

TOUR REFERENCE
LKB4B3DJ4B

Tales of Taprobane (13 Days)

13 days · 12 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This 13-day tour runs the length of Sri Lanka, from the west coast beaches of Negombo through the hill country around Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Ella, down to the wildlife parks of the southeast and the south coast, finishing in Colombo. Along the way it mixes active pursuits - white-water rafting, hiking, a safari and whale watching - with cultural stops at temples, gardens and a cultural dance show, and time to relax on the beaches of Mirissa and Bentota.



Travellers get a broad sample of what the island offers: rapids on the Kelani River, an ethical elephant encounter, the Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy, the tea country around Nuwara Eliya, Horton Plains and World's End, the rail and walking trails around Ella, a Yala safari in search of leopards and elephants, whale watching off Mirissa, a Madu River boat trip through mangroves, and a look at Colombo's landmarks before departure.

A private vehicle and chauffeur guide take care of the travel between stops, so the days are built around the sights themselves rather than logistics.

Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Negombo

The tour begins on the west coast at Negombo, known for its beaches and long-standing fishing industry.



Negombo Beach

Negombo's sandy beaches on the Western Coast are the setting for watching the centuries-old fishing industry at work, alongside water sports such as diving.

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Diving and shipwreck

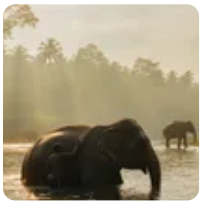
Divers can explore the corals and underwater life off the coast, including a 50-year-old shipwreck that is now home to many varieties of fish.

Day 2 Negombo → Kithulgala → Kandy (days 2–3)

The route heads inland via Kithulgala for white-water rafting and an elephant foundation visit, before continuing to Kandy for its temple and cultural show.

Kelani River white-water rafting

A 5km stretch of the Kelani River at Kithulgala offers white-water rafting through its rapids, with safety measures in place for the thrill of the ride.



Millennium Elephant Foundation

This family-run NGO is dedicated to the welfare of Sri Lanka's domestic elephants, funding their care, medical treatment, food and mahout salaries, and running a Mobile Veterinary Unit for sick elephants. Its Elephant Walk Experience offers visitors an ethical, up-close alternative to elephant riding.

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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. Its passageways and halls are decorated in red, cream and black, with carved pillars and golden statues.

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Kandy Cultural Show

This hour-long show presents traditional Sri Lankan art forms, including fire dancers, sword dancers and Kandyan dancers performing to drumming.

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Day 4 Kandy → Peradeniya → Kandy

A day trip from Kandy to the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya.



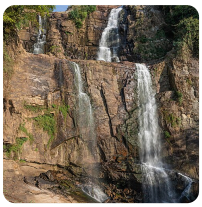
Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya

Formed in the early 19th century, the gardens hold over 4000 species of plants across a large area, including orchids, spices and medicinal plants. Features include the cannonball tree, a suspension bridge, hedge mazes and trees suited to climbing.

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Day 5 Kandy → Nuwara Eliya

The journey climbs into the hill country, stopping at a waterfall and tea factory en route to the former British hill station of Nuwara Eliya.



Ramboda Ella

Sri Lanka's 11th highest waterfall, near Pussellawa, falls in three sections. The middle section is visible from the A5 highway near the bridge, while the top section requires a climb up a pathway for a full view.

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Tea Factory visit

A stop at a tea factory follows the waterfall visit.



Nuwara Eliya town

This former premium holiday resort of the British in the 19th and early 20th centuries retains cottages, villas and mansions from the period. The old red-bricked post office sells postcards, and Queen Victoria Park and Lake Gregory offer places to relax.

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Day 6 Nuwara Eliya → Horton Plains → Nuwara Eliya

A day excursion to Horton Plains National Park.



Horton Plains National Park

The park's montane grasslands and cloud forests at Ohiya include World's End, a precipice with wide views, and Baker's Falls. The park holds many endemic species and sites of archaeological interest.

Faslan at en.wikipedia · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 7 Nuwara Eliya → Ella

The route continues to Ella, where a walk takes in the town's best-known viewpoints and landmarks.



Little Adam's Peak

The walk passes through tea fields and rocky stretches on the way to views from Little Adam's Peak.

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Nine Arches Bridge

The bridge's construction history is recounted along the walking route.

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Demodara Railway Station

The hike ends at this station, notable for its loop-over track design.

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Day 8 Ella → Yala

The tour moves to Yala for a safari in Sri Lanka's second-largest national park.



Yala National Park Safari

This three-hour safari in the park, on the island's southeastern coast, offers chances to see Sri Lankan leopards, wild water buffalo, Sri Lankan sloth bears and elephant herds, alongside many other mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish and invertebrate species.

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Day 9 Yala → Mirissa

The journey continues to the south coast at Mirissa for a whale-watching excursion.



Whale Watching

This five-hour tour gives the chance to see blue whales, sperm whales and fin whales in the waters south of Sri Lanka, with a qualified naturalist on hand to help identify species responsibly.

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Day 10 Mirissa → Bentota

The tour reaches Bentota, one of Sri Lanka's beach resort towns.



Bentota Beach

The beach offers sun, sand and sea breeze, sunset views over the ocean, and turtles nesting on the shore. Water sports such as jet-skiing and windsurfing are available alongside the beach's luxury hotels.

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Day 11 Bentota → Balapitiya → Bentota

A boat trip on the Madu River explores its mangrove ecosystem.

Madu River boat trip

This two-hour ride passes through mangrove channels, with sightings of basking crocodiles and water monitors. The trip includes a stop on a small island where cinnamon is harvested, a fish massage, and views of waterbirds in their habitat.

Day 12 Bentota → Colombo

The tour ends its coastal leg with a visit to Colombo, Sri Lanka's capital.



Colombo City Sights

Landmarks include the Old Lighthouse, Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green, Gangarama Temple and the National Museum. The city also offers shopping around Independence Square and the Race Course, along with its nightlife.

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Day 13 Colombo → Airport

After breakfast, guests check out and transfer to the airport for departure.

What's included

INCLUDED

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

NOT INCLUDED

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