



TOUR REFERENCE
LKVHVF2HK2

Scenic Serendib (11 Days)

10 days · 9 nights

Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This 11-day tour runs from the cultural triangle to the southern coast, taking in Dambulla's temple sites, the hill country around Kandy and Nuwara Eliya, the Ella highlands, Yala National Park, and the coastal towns of Galle and Negombo. Travel is by private vehicle with a chauffeur guide throughout, so days combine driving between regions with stops at temples, gardens, plantations and parks along the route.

Highlights include the Sigiriya Rock Fortress, the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy, tea plantations and Horton Plains near Nuwara Eliya, the hiking trails and bridges around Ella, a safari drive through Yala National Park, and the Dutch Fort at Galle. The route also takes in Hindu temples on the north-east coast and the Pigeon Island reefs, plus a look at Colombo's landmarks before departure.

The pace mixes short city stays with two-night stops in Dambulla, Nuwara Eliya and Yala, giving time to explore each area without constant repacking, while shorter single-night stops at Kandy, Ella, Galle and Negombo keep the journey moving between regions.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Dambulla (days 1–2)

Two days based in Dambulla to explore the cultural triangle and sites further along the north-east coast.



Munneswaram Temple

An important regional Hindu temple complex dating back at least to 1000 CE, linked in myth to the Ramayana and its hero-king Rama. It is one of five ancient temples in the region dedicated to Shiva.

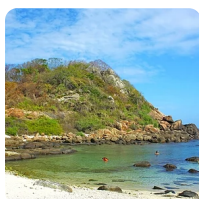
Leon Meerson · CC BY-SA 2.0



Koneswaram Temple

An ancient temple praised by Indian poet-saints, with murals describing its history and a cave shrine dating to 1580 BC alongside the main temple developed around 400 BC. A giant statue of King Ravana, said to have worshipped here, stands at the site.

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Pigeon Island National Park

A national park made up of a smaller and a larger pigeon island surrounded by coral reef. The rock pigeon breeds here, and the islands can be explored for their coral types and marine life.

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Day 3 Dambulla → Kandy

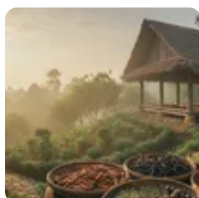
The drive to Kandy takes in the Sigiriya Rock Fortress and a spice garden, with a cultural show in the evening.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

A 5th-century rock fortress once ruled by King Kasyapa, entered through an opening framed by giant lion's paws. The climb passes the site's famous murals, terraced gardens, still-working cisterns and tunnels leading to the palace ruins at the summit.

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Spice Garden

A guided tour of a spice and herbal garden covering coriander, chilli, cinnamon, cardamom and nutmeg, followed by a traditional cooking demonstration showing how Sri Lankan dishes such as roti and curry powder are made.

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Kandyan Cultural Show

An hour-long show of Sri Lankan dance and performance traditions, including fire dancers, sword dancers and Kandyan dancers performing to drumming.

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Day 4 Nuwara Eliya (days 4–5)

Two days in and around Nuwara Eliya, starting with the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic on the way up, then tea country, Horton Plains and the town itself.



Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic

A UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 16th century to house and protect the sacred tooth relic of the Buddha, with painted halls, carved pillars and gilded statues.

A.Savin · FAL

Tea Plantation

A visit to a tea factory and plantation to see how Ceylon tea is produced, following on from the first tea plants brought to the island by the British in 1824 and the commercial plantations established by James Taylor from 1852.



Horton Plains

A national park of montane grassland and cloud forest in Ohiya, with views from World's End and the spray of Baker's Falls, along with a chance to spot endemic wildlife.

Faslan at en.wikipedia · CC BY-SA 3.0



Nuwara Eliya

A hill town that served as the main holiday resort for the British in the 19th and early 20th centuries, with cottages, villas and mansions along its streets, the old red-brick post office, Queen Victoria Park and the shores of Lake Gregory.

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Day 6 Nuwara Eliya → Ella

The route continues south-east through Ella, a small town set among tea-covered hills and cloud forest.



Ella

Tea fields and rocky trails lead to views of Little Adam's Peak, before a walk over the Nine Arches Bridge and on to Demodara Railway Station with its loop-over track.

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Day 7 Yala (days 7–8)

Two days on the coastal belt near Yala National Park, Sri Lanka's most visited park, with a safari drive through its varied terrain.



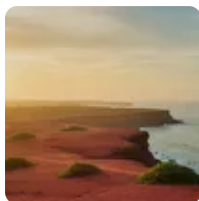
Yala National Park

A safari through the island's second-largest national park on the south-east coast, with a chance to see Sri Lankan leopards, wild water buffalo, sloth bears and elephant herds, alongside other mammals, birds, reptiles and fish.

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Day 9 Galle

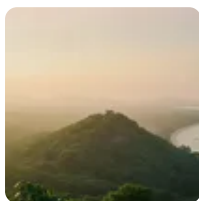
The journey continues along the coast to Galle, taking in two sites linked to the Ramayana legend before reaching the Dutch Fort.



Ussangoda Beach

A bare coastal area with serpentine rock containing toxic heavy metals, which only certain plants can tolerate. Local legend links its scorched appearance to Hanuman's burning tail and to its earlier use as a landing site for King Ravana's chariot.

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Rumassala

A hill east of Galle topped by a white Buddhist dagoba, said in legend to be a fragment of Mount Dronagiri dropped by Hanuman, and also linked to Sita's stay in Lanka.

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Galle

A fort town built by the Dutch from 1663 on a promontory surrounded on three sides by the ocean, with Dutch colonial buildings along its walls and streets, and UNESCO World Heritage status.

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Day 10 Galle → Negombo

The final day is based in Negombo, with time to see landmarks in Colombo before departure.



Colombo

A look at landmarks including the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green, Gangarama Temple and the National Museum, along with the shops around Independence Square and the Race Course.

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Departure

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

What's included

INCLUDED

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

NOT INCLUDED

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

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