



TOUR REFERENCE
LKBFS64ZCH

Exploring Paradise (15 Days)

15 days · 14 nights

Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This 15-day tour covers the full sweep of Sri Lanka: the west coast at Negombo, the Cultural Triangle around Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura, the hill country around Kandy and Hatton, Yala National Park in the southeast, and the south coast beaches at Ahangama. It moves from ancient cities and rock fortresses to tea country and wildlife parks before ending on the coast, giving a traveller a sense of the island's history, nature and beaches in one trip.

Along the way there is time for ruined monasteries and temple complexes, a village experience near Sigiriya with an oxen cart ride and a lake safari, two national park safaris in search of elephants and leopards, a walk through Kandy's botanical gardens and the Temple of the Tooth, a day at Horton Plains, and a stretch of beach days at Ahangama with a visit to Galle Fort and the stilt fishermen nearby.

The pace is unhurried, with repeat nights in several places so that longer excursions and rest days can be built around a single base, and the final days are left free for the beach before departure.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Negombo (days 1–2)

Two days on the west coast at Negombo, a beach town with a long fishing tradition.



Negombo Beach

Spend time on the sandy beaches of Negombo, watching the centuries-old fish industry that still operates along the shore.

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Water sports

Try water sports along the coast for an adrenaline rush.

Diving and shipwreck

Dive among the corals and underwater life, including a 50-year-old shipwreck just off the coast that is now home to many species of fish.

Day 3 Negombo → Dambulla → Sigiriya

Travel inland to the Cultural Triangle, stopping at the cave temples of Dambulla en route to Sigiriya.



Golden Temple of Dambulla

Enter the historic cave temples dating back to the 1st century BC, viewing ancient murals depicting the life of Lord Gautama Buddha and hundreds of Buddha and deity figurines across the five main caves, including the Cave of the Divine King, the Cave of the Great King and the Great New Monastery.

Lankapic · CC BY 2.5

Golden Buddha Statue

See the giant golden Buddha statue a short distance outside the cave complex.

Day 4 Sigiriya → Polonnaruwa → Sigiriya

A full day combining the Sigiriya rock fortress, a village experience at Hiriwaduna, and the ancient city of Polonnaruwa.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Climb the 5th century rock fortress built for King Kasyapa, entering through the lion's-paw staircase and viewing the famous unfading murals, the terraced gardens, the still-working cisterns and the tunnels leading to the palace ruins.

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Hiriwaduna Village

Visit this village to experience traditional rural life with an oxen cart ride, a catamaran safari on a calm lake, a walk through paddy fields, and a traditional cooking demonstration followed by a home-cooked lunch served on lotus leaves.



Polonnaruwa Ancient City

Walk through the ruins of Sri Lanka's second major capital, which flourished between the 10th and 13th centuries, taking in the Gal Vihara, Vatadage, the lotus bath, Lankathilaka Temple and the statue of King Parakramabahu.

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Day 5 Sigiriya → Anuradhapura → Minneriya → Sigiriya

Visit the ancient city of Anuradhapura before an afternoon safari in Minneriya National Park.



Anuradhapura Ancient City

Walk through the ruins of this city, Sri Lanka's capital for over a millennium until the 10th century, seeing the Jetavanarama stupa, once one of the tallest buildings of the ancient world, the Sri Maha Bodhi and the ruins of the Abhayagiri Monastery.

Thisaru Tharuka · CC BY-SA 4.0



Minneriya National Park Safari

Take a three-hour safari through Minneriya National Park, known for the Great Elephant Gathering of up to 150 elephants in the dry season between May and October, alongside other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Stuart Pinkney · CC BY 2.0

Day 6 Sigiriya → Kandy

Travel to Kandy via a spice garden near Matale, finishing the day with a cultural dance performance.

Euphoria Spice and Herbal Garden

Visit this garden near Matale, the spice capital of Sri Lanka, to learn about Sri Lankan spices, herbs and the uses of Ayurveda on a guided spice tour.



Kandyan Cultural Show

Watch an hour-long show of traditional Kandyan dancing and music, including fire dancers, sword dancers and drummers.

Arian Zwegers · CC BY 2.0

Day 7 Kandy

A day in Kandy taking in its botanical gardens and its most important Buddhist temple.



Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya

Walk through the gardens, established in the early 19th century and home to over 4000 species of plants, including orchids, spices and medicinal plants, along with notable trees such as the cannonball tree and a suspension bridge.

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Temple of the Tooth Relic

Visit this UNESCO World Heritage Site, built in the 16th century to house Lord Buddha's sacred tooth, with its painted halls, carved pillars and golden statues.

A.Savin · FAL

Day 8 Kandy → Hatton

Travel from Kandy to Hatton, with the rest of the day free to relax after checking in.

Day 9 Hatton → Horton Plains → Hatton

A day trip to Horton Plains National Park in the hill country.



Horton Plains National Park

Visit the montane grasslands and cloud forests of Horton Plains in Ohiya, taking in the views from World's End and the spray from Baker's Falls, along with endemic wildlife and sites of archaeological interest.

Faslan at en.wikipedia · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 10 Hatton → Yala

Travel to the southeast for a safari in Yala National Park.



Yala National Park Safari

Take a three-hour safari through Yala, the island's second-largest national park, with a chance to see Sri Lankan leopards, wild water buffalo, Sri Lankan sloth bears and large herds of elephants, among other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Ranmith Welikala · CC BY-SA 4.0

Day 11 Yala → Ahangama (days 11–12)

Travel to the south coast for two days on the beach at Ahangama.

Ahangama Beach

Spend time on one of Sri Lanka's beaches, with soft sand and sea breeze, watching the sunset and, at night, turtles coming ashore to nest.

Water sports

Try water sports such as jet-skiing and windsurfing along the coast.

Day 13 Ahangama

A day trip to Galle to see its fort and nearby stilt fishermen.



Galle Fort

Explore Galle, once a Portuguese and Dutch headquarters, walking the cobblestoned streets of one of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia and visiting its museums and lighthouse.

Rovin Shanila · CC BY-SA 4.0



Stilt Fishermen

Hear from local fishermen about the tradition of stilt fishing and watch the craft performed, with good opportunities for photographs at sunset.

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Day 14 Ahangama

A further day to relax on the beach at Ahangama.

Ahangama Beach

Continue to enjoy the beach, sea breeze and sunset, with the chance to watch turtles nesting and try water sports such as jet-skiing and windsurfing.

Day 15 Ahangama → Airport

Check out after breakfast 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.

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