TOUR REFERENCE
LKW8TQ7NEY

Adventurous Spirit (18 Days)

18 days · 17 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This 18-day tour takes in Sri Lanka's full range, from the ancient cities of the dry zone to the hill country and the southern and eastern coasts. It moves from Negombo's beaches to the sacred city of Anuradhapura, the rock fortress of Sigiriya, the ruins of Polonnaruwa and the national parks around Dambulla, before heading east to Pasikuda, inland to Kandy, Kithulgala, Nuwara Eliya and Ella, and finally south to Yala and Galle.



Travellers get a mix of history, wildlife and activity: ancient monasteries and stupas, cave temples and rock fortresses, two safaris in search of elephants and leopards, whitewater rafting on the Kelani River, a train-era walk around Ella, and time on the beach at Pasikuda and Galle. Cultural stops such as the Temple of the Tooth, the Kandy Cultural Show and Galle Fort are paired with natural sights including Pigeon Island, the Madu River and the Hummanaya blowhole.

The tour runs as a private itinerary with a chauffeur guide throughout, who drives between destinations and introduces each place along the way.

Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Negombo

The tour begins on the west coast at Negombo, known for its beaches and long-standing fishing tradition.

Negombo beaches and fishing industry

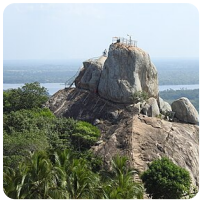
Enjoy the sandy beaches of Negombo and watch its centuries-old fishing industry at work.

Water sports and diving

Try water sports and diving among the corals and underwater life, including a 50-year-old shipwreck just off the coast that now shelters many varieties of fish.

Day 2 Negombo → Anuradhapura

The day covers the birthplace of Buddhism in Sri Lanka and the ruins of its first great capital.



Mihintale

Visit the site where King Devanampiyatissa met the monk Mahinda, marking the start of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. See the monastic ruins at the foot of the mountain, the cave where Mahinda resided, and historic stupas including the Ambasthala Dagoba and the Maha Stupa.

Dennis Sylvester Hurd · CC0

Ancient city of Anuradhapura

Walk through the ruined city that served as Sri Lanka's capital for over a millennium until the 10th century AD. See the pagodas, monastic buildings and ponds scattered across the site, along with landmarks such as the Jetavanarama stupa, once one of the tallest structures of the ancient world, the Sri Maha Bodhi, and the ruins of the Abhayagiri Monastery.

Day 3 Anuradhapura → Dambulla → Sigiriya → Dambulla

The day combines a cave temple complex with the climb up the Sigiriya rock fortress.



Golden Temple of Dambulla

Enter the cave temples dating back to the 1st century BC, with murals depicting the life of the Buddha and hundreds of figurines of Buddha and other deities across the five main caves, including the Cave of the Divine King, the Cave of the Great King and the Great New Monastery. A giant golden Buddha statue stands a short distance outside the cave complex.

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Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Climb the 5th-century AD rock fortress built by King Kasyapa, entering through the remains of a lion-shaped gateway that gives the rock its name. See the well-known murals, climb the staircase to the terraced gardens and still-working cisterns, and walk through the tunnels leading to the former palace.

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Day 4 Dambulla → Polonnaruwa → Minneriya → Dambulla

The day pairs the medieval ruins of Polonnaruwa with an afternoon safari in Minneriya National Park.



Ancient city of Polonnaruwa

Walk through the ruins of Sri Lanka's second major capital, which flourished between the 10th and 13th centuries AD. See monuments such as Gal Vihara, the Vatadage, the lotus bath, the Lankathilaka Temple and the statue of King Parakramabahu, whose reign is considered the city's golden age.

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Minneriya National Park safari

Take a three-hour safari through Minneriya National Park. In the dry season between May and October, this is the site of the Great Elephant Gathering, when over 150 elephants congregate in one place, alongside other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians in the park's scrubland and forest.

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Day 5 Dambulla → Pasikuda

After breakfast, check out and travel on to Pasikuda on the east coast.

Day 6 Pasikuda

A free day to make use of the hotel's facilities at Pasikuda.

Day 7 Pasikuda

The day is spent exploring the marine park off Pasikuda's coast.



Pigeon Island National Park

Visit the smaller and larger Pigeon Islands and the coral reef encircling the larger island, home to breeding rock pigeons. Explore the islands to see the range of coral types and other marine life found here.

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Day 8 Pasikuda → Kandy

Travel inland to Kandy, with the evening given over to a traditional dance performance.



Kandy Cultural Show

Watch an hour-long show featuring some of Sri Lanka's most popular traditional art forms, including fire dancers, sword dancers, and Kandyan dancers performing to the beat of traditional drums.

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Day 9 Kandy

The day is given to two of Kandy's best-known sights: its sacred temple and its botanical gardens.



Temple of the Tooth Relic

Visit this UNESCO World Heritage Site, built in the 16th century to house and protect the sacred tooth relic of the Buddha. Walk through its decorated passageways and painted halls, in red, cream and black, past carved pillars and golden statues.

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Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya

Walk through the botanical gardens, established in the early 19th century and home to over 4,000 species of plants, including orchids, spices and medicinal trees. See the cannonball tree, cross the suspension bridge, and walk through the hedge mazes and avenues of rare trees.

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Day 10 Kandy → Kithulgala

The route continues to Kithulgala for a day of whitewater rafting.

Whitewater rafting on the Kelani River

Raft a 5km stretch of rapids on the Kelani River, with proper safety measures in place throughout the ride.

Day 11 Kithulgala

A free day at the hotel in Kithulgala to take up its adventure activities.

Day 12 Kithulgala → Nuwara Eliya → Ella

The journey passes through Nuwara Eliya, the hill country town favoured by the British as a holiday resort, before continuing to Ella.



Nuwara Eliya

Walk through the streets of this former British resort town of the 19th and early 20th centuries, past cottages, villas and mansions. Visit the old red-brick post office, and relax at Queen Victoria Park or by Lake Gregory.

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Day 13 Ella → Yala

The day covers Ella's best-known sights before continuing south to Yala.



Little Adam's Peak

Pass through tea fields and rocky stretches on the way to views from Little Adam's Peak.

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Nine Arches Bridge

Walk over the Nine Arches Bridge and hear the story of its construction.

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Demodara Railway Station

End the walk at Demodara Railway Station, notable for its unique loop-over track design.

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Day 14 Yala

The day is set aside for a safari in one of Sri Lanka's best-known national parks.



Yala National Park safari

Take a three-hour safari through Yala, the island's second-largest national park, on the southeastern coast. Look for Sri Lankan leopards, wild water buffalo, Sri Lankan sloth bears and large herds of elephants, alongside the park's many other mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates.

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Day 15 Yala → Galle

The route to Galle takes in a natural blowhole before arriving at the fortified old town.



Hummanaya Blowhole

Visit the Hummanaya near the village of Kudawella, possibly the second-largest blowhole in the world, and hear the deep humming noise that gives it its name as it sprays seawater.

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Galle Fort

Explore Galle, once a headquarters for the Portuguese and Dutch, and one of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia. Visit its museums and lighthouse, and walk the cobblestoned streets with their Dutch names.

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Day 16 Galle → Bentota → Galle

A day trip north to the Madu River for a boat safari through its mangrove ecosystem.



Madu River boat ride

Take a two-hour boat ride through the Madu River's mangrove channels, spotting basking crocodiles and water monitors, and visiting a small island where cinnamon is harvested. Observe water birds in their natural habitat and try the fish massage.

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Day 17 Galle

A free day to relax on the beach at Galle.

Day 18 Galle → Airport

After breakfast, check out and transfer to the 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.
- Entrance fees.