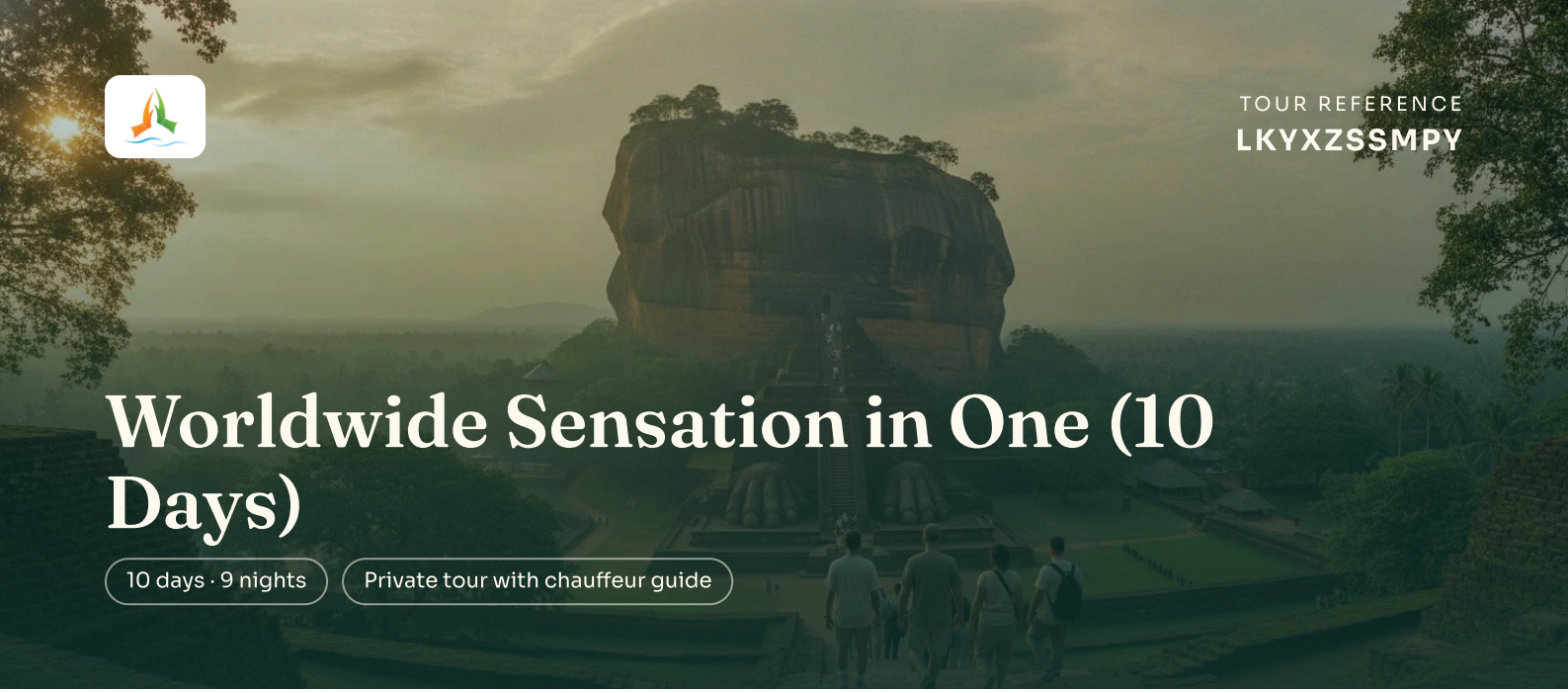


TOUR REFERENCE
LKYXZSSMPY

# Worldwide Sensation in One (10 Days)

10 days · 9 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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## About this experience

This ten-day tour covers the full sweep of Sri Lanka in one trip, moving from the Cultural Triangle through the hill country to the south coast, with a private chauffeur-guide and air-conditioned car throughout. It opens with the cave temples of Dambulla and the ancient capital of Polonnaruwa, climbs Sigiriya Rock Fortress, and pauses at a spice garden in Matale before reaching Kandy for the Temple of the Tooth Relic and a cultural dance show.

From Kandy the route climbs into the hills for the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya, a predawn ascent of Adam's Peak from Hatton, and the scenic trails and Nine Arches Bridge around Ella. The pace then shifts to wildlife and coast: a jeep safari in Yala National Park, a visit to a white tea factory near Ahangama, the stilt fishermen and fort town of Galle, whale watching off Mirissa, a boat safari on the Madu River, and a turtle hatchery at Kosgoda, before a final look at Colombo ahead of departure.

Travellers get a condensed version of Sri Lanka's main draws - ancient ruins, hill-country scenery, tea and spice culture, and three separate wildlife excursions - without having to plan the logistics of stringing them together. Two national park safaris (Minneriya and Yala) and a whale-watching trip give several distinct chances to see wildlife across different habitats.




## Day-by-day itinerary

## Day 1 Airport → Pinnawala → Dambulla

On arrival at Colombo International Airport you are met by your chauffeur guide and driven to Dambulla, stopping to visit the cave temple on the way.



### Dambulla Cave Temple

The Golden Temple of Dambulla dates back to the 1st century BC and holds ancient murals depicting the life of the Buddha. Its five main caves, including the Cave of the Divine King and Cave of the Great King, contain hundreds of Buddha and deity figurines, and a giant golden Buddha statue stands a short distance outside the complex.

Lankapic · CC BY 2.5

## Day 2 Dambulla → Polonnaruwa → Minneriya → Dambulla

A day combining Sri Lanka's ancient history with its wildlife, visiting the ruined city of Polonnaruwa before a jeep safari in Minneriya National Park.



### Ancient Kingdom of Polonnaruwa

Polonnaruwa was Sri Lanka's second major capital, flourishing between the 10th and 13th centuries AD. Walking through the ruins takes in monuments such as the 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.

Bernard Gagnon · CC BY-SA 3.0



### Minneriya National Park

A jeep safari through the park's scrub lands and forests brings the chance to see elephants, along with other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. In the dry season between May and October the park is known for the Great Elephant Gathering, when over 150 elephants congregate in one place.

Stuart Pinkney · CC BY 2.0

## Day 3 Dambulla → Matale → Kandy

After checking out, the day takes in Sigiriya Rock Fortress and a spice garden near Matale before reaching Kandy for an evening cultural show.



### Sigiriya Rock Fortress

This 5th-century AD rock fortress was the seat of King Kasyapa, entered through an opening framed by the paws of a lion that gives the site its name. The climb passes unfading ancient murals, terraced gardens, still-working cisterns and tunnels leading to the palace ruins at the summit.

Wrobell · CC BY-SA 3.0



### Spice Garden, Matale

A guided tour of a spice and herbal garden near Matale, Sri Lanka's spice capital, covers crops such as coriander, chilli, cinnamon, cardamom and nutmeg and their traditional uses, including in Ayurveda.

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### Kandyan Cultural Show

An hour-long show of traditional Kandyan arts including fire dancers, sword dancers and Kandyan dancers performing to drumming, alongside the chance to see gem crafting, woodcarving and batik work.

Arian Zwegers · CC BY 2.0

## Day 4 Kandy → Hatton

Before leaving Kandy for Hatton, the day includes the city's most important Buddhist shrine and the botanical gardens at nearby Peradeniya.



### Temple of the Tooth Relic

This UNESCO World Heritage Site was built in the 16th century to house and protect Lord Buddha's sacred tooth relic. Its passageways and halls are decorated in red, cream and black, with carved pillars and golden statues.

A.Savin · FAL



### Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya

Established in the early 19th century, the gardens hold over 4,000 species of plants including orchids, spices and medicinal plants. Highlights include the cannonball tree, a suspension bridge, hedge mazes and large, climbable trees.

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## Day 5 Hatton → Ella

An early start for the climb of Adam's Peak, followed by breakfast and the drive on to Ella.



### Adam's Peak

The climb begins around 1am up this 2,250-metre peak, known as Sri Pada, which is sacred to Buddhists, Muslims and Hindus alike for the footprint-shaped hollow at its summit. It has been a pilgrimage site for over a thousand years.

Bourgeois · CC BY-SA 3.0

## Day 6 Ella → Yala

A morning exploring the scenery around Ella is followed by the drive to Yala and an afternoon jeep safari.

### Ella scenic walk

The walk passes through tea fields and rocky terrain for views of Little Adam's Peak, crosses the Nine Arches Bridge, and ends at Demodara Railway Station, known for its unique loop-over track design.



### Yala National Park

A jeep safari in Sri Lanka's second-largest national park, on the southeastern coast, offers the chance to see Sri Lankan leopards, wild water buffalo, sloth bears and large herds of elephants, along with many other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Ranmith Welikala · CC BY-SA 4.0

## Day 7 Yala → Ahangama

The drive to Ahangama includes a stop at a tea factory, with an evening excursion to see Galle and its stilt fishermen.



### Handunugoda Tea Factory

Also known as the Virgin White Tea Factory, this stop covers the history of the tea produced here and how the Virgin White Tea is plucked and processed without being touched by hand, followed by a tasting of tea and chocolate cake.

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### Stilt Fisherman of Koggala

Fishermen perched on stilts along the Koggala coast demonstrate a craft practised for generations, with the chance to hear their stories and photograph them against the shoreline at sunset.



### Galle Fort

One of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia, built up by the Portuguese and Dutch, with the Maritime Museum, the Galle National Museum, the lighthouse and cobblestoned streets bearing Dutch names.

Rovin Shanila · CC BY-SA 4.0

## Day 8 Ahangama → Mirissa → Ahangama

A morning boat trip from Mirissa harbour to look for whales, with time afterwards on the beach.



### Whale Watching, Mirissa

A boat safari from Mirissa harbour with a qualified naturalist offers the chance to see blue whales, sperm whales and fin whales in the waters off southern Sri Lanka.

Ji-Elle · CC BY-SA 3.0



### Mirissa Beach

A crescent-shaped beach at the eastern end of Weligama Bay, with sands that curve outward on either side.

Ji-Elle · CC BY-SA 3.0

## Day 9 Ahangama → Balapitiya → Kosgoda → Colombo

The journey to Colombo takes in a river boat safari and a turtle hatchery along the southwestern coast.



### Madu River Boat Safari

A boat ride through the Madu River's mangrove channels passes basking crocodiles and water monitors, a small island where cinnamon is harvested by local residents, a fish massage stop, and waterbirds in their natural habitat.

SUPindia · CC BY-SA 4.0



### Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery

The hatchery cares for five endangered sea turtle species that nest on this stretch of coast, with the Kosgoda Turtle Care Program protecting nests to improve hatchling survival. Visitors can see, touch and feed baby turtles and injured adults in care.

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## Day 10 Colombo → BIA

A final city tour of Colombo before transfer to the airport for departure.



**Colombo City Tour**

A tour of the capital's landmarks including the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green, the Gangarama Temple and the National Museum, alongside shopping areas such as Independence Square and the Race Course.

Gihanud2001 · CC0

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