TOUR REFERENCE
LKJPC7H6M2

Wildlife of Sri Lanka (10 Days)

10 days · 9 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This 10-day tour is built around Sri Lanka's wildlife and natural history, taking in the southern coast, the island's only rainforest, and its two best-known national parks. Travel is by private air-conditioned vehicle with a chauffeur guide throughout, starting and ending at Colombo airport via Negombo.

The route runs from Negombo down the southern coast to Mirissa, inland to the Sinharaja rainforest, then to Udawalawe and Yala National Parks before returning to Colombo. Highlights include a turtle hatchery, whale watching off Mirissa, Galle's colonial fort and stilt fishermen, a bird-watching hike in Sinharaja, elephant sightings at Udawalawe, a jeep safari in Yala in search of leopard and sloth bear, and a stop at Kalametiya Bird Sanctuary.

Travellers get a mix of marine, forest and savannah wildlife experiences alongside some cultural and coastal stops, suited to those who want nature and conservation as the main focus of their trip rather than an add-on.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Negombo

Arrival in Sri Lanka and transfer to Negombo to begin the tour.

Colombo Airport transfer

On arrival at Colombo Airport you are met by your chauffeur guide and driven by private air-conditioned vehicle to your hotel in Negombo.

Day 2 Negombo → Mirissa

Travel down the southern coast to Mirissa, stopping en route at a turtle conservation centre.

Kosgoda Sea Turtle Conservation Center

Visit this turtle hatchery on the southwestern coast to learn about the five endangered sea turtle species that nest on Sri Lanka's shores and how the Turtle Care Program protects nests to improve hatchling survival. There is a chance to see, touch and feed baby turtles, and sometimes injured adult turtles under the hatchery's care.

Day 3 Mirissa → Galle → Mirissa

A full day combining whale watching at sea with an afternoon exploring Galle and its coastal traditions.



Mirissa whale watching

An early-morning trip with packed breakfast to see whales off Sri Lanka's south coast, including blue, sperm and fin whales, accompanied by a qualified naturalist who explains how to identify the different species. The tour is run with a minimal impact on the whales and their habitat.

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Stilt Fisherman of Koggala

See fishermen perched on stilts in the shallow waters off Koggala, a craft practised for generations, and hear from the fishermen themselves how the technique works and how it came to Sri Lanka. Sunset offers striking photographs of the fishermen silhouetted against the shoreline.



Galle Fort

Explore Galle, once a headquarters of the Portuguese and Dutch, centred on its fort, one of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia. Visit the Maritime Museum, the Galle National Museum and the lighthouse, and walk the cobblestoned streets that still carry Dutch names.

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Day 4 Mirissa → Sinharaja

Check out and drive inland to Sinharaja, with time to settle in at the hotel.

Day 5 Sinharaja → Sinharaja

A day dedicated to exploring the Sinharaja rainforest on foot.



Sinharaja Forest Reserve

A bird-watching hike through this UNESCO World Heritage rainforest, Sri Lanka's only remaining stretch of virgin rainforest, with dense evergreen vegetation. Listen for monkeys and look out for colourful forest birds, and possibly a green pit viper winding through the foliage, in one of the island's wildest settings.

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Day 6 Sinharaja → Udawalawe

Travel to Udawalawe and go on an evening safari in the national park.



Udawalawe National Park

A safari through the marshes, forests and grasslands of a park created as a wildlife sanctuary in the 1970s. The park is known for its water birds and Sri Lankan elephants, with further chances to see other mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and butterflies.

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Day 7 Udawalawe → Yala

A straightforward drive from Udawalawe to Yala.

Day 8 Yala → Yala

A full day exploring Yala National Park by jeep.



Yala National Park

A jeep safari through Yala, the second largest national park on the island, on the southeastern coast, with packed breakfast. Known for its Sri Lankan leopards, wild water buffalo and Sri Lankan sloth bears, Yala also holds large herds of elephants and a wide range of other mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates.

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Day 9 Yala → Colombo

Drive to Colombo, stopping at a bird sanctuary en route, then spend the evening exploring the capital.



Kalametiya Bird Sanctuary

A brackish-water lagoon and mangrove area near Kalametiya beach, home to over 150 bird species including 54 migratory species, as well as around 20 species of mammals, 41 species of fish and 38 species of reptiles. The sanctuary is also known as a haven for weaver birds and their nests.

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Colombo city exploration

An evening tour of Colombo taking in landmarks such as the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green, Gangarama Temple and the National Museum, along with the shops around Independence Square and the Race Course.

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Day 10 Colombo → BIA

Check out and transfer to the airport for the departure flight.

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

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