

TOUR REFERENCE
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Coastal Belt of the South (5 Days)

5 days · 4 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This five-day private tour links Sri Lanka's cultural heartland with the southwestern coast, travelling from the cave temples and rock fortresses around Dambulla and Sigiriya to Kandy's hill-country capital before settling on the beaches of Bentota. An English-speaking chauffeur guide drives you throughout in a private vehicle, so the pace is yours rather than a fixed group schedule.

Along the way you visit UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the Dambulla cave temple and Kandy's Temple of the Tooth Relic, plus wildlife stops at Pinnawala and Kosgoda, a boat safari on the Madu River, and a walk through the old fort town of Galle. The coastal leg at Bentota mixes beach time with excursions, blending history, nature and relaxation over five days.

Fuel, tolls, taxes and two bottles of water per person per day are covered; accommodation, meals and entrance fees are arranged separately. Suited to families, couples and small groups who prefer travelling independently rather than on a shared coach.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Dambulla

On arrival at Colombo airport a chauffeur guide meets you and drives to Dambulla, with stops to see the cave temple and the elephants at Pinnawala en route.



Dambulla Cave Temple

The Golden Temple of Dambulla's caves date to the 1st century BC and hold ancient murals of the Buddha's life alongside hundreds of Buddha and deity figurines across five main caves, including the Cave of the Divine King and the Cave of the Great King. A giant golden Buddha statue stands a short distance outside the cave complex.

Lankapic · CC BY 2.5



Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

Pinnawala is home to young elephants displaced or lost from their natural habitat and, with around 70 elephants, is the largest captive herd of its kind in the world.

Bernard Gagnon · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 2 Dambulla → Kandy

After breakfast you check out and head towards Kandy, climbing Sigiriya and visiting a spice garden along the way before an evening cultural show.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

This 5th-century AD rock fortress was the seat of King Kashyapa, entered through an entrance framed by giant lion's paws. The climb up the steep staircase reveals the famous unfading murals, terraced gardens and still-working cisterns, plus tunnels leading to the former palace.

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Matale Spice Gardens

A guided walk through a spice and herbal garden near Matale, Sri Lanka's spice capital, introduces coriander, chilli, cinnamon, cardamom and nutmeg, along with their uses and links to Ayurveda.

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Kandyan Cultural Show

An evening visit to craft workshops for gem cutting, woodcarving and batik is followed by the hour-long Kandyan Cultural Show, with traditional dancing, drumming, fire dancers and sword dancers.

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Day 3 Kandy → Bentota

The morning is spent at Kandy's most famous temple before the drive down to the coast at Bentota.



Temple of the Tooth Relic

This UNESCO World Heritage Site, built in the 16th century to house Lord Buddha's sacred tooth, has richly painted halls in red, cream and black, carved pillars and golden statues.

A.Savin · FAL



Bentota Beach

The afternoon is free to walk the beach, watch the sunset over the ocean, or try water sports such as jet-skiing and windsurfing; turtles are known to nest on this stretch of coast.

Vincent van Zeijst · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 4 Bentota

A full day of excursions from Bentota covers a turtle hatchery, a river safari and the old town of Galle.



Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery

At Kosgoda on the southwestern coast, the hatchery cares for five endangered sea turtle species that nest on Sri Lanka's shores, with the chance to see, touch and feed baby turtles and injured adults under its care.

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Madu River Boat Safari

A two-hour boat ride through the Madu River's mangrove channels passes basking crocodiles and water monitors, a small island of cinnamon-harvesting residents, a fish massage stop and waterbirds in their natural habitat.

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Galle Fort

In the evening, explore Galle, once a Portuguese and Dutch headquarters, taking in the well-preserved Galle Fort, its museums and lighthouse, and the cobblestoned streets with their Dutch-era names.

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Day 5 Bentota → Airport

After a final 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

- Entrance fees.
- Hotel Accommodation and Meals.
- Chauffeur Guide's Accommodation.
- Expenses of personal nature.
- Visa and Related Expenses.
- Tips & Portages.