



TOUR REFERENCE
LKTBSJYQ49

Buddhist Pilgrimage Tour (9 Days)

9 days · 8 nights

Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This nine-day private tour traces Sri Lanka's Buddhist heritage from the coast through the ancient cities of the dry zone to the hill country, ending back in Colombo. It begins in Negombo on the west coast, moves inland to the sacred city of Anuradhapura and the pilgrim site of Mihintale, continues through Polonnaruwa and Sigiriya, and climbs into the hills via Dambulla and Kandy to Nuwara Eliya, before the ascent of Adam's Peak and a return to Colombo for departure.

Travellers visit the major centres of Theravada Buddhism that have shaped the island since the third century BCE, including the Sri Maha Bodhiya and Ruwanwelisaya in Anuradhapura, the cave temples of Dambulla, and the Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy, alongside the ancient ruins of Polonnaruwa and the rock fortress of Sigiriya. The route also builds in time for tea country scenery, a cultural show in Kandy, and the pilgrimage climb of Adam's Peak, giving the trip a mix of religious, historical and scenic stops.

The tour runs with a private chauffeur guide and air-conditioned vehicle throughout, covering transfers, accommodation stops and site visits along the fixed nine-day route.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Negombo

On arrival at Colombo International Airport you are met by your chauffeur guide and driven to Negombo for your overnight stay.



Negombo Beach

Spend time on the sandy beaches of Negombo on the west coast, home to a long-standing fish industry and water sports, diving on nearby corals, and a 50-year-old shipwreck just offshore.

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Day 2 Negombo → Anuradhapura

After breakfast, travel to Anuradhapura and check in to your hotel, with an evening visit to its most sacred sites.

Sri Maha Bodhiya and Ruwanwelisaya

In the evening take part in a chanting and pooja ceremony at Sri Maha Bodhiya and Ruwanwelisaya before returning to the hotel.

Day 3 Anuradhapura → Mihintale → Anuradhapura

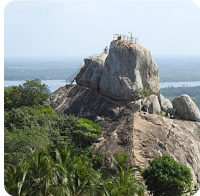
The day is spent exploring the ancient city of Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka's capital for over a thousand years, followed by a visit to the nearby pilgrimage site of Mihintale.



Anuradhapura city tour

Walk through the ruined city, viewing pagodas, monastic buildings and ponds, including the Jetavanarama stupa, the Sri Maha Bodhi, and the ruins of the Abhayagiri Monastery.

Thisaru Tharuka · CC BY-SA 4.0



Mihintale

Mihintale is the mountain peak believed to be where the monk Mahinda met King Devanampiyatissa, marking the arrival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, and it remains a pilgrimage site with several religious monuments.

Dennis Sylvester Hurd · CC0

Day 4 Anuradhapura → Polonnaruwa → Sigiriya

After checking out, the day is given to the ruins of Polonnaruwa before continuing on toward Dambulla.



Polonnaruwa

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

Bernard Gagnon · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 5 Sigiriya → Dambulla → Kandy

The day covers the climb of Sigiriya Rock Fortress and a visit to the cave temples of Dambulla, before continuing to Kandy for an evening cultural show.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Climb the 5th-century rock fortress built by King Kasyapa, entering through the lion's paw gateway, viewing the famous murals, and passing through terraced gardens, cisterns and tunnels leading to the former palace.

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Dambulla Cave Temple

Visit the Golden Temple of Dambulla, dating to the 1st century BC, with murals of the life of the Buddha and hundreds of Buddha and deity figurines across its five main caves, including the Cave of the Divine King and Cave of the Great King, plus the giant golden Buddha statue outside.

Lankapic · CC BY 2.5

Kandyan arts and cultural show

In Kandy, visit workshops for gem crafting, woodcarving and batik, then watch the Kandyan Cultural Show, an hour-long performance of traditional dance and music including fire and sword dancers.

Day 6 Kandy → Nuwara Eliya

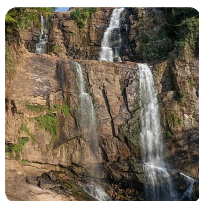
The morning begins with the Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy before travelling to Nuwara Eliya, with stops at a waterfall and tea estate along the way.



Temple of the Tooth Relic

Visit this UNESCO World Heritage site, built in the 16th century to house the Buddha's sacred tooth, with its painted halls, carved pillars and golden statues.

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Ramboda Falls

Stop en route at Ramboda Falls, one of the tallest waterfalls in the country.

A.Savin · FAL

Tea Factory and Plantation

Tour a tea estate and factory to see how Ceylon Tea is processed, tracing the industry back to James Taylor's plantation at Looolecondra in the 19th century.



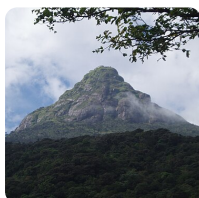
Nuwara Eliya town

In the evening, explore this former British hill-station with its cottages and mansions, the old post office, Queen Victoria Park and the shores of Lake Gregory.

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Day 7 Nuwara Eliya → Adam's Peak

An early start is made for the climb of Adam's Peak, a mountain sacred to several religions.



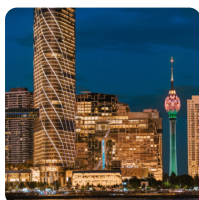
Adam's Peak

Climb Sri Pada, sacred to Buddhists as a site associated with the Buddha, to Muslims through the legend of Adam, and to Hindus as linked with Shiva, and a pilgrimage destination for over a thousand years.

Bourgeois · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 8 Adam's Peak → Colombo

After breakfast, travel to Colombo for a tour of the capital before checking in to your hotel.



Colombo city tour

See the capital's landmarks, including the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green, Gangarama Temple and the National Museum, with time for shopping around Independence Square.

Gihanud2001 · CC0

Day 9 Colombo → BIA

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

What's included

INCLUDED

- All prevailing taxes and service charges.
- Service of an English-Speaking Chauffeur Guide throughout the tour.
- Transport in a Private Vehicle, inclusive of all chauffeur accommodation.

NOT INCLUDED

- Entrance fees.
- International / Domestic Airfare.
- Tips & Portages.
- Cost of Beverages.

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hello@lakpura.com · +94 11 574 7474