

TOUR REFERENCE
LK4Z64MC9J

Nature, Hills and Wildlife (6 Days)

6 days · 5 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This six-day tour links Sri Lanka's cultural heartland, central highlands and southern wildlife and coastal belt in one continuous route, travelling by private vehicle with a chauffeur guide. It opens near Dambulla with an elephant encounter and the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy, climbs into the tea country around Nuwara Eliya, drops down through Ella's hills on the way to Yala, and finishes via a Yala safari and the old fort town of Galle before reaching Colombo.

Travellers get a mix of wildlife, culture, scenery and gentle walking: elephants at Pinnawala, a Kandyan cultural show, a scenic highland train ride, a working tea factory, the grasslands and waterfalls of Horton Plains, the Nine Arches Bridge and Little Adam's Peak at Ella, a leopard-country safari in Yala National Park, and the Dutch-era streets of Galle Fort.

The tour is operated with a chauffeur guide throughout, so the road sections through the hill country and down to the south coast are handled without the traveller having to drive.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Dambulla → Kandy (days 1–2)

These two days combine an elephant encounter near Dambulla with a visit to Kandy's most sacred temple and an evening of traditional performance.



Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

Pinnawala is home to young elephants displaced or lost from their natural habitat, and holds the largest captive herd of elephants in the world with around 70 animals. Visitors can watch the elephants up close, including their river baths twice a day.

Bernard Gagnon · CC BY-SA 3.0



The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic

This UNESCO World Heritage Site in Kandy was built in the 16th century to house and protect Lord Buddha's sacred tooth. Its passageways and halls are painted in red, cream and black, with carved pillars and golden statues throughout.

A.Savin · FAL



Cultural Show

An hour-long Kandyan cultural show presents some of Sri Lanka's traditional art forms, including fire dancers, sword dancers and Kandyan dancers performing to drumming.

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Day 3 Nuwara Eliya (days 3–4)

Two days in and around Nuwara Eliya cover a scenic train journey, a tea factory visit, the town itself and a trek in Horton Plains National Park.



Scenic Train Ride

The train journey from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya passes through highland countryside, with views of tea plantations and villages set against misty mountain backdrops.

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Tea Factory Excursion

A guided visit shows how Ceylon tea is made, from watching tea pluckers at work in the fields to a tour covering fermentation, rolling, drying, cutting, sieving and grading. The visit ends with a tea tasting and background on why Ceylon tea is rated so highly.



Explore the Beautiful City

Nuwara Eliya was the premium hill-country holiday resort of the British in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and retains cottages, villas and mansions from that period. Visitors can walk its streets, call at the old red-brick post office, and relax at Queen Victoria Park or on the shores of Lake Gregory.

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Horton Plains National Park

Horton Plains, near Ohiya, protects montane grasslands and cloud forest with many endemic species. A walk here takes in the view from the precipice known as World's End and the spray of Baker's Falls, along with information on archaeological finds made in the area.

Faslan at en.wikipedia · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 5 Nuwara Eliya → Ella → Yala

The route to Yala passes through Ella, where a short hike takes in some of the area's best-known sights before continuing south.



Explore the Marvels of Ella

The walk through Ella passes tea fields and rocky stretches with views of Little Adam's Peak, crosses the Nine Arches Bridge, and finishes at Demodara Railway Station, known for its loop-over track design.

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Day 6 Yala → Galle → Colombo

The final day combines a morning safari in Yala with a stop in the old fort town of Galle before reaching Colombo for departure.



Yala National Park

Yala is the island's second-largest national park, on the southeastern coast, with a chance of spotting Sri Lankan leopards, wild water buffalo, sloth bears and herds of elephants. The park also supports many other species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates.

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Old Colonial City of Galle

Galle was once a headquarters for the Portuguese and Dutch, and its fort is one of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia. The old town can be explored on foot along cobblestoned streets with Dutch names, taking in the Maritime Museum, the Galle National Museum and the lighthouse.

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Departure

After breakfast, the tour ends with a transfer to Bandaranaike International Airport for departure.

What's included

INCLUDED

- Transport in a Private Car, inclusive of all chauffeur accommodation.
- Service of an English-Speaking Chauffeur Guide throughout the tour.
- All prevailing taxes and service charges.

NOT INCLUDED

- Hotel Accommodation and Meals.
- Entrance Fees.
- Chauffeur Guide's Accommodation.
- Expenses of personal nature.
- Visa and Related Expenses.

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