Explore the Jewel of the Indian Ocean!

SRI LANKA
Natural Heritage & Cultural Wonders
January 25 - February 7, 2019

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Air fare (quoted as an example for a San Francisco departure):

First Class: $1,495 per person one-way from San Francisco.

Trip Fee:

$4,995 per person twin share (plus air fare of $1,495 per person to Sri Lanka).

Reservations, Deposits, & Payments: Please send a deposit of $1,000 per person with the completed reservation form to:

Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

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17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

Telephone: (408) 252 1444
Fax: (408) 252 4910
Email: BetchartTerri@gmail.com

Trip Cancellations & Refunds:

Full refund of deposits except a handling fee of $100 per person is withheld if written cancellation is received at least 60 days before departure. There is no refund of deposit if received less than 60 days before departure. There is no refund for unused meals or other expedition features. Debit, credit card, and traveler's check deposits are accepted. Cancellations made less than 60 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of all monies received except a handling fee of $100 per person. There is no refund of deposit if received less than 60 days before departure. We recommend travel insurance for any refundable deposits. Travel insurance is recommended.

What to Expect:

This expedition is for travelers who would like to explore the natural and cultural attractions of Sri Lanka, including the world famous ancient temples, and an abundance of endemic flora, birds, butterflies, and marine life. The expedition is led by an excellent Sri Lanka naturalist and botanist. The whole adventure is a rich natural history tour of this fascinating country, from early Buddhist temples to the lush vegetation and waterways of the island of Ceylon (Sri Lanka), situated like a tear drop in the Indian Ocean, just south of India!

Join us for a delightful adventure to the Jewel of the Indian Ocean, just south of India!

ITINERARY

Day 1/2  San Francisco to Colombo, Sri Lanka

Day 3  Mulhurazajal Marshes to Habarana & Dambulla World Heritage Site

Day 4  Ritigala Nature Reserve

Day 5  Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Day 6  Dambulla Cave Temples

Day 7  Leelawadya Caves

Day 8  Kandy

Day 9  Long Kitul Plantation

Day 10  Pidurangala Mountain

Day 11  Kandy to Colombo

Day 12  Colombo to San Francisco

We invite you to join this botanical and cultural adventure to the exotic and fascinating land of Sri Lanka, led by Dr. Neela de Zoysa, an outstanding Sri Lankan botanist, and Dr. Erwin Oo, a popular naturalist and expedition leader. Neela has done more than a decade of research in the Sinharaja Forest Reserve, an authority on the local flora and fauna, and is familiar with the diverse ecosystems, flora and fauna of this land of serendipity, from early Buddhist temples to the lush vegetation and waterways of the island of Ceylon (Sri Lanka), situated like a tear drop in the Indian Ocean, just south of India! Explore this fascinating jewel of a country, led by Dr. Neela de Zoysa, an outstanding botanist and naturalist from Sri Lanka.

Our adventure in Sri Lanka will begin as we tour through this wetland and bird sanctuary on Negombo Lagoon. Look for painted storks, lesser whistling ducks, and other waterbirds. The wetlands have nearly 200 species of flora and fauna, including coconut palms and bamboos, and is familiar with the diverse ecosystems, flora and fauna of this land of serendipity, from early Buddhist temples to the lush vegetation and waterways of the island of Ceylon (Sri Lanka), situated like a tear drop in the Indian Ocean, just south of India!

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Days 1/2  San Francisco to Colombo, Sri Lanka


Day 3  Mutulrazajala Marshes to Habarana & Dambulla World Heritage Site

Our adventure in Sri Lanka will begin as we explore the Mutulrazajala Marshes on a boat tour through this wetland and bird sanctuary on Negombo Lagoon. Look for painted storks, lesser whistling ducks, and other waterbirds. The wetlands have nearly 200 species of flora and fauna, including coconut palms and bamboos, and is familiar with the diverse ecosystems, flora and fauna of this land of serendipity, from early Buddhist temples to the lush vegetation and waterways of the island of Ceylon (Sri Lanka), situated like a tear drop in the Indian Ocean, just south of India!

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Explore this fascinating jewel of a country, led by Dr. Neela de Zoysa, an outstanding botanist and naturalist from Sri Lanka.
The Jewel of the Indian Ocean!

Discover SRI LANKA

ACS & Sigma Xi Expeditions

Our adventure to Sri Lanka will begin as we explore the Muthurajawela Marshes on a boat tour through this wetland and bird sanctuary on Negombo Lagoon. Look for painted storks, heron, wading birds, and other wildlife. The wetlands have nearly 200 species of flora and small mammals, lizards, and butterflies.

On the way to Colombo, we will visit the Dambulla cave temples, known for its rich cultural history with recent European influence from the Portuguese, Dutch, and British.

We will spend the night at the Gateway Hotel.

On Day 2, we will explore the Sigiriya Rock fortress, known as the 8th wonder of the world. This rock fortress stands over 200m above the surrounding plain and was built as a palace by King Kasyapa in the 4th century BC. Today, the fortress is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

On Day 3, we will explore the Sigiriya Rain Forest, an authority on the local flora and fauna. Neela has done more than a decade of research in the Sinharaja Rain Forest, an authority on the local flora and fauna. She is a popular naturalist and expedition leader.

Explore many of the scenic, natural and cultural wonders of Sri Lanka, led by an excellent Sri Lanka expedition leader. Neela has done more than a decade of research in the Sinharaja Rain Forest, an authority on the local flora and fauna. She is a popular naturalist and expedition leader. Neela has done more than a decade of research in the Sinharaja Rain Forest, an authority on the local flora and fauna. She is a popular naturalist and expedition leader.
Day 3   Yala National Park  (2 nights)
We will drive about five hours to Sinharaja Forest Reserve to explore Yala National Park, whose varied landscape includes rock outcrops, scrub jungle, and most of them are rare. There is an abundance of endemic wildlife from birds to mammals, butterflies and insects. A special feature is the mixed flock of feeding birds, where more than 42 species feed together, making it the world’s largest. Of the 22 endemic birds found in Sri Lanka, all 20 rainforest species are found in Sinharaja. On Day 6 we will explore Yala National Park, whose varied landscape includes rock outcrops, scrub jungle, and most of them are rare. There is an abundance of endemic wildlife from birds to mammals, butterflies and insects.

Day 6  Nuwara Eliya to Yala National Park
The Resplendent Land of Serendipity

The misty slopes of the finest tea plantations in the world. Its cool climate, a 5th-century palace. Hidden in a cave along the coast. In the evening, we will explore the forest lowlands. En route to Kandy, visit a spice garden in Matale. Arrive for Nuwara Eliya, at the foot of Sri Lanka’s tallest mountain, once called Little Adam’s Peak. Horton Plains is a wild area of black, high-altitude meadow with peaks. The Shire of World’s End and Baker’s Falls are among the attractions of the park. Montane evergreen forests also cover the park. Feel the cool, wet climate which has fostered the flora of South Asia. It is a one-hour walk from the base and explore the forest lowlands. En route to Kandy, visit a spice garden in Matale. Arrive for Nuwara Eliya, at the foot of Sri Lanka’s tallest mountain, once called Little Adam’s Peak. The Shire of World’s End and Baker’s Falls are among the attractions of the park. Montane evergreen forests also cover the park. Feel the cool, wet climate which has fostered the flora of South Asia.

Day 4  Nuwara Eliya to Yala National Park
Today we will drive to Yala and check in at the Safari Hotel. See the process of making the finest Ceylon tea and sample different blends. Grand Hotel (2 nights)

Day 7  Horton Plains National Park
Leave for Horton Plains National Park, this morning, two hours from Nuwara Eliya. Perched on the edge of the central hills, Horton Plains is a wild area of black, high-altitude meadow with peaks. The Shire of World’s End and Baker’s Falls are among the attractions of the park. Montane evergreen forests also cover the park. Feel the cool, wet climate which has fostered the flora of South Asia. It is a one-hour walk from the base and explore the forest lowlands. En route to Kandy, visit a spice garden in Matale. Arrive for Nuwara Eliya, at the foot of Sri Lanka’s tallest mountain, once called Little Adam’s Peak. The Shire of World’s End and Baker’s Falls are among the attractions of the park. Montane evergreen forests also cover the park. Feel the cool, wet climate which has fostered the flora of South Asia.

Day 5  Yala National Park  (2 nights)
We will drive about five hours to Sinharaja Forest Reserve today. This is a global biodiversity hotspot, the island’s last extensive reach of virgin rainforest. More than 65% of the trees are endemic, and most of them are rare. There is an abundance of endemic wildlife from birds to mammals, butterflies and insects.

Day 8/9  Nuwara Eliya to Yala National Park
The Resplendent Land of Serendipity

Today we will drive to Yala and check in at the Safari Hotel. See the process of making the finest Ceylon tea and sample different blends. Grand Hotel (2 nights)

Day 10/11  Yala - Sinharaja UNESCO World Heritage Site
We will drive about five hours to Sinharaja Forest Reserve today. This is a global biodiversity hotspot, the island’s last extensive reach of virgin rainforest. More than 65% of the trees are endemic, and most of them are rare. There is an abundance of endemic wildlife from birds to mammals, butterflies and insects. A special feature is the mixed flock of feeding birds, where more than 42 species feed together, making it the world’s largest. Of the 22 endemic birds found in Sri Lanka, all 20 rainforest species are found in Sinharaja.

Day 12  Galle Fort UNESCO World Heritage Site
Today we will drive to Galle. This was the site where the Dutch founded their modern city. In the evening, we will explore the walls of the Historic Galle Fort, and more!

Day 13/14 Galle to Colombo & USA
We will fly to Colombo this morning before return flight to the USA. Arrive San Francisco on Day 14.
narrowing plains. On its summit are the remains of a 5th-century palace. Hidden in a cave along the cliffside are ruins of the most magnificent ancient fortresses in South Asia. It is a one-hour hike to the top. If you prefer, you can rent at the base and explore the forested landlocks. En route, visit Kandy, to see a spice garden in Matale. After lunch, visit the Royal Botanical Gardens, founded in 1824 and containing a valuable collection of plants and trees. It is renowned for its orchids. Among other highlights are the special tour of the Royal Botanical Gardens,Nuwara Eliya

This morning, we will drive to Peradeniya for a special tour of the Royal Botanical Gardens, founded in 1842 and containing a valuable collection of plants and trees. It is renowned for its orchids. Among other highlights are the special tour of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Nuwara Eliya.

Day 7 Horton Plains National Park
Leave for the Horton Plains National Park, this morning, two hours from Nuwara Eliya. Perched on the edge of the central hills, Horton Plains is a wild expanse of bleak, high-altitude moorland, with peaks up to 7,500 feet. The sheer precipice of World’s End and Baker’s Falls are among the attractions of the park. Montane evergreen forests also cover the park.

The cool, wet climate which has fostered growth of a distinctive range of flora, including rhododendrons, bamboo, tree ferns, and many endemic species of plants, thus making the Plains an area of great biological value. It is populated by sambar and bead-dyed monkeys, plus such endemic birds as the skulking flycatcher, bush warbler, whistling thrush, and orange minivet.

The Resplendent Land

The stately country of Sri Lanka has a long history of names. The Sinhalese (the majority of the population) call it “Sri Lanka” after the classical name in Sanskrit. The Portuguese called it “Ceylon.” In the 18th century, British explorer Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles named the island “Ceylon.” The Georgians called it “Ceylon” after the Greek word “sepalron,” meaning “golden.” The Portuguese gave it the name “Ceylon,” from the name of the peoples from whom it was called. Sri Lanka is a one-hour drive from Kandy. In 1972 they returned to the name, and added “Sri,” which means “resplendent” or “exquisite” in their language.

Today Sri Lanka is a wide variety of mountainous heritage, aromatic spices, and scenic landscapes, to make it truly a “resplendent land of serendipity.”

This evening visit Hakgala Botanical Garden, founded in 1883. This was the site where experiments occurred with cinchona, whose bark yielded quinine, widely used at that time as a remedy for malaria.

Day 8/9 Yala National Park

Today we will drive to Yala and check in at midday. Afternoon at leisure. On Day 9, we will explore Yala National Park, where varied landscapes include river estuaries, scrub jungle, lagoons, and beaches. It is one of the few places where it is relatively easy to see leopards strolling beside the track or draped elegantly in a tree. About 400 wild elephants inhabit the park, plus wild buffalo, mack doe, maracca, jackals, and many birds. The dense, tall forest has many flowering trees and rare tropical trees such as the protected shy tree. Many plants are of great medicinal value. The Safar Hotel (2 nights)

Days 10/11 Yala - Sinharaja UNESCO World Heritage Site

We will drive about five hours to Sinharaja Forest Reserve today. This is a global biodiversity hotspot, the island’s last extensive stretch of virgin rainforest. More than 95% of the trees are endemic, and most of them are rare. There is an abundance of endemic wildlife from birds to mammals, butterflies and insects.

A special feature is the mixed flock of breeding birds, where more than 42 species co-exist, making it the world’s largest. Of 26 endemic birds found in Sri Lanka, all 20 rainforest species are found in Sinharaja.

On Day 11 we will explore this magnificent rainforest. Rain Forest Eco Lodge (2 nights)

Day 12 Galle UNESCO World Heritage Site

Today we will drive about three hours to Galle on the coast. In the evening, we will explore the city with a Galle Fort resident and author, will learn about the bloody battle in 1640 between the Dutch and Portuguese, and about the war walls of the Historic Galle Fort, and more! Flikka View by Cinnamon Hotel.

Days 13/14 Galle to Colombo & USA

Today we will transfer to the airport for the return flight to the USA. Arrive San Francisco on Day 14.
The Resplendent Land of Serendipity

The Sinhalese people of Sri Lanka have had a long history of interaction with nature. The island has a diverse range of flora and fauna, including rhododendrons, bamboo, trees, and many endemic species of plants. Thus, the island is a great geological value. It is populated by sambar and bear-faced monkeys, plus such endemic birds as the sikhoe blue fly-catcher, baux warbler, whistling-thrush, and orange minivet.

On this adventure, we will visit the Horton Plains National Park, where it is relatively easy to see leopards strolling on the forest floor. We will explore Yala National Park, which is home to a variety of wildlife, including elephants, leopards, and more than 42 species of birds. We will also visit the Sinharaja Forest Reserve, which is home to one of the world’s last remaining cool, tropical rainforests.

Day 1  Welcoming Reception

Day 2  Mirissa

Day 3  Galle Fort UNESCO World Heritage Site

Day 4  Phillies
day

Day 5  Yala National Park

Day 6  Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens

Day 7  Horton Plains National Park

Day 8/9  Yala - Sinharaja UNESCO Heritage Site

Day 10/11  Yala - Sinharaja UNESCO Heritage Site

Day 12  Galle Fort UNESCO World Heritage Site

Day 13  Galle to Colombo & USA

Day 14  Return Flights to USA

For more information visit our website: www.betchartexpeditions.com

Responsibility

Betchart Expeditions Inc. accepts full responsibility for all participants in this program. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. The right is also reserved to substitute another hotel or route to Kandy, visit a spice garden in Matale. Arrive Chikmagalur, Karnataka.

Day 6  Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens

This morning, we will drive to Peradeniya for a special tour of the Royal Botanical Gardens, founded in 1824 and containing a valuable collection of plants and trees. It is renowned for its orchids. Among other highlights are the avenue of palms, planted in 1901, and large colonies of Fruit bats, feeding and hanging upside down from the trees.

Visit to Kandy, visit a spice garden in Matale. Arrive Chikmagalur, Karnataka.

Day 7  Horton Plains National Park

Leave for the Horton Plains National Park, this morning. Two hours from Nuwara Eliya. Perched on the edge of the central hills, Horton Plains is a wild stretch of black, high-altitude moorland with peaks up to 7,500 feet. The sheer precipice of World’s End and Baker’s Falls are among the attractions of the park. Montane evergreen forests also cover the park.

Felt the cool, wet climate which has fostered growth of a distinctive range of flora, including rhododendrons, bamboo, trees, and many endemic species of plants, thus making the island an area of great biological value. It is populated by sambar and bear-faced monkeys, plus such endemic birds as the sikhoe blue fly-catcher, baux warbler, whistling-thrush, and orange minivet.

The Horton Plains National Park is a protected area of 15,741 acres and is located in the Western Ghats. It is one of the wettest places on earth, with an average annual rainfall of 4,000-6,000 millimeters. The park is home to a variety of wildlife, including elephants, leopards, and more than 42 species of birds. The Horton Plains National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Days 8/9  Nuwara Eliya to Yala National Park

Today we will drive to Yala and check in at midday. Afternoon at leisure. On Day 9, we will explore Yala National Park, where we will see the protected sandy tree. Many plants are of great medicinal value. The Safari Hotel (2 nights)

Days 10/11  Yala - Sinharaja UNESCO Heritage Site

We will drive about five hours to Sinharaja Forest Reserve today. This is a global biodiversity hotspot, the island’s last extensive reach of virgin rainforest. More than 60% of the trees are endemic, and most of them are rare. There is an abundance of endemic wildlife from birds to mammals, butterflies and insects.

A special feature is the mixed flock of feeding birds, where more than 42 species feed together, making it the world’s largest. Of the 22 endemic birds found in Sri Lanka, all 20 relevant species are found in Sinharaja.

On Day 11 we will explore this magnificent park. Rain Forest Eco Lodge (2 nights)

Day 12  Yala - Sinharaja UNESCO Heritage Site

Today we will drive about three hours to Galle with a Galle Fort resident and author, will explore the city with a Galle Fort resident and author, will visit the Galle Fort UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Galle Fort is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the most important historical sites in Sri Lanka. It was built by the Dutch in the 17th century and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The fort is located on the southern coast of Sri Lanka and is home to a variety of wildlife, including elephants, leopards, and more than 42 species of birds.

Days 13/14  Galle to Colombo & USA

Today we will transfer to the airport for the return flight to the USA. Arrive San Francisco on Day 14.
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ACS & Sigma Xi Expeditions

Accommodations: Separate air-conditioned bungalows, most in comfortable lodges and hotels, twin share with a private bath. Limited single accommodation is available for a supplement of $995. Accommodations are in comfortable lodges and hotels, twin share with a private bath. Limited single accommodation is available for a supplement of $995.

Exploration at elevations from sea level to the mountain slopes to the Horton Plains National Park up to 6,000-7,000 feet. This expedition will be a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for exploration, from lunch on Day 3 to breakfast on Day 13; entrance fees; land transport; group airport administration.

Betchart Expeditions (800) 252-4910

What to Expect: The expedition is for travelers who would like to explore the natural heritage and cultural wonders of Sri Lanka, including:

— Sigiriya, the dramatic rock fortress and a UNESCO World Heritage Site
— Yala and Horton Plains National Parks, with a profusion of elephants and possibly a leopard strolling along the track!
— The lush slopes covered with tea plantations as you traverse the cool mountainous highlands
— A splendid avenue of palms and renowned for its orchids and fruit bats.
— The whole adventure is a rich natural and cultural experience in a strikingly beautiful country with excellent reserves and fascinating historic sites.

This expedition is for travelers who would like to explore the natural heritage and cultural wonders of Sri Lanka, led by Dr. Neela de Zoysa, an outstanding botanist and naturalist from Sri Lanka. Leading this expedition will be Sri Lankan botanist Neela de Zoysa, who has done more than any other in the field of herbarium science and biodiversity research. Neela has been involved in the formulation of climate change policy for Sri Lanka under the auspices of the United Nations. Neela looks forward to the botanical and ecological exploration of Sri Lanka, and will also share the country’s rich cultural history with recent European influence from the Portuguese, Dutch, and British.

ITINERARY

Day 1: 2 San Francisco to Colombo, Sri Lanka

Day 3: Muthurajawela Marshes to Colombo
This expedition to Sri Lanka will begin as we explore the Muthurajawela Marshes on a boat tour through this wetland and bird sanctuary on Negombo Lagoon. Look for painted storks, lesser whistling ducks, and other waterbirds. The wetlands have nearly 200 species of flora and 250 species of mammals.

Next we will have a half-day drive northeast to Habarana. En route visit the World Heritage Dambulla Rock Cave Temple Complex; our hotel tonight is the Village by Cinnamon, a splendid avenue of palms and renowned for its orchids and fruit bats.

Reservations, Deposits, & Payments: Please mail a deposit of $1,000 per person with the completed reservation form to:
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The balance is due 60 days before departure.

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Tel: 408-252-4910 or 408-252-4909
Fax: (408) 252 1444 or (408) 252 4910
Email: betchart@betchart.com

Betchart Expeditions Inc.
2010 Blackhawk Road
San Carlos, CA 94070

Deposit is non-refundable. Between 60 and 30 days prior to departure a $150.00 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds that period and no partial trip refunds are made. There are no refunds for any reason after departure.

Day 4: Sigiriya Rock Fortress — Kandy
We invite you to join this botanical and cultural adventure to Sri Lanka. Explore this fascinating jewel of a country, led by Dr. Neela de Zoysa, an outstanding botanist and naturalist from Sri Lanka. Explore many of the scenic, natural, and botanical wonders of Sri Lanka, including:

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— Yala and Horton Plains National Parks, with a profusion of elephants and possibly a leopard strolling along the track!
— The lush slopes covered with tea plantations as you traverse the cool mountainous highlands
— A splendid avenue of palms and renowned for its orchids and fruit bats.
— Sinharaja World Heritage Site, a global biodiversity hotspot with virgin rainforest — Sinharaja World Heritage Site, a global biodiversity hotspot with virgin rainforest

Also learn about the rich cultural heritage of this land of serendipity, from early Buddhist times to its Portuguese, Dutch, and British influences!

Join us for a delightful adventure to the Jewel of the Indian Ocean!

Best Regards,
Margaret Betchart
President
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
for AAAS, Sigma Xi & ACS

Costs & Conditions

The price for this trip per person, based on triple share, is $4,995 per person twin share (plus air fare of $1,495 per person from San Francisco to Sri Lanka, round trip).

Exploration Fee Includes: Land transport; group airport administration.

Trip Fee: Expedition Fee Includes:
— Air fare (quoted separately); independent transfers; some meals; gratuity to administration.

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Day 5: Sigiriya Rock Fortress — Kandy

In the 1st century BC, the first king of the Sinhalese kingdoms built his capital at Polonnaruwa from which his successors ruled for several centuries. In the 8th century AD, the capital was moved to the modern capital city, Colombo, situated like a tear drop in the Indian Ocean, just south of India!

Explore this fascinating jewel of a country, led by Dr. Neela de Zoysa, an outstanding botanist and naturalist from Sri Lanka.

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Leadership

Leading this expedition is Sri Lankan botanist Neela de Zoysa, who has done more than any other in the field of herbarium science and biodiversity research. Neela has been involved in the formulation of climate change policy for Sri Lanka under the auspices of the United Nations. Neela looks forward to the botanical and ecological exploration of Sri Lanka, and will also share the country’s rich cultural history with recent European influence from the Portuguese, Dutch, and British.