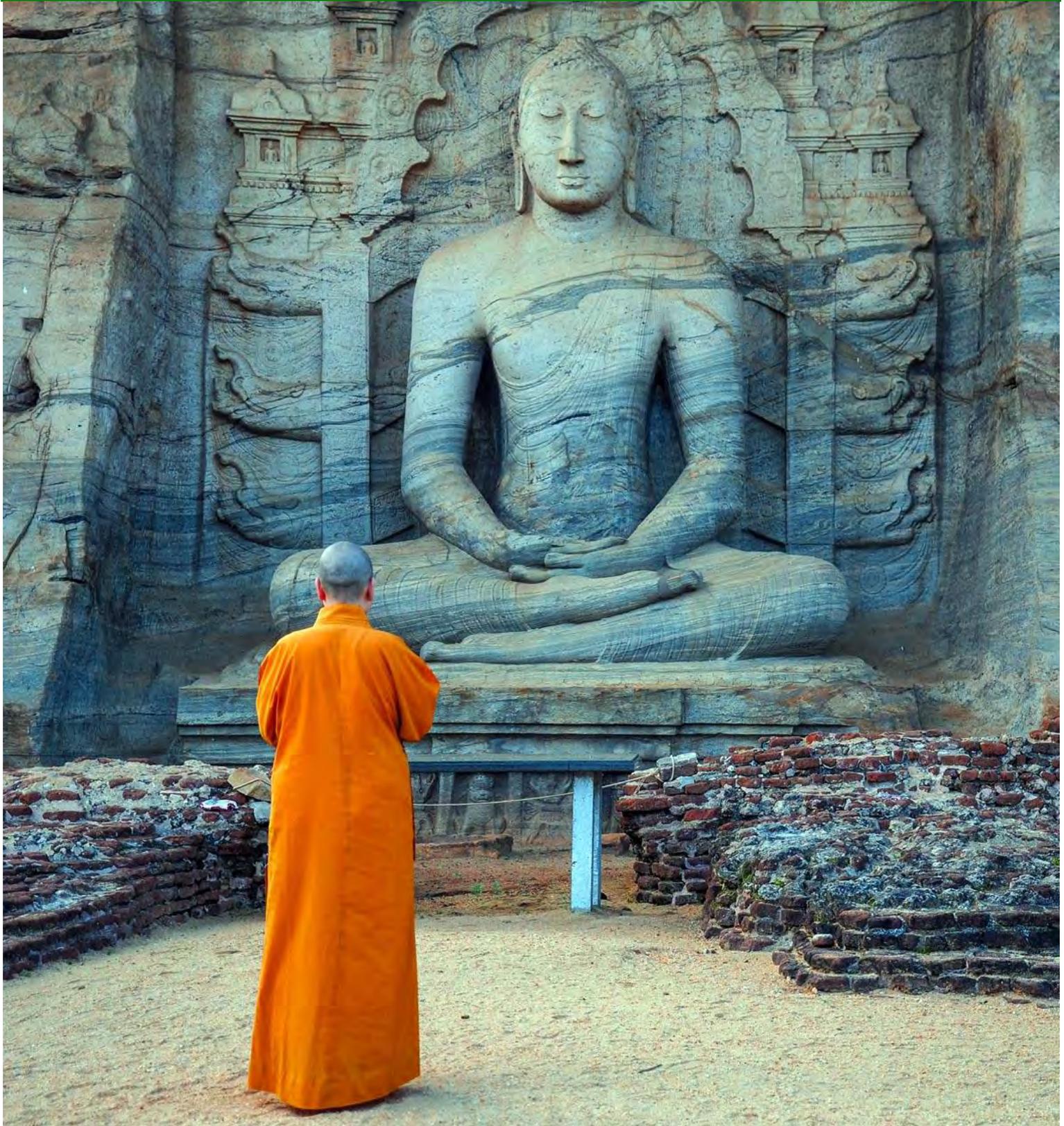


**Byroads**  
*Inspiring Escorted Journeys*

# Secrets of Sri Lanka





# SECRETS OF SRI LANKA

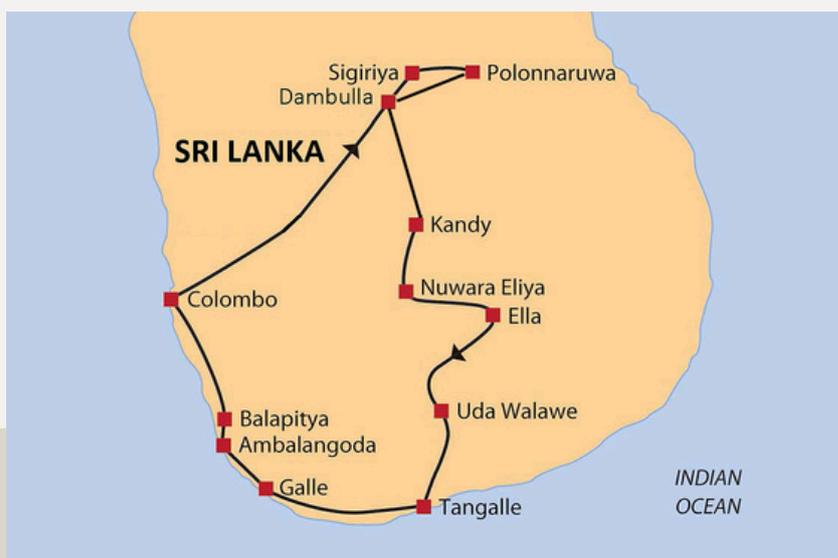
DISCOVER THE TIMELESS BEAUTY OF THIS ISLAND PARADISE

## 14 DAYS

### A TREASURE ISLAND REVEALED

 DEPARTS FROM: **COLOMBO**  MAX GROUP SIZE: **14 PEOPLE**  PHYSICAL LEVEL: **MODERATE**

Sri Lanka is known as the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean'. Discover an island of emerald landscapes and vibrant cultures, coloured by history and brimming with ancient ruins, sacred temples, and colonial fortresses. Every step is an adventure in wonder on this immersive Byroads exploration of this island nation.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- National Museum Colombo
- Dambulla Cave Temples
- Ancient City of Polonnaruwa
- Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Spice Plantation Visit
- Kandy- Old Sinhalese Capital
- Temple of the Tooth
- Kandy Botanical Gardens
- Tea Plantation Visit
- Tea Museum
- 'Little Adam's Peak' Walk
- Ella Market & Cooking Class
- Buduruwagala Giant Buddha
- Udawalawe National Park
- Game Drive in Uda Walawe
- South Coast Beach Retreat
- Galle Fort
- Ambalangoda Mask Museum
- Madu River Boat Safari

## MEET YOUR HOST



Every Byroads tour is supported by either Steve or Bronny - two experienced travellers with a genuine passion for people. They take care of all the nitty-gritty details to ensure your trip runs smoothly - and you can focus on enjoying the moment.

# ITINERARY

## DAY 1 - COLOMBO

Arrive at Colombo Airport and transfer to your hotel. Settle in and meet up with your group in the evening.

## DAY 2 - COLOMBO

Start the day with a visit to the excellent National Museum whose collection serves as a testament to Sri Lanka's rich heritage and is a must-see for anyone interested in the history and culture of this island nation. Enjoy a guided tour through the city's old colonial quarters, which reflects the period of European colonial rule. Witness influences from the Portuguese, Dutch and British periods. Take the afternoon at leisure to explore the historic old town known as 'Fort'. (B)

## DAY 3 - DAMBULLA

Drive north-east to the rock temples of Dambulla, also known as the 'Golden Temple of Dambulla'. This UNESCO World Heritage site is the largest and best-preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka. Explore the Cave Temple and marvel at the intricate murals, the Buddha statues, and also the history of the caves- which date back to 1st century BC. Check-in to your hotel for your two-night stay. (B)

## DAY 4 - POLONNARUWA - DAMBULLA

After breakfast travel to the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, which served as the capital from the 11th - 13th century. UNESCO listed for its historical importance and well-preserved ruins, Polonnaruwa is one of the great sites in Sri Lanka. Traverse the palaces, temples, monasteries, and stupas- all structures which reflect the advanced architectural and engineering skills of the ancient Sinhalese. En route back to Dambulla stop off at a local woodcarving workshop and see local artisans at work. (B)

## DAY 5 - SIGIRIYA - KNUCKLES RANGE - KANDY

Head to Sigiriya, the 'Lion Rock' and ascend its 200 metres to summit its massive rock fortress. One of the most visited destinations in Sri Lanka, Sigiriya is known for its stunning views, historical paintings, and architectural innovations. After, take the slow drive through the beautiful Knuckles Range and enjoy a picnic along the way. En route to Kandy, call in and be guided over a fascinating spice plantation. (B)

## DAY 6 - KANDY

Located in the central highlands, surrounded by mountains and with a man-made lake, Kandy is beautiful. Be guided through the UNESCO listed city, known as the last capital of the ancient kings' era of Sri Lanka. Visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic, one of the most sacred places of worship in the Buddhist world, said to house the sacred tooth relic of Buddha. Stroll through the Botanical Gardens, renowned for their collection of orchids, spices, medicinal plants and palms. If there's time, call in and investigate a gem factory. (B)

## DAY 7 - NUWARA ELIYA - ELLA

Tea is synonymous with Sri Lanka. Delve into the world of tea at the excellent Ceylon Tea Museum, which offers insights into the history and evolution of tea production in the country. Take to the hills of Nuwara Eliya, once known as 'Little England' and enjoy lunch at the famous Hill Club, a relic of the British 'Raj'. Call in to observe the works of a busy tea plantation as you drive through mist-covered hills to Ella. (B)

## DAY 8 - ELLA

Ella is celebrated for its stunning views, lush greenery, and cooler climate. From your hotel, gaze at Ella Gap, the deep valley that cuts through the hills and provides breathtaking panoramic views of the southern plains of Sri Lanka. Purchase supplies at the local market and enjoy a morning cooking class, then eat your good work for lunch. The afternoon is at leisure- relax and sip tea or take a walk to the summit of 'Little Adam's Peak'. The trail takes about forty-five minutes, is well marked and relatively easy, and the views from the top are stunning. (B,L)

# ITINERARY

## **DAY 9 - BUDURUWAGALA - UDAWALAWE NATIONAL PARK**

Descend into the plains and discover the massive stone-carved Buddha of Buduruwagala, whose origins are somewhat shrouded in mystery. The name Buduruwagala means 'the rock of Buddhist sculptures' in Sinhalese, and it aptly describes the nature of the carvings found on the rock face. Drive on to Udawalawe, enjoy lunch, then buckle in for an afternoon jeep safari. Keep a lookout for elephant, deer, water buffalo and wild boar. Visit the Elephant Transit Home, a refuge and rehabilitation centre for orphaned elephants, whose goal is to return the healthy calves to the natural environment. (B)

## **DAY 10 - SOUTH COAST RETREAT**

Leaving Udawalawe, travel to the elegant hide-away on Sri Lanka's stunning south coast. The afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the white-sand beach, swim, relax or experience an Ayurvedic massage. Today is all about you, wellness, and a connection to nature. (B)

## **DAY 11 - GALLE**

Arrive this afternoon to the seaside city of Galle, a city rich in history and culture. Galle's history includes periods of British, Dutch and Portuguese occupation, which is evident in the city's diverse architecture and cultural landmarks. Take a guided walking tour and visit the town's principal sights, including the Dutch Reformed Church built in 1755, the 19th century Clocktower. Enjoy time to explore the well-preserved Dutch fort, a UNESCO listed site, and the largest remaining fortress in Asia built by European occupiers. (B)

## **DAY 12 - GALLE**

A day at leisure to enjoy the delights of the Galle and its stunning coastal surrounds. Options to spend time at the National Maritime Museum, walk to - and admire the views from the Galle Lighthouse, explore the Japanese Peace Pagoda, relax at the beach or just enjoy some of the town's many fine restaurants and cafes, as Galle is renowned as a food lover's paradise. (B)

## **DAY 13 - AMBALANGODA - MADU RIVER - COLOMBO**

Begin the day with a leisurely breakfast before travelling on to Colombo. En route visit the informative Mask Museum at Ambalangoda, dedicated to preserving and showcasing the cultural heritage of mask-making, mask plays, and rituals. At Balapitiya take a boat trip along the Madu River, a biodiverse estuary that's home to numerous species and animals, and mangrove forests. This area is also known for traditional fishing techniques and local craft industries. Arrive to Colombo late afternoon and enjoy a final night in the city. (B)

## **DAY 14 - COLOMBO**

Breakfast concludes your tour. Taxis to the airport are available, or Byroads can organise a transfer on request. (B)

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

### GUIDES

- ✓ Byroads tour host and national and local guides

### TRANSPORT

- ✓ Arrival transfer, private bus with air-conditioning, jeep, boat

### ACCOMMODATION

- ✓ 13 nights (3 to 4-star hotel average)

### MEALS

- ✓ 13 breakfasts, 1 lunch

### TICKETS

- ✓ Entrance fees to indicated sites



## GETTING THERE: FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS

Sri Lankan Airlines, Singapore Airlines and Thai Airways are good options to get to Colombo. You can book your flights online or via your travel agent who may also offer you alternative airlines.

Your arrival transfer is included however your departure transfer is not and can be booked on request

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

We'd love to do it all for you. But there are a few things you'll need to arrange yourself. This includes your:

- Visa
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Departure transfer
- International flights
- Additional meals and drinks
- Cash for tipping kitty
- Optional tours
- Spending of a personal nature
- Laundry

## ACCOMMODATION

Byroads accommodation is a destination unto itself. We choose our hotels carefully to ensure a seamless transition from your day exploring to a night of relaxation. Think traditional architecture blended with modern comforts – and plenty of views.

### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



#### Suisse Hotel Kandy

Experience a charming retreat that exudes colonial elegance amidst lush greenery. Savor exquisite dining and relax in beautifully designed rooms while soaking in the breathtaking views.



#### Grand Udawalawe Safari Resort

Discover a tranquil oasis designed for relaxation and comfort. Enjoy beautifully appointed rooms with a serene atmosphere. Take a refreshing dip in the pool and unwind in the lush gardens



#### 98 Acres Resort

Set on a tea estate with stunning panoramic views, this remarkable lodge is within a 15-minute walk of Little Adam's Peak and the Nine Arches Bridge, offering a peaceful escape amidst nature's beauty.

# THE FINER DETAILS

## DATES AND PRICES

DATE	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
26 February 2025	3235 USD	835 USD
3 December 2025	3850 USD	900 USD

Due to the volatility of international currencies, trip fees are calculated in US Dollars. However, you will be charged in Australian dollars. Currency conversion is based on Westpac Banking Corporation's buying rate on your balance due date.

### Additional expenses

Tipping is customary, so please allow extra funds for the tipping kitty. This will pay your local and national guides, drivers and porters.

## MEALS

Breakfast is included daily, and one lunch. Elsewhere, you can enjoy the delicious variety of local food on offer. Meals typically cost between 10-15 USD for lunch and 15-20 USD for dinner.

## DOCUMENTATION

Once we've received your final payment, we'll post you a comprehensive field guide. It's a physical document you can keep handy to inform your travels. It also includes all relevant tour and accommodation information you may need to book your visa.

## VISAS

Visas are required for most nationalities, including Australians and New Zealanders. The Sri Lankan tourist visa is applied for on-line.

Other nationalities should check with Byroads.

## READY TO PACK YOUR BAGS?

There are two ways to book:

**Online**  
**(available 24/7)**

**Postal booking**  
**form (below)**



Got questions? Contact us at [travel@byroads.com.au](mailto:travel@byroads.com.au)

# BYROADS TOUR

## BOOKING FORM

Tour name:  Start date:

Room type:  Twin  Double  Single  Sharing with:

Full name:  Date of Birth:

Email:  Mobile:

Postal address:

Emergency contact (Name and phone number):

Nationality:  Passport No:

Issue date:  Expiry date:

Any medical, dietary or other special requests?

Travel insurance provider:

Policy No:

Emergency assistance phone no:

### PAYMENT DETAILS

The tour deposit is due at the time of booking. The final balance payment is due 60 days prior to the commencement of the tour. All payments must be made via direct bank deposit to Byroads.

**Acc Name:** Byroads Pty Ltd

**BSB:** 034-605

**Acc number:** 697336

### DECLARATION

I have read and I understand all the information in the respective Byroads tour brochure, and agree to abide by the Standard Booking Conditions attached to this booking form. I also confirm that I am fit to travel.

Signature:

Date:

# BYROADS TOUR

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# BOOKING CONDITIONS

## RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of \$750 is payable on all tours. This deposit must be paid to Byroads, and each participating client must complete the Byroads Booking form. You agree to accept these conditions when paying a deposit for your tour and completing the Booking Form. Your Byroads tour booking will only be confirmed once the deposit and completed booking form have been received. These Booking Conditions form the basis of the contract between you and Byroads.

## PAYMENT

All payments must be made directly to Byroads by bank transfer.

## 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 and including 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 31 days prior to departure, 50% of the tour price shall be retained
- Within 30 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 utilized.

## CANCELLATION BY BYROADS – Prior to Travel

If, for any reason, Byroads is forced to cancel a tour before it commences, Byroads may offer a transfer to an alternate departure, or all monies paid by you in respect of the tour will be refunded, less any unrecoverable costs. Unrecoverable costs may include but are not limited to monies paid to service providers, airlines, transportation companies, travel agencies and hotels associated with your tour.

## AMENDMENTS

Up to and including 60 days prior to the departure of your tour, any amendment to a confirmed reservation may incur a fee of \$50 per change per file. From 59 to 30 days prior to departure, any amendment to confirmed travel arrangements may incur a fee of \$100 per change per file. Once documents have been dispatched, any amendment may 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.

Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, epidemic, pandemic, adverse weather conditions, floods, earthquakes, airline flight rescheduling, technical faults with transportation and road conditions may also have a consequential effect on the tour's content. 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 shall not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events that affect the schedule and content of your tour.

If Byroads is forced to cancel your travel arrangements after your trip has commenced due to reasons outside of its control, it will provide you with a refund of recoverable third-party costs only.

## HEALTH AND FITNESS

Byroads operate soft adventure tours. All participants must have a reasonable degree of physical fitness and be healthy. Before travelling with Byroads, you must familiarise yourself with any health requirements applicable to the areas you will be travelling. This includes obtaining any compulsory vaccinations or medical tests that may be required for entry into your country of travel.

You are responsible for having the correct entry and exit documents for your visiting countries. Byroads will assist in providing up-to-date information but is not responsible for any changes that may be made by governments.

## ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

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

## PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Ensure your passport has a minimum of six months validity remaining, as this is an entry requirement in many countries. Upon booking, visa requirements will be advised once Byroads has received your passport details. Visas are required for a number of our tours, and it is your responsibility to obtain them.

## ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

The cost of your Byroads tour 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 to cover you for the duration of your tour. This should include full cover for any medical expenses and repatriation if required. It is highly recommended that you take out travel insurance when you pay the deposit to guard against any unforeseen circumstances that can lead to your need to cancel your tour. If you rely on complimentary travel insurance offered through your credit card company or bank, you should ensure that it is suitable for your tour. Some of the policies offered by these institutions may not offer adequate coverage. You must provide the policy number, insurance supplier details and emergency contact number to Byroads before your documents are issued.

## LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

We contract with a network of companies, government agencies and individuals to assist in the running of our tours 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 tour, or any breach of the Booking Conditions, is excluded;

(ii) 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 tour;

(iii) 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 tour 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 tour or these Booking Conditions must be initiated in the courts of Victoria.