



TOUR REFERENCE
LKVMXYBA5W

Geoffrey Bawa Impressions (8 Days)

8 days · 7 nights

Private tour with chauffeur guide

AI-generated image · not an actual photograph

About this experience

This eight-day tour follows the work of Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa, from his Colombo town house to the country garden at Lunuganga and several of the hotels he designed on the south coast. It also takes in the cultural triangle sites of Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa and the hill capital of Kandy, so the trip combines architectural interest with the island's ancient history and ends with beach time on the south coast.

Travel is in a private air-conditioned vehicle with a chauffeur guide throughout, moving from Colombo north to Dambulla and Kandy before heading south to Bentota, Galle and Mirissa. Along the way the itinerary covers Bawa's own residence in Colombo, Heritance Kandalama, AVANI Bentota, Heritance Ahungalla and Jetwing Lighthouse, alongside Sigiriya Rock Fortress, the ruins of Polonnaruwa, Embekke Temple and the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy.

The route finishes with the old fortified town of Galle and a stretch of unstructured time on the beach at Mirissa before the return to the airport, giving travellers a mix of guided sightseeing and leisure.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Colombo

Arrival at Colombo International Airport, where a chauffeur guide meets travellers and transfers them to Colombo to check in and relax.

Day 2 Colombo → Dambulla

The day starts with a visit to Geoffrey Bawa's Colombo residence before the drive to Dambulla, with an evening stop at one of his best-known hotel designs.

Geoffrey Bawa's Colombo Residence

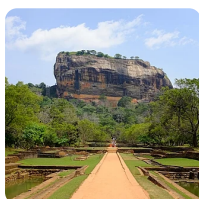
The house on 33rd Lane began in 1958 as a single converted bungalow and grew over the following decade as Bawa acquired the neighbouring bungalows, demolishing one to build a four-storey tower in its place.

Heritage Kandalama

This Bawa-designed hotel is built into the landscape on stone stilts, with boulders and rock walls incorporated into its corridors and a flat roof that draws in local birdlife. It was the first hotel in Asia certified Green Globe 21 and the first LEED-certified hotel in the world.

Day 3 Dambulla → Sigiriya → Dambulla

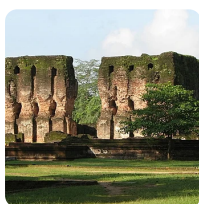
A day trip covers the rock fortress of Sigiriya and the ancient city of Polonnaruwa before returning to Dambulla.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Climb the 5th-century rock fortress built for King Kasyapa, entering through the lion's paws that give the site its name, and see the surviving murals, terraced gardens, working cisterns and the tunnels leading to the palace ruins.

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Ancient Kingdom of Polonnaruwa

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

Bernard Gagnon · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 4 Dambulla → Kandy

The drive to Kandy includes a stop at Matale before an afternoon of temple visits in and around the hill capital.

Matale Heritage Center

A pause en route to Kandy to visit the heritage center at Matale.



Embekke Temple

A temple built almost entirely of wood, with carved pillars, beams, rafters and door frames featuring over 500 unique designs, including entwined swans, double-headed eagles and hybrid animal and human figures, and a roof of 26 rafters supported by a single wooden pin.

Cherubino · CC BY-SA 3.0



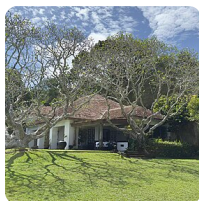
Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic

A UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 16th century to house Buddha's sacred tooth relic, with painted halls, carved pillars and golden statues along its passageways.

A.Savin · FAL

Day 5 Kandy → Bentota

The route turns south to the coast, with the day centred on two of Bawa's residential and hotel projects at Bentota.



Lunuganga Estate

Geoffrey Bawa's country home, begun in 1947, served as his personal garden laboratory for architectural ideas throughout his career; it passed to the Lunuganga Trust after his death in 2003 and now operates partly as a country house hotel open to visitors.

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AVANI Bentota

A Bawa-designed beach hotel of 75 rooms and suites on the coast at Bentota, combining Indian Ocean views with traditional Sri Lankan hospitality.

Day 6 Bentota → Galle

The day takes in further Bawa-designed hotels on the way to the old colonial town of Galle, continuing on to Mirissa in the evening.

Heritage Ahungalla

A five-star beach hotel designed by Geoffrey Bawa at the fishing village of Ahungalla, with an open-plan lobby looking out over an infinity pool to the sea and gardens shaded from the tropical sun.

Jetwing Lighthouse

A Bawa-designed hotel on the outskirts of Galle, built in his characteristic style on the edge of the old Dutch colonial town.



Old Colonial City of Galle

Explore Galle Fort, one of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia, built up by the Portuguese and Dutch, along with the Maritime Museum, the Galle National Museum and the lighthouse, walking the cobblestoned streets that still carry their Dutch names.

Rovin Shanila · CC BY-SA 4.0

Day 7 Mirissa

A day left free to enjoy the beach and hotel facilities at Mirissa.

Day 8 Mirissa → Airport

After breakfast, the transfer to the airport for the return flight home.

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.
- Chauffeur Guide's Accommodation.
- Expenses of personal nature.
- Visa and Related Expenses.