

TOUR REFERENCE
LKW76TJKQX

Glamour of Sri Lanka (22 Days)

22 days · 21 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This 22-day tour runs from Colombo across the cultural heartland of the Cultural Triangle to the east coast at Trincomalee, before returning via Negombo for departure. It combines a day exploring Colombo's colonial landmarks and street food, a spell in and around Kandy and Nuwara Eliya, a long stretch based in Dambulla for day trips to Sigiriya, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Yapahuwa and Avukana, and over a week on the beaches of Trincomalee with excursions to Pigeon Island, Nilaveli and Thiriyaya.



Travellers get a mix of ancient cities, Buddhist temples and cave complexes, a cultural dance show and a scenic highland train ride, a wildlife safari at Minneriya in search of elephants, and an extended beach stay with options for whale watching and diving among coral reefs. The pace is unhurried, with several consecutive days left free for relaxing on Trincomalee's beaches.

The tour is run in a private vehicle with an English-speaking chauffeur guide who handles all road transfers between regions, leaving travellers free to focus on sightseeing, beaches and wildlife throughout the 22 days.

Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Colombo

On arrival travellers are met and driven to Colombo to check in and rest after the flight.

Day 2 Colombo

A day in the capital taking in its colonial landmarks and a guided street food experience along Galle Face.

Colombo city landmarks

Visit historic sites such as the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green, Gangarama Temple and the National Museum, with time for the shops around Independence Square or the Race Course.

Galle Face street food walk

Walk along the sandy beaches of Galle Face and sample street food such as egg hoppers, plain hoppers, tempered kadala, prawn and parippu vade, and kottu, finishing with a tropical sunset.

Day 3 Colombo → Kandy

Travel inland to Kandy, taking in a traditional dance performance and a scenic train ride through the hill country.



Kandy Cultural Show

An hour-long performance of Kandyan dance and drumming, including fire dancers and sword dancers.

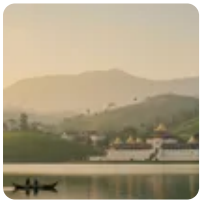
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Scenic train ride, Nanu Oya to Peradeniya

A rail journey through highland tea plantations, misty mountain villages, woodlands and waterfalls.

Day 4 Kandy

Kandy, the last capital of the Sinhala kings and a UNESCO World Heritage city, is explored on a walking tour of its markets, lake and landmark temple.



Kandy city tour

Kandy grew from a medieval kingdom into a city set among forested hills and tea plantations, with Edwardian buildings, a king-made lake and a nature reserve; the tour takes in local markets and architecture.

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Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic

This UNESCO World Heritage shrine, built in the 16th century to house Lord Buddha's sacred tooth, has painted halls, carved pillars and gilded statues.

A.Savin · FAL

Day 5 Kandy → Nuwara Eliya → Kandy

A day trip up into tea country to Nuwara Eliya, a hill town built in the image of an English countryside retreat.



Nuwara Eliya

Set at altitude in tea country, the town has Georgian and Queen Anne-style homes, manicured lawns and hedges, an Anglican church and a golf course, giving it a cool, nostalgic air.

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Day 6 Kandy → Peradeniya → Matale → Dambulla

Travel from Kandy to Dambulla via the botanical gardens at Peradeniya and a spice garden cooking demonstration, finishing at the cave temples.



Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya

Laid out in the early 19th century, the gardens hold over 4,000 plant species including orchids, spices and medicinal plants, along with a cannonball tree and a suspension bridge.

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Spice Garden cooking demonstration

A traditional cooking workshop covering dishes such as roti and curry powder made from scratch using local spices.



Dambulla Cave Temple

Dating to the 1st century BC, the caves hold murals depicting the life of Buddha and hundreds of figurines across the Cave of the Divine King, the Cave of the Great King and the Great New Monastery, with a large golden Buddha statue nearby.

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Day 7 Dambulla → Sigiriya → Dambulla

Climb the Sigiriya rock fortress and spend the afternoon experiencing village life nearby.



Sigiriya rock fortress

Built in the 5th century AD under King Kasyapa, the site is entered through a lion-shaped gateway and features fading murals, terraced gardens, working cisterns and tunnels leading to the former palace.

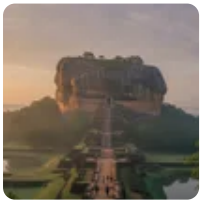
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Village experience and catamaran safari

A visit to a local village includes a catamaran ride across a calm lake, a walk through paddy fields and a home-cooked lunch served on lotus leaves.

Day 8 Dambulla → Yapahuwa → Dambulla

A day trip to the rock fortress of Yapahuwa, once the seat of government.



Yapahuwa rock fortress

Seat of government in the 13th century, Yapahuwa once housed its own Temple of the Tooth Relic; the site has a majestic entrance arch, an ornamental stairway, temple ruins and detailed sculptures.

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Day 9 Dambulla → Anuradhapura → Avukana → Dambulla

Visit the ancient city of Anuradhapura and the standing Buddha statue at Avukana.



Anuradhapura

Capital for over a millennium until the 10th century AD, the ruined city holds pagodas, monastic buildings and ponds, including the Jetavanarama, the Sri Maha Bodhi and the Abhayagiri Monastery.

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Avukana Buddha statue

A 40-foot standing Buddha statue carved from a single rock, supported only by a thin attachment at the back, with partially collapsed structures nearby that once formed an image house.

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Day 10 Dambulla → Polonnaruwa → Minneriya → Dambulla

Explore the medieval city of Polonnaruwa and take a safari in search of elephants at Minneriya National Park.



Polonnaruwa

Sri Lanka's medieval capital 800 years ago, Polonnaruwa was a commercial and religious centre, and its archaeological ruins give a sense of the city in its heyday.

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Minneriya National Park safari

A three-hour safari with a chance to see elephants, which gather in large numbers during the dry season between May and October, along with other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

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Day 11 Dambulla → Trincomalee

Travel to the east coast, stopping at an ancient temple, a Dutch-built fort, a beach and a Buddhist archaeological site, with an option to go whale watching.



Koneswaram Temple

Praised by Indian poet-saints, this temple has murals telling its history, a cave shrine dating to 1580 BC and a giant statue of King Ravana, who legend says worshipped here.

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Fort Frederick

Originally built by the Portuguese in 1624, the fort incorporates stones from the destroyed Koneswaram temple and was later dismantled and rebuilt by the Dutch.

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Nilaveli Beach

A beach of golden sand and clear water, with a 10th-century Tamil inscription recording that the land was once granted to the Koneswaram Temple.

Anton 17 · CC BY-SA 4.0



Thiriyaya Watadage

A village once home to Tamil Buddhism, with the Girihadu Seya Stupa said to mark where Buddha gave hair relics to two traders, and the ruins of a Vanniyar chief's fortress.

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Whale watching

A chance to see blue, sperm and fin whales off the southern waters of Sri Lanka, with guidance from a qualified naturalist.

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Day 12 Trincomalee

A day exploring the coral reefs and islands of Pigeon Island National Park.



Pigeon Island National Park

Made up of a smaller and larger pigeon island encircled by coral reef, the park is a breeding ground for rock pigeons and home to varied coral types and marine life.

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Day 13 Trincomalee (days 13–20)

An extended stay on the coast at Trincomalee, free for relaxing on the beach.



Trincomalee beach

Days left free to enjoy the golden sand, palm trees and clear blue sea along this stretch of coast.

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Day 21 Trincomalee → Negombo

Check out and transfer from Trincomalee to Negombo for an overnight stay near the airport.

Day 22 Negombo → Colombo Airport

Check out after breakfast and transfer to Colombo Airport for the departure flight.

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

- Entry Visa Fees.
- International / Domestic Airfare.
- Any expenses of personal nature.
- Tips & Portages.