

TOUR REFERENCE
LKJ477BBWP

Tales of Ancient Ceylon from Colombo (3 Days)

3 days · 2 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This private three-day tour runs from Colombo into Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle, covering the Dambulla cave temples, the rock fortress of Sigiriya, the ruined capital of Polonnaruwa and a wildlife safari in Minneriya National Park. The route heads north from Colombo to Dambulla and Sigiriya on day one, loops out to Polonnaruwa and Minneriya and back on day two, then closes with the Sigiriya climb and a village experience before returning to Colombo.



Travellers get a compact survey of Sri Lanka's ancient history, from the 1st-century BC cave monastery at Dambulla to the 10th-13th century royal city of Polonnaruwa and the 5th-century fortress at Sigiriya, alongside a chance to see elephants and other wildlife at Minneriya. A rural village visit on the final day adds an ox-cart ride, a catamaran trip and a traditional cooking demonstration to the historical sightseeing.

The tour is run throughout by a Lakpura chauffeur guide in a private air-conditioned vehicle, with pickup from a Colombo hotel and a return to Colombo or drop-off at the airport at the end.

Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Colombo → Dambulla → Sigiriya

Departing Colombo by 0700 with your chauffeur guide, the day is spent at the Dambulla cave temples before checking in at Sigiriya.



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. Highlights include the Cave of the Divine King, the Cave of the Great King and the Great New Monastery, with a giant golden Buddha statue standing a short distance outside the cave complex.

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Day 2 Sigiriya → Polonnaruwa → Minneriya → Sigiriya

After checking out, the day covers the ancient city of Polonnaruwa followed by a wildlife safari at Minneriya National Park, before returning to Sigiriya for the night.



Polonnaruwa

Polonnaruwa was Sri Lanka's second major capital, flourishing between the 10th and 13th centuries AD. Walking through the ruins takes in monuments such as Gal Vihara, the Vatadage, the lotus bath, Lankathilaka Temple and the statue of King Parakramabahu, whose reign is regarded as the city's golden age.

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Minneriya National Park

A safari through Minneriya National Park offers the chance to see elephants, with over 150 sometimes gathering in one place during the Great Elephant Gathering in the dry season between May and October. The park's scrublands and forests are also home to other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

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Day 3 Sigiriya → Colombo

An early visit to the Sigiriya rock fortress is followed by a village experience near Sigiriya before the drive back to Colombo or the airport.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Sigiriya is a 5th-century AD rock fortress built for King Kasyapa, entered through a gateway framed by giant lion's paws that give the site its name, the Lion Rock. The climb up the steep staircase passes the fortress's well-known murals, terraced gardens and still-working cisterns, with tunnels leading through to the palace itself.

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Sigiriya Village Experience

A visit to a local village gives a taste of Sri Lankan rural life, including an ox-cart ride, a catamaran trip across a calm lake and a walk through ripening paddy fields. A traditional cooking demonstration is followed by a home-cooked lunch served on lotus leaves over woven trays.

What's included

INCLUDED

- Transport in a Private Vehicle, inclusive of, cost of fuel, parking & highway tolls.
- Service of an English-Speaking Chauffer 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.
