



TOUR REFERENCE
LKGEY9WQ9M

Week in Paradise (7 Days)

7 days · 6 nights

Private tour with chauffeur guide

AI-generated image · not an actual photograph

About this experience

This seven-day tour links Sri Lanka's cultural triangle, hill country and south-western coast in a single loop by private vehicle, with a chauffeur guide handling transfers and sightseeing throughout. From the airport you head to Dambulla and Sigiriya, take in the ancient cities of Polonnaruwa and an elephant safari at Minneriya, then move up into the tea country around Kandy and Nuwara Eliya before descending to the beach at Bentota and finishing with a Galle fort visit and a Colombo city tour ahead of departure.

Highlights include climbing Sigiriya Rock Fortress, walking the ruins of Polonnaruwa, a jeep safari among wild elephants at Minneriya National Park, a guided tea factory tour at Ramboda, the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy, the Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery, and the old Dutch fort at Galle. Stops at a spice garden near Matale, a Kandyan cultural show, and a Hindu temple at Chilaw round out the cultural content along the way.

The pace is steady rather than rushed, with one or two main visits scheduled most days and time built in for rest at the hotel on arrival. It suits travellers who want a first, broad introduction to Sri Lanka's archaeology, tea-growing hills, wildlife and coast without having to plan the route themselves.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Dambulla → Sigiriya

After arrival at Colombo airport you are met by your chauffeur guide and driven towards Dambulla, pausing at Chilaw on the way, before an evening visit to the cave temples.



Munneswaram Temple

This is an important regional Hindu temple complex near Chilaw, in existence since at least 1000 CE. Myths connect it to the Ramayana and its hero-king Rama, and it is one of five ancient temples in the region dedicated to Shiva.

Leon Meerson · CC BY-SA 2.0



Dambulla Cave Temple

The Golden Temple of Dambulla's caves date back to the 1st century BC and hold murals depicting the life of the Buddha along with 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.

Lankapic · CC BY 2.5

Day 2 Sigiriya → Polonnaruwa → Minneriya → Sigiriya

The day is spent exploring the ancient ruined city of Polonnaruwa before an afternoon safari in search of elephants at Minneriya.



Polonnaruwa

Sri Lanka's second major ancient capital flourished between the 10th and 13th centuries AD. Monuments include Gal Vihara, the Vatadage, the lotus bath, Lankathilaka Temple and the statue associated with King Parakramabahu, whose reign is regarded as Polonnaruwa's golden age.

Bernard Gagnon · CC BY-SA 3.0



Minneriya National Park

A three-hour jeep safari through the park's scrublands and forests. Between May and October this is the site of the Great Elephant Gathering, when over 150 elephants congregate in one place, alongside other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Stuart Pinkney · CC BY 2.0

Day 3 Sigiriya → Matale → Kandy

The morning is given to climbing Sigiriya Rock, after which the route continues via a spice garden near Matale to Kandy, where the evening includes a cultural show.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

This 5th-century AD rock fortress was the seat of King Kashyapa. The climb passes through an entrance framed by giant lion's paws, which gives the rock its name, past unfading ancient murals, terraced gardens and still-working cisterns, and through tunnels leading to the palace ruins at the summit.

Wrobell · CC BY-SA 3.0



Spice Garden

A guided tour of a spice and herbal garden near Matale, the spice capital of Sri Lanka, covering coriander, chilli, cinnamon, cardamom and nutmeg among other crops. Guides explain the uses of each spice and herb and the principles of Ayurveda.

AI-generated image · not an actual photograph



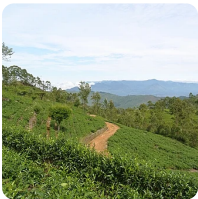
Kandyan Cultural Show

An hour-long show of traditional Kandyan arts including fire dancers, sword dancers and Kandyan dancers performing to drumming. The evening also takes in demonstrations of gem crafting, woodcarving and batik work.

Arian Zwegers · CC BY 2.0

Day 4 Kandy → Nuwara Eliya → Kandy

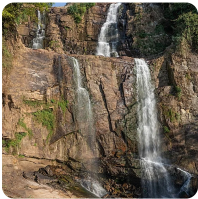
A day trip into the hill country takes in a tea estate near Ramboda before a scenic look at Nuwara Eliya town, returning to Kandy in the evening.



Tea Factory, Ramboda

A guided tour of a working tea estate explaining the stages of tea manufacture: fermentation, rolling, drying, cutting, sieving and grading. Visitors can watch tea pickers at work in the surrounding fields and finish with a tasting session and an introduction to the history of Ceylon tea.

Adbar · CC BY-SA 3.0



Ramboda Falls

The 11th tallest waterfall in Sri Lanka, seen en route to the tea estate.

A.Savin · FAL



Nuwara Eliya

This highland town served as the premier holiday resort for the British in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Its streets hold cottages, villas and mansions from that period, along with an old red-brick post office and the green spaces of Queen Victoria Park and Lake Gregory.

Abdul malik77 · CC BY-SA 4.0

Day 5 Kandy → Bentota

Before leaving Kandy for the coast, the morning is spent at the city's most significant Buddhist shrine.



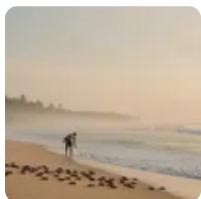
Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic

This UNESCO World Heritage Site was built in the 16th century to house and protect the Buddha's sacred tooth relic. Its passageways and halls are decorated in red, cream and black, with carved pillars and golden statues.

A.Savin · FAL

Day 6 Bentota → Galle → Bentota

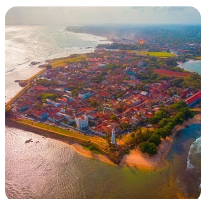
After a morning at leisure on the beach, the afternoon covers a turtle conservation site and the old fort town of Galle.



Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery

Located on the southwestern coast, this hatchery works to protect the nests of five endangered sea turtle species that come ashore in Sri Lanka to nest, improving survival chances for hatchlings. Visitors can see, and sometimes touch and feed, baby turtles and injured adult turtles under the hatchery's care.

AI-generated image · not an actual photograph



Galle Fort

One of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia, built during the Portuguese and Dutch colonial periods. The fort holds museums, a lighthouse and cobblestoned streets with Dutch-era names.

Rovin Shanila · CC BY-SA 4.0

Day 7 Bentota → Colombo → Airport

The final day is spent on a city and shopping tour of Colombo before transfer to the airport for departure.



Colombo City Tour

A tour of the capital's historic landmarks, including the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green and the National Museum, along with shopping at Independence Square, the Race Course area, and various boutiques and designer stores.

Gihanud2001 · CC0

What's included

INCLUDED

- Private Transport with airport transfers in an Air-Conditioned Vehicle throughout the tour. (2010 and Above Manufactured)
- Service of an English-Speaking Chauffeur Guide.
- All prevailing taxes and service charges.

NOT INCLUDED

- Hotel Accommodation and Meals.
- Entrance Fees.
- Expenses of personal nature.
- Visa and Related Expenses.
- Tips & Portages.

Lakpura® · Prices, options and booking: www.lakpura.com/products/week-in-paradise-7-days
hello@lakpura.com · +94 11 574 7474