

TOUR REFERENCE
LKAW9PB8FT

Highlights of Sri Lanka (10 Days)

10 days · 9 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This ten-day tour takes in Sri Lanka's cultural triangle, the central highlands, and the south coast, moving by private vehicle with a chauffeur guide throughout. It covers the cave temples of Dambulla, the rock fortress of Sigiriya, the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, Kandy and its surrounding temples, the tea country around Nuwara Eliya, a safari in Yala National Park, and the colonial port town of Galle, giving a broad introduction to the island's history, landscapes and wildlife.

Along the way there is time for a village experience near Sigiriya with an ox-cart ride and a lake crossing by catamaran, an elephant safari at Minneriya National Park, a spice garden visit near Matale, a Kandyan cultural dance show, and stops at tea factories, waterfalls and viewpoints through the hill country. The south coast section adds Galle Fort, a stilt fishermen visit at Koggala, and a turtle hatchery at Rekawa before the drive back to the airport.

Lakpura runs the tour in-country, providing the vehicle, chauffeur guide and the routing between destinations, so travellers can focus on the sights rather than logistics.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Dambulla

On arrival at Colombo airport a chauffeur guide meets you and drives you to Dambulla, stopping at the cave temples en route before checking in to the hotel.



Dambulla Cave Temple

The Golden Temple of Dambulla dates back to the 1st century BC and holds five main caves with ancient murals of the Buddha's life and hundreds of Buddha and deity figurines, including the Cave of the Divine King, the Cave of the Great King and the Great New Monastery. A giant golden Buddha statue stands a short distance outside the cave complex.

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Day 2 Dambulla → Sigiriya → Minneriya → Dambulla

A full day combining the Sigiriya rock fortress, a village experience and a wildlife safari before returning to Dambulla.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Climb the 5th century AD rock fortress built by King Kasyapa, entering through the lion's paw gateway that gives the site its name. See the unfading frescoes, climb the steep staircase past the terraced gardens and still-working cisterns, and walk through the tunnels leading up to the palace.

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Sigiriya Village Experience

Visit a local village for an ox-cart ride, a catamaran safari across a calm lake, and a walk through paddy fields. A traditional cooking demonstration is followed by a home-cooked lunch served on lotus leaves.



Minneriya National Park Safari

A jeep safari through Minneriya National Park, known for the Great Elephant Gathering of over 150 elephants in the dry season between May and October, along with other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

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Day 3 Dambulla → Polonnaruwa → Dambulla

A day trip to the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka's second major capital, before returning to Dambulla.



Polonnaruwa Ancient City

Walk through the ruins of Polonnaruwa, which flourished between the 10th and 13th centuries AD, taking in monuments such as Gal Vihara, Vatadage, the lotus bath, Lankathilaka Temple and the statue of King Parakramabahu.

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Day 4 Dambulla → Kandy

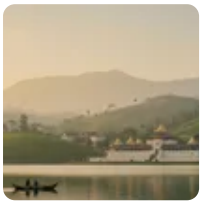
Check out and travel to Kandy via a spice garden in Matale, with a city tour, a cultural show and a temple visit on arrival.



Spice Garden

A guided tour of a spice and herbal garden near Matale, the spice capital of Sri Lanka, explaining the uses of coriander, chilli, cinnamon, cardamom and nutmeg and the role of Ayurveda.

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Kandy City Tour

A tour around Kandy, taking in the local markets and the city's architecture.

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Kandyan Cultural Show

An hour-long evening show of traditional Kandyan dance and music, including fire dancers, sword dancers and drummers.

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Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic

This UNESCO World Heritage Site was built in the 16th century to house and protect the Buddha's sacred tooth, with painted passageways and halls, carved pillars and golden statues.

A.Savin · FAL

Day 5 Kandy

A day around Kandy visiting a group of historic temples and the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Trio Temple (Embekke, Gadaladeniya, Lankatilaka) and Degaldoruwa Cave Temple

Visit the Embekke Temple for its wood carving, the Gadaladeniya Temple for its paintings and sculptures, the architecturally advanced Lankatilaka Temple, and the Degaldoruwa Cave Temple with its restored wall paintings.



Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya

Formed in the early 19th century, the gardens hold over 4000 species of plants, including orchids, spices and medicinal plants, with avenues of large trees, a cannonball tree and a suspension bridge.

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Day 6 Kandy → Nuwara Eliya

Check out and drive to Nuwara Eliya, stopping for waterfalls, a temple and a tea factory en route, then explore the highland town and Horton Plains.

Ramboda Falls and Sri Bhakth Hanuman Temple

A stop at Ramboda Falls, the 11th tallest waterfall in the country, and the nearby Sri Bhakth Hanuman Temple.

Tea Factory and Plantation

A guided tour of a tea factory and estate explaining how Ceylon tea is grown and processed, tracing the industry back to the plantation started by James Taylor in 1852.



Nuwara Eliya Town

A highland town that was a holiday resort for the British in the 19th and early 20th centuries, with cottages, villas, an old red-brick post office, Queen Victoria Park and Lake Gregory.

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Horton Plains National Park

A visit to Horton Plains in Ohiya, with its montane grasslands and cloud forest, the view from World's End, Baker's Falls, endemic fauna and archaeological finds in the area.

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Day 7 Nuwara Eliya → Yala

Travel to Yala via Ella, then head into Yala National Park for an afternoon jeep safari.



Ella

A stop in Ella to see tea fields, the view from Little Adam's Peak, the Nine Arches Bridge and the Demodara Railway Station with its loop-over track.

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Yala National Park Safari

An afternoon jeep safari in Yala National Park, the island's second largest, known for its leopards, wild water buffalo, sloth bears, elephants and other wildlife.

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Day 8 Yala → Galle

Check out and drive to Galle for a tour of the colonial old town and fort.

Galle Fort and Colonial City

Explore Galle, once a Portuguese and Dutch headquarters, including the well-preserved Galle Fort, the Maritime Museum, the Galle National Museum, the lighthouse and the cobblestoned streets of the old town.

Day 9 Galle

A day exploring coastal traditions near Galle, including stilt fishing and sea turtle conservation.



Stilt Fishermen, Koggala

Visit the stilt fishermen of Koggala to learn about their traditional fishing technique, passed down through generations, with photo opportunities at sunset.

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Turtle Hatchery, Rekawa

Learn about the five species of endangered sea turtles that nest on Sri Lanka's shores, with a chance to join a night turtle watch and volunteer briefly at the Rekawa Turtle Hatchery.

Day 10 Galle → Airport

Check out and transfer from Galle to the airport for departure.

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.