LankaLane

TRIP IDEA · 12 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS

Grand Island Loop

Negombo → Sigiriya → Polonnaruwa → Kandy → Nuwara Eliya → Ella → Yala → Mirissa → Galle → Colombo

from **€1,200** – €1,800 per person (estimate)

LENGTH	BEST TIME	SUITS	STYLE
12 days / 11 nights	Dec–Apr	Couple, Family, Friends / group	Beaches, Culture & heritage, Hills & tea, Wildlife

Overview

The classic first trip: ancient cities, tea hills, a leopard safari and lazy beach days, at a comfortable pace.



Highlights

- Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa
- Kandy and the hill-country train
- Leopard safari in Yala
- Whale watching from Mirissa (Dec–Apr)
- Galle Fort at sunset

Best months

Jan · Feb · Mar · Apr · May · Jun · Jul · Aug · Sep · Oct · Nov · Dec

Day by day

DAY 1 — **Arrive in Negombo**
Airport welcome, rest after the flight.
Overnight: Negombo

DAY 2 — **To Sigiriya**
Drive to the Cultural Triangle, stopping at Dambulla caves.
Overnight: Sigiriya

DAY 3 — **Lion Rock**
Climb Sigiriya, afternoon elephant safari at Minneriya.
Overnight: Sigiriya

DAY 4 **Polonnaruwa**
Cycle the medieval capital, back for a village dinner.
Overnight: Sigiriya

DAY 5 **Kandy**
Spice garden on the way; Temple of the Tooth in the evening.
Overnight: Kandy

DAY 6 **Tea country**
Botanical gardens, then up to Nuwara Eliya with a tea factory stop.
Overnight: Nuwara Eliya

DAY 7 **Train to Ella**
The scenic train ride to Ella; Nine Arch Bridge at sunset.
Overnight: Ella

DAY 8 **Down to Yala**
Little Adam's Peak at dawn, then down to Yala for an afternoon jeep safari.
Overnight: Yala

DAY 9 **Yala to Mirissa**
Early safari for the best leopard chances, then west to the beach.
Overnight: Mirissa

DAY 10 **Mirissa**
Morning whale-watching boat (season) or a lazy beach day.
Overnight: Mirissa

DAY 11 **Galle**
Galle Fort, Unawatuna beach and a sunset on the ramparts.
Overnight: Galle

DAY 12 **Colombo and home**
Coastal drive to Colombo, a little shopping, then your flight.

What's usually included

Included

- Private air-conditioned car with an English-speaking driver-guide
- Hotels as described, 2 sharing, with breakfast
- Airport pick-up and drop-off
- Local taxes and the driver's costs

Not included

- International flights
- Sri Lanka ETA (visa)
- Entrance and park fees unless listed
- Lunches, most dinners and drinks
- Tips and personal spending
- Travel insurance

About the price: Estimate per person, 2 sharing, mid-range hotels with breakfast, private car with driver-guide; no flights or entrance fees.
Estimate last checked: 13 November 2026. Prices change with season, hotels and group size.

Like this idea? Enquire free at **info@lankalane.eu** or on **lankalane.com/travel**. A licensed tour partner in Sri Lanka will reply with a personal quote. You book and pay them directly.

LankaLane is a community and information website, not a travel agent or tour operator. Trips shown here are ideas with estimated "from" prices, not offers for sale. LankaLane does not sell, book or take payment for any travel. If you enquire, we pass your request (only with your consent) to a licensed tour company based in Sri Lanka, who will quote you directly. Any booking, contract and payment is between you and that company.