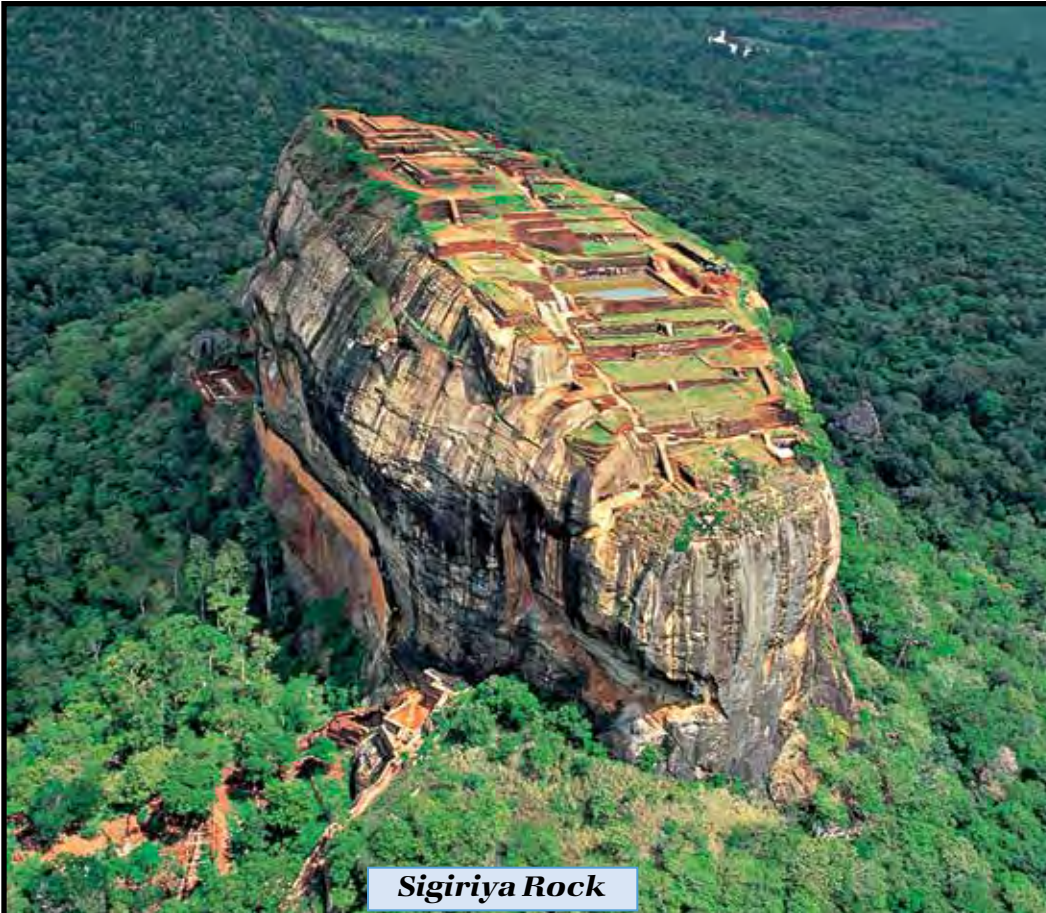


Explore the Jewel of the Indian Ocean!
SRI LANKA
Natural Heritage & Cultural Wonders
 February 8-22, 2018



Sigiriya Rock



We invite you to join this botanical and cultural adventure of discovery to the lush tropical isle of Sri Lanka (formerly called Ceylon), situated like a tear drop in the Indian Ocean, just south of India!

Explore this fascinating jewel of a country, led by Neela de Zoysa, an outstanding botanist and naturalist from Sri Lanka who has been a popular instructor for the Society since 2011.

Discover many of the scenic, natural and botanic wonders of Sri Lanka, including:

- Sigiriya, the dramatic rock fortress and World Heritage Site, renowned worldwide!
- Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens, with a splendid avenue of palms and renowned for its orchids and fruit bats.
- Sinharaja World Heritage Site, a global biodiversity hotspot with virgin rainforest and an abundance of endemic flora, birds, and butterflies.

– Yala and Horton Plains National Parks, with a profusion of elephants and possibly a leopard strolling along the track!

Delight in the lush slopes covered with tea plantations as you traverse the cool mountainous highlands.

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



LEADERSHIP

Leading this expedition will be Sri Lankan botanist **Neela de Zoysa**, a popular instructor at New England Wild Flower Society since 2011. Neela has done more than a decade of research in the Sinharaja Rain Forest, is an authority on the local palms and bamboos, and is familiar with the diverse ecoregions, flora and fauna of the Island. She has been affiliated with the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan Forest Department and Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum. She has a BS from the University of Colombo and Masters from the Oxford Forestry Institute. Most recently Neela has been involved with Climate Change policy formulation for Sri Lanka under the auspices of the United Nations.

Neela looks forward to this 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

Days 1/3 Boston to Colombo, Sri Lanka

Depart Boston's Logan International Airport for Colombo, Sri Lanka, via Dubai. Arrive on the morning of Day 3. Transfer to *Gateway Hotel*. Welcome dinner and trip orientation.

Day 4 Muthurajawela Marshes to Habarana & Dambulla World Heritage Site

Our adventure in 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 in seven major vegetation types.

Next we will have a half-day drive northeast to Habarana. En route visit the World Heritage Dambulla site, known for its richly painted

cave temples. We will also see the colossal figure of the recumbent Buddha. *Village by Cinnamon (2 nights)*.

Day 5 Ritigala Nature Reserve

Today we will go to Ritigala to explore the range of mountains that make up one of the three strict nature reserves in Sri Lanka. Ritigala is the highest peak in the range. The unusual climate at the higher elevations at Ritigala has allowed a vigorous and plentiful flora, with many unusual plants and medicinal herbs. Ritigala Strict Nature Reserve is one of the biodiversity hot spots in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka.

Day 6 Sigiriya Rock Fortress World Heritage Site Matale Spice Garden—Kandy

Today we will explore Sigiriya Rock fortress, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982. This rock fortress stands over 200m above the





surrounding plains. On its summit are the remains of a 5th-century palace. Hidden in a cave along the citadel are some of the most magnificent ancient frescoes in South Asia. It is a one-hour hike to the top. If you prefer, you can remain at the base and explore the forest lowlands. En route to Kandy, visit a spice garden in Matale. *Hotel Topaz, Kandy.*

Day 7 Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens Nuwara Eliya

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 1905, and large colonies of fruit bats, roosting and hanging upside down from the trees.

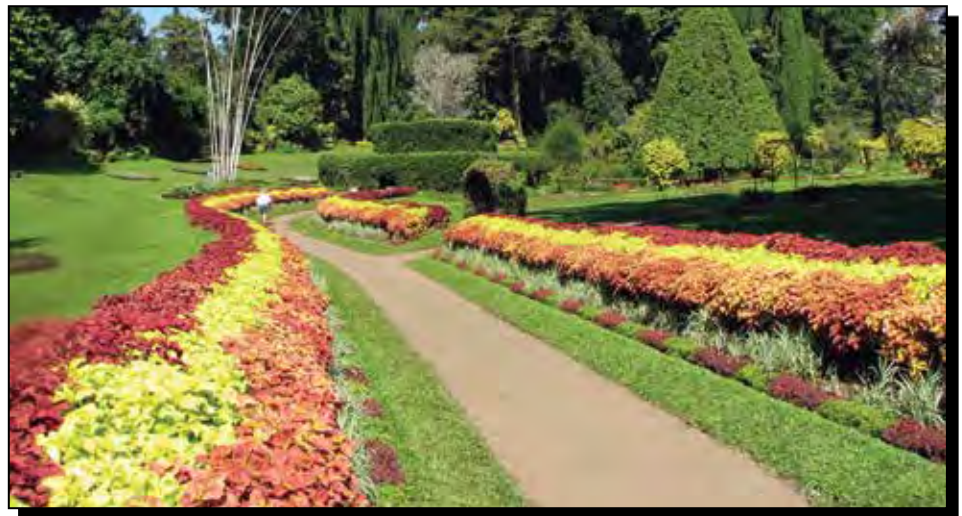
Depart for Nuwara Eliya, at the foot of Sri Lanka's tallest mountain, once called Little England. It is at 6,100 feet elevation and has some of the finest tea plantations in the world. Its cool temperatures are a pleasant contrast to tropical weather elsewhere on the island. Visit the Petro Estate and see the

workings of a tea factory. See the process of making the finest Ceylon tea and sample different blends. *Grand Hotel (2 nights).*

Day 8 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 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.

Feel the cool, wet climate which has fostered growth of a distinctive range of flora, including rhododendrons, bamboos, tree ferns, and many endemic species of plants, thus making the Plains an area of great biological value. It is populated by sambhur and bear-faced monkeys, plus such endemic birds as the dull-blue fly-catcher, bush warbler, whistling thrush, and orange minarets.





The Resplendent Land of Serendipity

The idyllic country of Sri Lanka has a long history of names. The Sinhalese (the vast majority of today's population) call it "Lanka" (after the classical name in the Epic Ramayana). Today's Tamils (on the northern end of the island) call it "Ilankai." The first Romans called it "Taprobane." The Tamils gave it the name "Serendib," the origin of the word "serendipity," which describes it beautifully.

The Portuguese gave it the name "Ceilao," from the name of the people themselves—Sinhalese. The Dutch modified it to "Ceylan," and when the British ruled the island it was called Ceylon. In 1972 they returned to the original name "Lanka" and added "Sri," which means "resplendent" or "auspicious" in their language.

Today Sri Lanka is a wonderful mixture of ancient heritage, aromatic spices, and scenic landscapes, to make it truly a "resplendent land of serendipity."

This evening visit Hakgala Botanical Garden, founded in 1860. This was the site where experiments occurred with cinchona, whose bark yielded quinine, widely used at that time as a remedy for malaria.

Days 9/10 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, whose varied landscape includes rock outcrops, 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, musk deer, macaques, jackals, and many birds. The dense, tall forest has many flowering trees and rare tropical trees such as

the protected ebony tree. Many plants are of great medicinal value. *The Safari Hotel (2 nights)*

Days 11/12 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 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 its mixed flock of feeding birds, where more than 42 species feed together, making it the world's largest. Of the 26 endemic birds found in Sri Lanka, all 20 rainforest species are found in Sinharaja.

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

Day 13 Galle Fort 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, who





will help us discover the rich heritage of this site. Learn about the bloody battle in 1640 between the Dutch and Portuguese, and about the coral walls of the Historic Galle Fort, and more! *Hikka Tranz by Cinnamon Hotel.*

Days 14/15 Galle to Colombo & USA

Today we will transfer to the airport for our return flights to the USA. Arrive Boston on Day 15.



RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc., AAAS Travels, ACS and Sigma Xi Expeditions act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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Map by April Milne.

CST# 2036304-40

RESERVATIONS #1485 BEI

Yes! I/we want to join the **Sri Lanka Expedition, February 8-22, 2018**, offered by **Betchart Expeditions Inc.** Please reserve ___ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for \$_____ (\$1,000 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) _____ Age _____

_____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____

Work (_____) _____

Email Address _____

Membership: ___ NEWFS ___ AAAS ___ Sigma Xi ___ ACS

Accommodations Preference:

___ Twin ___ Single Twin Share: ___ with a friend or

___ Nonsmoker ___ Smoker ___ assign a roommate

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

**Please Mail To: Sri Lanka Expedition 2018
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**



AAAS Travels ACS & Sigma Xi Expeditions

BETCHART EXPEDITIONS Inc.

17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435



FIRST CLASS

Discover SRI LANKA
The Jewel of the Indian Ocean!
February 8-22, 2018

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Trip Fee: \$4,995 per person twin share (plus air fare of \$1,295 per person from Boston to Sri Lanka, round trip).

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport; group airport transfers; accommodations twin share; meals as indicated from lunch on Day 3 to dinner on Day 13; entrance fees; tips to local guides and drivers; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Air fare (quoted separately); independent transfers; some meals; gratuity to expedition leader; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, beverages at meals, alcoholic beverages, snacks; personal insurance or passport.

What to Expect: This expedition is for travelers who would like to explore the natural heritage and cultural wonders of the island of Ceylon (Sri Lanka), led by an excellent Sri Lanka naturalist and botanist. The whole adventure is a rich natural history and cultural experience in a strikingly beautiful country with excellent reserves and fascinating historic sites.

Walks will be at a suitable pace for discovery and exploration at elevations from sea level to the mountain slopes to the Horton Plains National Park up to 6,000-7,000 feet (the peaks rise 7,500 feet). This expedition will be a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure who would like to explore the botanic gardens, national parks, and historic sites of this fascinating country. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals please.)

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Please phone **Taunya at Betchart Expeditions, (800) 252-4910** for information about group flights from Boston.

Accommodations: Are in comfortable lodges and hotels, twin share with a private bath. Limited single accommodations are available for a supplement of \$995.

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

Sri Lanka 2018
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

The balance is due 60 days before departure.

Questions: Please call **Betchart Expeditions Inc.**

Telephone: **(800) 252 4910** (USA)
or **(408) 252 4910** (International)
Fax: (408) 252 1444
Email: Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com

Cancellations & Refunds:

The initial deposit is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There is no refund after that period unless your place is resold, then only the \$100 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features. Travel insurance is recommended.

