

TOUR REFERENCE
LKNG8JZMEY

Adventurous East (12 Days)

11 days · 10 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This twelve-day tour links Sri Lanka's western coast, the hill country around Kandy and Nuwara Eliya, the Cultural Triangle, and the beaches and historic sites of the east coast around Trincomalee. Travel is by private vehicle with a chauffeur guide, moving from Negombo inland to Kandy, out to the ancient cities of Dambulla, Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa, then east to Trincomalee before finishing in Colombo.



Along the way you visit Kandyan-era temples, tea plantations and a colonial hill town, climb Sigiriya rock fortress, explore the ruins of Polonnaruwa, go on safari in Minneriya National Park, and spend several days on the beaches and waters around Trincomalee, including a visit to Pigeon Island National Park and the Koneswaram Temple. The route combines cultural sites, wildlife, and coastal relaxation.

The tour is run with a private chauffeur guide throughout, who manages the driving and logistics between stops, allowing a steady pace from Negombo to Colombo via the hill country, the Cultural Triangle and the east coast.

Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Negombo

The tour begins on the sandy beaches of Negombo on Sri Lanka's west coast.



Negombo Beach

Spend time on the sandy beaches of Negombo, watching the centuries-old fishing industry at work and trying water sports.

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Negombo Shipwreck

Dive the coral reef off Negombo to see a 50 year-old shipwreck that has become home to many varieties of fish.

Day 2 Negombo → Kandy

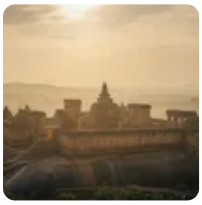
Travel inland to Kandy, stopping at several Kandyan-era temples known for their craftsmanship and paintings.



Embekke Temple

See the detailed wood carvings that make this temple a noted piece of craftsmanship.

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 this temple, notable for its architectural advancement for its period.

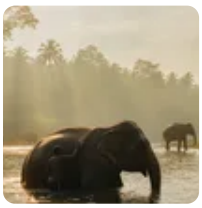
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Degaldoruwa Cave Temple

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

A.Savin · FAL



Millennium Elephant Foundation

Learn about the foundation's work funding care, medical treatment and food for elephants, including its mobile veterinary unit.

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Day 3 Kandy → Peradeniya → Kandy

A day trip from Kandy to the Royal Botanical Gardens, followed by an evening cultural performance back in the city.



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. Highlights include the cannonball tree, a suspension bridge, hedge mazes and large trees to climb.

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Kandy Cultural Show

Watch an hour-long performance of traditional Sri Lankan art forms, including fire dancers, sword dancers and Kandyan dancers performing to drumming.

Arian Zwegers · CC BY 2.0

Day 4 Kandy → Nuwara Eliya → Kandy

Visit a tea plantation and factory before heading up to the former British hill station of Nuwara Eliya.

Tea Factory and Plantation

See how Ceylon Tea is produced, a tradition dating to 1824 when a tea plant was first brought to the Royal Botanical Gardens, and to 1852 when James Taylor established commercial tea planting at Loolecondera.



Nuwara Eliya

Explore the former British holiday resort town, with its cottages, villas and mansions, the old red-brick post office, Queen Victoria Park and the shores of Lake Gregory.

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Day 5 Kandy → Matale → Dambulla

Travel via Matale, Sri Lanka's spice capital, to the cave temples of Dambulla.

Euphoria Spice and Herbal Garden

Tour a spice and herb garden near Matale and learn about Sri Lankan spices, herbs and Ayurveda, with explanations offered in several languages.



Golden Temple of Dambulla

Enter the cave temple complex dating to the 1st century BC, with 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. A large golden Buddha statue stands outside the complex.

Lankapic · CC BY 2.5

Day 6 Dambulla → Sigiriya → Minneriya → Dambulla

Climb the Sigiriya rock fortress, experience village life nearby, and go on safari in Minneriya National Park.



Sigiriya

Climb the 5th century AD rock fortress built by King Kasyapa, entering through the lion's paw gateway, and see the murals, terraced gardens, cisterns and palace ruins.

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Village Experience

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



Minneriya National Park Safari

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

Stuart Pinkney · CC BY 2.0

Day 7 Dambulla → Polonnaruwa → Trincomalee

Explore the ancient city of Polonnaruwa before continuing east to the coast at Trincomalee.



Polonnaruwa

Walk through the ruins of Sri Lanka's second major ancient capital, which flourished from the 10th to 13th century AD, including Gal Vihara, Vatadage, the lotus bath, Lankathilaka Temple and the statue of King Parakramabahu.

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Nilaveli Beach

Relax on this beach of golden sand and swaying palms, noted for a 10th century Tamil inscription recording its grant to the Koneswaram Temple.

Anton 17 · CC BY-SA 4.0



Kanniya Hot Springs

Visit the natural hot springs at Kanniya, near Trincomalee.

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Day 8 Trincomalee

A day exploring one of Trincomalee's ancient temples.



Koneswaram Temple

Visit this ancient temple, praised by Indian poet-saints, with murals recounting its history, a cave shrine dating back to 1580 BC, and a statue of King Ravana, who according to legend worshipped here.

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Day 9 Trincomalee

A day trip to the marine park off Trincomalee's coast.



Pigeon Island National Park

Explore the smaller and larger Pigeon Islands and their surrounding coral reef, home to rock pigeons and a variety of coral types and marine fauna.

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Day 10 Trincomalee → Colombo

Travel to Colombo and take in the capital's landmarks and shopping areas.



Colombo City Tour

See historic sites including the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green, Gangarama Temple and the National Museum, and visit Independence Square, the Race Course and boutique shops.

Gihanud2001 · CC0

Day 11 Colombo → Airport

After breakfast, check out and transfer to the airport for departure.

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.