

TOUR REFERENCE
LKTQZVMW6H

Adventure and Leisure (11 Days)

10 days · 9 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This eleven-day tour links Sri Lanka's cultural heartland, central highlands and southern coast, mixing wildlife safaris, highland walks and beach-adjacent sightseeing into one route. It opens in the Cultural Triangle around Dambulla, climbs into the hill country around Nuwara Eliya and Ella, then drops to the south coast at Udawalawe and Bentota before finishing in Colombo.

Travellers get a rounded sample of what the island offers: ancient rock and cave temples, a jeep safari among elephants at Minneriya, tea country crossed partly by train, a second elephant safari at Udawalawe, and coastal stops at Galle Fort, a mangrove river safari and a turtle hatchery. Village life, spice cultivation and tea production are also covered along the way, giving the trip a practical, hands-on feel alongside the sightseeing.

The tour runs with a private chauffeur-guide throughout, so the order of sights and the pace on each day stay flexible to the group booking it.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Dambulla (days 1–2)

Two days based in Dambulla cover the Cultural Triangle's main sights, a village experience and a safari in the surrounding wilderness.



Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

Visit the home of young elephants displaced or lost from their natural habitat, now host to the largest captive herd of elephants in the world.

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Dambulla Cave Temple

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

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Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Climb the 5th century AD rock fortress through the lion-paw entrance, viewing the famous murals, terraced gardens, ancient cisterns and the palace ruins at the summit.

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Local Village Experience in Sigiriya

Take an oxen cart ride and a catamaran safari on a calm lake, walk through paddy fields, watch a traditional cooking demonstration and eat a home-cooked lunch served on lotus leaves.

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Minneriya Safari

Go on a jeep safari through Minneriya National Park, known for the Great Elephant Gathering between May and October when large numbers of elephants congregate, alongside other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

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Day 3 Kandy → Nuwara Eliya (days 3–4)

The route climbs into the Central Highlands, taking in a spice garden and Kandy's Temple of the Tooth before two days around Nuwara Eliya and Horton Plains.



Matale Spice Gardens

Take a guided tour of a spice and herbal garden covering coriander, chilli, cinnamon, cardamom and nutmeg, with a cooking demonstration on making roti or curry powder from scratch.

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Temple of the Tooth Relic

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

A.Savin · FAL



Nuwara Eliya

Walk the streets of this former British hill-station, past cottages, villas and mansions, visit the old red-bricked post office, and relax at Queen Victoria Park or the shores of Lake Gregory.

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Horton Plains National Park

Explore the cloud forests and grasslands of Horton Plains near Ohiya, taking in the views from World's End, the spray of Baker's Falls and the park's endemic wildlife.

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Day 5 Nuwara Eliya → Ella

The day combines a look at tea production with a scenic train journey into Ella.

Tea Factory Visit

Watch tea pluckers at work among the hillside bushes, then take a guided tour through fermentation, rolling, drying, cutting, sieving and grading, finishing with a tasting.



Scenic Train Ride

Travel by train from Nanu Oya to Ella, passing tea plantations, misty villages around Haputale, mountains, forests and waterfalls.

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Day 6 Ella → Udawalawe

Before continuing to Udawalawe, the day is spent exploring Ella's hills, bridges and rail curiosities on foot.



Ella

Walk past tea fields and rocky outcrops to the viewpoint at Little Adam's Peak, cross the Nine Arches Bridge, and finish at Demodara Railway Station with its distinctive loop-over track.

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Day 7 Bentota (days 7–9)

Three days based in Bentota take in a wildlife safari, the old city of Galle, and a river safari and turtle hatchery along the southwest coast.



Udawalawa National Park

Take a three-hour safari through the marshes, forests and grasslands of this park, created as a wildlife sanctuary in the 1970s and known for its elephants and water birds, along with other mammals, reptiles and butterflies.

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Old Colonial City of Galle

Explore Galle Fort, one of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia and once a Portuguese and Dutch headquarters, along with the Maritime Museum, the Galle National Museum, the lighthouse and the fort's cobblestoned streets.

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Madu River Boat Safari

Take a boat ride through the Madu River's mangroves, spotting basking crocodiles and water monitors, visiting a cinnamon-harvesting island, trying a fish massage, and watching water birds.

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Turtle Hatchery

Visit the Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery to learn about the five endangered sea turtle species that nest on Sri Lanka's shores and how the Kosgoda Turtle Care Program protects their nests, with a chance to see, touch and feed baby turtles and recovering adults.

Day 10 Colombo

The tour ends with a day in Colombo before departure.



Colombo

See the capital's historic monuments, including the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green, Gangarama Temple and the National Museum, and browse Independence Square or the Race Course area.

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Departure

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