

TOUR REFERENCE
LKR9FAMYNP

Best of Nature (15 Days)

15 days · 14 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This 15-day tour runs from the south coast through Sri Lanka's rainforest and wildlife heartland before finishing in the hill country and cultural triangle. It begins at Galle with coastal wetlands and colonial fort architecture, then moves inland to the Sinharaja rainforest, the dry-zone plains of Yala, and the hill towns of Ella and Nuwara Eliya, before looping through Kandy, Dambulla and Sigiriya and ending in Colombo.

Travellers get a mix of wildlife encounters (Madu River boat trip, Sinharaja forest, Yala and Minneriya safaris, Pinnawala elephants), outdoor activity (whitewater rafting, hiking to Ella Rock, Horton Plains walking), and heritage sites (Galle Fort, the Temple of the Tooth Relic, Dambulla cave temples, Sigiriya rock fortress), along with coastal and highland scenery and a taste of village and Kandyan cultural life.

The tour is run with a private chauffeur-guide throughout, moving the traveller from one region to the next each day while covering the sights, activities and local traditions described for that stop.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Galle

The tour begins with a boat trip through coastal wetlands and a visit to a turtle conservation project near the south coast.



Madu River

A two-hour boat ride through the mangrove-lined Madu River, passing basking crocodiles and water monitors, a cinnamon-harvesting island, waterbirds, and a stop for a fish massage.

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Turtle Hatchery

A visit to the Kosgoda Turtle Care Program, which protects the nests of five endangered sea turtle species that nest on Sri Lanka's shores. Visitors can see, touch and feed baby turtles and view injured adult turtles under the hatchery's care.

Day 2 Galle

A day exploring the old Portuguese and Dutch stronghold of Galle.



Galle Fort

One of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia, with museums, a lighthouse and cobblestoned streets still bearing their Dutch names. A guided walk through the fort takes in its colonial-era buildings and stories, with a stop for a king coconut or cup of tea.

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Day 3 Galle → Sinharaja

En route to Sinharaja, the day takes in a tea factory and the coastal tradition of stilt fishing.



Handunugoda Tea Factory

Known for producing Virgin White Tea, plucked and processed without being touched by hand. The visit includes a tasting session with tea and chocolate cake, and the chance to buy tea leaves as a souvenir.

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Stilt Fishing at Koggala

Fishermen who have practised the craft for generations perch on stilts along the coast. Visitors can hear how stilt fishing came to Sri Lanka and watch the technique, with good opportunities to photograph the fishermen silhouetted against the shoreline at sunset.

Day 4 Sinharaja

A full day in the Sinharaja Forest Reserve, Sri Lanka's only rainforest and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Sinharaja Forest Reserve

A jungle safari through dense evergreen virgin forest, with monkeys calling overhead, glimpses of colourful forest birds, and the chance to spot a green pit viper among the foliage.

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Day 5 Sinharaja → Yala

The route to Yala stops at one of the world's most powerful natural blowholes.



Hummanaya Blowhole

Possibly the second largest blowhole in the world, near the village of Kudawella. Sea water sprays upward through the rock with a deep humming noise that gives the blowhole its name.

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Day 6 Yala

A full day on safari in Yala National Park on the island's southeastern coast.



Yala National Park

The second largest national park in Sri Lanka, known for its population of leopards, wild water buffalo, and sloth bears, along with large herds of elephants. The park is also home to numerous other mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates.

Ranmith Welikala · CC BY-SA 4.0

Day 7 Yala → Ella

The day combines a waterfall linked to local legend with a hike to one of the hill country's best viewpoints.

Rawana Ella (Ravana Falls)

Located near the village of Udunuwara on the Ella-Wellawaya Road, the falls are tied to the legend of Rawana, who is said to have hidden Princess Sita in a cave behind them.

Ella Rock

A roughly three-hour hike up to one of the area's highest viewpoints, passing views of the Namunukula Range and Little Adam's Peak. From the top, landmarks including the Bandarawala Range, Poonagala Hills, Narangala, the Ella Gap and the Badulla train tracks can be seen.

Day 8 Ella → Nuwara Eliya

A day in the former British hill station of Nuwara Eliya.



Nuwara Eliya Town

Once the premier holiday resort of the British in the 19th and early 20th centuries, with streets of cottages, villas and mansions from that era. Highlights include the old red-brick post office and time to relax at Queen Victoria Park or on the shores of Lake Gregory.

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Day 9 Nuwara Eliya → Horton Plains → Nuwara Eliya

A day trip to the montane grasslands of Horton Plains.



Horton Plains National Park

Montane grasslands and cloud forest in Ohiya, with views from the precipice of World's End and the cooling spray of Baker's Falls. The plains are home to numerous endemic species and have yielded archaeological finds.

Faslan at en.wikipedia · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 10 Nuwara Eliya → Kithulgala → Kandy

The journey to Kandy includes whitewater rafting and a stop at Sri Lanka's best-known elephant sanctuary.

Kelani River Whitewater Rafting

A whitewater rafting run down a 5km stretch of rapids on the Kelani River, with safety measures in place throughout.



Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

Home to young elephants displaced or lost from their natural habitat, located in Pinnawala village in Sabaragamuwa province. With around 70 elephants, it is the largest captive herd of elephants in the world, offering a close encounter with the animals.

Bernard Gagnon · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 11 Kandy

A day combining Kandyan performing arts with the city's most important religious site.



Kandy Cultural Show

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



Temple of the Tooth Relic

A UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 16th century to house and protect Lord Buddha's sacred tooth relic. The temple features ornately painted halls in red, cream and black, carved pillars and gilded statues.

A.Savin · FAL

Day 12 Kandy → Matale → Dambulla

The day takes in the cave temples of Dambulla followed by an afternoon safari in Minneriya National Park.



Golden Temple of Dambulla

Cave temples dating back to the 1st century BC, with ancient murals depicting the life of Lord Gautama Buddha and hundreds of Buddha and deity figurines across five main caves, including the Cave of the Divine King, Cave of the Great King and the Great New Monastery. A giant golden Buddha statue stands a short distance outside the cave complex.

Lankapic · CC BY 2.5



Minneriya National Park

A three-hour safari through the park, known for the Great Elephant Gathering, when over 150 elephants congregate in one place during the dry season between May and October. The park's scrublands and forests are also home to many other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

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Day 13 Dambulla → Sigiriya → Colombo

The day combines the climb of Sigiriya rock fortress with a taste of traditional village life.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

A 5th-century AD rock fortress built by King Kasyapa, entered through an opening framed by giant lion's paws that gives the site its name, the Lion Rock. The climb passes the fortress's famous ancient murals, terraced gardens, still-working cisterns and a steep staircase, with tunnels leading up to the palace ruins.

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Sigiriya Village Experience

A visit to a village that retains its traditional way of life, including an oxen cart ride, a catamaran safari on a calm lake, a walk through paddy fields, and a traditional cooking demonstration. The experience ends with a home-cooked lunch served on lotus leaves over woven trays.

Day 14 Colombo

A day exploring Sri Lanka's capital city.



Colombo City Tour

A look at the capital's landmarks, including the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green, Gangarama Temple and the National Museum, along with time for shopping at malls, boutiques and designer stores around Independence Square and the Race Course.

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Day 15 Colombo → Airport

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

What's included

INCLUDED

- Accommodation at 3 Star Hotels.
- Meal plan on Bed and Breakfast basis.
- Transport in a Private Vehicle, inclusive of all chauffeur accommodation.
- Service of an English-Speaking Chauffeur Guide throughout the tour.

NOT INCLUDED

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