



# A SRI LANKAN SOJOURN

5 TO 16 JUNE 2017

A NO-GO ZONE FOR TRAVELERS DURING THE DECADES OF CIVIL WAR, NORTHERN AND EASTERN SRI LANKA ARE NOW WEAVING THEIR SPELL AGAIN AND WE INVITE YOU TO BE ENTRANCED. FROM ITS JUSTLY FAMED REGIONAL CUISINE, THROUGH ITS UN-CROWDED GOLDEN BEACHES, TO HINDU TEMPLES, BUDDHIST SHRINES, MOSQUES AND CHURCHES RUBBING SHOULDERS, IT'S A WORLD AWAY FROM THE ROADS MORE TRAVELLED OF THE SOUTH OF THE ISLAND.

FROM LAID-BACK NEGOMBO TRAVEL THROUGH ANCIENT ANURADHAPURA CITY TO THE GRASSLANDS OF WILPATTU NATIONAL PARK, HOME TO MASSIVE HERDS OF ELEPHANT AND THE ELUSIVE LEOPARDS OF SRI LANKA. DISCOVER THE SECRET PLACES OF JAFFNA, ATMOSPHERIC RUINS AND SLEEPY ISLANDS, LITTLE CHANGED FOR GENERATIONS. RELAX ON THE BEAUTIFUL COASTLINE OF TRINCOMALEE BEFORE VENTURING BACK INTO THE CULTURAL HEARTLAND OF SRI LANKA WITH A VISIT TO SIGIRIYA ROCK AND GORGEOUS DAMBULLA CAVE TEMPLE. AS ALWAYS FOOD FEATURES HIGH ON THE ITINERARY, SAMPLE STREET FOOD, HAVE A MEAL IN A VILLAGE HUT AND ENJOY COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS WITH SOME OF SRI LANKA'S TOP CHEFS.



## TRAVEL KEY

**B** BREAKFAST

**L** LUNCH

**D** DINNER

 COOKING DEMO

 WINE TASTING

## CONTACT

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## TOUR PRICES (AUD)

\$6,500

Per person, twin share land only

\$1,500

Single supplement\*

*\* If you are travelling alone and wish to share a room we will endeavour to match you with another single participant.*

## YOUR GUIDE



### PAUL VAN REYK

Our Australian guide, Paul van Reyk is a gastronome, food writer and food critic, passionate about discovering the world through its diverse cuisine.

Born in Sri Lanka Paul is particularly passionate about introducing you to the rich diversity of his homeland. For more than ten years Paul has shared his extensive knowledge of Sri Lanka through leading tours across the country.

Paul is as especially excited to be returning to the North of his homeland with its distinctive cuisine and culture.

Paul is joined by expert local guides who are only too ready to share their secret photography spots and the best local eateries and snacks.

1

Day One



### MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE SEASIDE TOWN OF NEGOMBO FOR WELCOME DRINKS & MEET UP.

Make your own way to Sri Lanka airport. Arrive at Bandaranaike International Airport, Colombo. We will meet your flight if you fly in and transfer you to hotel at the seaside town of Negombo, 20 minutes away.

Tonight join Paul for a welcome drink and group briefing before dinner.



*We can arrange your flight from Australia or other embarkation points, your transfers and any pre-tour travel you'd like to do before arriving. Let us know your plans.*

2

Day Two

### VISIT A 10TH CENTURY HINDU TEMPLE AND SOAK UP THE SCENES.

Today we head for the dry region in the centre of the island. Enroute, visit Muneshwaram Kovil, a popular Hindu temple located near the fishing town, Chilaw.

Built at the start of the 10th century, it is one of the Pancha Ishwarams, the five temples in the area dedicated to the protector god of Hinduism, Lord Siva.

In typical Southern Indian temple style its gopuram – entrance gate and tower – has tiers and tiers of exuberantly carved scenes from the lives of gods, goddesses, kings and queens.



3

Day Three



In the morning we visit the enthralling World Heritage site of Anuradhapura, the first capital of Sri Lanka founded in the 4th century BC.

Home to temples, immense dagobas, pools and ruined palaces, all of which hint at a splendour of the city at its height in 9th Century AD.

Here also is the most sacred bo tree in Sri Lanka, scion of the tree under which the Buddha found enlightenment and the remains of the oldest monasteries on the island.

Afterwards relax at the hotel, cool off in the pool or independently explore Anuradhapura town.

### VISIT THE MOST SACRED BO TREE IN SRI LANKA AND SIT WHERE BUDDHA FOUND ENLIGHTENMENT.

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Day Four



Morning and afternoon safaris at Wilpattu National Park. The Park was closed to visitors during the years of the civil war so it's a real thrill to be going here before it becomes over-popular. Most of the large mammals found in Sri Lanka such as elephants, barking deer and water buffalos can be seen here, but leopards are the biggest attraction.

Wilpattu is also home to a vast array of birds such as the crested serpent eagle, the brown fish owl and brown capped woodpecker.



5

Day Five

ENJOY A LONG DRIVE THROUGH PEACEFUL COUNTRYSIDE & REMOTE LOCAL VILLAGES.

This is our longest drive through peaceful countryside and scattered villages to our next adventure, the northern capital Jaffna, again only recently open to travelers.

We will see evidence of the civil war and also of the reconstruction post the war and the 2004 tsunami.

On arrival walk the ramparts of Jaffna's ancient Dutch Fort and the sprawling Hindu temple complex of Nallur Kandaswamy before retiring to your hotel.

After a leisurely start stroll through the colourful Hindu temple, Naguleshwaram Kovil venture to Kerramali Ponds, Jaffna's natural hot water springs lying next to the sea.

We then return to the hotel for a cooking demonstration to learn the secrets of traditional Jaffna cuisine.

Fiery Jaffna crab curry and brinjal and murunga, a vegetable colloquially called drumsticks for its shape and now on the list of superfoods, are signature dishes in Jaffna.



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Day Seven

Today we climb aboard the ferry for Delft Island, the most remote of a 10-island archipelago west of Jaffna.

Sparsely populated, with wild beaches, peaceful interior and atmospheric ruins, Delft Island has an other-worldly feel.

It's fun to step inside the trunk of a huge baobab tree bought from Africa as a sapling 400 years ago and to spot wild horses, descendants of the animals bought by the Portuguese, that roam the island.

SPOT WILD HORSES ON A REMOTE ISLAND ARCHIPELAGO.

Leave Jaffna today and transfer to Trincomalee. Discover the beaches, relax under the palms and drink 'toddy', a Sri Lankan alcoholic tippie.

At 2,500 years old, Trincomalee is one of the oldest cities in Asia, with an impressive deep-water harbor, a jewel fought over by the British, French and Dutch for centuries.

On arrival stroll the faded charm of downtown Trincomalee, circumnavigate Portuguese built Fort Frederick walls and see the sacred tree, gold Shiva statue and Chola bronzes at Koneswaram Temple, both perched atop Swami Rock. The site is also has a vertigo inducing Lover's Leap.

STROLL THROUGH THE FADED CHARM ONE OF THE OLDEST CITIES IN ASIA.

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Day Nine

TIME TO RELAX AFTER A WEEK ON THE ROAD - ENJOY A SPA DAY.

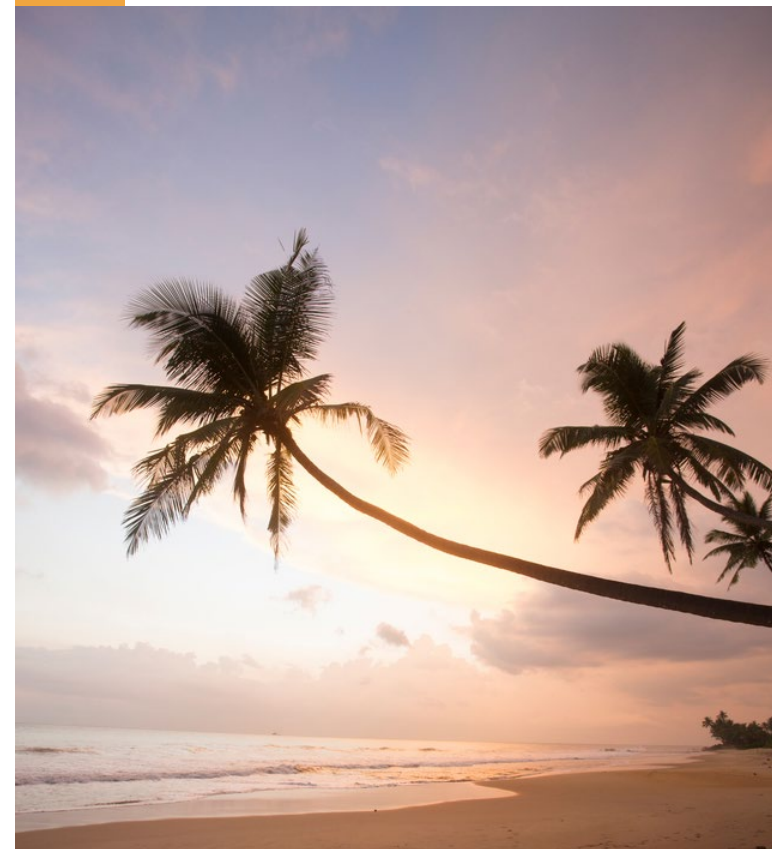
We are staying at Jungle Beach, reached down a windy lane through, well jungle. There are pools, both ornamental and for swimming, and detached cottages with sandy paths to the near deserted beach. Perfect for privacy and winding back after over a week on the road.

Try Uga Spa set by the beach and indulge in Swedish and Balinese massage, facials and Ayurvedi treatments.

We've a cooking demonstration and lunch. Afternoon you are free to explore more of fascinating Trincomalee or sit back and relax and enjoy the peaceful beach lifestyle.



Day Eight



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Day Ten

## A FREE DAY TO CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE.

Today is yours for the making. Nature lovers can take a dolphin and whale-watching trip or spend the day at Pigeon Island where there is fabulous snorkeling and flora and fauna spotting opportunities.

Alternatively, stay closer to home and head to groomed Nilaveli beach or wild Uppuveli – 30 minutes away.

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Day Eleven

## HEAD INLAND AND RETURN TO SRI LANKA'S "CULTURAL TRIANGLE".

Today we head inland to Sigiriya returning once more to the Cultural Triangle containing many of Sri Lanka's famous cultural and archeological sites.

Afternoon stroll around the hotel wetlands, guaranteed to afford numerous bird sightings.

B

D



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Day Twelve



## LOSE YOURSELF IN THE BREATHTAKING VIEWS FROM SIGIRIYA ROCK.

Rise early this morning and visit Sigiriya Rock Fortress. Set amid extensive water and rock gardens this is a monument to the hubris of the Sinhala King Kasyapa (477 – 495 CE), who built his palace thinking it impregnable only to lose his kingdom on the plains below.

The frescoes of the mysterious female figures in an overhang half way up the sheer side are justly praised for their delicacy. Are they deities or court maidens or concubines? The view from the top – reached via an entry between the massive paws of a brick and plaster lion – is breathtaking.

B

L



A lunch cooking demonstration in the house of a family in the village of Habarana will follow. It is a simple meal cooked over a wood stove, eaten off banana leaves. We will see how rice is ground and spicy coconut sambol is made. The rest of the afternoon is at our leisure.

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Day Thirteen

## CELEBRATE A FAREWELL DINNER IN THE LIGHT OF A FIERY SUNSET OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN.

Today we head back to Negombo. Enroute visit the Golden Temple at Dambulla, a Buddhist cave temple continuously occupied since the third century BC, famed for its murals of the life of Buddha and home to a troop of very playful monkeys.

Negombo, with its fiery sunset over the Indian Ocean, is a fitting end to our farewell dinner where we will ask the chef to surprise us with dishes summing up our Northern Sri Lankan adventure.

B

D



## TIME TO SAY "GOODBYE".

Unfortunately it is now time to say farewell.

We'll get you back to airport for your flight or help you plan your itinerary from here.

THIS TOUR CAN EASILY BE EXTENDED BY ADDING ON MORE SELF-PACED ADVENTURES OR OTHER GROUP TOURS BEFORE OR AFTER THIS TOUR.

CHAT TO ANTHEA FOR MORE DETAILS.

## Accommodation

STAY IN A RANGE OF HOTELS KNOWN FOR THEIR SRI LANKAN CHARM AND COMFORT.

Our sleepy heads will be resting in locally owned Sri Lankan hotels and resorts known for their charm and comfort.

They are:

- Negombo – Jetwing Blue Hotel (1 night at the beginning and end of the tour)
- Anuradhapura - Palm Garden Village Hotel (3 nights)
- Jaffna - Jetwing Jaffna Hotel (3 nights)
- Jungle Beach Hotel, Trincomalee (3 nights)
- Jetwing Vil Uyana, (2 nights)

All are a minimum 4 stars, with private facilities. Hotels offer Wi-Fi Internet access.

## GETTING THERE

There are no direct flights to Sri Lanka from Australia so you will need to change in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok or India.

Travel Your Way can assist with all travel arrangements including flights and stopovers, travel insurance and additional accommodation.

Australian and New Zealand citizens require a visa for Sri Lanka. An Electronic Travel application has to be lodged on line prior to travel and is valid for 30 days.

## Pricing & Package Inclusions

### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 13 nights accommodation with private facilities.
- 13 breakfasts, 10 dinners, 3 lunches.
- Late checkout (6pm) on Day 14.
- Entrance fees, jeep safaris and gourmet tours as per itinerary.
- Transfer from airport on Day 1 and Day 14.
- Private air conditioned coach transport throughout.
- Australian guide.
- Government taxes.
- Gratuities for local guides and driver.

### PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Airport transfers except where indicated
- Items of a personal nature including telephone, laundry etc.
- Travel insurance.
- Sri Lankan visa.

### PRICE STRUCTURE (AUD):

\$6,500 Per person, twin share land only

\$1,500 Single supplement\*

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## Travel & Visas

