



TOUR REFERENCE
LKZX4D393A

Coast and Hikes (11 Days)

11 days · 10 nights

Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This 11-day tour links Sri Lanka's ancient cities, hill-country trails and south-coast beaches into a single private itinerary, travelling by chauffeur-guided vehicle throughout. It opens with the Munneswaram Hindu temple complex and the cave temples of Dambulla, then moves through the Cultural Triangle sites of Polonnaruwa and Sigiriya before climbing into the hills around Kandy, Hatton and Ella.

Along the way the route takes in a village experience near Polonnaruwa with an oxen cart ride and catamaran safari, the Temple of the Tooth Relic and Royal Botanical Gardens in Kandy, a pre-dawn climb of Adam's Peak, and a ridgeline hike above Ella past Nine Arches Bridge. The second half of the tour heads south to Yala National Park for a wildlife safari, then along the coast through Ahangama, Mirissa and Balapitiya for whale watching, a visit to Galle Fort, a Madu River boat trip and stops at a tea factory and turtle hatchery, before finishing in Colombo.

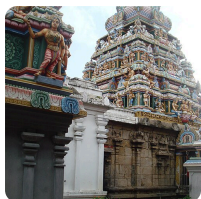
Travellers come away with a broad sweep of Sri Lanka's history, hill scenery, wildlife and coastline in one continuous private journey, with the pace and stops set around the group rather than a fixed coach schedule.



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Airport → Munneswaram → Dambulla

The tour begins with a Hindu temple complex before continuing to the cave temples at Dambulla.



Munneswaram Temple

An important regional Hindu temple complex dating back at least to 1000 CE, linked by myth to the Ramayana and the hero-king Rama, and one of five ancient temples dedicated to Shiva in the region.

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Golden Temple of Dambulla

Historic cave temple dating to the 1st century BC, with murals depicting the life of Lord Gautama Buddha and hundreds of Buddha and deity figurines across five main caves, including the Cave of the Divine King, 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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Day 2 Dambulla → Polonnaruwa → Dambulla

A day split between the ruins of Sri Lanka's second ancient capital and a hands-on village experience.



Polonnaruwa

The second major capital of Sri Lanka, flourishing between the 10th and 13th centuries AD. Highlights among the ruins include Gal Vihara, Vatadage, the lotus bath, Lankathilaka Temple and the statue of King Parakramabahu.

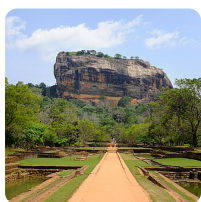
Bernard Gagnon · CC BY-SA 3.0

Village Experience

An oxen cart ride, a catamaran safari on a calm lake, and a walk through paddy fields, followed by a traditional cooking demonstration and a home-cooked lunch served on lotus leaves.

Day 3 Dambulla → Sigiriya → Matale → Kandy

Climb the rock fortress of Sigiriya before arriving in Kandy for an evening cultural show.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

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

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Kandy Cultural Show

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

Arian Zwegers · CC BY 2.0

Technical Tours

Visits related to local crafts such as gem crafting, woodcarving and batiks.

Day 4

Kandy → Hatton

A day in Kandy taking in its botanical gardens and its most revered Buddhist shrine before heading into the hills.



Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya

Established in the early 19th century, the gardens hold over 4000 species of plants across avenues of large and rare trees, with highlights including the cannonball tree, a suspension bridge and hedge mazes.

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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, with painted halls, carved pillars and golden statues.

A.Savin · FAL

Day 5

Hatton → Ella

An early pre-dawn climb up Adam's Peak, followed by a transfer to Ella.



Adam's Peak

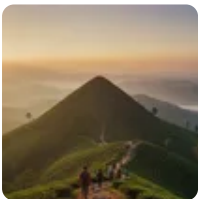
A pre-dawn ascent of Sri Pada, a mountain sacred to Buddhists, Muslims and Hindus alike and a pilgrimage site for over a thousand years, due to a foot-shaped hollow on its summit boulder. After the climb, travellers return to the hotel for breakfast before continuing on to Ella.

Bourgeois · CC BY-SA 3.0

Day 6

Ella → Yala

A walking exploration of Ella's countryside before continuing to Yala.



Little Adam's Peak

A walk through green tea fields and rocky stretches offering views toward Little Adam's Peak.

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Nine Arches Bridge

A walk over the bridge with its history, en route to the Demodara Railway station, noted for its unique loop-over track design.

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Day 7 Yala → Ahangama

A morning safari in Yala National Park followed by stops at a tea factory, a stilt fishing site and a turtle hatchery on the way to the coast.



Yala National Park

The second largest national park on the island, on the southeastern coast, home to Sri Lankan leopards, wild water buffalo, Sri Lankan sloth bears and large elephant herds, along with many other mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates.

Ranmith Welikala · CC BY-SA 4.0



Handunugoda Tea Factory

Also known as the Virgin White Tea Factory, with a tour of how the Virgin White Tea is plucked and processed by hand, followed by a tasting of tea and chocolate cake.

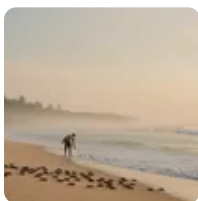
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Stilt Fishing, Koggala

A view of fishermen perched on stilts along the coast, with stories of how the craft has been passed down through generations.

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Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery

A visit on the southwestern coast to learn about five endangered sea turtle species that nest in Sri Lanka and the Turtle Care Program that protects their nests, with a chance to see, touch and feed baby and injured turtles.

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Day 8 Ahangama → Mirissa → Ahangama

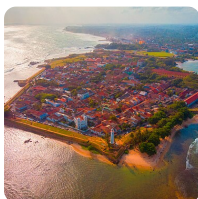
A morning whale watching trip followed by an afternoon exploring Galle.



Whale Watching

A trip off the southern coast of Sri Lanka to see blue whales, sperm whales and fin whales, guided by a naturalist and run with minimal impact on the animals.

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Galle Fort

A tour of the former Portuguese and Dutch headquarters, one of the best-preserved fortifications in Asia, including the Maritime Museum, Galle National Museum, the lighthouse and the cobblestoned streets with their Dutch names.

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Day 9 Ahangama → Balapitiya → Ahangama

A boat trip through the Madu River's mangrove ecosystem.



Madu River

A boat ride through mangrove channels, spotting basking crocodiles and water monitors, a stop at an island where cinnamon is harvested, a fish massage, and views of waterbirds in their natural habitat.

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Day 10 Ahangama → Colombo

The tour concludes with a tour of Colombo's landmarks and shopping districts.

**Colombo City Tour**

A look at the capital's historic monuments, including the Old Lighthouse, the Old Parliament, Galle Face Hotel, Galle Face Green, Gangarama Temple and the National Museum, along with the shops around Independence Square and the Race Course.

Gihanud2001 · CC0

Day 11 Colombo → Airport

After breakfast, transfer from the hotel to the airport for departure.

What's included

INCLUDED

- Transport in a Private Vehicle, Fuel, Parking & Highway tolls.
- Service of English-Speaking Chauffeur Guide.
- All prevailing taxes and service charges.

NOT INCLUDED

- Hotel Accommodation and Meals.
- Entrance fees to the respective sites.
- Chauffeur Guide's Accommodation.
- Expenses of personal nature.
- Visa and Related Expenses.
- Tips & Portages.

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