

Byroads
Inspiring Escorted Journeys

INDIA & SRI LANKA

Discover and contrast two of the regions most colourful nations

29 DAYS - STARTING NEW DELHI 9 NOVEMBER 2020





INDIA & SRI LANKA

Trip Outline

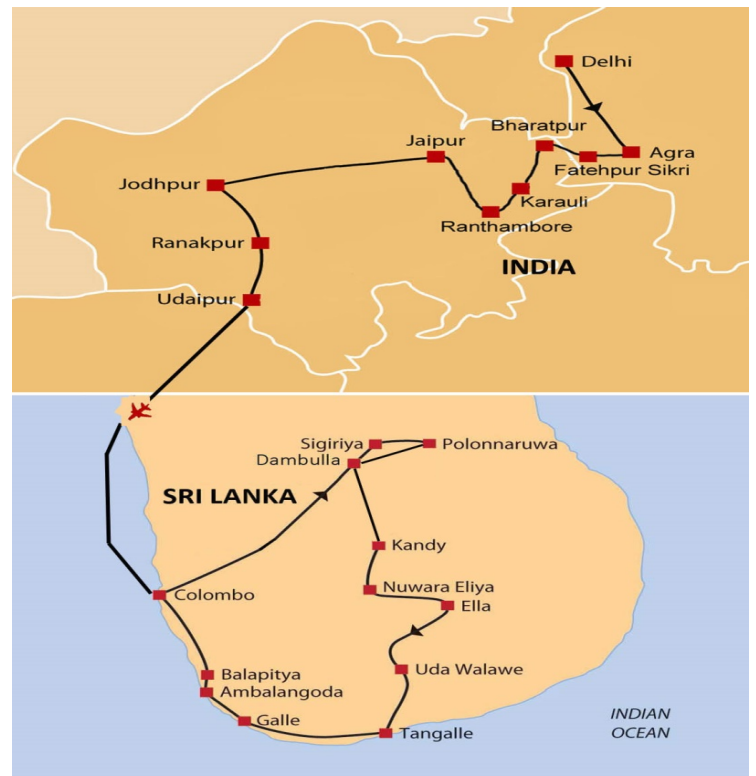
Experience and contrasts two of the regions most colourful and vibrant nations. The Indian state of Rajasthan shimmers with almost every shade in the rainbow. Dusty towns and villages are embellished with dazzling saris and vibrant local markets. Stately palaces, elegant havelis and an amazing assortment of temples are waiting to be discovered. In contrast, Sri Lanka with its lush jungles, stunningly green tea plantations, abundant wildlife and stunning beaches has well earned its title as the 'Pearl of the Orient'.

Starting in Delhi we explore the Old City and then drive to Agra and the incomparable Taj Mahal. At Fatehpur Sikri we discover Akbar's wonderful deserted capital and later the Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary before arriving in the 14th century town of Karau. At the Ranthambore Park we go in search of tigers, leopards and marsh crocodiles and in Jaipur we marvel at the massive Amber Fort and the beautiful Palace of the Wind. Further on is Jodhpur with its spectacular Mehrangarh Fort looming above the town.

At the Narlai village we stay in a heritage hotel - once a hunting lodge of the Royal family and having visited the serene 15th century Jain temple at Ranakpur we arrive in beautiful Udaipur. There is ample time to discover this magical city and its surrounds.

Flying to Colombo the Sri Lankan capital we drive north east to Dambulla with its amazing cave temples. With Dambulla as our base we visit the ancient ruins at Polonnaruwa and later climb the spectacular rock citadel at Sigiriya. Taking a scenic byroad through the Knuckles Range we arrive in the old Sinhalese capital at Kandy. There's time to here to explore before continuing up into the highlands to Nuwara Eliya, the heart of the tea growing industry.

From Ella, the loveliest of the hill towns, we walk to 'Little Adam's Peak' and later learn the secrets of Sri Lankan cuisine. Driving south we see the giant Buddha statues at Buduruwagala before reaching Ude Walawe National Park. We enjoy an afternoon jeep safari and then drive to the celebrated south coast for a night at a beach hideaway. Our final highlight is Galle where we have a full day and a half to explore. Heading back to Colombo we visit the mask museum at Ambalangoda and take a boat ride on the Madu River.



Tour Highlights

- Red Fort & India Gate
- Salaam Balak Trust Walk
- Jama Masjid Mosque
- Agra Fort & Taj Mahal
- Fatehpur Sikri Moghul City
- Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary
- Karuli Walled Town
- Ranthambore Tiger Park
- Jaipur & Amber Fort
- Palace of the Wind
- Jantar Mantar Observatory
- Jodhpur & Mehrangarh Fort
- Rawla Narlai Palace Hotel
- Narlai Game Safari
- Ranakpur Jain Temples
- Udaipur Palace & Eklingh
- National Museum Colombo
- Dambulla Cave Temples
- Ancient City of Polonnaruwa
- Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Spice Plantation Visit
- Old Sinhalese Capital of Kandy
- Temple of the Tooth
- Kandy Botanical Gardens
- Tea Plantation & Museum
- Ella Market & Cooking Class
- Buduruwagala Giant Buddha
- Uda Walawe National Park
- Game Drive in Uda Walawe
- South Coast Beach Retreat
- Galle Fort & Mask Museum
- Madu River Boat Safari

Tour Host – Steve Mortimer



Steve Mortimer heads up Byroads and will be your host on this tour. Steve has more than 30 years in the travel industry and has travelled to well over 100 countries. He started work in travel as an expedition leader, taking travellers overland across Africa, Asia and South America. He has also worked with a number of well-known Australian travel companies designing and operating holidays to some of the world's most amazing destinations.

ITINERARY - STARTS IN NEW DELHI

MON 9 NOV: NEW DELHI – Upon arrival at Delhi Airport you are met and transferred to your hotel. The balance of the day is at your leisure.

TUE 10 NOV: NEW DELHI – Today we explore the narrow alleys of Old Delhi on a wonderful walk organized by the Salaam Balak Trust. Later we visit the Jama Masjid mosque and pass by the Red Fort enroute to modern New Delhi where we see various government buildings, the Qutab Minar, Delhi's largest Sikh temple and we will stop for that iconic photo at India Gate. (B)

WED 11 NOV: DELHI-AGRA – This morning we drive to Agra. No matter how many times you've seen the photos, nothing quite prepares you for the Taj Mahal, which we visit this morning in all its glory. Later we head to Agra Fort, with its dainty pavilions overlooking the River Yamuna. (B)

THU 12 NOV: AGRA-FATEHPUR SIKRI-BHARATPUR-KARAULI – At Fatehpur Sikri, is the fabled deserted city of Moghul Emperor Akbar whilst further on at Bharatpur is the historical Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary. Our destination this day is the heritage town of Karauli. (BLD)

FRI 13 NOV: KARAULI – Karauli was founded in 1348 AD. Surrounded by a red sandstone wall and with over 300 temples it is considered one of the holiest cities in Rajasthan. We visit the City Palace with its frescoes and magnificent structures and the Lord Krishna temple. Later we enjoy a stroll through the local village interacting with farmers, school children and handicraft workers. (BLD)

SAT 14 & SUN 15 NOV: RANTHAMBORE – A leisurely drive brings us to the wildlife sanctuary of Ranthambore which was one of the first nine Project Tiger reserves in India. Combating illegal poaching has been the project's biggest task and today, with 47 such sanctuaries dotted all over India, it is believed tiger numbers are finally on the increase. Here we explore this lovely park, on a morning and afternoon game drive, searching for tiger, indigenous deer and numerous bird species. (2B2L2D)

MON 16 NOV: RANTHAMBORE-JAIPUR – A 5 hour drive brings us to the 'Pink City' of Jaipur, home to ancient forts and palaces. Jaipur is an exuberance of colour, dance, arts and crafts and in the evening we explore the many facets of Jaipuri crafts such as jewelry, pottery and carpets (B)

TUE 17 NOV: JAIPUR – Amber Palace is one of Rajasthan's most celebrated monuments and after our visit we return to the city to explore the old palace (now a museum), and the ancient astronomical observatory at Jantar Mantar. We'll also see the façade of the Hawa Mahal, which looks like a dainty Viennese pastry! (B)

WED 18 NOV: JAIPUR-JODHPUR – Today we travel to Jodhpur, a city ringed by high stone walls with seven gates and several bastions. This second largest city of Rajasthan was founded by Rao Jodha in 1459 A.D. (B)

THU 19 NOV: JODHPUR – Jodhpur has a great vibe and the Mehrangarh Fort is one of the most spectacular in all of India. It sits above the town like a great galleon stranded upon a rock and is the focus of our attention this morning. Later we have time to explore the bazaar, known for handcrafted articles such as embroidered shoes, metalware, silver and paintings. (B)

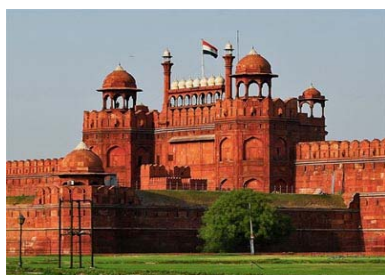
FRI 20 NOV: JODHPUR- NARLAI – A leisurely drive brings us to the beautiful village of Narlai and the stunning Rawla Narlai, a meticulously restored 17th-century royal retreat - one of Rajasthan's best-loved heritage hotels. (B)

SAT 21 NOV: NARLAI-RANAKPUR-UDAIPUR – We embark on an open jeep safari in search of antelope, leopard, hyena, jackal and wild boar. Later we take a walk into the village and experience the local traditions, culture, lifestyles and daily activities of the locals before driving on to Udaipur via the beautiful Jain temples at Ranakpur. (B)

SUN 22 NOV: UDAIPUR – Udaipur is one of the most picturesque cities in India, with numerous palaces and mansions overlooking its lakes. We spend the day seeing some of the highlights, including the City Palace, Jagdish Temple and the lovely Saheliyon-Ki-Bari gardens. This evening there's an optional sunset boat ride on Lake Pichola (water levels permitting), with fine views of the Lake and City Palaces. (B)

MON 23 NOV: UDAIPUR-EKLINGJI-UDAIPUR – This morning we visit two of the most famous of Rajasthan's temples located in Eklingji 22km north of Udaipur. Afterwards we return to Udaipur for a free afternoon to relax or for some final shopping and sightseeing. (B)

TUE 24 NOV: UDAIPUR – Our adventure in Rajasthan ends in Udaipur after breakfast today. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Colombo to the start of your Sri Lankan tour. Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. (B)

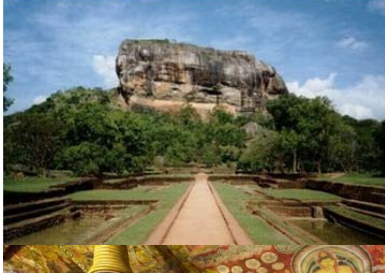




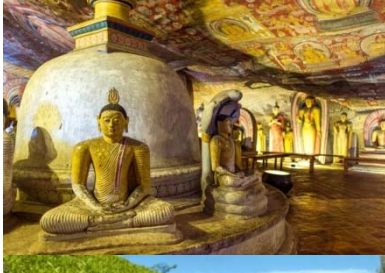
WED 25 NOV: COLOMBO Mid-morning we visit the excellent National Museum and take a drive through the old colonial quarters. The afternoon is at leisure to explore the historic old town known as 'Fort'. (B)



THU 26 NOV: COLOMBO-DAMBULLA – Leaving Colombo, we drive north-east to the superb rock temples at Dambulla, an ancient cave complex housing some 150 Buddha images. We use our Dambulla hotel as our base for the next two nights. (B)



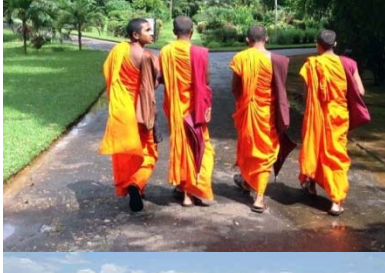
FRI 27 NOV: POLONNARUWA-DAMBULLA— Polonnaruwa is one of the great sights in Sri Lanka and this morning we explore the extensive ruins. There are numerous buildings to see including palaces, temples, shrines, audience halls and a 7th century circular relic house, the oldest monument in the city. In the afternoon we stop at a local woodcarving workshop before returning to our hotel, where the balance of the day is at leisure. (B)



SAT 28 NOV: SIGIRIYA-KNUCKLES RANGE-KANDY – Sigiriya is sometimes referred to as Sri Lanka's Machu Picchu. The actual rock is all that remains of the central core of an ancient volcano and in the 5th century a splendid citadel was built on its summit. Later it became a monastery and today it is one of Sri Lanka's most photographed monuments. There is time to ascend to the summit before we head south, taking a back road into the spectacular Knuckles Range, where we have a simple picnic lunch. Mid-afternoon we stop to visit a fascinating spice plantation before an evening arrival at our hotel in Kandy. (B)



SUN 29 NOV: KANDY – Not only was Kandy the last capital of the Sinhalese Kingdom, before capitulating to the British in 1815, it is also the home of Sri Lanka's most important relic, housed in the Temple of the Tooth on the edge of Kandy Lake. We spend the day exploring the city, visiting the temple and extensive Botanical Gardens. We may also visit a gem factory and/or Batik manufacturer. (B)



MON 30 NOV: KANDY-NUWARA ELIYA-ELLA – We visit the excellent Tea Museum before driving up into the hills to Nuwara Eliya, once known as 'Little England'. We enjoy lunch at the famous Hill Club, a wonderful relic of the British 'Raj' and later visit a working tea plantation to learn about the manufacturing process – and for a cuppa! A spectacular drive then takes us through mist-covered hills to our hotel in Ella, set in the heart of a tea plantation. (B)



TUE 1 DEC: ELLA – Our hotel overlooks Ella Gap and it's short walk to the summit of 'Little Adam's Peak', which you can do at any time. Our stay in Ella coincides with market day, and after breakfast we visit the local market to purchase supplies for a morning cooking class, where we learn to make some of the delicious food we've been eating all week, which we then consume for lunch. The afternoon is then free to wander around Ella, or just relax at our hotel. (BL)



WED 2 DEC: ELLA-BUDURUWAGALA-UDA WALAWE NATIONAL PARK – We descend into the hot plains and visit the massive stone-carved Buddha at Buduruwagala. We reach Uda Walawe and following lunch at our hotel we enjoy an afternoon jeep safari. The park is known primarily for its elephants, but also contains deer, wild boar, water buffalo and an abundance of birds. During our stay we visit the Elephant Transit Home, a remarkable refuge for baby orphaned elephants. (B)

THU 3 DEC: UDA WALAWE-SOUTH COAST RETREAT – Leaving the hills behind, we descend to our elegant hideaway on Sri Lanka's stunning south coast where the afternoon is at leisure to relax, swim, enjoy an Ayurvedic massage – or just stroll along the glorious white sand beach. (B)

FRI 4 & SAT 5 DEC: GALLE – Galle is a perennial favourite, and with good reason. During our visit we will be staying right by the Indian Ocean. On our first afternoon we head into town for an orientation walk, seeing the principal sights. The next day is completely free to explore on your own and enjoy some of the many fine restaurants or to laze away time at our beautiful beach. (B)

SUN 6 DEC: GALLE-COLOMBO – After a leisurely breakfast we make our way back towards Colombo. At Ambalangoda we visit the informative Mask Museum and at Balapitiya we take a boat trip along the Madu River. We expect to arrive back in Colombo by mid to late afternoon and tonight we can enjoy a farewell dinner at one of the excellent restaurants in Fort. (B)

MON 7 DEC: COLOMBO – Our tour ends after breakfast this morning. Taxi transfers to the airport can be arranged from the hotel. (B)

The Indian and Sri Lankan portions of this tour can be booked separately. Please refer to our 16 Days 'Colours of Rajasthan' and our 14 Days 'Secrets of Sri Lanka'.

Prices & Inclusions

29 Days India & Sri Lanka

Provisional Price: USD 6695 (per person twin-share)
Single Supplement: USD 2250

Price includes: Steve Mortimer as Tour Escort, drivers and guides throughout, arrival transfers in Delhi & Colombo and transportation as indicated, 28 nights accommodation, meals as indicated.

Not Included: Visa fees, travel insurance (compulsory), flights, additional meals, drinks, optional tours, spending of a personal nature, laundry and tips, departure transfer. ***The flight from Udaipur to Colombo is not included and should be booked in conjunction with your international ticket.***

Transportation: Our transport is in comfortable air-conditioned buses.

Accommodation: Our hotels in both India and Sri Lanka have been chosen for their character and charm. In Delhi we stay in a top-rating boutique hotel; in Karuli, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Narlai our classic hotels are heritage-listed, whereas in Ranthambore and Udaipur we stay in lovely 'palace-style' properties. In Colombo our hotel overlooks the Indian Ocean while in Kandy we stay in a colonial-style hotel surrounded by a luxuriant garden. In Ella we overnight at a stunning hilltop retreat in the heart of a tea plantation and in Uda Walawe we spend the night in an eco-friendly lodge.



Boutique Hotel, New Delhi



Heritage Hotel, Narlai



Palace Style with Pool Udaipur



Mountain retreat in Ella



Eco Lodge, Uda Walawe



Tented Luxury in Dambulla

Food and drink: Breakfast is included every day, however most lunches and all dinners are to your own account. Soft drinks and beer are widely available, along with wine and spirits in some hotels.

Group size: Maximum 16

Additional Expenses: Food is not expensive in India and Sri Lanka. Allow around US\$10-\$15 for a light lunch and around US\$15-\$20 for dinner. In addition you should budget for any personal spending. Please also allow extra funds to tip your local guide, driver and porters (full details will be provided in the pre-trip field guide).

Bookings: Travel on Q (Sydney) is the sole booking agent for this tour. Please register your interest ASAP in order to secure your place and note there are a limited number of single rooms available. A non-refundable deposit of AUD 750 per person is required with final payment due 60 days prior to tour commencement.

Travel on Q (Carole Grassby and Tina Briggs)
Tel: (02) 9357 6800
Email: travel@travelonq.com.au

Currency: Due to the volatility of global currencies the tour price has been quoted in United States Dollars (USD) however you will pay for your tour in Australian dollars based on the buying rate set by Westpac Banking Corporation on the due date of your final balance.

Flights & Transfers: The most likely flight options into Delhi and out of Colombo are with Singapore Airlines, Thai International, Air Asia or Malaysia Airlines. An arrival transfer is included; however the departure transfer is not and can be arranged on request. Travel on Q will be able to assist you with your flights and advise you on your best options. ***The flight from Udaipur to Colombo is not included and should be booked in conjunction with your international ticket.***

Extra nights in New Delhi & Colombo: Extra nights can be booked pre and post tour but you must advise Travel on Q well in advance to ensure availability.

Documentation: Upon receipt of final payment, a comprehensive field guide will be mailed and you will be sent the relevant tour and accommodation vouchers prior to departure.

Visas: Both Indian & Sri Lankan visa are required by most nationalities including citizens of Australian and NZ. These are best applied for on-line and must be issued prior to departure. Travel on Q can advise you on the procedure.

What Next? Contact Travel on Q to discuss your travel plans and to make your booking. Further information is also available at www.byroads.com.au.

Byroads

Travel on Q
Independent travel specialists

Byroads Pty Ltd, Trading as Byroads Travel (ABN 88615738746)

BOOKING FORM



Tour information

Tour: _____

Starting Date: _____ Starting City: _____

Roomtype: Twin Double Single

Client information (as per passport) - Please attach passport copy

Surname: _____ Given Names: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Nationality: _____ Passport No: _____ Issue date: _____ Issued At: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Contact Number Home: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

Postal Address: _____

Any medical, dietary or special requests: _____ Emergency Contact: _____

Travel insurance

Comprehensive Insurance is compulsory when travelling with Byroads.

Purchased from Travel on Q. Policy number: _____

Have own insurance. Policy number: _____ Provider: _____

Advise later

Payment details

A. Paying by direct deposit:

Travel Client Trust BSB: 062 033 Account: 10383350 Reference: Byroads TOQ *your name*

B. Paying by credit card:

Select Card: American Express MasterCard Visa Diners Club

Name on card _____

Number: Expiry date: CVV:

Declaration

I confirm that I am authorised to sign this form on behalf of all persons named above. I/we have read and understand all the information in the respective Byroads tour brochure and agree to abide by the terms, conditions and responsibilities attached. All persons named on this form are fit to travel.

Signature: _____ Name (please print) _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Date: _____

In compliance with the government Privacy Act, we advise that we may use your personal details to send information about future tours.

Please indicate if you wish to remain on our mailing list: Yes No

BOOKING FORM

Byroads Travel is the operator of your tour. Byroads Travel (henceforth referred to as Byroads) is a registered trading name of Byroads Pty Ltd (ABN 88 615 738 746).

It travels with Travel on Q (Bonard Pty Ltd, ABN 40 059 566 184) acts as the sole booking agent for Byroads.

RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT

A deposit is payable on all tours. The amount payable is stated in the Byroads brochure. This deposit must be paid to Travel on Q and accompanied by a signed booking form. When paying a deposit for your tour and signing the Booking Form you accept these conditions.

Your Byroads tour will only be confirmed once the deposit and signed booking form have been received. This Booking Form forms the basis of your contract between you and Byroads.

Travel on Q is an agent of Byroads.

PAYMENT

Payments may be made to Travel on Q by direct deposit or by credit card. If paying by credit card the following surcharges will be applied to the cost of your tour arrangements: 1.65% for Visa and MasterCard, 2.26% for American Express, and 3.85 % for Diners Club.

FINAL BALANCE

The balance of your tour payment is due 60 days prior to the start of your tour. If, for any reason, the balance payment is not received by the due date, Byroads reserves the right to treat such failure to pay the balance as a cancellation and to apply the appropriate cancellation charges.

CANCELLATION BY YOU

If, for any reason, you cancel your tour booking, Byroads shall apply the following cancellation penalties. Charges are per person:

- *Cancellation up to 60 days prior to departure, forfeiture of the total deposit
- *from 59 to 45 days prior to departure, 30% of the tour price shall be retained
- * from 44 to 15 days prior to departure, 50% of the tour price shall be retained
- *within 14 days prior to departure, no refund will be made.

In addition to the above charges, cancellation fees may also apply to any domestic airfare component of your tour. No refund will be made after your tour has commenced or in respect of lost or unused tickets, hotel coupons, meals or any other services not utilised.

AMENDMENTS

Up to 60 days prior to the departure of your tour, any amendment to a confirmed reservation will incur a fee of \$50 per change per file, in addition to any change fees levied by Travel on Q, airlines, or any other service provider. From 59 to 30 days prior to departure, any amendment to confirmed travel arrangements will incur a fee, of \$100 per change per file. Once documents have been dispatched,

any amendment will incur a fee of \$150 per change per file.

TOUR PRICES

Byroads tour prices and provisional tour prices are based on tariffs and prevailing rates of exchange when tours were costed. Prices are subject to change without prior notice. In the event of fluctuations in currency exchange rates, service providers' tariffs, fuel prices or any other cost that affects the price of your tour, Byroads reserves the right to adjust tour prices at any time up to the day of departure.

TOUR OPERATION

Although Byroads will endeavour to ensure that tours are operated as advertised, an express condition of making a reservation is the acceptance by you that the tour itineraries, schedules, advertised accommodation, sightseeing and mode of transportation as outlined in the Byroads brochure and/or supplied in the pre-departure information are subject to change without prior notice. If for any reason Byroads is forced to cancel a tour before it commences, all monies paid in respect of the tour will be refunded in full less any credit card fees collected.

Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, adverse weather conditions such as floods or earthquakes, airline flight rescheduling, technical faults with transportation and road conditions may also have a consequential effect on the content of your tour after it has commenced. Any decision made in respect of tour services provided by Byroads to reroute or amend the itinerary due to the above or similar circumstances shall be at the sole discretion of Byroads. Byroads and Travel on Q shall not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events that affect the schedule and content of your tour

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Byroads operates soft adventure tours. All participants are required to be fit and healthy. Some of the hotels used by Byroads may not have lifts or porters so you must be prepared at times to carry your own suitcase. Before travelling with Byroads, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with any health requirements applicable to areas through which you will be travelling.

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

You acknowledge that the nature of the trip is adventurous and participation involves a degree of personal risk. You will be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes present dangers and physical challenges greater than those present in our daily lives. We use information from government foreign departments and reports from our own contacts in assessing whether the itinerary should operate. However it is also your own responsibility to acquaint yourself with all relevant travel information and the nature of your itinerary. You acknowledge that your decision to travel is made in light of consideration of this information and you accept that you are aware of the personal risks attendant upon such travel.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Australian passport holders must have at least 6 months validity on their passport after the date of return to Australia. Visas are

required for a number of our tours and it is your responsibility to obtain them. Travel on Q can assist with this process. Non Australian passport holders are asked to check passport and visa requirements at the time of booking.

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

The cost of your Byroads tour includes hotel accommodation, transportation, transfers as specified, sightseeing and meals as indicated in the tour brochure. It does not include international airfares, airport departure taxes, unspecified meals, optional sightseeing, additional transfers, gratuities for hotel staff, guides and tour leaders, items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls etc. or any other incidental expenses.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is an express condition of travelling with Byroads that you have comprehensive travel insurance including full cover for repatriation. It is highly recommended that you take out travel insurance at the time you pay the deposit to guard against any unforeseen circumstances. If on the first day of your tour you cannot provide evidence that you have purchased comprehensive travel insurance you will be required to purchase a policy before proceeding with your tour.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

We contract with a network of companies, government agencies and individuals to assist in the running of our trips as agent for these third parties. We are not responsible for the acts and omissions of these third parties. To the fullest extent permitted by law:

- (i) any liability for any loss, death, injury or damage which you may suffer (directly or indirectly) in connection with or arising out of your participation in a trip, or any breach of the Booking Conditions, is excluded;
- (ii) Travel on Q acts only as agent for Byroads and accepts no responsibility for the acts and omissions of Byroads or any of its associated service providers for any inaccuracies in information provided, negligence, loss, damage, omission, accident, detention, diversion or theft in regard to luggage or any personal belongings whatsoever.
- (iii) you release Byroads and its officers, employees, agents and representatives from any liability and expressly waive any claims you may have against us arising out of or in connection with your participation in a trip; and
- (iv) any condition or warranty which would otherwise be implied by law into these Booking Conditions (Implied Warranty), is excluded

To the extent an Implied Warranty cannot be excluded, our liability in respect of the Implied Warranty is limited to (in our absolute discretion): (a) the provision of a similar trip to an equivalent value; or (b) a refund of the total amount received by us from you in connection with your booking.

Any claim by you is excluded to the extent that it is for indirect or consequential loss, loss of profits or economic loss, however it arises, or for indirect, special, punitive or exemplary damages.

APPLICABLE LAW

The laws of Victoria, Australia govern these Booking Conditions to the fullest extent allowable. Any disputes in connection with a trip or these Booking Conditions must be initiated in the courts Victoria, Australia.