

TOUR REFERENCE
LKXB8CMGGH

Sensation of the World (14 Days)

14 days · 13 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This 14-day tour runs the length of Sri Lanka's standard circuit, moving from the western coast through the ancient Cultural Triangle, up into the hill country, across to the southern national parks and coast, and back to Colombo for departure. It combines the island's major historical sites with wildlife safaris, a village experience, tea and spice country, and an extended stay on the southern coast, giving a broad cross-section of the country in a single, sequential route.

Along the way travellers visit the cave temple of Dambulla and the rock fortress of Sigiriya, walk the ruins of Polonnaruwa, and go on safari in Minneriya and Yala national parks. In the hill country the tour takes in a tea factory, the town of Nuwara Eliya, Horton Plains, and the walking sights around Ella including the Nine Arches Bridge. A multi-night stay in Unawatuna anchors the second half of the trip, with day options covering Galle Fort, turtle conservation, stilt fishermen, and whale watching before the return to Colombo.

The pace is steady rather than rushed, with single-night stops through the Cultural Triangle and hill country balanced by longer stays in Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Yala and Unawatuna. The tour is run as a private, chauffeur-guided journey throughout.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Negombo

The tour begins on the western coast at Negombo, known for its long-standing fishing industry and beach.



Negombo Beach

Sandy beaches on Sri Lanka's western coast where a centuries-old fishing industry still operates. Water sports and diving are available, including trips to see the coral and marine life around a 50-year-old shipwreck just offshore.

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Day 2 Negombo → Dambulla → Sigiriya

The route moves inland to the Cultural Triangle, stopping at the cave temples of Dambulla en route to Sigiriya.



Dambulla Cave Temple

A complex of historic caves dating back to the 1st century BC, known as the Golden Temple of Dambulla. The five main caves hold ancient murals depicting the life of Lord Gautama Buddha alongside hundreds of Buddha and deity figurines, including the Cave of the Divine King and the Cave of the Great King. A giant golden Buddha statue stands a short distance outside the cave complex.

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Day 3 Sigiriya → Polonnaruwa → Minneriya → Sigiriya

A day trip covers the ancient city of Polonnaruwa and a safari in Minneriya National Park.



Polonnaruwa

The ruins of Sri Lanka's second major ancient capital, which flourished between the 10th and 13th centuries AD. Key monuments include Gal Vihara, the Vatadage, the lotus bath, Lankathilaka Temple, and a statue of King Parakramabahu, whose reign is considered the city's golden age.

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Minneriya National Park

A safari through the park's scrublands and forests, home to elephants, other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. During the dry season from May to October the park hosts the Great Elephant Gathering, when over 150 elephants congregate in one place.

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Day 4 Sigiriya → Matale → Kandy

The day combines the climb of Sigiriya rock with a village experience and a stop at a spice garden on the way to Kandy.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

A 5th-century AD rock fortress built by King Kasyapa, entered through steps framed by a pair of lion's paws that give the site its name, the Lion Rock. The climb passes unfading ancient murals, terraced gardens and still-working cisterns, and tunnels leading up to the summit palace.

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Village Experience

An oxen cart ride and a catamaran crossing of a calm lake, followed by a walk through paddy fields ripe for harvest. A traditional cooking demonstration teaches the basics of Sri Lankan cuisine, followed by a home-cooked lunch made over a wood fire and served on lotus leaves.

Euphoria Spice and Herbal Garden

A spice and herb garden near Matale, the spice capital of Sri Lanka, growing plants in a tropical climate that preserves their original aroma and properties. A guided spice tour explains the uses of Sri Lankan spices, herbs and Ayurveda, with explanations offered in several languages.

Day 5 Kandy

A day in Kandy covers the Royal Botanical Gardens, the Temple of the Tooth Relic, and an evening cultural show.



Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya

Gardens formed in the early 19th century covering a vast area with over 4,000 species of plants, including orchids, spices and medicinal plants. Features include a cannonball tree, a suspension bridge, hedge mazes and avenues of large, rare trees.

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Temple of the Tooth Relic

A UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 16th century to house and protect Lord Buddha's sacred tooth relic. The temple's passageways and halls are painted in red, cream and black, with carved pillars and golden statues throughout.

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Kandy Cultural Show

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

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Day 6 Kandy → Nuwara Eliya

The route climbs into the hill country, stopping at a tea factory before reaching Nuwara Eliya.

Tea Factory and Plantation

A visit to see how Ceylon Tea is manufactured. Tea was first brought to Ceylon by the British and planted in the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya in 1824; James Taylor introduced commercial tea planting in 1852 at the Loolecondera estate near Kandy, and Ceylon tea remains known for its quality today.



Nuwara Eliya

A highland town that served as the premium holiday resort for the British in the 19th and early 20th centuries, with streets of cottages, villas and mansions. The old red-bricked post office, Queen Victoria Park and the shores of Lake Gregory are among the places to visit.

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Day 7 Nuwara Eliya → Horton Plains → Nuwara Eliya

A day trip into Horton Plains National Park for its grasslands, cloud forest and viewpoints.



Horton Plains National Park

A national park of montane grasslands and cloud forest near Ohiya, with views from the precipice of World's End and the spray of Baker's Falls. The plains hold a number of endemic fauna species and sites of archaeological interest.

Faslan at en.wikipedia · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 8 Nuwara Eliya → Ella → Yala

The route passes through Ella's tea country and walking trails before continuing to Yala.



Little Adam's Peak

A walk through bright green tea fields and rocky terrain leading to views over the surrounding hill country.

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Nine Arches Bridge

A colonial-era railway bridge with a history behind its construction, crossed on foot as part of the Ella walk.

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Demodara Railway Station

A station notable for its unique loop-over track design, marking the end of the Ella walking route.

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Day 9 Yala

A full day safari in Yala National Park.



Yala National Park

The second largest national park in Sri Lanka, located on the southeastern coast. Wildlife includes the Sri Lankan leopard, indigenous wild water buffalo, Sri Lankan sloth bear, and large herds of Sri Lankan elephants, alongside many other mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates.

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Day 10 Unawatuna (days 10–12)

Three days at Unawatuna on the southern coast, with time for beach relaxation and water sports.



Unawatuna Beach

One of Sri Lanka's leading beaches, with soft sand and sea breezes, backed by a cluster of luxury hotels. Turtles come to nest on the beach, and water sports including jet-skiing and windsurfing are available.

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Day 13 Unawatuna

A day trip to the nearby city of Galle to explore its colonial-era fort and museums.



Galle Fort

One of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia, built during the Portuguese and Dutch periods when Galle served as their headquarters. The Maritime Museum, Galle National Museum and lighthouse sit within the fort, alongside cobblestoned streets still carrying their Dutch names.

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Day 14 Ahangama → Colombo → BIA

The tour ends with sightseeing in Colombo before transfer to the airport, with optional stops along the southern coast on the way.



Colombo City

A tour of Sri Lanka's capital, taking in historic monuments such as the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green, the Gangarama Temple and the National Museum, along with Independence Square, the Race Course and shopping at boutiques and designer stores.

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Rekawa Turtle Hatchery

A night-time turtle watch to learn about the five species of endangered sea turtles that nest on Sri Lanka's shores, with the chance to volunteer for a few hours at the hatchery and see turtles come ashore.



Stilt Fishermen of Koggala

A stop to watch stilt fishermen at work along the Koggala coast, hearing from fishermen who have practised the craft for generations and learning the skill involved, with good conditions for photography at sunset.

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Whale Watching

A boat trip off the southern coast to see blue whales, sperm whales and fin whales in their natural habitat, guided by a qualified naturalist who explains how to identify the different species responsibly.

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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

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