

TOUR REFERENCE
LKED7WBKDR

Amazing Sri Lanka (24 Days)

24 days · 23 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This 24-day private, chauffeur-guided tour covers the full sweep of Sri Lanka: the west coast at Negombo, the Cultural Triangle around Dambulla, Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa, the hill country around Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Ella, the dry-zone safari parks of Minneriya and Yala, and a long stretch on the south coast at Unawatuna. Travel between regions is by road, with one scenic train ride through the hills, and the pace allows for both sightseeing days and extended rest on the beach.

Travellers get a genuine mix of history, nature and relaxation: ancient cave temples and rock fortresses, botanical gardens and tea estates, two separate wildlife safaris with a chance of leopards and elephants, a hill-country hike to Ella Rock, and nearly two weeks to unwind on the southern coast at Unawatuna, taking in Galle Fort and the Rumassala and Ussangoda coastal areas along the way.

The tour is run throughout by Lakpura's own chauffeur-guide, who meets travellers on arrival at the airport and handles the road transport and logistics for the entire 24 days, leaving the itinerary free to focus on the sights rather than the planning.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Negombo

On arrival at Colombo International Airport you are met by a Lakpura chauffeur guide and driven to Negombo to check in and relax.



Negombo

Transfer from the airport to Negombo, a short drive of around 20 to 30 minutes, to check in to the hotel.

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Day 2 Negombo

A day on the west coast to enjoy Negombo's beaches and its long-standing fishing industry.



Negombo Beach

Spend time on Negombo's sandy beaches and watch the centuries-old fish industry at work.

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Water Sports and Diving

Try water sports or dive on the local reefs, including a 50-year-old shipwreck just off the coast that now shelters many varieties of fish.

Day 3 Negombo → Dambulla

Travel inland to Dambulla to visit its cave temple complex, carved into the rock and in use since the 1st century BC.



Golden Temple of Dambulla

Enter the historic cave temples dating back to the 1st century BC, with ancient murals depicting the life of the Buddha and 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.

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Golden Buddha Statue

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

Day 4 Dambulla → Sigiriya → Dambulla

A day combining the Sigiriya rock fortress with a taste of village life in the surrounding countryside.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Climb the 5th-century rock fortress built for King Kasyapa, entering through the lion's paw staircase, viewing the famous murals, and walking through the terraced gardens, cisterns and tunnels that lead up to the palace.

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Village Experience

Take an oxen cart ride and a catamaran safari on a calm lake, walk through paddy fields, and join a traditional cooking demonstration followed by a home-cooked lunch served on lotus leaves.

Day 5 Dambulla → Polonnaruwa → Minneriya

Visit the medieval capital of Polonnaruwa before an afternoon safari in Minneriya National Park.



Polonnaruwa

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

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Minneriya National Park Safari

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

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Day 6 Dambulla → Matale → Kandy

Travel to Kandy via Matale's spice gardens, finishing with a visit to the city's most important temple.

Euphoria Spice and Herbal Garden

Tour a spice and herbal garden near Matale, the spice capital of Sri Lanka, to learn about local spices, herbs and Ayurveda, explained in a range of languages for visitors.



Temple of the Tooth Relic

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

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Day 7 Kandy → Peradeniya → Kandy

A day trip to the Royal Botanical Gardens just outside Kandy.



Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya

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

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Day 8 Kandy → Nuwara Eliya

Head up into the hill country, stopping at a waterfall and tea estate before reaching Nuwara Eliya, the colonial-era hill town.



Ramboda Falls

Stop at Ramboda Falls, the 11th tallest waterfall in the country.

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Mackwoods Tea Estate

Take a guided tour of a tea factory and plantation to learn how Ceylon tea is grown and processed, a tradition that began when tea was first planted commercially in Sri Lanka by James Taylor at Loolecondera estate in 1852.



Hakgala Botanical Gardens

Walk through the shaded avenues and colourful mazes of Hakgala Botanical Gardens.

Own work of Buddhika Mawella · CC BY-SA 3.0



Lake Gregory

Take a relaxed walk along the shores of Lake Gregory.

Rehman Abubakr · CC BY-SA 4.0



Nuwara Eliya

Arrive in Nuwara Eliya, a hill-country town built by the British in the style of an English countryside settlement, with period homes, an Anglican church and a golf course, set at a cool, high elevation.

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Day 9 Nuwara Eliya → Horton Plains → Nuwara Eliya

A day trip to Horton Plains National Park for its grasslands, cloud forest and viewpoints.



Horton Plains National Park

Explore the montane grasslands and cloud forests of Horton Plains in Ohiya, home to many endemic species, and visit the area's archaeological finds.

Faslan at en.wikipedia · CC BY-SA 3.0

World's End and Baker's Falls

Take in the views from the precipice known as World's End and the cooling spray of Baker's Falls.

Day 10 Nuwara Eliya → Ella

Travel from Nuwara Eliya to Ella on one of the island's most scenic train rides.



Nanu Oya to Ella Train Journey

Ride the train from Nanu Oya to Ella through tea plantations, misty villages and the landscapes around Haputale, with mountains, woodlands and waterfalls along the way. Train tickets are not included in the tour price.

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Day 11 Ella

A hike to one of the hill country's best viewpoints.



Ella Rock Hike

Take the three-hour hike up to Ella Rock, passing views of the Namunukula Range and Little Adam's Peak, with landmarks such as the Bandarawala Range, Poonagala Hills, Narangala, the Ella Gap and the Badulla train tracks visible from the top.

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Day 12 Ella → Yala

After breakfast, check out and travel on to Yala, checking in to the hotel there.

Day 13 Yala

A safari day in one of Sri Lanka's premier national parks.



Yala National Park Safari

Take a three-hour safari through Yala, the island's second-largest national park on the southeastern coast, with chances to see Sri Lankan leopards, wild water buffalo, sloth bears and large herds of elephants, along with many other mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates.

Ranmith Welikala · CC BY-SA 4.0

Day 14 Yala → Ussangoda → Rumassala → Unawatuna

Travel to the south coast, stopping at two legend-linked coastal landmarks before reaching Galle and Unawatuna.



Ussangoda

Visit this bare coastal plateau, unusual for its lack of trees due to toxic heavy metals in its serpentine rock, which local legend links to the Ramayana story of Hanuman's burning tail and to King Ravana's mythical airport.

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Rumassala

See this hill east of Galle, topped by a white Buddhist dagoba, said in legend to be a fragment of the Himalayan mountain Dronagiri dropped by Hanuman, and linked to Sita's stay in Lanka.

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Galle Fort

Explore Galle Fort, one of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia, built up by the Portuguese and Dutch, with its museums, lighthouse and cobblestoned streets.

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Day 15 Unawatuna (days 15–23)

Nine days to relax on one of Sri Lanka's best beaches, with time for swimming, water sports and watching the sunset.



Unawatuna Beach

Spend time on the beach, enjoying the sand, sun and sea breeze, watching the sunset over the ocean, and trying water sports such as jet-skiing and windsurfing.

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Turtle Watching

Watch for turtles coming ashore to nest.

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Day 24 Unawatuna → BIA

After a relaxed final morning and breakfast at the hotel, check out and transfer to the airport for the return flight home.

What's included

INCLUDED

- Transport in a Private Vehicle, inclusive of all chauffeur accommodation.
- Service of an English-Speaking Chauffeur Guide throughout the tour.
- All prevailing taxes and service charges.

NOT INCLUDED

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