

THE SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART PRESENTS



ISLAND OF SERENDIPITY: EXPLORING SRI LANKA

JANUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 1, 2016

Five centuries before Christ, Sri Lanka was a country with a well-ordered and sophisticated civilization. Accompanied by Sri Lankan scholar Lakshika Senarath Gamage, travel through this paradise of glistening white pagodas and the remains of some of the most refined Buddhist art and architecture in the world. Buddhism came to Sri Lanka from India in the 3rd century BCE and in the ensuing years, Sri Lanka's distinctive style spread well beyond the Island. Its strategic location ensured that its trading partners came from all corners of the globe and this mingling with traders from countries as far apart as Arabia and Greece brought an unparalleled richness to the development of Sri Lankan art. In later years, it had important ties to the Portuguese, Dutch and British, and the influences of these countries will be clearly visible as we journey through an interior landscape dominated by the brilliant green of rounded tea bushes.

Tour Highlights

COLOMBO – 3 nights

Taj Samudra—Club Floor

- ◆ Explore the National Museum
- ◆ Meet with contemporary artist Senaka Senanayake
- ◆ Marvel at the Gautami Vihara at Borella
- ◆ Spend time in Kelaniya
- ◆ Stroll through Contemporary Colombo

ANURADHAPURA – 2 nights

Forest Rock Garden Resort (Deluxe Room)

- ◆ Explore the Archaeological Site of Anuradhapura

DAMBULLA – 3 nights

Kandalama Hotel (Superior Room)

Visit sites such as Dambulla, Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa

KANDY – 3 nights

Cinnamon Citadel Hotel (Superior Room)

- ◆ Discover the Temple of the Tooth



- ◆ Stroll through the Archaeological Museum
- ◆ Wander through the Botanical Garden

NUWARA ELIYA – 2 nights

Tea Factory Hotel (Superior Room)

- ◆ Travel to Nuwara Eliya by train
- ◆ Stroll through a Tea plantation

KATARAGAMA – 1 night

Cinnamon Wild Hotel (Jungle Chalet)

- ◆ Visit Kiri Vehera Dagoba
- ◆ Admire Tissaamaharama
- ◆ Drive to the wild life park

GALLE - 2 nights

Lighthouse Hotel & Spa (Deluxe room)

- ◆ Admire Galle Fort, a UNESCO site
- ◆ Enjoy an afternoon cruise to Cinnamon Island
- ◆ Witness the incredible Stile Fishermen

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: STRENUOUS

There will be extensive walking on uneven surfaces, stair climbing, and extended periods of standing. The trip is not suitable for those with mobility problems.

SAA is now a vendor of CSA Travel Protection Insurance 800.348.9505 www.csatravelprotection.com, Producer code: 20100719. You are able to purchase trip insurance which will repay all non-refundable costs for cancelling this trip for ANY reason. This must be purchased at the time of your initial deposit.

Known as Serendib to the old Arab traders who came here regularly in search of gems and ivory, Sri Lanka is a lush island located in the blue expanse of the Indian Ocean. Join Lakshika Senarath Gamage on a trip that explores the highlights of this island considered by many to be the original Garden of Eden.

Colombo, our first stop, represents the colonial history of the country and is studded with beautiful Dutch and British buildings that, in recent years, have been painstakingly restored to their original splendor. Galleries and restaurants have been opened in historical buildings and the city has become a vibrant capital. Explore its diverse population and the weaving of its rich tapestry as we visit museums, galleries and sample its fine cuisine.

Head north to Anuradhapura, the first recorded capital of the country, 5th century BCE. Admire the Samadi Buddha, depicted in a serene state of meditation. It was here that Buddhism was introduced to the island from India; and it was here that the first written manuscripts of Buddhist teachings and Jataka stories were written in Pali and Sanskrit.

Using Dambulla as our base, enjoy visits to a number of sites and note the stylistic developments. Wander among the still towering walls of lake-side palaces and audience halls at Polonnaruwa, the country's second capital. Scale the fortress of Sigiriya and admire the frescoes of the Sigiriya maidens.

Spend time in Kandy, the last capital of Sri Lanka before it fell to the British. Roam through the Botanical Gardens, visit the Temple of the Tooth, the last palace temple still active, and admire the temple of Embekke. Among the decorative scenes on the elaborately carved wooden pillars of the drumming hall are mythical creatures, wrestlers, and a tiger fighting an elephant

Travel by train through a spectacular landscape of mist-covered mountains draped with deep green tea plants to Nuwara Eliya.

Travel south to Kataragama, a holy place for Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims. Enjoy a game-viewing drive at Yala Park before heading to Galle, a Dutch outpost for many years. Today this coastal town includes good restaurants and high end shopping and is not commercialized or touristy. Return home from Colombo.

Our trip scholar is UCLA Graduate Student, Lakshika Senarath Gamage. From 2003 Lakshika conducted extensive research on Sri Lankan Art. In 2010 she received her M.A. in Art History from Northern Illinois University where her thesis was

"Sapugaskanda Rajamahavihara: A Monograph of an Eighteenth century Peripheral Temple of Sri Lanka and an Exposition of the Architecture and Visual Narratives of its image house". She is currently working towards her Ph.D. at UCLA with a major in South Asian Art History and is working on her thesis, "Embekke Devale: A Synthesis of Gampola and Kandy Period Art and Architecture."

Island of Serendipity: Exploring Sri Lanka

***\$5,410 person • Single Room Supplement \$1,540
Group size is Limited to 20 travelers***

The Tour Cost includes:

- Accommodation as listed based on double occupancy
- Breakfast daily, 15 lunches and 7 dinners
- Services of a local Sri Lankan guide
- Sightseeing and entrance fees
- Local transportation
- Gratuities to all staff
- Porterage
- A \$400 donation to the Society for Asian Art

Not Included are:

- International airfare to and from Colombo
- Airport departure taxes
- Passport and visa fees
- Personal insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation
- Items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed

*For more information or a detailed itinerary, call
Distant Horizons at (800) 333-1240 or (562) 983-8828;
or the Society for Asian Art at (415) 581-3701.*

THE SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART: ISLAND OF SERENDIPITY: EXPLORING SRI LANKA

R E S E R V A T I O N F O R M

I would like to reserve _____ space(s) for ***Island of Serendipity: Exploring Sri Lanka tour January 15-February 1, 2016***

Enclosed is a deposit of \$500 per person, in the total amount of \$ _____. **Please make checks payable to Distant Horizons** (Your deposit is refundable up to 90 days prior to departure less a \$250 per person administration fee.)

Room Arrangements

- ☐ Single Supplement ☐ Double Occupancy, I will be sharing a room with: _____
- ☐ I would prefer a roommate, but will pay the single supplement if one is not available.

Personal Information

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Daytime phone (_____) _____ Email Address _____

Send reservation form and deposit to: The Society for Asian Art, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Applications will be accepted by mail only and your inclusion will be based on the postmark date.

A confirmation letter, a declaration & waiver form and a travel insurance application will be mailed to you upon receipt of your deposit.

CST: 2046776-13