

Byroads
Inspiring Escorted Journeys

SECRETS OF SRI LANKA

Discover the history and beauty of this southern pearl

14 DAYS - STARTING COLOMBO 24 NOVEMBER 2020





SECRETS OF SRI LANKA

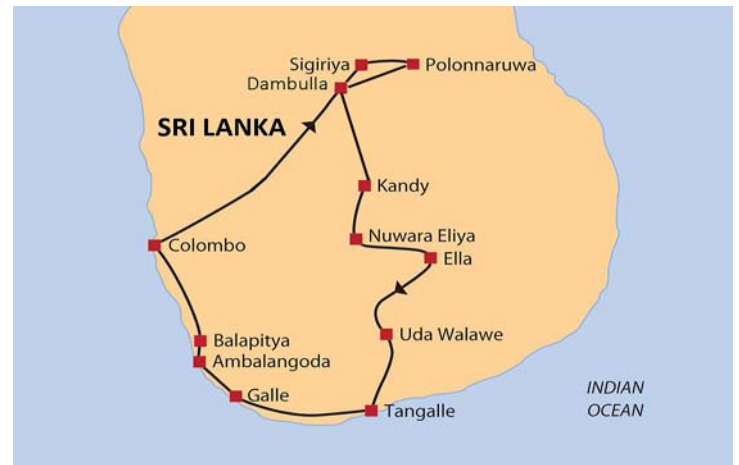
Trip Outline

There are so many reasons to visit the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean'. With a fascinating human history dating back well over 2500 years Sri Lanka is brimming with timeless ruins, temples and ancient rock fortresses. Pristine rainforest and perfect beaches abound and there is wonderful assortment of wildlife in the country's excellent national parks. On our Byroads Sri Lanka tour you will experience all of this and much more.

Sri Lanka has had a magnetic appeal for many centuries and its gems, pearls, ivory, and spices have always attracted the attention of seafaring traders. Marco Polo visited the island twice, first in 1284 and again in 1293. Less than 50 years later his Moslem alter ego, Ibn Battuta, arrived and was entertained as a guest of the Tamil king. The Portuguese landed in 1505 and gradually extended their control over the coast, forcing the indigenous inhabitants inland. By the middle of the 17th century, the Dutch were in the ascendancy and at the outset of the 19th century the British East India Company took full possession of the island, under a treaty known as the Kandyan Convention, signed in 1815.

After exploring Colombo we drive north east to explore Sigiriya and the ancient ruins at Polonnaruwa. With Dambulla as our base we visit the amazing cave temples at Dambulla and climb the spectacular rock citadel at Sigiriya. We then head south, taking a scenic by-road through the Knuckles Range, to the old Sinhalese capital at Kandy. Time here to explore before continuing up into the highlands at Nuwara Eliya, the heart of the tea growing industry.

To the southeast is Ella, the nicest of the hill towns, where we walk up to 'Little Adam's Peak', and spend a morning learning the secrets of Sri Lankan cuisine. Driving south we see the tallest Buddha statue in the world before reaching Uda Walawe National Park, Sri Lanka's premier elephant reserve. 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, a perennial favourite, where we have a full day and a half to explore. On our way back to Colombo we visit the mask museum at Ambalangoda and take a boatride on the Madu River. Our journey ends back in Colombo.



Tour Highlights

- 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 Visit
- Tea Museum
- Little Adam's Peak Walk
- Ella Market & Cooking Class
- Buduruwagala Giant Buddha
- Uda Walawe National Park
- Game Drive in Uda Walawe
- South Coast Beach Retreat
- Galle Fort
- Ambalangoda Mask Museum
- Madu River Boat Safari

Tour Host



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 fascinating destinations.

Steve likes nothing better than getting out and about with like-minded travellers, sharing his knowledge and introducing his guests to some of the world's most interesting places. With Byroads you can be confident you'll visit all the 'must see' attractions, however there is still time to wander and make your own discoveries. Throughout the tour a local guide provides a wealth of information and shares their extensive local knowledge.

ITINERARY - STARTS IN COLOMBO

TUE 24 NOV: COLOMBO – Upon arrival at Colombo Airport you are met and transferred to your hotel. No activities are planned today so the balance of the day is at your leisure.

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'.

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: POLONNARUW-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)

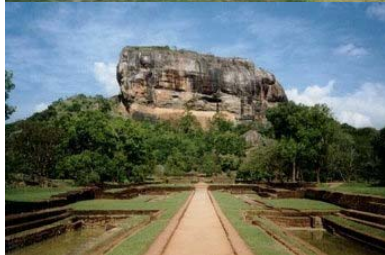
THU 3 DEC: UDA WALAWE-SOUTH COAST RETREAT – Leaving the hills behind, we descend to our elegant hideaway on Sri Lanka's stunning south coast where the afternoon is at leisure to relax, swim, enjoy an Ayurvedic massage – or just stroll along the glorious white sand beach. (B)

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, visiting the principal sights. The next day you are free to explore on your own and enjoy some of the many fine restaurants or to laze away the 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. Hotel checkout time is generally around midday, at the latest. Taxi transfers to the airport can be arranged from the hotel. (B)

This trip combines perfectly with our 16 Days 'Colours of Rajasthan' trip in India. See our 29 Days 'India & Sri Lanka' tour that commences in New Delhi on the 9th of November 2020.



Prices & Inclusions

14 Day Secrets of Sri Lanka

Price: USD 3380 (per person twin-share)

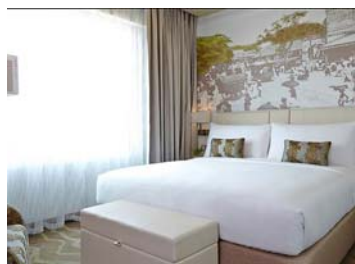
Single Supplement: USD 1100

Price includes: Steve Mortimer as Tour Escort, local driver/guide, all transfers and transportation, 13 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.

Transportation: Our transport is by comfortable air-conditioned minibus.

Accommodation: One of Sri Lanka's charms is its colonial architecture, and many gracious old buildings have been converted into small hotels. In Colombo our hotel overlooks the Indian Ocean while in Kandy we stay in a colonial-style hotel surrounded by a luxuriant garden. Our hotel in Dambulla features airconditioned luxury 'Swiss Chalet & Cottage tents' and in Ella we stay at a stunning hilltop retreat in the heart of a tea plantation. At Uda Walawe we spend the night in an eco-friendly lodge before heading to our luxurious beach getaway near Galle.



Comfort by the Ocean, Colombo



Tented Luxury in Dambulla



Colonial-style in Kandy



Mountain retreat in Ella



Eco lodge at Uda Walawe



By the Beach in Galle

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 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 and out of Colombo are with Singapore Airlines, Thai International, Air Asia or Malaysia Airlines. In most cases flights arrive late at night, so you may wish to consider booking an extra night before the start of the tour. 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.

Extra nights in 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: A Sri Lankan visa is required by most nationalities including citizens of Australian and NZ. These are best applied for on-line and should 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



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).

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.