

TRAVCOA
World Leader in Luxury Travel

*Myanmar & Sri Lanka:
Post Colonial Jewels
2013*



YANGON • INLE LAKE • MANDALAY • SAGAING
BAGAN • NEGOMBO BEACH • COLOMBO • SIGIRIYA • KANDY
NUWARA ELIYA • YALA NATIONAL PARK • GALLE • BENTOTA

Myanmar & Sri Lanka: Post Colonial Jewels

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January 11 – 31, 2013



Created and hosted by Travel Director, Jan Wheatley

As the sun rises over Myanmar, the shadow of a hot air balloon creeps across the faces of more than 2,000 ancient Burmese pagodas. From your perch in the sky you can see the morning beams as they bounce off golden temple domes and shine through the doorways of rock-hewn stupas.

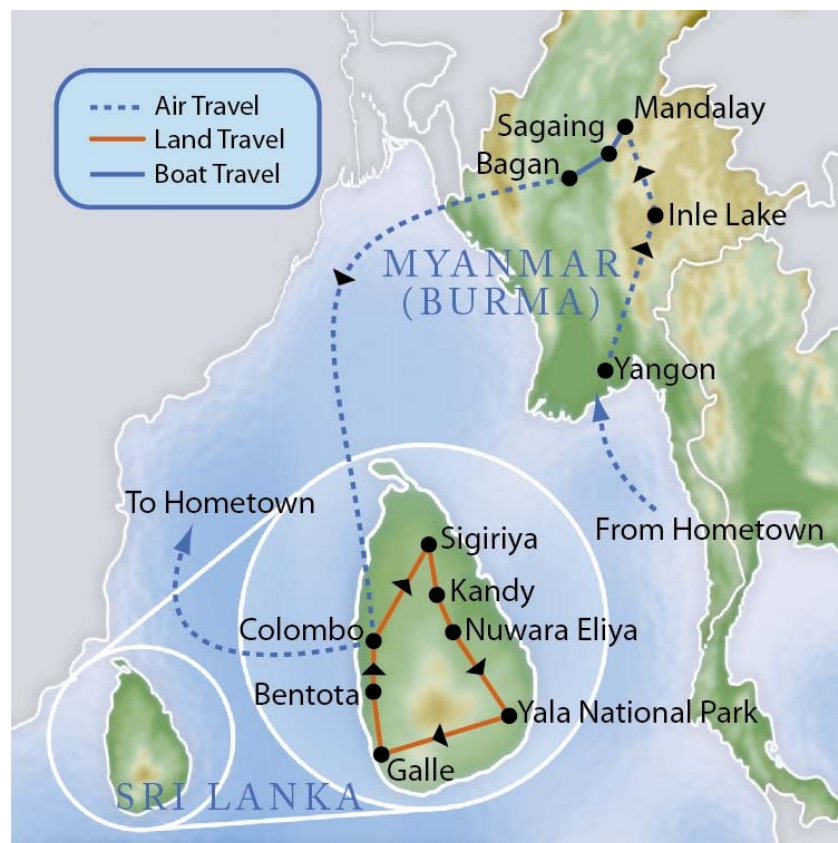
This is just one of many exclusive and memorable moments that await you on the **Myanmar & Sri Lanka Post Colonial Jewels** journey, a one-of-a-kind exploration of the former British colonies of “further India.” As trading posts for the British East India Company, the once-called Burma and Ceylon nations were a great source of tea, coffee and rubber. Today, those plantations and colonial-era buildings remain amidst the temples, monasteries and palaces of an ancient Buddhist past.

Explore the ruins of Polonnaruwa, the palm-ringed beaches of Bentota, and Sigiriya, a royal palace compound whose entrance once required visitors to pass through the “mouth of a lion.” Travel deep into the interior on a luxurious river cruise and watch as the Buddhist faithful come out to pay alms in the early morning to hosts of saffron-robed monks. You will be awed by the majestic high tea and hill country of Sri Lanka. And the people of this region will warmly welcome you with heart stealing smiles.

Jan can't wait to share it all with you.

JOURNEY FAVORITES

- Visit the Spiritual Shwedagon Pagoda Yangon
- Cruise through the scenic channels of Inle Lake
- Experience the Living Buddha in Mandalay at the Maha Myatmuni Pagoda
- An incredible sunrise hot air balloon ride over magnificent Bagan
- Deluxe Three Night Cruise on the "Road to Mandalay"
- View the majestic 5th century Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Explore the UNESCO Ancient City of Polonnaruwa
- Private Cultural Show in Kandy
- Visit to the Elephant Orphanage at Pinnawela
- Drive through the spectacular and scenic tea country of Sri Lanka
- Jeep excursions into Yala National Park to look for elephants, sloth bears, leopards, mongoose and beautiful exotic birds.



DAILY ITINERARY

Travcoa journeys are designed to accommodate the most common flight times from the USA. The first and last included accommodation and meals are specified in the itinerary below.

Myanmar sits at the crossroads of Asia's great civilizations of India and China, and is one of South East Asia's largest and most diverse countries. It is a land of breathtaking beauty and charm, and one of the most mysterious and undiscovered destinations in the world. Only recently has been emerging into the modern world, and with this journey we are privileged to explore this land at a turning point in its history.

DAYS 1 & 2, Friday & Saturday January 11 & January 12, 2013 Depart for Yangon, MYANMAR

Journey accommodations begin with the hotel night on Day 2. Check-in time is approximately 3pm.

Included meal services begin with Dinner on Day 2.

Depart from your home city on Friday and arrive in Yangon on Saturday. Upon arrival in this fascinating city, you will be met and taken directly to your palatial hotel.

The cosmopolitan city of Yangon, has maintained its colonial charm with wide tree-lined avenues, tranquil lakes, and gracious turn-of-the-last-century architecture. The remainder of the day is at leisure for you to rest after your long flight. Or, you may choose to explore the city.

This evening, join your Travcoa Travel Director and fellow travelers at a welcome cocktail party and dinner where you learn more about the exciting days that lie ahead.

The Governor's Residence

DAY 3, Sunday January 13, 2013 Yangon

Yangon, Myanmar's capital until recently, lies in the fertile southern delta on the wide Yangon River. Yangon is a city filled with shaded boulevards, and shimmering stupas that seem to float above the treetops.

Today, we explore the city - starting with a drive through the colonial-style buildings of downtown, the Chinatown area and the Indian quarter. We stop at the great Sule Pagoda with its iconic golden *chedi*, domed edifice, which stands squarely at the center point of the city. Visit the National Museum, to get an orientation to this mystical country, acquiring an insight into its unique history and beliefs. Here you can view the 27-foot high Sihasana Lion Throne, used by the last Burmese king, as well as other fascinating artifacts from Burmese history and culture.

Next, we visit the huge Bogyoke Aung San Market (Scott Market), which is a paradise for its variety of exotic arts and crafts. Look for Myanmar's world-renowned products include lacquer ware, unique handmade tapestries of gold and silver thread, antiques, colorful traditional longyi fabrics and woodcrafts.

Showing to respect for Myanmar's religions and traditions is of utmost importance. Both men and women should dress conservatively; cover your shoulders and wear knee-long skirts or trousers. When entering a pagoda or temple, always take off your shoes. The head is considered a particularly holy part of the body. You should never touch anybody's head intentionally, and offer an excuse if you do so accidentally. Some sites require entrance with bare feet only.

In the afternoon, visit some of the more well known pagodas, including Botataung Pagoda, named after the 1000 military leaders who escorted relics of the Buddha from India over 2000 years ago. Visit the Chauk Htat Gyi Pagoda to see a huge reclining Buddha image.

We continue to the *Kandawgyi* (Royal) Lake to take photographs over the lake towards Shwedagon Pagoda. Enjoy sunset at Shwedagon Pagoda, whose majestic spires rise more than 300 feet above the bustle of modern Yangon. It attracts pilgrims from all over the world and its golden stupa (*chedi* or pagoda) is the heart of Buddhist Myanmar. Witness the parade of locals praying and making offerings. The pagoda is believed to be 2,500 years old and its central stupa is surrounded by dozens of intricately decorated buildings and statues. Legend has it that Shwedagon Pagoda enshrines eight hairs of the last Buddha, along with relics of the three previous Buddhas. The pagoda is encrusted with nearly 8,000 diamonds, rubies, sapphires and topaz, and set with a 76-carat diamond at the tip.

Governor's Residence Hotel

DAY 4, Monday

January 14, 2013

Yangon to Inle Lake

Today we take a short flight to Heho, in the cool green highlands of Shan State. Upon arrival, we drive down into the valley to Inle Lake, where your luxury hotel is nestled on the banks.

Inle Lake is situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty. It is 2,900 feet above sea level and is known for its floating markets, prolific bird life and "leg rowers" - the Intha people row standing up with one leg wrapped around an oar. In this unique wetland environment, whole villages sit on floating islands on the lake. Colorful hill tribes inhabit the surrounding fertile valleys and forested mountaintops. Their hand-woven silks are a specialty of the region.

Relax and sightsee while enjoying a boat trip on Inle Lake. With its calm waters dotted with floating vegetation and fishing canoes, and backdrop of scenic high hills, the lake is a photographer's dream. View the beautiful floating gardens, growing vegetables and flowers, and the pile dwellings on the shore. Here villages are built on stilts over the lake and boats are the sole means of transport, it's the ideal time of day to experience this magical spot.

Continue by boat to visit Nga Phe Kyaung Monastery, one of the lake's most historic religious buildings, famous for its "jumping cats" and see silk weaving on wooden handlooms. Visit Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, the holiest religious site in southern Shan State and other places of interest as time allows.

Aureum Palace Villa

DAY 5, Tuesday

January 15, 2013

Inle Lake

After a leisurely breakfast, enjoy a boat excursion through a densely forested river to the charming village of In Dein, located on a hillside in the southwest corner of Inle Lake. We disembark, and walk up the stairway leading to the hidden In Dein Temple complex. This site consists of hundreds of small Shan-style stupas (shrines), overgrown by moss and foliage.

We continue to Intha Village House, a hidden wonderful and authentic house on a lake island. Enjoy a cooking class, to see how the food is partially prepared in the traditional kitchen. You are welcome to participate and join in the lunch preparation. You also have the opportunity to try rolling your own *cheroot*, the famous Burmese cigar, or relax upstairs with traditional massage treatment.

Return to your hotel by late afternoon.

Aureum Palace Villa

DAY 6, Wednesday

January 16, 2013

Inle Lake to Mandalay & Embark Cruise

This morning, we depart our hotel by boat, and then transfer to Heho airport for our flight to Mandalay.

Upon arrival, we drive to the Ayeyarwady River to board the *Road to Mandalay* cruise boat, our home for the next three nights.

After lunch, we explore some of the key sites of Mandalay. Visit Mahamuni Pagoda, home to Mandalay's holiest Buddha statue, and see stone carving and gold leaf being beaten into wafer-thin pieces. Tour the Shwenandaw Monastery – once King Mindon's home, this ancient wooden site features incredibly intricate carvings.

Continue to see "the world's largest book," the Buddhist Scriptures inscribed on 729 marble slabs at Kuthodaw Pagoda, each sheltered by a small temple. Visit Kyaukdawgyi Pagoda to view a large Buddha statue carved out of a single block of local marble.

We end the afternoon taking in the spectacular sunset views from Mandalay Hills, and where there are intriguing glass-studded temples. The royal palace and its impressive surrounding moat sit at the foot of the imposing Mandalay Hill. A former royal capital until the British takeover in 1885, Mandalay still evokes images of a romantic bygone era.

Tonight enjoy dinner and local entertainment on board the ship.

Road to Mandalay

DAY 7, Thursday

January 17, 2013

Mandalay to Sagaing

While still in port in Mandalay, we visit picturesque Sagaing Hill, the living center of Buddhist faith in Myanmar. Each year, thousands of monks and nuns come to Sagaing to retreat and meditate. It is also home to traditional silversmiths who work using the methods of their ancestors. The surrounding hillsides are dotted with numerous pagodas and monasteries.

While cruising aboard the deluxe "Road to Mandalay," relax on the top deck and watch the fascinating river life, and listen to the guide lectures on the local history, sites and customs. Enjoy local entertainment on board each evening.

This afternoon relax as your ship sails south down the river.

Road to Mandalay

DAY 8, Friday

January 18, 2013

Bagan

This morning, the ship docks in Bagan. We enjoy a guided orientation tour of this region – a riverside plain dotted with thousands of 800-year old temples and pagodas. One of the richest archaeological sites in Asia, if not the world, Bagan has more than 2,000 time-worn pagodas from the 11th to 13th centuries.

After lunch on the boat, we go ashore again to investigate inside some of the more significant pagodas.

Visit to the golden stupa of Shwezigon Pagoda, and look for images of the 37 *nats* (guardian spirits or gods capable of good or evil) housed in a small hall. This is Myanmar's most significant religious structure, and it served as a prototype for many later *stupas* (temples or pagodas). Admire the 13th century frescoes that adorn the corridors of Kyansittha Cave Temple.

We then continue to Gubyaukgyi, to explore another cave temple, with fine frescoes of the Jataka Tales. Next, view the old murals and friezes of Htilominlo, the last Bamar-style temple

built in Bagan. The three-tiered temple was built in 1211. In the Taungphi village, explore old monasteries, which have beautiful Khone Baung dynasty frescoes.

After a visit to the Archeological Museum, continue to Ananda Temple, a whitewashed masterpiece of Mon architecture with four standing Buddhas and an adjacent brick monastery from the early Bagan era with well-preserved murals. The famed Ananda Temple was the first of Bagan's great temples and remains one of the finest, most beautiful and perhaps most photographed of all of Bagan's architectural complexes.

See Thatbyinnyu, the "temple of omniscience." The tallest temple, it measures over 200 feet tall, and dates from 1144. Then, it is on to Mingalazedi, the last of the large pagodas. Built in the 13th century, it represents the pinnacle of Bamar pagoda architecture.

We visit the Damayasaka Temple; built in 1196, it is the biggest pentagonal-base stupa in Bagan. Continue to Lemyethna Temple, topped by an Indian-style spire similar to Ananda. Then visit the three shrines of Payathonzu, which are connected by passages adorned with Mahayanist or Tantric mural paintings. Visit Katthapha Paya, which was built in the early 13th century in the Sri Lankan style. Visit Nanadamannya Temple, with its fine frescoes and an unexpectedly erotic mural.

Later afternoon, we take a leisurely sunset cocktail cruise before dinner.

Enjoy dinner and the local entertainment on board.

Road to Mandalay

DAY 9, Saturday

January 19, 2013

Disembark in Bagan and fly to Colombo, SRI LANKA

This morning you have the unique opportunity to enjoy spectacular views of the ancient Kingdom of Bagan from a hot air balloon! Arise early this morning to get a bird's-eye view of the world famous archaeological site of Bagan known for being awe-inspiring when seen at sunrise.

We disembark the ship and proceed to the Aureum Palace Villa for lunch.

Today we depart Bagan, and magical, mystical Myanmar. Fly to Yangon, then connecting through Bangkok for a flight south to Sri Lanka.

Aureum Palace Villa

DAY 10, Sunday

January 20, 2013

Arrive Colombo & Negombo Beach

Just after midnight this morning, arrive in Colombo, the commercial capital of the country.

We are met on arrival, and driven directly to our hotel located in Negombo Beach. After a welcome drink, relax at your hotel for a good night's rest.

Jetwing Beach Hotel

DAY 11, Monday

January 21, 2013

Negombo Beach

Enjoy a late breakfast and time to sleep-in or relax. Later this morning we depart the hotel for an afternoon sightseeing in Colombo.

Colombo is a mix of colonial and modern styles. After lunch, our sightseeing starts with a tour through the commercial and central city area known as the "Fort." Built by the Portuguese in the 16th century, you can see the grand colonial era buildings that still stand alongside modern office structures. We explore the busy markets and noisy bazaars of Pettah, then the National Museum with its fine collection of lovely antiques and art of Sri Lanka. Visit St. Anthony's Dutch era church with its collection of 19th century artifacts, and see the Colombo Fort railway station built in 1880.

Our sightseeing continues with a visit to the Hindu *Kovil*, a temple with exquisite interior stonework, and the Gangaramaya Buddhist Temple. Next, see the Town Hall, with its replica of the White House, and visit Independence Square, along with the prestigious Cinnamon Gardens area.

Late afternoon, we drive back to Negombo Beach and your hotel.

Jetwing Beach Hotel

DAY 12, Tuesday

January 22, 2013

Negombo Beach to Dambulla & Sigiriya

This morning, we embark on a scenic drive north through the lush interior plains, to the hill station of Sigiriya, gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Lion's Rock.

We arrive at our hotel in Sigiriya by mid-afternoon for a late lunch. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure at our uniquely designed and sumptuous hotel, Jetwing's Vil Uyana is a haven of peace and tranquility, there are plenty of activity options – a large infinity pool that merges into the lake, plenty of treks and walks, bike rides and more

Vil Uyaa Hotel

DAY 13, Wednesday

January 23, 2013

Sigiriya & Polonnaruwa

The impregnable rock fortress of Sigiriya looms above the surrounding jungle like a guardian

spirit. This morning, we explore the grand Sigiriya Rock Fortress, built by King Kassapa in the 5th century, located 500-feet above a vast expanse of rainforest. We drive to the base of the fortress, and then climb the stairs carved between two boulders (“Lion’s Gate,”) to explore this mighty royal citadel. Wander through the gardens, water gardens, and the “Heavenly maidens” of Sigiriya frescoes. Take the slow climb further up carved staircases through the “Lions Paws” to the summit of the rock to see the foundations of the Grand Palace, the king’s throne and windmill-fed swimming pool.

Those that do not want to climb to the fortress can choose to visit the Sigiriya Museum instead. Please be advised there are 1200 rough and difficult steps to the top of the rock!

Late morning, we depart for the sacred city of Polonnaruwa, the second most ancient of Sri Lanka's kingdoms, Polonnaruwa, was first declared the capital city by King Vijayabahu I in the 11th century AD and maintained its status until the 13th century. In 1982 the ancient city of Polonnaruwa was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

What's nice about Polonnaruwa is that the ruins are in one compact area so you can visit them quite easily.

Arrive back at your Sigiriya hotel early evening for dinner.

Vil Uyaa Hotel

DAY 14, Thursday
January 24, 2013
Siguruya to Kandy

This morning we drive to Kandy, En route, we stop in Dambulla to visit the famous Golden Rock Cave Temple. Now a UNESCO World Heritage site, this cave monastery has been a sacred pilgrimage site for 22 centuries. We explore this vast isolated rock mass, with its five caverns - the largest best-preserved cave-temple complexes in Sri Lanka. See the Buddhist mural paintings covering more than 2,000 sq ft. and the 157 statues, including a 47-foot long statue of the recumbent Buddha. The ceiling of one cavern has a painting that so closely follows the natural folds of the rock it appears to be made of cloth. This complex of caves is one of the most impressive Buddhist Temples in the world.

Please be advised there are 350 steps to the caves entrance. Those that do not climb may visit the Buddhism Museum

Continue Matale, here we visit a spice garden and the Aluvihare Buddhist Temple, where the Buddhist cannons are written on Ola leaves. Arrive in Kandy and our lakefront hotel by late afternoon.

In the early evening we visit the famous Temple of the Tooth, where Sri Lanka's most valuable Buddhist relic, a tooth of Lord Buddha is kept. We then have the chance to observe the nightly

pooja ceremony. Each year in July or August, during the annual *Esala Perahera* Festival, the inner casket covering the tooth relic of the Buddha is taken in a grand procession through the streets of the city.

Mahaweli Reach Hotel

DAY 15, Friday

January 25, 2013

Kandy

This morning, we explore Kandy - a bustling hill country capital, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The hill station of Kandy has long been synonymous with luxuriant forests, cinnamon and nutmeg plantations. We take a tour of the sprawling 18th century Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya, a plush 140-acre garden. It has 4000 species of flora, incredible orchids, aromatic spices and medicinal herbs. See the rare collections of the tropical and exotic; walk through the famous Orchid House.

We drive past the picturesque premises of the University of Peradeniya and visit the Market Place, and an Arts and Crafts showroom. After lunch at Hotel Earl's Regency, we take a drive along the Upper Lake road to get a panoramic view of the massive Kandy Lake. Built in 1807, it is an attractive centerpiece to the town.

En route back to the hotel, visit a gem museum and witness a replica of a traditional gem pit where the mined stones are dressed, cut and polished. You are shown an informative short film, "Gem stones of Sri Lanka," to learn about the lapidary wonders of this island nation.

This evening, enjoy a private Kandyan Cultural show and special dinner at our hotel. The show features a special performance of the Kandyan and Low country Dancers. These graceful and rhythmic dancers and drummers entertain you with a show culminating in an impressive fire walking display.

Mahaweli Reach Hotel

DAY 16, Saturday

January 26, 2013

Kandy to Nuwara Eliya

Depart Kandy early this morning for a special visit to the Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage, which provides a natural habitat for nearly 100 elephants. This orphanage was set up by the government to take care of baby elephants lost or abandoned in the wild. Witness the feeding of the elephants - The baby elephants being bottle-fed with milk is truly a heartwarming sight. We can also observe them as they take their daily bath in the river nearby, which affords marvelous photo opportunities. Bath time is enjoyed by all elephants, young and old alike, and it is a good time to intimately witness their tightly knit family structure. The young elephants are protected and cared for, by the older ones in the group and the leader of the group is respected by all.

Later this morning we depart for a scenic drive to Nuwara Eliya, also called “*Little England*,” because of the large English settlement. En route, visit the Mackwoods Tea Factory and the Tea estate at Labokelle. Learn about this valuable and famous export – known as Ceylon Tea when the country was under British rule. See the process of manufacturing of tea, from the plucking of the green leaves to the packing of the processed tea. Enjoy the opportunity to sample the export-quality tea known as BOP (Broken Orange Peko), and perhaps take home some premium unblended Sri Lanka tea, reputed to be the best in the world. Lunch overlooking the magnificent Ramboda Falls in a beautiful natural setting.

Set in the heart of Tea Country, situated 6200 feet above sea level, the beautiful town of Nuwara Eliya is where the British succeeded in creating a typical English countryside - with Georgian and Queen Anne style homes and well-kept lawns. This colonial city is home to scenic Lake Gregory and Mt. Piduratalagla, at 8282 feet is it Sri Lanka’s highest peak.

Late afternoon we arrive at our hotel, set amid stunning views of the surrounding mountains.

St. Andrews Hotel

DAY 17, Sunday

January 27, 2013

Nuwara Eliya to Yala National Park

This morning relax and enjoy the scenery as we drive via Tissamaharamaya to Yala National Park. En route, we visit Rawana Waterfalls, a remarkable sight with a scenic backdrop of mountains and valleys. It is featured in the Rawana mythology, where Sita is said to have bathed from this waterfall while she was in captivity. We also stop to see the Buduruwagala Buddha statue, the tallest upright statues of Buddha in the country. Lunch at the Safari Lodge

We arrive in Yala in the mid afternoon, and embark on a private jeep excursion accompanied by a tracker. Yala National Park one of Sri Lanka’s premier eco tourist destinations is renowned for its variety of wildlife notably its many elephants. It is also home to the spotted deer, sambar, wild buffalo, sloth bear, jackal, mongoose and crocodiles. The peacock is easily the most famous of the birds in this park. Yala has a high concentration of leopards although seeing these nocturnal carnivores still requires some luck.

Early evening we arrive at our jungle accommodations located just outside the national park.

Chayaa Wild Jungle Chalets

DAY 18, Monday

January 28, 2013

Yala National Park to Galle & Bentota

Today enjoy a full day drive to Bentota, with many interesting visits along the way.

Late morning, you arrive at Galle, the capital of the Southern Province. Its historic 90-acre Fort was originally founded by the Portuguese and later extended by the Dutch in 1663. It was

nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988. Enjoy lunch at the Light House Hotel, before proceeding to our next stop in Kosgoda. Visit the Turtle Hatchery, and see the hundreds of baby turtles that will later be released to their natural habitat in the sea.

We arrive at Bentota by late afternoon. This is a tourist resort town, with the most beautiful, wide and sandy beaches.

Vivanta by Taj or Saman Villas

DAY 19, Tuesday

January 29, 2013

Bentota & Galle

This morning it is a short drive to Balapitiya to embark on a two-hour boat cruise along the Madhu River. Enjoy views of life along the river, and spot the prawn traps that lay along the banks.

After lunch, we return to Galle, to explore its historic 90-acre Fort, originally founded by the Portuguese and later extended by the Dutch in 1663. The fort was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988. The Fort houses many important Dutch buildings including a Dutch period museum. We tour the fort and Galle's National and Maritime museums. Lunch at the lovely colonial Amangalla Hotel.

Tonight we toast our journey with a special Farewell Dinner, and a performance by a Sri Lankan Magician.

Vivanta by Taj or Saman Villas

DAY 20, Wednesday

January 30, 2013

Bentota to Colombo & Depart for Home

Enjoy a morning at leisure to enjoy the facilities at your deluxe beach resort.

Late morning depart for the drive back towards Colombo.

Arrive at Katunayake, near Bandaranaike International Airport and relax at your hotel until time for your transfer to the airport for your departing flight.

Journey accommodations end with the hotel night on Day 20. Check-out time is approximately 11am on Day 21.

Included meal services end with Breakfast on Day 21.

Taj Airport Garden Hotel

DAY 21, Thursday

January 31, 2013

Arrive Home

Flights bound for the United States arrive home today.

NOTE: The Daily Itinerary above is subject to change dependent upon local conditions and/or operational changes or improvements. The specific times and order of inclusions within each destination may also be altered to best accommodate unscheduled closures, special events, weather, traffic, etc. Please contact your Escorted Journey Consultant before scheduling any coinciding appointments. You will receive an up-dated itinerary approximately 3 weeks prior to your journey's scheduled departure date.

ACCOMMODATIONS

DAYS 2 & 3	Yangon, Myanmar, Governor's Residence
DAYS 4 & 5	Inle Lake, Myanmar, Aureum Palace Villa
DAYS 6 - 8	Myanmar, Road to Mandalay
DAY 9	Bagan, Myanmar, Aureum Palace Villa
DAYS 10 & 11	Negombo Beach, Sri Lanka, Jetwing Beach Hotel
DAYS 12 & 13	Sigiriya, Sri Lanka, Vil Uyaa
DAYS 14 & 15	Kandy, Sri Lanka, Mahaweli Reach Hotel
DAY 16	Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka, St. Andrew's Hotel
DAY 17	Yala, Sri Lanka, Chaaya Wild Jungle Chalets
DAYS 18 & 19	Bentota, Sri Lanka, Vivanta by Taj or Saman Villas
DAY 20	Colombo, Sri Lanka, Taj Airport Garden Hotel

Travcoa has secured the best available accommodations in these remote and undeveloped areas, though some may not always meet Western standards. Dine-Around opportunities will be limited in remote or unsecured locations.

Yangon, Myanmar, Governor's Residence



The hotel is an imposing luxury teak mansion hotel dating from the 1920's, and located within the elegant Embassy Quarter of Yangon, and close to the spectacular Shwedagon Pagoda. It is an imposing Burmese two-story mansion built as the official home of one of the governor's from the southern states of the country. It is surrounded by a verdant lotus garden, which is overlooked by the hotel's many glorious verandas.

Facilities at the hotel include a Green ceramic swimming pool, massage service, laundry service, a library, boutique and gift shop. There is also free internet, a business center and Doctor on call. There is a delightful restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating, as well as two bars.

The 47 air-conditioned rooms are all luxuriously decorated with teak furniture, tropical cottons and silks. Your room has an inner courtyard view, minibar, satellite TV, free internet access, in-room safe, and bottled water. The bathroom has under-floor heating and a large terrazzo bath, plus a hairdryer, bathrobes and slippers.

Inle Lake, Myanmar, Aureum Palace Villa

This is a deluxe sprawling resort straddling the edge of Inle Lake. There is a private outdoor terrace for viewing a spectacular sunset over the lake. Resort facilities and services include a deluxe spa, swimming pool, beauty salon, business center, boutique and boat rental. There is also a delightful restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating, as well as a bar.

The air-conditioned rooms are feature a stocked mini-bar, satellite TV, in-room safe, and a coffee/tea maker. The bathrooms have a separate shower and bathtub, along with bathrobes and a hair dryer.

Road to Mandalay

The Road To Mandalay cruise embraces the unique sights, scents and sounds of this little-known land in Orient Express style and luxury. Lined with ancient palaces and pagodas, the astonishing Irrawaddy River is perhaps the most pleasurable way to experience Burma.



On board you can enjoy an acclaimed gourmet menu of Eastern and Western delicacies, all served with Burmese courtesy and charm. Buffet-style lunch is served on the Observation Deck or in the restaurant. Dinners are served in the restaurant, at a time to suit you, and offer a choice of dishes to suit all tastes from the flavors of Asia to a la carte menus. At the end of the day, you can retire to the Piano Bar, decorated with a mixture of light wood and Burmese lacquerware.

The ship also has an Observation Deck, swimming pool, gift shop, beauty salon and a doctor is on board. The spacious en suite cabins are fully air-conditioned and furnished with the most beautiful fabrics, finest linens and softest towels. Each cabin has a small personal safe, telephone, satellite television, en-suite bathroom and shower amenities.

Bagan, Myanmar, Aureum Palace

Acknowledged by many to be the best resort hotel in Myanmar, this sprawling property of 114 upscale rooms overlooks a breathtaking scene of Bagan's pagoda-studded landscape across a lotus-dappled lake. This incomparable resort and spa set amid 27 acres of tropical landscaped gardens. The hotel is complete with an extensive spa facility, a fully equipped fitness center, a sauna, a nightclub, a business center, art gallery and a huge swimming pool, which affords a stunning view of Bagan's pagoda landscape. Outdoor highlights include private terraces for al-fresco dining and relaxation.



The towering teak-pillared grand lobby and the restaurant lend regal splendor of the resort. There are three restaurants, and many dining options to explore.

Museum quality antiques and artifacts adorn each of the 72 air-conditioned villas, complementing the majestic ambiance of the resort. The bedrooms are spacious and include a mini-bar, satellite TV, in-room safe and coffee making facilities. The bathrooms are large and lavishly equipped with five-star amenities including a separate shower cabin and Jacuzzi with hot & cold water, bathrobes, and a hair dryer.

Negombo Beach, Sri Lanka, Jetwing Beach Hotel

Styled by Sri Lanka's famous architecture, Geoffrey Bawa, Jetwing Beach is an ideal place, located among the Jetwing Beach and in Negombo Town. Hotel facilities include an outdoor and indoor pool, spa with massage services, water sports, a sauna and steam room, tennis courts, and a golf course. There is also laundry service, shops, a business center and wi-fi in public areas.



You can dine at the Black Coral Restaurant or enjoy local and international dish at The Sands and The Centre Point. End your wonderful night with a drink at the Terrace Bar.

The 78 air-conditioned rooms are spacious and have a private balcony overlooking the greenery. Each has a mini-bar, TV, coffee/tea maker, in-room safe, internet access and a separate tub and shower in the bathroom, along with a hair dryer, bathrobes and slippers.

Sigiriya, Sri Lanka, Vil Uyaa

Set on over 27 acres deep in the cultural triangle of Sri Lanka, this hotel pays homage to Sigiriya, and its beauty. A uniquely designed and sumptuous hotel, Jetwing's Vil Uyana is a haven of peace and tranquility. Plus, there are plenty of activity options – a large infinity pool that merges into the lake, plenty of treks and walks, bike rides and more The hotel also has a plunge pool, snug library, Yoga classes, plus a gift shop and business center. There are two restaurants – one more formal, the other casual, plus a full service bar,

The accommodations are sumptuous in both style and comfort – whether you stay in those over the swaying fields of the green paddy, open structures that hove above the water, or lost in the forest surroundings. The 25 units are all air-conditioned and feature a telephone, in-room safe, minibar, tea/coffee maker, a hair dryer, sarongs and slippers.

Kandy, Sri Lanka, Mahaweli Reach Hotel

Tucked away in Kandy, the lush green hill capital of the island, the Mahaweli Reach Hotel acquired its name from its unique location along Sri Lanka's longest river, the great Mahaweli. It was also the first hotel in Kandy to obtain five star rating. The hotel offers arrange of facilities and services including a swimming pool, rental boats, gymnasium, game room, a meditation relation center and a business center.

The 112 tastefully decorated rooms offer breathtaking views of the grand Mahaweli River or the tropical garden of the hotel. Travcoa's deluxe rooms provide you with the simple luxuries including air conditioning & fans, TV, mini bar, in-room safe, and a private balcony with beautiful views of the lake.



Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka, St. Andrew's Hotel

Surrounded by mist swathed mountains, sits this quaint old mansion built around an old Tudor country house, which served as a grand colonial residence during the days of British rule. Experience an era of old world charm and tradition - take leisurely surveys of green tea plantations, play a round of golf on a world famous course, or enjoy a little fishing on the lake.



The hotel offers a game room, business center with wi-fi access, laundry services and boutique gift shops. There is a fine dining restaurant, and a more casual bar venue. You may also enjoy the plantation freshly poured high tea on the lawn.

Authenticity is maintained throughout the entire hotel in the color themes, the furnishings and the ambience. The 52 rooms are beautifully appointed, each taking you back in time to the glories of the 19th Century and with a view of the distant mountains and lush vegetation-clad hills. All the rooms have a heater, telephone, LCD TV, mini bar, tea/coffee making facilities and safety lockers and more.

Yala, Sri Lanka, Chaaya Wild Jungle Chalets

Chaaya Wild borders the Yala Wildlife Sanctuary and the Indian Ocean, on the southernmost tip of Sri Lanka. Spanning 10 acres of jungle and endless miles of beach, you can step into the jungle from your luxury chalet to watch the elephants walking by or the illusive leopard sunning itself on the rocky outcrop close by. The hotel is designed to represent the rustic luxury of a 4-star game lodge. The main building is a modern contemporary structure with simple finishes; cement decks, steel columns and straight line furniture. The swimming pool overlooks the lake near by with a view of its diverse wild life. The hotel also has a business center and a souvenir shop.

The main restaurant at Chaaya Wild offers a variety of both eastern and western delicacies. The village bar faces the Villa; or you can enjoy a drink at the watering hole (the Pool Bar). The observation deck bar situated on the top floor of the hotel not only offers drinks to quench one's thirst, it also offers a 360° view of the forest and the Indian Ocean.



Travcoa guests stay in the Jungle chalets – with wooden floors and interiors, abstract animal prints and a veranda that makes it easy to spot the wild visitors that roam the back yard. Each chalet has a/c, satellite LCD TV, WiFi, a mini-bar, telephone, in-room safe, complimentary tea/coffee, and a hair dryer.

Bentota, Sri Lanka, Vivanta by Taj

Also known as Taj Exotica, this 162 room five star luxury hotel is located in the finest stretch of pristine expansive beaches of Bentota. One of the most popular hotels of International standing at Bentota, the hotel has achieved a perfect balance between natural beauty of the location and top-notch comforts of sophisticated life. The extensively landscaped gardens of the hotel

provide a relaxing environment. Hotel facilities include a large swimming pool fitness center, sauna, Jacuzzi, gymnasium, beach volleyball, badminton court, billiards, table tennis and other indoor games, water polo & water aerobics, watersports. There is also a full-service spa. Other hotel services include laundry, dry cleaning, and a business center. There are a choice of restaurants, bars and even a disco.

All rooms are well equipped with luxury amenities including a hair dryer, Tea and coffee makers, mini bar, safe, TV with satellite programs, and Wi-Fi wireless internet access. The bathrooms have both a shower and bath tub.

Bentota, Sri Lanka, Saman Villas

Located on a beautiful rocky promontory on the southern coast of Sri Lanka, the Saman Villas is situated in the quiet, sleepy fishing village of Aturuwella in the outskirts of Bentota. The resort boasts of stunning views of the Indian Ocean along with one of the best stretches of golden sandy beaches on the entire southern coastline of Sri Lanka. Opened in 1995, the hotel is the first deluxe boutique hotel to open in Sri Lanka, and was selected as the 'Best Boutique Hotel in Sri Lanka' for three consecutive years at the Travel & Tourism Awards. Facilities include an inviting infinity edge swimming pool, fully equipped gymnasium, garden spa, library with a wide selection of books and music CD's, and a snooker table. Dine on the Terrace or open plan Fine Dining restaurant, or one of many private dining locations, and savor your favorite European food or try some authentic Sri Lankan dishes.



This villa-style property boasts of 26 suites uniquely positioned to offer stunning views of the ocean. Each includes a balcony, lounge area, sleeping deck, dressing room, large open-air bathroom with an over-sized terrazzo bath and an outdoor rain shower set in a water feature. Amenities include mini bar, safe, LCD TV, complimentary Wi-Fi internet access, complimentary daily coffee/tea service, bathrobes, slippers and more.

Colombo (Katunayake), Sri Lanka, Taj Airport Garden Hotel

Situated in the midst of a 38-acre coconut plantation bordering the famous Negombo Lagoon, this hotel is a haven of spacious comfort and excellent amenities – all within easy reach of the airport. Hotel facilities include a swimming pool, well-equipped gymnasium, bookshop, shopping arcade, souvenir shop, tea shop, a gem and jewelry shop, as well as a business center, beauty parlor, doctor on call, express laundry and dry cleaning. There are a variety of restaurants from all day eateries to fine dining and a traditional English Pub.

The spacious 126 rooms offer quality, comfort and magnificent views of the Negombo Lagoon. Room amenities include air-conditioning, tea/coffee maker, clothes press/dry cleaning, iron/ironing board, minibar, refrigerator, satellite television, data port, internet access, in-room safe and free newspaper.

TRAVEL PLANNING DETAILS

2013 Departure Dates & Prices

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Travcoa Select</u>	<u>Intra Tour Air</u>	<u>Select Single Suppl.</u>
Jan. 11 – 31, 2013	\$ 13,450	1,950	4,950

21-Day Itinerary: *Per person price is based upon two people sharing a room. International Airfare is additional. Check with Travcoa for special international airfares.*

INTRA-TOUR AIR FLIGHTS:

Yangon / Heho / Mandalay – Bagan/Bangkok/Colombo

These flights are done my charter aircraft exclusively for Travcoa; airfare prices are subject to change and are only guaranteed at time of final payment.

JOURNEY PACE: ACTIVE

All guests are expected to be in good health. We consider our journeys to be active. Moderate to strenuous exertion, including long walks and climbing stairs is sometimes an integral part of your journey. Riding in four-wheel-drive vehicles on rough terrain or unpaved paths can aggravate back conditions. Flying aboard small aircraft is required in many areas. There are some full and busy days, with minor hiking at some sites.

For a more detailed description of the special requirements for this journey, and to check if this journey is right for you, please speak with a Travcoa representative.

RENDEZVOUS & SCHEDULE POINTS

Below are the times and locations where this journey officially begins and ends. Travcoa is pleased to provide arrival and departure transfers between the designated airport city and the Rendezvous location when confirmed flight details are provided with final payment.

Day 1 Friday Depart Hometown
 Jan. 11

Day 2 Saturday Arrive **Yangon, Myanmar**
 Jan. 12

Meeting Point- Yangon, Governor's Residence Hotel after lunch
Journey accommodations begin with the hotel night on Day 2. Check-in time is approximately 3pm.
Included meal services begin with Dinner on Day 2.

Day 20 Wednesday Depart **Colombo, Sri Lanka**
 Jan. 30

Farewell Point - Taj Gardens Hotel
Journey accommodations end with the hotel night on Day 20. Check-out time is approximately 11am on Day 21.
Included meal services end with Breakfast on Day 21.

Day 21 Thursday Arrive USA Hometown
 Jan. 31

INTERNATIONAL AIR FLIGHTS

Airfares vary according to your airline, departure city and seat category; and are based on availability and subject to change. Travcoa is pleased to assist you with your air reservations for this journey.

The recommended air carriers for this journey are: Singapore Airlines & Emirates. Please check with Travcoa for schedules and rates on our preferred carriers.

If you are arranging your own flights, please take careful note of the Rendezvous Points above. Our office requires flight details 2 months prior to departure to provide your included journey arrival and departure airport transfers.

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

This Travcoa escorted journey is designed to give you an in-depth experience of this region. If you have more time, you may choose to extend your travels and explore more of this region or other nearby areas. Some recommended options on how to extend your travel are listed below.

EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS:

Many guests choose to add additional hotel nights before and/or after their journey to help acclimate after long international flights or to do some independent exploration. Travcoa is happy to secure those hotel reservations for you. Travcoa still provides airport assistance and journey hotel transfers if you choose to arrive early or depart after the journey.

Call for pre tour rates at the **Governor's Residence Hotel in Yangon, Myanmar** and post tour rates at the **Taj Airport Garden Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lank**. Extra hotel nights are subject to availability.

INDEPENDENT JOURNEY EXTENSIONS:

Asia and India offer countless options for additional travel. Travcoa has a large variety of ready-to-book Independent Journeys from which to choose.

CUSTOM JOURNEY EXTENSIONS:

Travcoa can create customized independent itineraries designed around your special interests and desired travel dates. These can be arranged as extensions either before and/or after your escorted journey.

Contact a Journey Planner for more details.

***NOTE:** If you are connecting this journey with another Travcoa escorted or custom journey, please remember the connecting flights between journeys are NOT included. Please contact Travcoa for the recommended connecting flight schedule.*

YOUR TRAVCOA JOURNEY INCLUDES:

- Deluxe rooms in the best available hotels*
- Three meals per day, including our unique Dine-Around program that lets you enjoy any restaurant you choose with à la carte dining, or relax with room service when available*
- A professional Travel Director as your personal concierge
- Local sightseeing with professional English-speaking guides with unparalleled knowledge, including entrance fees for places visited
- Active participation and up-close encounters to experience the cultures of your journey
- Bottled water, soft drinks, coffee and tea included with meals; bottled water during sightseeing excursions
- All gratuities to hotel and restaurant staff and local guides and drivers
- Group or individual airport transfers on arrival and departure flights
- The *TravcoAssist Travel Protection Plan*, including emergency medical evacuation insurance coverage for injury or illness, and 24-hour Worldwide Live Travel Assistance through Travel Guard Assistance

**Due to remote or undeveloped locations on some journeys, accommodations may not always meet Western standards. Dine-Around opportunities will be limited in remote or unsecured locations.*

THE COST OF YOUR JOURNEY DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Air transportation; airport taxes; passport expenses
- Inoculations and medications
- Visas if required
- Alcoholic beverages (except as noted in itinerary) and caviar
- Expenses of guides, buses or cars for sightseeing not included in the itinerary
- Laundry, expenses of a personal nature and gratuity for any personal services
- Health, accident, baggage and trip cancellation insurance
- Excessive baggage charges imposed by airlines
- TravcoAssist GOLD Protection (*optional additional coverage*)
- Customary end-of-the-trip gratuity to the Travel Director
(Depending on your satisfaction with their services, \$15-\$18 per person, per day is customary.)