



TOUR REFERENCE
LKRZKJQT2M

Temples and Wilderness from Colombo (2 Days)

2 days · 1 nights

Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This short two-day tour links the temple country of the deep south with Yala National Park, one of Sri Lanka's best-known wildlife reserves. From Colombo, a private vehicle takes you via two distinctive Buddhist temples near Matara before settling in near Yala for a safari the next morning, then returns via Matara to Colombo.

The first day is given over to religious architecture and art: two temples with Buddha statues over 100 feet tall, painted tunnel passages, murals, and sculpted scenes. The second day shifts to nature and local life, with a safari in search of leopards, elephants, sloth bears and birdlife, a stop at a hot spring, and a visit to a family-run snake farm near Matara before the drive back to Colombo.

Travel throughout is in a private vehicle with a chauffeur guide, giving flexibility to stop at each site along the way. Accommodation, meals and entrance fees are arranged separately, so travellers can choose lodging to suit their budget.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Colombo → Yala

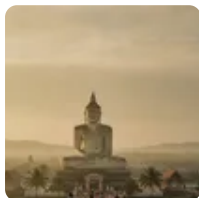
Leaving Colombo with your chauffeur guide, the day's drive to Yala is broken by visits to two distinctive Buddhist temples in the south.



Weherahena Poorwarama Raja Maha Viharaya

Set about 6 kilometres off Matara town, this is known as the first tunnel temple in the world. It holds a 130-foot 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, and its walls carry murals depicting the Jataka tales of Ummagga Jathaka and Umandawa.

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Wewurukannala Raja Maha Viharaya

Located 1.5 kilometres from Dikwella towards Beliatta, this temple is dominated by a 160-foot seated Buddha statue, the largest in Sri Lanka, dating from the late 18th century. It also contains the Tunnel of Hell, with life-sized figures of demons and sinners undergoing torment, while the temple walls depict scenes from the Buddha's life in comic-strip style.

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Day 2 Yala → Matara → Colombo

The second day begins with a safari in Yala National Park before the return drive to Colombo, with stops at a hot spring and a snake farm along the way.



Yala National Park

Sri Lanka's second-largest national park, on the southeastern coast, is known for its leopards, wild water buffalo, sloth bears and large elephant herds, alongside a wide range of other mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates.

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Mandunagala Hot Springs

After the safari and checkout, the route continues to Mandunagala to visit its hot springs.

Matara Snake Farm

Run for three generations by the Bandara family, this farm offers the chance to learn about Sri Lanka's snakes and, for those willing, a close encounter with some of them. The family also practises Ayurvedic snake medicine.

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

- Hotel Accommodation and Meals.
- Entrance fees to the respective sites.
- Expenses of personal nature.
- Visa and Related Expenses.
- Tips & Portages.

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