TOUR REFERENCE
LKZV76ACD6

Escapade to the East (10 Days)

10 days · 9 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This ten-day tour runs from Negombo up to the Jaffna peninsula, down the east coast at Trincomalee, and inland through the Cultural Triangle before ending in Colombo. It combines the Tamil heritage sites of the north, a stretch of coastal time on the east coast with whale watching and island visits, and the ancient cities, cave temples and rock fortress of the cultural heartland.

Travellers get a broad cross-section of Sri Lanka in one trip: Hindu and Buddhist temples with histories running back two millennia, a whale watching safari off Trincomalee, a dry-zone elephant safari at Minneriya, the climb up Sigiriya rock, and a village experience near Sigiriya with an ox-cart ride, a catamaran trip and a home-cooked lunch. The tour closes with a tour of Colombo's landmarks before the flight home.

The tour is run throughout by a Lakpura chauffeur guide in an air-conditioned vehicle, who handles airport transfers, drives between each stop and accompanies the included visits and safaris.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 BIA → Negombo

Arrival day: after formalities at Colombo International Airport, a Lakpura chauffeur guide meets travellers and drives them to Negombo to check in.

Day 2 Negombo → Jaffna

The drive north to Jaffna includes a stop at Chilaw before continuing to the peninsula, where the city's temples and historic sites can be explored.



Munneswaram Kovil

An important regional Hindu temple complex near Chilaw dating back at least to 1000 CE, with myths linking it to the Ramayana and its hero-king Rama. It is one of five ancient temples dedicated to Shiva in the region.

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Jaffna city and temples

Jaffna, capital of the northern peninsula, has Hindu temples such as Nallur, Nainativu and Mavittapuram with over four millennia of history between them. Other attractions include the Dutch Fort, war memorials, the Saraswathy Mahal Library, Nagadeepa Vihara and the palace of Cankili I, the last king of Jaffna.

Day 3 Jaffna → Jaffna

A day trip north of Jaffna to Nagadeepa Island, known to the Sinhalese as Nagadeepa and in ancient times as Manipallavam, once home to the snake-worshipping Naga people.



Nagadeepa Purana Viharaya

One of sixteen of the holiest Buddhist sites in Sri Lanka, believed to be where the Buddha stopped on his second visit to the island, with its own distinct architecture and surrounding legends.

derivative work: Taprobanus (talk) NainathivuNahaVihara.JPG: Regunathan Umapathy · Public domain



Nainativu Nagapooshani Amman Temple

A Hindu temple with a documented history of at least two millennia, recorded by Ptolemy, linked to legends of the god Indra. Its Dravidian architecture includes four gopurams, several mandapams and temple chariots, and it is one of only 64 Shakthi Peedams in the world.

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Day 4 Jaffna → Trincomalee

The route continues south-east to Trincomalee, where the afternoon is spent at the hilltop temple and fort overlooking the harbour.



Koneswaram Temple

An ancient temple praised by Indian poet-saints, with murals recounting its history. Its cave shrine dates to around 1580 BC and the main temple to around 400 BC, and it features a giant statue of King Ravana, who according to legend worshipped here.

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Fort Frederick

Built by the Portuguese in 1624 using stones taken from the original Koneswaram temple, later dismantled and rebuilt by the Dutch.

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Day 5 Trincomalee → Trincomalee

A day combining a marine park visit with an afternoon at an ancient Buddhist site inland of Trincomalee.



Pigeon Island National Park

A national park made up of a smaller and larger pigeon island surrounded by coral reef, home to breeding rock pigeons and a range of coral types and marine life.

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Thiriyaya Watadage

A village once home to Tamil Buddhism, including the Girihadu Seya Stupa, said to mark the spot where the Buddha gave hair relics to two traders, and the remains of a fortress of one of the last Vanniyar chiefs.

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Day 6 Trincomalee → Trincomalee

A full day on the water for a whale watching safari off the coast.



Whale watching safari

A five-hour boat trip with a packed breakfast to look for blue whales, sperm whales and fin whales in the waters south of Sri Lanka, guided by a qualified naturalist, before an evening at leisure back at the hotel.

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Day 7 Trincomalee → Polonnaruwa → Minneriya → Dambulla

The tour heads inland to the ancient city of Polonnaruwa before an evening safari in Minneriya National Park on the way to Dambulla.



Polonnaruwa

The second major capital of Sri Lanka, flourishing between the 10th and 13th centuries AD. Its ruins include the Gal Vihara, the Vatadage, the lotus bath, the Lankathilaka Temple and a statue of King Parakramabahu, whose reign is seen as the city's golden age.

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Minneriya National Park

A three-hour evening safari through the park, known for the Great Elephant Gathering of over 150 elephants in the dry season between May and October, alongside other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

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Day 8 Dambulla → Sigiriya → Dambulla

The day covers the climb up Sigiriya rock, a village experience nearby, and the cave temples of Dambulla.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

A 5th-century AD rock fortress built by King Kasyapa, entered through an opening framed by giant lion's paws. The climb passes the famous murals, terraced gardens, working cisterns and tunnels leading to the former palace.

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Sigiriya village tour

A village experience including an ox-cart ride, a catamaran trip across a calm lake, a walk through paddy fields, a traditional cooking demonstration and a home-cooked lunch served on lotus leaves.

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Dambulla Cave Temple

The Golden Temple of Dambulla, dating to the 1st century BC, with murals depicting the life of the Buddha and hundreds of Buddha and deity figures across its five main caves, including the Cave of the Divine King and the Cave of the Great King, plus a large golden Buddha statue outside the complex.

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Day 9 Dambulla → Colombo

The final touring day is spent exploring Colombo, Sri Lanka's commercial capital.



Colombo city tour

A look at landmarks including the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green, Gangarama Temple and the National Museum, along with Independence Square, the Race Course area and shopping districts.

Gihanud2001 · CC0

Day 10 Colombo → BIA

After a relaxed morning, travellers check out and are driven to the airport for their 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

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