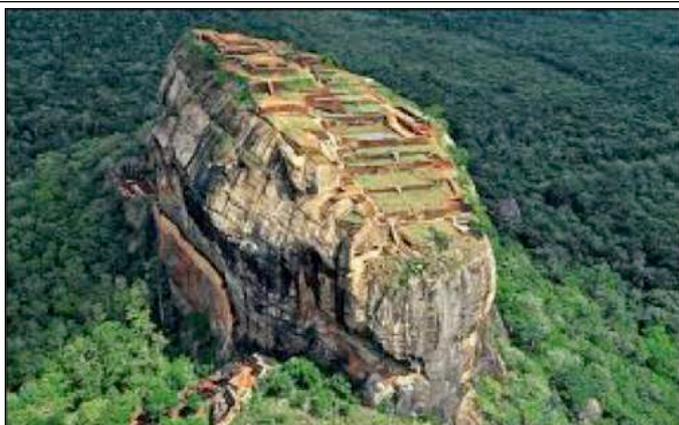


THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF NSW, Inc
Presents a study tour to

Sri Lanka

Monday 28th January 2019 to Tuesday 12th February 2019
16 days, 15 nights

Twin Share: **\$7 430** Single Supplement: **\$495**



TOUR OPERATOR
ACR International Travel & Tours
Lower Ground, Suit D
280 Pitt St
Sydney, NSW 2000
Travel Agents Licence No: 2TA 5384

Sri Lanka Itinerary January/February 2019

Day 1: Monday 28th January – Sydney to Negombo, via Singapore

Depart on Malaysian Airlines flight MH 122 departing 13.10, arriving Kuala Lumpur. Change to MH 179 flight departing 22.25 to Bandaranaike Airport, Katunayaka arriving at 23.25. Transfer to the Camelot Beach Hotel at Negombo (about 20 mins). Stay 1 night

Day 2: Tuesday 29th January – to Habarana

Drive to Yapahuwa (2 ½ hours) calling at the Elephant Foundation in Pinnawela en route. The Millennium Elephant Foundation's aim is to constantly develop the care and treatment of captive elephants in Sri Lanka by providing a refuge with appropriate amenities and facilities.

After a traditional lunch and a visit to a paper factory, continue to Yapahuwa, a 13th C citadel built around a granite outcrop and one of the sites in Sri Lanka's famous Cultural Triangle.

Continue onto Habarana (2 hours) and check into the hotel. Stay 4 nights at Habarana Lodge. **B,L,D**



Day 3: Wednesday 30th January – Rock Fortress

Starting early to beat the heat, visit the Rock Fortress, one of Sri Lanka's UNESCO listed World Heritage sites. Climb the stone staircase to reach the ruins of an ancient Palace complex on top of the rock. Return to the hotel. **B,L**



Day 4: Thursday 31st January – Anuradhapura

Head to the ruins of the ancient capital of Anuradhapura, another UNESCO World Heritage site. The sprawling complex contains a rich collection of archaeological and architectural wonders built during Anuradhapura's thousand year rule over Sri Lanka. Return to the hotel. **B,L**



Day 5: Friday 1st February – Polonnaruwa

Visit Polonnaruwa, another ancient capital and World Heritage site. Ruling the central plains of Sri Lanka 800 years ago, it was once a thriving commercial and religious centre. Explore the archaeological park with hundreds of structures including tombs, temples, statues and stupas. Return to the hotel. **B,L**

Day 6: Saturday 2nd February – to Kandy

Visit the Dambulla Cave Temples, also known as the Golden Temple of Dambulla, another World Heritage site, the best-preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka (warning: 325 steps to reach the cave area). Further on, call at a spice garden to indulge the senses and gain an insight into the old age industry that drew merchants from across the globe to ancient Sri Lanka.



Continue to Kandy (2 hours) and check into the hotel. In the evening visit the Temple of the Tooth, housing Sri Lanka's most important Buddhist relic. Stay 3 nights at Hotel Tree of Life. **B,D**



Day 7: Sunday 3rd February – Kandy

Visit the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, an 147 acre expanse of well kept trees, flowers and pathways. Officially established by the British (1843) the garden dates back to the Kandyan Kingdom of the 14th C. Later call at the Gem and Lapidary Museum to see some of the gems for which Sri

Lanka is famous. Late afternoon, attend a Cultural show. Return to the hotel **B,D**

Day 8: Monday 4th February – Dambana

Dambana Vaddha Village is the primary home of the last surviving aboriginal people of Sri Lanka. Called Yakasha in pre-Christian times, they were Vaddha (hunters) but now refer to themselves as Wannila Antho (forest dwellers). After lunch at the village, return to the hotel.

B, L, D



Day 9: Tuesday 5th February – to Nuwara Eliya



Drive to Nuwara Eliya (2½ hrs), often described as ‘Little England’ as it was the favoured cool-climate retreat for English and Scottish pioneers of Sri Lanka’s tea industry. Visit the historic Grand Hotel Nuwara Eliya for lunch (optional) then later call at the Pedro Tea Estate. The tea factory, built in 1885, is still packed with 19th C engineering. From the Tea Estate, take an enjoyable 5km walk (return) to Lovers Leap, an impressive waterfall, and visit the Seetha Amman Temple. Stay 1 night Grand Hotel. **B,D**

Day 10: Wednesday 6th February – to Yala

Drive to Yalla (4½ hrs) calling at the Lower Ravana Falls en route. Located on a scenic route, the waterfall also known as Bamabaragama Falls, is a popular destination. Continue to Yala. Stay 2 nights at Oak Ray Yala. **B,D**



Day 11: Thursday 7th February – Yala National Park



A full day safari in Yala National Park. The combined Nature Reserve and National Park is home to 44 varieties of mammal and 215 bird species including Leopards, Elephants, Sloth Bears, Sambas, Spotted Deer and crocodiles. Return to the hotel when the park closes. **B,L,D**

Day 12: Friday 8th February –to Dickwella

Making an early start, drive to Dickwella in the south (2½hrs). Visit the Berialu Lace Craft Village showcasing what is recognised as a national craft before calling at Dondra Head with its octagonal 19th C lighthouse marking Sri Lanka’s most southerly tip. Continue to the Wewurukannala Virara, which has an impressive statue of Buddha and an unnerving interpretation of Hell. Check into the hotel and enjoy a dip in the pool or the sea. Stay 2 nights Dickwella Resort and Spa. **B,D**



Day 13: Saturday 9th February – Whale Watching



A very early start (pick up at 4.30am) for a morning cruise. The south coast of Sri Lanka is one of the world’s best places for whale watching and while a large variety of whales and dolphins are commonly seen, there are no guarantees. The whale watching sessions lasts for about 4 hours. Return to the hotel about noon and have a restful afternoon. **B,D**

Day 14: Sunday 10th February – to Colombo

Drive to Colombo, stopping at historic Galle on the way. Galle Fort was first built by the Portuguese in 1588 and was extensively fortified by the Dutch in the mid 1600s. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1988 as it “illustrates the interaction of European architecture and South Asian traditions from the 16th to the 19th centuries”. Wander the cobblestoned streets and observe the Dutch influence. Continue to Colombo (1½ hrs). Stay 1 night at Fairway Colombo. **B**



Day 15: Monday 11th February – Colombo

Commence a half day city tour that will include the Colombo Lighthouse, Galle Face Promenade, York Street, Slave Island area, the War Memorial, National Museum and more historic landmarks. There will be a late check out then the Sri Lanka section of the tour will conclude with a final dinner at a local restaurant before heading to the airport. **B,D**

Day 16: Tuesday 12th February – to Sydney via Kuala Lumpur

Depart on MH 178 at 0.25 arriving in Kuala Lumpur at 06.40. Change to MH 141 departing 09.10, arriving Sydney 20.30.



Tour Arrangements

The tour will be led by **Heather Rushton**. There will be an accompanying English-speaking driver/guide and local guides will be employed.

Accommodation is in four star hotels.

Transport will be by air-conditioned mini-bus

Quoted price includes airfares, transfers, land transport, accommodation, all breakfasts, most dinners and some lunches, 2x 500ml water per person per day, admissions to buildings, facilities and activities as outlined in the program. Please note that the prices are correct at the time of publication but are subject to fluctuations in exchange rates and airline prices. If the hotel named is not available, it will be replaced by one of a similar standard.

Not included in the quoted price – visas, meals not listed, drinks, personal expenses, any extra activities, camera fees, gratuities, personal travel insurance.

Interested? An application form will be sent with this itinerary or can be obtained from ACR Travel by contacting sales@acrtravel.com.au. Return the completed form, along with a \$250 deposit, to the ACR office (Lower Ground 280 Pitt St, Sydney, 2000) or email it to heather@acrtravel.com.au (direct deposit details are available from Heather).

TOUR ORGANISED ON BEHALF OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

School of Social Sciences
University of Western Sydney
<http://www.geogsoc.org.au>

TOUR OPERATOR

