

TOUR REFERENCE
LKWFEK4AG5

Trail Around Ceylon (13 Days)

13 days · 12 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This 13-day tour traces a full loop of Sri Lanka, from the west coast through the ancient cities of the cultural triangle, up into the hill country around Kandy and Nuwara Eliya, down through Ella's hills, and on to the wildlife plains and southern coast at Galle. It moves at an easy pace, with most regions given two or more days so travellers arrive and settle in rather than rushing through.

Highlights include the cave temples of Dambulla, the rock fortress of Sigiriya, the ancient capital of Polonnaruwa, safaris in Minneriya and Udawalawe National Parks, tea estates and waterfalls around Nuwara Eliya, the Nine Arches Bridge and viewpoints of Ella, and the fort town of Galle, finishing with beach time on the south coast.

Lakpura runs the tour with a private vehicle and an English-speaking chauffeur guide throughout, covering fuel, parking and highway tolls, and the pace and stops at each site are set by the traveller's own group. Hotel accommodation, entrance fees, domestic airfare and personal expenses are arranged separately, so travellers can choose stays and activities to suit their own budget.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Negombo

The tour begins with arrival and a relaxed first stop on the west coast.



Negombo Beach

Enjoy the sun on the sandy beaches of Negombo on the western coast of Sri Lanka.

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Day 2 Negombo → Dambulla → Sigiriya

The day moves inland to the cultural triangle, taking in a cave temple and an elephant sanctuary en route to Sigiriya.



Golden Temple of Dambulla

Enter the historic cave temples of Dambulla, dating back to the 1st century BC.

Lankapic · CC BY 2.5



Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, in the Sabaragamuwa province, is home to young elephants displaced or lost from their natural habitat. With around 70 elephants, it is the largest captive herd of elephants in the world, offering a close encounter with the animals.

Bernard Gagnon · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 3 Sigiriya → Polonnaruwa → Minneriya → Sigiriya

A day exploring the ancient capital of Polonnaruwa followed by a safari in Minneriya National Park, returning to Sigiriya.



Polonnaruwa

Visit the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, the second major capital of Sri Lanka.

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Minneriya National Park

A safari ride through Minneriya National Park.

Stuart Pinkney · CC BY 2.0

Day 4 Sigiriya → Matale → Kandy

The morning is spent climbing Sigiriya rock before heading via a spice garden to Kandy, where the evening features a cultural show.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Climb the 5th-century AD rock fortress of Sigiriya, where King Kasyapa once ruled.

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Spice Garden

A guided tour of a spice and herbal garden in Matale, learning about spices such as coriander, chilli, cinnamon, cardamom and nutmeg and their uses.

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Kandyan Cultural Show

An hour-long show of traditional Sri Lankan art forms, including fire dancers, sword dancers, and Kandyan dancers performing to drumming.

Arian Zwegers · CC BY 2.0

Day 5 Kandy

A full day in Kandy taking in its botanical gardens, its most sacred temple, and a traditional dance performance.



Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya

Visit the Royal Botanical Gardens of Peradeniya, formed in the early 19th century.

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Temple of the Tooth Relic

A UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 16th century, this temple houses and protects Lord Buddha's sacred tooth relic.

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Kandyan Cultural Show

An opportunity to experience traditional Sri Lankan art forms through a cultural dance performance.

Arian Zwegers · CC BY 2.0

Day 6 Kandy → Nuwara Eliya

The route climbs into tea country, stopping at a waterfall and a tea estate before reaching the former British hill station of Nuwara Eliya.



Ramboda Falls

Visit Ramboda Falls, the 11th tallest waterfall in the country.

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Tea Estate

A guided tour through a tea estate, learning about the varieties, processing methods and qualities of tea.

Adbar · CC BY-SA 3.0



Nuwara Eliya

Visit the highland city that was the premier holiday resort town of the British in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Abdul malik77 · CC BY-SA 4.0

Day 7 Nuwara Eliya → Ella

The day heads to Ella via the high-altitude grasslands of Horton Plains.



Horton Plains National Park

Visit Horton Plains National Park in Ohiya, known for its montane grasslands and cloud forests.

Faslan at en.wikipedia · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 8 Ella

A full day exploring Ella's best-known landmarks, from a historic railway bridge to a viewpoint and a waterfall.



Nine Arches Bridge

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

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Ella Rock

Early morning views of the surrounding landscape from the top of the rock.



Ravana Falls

Ravana Falls is a popular sightseeing attraction, ranking as one of the widest waterfalls in the country.

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Day 9 Ella → Udawalawe

The journey continues south to Udawalawe for a wildlife safari.



Udawalawe National Park

A safari exploring Udawalawe National Park.

AntanO · CC BY-SA 4.0

Day 10 Udawalawe → Galle

The tour reaches the south coast at Galle, with its colonial-era fort.



Galle Fort

Explore Galle, where the Portuguese and Dutch made their headquarters, and visit Galle Fort, one of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia.

Rovin Shanila · CC BY-SA 4.0

Day 11 Galle (days 11–12)

Two days are left free for relaxing on the south coast.



Galle Beaches

Tan in the golden sun relaxing under the palms, with the ocean breeze for company.

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Day 13 Galle → BIA

After breakfast, check out and transfer to the airport, ending the tour.

What's included

INCLUDED

- Transport in a Private Vehicle, inclusive of, cost of fuel, parking & highway tolls.
- Service of an English-Speaking Chauffeur Guide throughout the tour.
- All prevailing taxes and service charges (Except for Credit Card Charges).

NOT INCLUDED

- Hotel Accommodation.
- International / Domestic Airfare.
- Any expenses of personal nature.
- Entrance fees to the respective sites.
