



TOUR REFERENCE  
**LKD7NWA2QZ**

# Coast and Hills (8 Days)

8 days · 7 nights

Private tour with chauffeur guide

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## About this experience

This eight-day tour runs from Negombo on the west coast through the Cultural Triangle to Kandy, up into the tea hills around Nuwara Eliya, and down to the south-west coast at Bentota and Galle, before returning to the airport. Travel is by private air-conditioned vehicle with a chauffeur guide throughout.

Highlights include the cave temples of Dambulla, the rock fortress of Sigiriya, a village experience at Hiriwaduna with an oxen cart ride and catamaran safari, a spice garden visit near Matale, the Temple of the Tooth Relic and a Kandyan cultural show in Kandy, a tea factory tour near Nuwara Eliya, the Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery, a walk around Galle Fort and a boat safari on the Madu River.

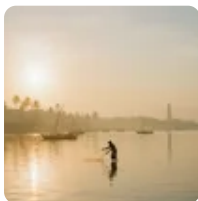
The pace mixes history, culture, wildlife and coastal relaxation, moving from lowland heat to cooler hill country and back to the coast. Each day's sightseeing is arranged around the drive to the next overnight stop, with free time built in to rest at the hotel.



## Day-by-day itinerary

### Day 1 Airport → Negombo

On arrival at Colombo airport you are met by your chauffeur guide and driven to Negombo to check in and relax, with a city tour in the evening.



#### Negombo city tour

Negombo sits on the western coast, known for its sandy beaches and a centuries-old fishing industry. Visitors can try water sports or diving among the corals, including a 50-year-old shipwreck just off the coast that is now home to many fish species.

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## Day 2 Negombo → Pinnawala → Dambulla

After checking out of Negombo, drive to Dambulla and check in, with a visit to the cave temple in the evening.



### Dambulla Cave Temple

The Golden Temple of Dambulla dates back to the 1st century BC and holds ancient murals depicting the life of Lord Gautama Buddha alongside hundreds of Buddha and deity figurines across five main caves, 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 3 Dambulla → Sigiriya → Minneriya → Dambulla

The day is given over to the rock fortress of Sigiriya and a village experience at Hiriwaduna.



### Sigiriya Rock Fortress

This 5th-century AD rock fortress was the seat of King Kasyapa, entered through steps framed by a lion's paws that give the site its name, the Lion Rock. The climb passes well-preserved murals, terraced gardens, still-working cisterns and tunnels that once led to the royal palace.

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### Hiriwaduna village tour

Hiriwaduna is a village that keeps its traditional way of life, offering an oxen cart ride, a catamaran safari across a calm lake, and walks through paddy fields. The visit includes a traditional cooking demonstration and a home-cooked lunch served on lotus leaves.

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## Day 4 Dambulla → Kandy

Travel to Kandy via Matale for a spice garden visit, then settle in before an evening of cultural performance.



### Spice Garden, Matale

Near Matale, the spice capital of Sri Lanka, a guided tour through a spice and herbal garden introduces coriander, chilli, cinnamon, cardamom, nutmeg and other spices and herbs, along with their traditional uses and links to Ayurveda.

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### Kandyan Cultural Show

In the evening there are tours related to local arts such as gem crafting, woodcarving and batik, followed by a Kandyan cultural show featuring colourful traditional dances, fire and sword dancers, and drumming.

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## Day 5 Kandy → Nuwara Eliya

Visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic before driving up to Nuwara Eliya, stopping at Ramboda Falls and a tea factory en route, with a city tour on arrival.



### 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, with ornately painted halls in red, cream and black, carved pillars and golden statues.

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### Ramboda Falls

A stop is made at Ramboda Falls, the 11th tallest waterfall in the country, on the way to Nuwara Eliya.

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### Tea Factory visit

A guided tour of a tea estate and factory explains the varieties, processing methods and qualities of Ceylon tea, a trade that began when tea was first planted at Peradeniya in 1824 and later established commercially by James Taylor at Loolecondara estate from 1852.



### Nuwara Eliya city tour

Set in the heart of tea country at an elevation of around 6,200 feet, Nuwara Eliya was shaped by the British into a replica of an English countryside town, with Georgian and Queen Anne-style homes, an Anglican church, a golf course and well-kept parks, giving it cool, fresh air and an air of nostalgia.

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## Day 6 Nuwara Eliya → Bentota

Check out and drive down to the south-west coast at Bentota, stopping at a turtle hatchery along the way.



### Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery

On the south-western coast, the hatchery works to protect nests of the five endangered sea turtle species that come to Sri Lanka's shores to lay eggs, improving the survival chances of the hatchlings. Visitors can see, touch and feed baby turtles and sometimes injured adults in its care.

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## Day 7 Bentota → Galle → Bentota

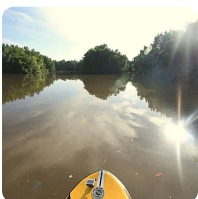
A day trip covers Galle Fort and a boat safari on the Madu River before returning to Bentota.



### Galle Fort

Once headquarters for the Portuguese and Dutch, Galle Fort is one of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia, with museums, a lighthouse and cobblestoned streets bearing Dutch names.

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### Madu River boat safari

At Balapitiya, a boat ride through the Madu River's mangrove-lined channels passes basking crocodiles and water monitors, a small island where cinnamon is harvested, and opportunities for a fish massage and birdwatching.

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**Day 8** Bentota → BIA

After breakfast, check out and transfer 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.
- Tips & Portages.

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