



TOUR REFERENCE  
**LKGQVDE5TS**

# Serendipity Trail (15 Days)

15 days · 14 nights

Private tour with chauffeur guide

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## About this experience

This 15-day tour runs the full length of Sri Lanka's classic circuit, starting on the west coast at Negombo and moving through the Cultural Triangle, the central highlands, the southeast's wildlife parks, and the south coast before finishing in Colombo. It takes in Dambulla's cave temples, the rock fortress of Sigiriya, the ruined medieval capital of Polonnaruwa, and the hill towns of Kandy and Nuwara Eliya, then descends through Ella to the Yala safari region and on to Galle Fort, Unawatuna and the Madu River before returning to the capital.

Travellers get a mix of heritage sites, rural village life, tea country, a Yala safari, whale watching and beach time on the south coast, with a day built around a village experience near Sigiriya that includes an oxen cart ride, a catamaran safari, and a home-cooked lunch. Multiple nights are spent in Sigiriya, Kandy, Yala and Unawatuna, giving time to explore each area rather than just pass through.

The tour is run privately with a Lakpura chauffeur guide throughout, so the schedule and pace can be adapted along the way.



## Day-by-day itinerary

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## Day 1 Airport → Negombo

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



### Negombo Beach

Enjoy the sandy beaches of Negombo and watch the centuries-old fish industry still active along the coast.

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### Water Sports

Try water sports along the coast, including diving among corals and a 50-year-old shipwreck where many fish species now live.

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## Day 2 Negombo → Dambulla → Sigiriya

Travel inland to the Cultural Triangle, stopping at the cave temples of Dambulla before continuing to Sigiriya.



### Golden Temple of Dambulla

Enter the historic cave temples dating back to the 1st century BC, with ancient murals depicting the life of Lord Gautama 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. A giant golden Buddha statue stands a short distance outside the cave complex.

Lankapic · CC BY 2.5

### Millennium Elephant Foundation

Visit this family-run NGO dedicated to the welfare of domestic elephants, which funds their care, medical treatment and a mobile veterinary unit. Its Elephant Walk Experience offers an ethical, close-up alternative to elephant riding.

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## Day 3 Sigiriya → Polonnaruwa → Minneriya → Sigiriya

A day trip to the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka's second medieval capital.



### Polonnaruwa

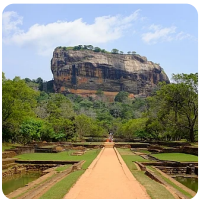
Walk through the ruins of the city that flourished between the 10th and 13th centuries AD, including the Gal Vihara, the Vatadage, the lotus bath, the Lankathilaka Temple and the statue of King Parakramabahu, whose reign is considered Polonnaruwa's golden age.

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## Day 4 Sigiriya

A full day based in Sigiriya combining the climb of the Lion Rock with a taste of village life.



### Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Climb the 5th-century AD rock fortress ruled by King Kasyapa, entering through steps framed by the paws of a lion. See the well-known frescoes, climb the steep staircase to the terraced gardens and still-working cisterns, and walk through the tunnels leading to the palace ruins.

Wrobell · CC BY-SA 3.0

### 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.

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## Day 5 Sigiriya → Kandy

Travel to Kandy and in the evening take in a performance of traditional Kandyan arts.



### Kandy Cultural Show

Watch an hour-long show of Sri Lankan performing arts, including fire dancers, sword dancers and Kandyan dancers performing to drumming.

Arian Zwegers · CC BY 2.0

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## Day 6 Kandy

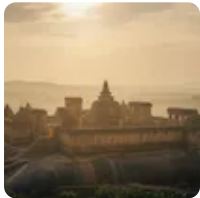
A day exploring Kandy's temples, including several noted for their craftsmanship and the island's most venerated Buddhist shrine.



### Embekke Temple

See the wood-carving craftsmanship that this temple is known for.

Cherubino · CC BY-SA 3.0



### Gadaladeniya Temple

Wander through this historic temple and view its paintings and sculptures.

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### Lankatilaka Temple

Visit a temple that was architecturally advanced for its time.

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### Degaldoruwa Cave Temple

See the cave temple's interior walls, covered in painstakingly restored paintings.

A.Savin · FAL



### Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic

Visit this UNESCO World Heritage Site, built in the 16th century to house and protect Lord Buddha's sacred tooth. Walk through richly painted halls in red, cream and black, past carved pillars and golden statues.

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## Day 7 Kandy → Nuwara Eliya

Travel into the hill country, stopping at a tea factory and plantation en route.

### Tea Factory and Plantation

See how Ceylon Tea is made, a tradition that began in 1824 when a tea plant was brought from China to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya. James Taylor, a British settler who arrived in 1852 and established an estate at Loolecondera near Kandy, went on to found Sri Lanka's commercial tea industry.

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## Day 8 Nuwara Eliya → Horton Plains → Nuwara Eliya

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



### Horton Plains National Park

Explore the park's montane grasslands and cloud forests near Ohiya. Take in the views from the precipice of World's End and the spray of Baker's Falls, and look out for endemic fauna and sites of archaeological interest.

Faslan at en.wikipedia · CC BY-SA 3.0

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## Day 9 Nuwara Eliya → Ella → Yala

Travel on to Ella for a walk through its best-known sights before continuing to the Yala area.

### Ella Highlights

Pass through tea fields and rocky terrain for views of Little Adam's Peak, walk over the Nine Arches Bridge and hear the story of its construction, and finish at Demodara Railway Station with its unusual loop-over track design.

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## Day 10 Yala

A full day safari in Yala National Park.



### Yala National Park

Visit the island's second-largest national park, on the southeastern coast, known for its population of Sri Lankan leopards, wild water buffalo, sloth bears and large elephant herds, alongside a wide range of other mammals, birds, reptiles and fish.

Ranmith Welikala · CC BY-SA 4.0

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## Day 11 Yala → Galle → Unawatuna

Head to the south coast, exploring the historic fort town of Galle en route, with the option of whale watching and a stop to see Koggala's stilt fishermen.



### Galle Fort

Explore the fortifications built under Portuguese and Dutch rule, one of the best-preserved in Asia, along with the museums, lighthouse and cobblestoned Dutch-era streets of Galle.

Rovin Shanila · CC BY-SA 4.0



### Whale Watching Tour

Head out to the waters south of Sri Lanka for a chance to see blue whales, sperm whales and fin whales, guided by a qualified naturalist, on a tour designed to minimise impact on the animals.

Ji-Elle · CC BY-SA 3.0



### Stilt Fisherman in Koggala

Watch fishermen perched on stilts along the coast at Koggala, a craft practised for generations, and hear from the fishermen how it is done.

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## Day 12 Unawatuna (days 12–13)

Two days to relax on one of Sri Lanka's well-known beaches.



### Unawatuna Beach

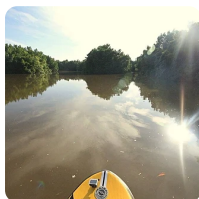
Spend time on the beach with its sand and sea breeze, watch for nesting turtles, and try water sports such as jet-skiing and windsurfing.

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## Day 14 Unawatuna → Balapitiya → Colombo

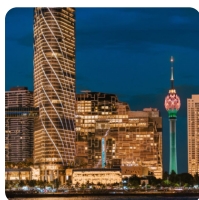
Travel back towards Colombo, stopping for a boat ride on the Madu River before an evening in the capital.



### Madu River Boat Ride

Cruise through the river's mangrove channels, spotting basking crocodiles and water monitors, visit a small island where cinnamon is harvested, watch water birds, and try a traditional fish massage.

SUPindia · CC BY-SA 4.0



### Colombo City

See the capital's landmarks, including the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green, Gangarama Temple and the National Museum, with time for shopping around Independence Square or the Race Course and exploring the city's nightlife.

Gihanud2001 · CC0

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## Day 15 Colombo → Airport

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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