

TOUR REFERENCE
LKPAREAWSH

Wild Wonders and Hidden Temples from Galle (2 Days)

2 days · 1 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This two-day tour leaves Galle and heads into the southern interior, combining two historic Buddhist temples with two of Sri Lanka's wildlife reserves and a visit to a natural hot spring. It travels a loop through Weherahena and Wewurukannala, on to Bundala and Yala National Parks, and back via Madunagala and Matara before returning to Galle.

Travellers get a mix of cultural and natural sights: temples with large Buddha statues and painted murals, a jeep safari in a Ramsar-listed wetland known for migratory birds, a second safari in search of leopards and elephants, a dip in mineral-rich hot springs, and a stop at a family-run snake farm. It suits those short on time who still want a sample of the south's temples and wildlife in a single short trip.

The tour runs with a private air-conditioned vehicle and an English-speaking chauffeur guide throughout, starting and ending at your hotel in Galle. Accommodation, meals and entrance fees to the sites are arranged separately.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Galle → Weherahena → Wewrukannala → Bundala → Yala

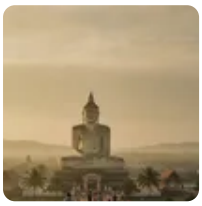
Your chauffeur guide collects you from your hotel in Galle and drives you south, stopping at two notable temples before a game drive through Bundala National Park on the way to Yala.



Weherahena Poorwarama Raja Maha Viharaya

Located about 6 kilometres off Matara town, this is known as the first tunnel temple in the world. It holds a 130-ft Buddha image built in the style of the Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa eras, along with a pagoda, a sacred bo-tree and a Samadhi Buddha statue. Its walls carry murals depicting the Jataka tales of Ummagga Jathaka and Umandawa.

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Wewurukannala Raja Maha Viharaya

Set 1.5 kilometres from Dikwella towards Beliatta, this temple's main feature is a 160-ft seated Buddha statue, the largest in Sri Lanka, dating from the late 18th century. A separate section known as the Tunnel of Hell shows life-sized figures of devils, demons and sinners undergoing torment, while the temple walls depict scenes from the Buddha's life in comic-strip form.

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Bundala National Park

A jeep safari through Sri Lanka's first declared Ramsar wetland site, known for its flocks of greater flamingos and many other migratory waterbirds that winter here. The park covers seven terrestrial and six wetland habitat types.

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Day 2 Yala → Madunagala → Matara → Galle

An early safari in Yala is followed by a stop at the Madunagala hot springs and a visit to a snake farm in Matara, before the drive back to Galle.



Yala National Park

A jeep safari through Sri Lanka's second-largest national park, on the southeastern coast, with the chance to see leopards, wild water buffalo, sloth bears and elephant herds, along with many other species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates.

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Madunagala Hot Springs

These stone tank basins hold water believed to have curative properties for skin and eye conditions, and monks from the nearby temple have bathed here for generations. Hot water is collected in a basin and mixed with cool water before bathing. The temple stands on a jungle-covered rock outcrop that is also home to wild elephants, deer, various birds and the rare sloth bear.

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Matara Snake Farm

Run for three generations by the Bandara family, this farm gives visitors the chance to learn about Sri Lanka's snakes and, for the willing, a first-hand encounter with some of them.

What's included

INCLUDED

- Transport in a private air-conditioned vehicle.
- Service of an English-speaking chauffeur guide throughout the tour.
- Safari Jeep for the 3-hour sfari in Bundala National Park.
- Safari Jeep for the 3-hour sfari in Yala National Park.

NOT INCLUDED

- Accomadation for the overnight stay.
- Food and beverages.
- Entrance fees for the visiting sites. (Bundala National Park, Yala National Park, and Temples))
- Any expenses of personal nature.
- Gratuties.
