TOUR REFERENCE
LKVR72PNDH

Experience South and Hills (9 Days)

9 days · 8 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This nine-day private tour links Sri Lanka's south coast with the central highlands, moving from the colonial streets of Galle through wildlife-rich lowlands to the tea country around Nuwara Eliya, Ella and Kandy before finishing in Colombo. Travel is by private air-conditioned vehicle with a chauffeur guide throughout, so the pace and stops can flex around you.

Along the way you explore Galle Fort, cruise the Madu River by boat and visit a turtle hatchery on the southwest coast, then head inland for a jeep safari in Udawalawe National Park. The highlands stretch brings a walk around Ella's viewpoints and Nine Arches Bridge, a hike in Horton Plains to World's End and Baker's Falls, a tea factory visit, and a day in Kandy taking in the Royal Botanical Gardens, the Temple of the Tooth Relic and a Kandyan dance show. The route ends with a city tour of Colombo before transfer to the airport.

This is a private tour throughout, with no shared coaches or fixed group schedules, giving travellers room to linger at sights that interest them most.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 BIA → Galle

On arrival at Colombo airport you are met by a Lakpura chauffeur guide and driven to Galle, followed by an afternoon city tour.



Galle Fort

Explore the colonial city once headquartered by the Portuguese and Dutch, including one of Asia's best-preserved fortifications, its museums and lighthouse, and a walk through the cobblestoned streets with their Dutch-era names.

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Day 2 Galle → Galle

A full day of excursions from Galle covering the Madu River and a turtle hatchery on the southwest coast.



Madu River Boat Safari

Take a two-hour boat ride through the mangrove channels of the Madu River, spotting basking crocodiles and water monitors, visiting a cinnamon-harvesting island, trying the fish massage and watching waterbirds.

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Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery

Visit the hatchery on the southwestern coast to learn about the five endangered sea turtle species that nest in Sri Lanka and the conservation programme that protects their eggs, with a chance to see baby and injured turtles in care.

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Day 3 Galle → Udawalawe

Check out and drive to Udawalawe, with an evening jeep safari in the national park.



Udawalawe National Park

Go on a three-hour jeep safari through the marshes, forests and grasslands of the park, created as a wildlife sanctuary in the 1970s, known for its water birds and Sri Lankan elephants as well as other mammals, reptiles and butterflies.

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Day 4 Udawalawe → Ella → Nuwara Eliya

Drive towards Nuwara Eliya with a stop in Ella to take in its scenery and landmarks.



Ella

Pass through tea fields and rocky terrain for views of Little Adam's Peak, walk over the Nine Arches Bridge, and finish at Demodara Railway Station with its loop-over track design.

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Day 5 Nuwara Eliya → Horton Plains → Nuwara Eliya

A packed-breakfast hike into Horton Plains is followed by an evening tour of Nuwara Eliya town and nearby Seetha Eliya.



Horton Plains National Park

Hike through the montane grasslands and cloud forest of Horton Plains in Ohiya, taking in the views from World's End, the cooling spray of Baker's Falls, endemic fauna and the area's archaeological finds.

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Nuwara Eliya City Tour

Walk through the former British hill-station town with its cottages, villas and mansions, visit the old red-bricked post office, and relax at Queen Victoria Park or Lake Gregory.

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Seetha Amman Kovil

Visit the village of Seetha Eliya and its temple, linked by legend to the Ramayana story of Seetha's imprisonment, and see the ancient idols and ruins associated with the tale.

Buddhika Mawella · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 6 Nuwara Eliya → Kandy

Check out and head towards Kandy, stopping for a tea factory tour and a waterfall near Ramboda.

Tea Factory and Plantation

Take a guided tour of a working tea factory and estate to learn about the varieties and processing of Ceylon tea, a trade established in the 1850s by James Taylor at Loolecondera estate.



Ramboda Falls

Stop at Ramboda en route to Kandy to see Ramboda Falls, the 11th tallest waterfall in the country.

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Day 7 Kandy → Kandy

A day in and around Kandy covering botanical gardens, a Buddhist temple and traditional arts and dance.



Royal Botanical Garden, Peradeniya

Walk through the gardens, established in the early 19th century, home to over 4000 plant species including orchids, spices and medicinal plants, along with the cannonball tree and a suspension bridge.

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Temple of the Tooth Relic

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

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Arts and Crafts Tours

Visit workshops demonstrating gem crafting, woodcarving and batik techniques.

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Kandyan Cultural Show

Watch an hour-long show of traditional Kandyan dance and music, including fire dancers and sword dancers performing to drumming.

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Day 8 Kandy → Pinnawala → Colombo

Check out of Kandy and drive to Colombo for a city and shopping tour before checking in for the night.



Colombo City Tour

See the capital's historic monuments including the Old Lighthouse, Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green and Gangarama Temple, plus visits to shops, malls and the National Museum area.

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Day 9 Colombo → BIA

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

What's included

INCLUDED

- Transport in a Private Vehicle, Fuel, Parking & Highway tolls.
- Service of English-Speaking Chauffeur Guide.

NOT INCLUDED

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