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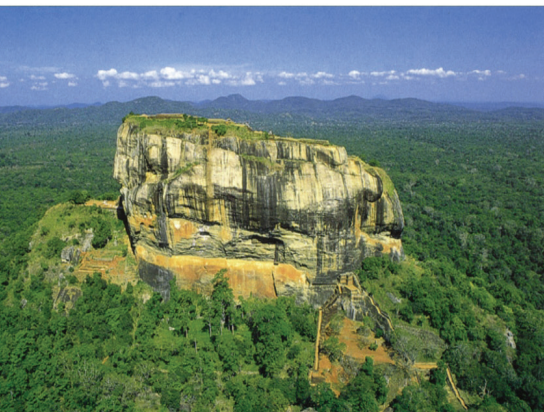
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Message from the publisher

– Sri Lanka by Rail

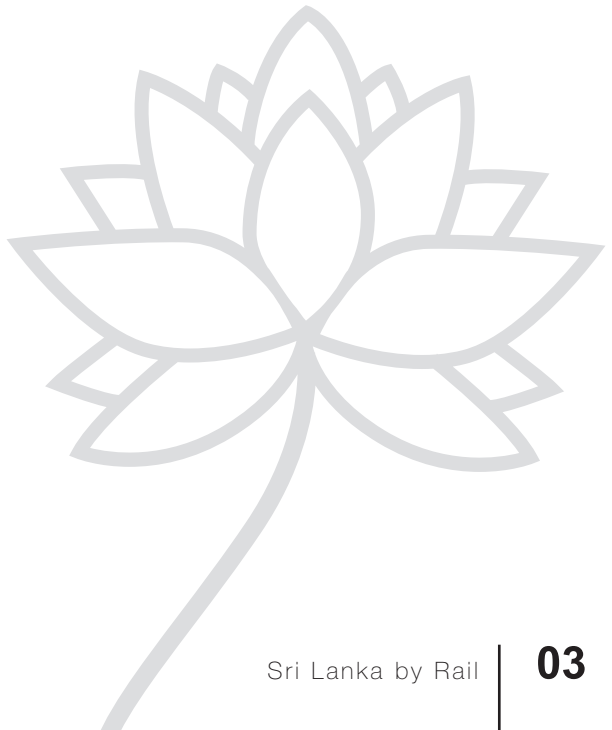
A well-linked and efficient transportation system is key to a country’s tourism industry. And Sri Lanka’s scenic rail network is no exception given that its leisure industry is now experiencing its best times ever. While the government has embarked on a drive to revamp the country’s rail network with the aim of offering a high-end service through public-private partnerships, we felt there was a need for a Rail Magazine that will guide travelers with the new and improved options available, which will aid their quest to travel around this beautiful island nation by rail. It is with this in mind that we proudly present to you the first issue of “Sri Lanka by Rail” magazine, which we believe will be greatly appreciated by local and foreign travelers alike.

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all key stakeholders, the Ministry of Transport, Sri Lanka Railways, Expo Rail, and Rajadhani Express for their guidance and support extended throughout the project.

We also wish all stakeholders success in their ultimate goal of offering local as well as foreign travelers a high-quality, comfortable, and luxurious rail service. This is indeed the humble beginnings of a long journey for Sri Lanka in terms of railway tourism; however, we are encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by both the government and the private sector and are confident that the journey will most definitely be a smooth ride!

Farill Farook
Chief Editor

SPOTLIGHT
PR





Message from Hon. Kumara Welgama Minister of Transport



With the end of all hostilities and the successful implementation of our long-term development program, we can safely assume that the tide has changed for Sri Lanka's lucrative tourism industry, a key revenue generator and contributor to overall economic growth. And we will strive to ensure this growth is sustained over the years to come.

It is with this in mind that the Ministry of Transport has initiated a program that aims to build, re-build, and revamp infrastructure – particularly those with regard to transportation – to facilitate growth in tourism. We want to offer the best to foreign as well as local visitors in terms of an experience to remember and one that will be conveyed and promoted to potential travelers.

With a history of over a century, Sri Lanka's rail transportation has been a key contributor toward the country's economic growth. Having initially played an important role in the growth of the export sector, particularly of tea, rubber, and coconut, Sri Lanka Railways today provides a valuable service to the public. Sri Lanka Railways is a key department under the Ministry of Transport with a history that dates back to 1858. Sri Lanka Railways (formerly known as Ceylon Government Railway) operates the nation's rail network linking the commercial capital of Colombo and many population centres and tourist destinations. In early 2010, the government launched a 10-year Railway Development Strategy to bring the railway system back to satisfactory condition. We initiated the program by ordering new diesel-multiple units (DMU) to replace the current trains. Since then we have carried out work to upgrade key lines – the Southern line, which was damaged in the 2004 tsunami, and the Northern line, which was non-operational due to the three-decade old war that damaged most of the area's infrastructure.

In our next step, we are looking to further upgrade and extend these lines, and have joined hands with the private sector to develop and improve rail transportation facilities in a bid to offer commuters a luxury service. Our long-term objective is to offer local as well as foreign travelers a well-rounded experience and leverage benefits offered by this important service that we believe will support the country's tourism industry. While tourist arrivals have been increasing in recent years, we believe that such initiatives aimed at boosting infrastructure and offering a broad range of services for tourists to the country, will aid in bolstering revenue from tourism.

I wish Sri Lanka by Rail Magazine every success in their active involvement in making rail transportation the preferred choice among local and foreign travelers.



Message from Hon. Rohana Dissanayake Deputy Minister of Transport



With envisaged growth in tourism, there was an urgent need to boost Sri Lanka's transportation network, which will support the industry's boom.

To this end, we identified the rail transport system as an area that had tremendous potential if put into proper use. Therefore, we embarked on a program to join hands with private sector investors in order to upgrade train facilities and offer a luxury service on key routes; thereby, we believe that developing the railway sector will result in significant contributions to our economy, which is in line with the country's focus on "moving forward".

Presently the Sri Lankan railway network consists of 1,508 kilometers with 5 ft 6 in (1,676 mm) broad gauge. The narrow gauge lines were 2 ft 6 in (762 mm). The railway contains some of the most magnificent scenic rail routes in the world.

The services offered by Sri Lanka Railways can be broadly categorized as Long Distance and Intercity Express, Colombo Commuter, Parcel and Mail, Freight and provision of Special Charter Trains.

With the implementation of this revamping project, we aim to encourage local as well foreign travelers to use the rail network when traveling to their holiday destinations – be it the hills through waterfalls, misty peaks, natural forest mountains, pine forests, and velvet green tea gardens, the south along the coast, or the east through large expanse of luscious paddy fields.

We have great confidence that this venture will bear positive results, and wish the Sri Lanka by Rail Magazine success in its endeavors.



Message from Mr. Dhammika Perera Secretary - Ministry of Transport



An efficient transportation service is vital for economical and social development in Sri Lanka. In this context, transport can play a key role in achieving a higher level of economic growth. Transportation service is an input for almost all production and provision of services; therefore, economic and social development in a country hinges on the development of its transportation facilities.

We identified rail transportation as an area with enormous potential, especially with regard to providing a service to commuters in addition to the transportation of goods. This, we believe, is particularly important at a time when Sri Lanka's tourism industry is booming and we can achieve higher revenues through the promotion of railroad

tourism if developed and marketed appropriately.

Therefore, as part of our long-term development plan, we invited investments from private sector partners in order to offer commuters a comfortable service. We believe this will encourage more players to come on board and add luxury services to other key tourist locations as well in the future. Our development program will not be confined to adding new carriages; we also plan to improve facilities at key railway stations across the country, such as waiting rooms, rest rooms, overnight facilities for passengers in transit, and restaurant facilities. We believe an improved rail service will greatly benefit and support growth in the country's key tourism industry.

We wish all success to Sri Lanka by Rail magazine.



Message from Mr. B.A.P. Ariyaratna General Manager - Sri Lanka Railways



We are very excited about our long-term project to develop Sri Lanka's railways network that will indeed benefit

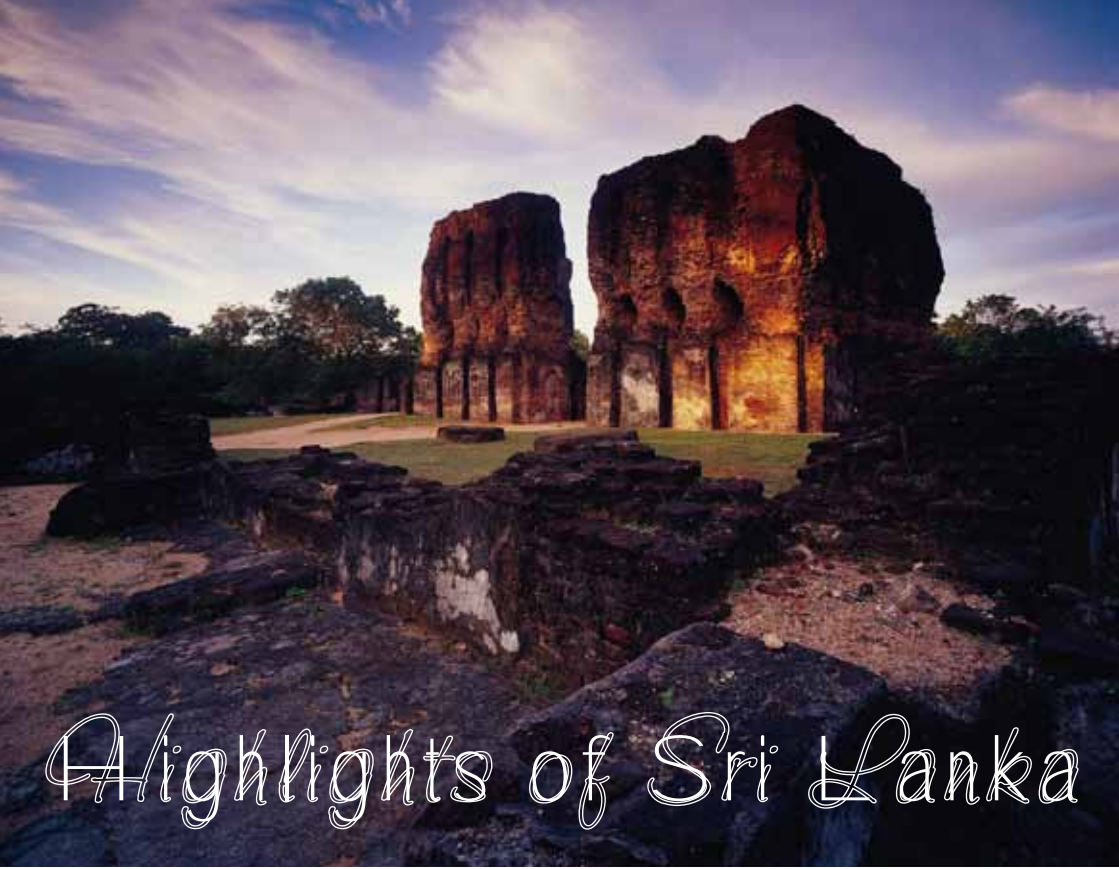
commuters. We are encouraged by some of our neighboring countries who have leveraged potential of this key mode of transportation, especially in terms of benefitting the economy through railroad tourism. We have already received good response for private parties who have joined in our efforts to develop Sri Lanka's railway system in a bid to offer a quality service to commuters.

Over the short-term, we hope to improve cleanliness and the quality of coaches and railway stations, reduce train delays and accidents and derailments, enhance the efficiency, establish a management structure based on performance

evaluation and monitoring process. Among key projects slated over the medium term are the removal of all temporary speed restrictions, a significant reduction in train delays and accidents, and establishing a signaling and communication system.

Our long-term objective is to expand the overall rail network to cover key areas across the island, and offer advanced and luxury services with the help of faster trains and speedy tracks with the aim of making Sri Lanka Railways financially viable.

We wish the inaugural edition of Sri Lanka by Rail publication all success and look forward continuing our support on this venture.







Population

Sri Lanka's population is a colourful mosaic of different ethnic and religious groups. The Sinhalese people form the largest ethnic group in the nation, composing approximately 74% of the total population. Sri Lankan Tamils form 18% of the population, and are concentrated mainly in the northeastern part of the country. "Indian Origin" Tamils, brought from India as indentured labourers by British colonists to work on estate plantations, are distinguished from the native Tamil population that has resided in Sri Lanka since ancient times. These "Indian Origin" Tamils still reside mainly in Sri Lanka's hill country where Tea is grown. There is a significant population of Muslims, who trace their lineage to Arab traders and immigrants and they are concentrated in the eastern provinces. There are also small ethnic groups such as the Burghers, of mixed European descent, and Malay people. Sri Lanka also has a unique community of indigenous people called the Veddahs. They are believed to be the first inhabitants of Sri Lanka and are thought to be related to the aborigines of Australia, the Nicobar Islands and Malaysia

Profile of

Geography and Climate

The pear-shaped island consists mostly of flat-to-rolling coastal plains, with mountains rising only in the south-central part. The most significant mountains in the Island are Sri Pada and Pidurutalagala, which is also known as Mt Pedro, Sri Lanka's highest point at 2,524 meters (8,281 ft). The Mahaweli River and other major rivers provide fresh water to the burgeoning foliage. The pattern of life in Sri Lanka depends directly on the availability of rainwater. The "wet zone" which consists mainly of the mountains and the southwestern part of the country, receive ample rainfall (an annual average of 250 centimeters). Most of the southeast, east, and northern parts of the country comprise the "dry zone", which receives between 1200 and 1900 mm of rain annually.

Climate

Sri Lanka's climate can be described as tropical, in other words, hot and humid. Its position between 5 and 10 north latitude endows the country with a warm climate, moderated by ocean winds and considerable moisture. The

mean temperature ranges from a chilly low of 16oC in Nuwara Eliya in the Central Highlands, where even frost may occur for several days in the winter, to a high of 32o C in Trincomalee on the northeast coast.

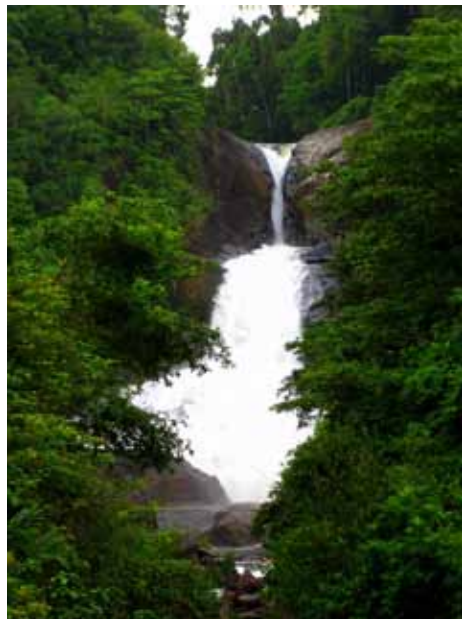
The average yearly temperature for the country as a whole ranges from 28 to 30oC.

Seasons - monsoon

Although Sri Lanka maintains its lovely warm and tropical climate year-round, the island does experience mild changes in rainfall.

The rainy monsoon season takes place from October to January; during the rest of the year there is very little precipitation, and all living creatures must conserve precious moisture. The arid northwest and southeast coasts receive the least amount of rain - 600 to 1200 mm per year - concentrated within the short period of the winter monsoon. May, June and July are probably the hottest months of the year and a great time to hit the beach and soak in the sun.

Sri Lanka



Various small kingdoms that dominated different regions ruled Ancient Sri Lanka. The first major Sinhalese Kingdom was developed in the island's northern plains, around the city of Anuradhapura. The King at the time, Devanampiya Tissa (300 - 260 B.C.), was the first in the line of Sri Lanka's kings to be converted to Buddhism by Mahinda, Son of the great Indian emperor Ashoka. There were repeated wars between the Sinhalese and Indian invaders, and for much of the first millennium AD the island was controlled by various Tamil princes. Vijayabahu re-established a Sinhalese dynasty in the 11th century. The "golden age" of the Sri Lankan kingdom was in the 12th century, when the Sinhalese King, Parakrama Bahu, united the whole island under his rule. Anuradhapura remained Sri Lanka's royal capital until the 8th century AD, when it was replaced by Polonnaruwa.

Portuguese

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to visit Sri Lanka in modern times. Francisco de Almeida arrived in 1505, finding the island divided into seven warring kingdoms and unable to fend off intruders. They soon founded a fort at the Muslim port city of Colombo in 1517 and gradually extended their control over the coastal areas. In 1592 the Sinhalese moved their capital to the inland city of Kandy, a location more secure against attack from invaders and the kingdom of Kandy retained their independence during the Portuguese reign. The Portuguese saw many lowland Sinhalese convert to Christianity, but the Buddhist majority disliked Portuguese occupation and its influences and welcomed any power who might rescue them.

Dutch

In 1602, when the Dutch captain Joris Spilberg landed, the king at Kandy appealed to him for help. But it was not until 1638 that the Dutch attacked in earnest, and not until 1656 that the Portuguese fort in Colombo fell. By 1660 the Dutch controlled the whole island except the kingdom of Kandy. The Dutch persecuted the Catholics but left the Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims alone.

British

During the Napoleonic Wars the United Kingdom, fearing that French control of the Netherlands might deliver Sri Lanka to the French, occupied the coastal areas of the island (which they called Ceylon) with little difficulty in 1796. In 1802 by the Treaty of Amiens, the Dutch part of the island

was formally ceded to Britain and became a crown colony. In 1803 the British invaded the Kingdom of Kandy in the 1st Kandyan War, but were fiercely resisted. In 1815 Kandy was occupied after the 2nd Kandyan War, finally ending Sri Lankan independence. Following the bloody suppression of the Uva Rebellion or 3rd Kandyan War in 1817 - 1818, a treaty in 1818 preserved the Kandyan monarchy as a British dependency.

The Kandyan peasantry were stripped of their lands by the Wastelands Ordinance, a modern enclosure movement and reduced to penury. The British found that the uplands of Sri Lanka were very suited to coffee, tea and rubber cultivation, and by the mid 19th century, Ceylon tea had become a staple of the British market, bringing great wealth to a small class of white tea planters. To work the estates, the planters imported large numbers of Tamil workers as indentured labourers from south India, who soon made up 10% of the island's population.

Independence

Increasing grievances over the denial of civil rights, the mistreatment and abuse of natives by colonial authorities gave rise to a struggle for independence in the 1930s. The Youth Leagues opposed the "Ministers' Memorandum," which asked the colonial authority to increase the powers of the board of ministers without granting popular representation or civil freedoms.

During World War II, the island served as an important Allied military base. A large segment of the British and American fleet

were deployed on the island, as were tens of thousands of soldiers committed to the war against Japan in Southeast Asia. Following the war, popular pressure for independence intensified.

On February 4, 1948 the country won its independence as the Commonwealth of Ceylon. Don Stephen Senanayake became the first Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. In 1972, the country became a republic within the Commonwealth, and the name was changed to Sri Lanka.





The Railway, then known as Ceylon Government Railways, was conceived in the 1850's as an instrument to develop and unify the country. The 1st sod of

History of Sri

the Sri Lanka Railways was cut by Sir Henry Ward, the Governor, in August in 1858. The 1st Train ran on 27th December 1864, with the construction of the Main Line from Colombo to Ambepussa, 54 kilometers to the east. This line was officially opened for traffic on 02nd October 1865. The Railway extended and developed it's network and in 1927 , a total route length of 1530 km was in operation . The Main Line was extended in stages, with service to Kandy in 1867, to Nawalapitiya in 1874, to Nanu-Oya in 1885, to Bandarawela in 1894, and to Badulla in 1924. Other lines were completed in due course to link the other parts of the country, the Matale Line in 1880, the Coast Line in 1895, the Northern Line in 1905, the Mannar Line in 1914, the Kelani Valley Line in 1919, the Puttalam Line in 1926, and the Batticaloa and Trincomalee Lines in 1928.

The Railway was initially built to transport coffee and tea from the hill country to Colombo for export and was for many years, the main source of income. With population growth, however, passenger traffic increased and in the 1960's overtook freight as the main source of business. The Railway is now primar-

ily engaged in the transport of passengers, especially commuters to and from Colombo, offering a vital service and reducing road congestion.

Rolling Stock

The First Rolling Stock landed in Ceylon in 1864. These engines were 4-4-0 Type, two wheeled coupled with a tender, with a fuel capacity of 5 Tons and 15,200, Gallons of water. The length was 49 ft. over buffers and 59 tons in weight. These engines were in use till 1926. Three and Four driving wheel locomotives, with Saturated Steam Super Heater boilers were introduced 1915. Garret Class

shades, bonnet type of ventilator glass drop light and double roof with cocoanut oil lamp started serving in this country and were in service for over nearly 20 years.

The railway good service was inaugurated with the type of wagons such as 4 wheeled wooden Covered Wagons.



Lankan Rail way

double headed locomotive were introduced in 1928 to eliminate the need for a 2nd engine to haul trains over a gradient of 1 in 44 in the up-country areas. In 1954 Canadian Government gifted to Ceylon, the M2 Class General Motors Electric Locomotives of 1310 H.P. In the mid 1950s, a Hydraulic Power Coachers were perched for the faster and cleaner service for office workers. A landmark in the history of the railways was the complete dieselization of its motive power in 1969 by the introduction of 88 Diesel Hydraulic Locomotives.

The first consignment of coaches of 2-Wheeled, 2 Door, with 9' 6" Wheel Base and 22' 6" long, equipped with projecting sun-





River Transport , Ceylon , Early 1900's
This photo of old Sri Lanka demonstrates the Ceylonese use of coconut palms on the roofs of their water vessels. Boats were often constructed out of large trees. These would be hollowed out in the center. The vessel would be kept from capsizing thanks to bent pieces of wood at each end and a long spare extending into the water.



Richshaw Operators at Victoria Park, Colombo
Victoria Park in the middle of Colombo and was named in honor of Queen Victoria . The fares for a rickshaw operators were calculated by time instead of distance. Rickshaws drawn by 2 operators were more expensive, as was hiring a rickshaw in the evenings.

History of Sri Lankan Transport



Catamaran, Native Fishing Boat. displayed in this popular image was planted by the British in 1905



A Double Bullock Cart.
Bullock carts in Ceylon are known as bandies or Tamul wandi. Bullock carts like the one shown here were normally used for carting coffee or rice. laden cart 20 miles per day.



Hamilton Canal in Negombo Boat Bridge over Kalani River Bullock Hackery and Padda Boats, Early 1900's at Grand Pass 1880's



Tea in Transit to Wharf.

Race Bull and Cart, Early 1900's



Elephants Transporting a Boiler to Tea Factory.



Colombo Kandy Train - Crossing Bridge .



Steam Engine at Matara Railway Station - 1895



Colombo to Kandy Railway Line



Typical Road Scene on Galle Road, Ceylon 1880



Ballast Train, Colombo - Badulla Railway.



Tunnels on the Railway near Ohiya , Ceylon



A Mountain Road to Haputale , Ceylon in 1894



Elephant at Work

One of many duties by elephant. Here the elephant is pulling a plane.



The National Railway Museum Sri Lanka is home to the Sri Lanka rail collection. Includes museum visitor info, events, exhibitions and collections.

The museum traces the history of Sri Lanka's railways (old CGR), details of trains, collection of photos and many more..

Photos of the National Railway Museum



Opening Times : From 10 a.m - 4 p.m

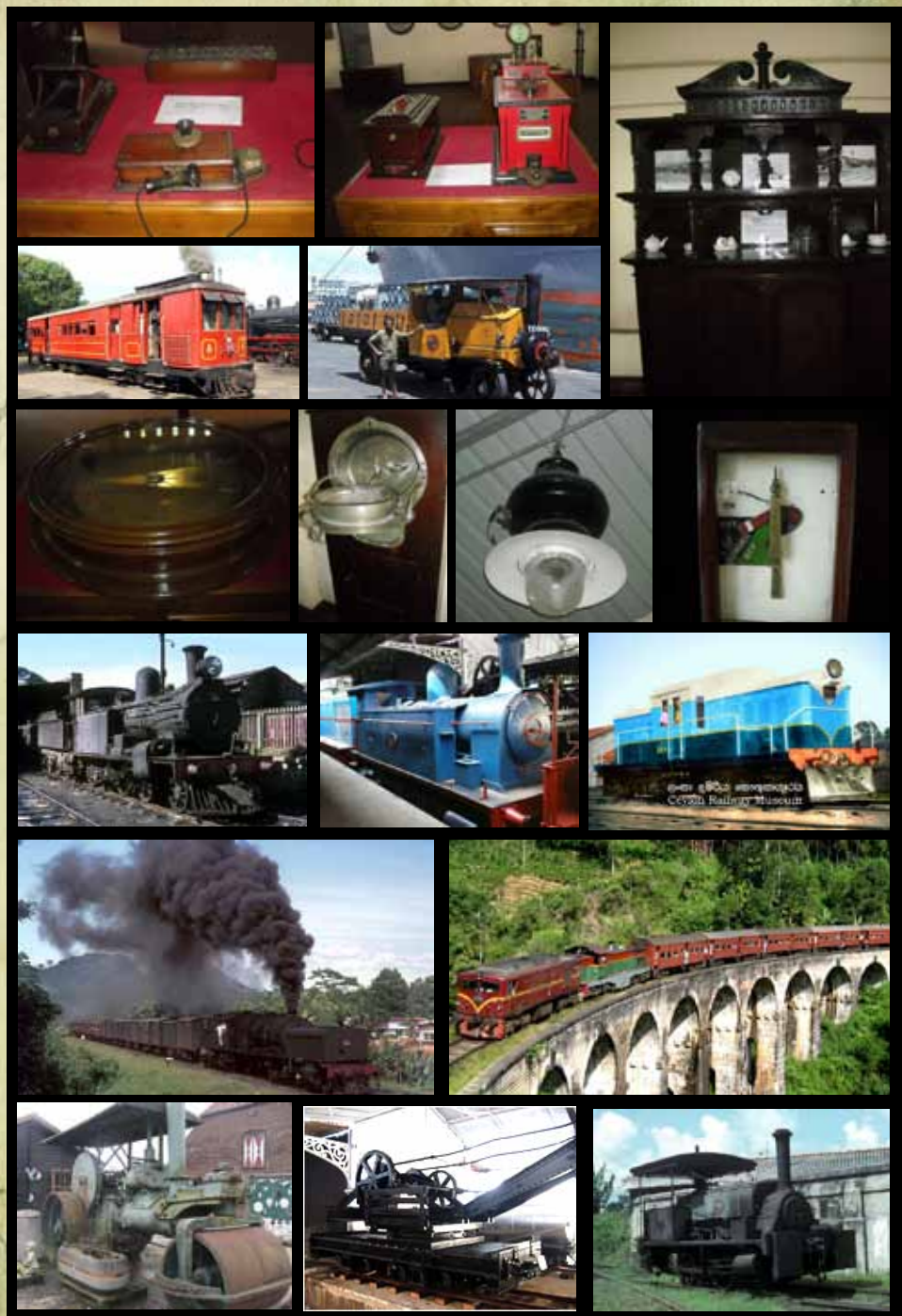
Open : Monday to Friday

Closed : Saturday, Sunday Poya Day's and all other Public Holidays.

Address : National Railway Museum, Olcott Mawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

Telephone : +94-112421281

Website : www.railwaymuseum.lk



15 Reasons to Travel by Train

1. Stress Free Travel:

Train travel removes the stress from the travelling to multiple locations while on vacations. Whether traveling from city to city or province to province, train travel allows tourists to enjoy the view without navigating a vehicle in a foreign location.

2. Save More with Train Travel:

Train travel is more economical than driving. Fuel costs are high rising. Public transportation is a greener way to travel, because hundreds of people travel to the location for a fraction of the price of travel by vehicle or plane.

3. Choice of Service:

Customers may choose from first class service and second class service, just as in an airline. This allows travelers to vacation according to their budget level while upgrades are affordable.

4. More Baggage...more leg space

5. Eco-Friendliness:

Did you know that trains are more energy-efficient per passenger mile than planes or cars, making them one of the most eco-friendly transportation options around (short of walking or riding your bike!). Carbon emissions from trains are less damaging to the environment than those of airplanes because train emissions are not released directly into the upper atmosphere.

6. Old-Fashioned Charm

There's something refreshingly traditional about taking a train, particularly if you're traveling over a long, multi-night route. the ability to relax in slow pace and enjoy the calmness while during the day, many train travelers choose to read books, play cards or simply enjoy the scenery rushing by.

7. Comfort and Relaxation

Train journeys are one of the least stressful forms of transportation out there: someone else does the driving; you'll have more legroom than you would on an airplane and you'll be able to move around at will -- not just when the captain turns the seatbelt sign off.

8. Beyond Just Transportation

Unlike airplanes, which whisk you from point A to point B with barely a glimpse of what's in between, a train ride can be a destination in and of itself. Peering into the downtown of various stops, and lakes, mountains, caves, waterfalls or the permafrost landscape of destinations is something that just can't really be done by plane.

9. Meeting People

not only can you get up and walk to grab a snack and sit at a table, people are generally friendlier and in a better mood so it can be fun to talk with people – especially locals along the train route in a foreign country who are happy to offer destination advice.

10. Unrestricted Tech & Comfort

Smart phones, iPods, laptops, DVD players and other electronic devices are unrestricted from the time you step foot on a train until you get off. No getting yelled at by flight attendants to turn stuff off. The same goes with seatbacks and tray tables. So settle in, recline with outstretched legs and listen to your own playlist while typing a list of reasons to ride trains.

11. Smelling the Roses

Aside from great scenery, sometimes the trip is in the journey. Being on a train can be a great time to unwind and relish the travel part of traveling.

12. Private Cabins

Ideal for the long distance travels to start fresh

13. Accessibility

Wheelchair/pets/ music instruments Accessible

14. Refreshments:

Some train services offer onboard snacks and meals for longer trips.

15. Less Hassle :

unlike travelling in the plane where you have to arrive two hours early, wait in a long security line, take off your shoes for inspection, or ration out your liquids and gels. Welcome to the world of train travel. In most cases you can arrive 30 minutes ahead of time and walk straight to your platform.

Have a great Journey!!!



Sri Lanka Railways Observation Saloon



for more details visit www.railway.gov.lk



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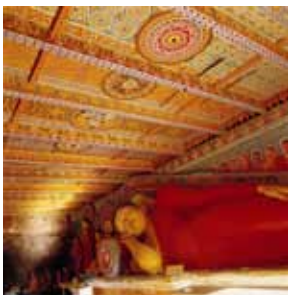
Sri Lanka Train Services.





Train Number	Starting Station	Departure Time	Destination Station	Arrival Time
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Nothorn Line



Yaldevi	4001	Fort	0545	Omanthai	1140	Yaldevi
Deyata Kirula Intercity	4017	Fort	0650	Vavuniya	1050	Deyata Kirula Intercity
Udayadevi	6011	Fort	0610	Batticaloa	1420	Udayadevi
Vauniya Intercity	4003	Fort	1620	Vavuniya	2116	Vauniya Intercity
Meenagaya Intercity	6079	Fort	1915	Batticaloa	0400	Meenagaya Intercity
Trinco Night Mail	7083	Fort	2100	Trincomalee	0510	Trinco Night Mail
Vauniya Night Mail	4089	Fort	2230	Omanthai	0535	Vauniya Night Mail

Main Line



Podi Menike	1005	Fort	0555	Badulla	1600	Podi Menike
Kandy Intercity	1009	Fort	0700	Kandy	0931	Kandy Intercity
Udarata Menike	1015	Fort	0945	Badulla	1925	Udarata Menike
Kandy Intercity	1029	Fort	1535	Kandy	1806	Kandy Intercity
Badulla Night Mail	1045	Fort	2000	Badulla	0710	Badulla Night Mail

Train Number	Starting Station	Departure Time	Destination Station	Arrival Time	Availability of Reservation		
					01st Class	02nd Class	03rd Class



4002	Omanthai	1300	Fort	1835	Available	Available	No
4018	Vavuniya	1510	Fort	1915	No	Available	Available
6012	Batticaloa	0715	Fort	1525	Available	Available	No
4004	Vavuniya	0545	Fort	1025	No	Available	No
6080	Batticaloa	2015	Fort	0455	Available	Available	Available
7084	Trincomalee	1930	Fort	0405	Available	Available	Available
4090	Omanthai	1910	Fort	0435	Available	Available	Available



1006	Badulla	0850	Fort	1935	Available	No	No
1010	Kandy	1500	Fort	1736	Available	Available	No
1016	Badulla	0545	Fort	1540	Available	No	No
1030	Kandy	0610	Fort	0845	Available	Available	No
1046	Badulla	1800	Fort	0517	Available	Available	Available

Train Number	Starting Station	Departure Time	Destination Station	Arrival Time
--------------	------------------	----------------	---------------------	--------------

Coast Line

	8050	Maradana	630	Matara	1107	
Galu Kumari	8056	Maradana	1340	Matara	1825	Galu Kumari
Ruhunu Kumari	8058	Maradana	1540	Matara	1915	Ruhunu Kumari
Sagarika	8096	Maradana	1640	Matara	2025	Sagarika



Train Number	Starting Station	Departure Time	Destination Station	Arrival Time	Availability of Reservation		
					01st Class	02nd Class	03rd Class

8051	Matara	1405	Maradana	1845	No	No	No
8057	Matara	0550	Maradana	1012	No	No	No
8059	Matara	0520	Maradana	0905	No	No	No
8097	Matara	0420	Maradana	0820	No	No	No



A Dream... A Reality

A warm welcome to a most comfortable train journey you will ever experience on the railway tracks of Sri Lanka. We endeavor to cater to every possible need to the different travelers who embarks on the journey with us. Comfort and Service is what we strive to excel in to make your travel experience a most memorable one that entices you to keep coming back!



Facilities

- A/C Super Luxury Compartment
- Butler Service
- Wi-Fi Connectivity
- LCD TV with Movies, Music and Documentaries
- Leather Adjustable Reclining Seats
- Power Outlets to every seat for Laptop and phone users
- Timber flooring
- Onboard Snack menu
- Modern clean toilet facilities

We strive for Comfort, Luxury and Convenience!





Colombo - Babulla Train
Time Table

Day	Podi Menike	
	Colombo	Badulla
Sun	5.55	
Mon		8.50
Tue	5.55	
Wed		8.50
Thu		
Fri	5.55	
Sat		8.50

Day	Udarata Menike	
	Colombo	Badulla
Sun		5.45
Mon	9.45	
Tue		5.45
Wed		
Thu	9.45	
Fri		5.45
Sat	9.45	

Await Soon !

- Batticaloa line
- Matara line
- Trincomalee line
- Vavunia line

Travel Summary



Colombo - Kandy (Intercity)
Time Table

COLOMBO - KANDY	
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
15.35 PM	18.00 PM

KANDY - COLOMBO	
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
6.10 AM	8.35 AM



Reservations

- Sri Lanka Railway Stations (with M ticketing facility)
- Mobitel Dial - 365
- SEW Gunasekara Pawning Centres – Ticket Reservation
- Head office 49/1 Ward Place Colombo 07
- Online booking www.rajadhani.lk

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Huge plateau's surround by tree covered hills that roll on for a seeming eternity into the horizon, with the odd temple or glimpse of the vast tea estates that are indicative of a different era, a slower and more sedate time of British tea planters and gentleman's clubs. Often likened to the Scottish Highlands imagine that charming part of the world then add a tropical flavor and no icy winds and you are just about there!



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- Leaves Kandy at 7.00 am and same leaves Colombo 3.35 pm daily
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Expolanka Group is well known and recognized as an established Conglomerate which has diversified interests in Transportation, International Trading, Manufacturing and Strategic Investment Sectors, with the covenant of “Building a great business with a dare to do spirit.”

With its success as a freight forwarder, exporter, travel agent, strategic investor; Expolanka has now ventured into the very latest passenger rail transport. As Sri Lanka thus far has no privately managed trains, Expo Rail has the distinction of being the first of its kind operating in Sri Lanka, setting high standards and redefining Train Travel.

Expo Rail compartments are equipped with state of the art facilities and include luxury styled seating arrangements which are comfortable, spacious and relaxing.

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The “Expo Rail Team” comprises of a highly skilled and motivated professionals who are geared to meet the requirements of customers with a prime focus on “Quality”.

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The super luxury carriage which is attached to the Colombo-Kandy intercity train is in operation since 1st October 2011 on a daily basis. Given below is the service schedule for your reference which is in operation all 7 days a week, 365 days a year;

- Departure Colombo 07.00 am | Arrival Kandy 9.30 am.
- Departure Kandy 03.00 pm | Arrival Colombo 5.30 pm

In addition to the above Expo Rail commenced operations to Badulla sector on December 10, 2011. The operation schedule to Badulla is as follows;

- Departure Colombo 05.55 am | Arrival Badulla 4.00 pm. (Monday / Thursday/ Saturday)
- Departure Badulla 08.50 am | Arrival Colombo 7.35 pm (Tuesday / Friday / Sunday)

Expo Rail would be extending its services to other destinations as well in the near future with Trincomalle and Vavuniya being its next sought after destinations.

The introduction of this privately operated super luxury train compartment and train service by Expolanka is a massive step towards increasing Sri Lanka’s potential in tourism and travel and indeed has redefined train travel in Sri Lanka. The ability to book tickets online from anywhere in the world is an added advantage to the Traveler. Assurance of a first class service in all spheres is something that has been missing in the Sri Lankan holiday package. Expolanka has utilized its in-house resources and have expanded the train service which will include hotel bookings, transfers, excursions, and other complete travel coordination aspects which has filled in the vacuum pertaining to the travel and tourism industry to make Sri Lanka truly a destination that is ‘So Lovely’ which ought to be experienced.

Call Expo Rail anytime on their 24x7 hotline ‘5 22 50 50’ or visit the Expo Rail website www.exporail.lk to book your ticket/s for your next special trip, business travel, family vacation, or that group trip you’ve always talked about across the scenic hill country. Whether it’s just one seat or an entire carriage you will experience a personalized service that is one of a kind. See you onboard soon! Bon Voyage!!!!

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The Viceroy Special Vintage Train



The “Viceroy Special” is a 75 year old private train and the only steam train still in operation in Sri Lanka. The train has two air-conditioned observation saloons furnished in period style, with 64 plush reclining seats and individual adjustable tables. A public address system is available for guides to describe details of the journey or for suitable music to be broadcast. Each saloon has an adjoining smokers’ lounge and a modern toilet.

There is also a restaurant car, elegantly furnished with Edwardian ribbed fans and teak-trimmed wood paneling is complete with a fully equipped kitchen and a well complemented bar.

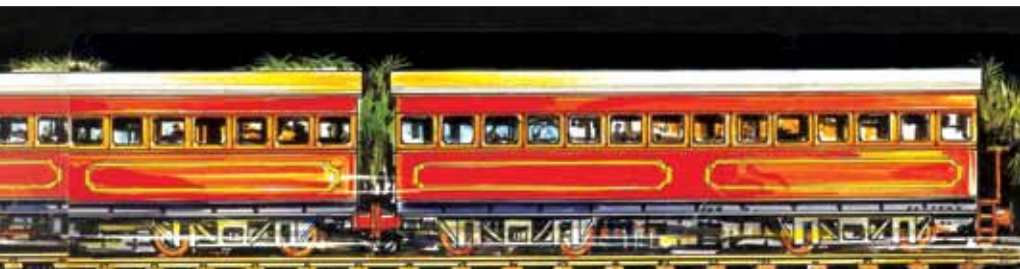
The “Viceroy Special” transports guests throughout the rail system in Sri Lanka. Especially popular are trips to & from Kandy and the tea plantations of the



hill country and down the west coast to the beach resorts. Being steam-hauled, the train can stop on request and guests can photograph scenic beauty spots and even ride in the engine driver's cabin.

J.F. Tours pioneered the Viceroy Special colonial steam train tours in Sri Lanka way back in 1986, based on the concept of Heritage Railways which has been evolved over the years in many countries in the world to this date. The leisure traveling in historic trains is very popular in these countries but not in Sri Lanka until we started it. The Viceroy Steam train is 75 years old and only one of its kind still in operation in Sri Lanka.

Traveling in Viceroy Special is completely different to what you had already experienced. It gives you a new meaning to your leisure and travel in place of common tour packages. You can enjoy true rail heritage of golden age of steam as you just indulge yourself and sit back and enjoy sights, sounds and senses of the steam train as it was in its good old days. The Viceroy tour has novelty value as it combines the sense of heritage with more relaxing ride that



the train travel creates in comparison with any other mode of transportation. Mostly the train is hauled by a steam locomotive, but at times when coal is not available it might be taken by diesel loco. You really do get a completely authentic experience in a restored steam train just as it used to be for all rail passengers 50 years ago.

The train has two air-conditioned observation saloons furnished in period style, with 64 luxurious reclining seats and individual adjustable tables. Each saloon has an adjoining smokers lounge and modern toilet. There is also a restaurant car, with a fully equipped kitchen and well complemented bar which facilitate your excursion to the end.

We hope that you would take the advantage of this unique offer and avail yourself of the exceptional excitement and privilege in travel and leisure. for more details on tour packages visit : www.jftours.com





Along the beach or in the highlands, shopping in Sri Lanka is a rewarding experience and the perfect complement to any holiday.

Exquisite handicrafts are part of Sri Lanka's rich and varied culture, offering ceramics and woodcarvings, batik and gold and silver work. Gems and pearls remain favourite items for special occasions while Ceylon tea and spices make excellent affordable souvenirs. Best shopping haunts in Sri Lanka are the large modern malls in Colombo, such as Majestic City or Liberty Plaza, and craft shops and hotel boutiques along the south west coast or in highland resorts.

Holidays in Sri Lanka, Gems and Pearls



Sri Lanka is an exciting place to buy gems and semi-precious stones, especially when one can peep down into an open pit and see the men at work. There are blue, pink and yellow sapphires, rubies, cat's eyes, moonstones, garnets,



amethysts and many more. Sri Lankan gems are valued for their clarity and colour, worn for their beauty but also for the auspicious qualities specific to each one.

Pearls are another good buy, harvested since ancient times when oyster beds some 20 miles offshore belonged to the king. They are found in most jewellery shops, alongside



gems and exquisite gold and silver craft. Gold is high carat, mostly from India, and often purchased by locals as an investment. Gems, pearls or gold, it's always wise to trust experts rather than hunt for back street bargains.



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Crafts in Sri Lanka, Batik, Woodcarving and Ceramics

All over the island, shops display a wide choice of textiles, sometimes still produced on traditional handlooms. Best buys include silk, hand-made lace and batik from beach sarongs to luxurious wall hangings. Batik involves a slow artistic process when colours are applied and fixed one at a time. The greater the number of colours, the more expensive the piece but there are plenty of two-toned items, bright, attractive and cheap. Woodcarvings range from salad bowls and ebony



elephants to ritual masks used in drama and dance. Mostly fearsome and endowed with magical properties, they make original souvenirs. Lacquer ware, pottery, ceramics and porcelain are widely available, pots and jugs, vases, ornaments or jewellery boxes. The Matale district is renowned for Lac work, using animal wax.

Shopping in Sri Lanka, Ceylon Tea and Spices.

Sri Lanka's cool highlands are home to the acclaimed Ceylon tea with its lush plantations rolling as far as one can see. Some estates welcome visitors with talks about withering, grinding and fermenting and the opportunity to buy from the shop. Tea is graded according to flake size from best peckoe to broken fanning's and dust. Most prized are the flowery teas with silver or gold tips.

Spices are cheap, easy to pack and a treat for dinner guests back home. Cumin, used in curry, can be bought whole and there are cinnamon sticks, dried curry leaves, cloves, turmeric, nutmeg and its membrane known



as mace. Cardamom is more expensive but highly aromatic and excellent with rice dishes.



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Best Buys

Sri Lanka's traditional crafts reflect the island's rich heritage and delight visitors in search of quality items at affordable prices. Sri Lanka's traditional crafts are among the island's top attractions, dating back to the ancient kingdoms when artisans and artists enjoyed the lavish patronage of royal rulers. From Sinhalese ritual masks to costume jewellery, from wood carving to lacquered pottery or basketwork, they embellished palaces and temples. Skills handed down through generations remain an integral part of the island's culture.

In fixed price emporiums or beach stalls where bargaining is the rule, temptation is everywhere, catering to all tastes and budgets. Some of Ceylon's finest items are found in village workshops where families work on their doorstep, potters, woodcarvers, weavers, lace makers or silversmiths.

Sinhalese Masks and Wood Carving

Colourful, often fierce, Sinhalese masks play a major role in traditional dancing and drama and in long established rituals designed to keep away evil. They are treated with respect and carved from Diya Kanduru wood, light, strong and insect resistant.

There are 18 Sanni masks to cure each of 18 common illnesses, Kolam masks to be worn in drama and versatile Raksha masks

which may represent peacocks, cobras or mythical birds. Other common objects carved with chisel and mallet include ebony elephants, vases and jewellery boxes, often finished with fine lacquer.

jewellery follows two main traditions. Kandyan jewellery is all about metal work, specialising in fine silver filigree, while in the Galle Low Country tradition, metal is merely an agent to display the most glorious gems in Sri Lanka.

Text by Solange Hando

Pottery & Basketry

Pottery is one of Sri Lanka's oldest crafts, traditionally providing 75% of kitchen implements, from water jugs to pots in all shapes and sizes. Potters also fashion oil lamps for the temples, vases and figurines and a range of auspicious ornaments. Most pottery is decorated before firing.

Basket ware comes in many forms, colourful or plain, woven from palm leaves or other natural fiber. There are hats, purses and bags, wall hangings and cushion covers from wild hemp growing in the hills, coir mats from coconut fiber and dumburra mats with striking geometric patterns. Small items make excellent souvenirs, as decorative as they are useful.

Best Buys in Ceylon, Lace, Batik and Costume Jewellery

Batik involves applying one dye at a time while protecting the rest of the fabric with wax. It's a long skilful process and Sri Lankan artists achieve some fabulous patterns and colours. Even a simple two tone beach sarong is a joy to handle while intricate items will please the most exclusive clientele. Lace was introduced by the Portuguese. The finest 'pillow lace' is found in Galle where white table cloths and mats flap in the breeze along the ramparts. From chunky gold ornaments to delicate silverwork, Sri Lanka's costume



Valid from 01st January – 31st October 2012

Day Excursion to Kandy



0615Hrs :

Pick up from the Colombo hotel and transfer to Fort Railway station to board the train to Kandy. Customers advised to organize the pack breakfast from hotel, while on the journey, they can have the breakfast on the board.

Arrival to Peradeniya station by 0900Hrs and you will be met by English speaking chauffeur guide with A/C Car or Micro van.

From Peradeniya drive to Pinnawela Elephant orphanage to see the Elephant bathing and baby elephants.

Drive to Kandy, upon arrival at Kandy visit Temple of the tooth relic, City centre, arts & craft centre and local markets. Lunch at local restaurant by 1400Hrs.

After lunch you will be taken to Kandy railway station to board the train at 1500Hrs to Colombo. You will arrive at 1745Hrs at Colombo fort railway station and transfer to your chosen Hotel in Colombo. (Tickets on first class or 02nd Class)

No Of Pax	Standard Observation saloon	Expo Rail
01 Pax	US\$160 for Single Pax	US\$175
02 Pax	US\$105 Per Person sharing	US\$120

- Included the Train fair on Expo Rail/Rajadhani Express or observation saloon
- Included the car hire in Kandy
- Included Pinnawela and Kandy Temple entrance

Day Excursion to Galle



0615Hrs : Pick up from the Colombo hotel and transfer to Fort Railway station to board the train to Galle. Customers advised to organize the pack breakfast from hotel, while on the journey; they can have the breakfast on the board.

0655Hrs : train leave from Colombo to Galle and arrive at 0950Hrs. On arrival to Galle railway station you will be met by English speaking chauffeur guide with A/C Car or Micro van. He will take you around the Galle city and Unawatuna beach for a swimming. Lunch at Local restaurant in the Galle fort area.

Please refer the description of Galle:

Galle - Sri Lanka's most historically interesting town is Galle. It was a major port until about 100 years, but today still handles shipping and sailing boats in the natural harbour.

Stroll around the lighthouse and harbour or visit the old town where you can see the traditional lace makers and wood carvers and purchase some the finest souvenirs.

The Dutch Fort - Galle - The South Coast's major city is Galle, whose oldest landmark is the massive Portuguese and Dutch Fort which is a "World Heritage Site" in which the central city is contained. But the city may be much older. Some scholars believe it to be the "Tarshish" of the Old Testament, to which King Solomon sent his merchant vessels, and to which Jonah fled from the Lord. Today, the 90-acre Galle Fort shows no evidence of the Portuguese founders. The Dutch incorporated the Portuguese northern wall in a great rampart in 1663. A second, taller wall was built inside of it. Between the two walls, a covered passage connected the central bastion with the Fort's two half bastion's overlooking the sea.

Around 1520Hrs, you will drop off at the Galle railway station to board the train to Colombo, which leaves at 1545Hrs and arrival in Colombo 1840Hrs.

Upon arrival at Colombo you will be transfer to your chosen hotel in Colombo.
(Tickets on 01st Class or 02nd class)

Single Pax	US\$110
02 Pax Per Person	US\$75

- Included car hire and city tour of Galle City
- Lunch included
- Train ticket on First or second class

Valid from 01st January – 31st October 2012

02 Nights 03Days Excursion to Hill

Day 01



Customers will be picked up from Colombo hotels at 0530Hrs to board the train to Badulla, which is 0555Hrs.

Breakfast on the board with packet from the hotel. You will be getting down at Nanu Oya railway station by 1230Hrs. On arrival at Nanu Oya railway station you will be met by English speaking chauffeur guide with Car or Micro van. You will be transferred to selected hotel or bungalow in Nuwara Eliya. Journey from Nanu oya to Nuwara Eliya takes approximately 20minutes.

Lunch at the hotel and refresh yourself. Afternoon city tour of Nuwara Eliya, visit Gregory lake, Golf club and city.

Dinner & Overnight stay at the Hotel, Nuwara Eliya.



Day 02

Breakfast at the hotel and Excursion to Hortain plains by Jeep.



Horton Plains National Park – 20 miles (32 km) from Nuwara Eliya via Ambewela and Pattipola, is the Horton Plains only 3160 hectares in extent. Known to Sri Lankans as Mahaeliya, it became Horton Plains after Sir Robert Horton, British Governor from 1831- 1837.

Horton Plains became a Nature Reserve in 1969 and upgraded as a National Park in 1988 due to its unique watershed and bio-diversity values.

Its flora has high level of endemism. The hills are covered with diverse wet low evergreen forest with even large trees grown flattened to the ground on the higher windswept slopes.



Return to Nuwara Eliya and lunch at the hotel.

Afternoon visit a Tea Factory and Tea Plantations at Labukelle or Radella estate, where you taste the tea and experience of processing tea at the factory.

After completion return back to the hotel for Dinner & Overnight stay at the Hotel, Nuwara Eliya.

Day 03

After break you will be picked up by 0830Hrs and transfer to Nanu oya railway station to board the train to Colombo fort. Train leaves at 0935Hrs and will be arrive to Colombo fort stations by 1540Hrs.

Upon arrival at Colombo, you will be picked by taxi and transfer to your chosen hotel.

Optional: You can fly by Sri Lankan Air Taxi to Colombo with paying supplements

Single Pax	US\$620
02 Pax – Per Person	US\$345

- Included return fare on train – First class
- Half board basis at hotel accommodation
- Hotels will be used: St.Andrews, Grand Hotel, Hill Club, Nuwara Eliya
- Entrance to Horton plains + Jeep Hire
- Car hire with English speaking chauffeur guide

03 Nights 04 Days Excursion to Cultural Triangle

Day 01



Clients will be picked up from hotel at 0530Hrs and transfer to Colombo fort railway station to board the train to Anuradhapura. Please arrange packet breakfast from the hotel and you can have it in the train.

Departure from Colombo at 0545Hrs and arrival to Anuradhapura at 0940Hrs. On arrival at Anuradhapura station you will be met by English speaking chauffeur guide with A/C Car or Micro van. You will be transferred to selected hotel at Anuradhapura. After refreshment you will be taken for guided excursion around the ancient city of Anuradhapura. Please refer the description of Anuradhapura.

Anuradhapura - the capital of Sri Lanka from the 05th Century B.C. to the end of the 10th Century A.D. was the most celebrated of Sri Lanka's ancient ruined cities. The city's greatest treasures are its dagobas constructed of bricks and hemispherical in shape. The most notable of these dagobas are the Ruvanveliseya which dates back to the 2nd Century B.C. and is 300 feet in diameter, the Jetawanarama is 370 feet and the Thuparama Dagoba enshrines the collarbone of the Buddha. The city's most renowned relic is the sacred Bo Tree, which is said to have grown from a branch of the tree under which the Buddha gained Enlightenment. It was planted 2250 years ago and is the oldest historically authenticated tree in the world.

Dinner & Overnight stay at Selected Hotel in Anuradhapura.

Day 02



After Breakfast you leave for Sigiriya, and morning climb the Sigiriya Lion rock. Please refer the description of Sigiriya:

Sigiriya – is a “World Heritage Site” and the 5th Century “Fortress in the Sky” which is perhaps the most fantastic single wonder of the Island. It is also known as Lion Rock because of the huge lion that used to stand at the entrance to the Palace on the summit of the 600-foot high rock. On its summit are the foundations of the Royal Palace, Water Tanks to supply water and all other buildings and at the edges the guardhouses. On one of the stairways the only known ancient work of Sinhala secular painting survived in the form of Frescoes of 21 life sized damsels in all the freshness and delicacy of their original colour. The Water Gardens, Fountain Garden, summerhouse, Boulder Gardens and the Caves with the enclosed are should not be missed.

Lunch en route at local restaurant.

Afternoon visit Dambulla rock cave temple:

Dambulla - is a vast isolated rock mass 500 feet high and a mile around the base. Here is found the famous Rock Temple dating to the First Century B.C. The caves of Dambulla sheltered King Walagamba during his 14 years of exile from Anuradhapura. When he regained the throne he built the most magnificent of Rock Temples to be found in the Island.

After completion, Dinner & overnight stay Habarana Hotel.

Day 03



After Breakfast leave for Polonnaruwa, and complete sightseeing tour around Polonnaruwa. Please refer the description of Polonnaruwa.

Polonnaruwa – another “World Heritage Site” was the Capital of Sri Lanka from 11th - 13th Centuries, contains some splendid and spectacular statues. Lankatilake, Tivanka and Thuparama are the most beautiful and largest Image Houses and Tivanka has the best example of frescoes of the Polonnaruwa period. Rankoth Vehera and Kirivehera are well preserved large stupas, and Gal Vihare - a rock shrine, has four Buddha statues, two seated, one standing and one reclining and Parakrama Bahu statue are examples of Sinhalese stone carver. The Vata-da-ge is a unique creation of the Sri Lankan artists.

Lunch at Local restaurant.



Afternoon visit Minneriya National Park to do a safari at Minneriya National by 4x4 jeep. Minneriya National Park - This National Park with 8889 hectares in extent is famous for its large population of elephants in herds of 100 to 150 roaming in the jungle and seen in the catchment area of the lake. Entrance is at Ambagaswewa about 6 km from Habarana on the main Habarana Polonnaruwa road. Office is by the side of the main road. Elephants, about 300 wild elephants, wild buffaloes, wild boar, spotted deer, sloth bear, Sambar, leopards, crocodiles, jackals, 9 kinds of amphibians, 25 kinds of reptiles, 160 species of birds, 26 varieties of fishes, 78 varieties of butterflies are recorded from the Minneriya National Park. Evening return back to the hotel and dinner & overnight stay at Hotel at Habarana.

Day 04

After breakfast leave for Kekirawa to catch the train to Colombo fort. Train leaves at 1100Hrs and you will arrive to Colombo fort by 1525Hrs. customers advised to pick the packet lunch from the hotel.

Upon arrival at Colombo you will be picked by taxi and transfer to chosen hotel for drop off.

Single Pax	US\$895
02 Pax Per Person	US\$575

- Accommodation on Half board basis at the hotel
- Entrance fees for Anuradhapura, Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa, Dambulla, Minneriya National park
- Train fare return
- Car with English speaking chauffeur guide
- Hotels will be used: Palm garden Village/Hotel Sigiriya/Sigiriya Village/Chaaya Village

02 Nights 03 Days – Highlights of Sri Lanka

Day 01



0615Hrs : Pick up from the Colombo hotel and transfer to Fort Railway station to board the train to Kandy. Customers advised to organize the pack breakfast from hotel, while on the journey they can have the breakfast on the board.

Train leaves at 0700Hrs and arrival to Peradeniya station by 0900Hrs and you will be met by English speaking Chuffer guide with A/C Car or Micro van.

From Peradeniya drive to Pinnawela Elephant orphanage to see the Elephant bathing and baby baby elephants. Please refer the description of Pinnawela Elephant orphanage.

Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage - App. 55 miles from Colombo, off the Colombo - Kandy road is Pinnawela, where an orphanage was started in 1975 to house the abandoned and the wounded elephants. The number of elephants has increased to more than 65 now; including Baby Elephants brought from various parts, as well as the 23 babies born, as a result of the captive breeding programme. The best time to visit is the feeding time from 0930-1000 hrs and 1330-1400 hrs and the bathing time from 1000-1030 hrs and 1400-1430 hrs when all the elephants are taken to the river close by.

Drive to back to Kandy and en route visit Royal Botanical garden at Peradeniya. Lunch en route at local restaurant at Kandy + Shopping tour.

Evening visit Temple of the tooth relic and participate the ceremony and witness the Kandyan cultural show at Kandyan art centre.

Dinner & overnight stay at selected hotel, Kandy.

Day 02



After early breakfast leave for Sigiriya, and morning climb the Sigiriya lion rock, before it gets too hot. This will be marvelous experience and highlight of Sri Lanka.

Sigiriya – is a “World Heritage Site” and the 5th Century “Fortress in the Sky” which is perhaps the most fantastic single wonder of the Island. It is also known as Lion Rock because of the huge lion that used to stand at the entrance to the Palace on the summit of the 600-foot high rock. On its summit are the foundations of the Royal Palace, Water Tanks to supply water and all other buildings and at the edges the guardhouses. On one of the stairways the only known ancient work of Sinhala secular painting survived in the form of Frescoes of 21 life sized damsels in all the freshness and delicacy of their original colour. The Water Gardens, Fountain Garden, summerhouse, Boulder Gardens and the Caves with the enclosed are should not be missed.

Lunch en route at local restaurant. Afternoon visit Dambulla rock cave temple: Dambulla - is a vast isolated rock mass 500 feet high and a mile around the base. Here is found the famous Rock Temple dating to the First Century B.C. The caves of Dambulla sheltered King Walagamba during his 14 years of exile from Anuradhapura. When he regained the throne he built the most magnificent of Rock Temples to be found in the Island.

After completion, Return to Kandy and en route visit to Spice Garden and experience the spices of Sri Lanka.

Return to the hotel and Dinner & overnight stay at kandy Hotel.

Day 03

Breakfast at the hotel and morning leisure at the hotel and shopping tour around Kandy, visiting arts & craft centre and local markets. Lunch at local restaurant by 1300Hrs. After that you will be transfer to 1500Hrs train to Colombo. You will be arrive at 1745Hrs and you will pick up and transfer to Colombo hotel by taxi.

No of Pax	Standard Observation Saloon	Expo Rail	Rajadhani Express
Single Pax	US\$630	US\$650	US\$645
02 Pax - Per Person	US\$400	US\$420	US\$410

- Return train fare on Expo rail/Rajadhani Express
- Services with private car with English speaking chauffeur guide
- Half board accommodation at the prominent hotels
- Accommodation at Chaaya Citadel/Serene Garden/Hotel Topaz & Tourmaline, Swiss residence or Suisse Hotel, Kandy
- Entrance fees for Pinnawela, Kandy Temple, Royal botanical garden, Kandy City tour
- Sigiriya & Dambulla entrance

An insight to Train travel in Sri Lanka...

Travelling in trains in Sri Lanka is economical, safe and enjoyable way to get around. Trains link the major cities and have several classes:


■ 1st class sleeper. 1st class sleeping-berths are available on a few overnight trains. The cars have lockable 2-berth compartments with separate toilet and washbasin. Bedding is provided.

■ 1st class observation car. The 1st class observation car is highly recommended. It's available on the best daytime trains on the amazingly scenic route from Colombo to Kandy and Badulla. The observation car is normally at the rear of the train (occasionally behind the locomotive) and has comfortable armchairs facing a large window looking back along the track. Seats must be reserved before departure. Seats can be reserved within 10 days of departure, but book early as the observation car is very popular and gets booked up fast, especially during school holidays.

■ 1st class air-conditioned seats car. Only available on one or two InterCity Express trains between Colombo & Vavunia and Colombo & Batticaloa.

■ 2nd class seats, available on all trains. These come in several versions, depending on the train: (1) unreserved seats, where you buy a ticket, hop on and sit in any available seat, (2) reserved seats where you must make a reservation and you get an allocated seat, and (3) reserved 'sleeperette' reclining seats which are available on most overnight trains and recline to about 45 degrees for sleeping. 2nd class seats are the recommended option on trains with no 1st class.

■ 3rd class seats, available on most trains. These come in several versions, depending on the train: unreserved seats, reserved seats, and reserved 'sleeperette' reclining seats. 3rd class is very basic and gets very crowded, and it is not generally recommended for visitors.



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TRAIN TOUR OF SRI LANKA

(14 NTS. / 15 DAYS).

Day 01.



Arrival in Sri Lanka, to be met by a representative of Golden Isle Travels and transfer to Colombo Hotel.

Relax in the morning.

Afternoon go for a City tour of Colombo. Visit fort and Pettah area, fort Railway Station, the first Station in front of the Technical College and the Railway Museum at Maradana.

Dinner & overnight stay at the Colombo hotel.

Day 02.



After breakfast go by train to Negombo via Ragama. You will be picked up from the Station and taken for a city tour.

Lunch at the Negombo Hotel

Afternoon return to Colombo by Train from Negombo.

Dinner & overnight stay at the Colombo hotel.

Day 03.



After early breakfast proceed Fort Railway Station and join “Udarata Menike” Express Train to Nuwara Eliya in the Observation Saloon (subject to availability only).

Picnic lunch on the Train.

At about 3.30 p.m. you will be picked up at the Nanuoya Railway Station and transfer to Hotel in, Nuwara Eliya.

In the evening go for a walk to the City. Visit the Market and Victoria Park close by and walk back to the hotel.

Dinner & overnight stay at Hotel in Nuwara Eliya.

Day 04.



After breakfast go for a short trek to the jungle area behind the hotel with the resident Naturalist.

See the bird life in the mountain area, trees & plants found in the cooler areas, reptiles, Monkeys and beautiful flowering plants.

Afternoon go for a City tour in the vehicle including a visit to the Hakgala Botanical Gardens. If prefer, go for a short game of Golf in the beautiful 18-hole Golf Course.

Dinner & overnight stay at Hotel in, Nuwara Eliya.

Day 05.



After breakfast leave for Kandy via Ramboda and Peradeniya. On the way visit Labukele Tea Factory to see the processing of Tea and see Tea Pluckers, Ramboda falls (329 feet high) tea factories and beautiful vistas.

At Peradeniya visit the Royal Botanical Gardens and walk in the 147-acre Gardens to see some of the 4,000 species of trees & plants, Orchid House and other interesting sections of the gardens.

Afternoon visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, other sites in the city and in the evening go for a Kandyan Dance performance.

(Optional – At 1.15 p.m. be at the Nanu-oya Railway Station and join the Train to Kandy, The vehicle will pick you up at the Peradeniya Station and will take you for a City tour).

Dinner & overnight stay at the selected hotel in, Kandy.

Day 06.



After early breakfast go by vehicle to Pinnawela and visit the Elephant Orphanage there to see more than 65 Elephants at the Orphanage. Then leave for Pothuhera Station via Rambukkana. Join the Train to Anuradhapura.

The vehicle will pick you up at the Anuradhapura Station and transfer you to the Hotel. Afternoon visit Sri Maha Bo Tree, Ruvanwelisaya, Thuparamaya and other monuments, Evening return to Hotel.

Dinner & overnight stay at the selected hotel in, Anuradhapura.

Day 07.



After breakfast visit the remaining monuments at Anuradhapura and then leave for Mihintale on the way to Polonnaruwa.

Climb 1840 steps and see the monuments. Leave for Polonnaruwa via Habarana. Afternoon see the monuments in the Medieval Capital of Polonnaruwa. Evening visit the Polonnaruwa Museum - one of the best Museums in the country. Proceed to Giritale for the night.

Dinner & overnight stay at the selected hotel, Giritale.

Day 08.

Early morning leave for Kavudulla National Park. Go up to the entrance by vehicle, get in to a Jeep and enter the National Park to see Wild Elephants, other animals and large number of aquatic birds found in the large lake.

Then leave for Sigiriya via Habarana.



Afternoon climb Sigiriya to see the remains of the fortress dating to 5th C.A.D.

Dinner & overnight stay at the selected hotel in, Dambulla.

Day 09.

After breakfast leave for Dambulla. See the paintings and statues in the 5 cave temples and then leave for Kekirawa Railway Station. Take a train from Kekirawa to Colombo.

The vehicle will be at the Fort Railway Station in Colombo to pick up and transfer to Hotel.

(Optional; you have the option of returning to Colombo by vehicle instead of the Train journey).



Dinner & overnight stay at the Selected hotel in Colombo.

Day 10.



Morning leave for Galle by Train in the “Ruhunu Kumari” Express Train from Colombo Fort Station. You will be picked up at the Galle Station and transfer to Lighthouse Hotel. Afternoon visit the Dutch fort of Galle- a “World Heritage Site”. Walk in the narrow streets, visit the private museum and several of the Bastions out of 15 bastions. Evening drive up to Unawatuna Beach and back to the Hotel.

Dinner & overnight stay at the Selected hotel in Galle.

Day 11.

After breakfast leave for Matara by Train from Galle and from there by vehicle to Hambantota. Check-in at the Oasis Hotel. Afternoon visit Udawalawe National Park by Jeep to see Wild Elephants and other animals. Return to Hotel in the evening.



Dinner & overnight stay at the selected hotel in Hambantota.

Day 12.



Leave for Colombo via Embilipitiya, Ratnapura and Avissawella. At Ratnapura visit a Gem pit to see the method of mining for Gemstones. Visit a Gem Museum to see different types of Gemstones found in Sri Lanka.

Evening arrive in Colombo.

Dinner & overnight stay at the Selected hotel in Colombo.

Day 13.



Free day in Colombo for shopping and/or relaxation.

Dinner & overnight at the Selected hotel in Colombo.

Day 14.

Transfer to Airport for departure.

*All Prices mentioned subject to change

For Details :

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