



Luxury escape in the South of Sri Lanka

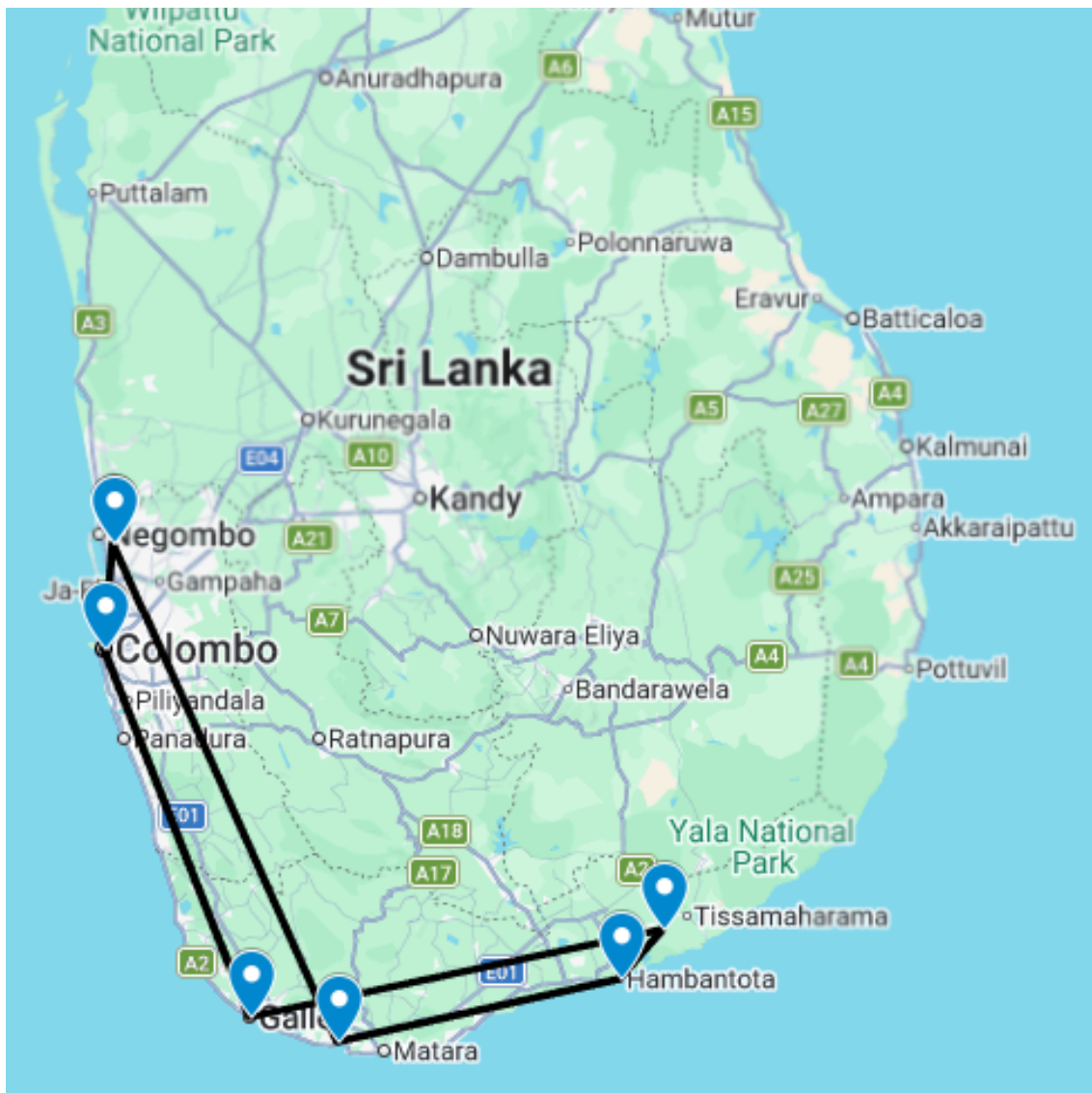
Summary

This tour offers a diverse exploration of Sri Lanka, combining city life, coastal landscapes, nature, and wildlife. Starting from Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA), the journey begins in Colombo before following the southern coast to Galle, Hambantota, and Weligama. Experiences include a scenic train ride, tuk-tuk transfers, a city tour by vintage jeep, as well as wildlife safaris by boat and vehicle.

The itinerary also features visits to botanical gardens, relaxing moments by the sea, and cultural and religious sites, providing a harmonious balance of culture, adventure, and relaxation.

Duration of the stay : 08 Nights

Meal Plan : Bed and Breakfast (BB) and Half-Board (HB)



Accommodation	Nights	Room Category
Hailsham Bungalow	2	Superior Deluxe
Le Grand Galle	1	Deluxe
Flameback Eco Lodge	2	Deluxe
Villa Clingendael	3	Courtyard Room, Verenhad Room, Heritage Room

Day 01

Arrive at the Bandaranaike International Airport and transfer to Colombo



Hailsham Bungalow

Day 1 Check-in	Day 3 Check-out	2 Nights Duration
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Room Category
Double Room

Hailsham Bungalow is an elegantly renovated guesthouse located in Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, offering a peaceful setting with a garden, terrace, and an outdoor pool open year-round. Designed for comfort, the property features well-appointed rooms and communal areas ideal for relaxation. Its convenient location provides easy access to central Colombo and key attractions, making it a perfect retreat close to the city.

On arrival, transfer to Hailsham Bungalow

Overnight stay at Hailsham Bungalow

Day 02

Breakfast at Hailsham Bungalow

Visit the principal attraction of Colombo by Jeep (AM)



Colombo

Colombo is the commercial capital and largest city of Sri Lanka, located on the island's west coast, close to Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte—the country's official capital and the seat of the Sri Lankan Parliament.

The name “Kolamba” (anglicized as “Colombo”) comes from a Sinhala word meaning “port,” “harbour,” or “shelter.” Today, Colombo is a vibrant and cosmopolitan city, home to stylish restaurants, art galleries, and boutique shops. As you explore, you will also discover excellent local cuisine, charming cafés, and hidden gems throughout the city. At the same time, an unprecedented wave of real estate development is rapidly transforming Colombo's urban skyline.



Jeep Tour

Lunch (Optional)

Dinner and overnight stay at Hailsham Bungalow

Day 03

Breakfast at Hailsham Bungalow

Train ride from Colombo to Ambalangoda (AM)

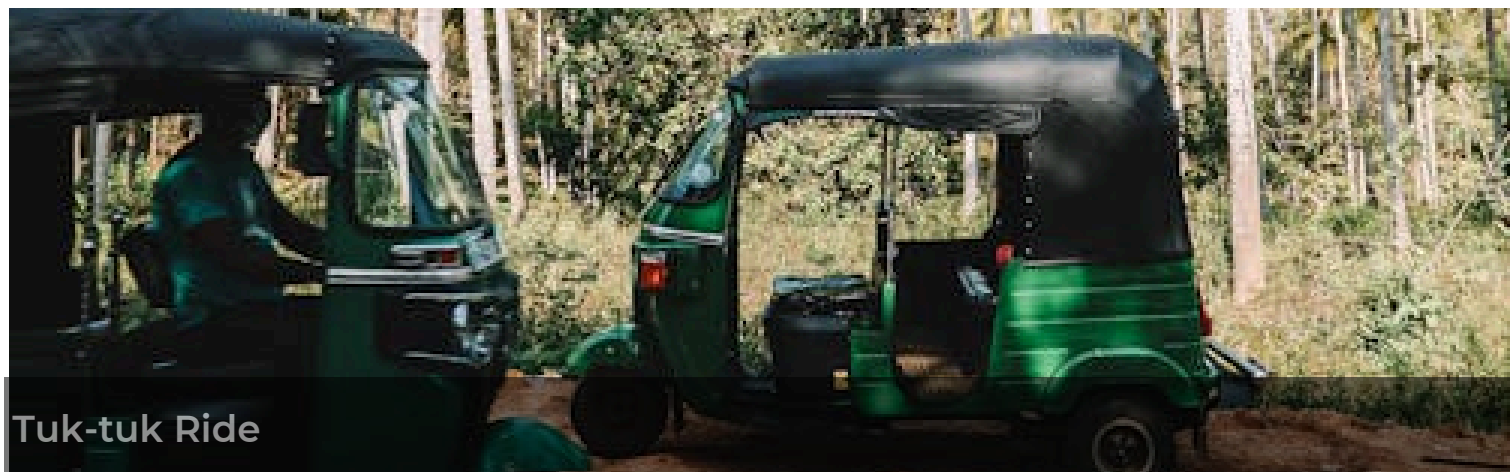


Train Ride

Taking the train allows you to travel between multiple destinations without the stress of road transfers. Departing from Colombo Fort, one of Sri Lanka's main railway stations, the train connects you to many popular tourist spots.

It is an excellent way to see the country, especially the scenic tea plantations, offering views that road travel cannot provide, while also being a safer option.

Although trains can sometimes be a little slow, they remain one of the best ways to experience the beauty of the countryside. We always ensure reserved seating, similar to booking an airline ticket in advance.



Tuk-tuk Ride

Boat safari on the Madu River (AM)



Madu River Safari



The Madu Ganga is a small river originating near Urugasmanhandiya in the Galle District of Sri Lanka, widening to form the Madu Ganga Lake at Balapitiya. It flows for approximately 4.4 km before emptying into the Indian Ocean.

In 1803, the Amarapura Nikaya Buddhist sect held its first upasampada (higher ordination) ceremony on a flotilla of boats anchored on the river. The Kothduwa Buddhist temple is located on a secluded island within the lake.

Connected to the small Randombe Lake by two narrow channels, Madu Ganga forms a protected wetland area. Its estuary and numerous mangrove islets create a complex coastal ecosystem, home to around 303 plant species from 95 families, as well as 248 vertebrate species.

Local island communities continue traditional practices, including peeled cinnamon and cinnamon oil production.

Lunch (Optional)

Proceed towards Galle (PM)

En route, visit the Ambalangoda Mask Museum (PM)

Mask-making is an ancient and popular tradition in Sri Lanka, particularly along the west, southwest, and southern coasts. The town of Ambalangoda, on the southwest coast, is renowned for its skilled artisans and vibrant masks. The Ambalangoda Mask Workshop and Museum is the perfect place to explore this tradition, observe carving techniques, and admire a collection of original and reproduced masks. The masks are carved from lightweight Kaduru wood and hand-painted.

They are used in various rituals and performances: Kolam masks depict comic and folk stories, Sanni masks are used in exorcism ceremonies to cure illnesses and ailments believed to be caused by demons, and Raksha masks, such as the famous Naga Raksha or “Cobra Demon,” appear in festivals and processions with fierce faces and cobra hoods. Traditional Sri Lankan dances, like the Kandy Ves dance or the Pantheru dances celebrating victory in battle, are closely associated with these masks, each carrying cultural and spiritual significance. Puppets, or rookada, present dramas, comedies, and folk tales influenced by South India, Asia, and Europe.

Although exorcisms, masked dances, and puppet shows are less common today, the art of mask carving continues through the workshops and museums of Ambalangoda, allowing visitors to experience this unique and living cultural heritage.

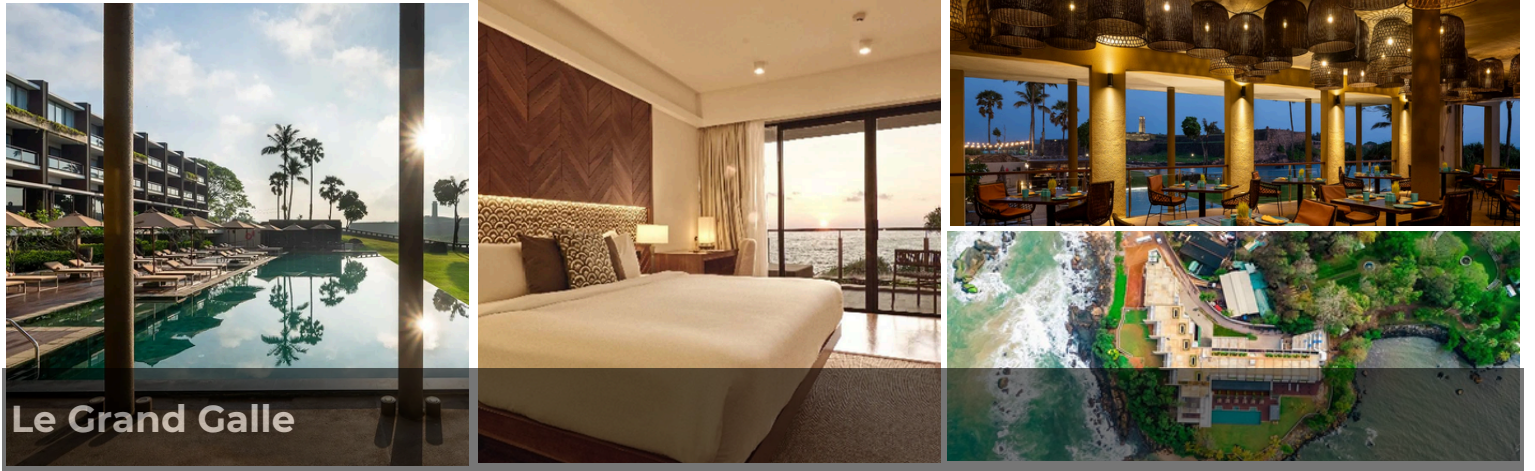


Ambalangoda Mask Museum

Evening at leisure

Dinner (Optional)

Overnight stay at Le Grand Galle



Le Grand Galle

Day 03 Check-in	Day 04 Check-out	1 Night Duration
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Room Category

Double Room

Le Grand Galle is a sophisticated luxury hotel overlooking the Indian Ocean and the UNESCO-listed Galle Fort. Offering elegant contemporary design, refined interiors, and exceptional service, the property features spacious rooms and suites, some with private plunge pools. With panoramic views, a full range of facilities including spa, pool, and dining, and an enviable location on Sri Lanka's south coast, Le Grand provides a polished and indulgent base for discovering Galle in style.

Day 04

Breakfast at the hotel

Sightseeing in Galle (AM)

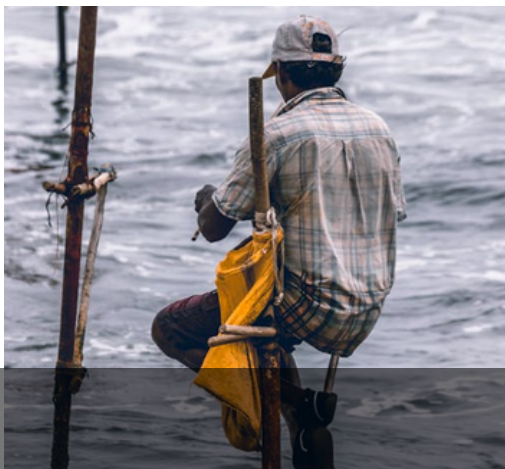


Located in Galle Bay on Sri Lanka's southwest coast, the fort was originally built in 1588 by the Portuguese and extensively reinforced by the Dutch during the 17th century, from 1649 onward. The fort has a colorful history and today is home to a multi-ethnic and multi-religious community. Its heritage value has been recognized by UNESCO, inscribing it as a World Heritage Site under criterion IV for "an urban ensemble that illustrates the interaction between European architecture and South Asian traditions from the 16th to the 19th century." The Sri Lankan government, along with several Dutch owners who still hold properties within the fort, aim to position it as one of the modern wonders of the world.

Proceed towards Weeravila (PM)

Lunch (Optional)

En route to Weeravila, observe the Stilt Fishermen at Dikwella, visit the Weherahena Temple at Matara, and observe Hummanaya Blowhole at Tangalle



Stilt fishing is one of Sri Lanka's most iconic traditional fishing methods. Historical records indicate that it emerged shortly after World War II. Once widely practiced along the coast, the activity was temporarily interrupted by the 2004 tsunami, before gradually resuming in recent years. The exact origins of stilt fishing remain uncertain. However, a fascinating story shared by 82-year-old stilt fisherman A. W. Wilson Silva recounts that the technique was introduced to Sri Lanka in Gantara near Matara long ago by merchants arriving on sloops.

According to the tale, a local fisherman observed these merchants going out to sea and returning shortly after with their nets full of fish. Curious, he asked one of them for the secret, and the merchant promised to teach him before leaving. True to his word, he passed on the knowledge, which has since been handed down from generation to generation.



Weherahena Temple

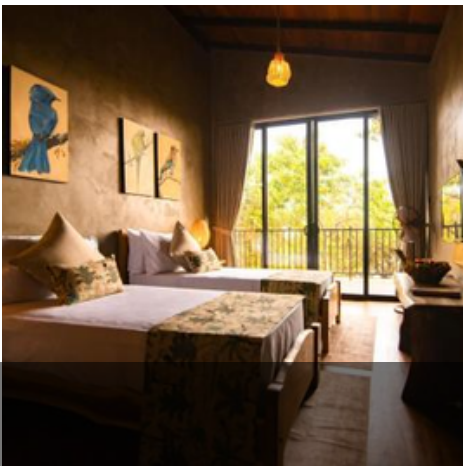
Weherahena Temple, located in Matara, is one of the most unique Buddhist temples in Sri Lanka. Known as the first and largest tunnel temple in the world, it is distinguished by its remarkable network of underground passageways decorated with murals illustrating the Jataka tales, which depict the previous lives of the Buddha. Founded in the early 19th century by an exiled monk who transformed a modest dwelling into a place of worship dedicated to the teachings of the Buddha, the temple is now an important pilgrimage site in the southern part of the island. Outside, a large seated Buddha statue overlooks the complex, while the temple's distinctive architecture and spiritual atmosphere make it both a fascinating and inspiring place to visit.

Private candlelit dinner on an exclusive floating boat in the heart of the lake at Flameback Eco Lodge

Overnight stay at Flameback Eco Lodge



Flameback Eco Lodge



Day 04 Check-in	Day 06 Check-out	2 Nights Duration
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Room Category

Double Room

Flameback Eco Lodge is an exclusive eco-luxury retreat nestled within lush gardens by the tranquil Weerawila Lake, in the heart of a bird sanctuary. Designed as elegant tented lodges, the property offers privacy, serenity, and complete immersion in nature, accompanied by birdsong and scenic lake views. Organic cuisine sourced from local communities further enhances the experience, making it an ideal stay for travelers seeking sustainable luxury and absolute tranquility.

Day 05

Breakfast at Flameback Eco Lodge

Visit the Hambantota Botanical Garden (AM)



Hambantota Botanical Garden

The Mirijjawila Botanical Garden is one of Sri Lanka's five botanical gardens and the first established in the island's dry zone. Located in the Hambantota District along the Colombo–Kataragama main road, it covers around 300 acres (121 hectares) and has been open to visitors since 2013. The garden lies between Mattala International Airport and the Port of Hambantota. Before its development in 2006, the area consisted mainly of thorny scrubland and abandoned chena cultivation.

Developed by local experts, the garden aims to conserve endangered trees and shrubs, preserve medicinal plants, and showcase the distinctive flora of Sri Lanka's dry zone, while also serving as an attractive destination for both local and international visitors.

Lunch (Optional)

Ridiyagama Safari Park (PM) – an immersive wildlife experience including elephant and bird feeding.

Ridiyagama Safari Park, located in southern Sri Lanka, spans around 500 acres and provides spacious areas designed to resemble the animals' natural habitats. The park is divided into dedicated zones for lions, tigers, bears, and herbivores, each tailored to the needs of the species.

Visitors explore the park in specially designated safari vehicles during guided drives that operate between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The route allows close observation of large predators such as lions and tigers, offering a unique opportunity to witness their behavior in a safe environment. It is advisable to wear comfortable clothing and carry water, as the safari route alternates between sunny and shaded areas.



Parc Safari de Ridiyagama

Dinner and overnight stay at Flameback Eco Lodge

Day 06

Breakfast at the hotel

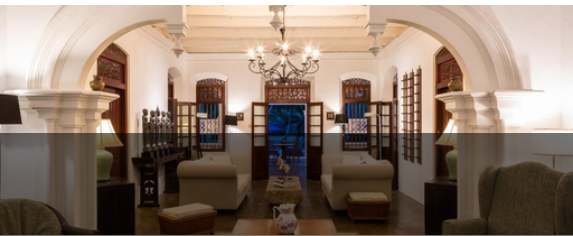
Morning at leisure

Lunch (Optional)

Proceed towards Weligama (PM)

Evening at leisure

Dinner and overnight Villa Clingendael Weligama



Day 06
Check-in

Day 09
Check-out

3 Nights
Duration

Room Category
Double Room

Clingendael Weligama est une élégante demeure de caractère nichée au cœur de trois hectares de jardins tropicaux, à quelques minutes des plages de la baie de Weligama et facilement accessible depuis l'aéroport international. Installée dans une maison coloniale restaurée datant de 1895 et surplombant des rizières, la propriété ne compte que six suites luxueuses, offrant une atmosphère intime mêlant raffinement d'antan et grande intimité. Avec son service personnalisé et son esprit de maison privée, Clingendael est une adresse idéale pour les voyageurs en quête de charme, de calme et d'un luxe discret sur la côte sud.

Day 07

Breakfast at Villa Clingendael Weligama

Lunch (Optional)

Day at leisure

Dinner and overnight stay at Villa Clingendael Weligama

Day 08

Breakfast at Villa Clingendael Weligama

Lunch (Optional)

Day at leisure



Weligama

Dinner and overnight stay at Villa Clingendael Weligama

Jour 09

Breakfast at Villa Clingendael Weligama

Transfer to Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA), carefully scheduled to ensure a smooth connection for your departure.



Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA)



Includes

- Cost of accommodation on a half-board basis, from breakfast on Day 02 to breakfast on Day 09, at the hotels mentioned or similar.
- Cost of an air-conditioned vehicle from Day 01 to Day 06 and on Day 09, with the services of a French-speaking chauffeur-guide or a French-speaking national guide.
- Entrance fees and activities included:
 - Colombo city tour in a vintage jeep
 - Train journey
 - Tuk-tuk ride
 - River safari on the Madu River
 - Sightseeing tour of Galle (Old Dutch House Museum)
 - Hambantota Botanical Garden
 - Safari at Ridiyagama Safari Park
- Cost of a jeep for the Ridiyagama safari
- Cost of a boat for the Madu River safari
- All prevailing government taxes

Excludes

- Lunch during the tour
- Cost of dinner during the stay at Galle (Day 3)
- Cost of an air-conditioned vehicle with the services of an English-speaking chauffeur-guide or an English-speaking national guide during the beach stay (Day 07 et Day 08)
- Tips and portage services
- All expenses of personal nature (laundry, beverages, souvenirs, extras, etc.)