

TOUR REFERENCE
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Geoffrey Bawa Impressions (5 Days)

5 days · 4 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This five-day tour follows the work and influence of Geoffrey Bawa, Sri Lanka's best-known architect, across the island's hill country, south coast and capital. It opens in Kandy with the Temple of the Tooth Relic, then travels to Bentota and Galle, where several of Bawa's hotel designs and his own country estate can be seen, before ending in Colombo at one of his private houses.

Travellers see how Bawa's ideas developed over his career, from the experimental gardens at Lunuganga, which he shaped over decades, to the resort hotels at Bentota and Ahungalla and the town house he built up piece by piece in Colombo. Alongside this, the route takes in Galle Fort, the Dutch-era town that predates Bawa's work by centuries, giving context to how he drew on the island's colonial and vernacular architecture.

The tour runs as a private journey from airport to airport, moving from Kandy to the south coast and back to Colombo, suited to travellers with an interest in architecture and design who want to see these buildings and gardens first-hand rather than read about them.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Kandy

The first day travels from the airport to Kandy for a visit to the island's most revered Buddhist shrine.



Temple of the Tooth Relic

This UNESCO World Heritage Site was built in the 16th century to house and protect Lord Buddha's sacred tooth. The temple is made almost entirely of wood, with carved pillars, beams, rafters and doorframes throughout, and octagonal pillar bases topped with four-leaf motifs. Visitors walk through painted passageways in red, cream and black, past golden statues and finely carved columns.

A.Savin · FAL

Day 2 Kandy → Bentota

The second day moves south to Bentota, where the tour settles into Geoffrey Bawa's own country garden and one of his hotel designs.



Lunuganga Estate

This was the country home of Geoffrey Bawa, a lawyer turned architect who started shaping its gardens in 1947, a project that led him to architecture in the first place. He continued to change and experiment with the garden and its structures throughout his career, up to his final illness in 1998. Left to the Lunuganga Trust after his death in 2003, the estate is now open to the public, with its buildings run as a country house hotel.

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AVANI Bentota Resort & Spa

This designer hotel by Geoffrey Bawa sits on one of Sri Lanka's beaches, with just 75 rooms and suites looking over the Indian Ocean. It combines traditional hospitality with international-standard comfort, giving guests a base for both beach time and nearby sightseeing.

Day 3 Bentota → Galle → Mirissa

The third day continues along the coast through Galle, taking in further Bawa-designed hotels and the old fortified town.

Heritance Ahungalla Hotel

This five-star beach hotel at the fishing village of Ahungalla, near Galle, was designed by Geoffrey Bawa. Its open-plan lobby gives a long view over an infinity pool reaching toward the sea, and the airy, spacious design makes the most of natural light. The hotel's wooded gardens offer shade from the sun.

Jetwing Lighthouse

Another of Bawa's hotel designs, this five-star property stands on the outskirts of the old Dutch colonial town of Galle. It carries the elegance and old-world character typical of his work, alongside service, dining and facilities for a tropical stay.



Galle Fort

Once a headquarters for the Portuguese and then the Dutch, Galle Fort is one of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia. The visit takes in the Maritime Museum, the Galle National Museum and the lighthouse, along cobblestoned streets that still carry their old Dutch names.

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Day 4 Mirissa → Colombo

The fourth day returns to Colombo to see how Bawa worked within the constraints of a city plot.

Number 33, 33rd Lane

This house is an exercise in architectural bricolage. In 1958 Bawa bought the third of four small bungalows along a short cul-de-sac and converted it into a compact home with a living room, bedroom, tiny kitchen and servant's room. He later added the fourth bungalow as a dining and second living room, and ten years after that acquired the remaining bungalows, demolishing the first to make way for a four-storey tower.

Day 5 Colombo → Airport

The final day is a relaxed morning before checking out and transferring to the airport for the flight home.

What's included

INCLUDED

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

NOT INCLUDED

- Hotel Accommodation.
- Entry Visa Fees
- International / Domestic Airfare.
- Any expenses of personal nature.
- Entrance fees to the respective sites.
