Walk through the shaded avenues and colourful gardens of Hakgala Botanical Gardens.

Own work of Buddhika Mawella · CC BY-SA 3.0



Lake Gregory

Take a relaxed walk along the shores of Lake Gregory.

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Nuwara Eliya Town

Explore Nuwara Eliya, a hill town built by the British in the style of an English countryside settlement, with period architecture, manicured lawns, an Anglican church and a well-known golf course, set at a cool altitude in the heart of tea country.

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Day 10 Nuwara Eliya → Horton Plains → Nuwara Eliya

A day trip into the montane grasslands and cloud forest of Horton Plains National Park.



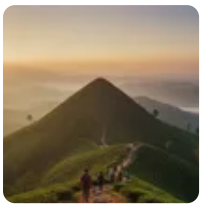
Horton Plains National Park

Explore Horton Plains National Park in Ohiya, with its grasslands and cloud forest, taking in the views from World's End and the cooling spray of Baker's Falls, along with glimpses of endemic wildlife and sites of archaeological interest.

Faslan at en.wikipedia · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 11 Nuwara Eliya → Ella

Travel through tea country to Ella, taking in some of its best-known viewpoints and landmarks along the way.



Little Adam's Peak

Pass through bright green tea fields and rocky stretches for views of Little Adam's Peak.

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Nine Arches Bridge

Walk over the Nine Arches Bridge and hear the story of its construction.

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Demodara Railway Station

End at Demodara Railway Station, notable for its unique loop-over track design.

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Day 12 Ella

A hike up Ella Rock for some of the area's best views.

Ella Rock

Take the roughly three-hour hike up to Ella Rock, one of the highest viewpoints in the area, with views along the way of the Namunukula Range and Little Adam's Peak, and from the top of the Bandarawala Range, Poonagala Hills, Narangala, the Ella Gap and the Badulla train tracks.

Day 13 Ella → Yala

Travel from the hill country down to Yala on the southeastern coast.

Day 14 Yala

A safari in Yala National Park, one of Sri Lanka's richest wildlife reserves.



Yala National Park Safari

Take a roughly three-hour safari in Yala National Park, the second largest in the country, with the chance to see Sri Lankan leopards, wild water buffalo, Sri Lankan sloth bears and large herds of elephants, alongside many other mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates.

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Day 15 Yala → Ussangoda → Rumassala → Galle

Travel to Galle via two coastal landmarks linked to local legend before exploring the historic fort town itself.



Ussangoda

Visit Ussangoda, a largely treeless coastal plateau with toxic serpentine rock, linked in Ramayana legend to the burning tail of Lord Hanuman and to King Ravana's mythical flying chariot.

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Rumassala

Visit Rumassala, a hill near Unuwatuna beach topped by a white Buddhist dagoba, said in legend to be a fragment of the Dronagiri mountain carried by Hanuman and an abode of Sita during her time in Lanka.

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Galle Fort

Explore Galle Fort, one of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia and once a headquarters for the Portuguese and Dutch, with its museums, lighthouse and cobblestoned streets bearing Dutch names.

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Day 16 Galle (days 16–19)

Four days free at leisure on the south coast around Galle.



Galle Beaches

Spend time on one of Sri Lanka's best beaches, with options for watching nesting turtles, relaxing at beachfront hotels or trying water sports such as jet-skiing and windsurfing.

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Day 20 Galle → Colombo → BIA

Transfer from Galle to the airport in Colombo for the return flight home.

What's included

INCLUDED

- Transport in a Private Vehicle, Fuel, Parking & Highway tolls.
- Service of English-Speaking Chauffeur Guide.
- All prevailing taxes and service charges.

NOT INCLUDED

- Hotel Accommodation and Meals.
- Entrance fees to the respective sites.
- Chauffeur Guide's Accommodation.
- Expenses of personal nature.
- Visa and Related Expenses.
- Tips & Portages.