TOUR REFERENCE
LK85XNY3EB

The Big 5 in Southern Coast Season (7 Days)

7 days · 6 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This seven-day tour follows Sri Lanka's southern coast and dry-zone lowlands in search of the island's signature wildlife, from whales offshore to leopards, elephants, sloth bears and wild buffalo inland. It begins in Mirissa for a whale-watching excursion before working through Bundala, Yala and Udawalawe national parks, then finishes with a city tour in Colombo ahead of departure.

Travellers get a sequence of dedicated wildlife outings rather than a single safari day: a boat trip to see blue, sperm and fin whales, a birdwatching safari at Bundala, a full day in Yala tracking leopard and sloth bear, and both an evening and morning safari at Udawalawe for its elephant herds. The pace is steady, with one or two activities scheduled per day and overnight stays positioned close to each park.

A chauffeur guide meets travellers at Colombo airport and handles transport throughout in an air-conditioned vehicle, with the route moving from the coast inland and back to Colombo for the final night before the return flight.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Mirissa

On arrival at Colombo International Airport, a chauffeur guide meets you and transfers you by air-conditioned vehicle to Mirissa to check in and relax.



Mirissa

A coastal town on Sri Lanka's south coast serving as the base for the tour's whale-watching excursion.

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Day 2 Mirissa

The morning is set aside for a whale-watching tour off the southern coast.



Whale Watching Tour

A boat excursion giving the chance to see blue whales, sperm whales and fin whales in their natural habitat, with a qualified naturalist on hand to help identify species and explain their behaviour. The tour is run with a minimal impact on the animals and their environment.

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Day 3 Mirissa → Bundala → Yala

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and travel to Bundala for a safari, then continue on to Yala to check in for the night.



Bundala National Park

A wetland park believed to host every water bird species recorded in Sri Lanka, with around 200 species logged in total, 58 of them migratory. Between September and March large numbers of migrants arrive, including Marsh and Curlew Sandpipers, Curlew, Greenshank, Golden and Kentish Plover, and Large and Lesser Sandplovers, alongside rarer visitors such as the Broad-billed Sandpiper and Red-necked Phalarope. The park's best-known migrant is the greater flamingo, with over 10,000 shore birds sometimes feeding there in a single day during this period.

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Day 4 Yala

An early start leads into a full day safari in Yala National Park.



Yala National Park

The second-largest national park on the island, located off the southeastern coast, known for its population of Sri Lankan leopards alongside wild water buffalo, Sri Lankan sloth bear and large herds of Sri Lankan elephants. The park also supports a wide range of other mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates.

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Day 5 Yala → Udawalawe

After breakfast, check out and travel to Udawalawe to check in, with a half-day safari scheduled for the evening.



Udawalawe National Park

A park of marshes, forests and grasslands created as a wildlife sanctuary in the 1970s. It is known for its water birds and Sri Lankan elephants, and also supports other mammals and birds as well as reptiles, amphibians and butterflies.

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Day 6 Udawalawe → Colombo

An early morning safari in Udawalawe National Park is followed by the drive to Colombo, where you check in to the hotel for the night.



Udawalawe National Park

A further safari in the park, offering another opportunity to see its elephant herds and other wildlife before departing for Colombo.

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Day 7 Colombo → Airport

After breakfast and checkout, spend time on a city and shopping tour of Colombo before transferring to the airport for departure.



Colombo City and Shopping Tour

A tour of Sri Lanka's commercial capital taking in historic sites such as the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green and the National Museum. The tour also allows time to browse boutique shops and designer stores around Independence Square and the Race Course.

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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.

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