

SRI LANKA ABOARD THE 'VICEROY SPECIAL'

- the natural wonders of Sri Lanka aboard your private train –
Eastern and Oriental Express Bangkok to Singapore option

**Sunday 1 to Sunday 22 March 2015
(to Friday 27 March 2015 with E&O option)**



Sri Lanka is a beautiful tropical island the size of Tasmania, next door to India. Set in the Indian Ocean in South Asia, the tropical island nation of Sri Lanka has a history dating back to the birth of time. It is a place where the original soul of Buddhism still flourishes and where nature's beauty remains abundant and unspoilt. Few places in the world can offer such a remarkable combination of stunning landscapes, pristine beaches, captivating cultural heritage and unique experiences within such a compact location. Boasting eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 1,330 kilometres of coastline, 15 national parks showcasing an abundance of wildlife, nearly 500,000 acres of lush tea estates, 250 acres of botanical gardens, 350 waterfalls, 25,000 water bodies, and a culture that extends back to over 2,500 years. Once known as Serendib, Taprobane, the Pearl of the Indian Ocean, and Ceylon, Sri Lanka was a valued British colony. Its 20 million inhabitants speak English, and the island offers an authentic Indian experience without the crowds. The island has a wonderful broad gauge colonial-relic railway system still very much as the British left it, none of it electrified. The railway reaches the highest summit anywhere in the world of a 5ft 6in broad gauge railway at an impressive 6228ft. We plan to cover most of the rail network – mostly with our own private "Viceroy" train. The tour also features cultural highlights and natural wonders, with the amazing bird life and nature reserves boasting elephants and other large animals. A combination of culture, nature and railways. The dates of our tour should see cooler temperatures and the least rain for the island, and the programme is designed to enjoy both the beautiful scenery of the country, as well as to enjoy the ambience and facilities of the hotels we have selected for our journey.

Sunday 1 March 2015 (L) – Australia to Singapore

There is a range of flight options to Sri Lanka, with details available to those who are interested in joining us. The recommended option is a daylight flight to Singapore, with an overnight stop at Singapore Changi Airport's very convenient Crowne Plaza Hotel. Overnight Singapore

Monday 2 March 2015 – Singapore to Colombo, Sri Lanka

A mid morning flight has us arrive in Colombo at lunchtime. An orientation this afternoon with local sightseeing in and around the Sri Lankan capital, and a relaxing late afternoon on the edge of the ocean. Colombo has been a flourishing sea port for centuries when ancient seafarers traded in pearls, precious stones, elephants, peacocks, cinnamon and other spices.

Scenic Journeys by Rail, trading as St James Rail (SJR), PO Box N400, GROSVENOR PLACE, 1220. ABN 34 062 823 518
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Today Sri Lanka's commercial capital is a fascinating blend of the East & West, the past and present and the old & new.... due to its large harbour and its strategic position along the East-West sea trade routes, the city of Colombo was known to ancient traders 2,000 years ago. Made the capital of the island when Sri Lanka was ceded to the British Empire in 1815, and its status as capital was retained when the nation became independent in 1948. In 1978, when administrative functions were moved to Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, Colombo was designated as the commercial capital of Sri Lanka. Our hotel is a classy colonial-style building with a wonderful seafront terrace from which to watch the sun sink into the sea. We will stay here for three nights. Overnight Galle Face Hotel, Colombo.

Tuesday 3 March 2015 (B/D) – the Kelani Valley Line and Kelaniya Raja Maha Vihara temple

Today we travel by a regular train of the Sri Lankan Railways (SLR), where you will be able to meet the people and see how they live. We will catch the train to Avisawella, the Kelani Valley Line, through the middle of the shanty towns of the refugees displaced by the fighting in the north during the recently-ended civil war, across the middle of the golf course of the super-rich elite and out into the middle of some lush countryside. Often the train runs along the side of the road. We enjoy some refreshments at Avisawella before returning to Colombo by coach, visiting the Kelaniya Raja Maha Vihara temple and shrine, one of the most sacred temples on the island: it is built on a site where the Lord Buddha preached on his last visit to the island (over 2,600 years ago.) The temple is famous for its image of the reclining Buddha and paintings depicting important events in the life of the Buddha. An 18 foot stone statue has been erected at the temple. Overnight Colombo.

Wednesday 4 March 2015 (B/D) – highlights of Colombo and Mt Lavinia

This morning we tour Colombo and visit the National Museum, Victoria Park, Independence Square, the Wolfendal Church, Laksla and the Gangaramaya seemamalakaya – a temple and training centre for Buddhist monks. In the afternoon we travel to Mt Lavinia on the coast, just south of Colombo. Famed for its golden mile of beach, its historic Mt Lavinia Hotel is perched on the edge of the coast with stunning ocean views. Overnight Colombo.

Thursday 5 March 2015 (B/L/D) – to Matara and to Galle



Today we have our first of many experiences aboard the "Viceroy Special" which we have hired for the duration of our time in Sri Lanka. The train has two air-conditioned observation/saloon cars, one on each end, and a non air-conditioned restaurant car in the middle. With plenty of space aboard you can stretch out, move around the train, and enjoy views from the rear observation car of the countryside through which we are passing. The restaurant car will supply our meals when we are aboard for lunch, and morning and afternoon tea also. A bar provides a limited range of cool drinks, beer and wine. You can enjoy sitting at the table with the windows open enjoying fresh air as we travel. Our journey today is a lovely ride through the palm-tree plantations south of Colombo, with the sea on our right. We travel south to Matara, the end of the line, with luncheon aboard the train. This sea bordering town is 160 km from Colombo with the River Nilwala running through the town to meet the sea. Matara's history dates back to the Anuradhapura period. The temple that lies in the middle of town was built by ancient kings and now holds a sacred place among the Buddhists in the area. The 16th and the 18th centuries saw the rule of the Portuguese and Dutch in that order. During the Dutch rule the 'Star Fort' was built and the original structure exists today. We inspect Matara for a few hours, and then return to Galle. Galle was a Dutch trading station and is dominated by the picturesque fortress they built to protect both themselves and their commercial interests. It is one of the best-preserved examples of a 17th-century colonial fortification and was declared a World Heritage Site in 1988. Overnight at the ocean front Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel, Galle.

Friday 6 March 2015 (B/D) – Galle

Galle is located 116 km from Colombo along the Southwest coast and boasts breathtaking scenery. Formerly known as Point de Galle, it is the capital of the Southern Province. Galle exports rubber, tea, rope, coconut oil, and coconut fibre. The city also has a seaport that was very significant at the beginning of the 16th century when Portuguese were occupying most of Sri Lanka and then under the rule of the Dutch as well. In the 19th century, the British developed the Colombo seaport and the use of the Galle port declined. More than any other aspect of Galle, the history of this beautiful city is the most intriguing. Here you will find untouched ruins from the Portuguese and Dutch eras. The magnificent Dutch fort was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and is the most visited place by tourists. The history of the town goes to King Solomon's time. It was believed that Galle is the ancient seaport 'Tarshish', from where King Solomon transported ivory and other loot. The history of it holds stories of the times when Persians, Arabs, Greeks, Romans, Malays and Indians did their trading through the Galle port. The ruins that bear evidence to the history of Galle which can be seen around the city today date from 1505 when the first Portuguese ship landed in Galle after a storm. The old buildings around Galle were built in 1597 by the many Portuguese that occupied the coastal towns. In 1640, the Dutch took over from the Portuguese. They perfected the Fort in the year 1663 and it is that fort we will visit today. There is also the option for a tuk tuk ride (O). Overnight Galle.

Saturday 7 March 2015 (B/L/D) – Galle to Ratmalana Rail Workshops and to Kandy

Today we rejoin the Viceroy Special and head back towards Colombo. En route we visit the Sri Lankan Railway's main workshops. We expect this visit to appeal to non rail enthusiasts as well, as at Ratmalana, for example, there are offices still without a single computer in them, and workshops with belt-driven machinery. We can look through open doors and windows to a Victorian time capsule. Rejoining the train we head north through Colombo to the hillside city of Kandy. We enjoy luncheon aboard the train enroute. On leaving Rambukkana, the Kadugannawa Incline begins, where the train climbs 430 metres in 20 kilometres, often on a ledge of rock cut out of the hillside with some dizzy-making views. Kandy is the hill capital of Sri Lanka, and comes complete with a romantic lake much loved by the British, and has an agreeable climate due to its altitude of 500m. Kandy was the last bastion of the Sinhala kings and is a charming city offering a living record of a magnificent past. Some say Kandy is the only other real 'city' in Sri Lanka, other than Colombo. The easygoing capital offers history, culture, forested hills and a touch of urban buzz. Whilst only 115 km inland from the capital, climatically it is a world away due to its 500m altitude. Kandy fell to the British in 1815 after defying the Portuguese and Dutch for three centuries. Overnight Mahaweli Reach Hotel, Kandy.

Sunday 8 March 2015 (B/D) – Kandy sightseeing and Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage

After breakfast we explore Kandy, including Kandy Lake – a lovely centrepiece to the town created in 1807 by Sri Wickrama Rajasinha, the last ruler of the kingdom of Kandy. Several small-scale local chiefs, who protested because their people objected to labouring on the project, were put to death at stakes in the lake bed. The island in the centre was used as Sri Wickrama Rajasinha's personal harem, to which he crossed on a barge. Later the British used it as an ammunition store and added the fortress style parapet around the perimeter of the lake. Peradeniya Gardens provide spectacles of extraordinary beauty and absorbing interest for any nature lover - dating from 14th century reign of King Vikrama Bahu III, Peradeniya is well known for its large variety of plants, ornaments and creepers. The great lawns highlight huge tropical trees and variety of bamboo, and the Orchid House boasts more than 300 varieties of exquisite orchids. A spice garden gives you a first hand introduction to the trees and plants used for the traditional Ayurvedic medicine. The Dalada Maligawa (Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic) is the most venerated place of worship for Buddhists throughout the world. Built in the 16th century this temple houses the sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha brought to Sri Lanka from the Kalinga province in ancient India in the 4th century AD. Several buildings have been added to the temple complex by successive rulers, the latest being the Golden Canopy over the inner shrine where the Tooth Relic is placed. We also visit the spectacular Elephant Orphanage at Pinnawela - this 24 acre large elephant orphanage is also a breeding place for elephants and has the greatest herd of elephants in captivity in the world. Overnight Kandy.



Monday 9 March 2015 (B/L/D) – Badulla and Nuwara Eliya

We travel on our special train from Kandy to Nanu Oya, and then transfer the short distance by coach to Nuwara Eliya - "the prettiest village in Sri Lanka". We enjoy lunch aboard as we climb through this very beautiful hill country. Situated at around 2000m above sea level and surrounded by lush tea plantations, Nuwara Eliya is the main hill resort of Sri Lanka and the heart of the tea industry. Once a pleasure retreat of the European planters the town is still very much an English town with many English style bungalows and buildings. The city was founded by Samuel Baker, the discoverer of Lake Albert and the explorer of the Nile in 1846. Many of the buildings retain features from the colonial period such as the Queen's Cottage, General's House, the Grand Hotel, the Hill Club, and the town's Post Office. Overnight at the Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya.

Tuesday 10 March 2015 (B/L/D) – through picturesque 'upcountry' to Badulla

We enjoy a scenic rail journey to Badulla and back, with luncheon served aboard as we ascend to the highest point on the Sri Lankan railways network. The train ride to the hill country is considered to be amongst the finest train journeys in the world. The rail track ascends from sea level to the summit level of 1900 metres at Pattipola, the highest point reached by a 5' 6" broad gauge main line in the world. A great train journey is all about the subtle shift in geography as the journey progress through narrow passages, mountains and valleys, meadows and forests, and waterfalls. The magnificent railway bridges and tunnels are remarkable feats of engineering in a bygone era. The mainline to Badulla takes a circuitous route in the hills through tea estates, pine forests and misty peaks passing picturesque waterfalls and hair-raising precipices. It is recorded that it was no ordinary task building the upcountry line which traverses 46 tunnels and over towering dressed-stone piers which hold steel bridges that were formed in distant Glasgow and Liverpool. We return in the afternoon to Nuwara Eliya for dinner and overnight.



Wednesday 11 March 2015 (B/D) – Nuwara Eliya to Kandy

We return today through the hill country to Kandy, and visit a tea plantation and tea factory en route, arriving in Kandy for some evening shopping and a cultural dance performance. Overnight at the Cinnamon Lodge, Kandy.

Thursday 12 March 2015 (B/D) – Kandy to Polgahawela and Habarana

We join our coach and travel across country to meet our Viceroy Special train at Polgahawela. We enjoy luncheon aboard as we head to Habarana, our base for two nights to visit three major sights – Minneriya Nature Reserve, Sigiriya Rock Fortress, and the Dambulla Cave Temple. Overnight at the Cinnamon Lodge, Habarana.

Friday 13 March 2015 (B/D) – Sigiriya Rock Fortress and Dambulla Cave Temple

Sigiriya is an ancient palace of historical and archaeological significance that is dominated by a massive column of rock nearly 200 metres high. According to the ancient Sri Lankan chronicle the Culavamsa, this site was selected by King Kasyapa (477 – 495 CE) for his new capital. He built his palace on the top of this rock and decorated its sides with colourful frescoes. On a small plateau about halfway up the side of this rock he built a gateway in the form of an enormous lion. The capital and the royal palace were abandoned after the king's death, and it was used as a Buddhist monastery until the 14th century. Sigiriya today is a UNESCO listed World Heritage Site. It is one of the best preserved examples of ancient urban planning and is the most visited historic site in Sri Lanka.



This afternoon we visit Dambulla Cave Temple - a sacred pilgrimage site for twenty-two centuries, this cave monastery, with its five sanctuaries, is the largest, best-preserved cave-temple complex in Sri Lanka. The Buddhist mural paintings (covering an area of 2,100 square metres) are of particular importance, as are the 157 statues. The excavated shrine-caves, their painted surfaces and statuary are unique in scale and degree of preservation. The monastery also includes significant masterpieces of 18th century art, in the Sri Lankan school of Kandy. The rock of Dambulla is the centre of a Buddhist cave-temple complex established in the 3rd century BC and occupied continuously until today. Overnight Cinnamon Lodge, Habarana.



Saturday 14 March 2015 (B/D) – Minneriya Nature Reserve and to Trincomalee

An early rise to visit the Minneriya Nature reserve - a park of 8890 hectares that consists of mixed evergreen forest and scrub areas and is home to Sri Lanka's favourites such as sambar deer, leopards, monkeys, water birds and elephants. The park is an attraction to large numbers of Sri Lankans who are attracted to the grass fields and food and shelter of the parks forests. However the central feature of the park is the ancient Minneriya Tank (built in the 3rd century AD by King Mahasena). We rejoin our special train at Gal Oya for the short journey to Trincomalee. At Trinco, as it is called, we will transfer to our luxury hotel on a secluded beach in Uppuveli, north of Trincomalee, Uppuveli is known for its soft, white sandy beaches, mixed with mineral-rich black sand unique to this coastal strip on the Indian Ocean. Knee deep warm shallow water spreads out hundreds of metres into the sea. Trincomalee is one of the great natural harbours, the fifth largest and considered the second best in the world, and Admiral Lord Nelson described it as the finest harbour in the world when he visited the island in 1770. During the Second World War, it became the base for the combined East Asian Fleet of the Allied powers. The journey begins at the second largest natural harbor in the world. Explore the harbour mouth across the lagoon, settled amidst fourteen majestic mountains. We visit the Koneswaram Temple dedicated to the Hindu God Shiva, the shrine built by a South Indian King was destroyed by the Portuguese in 1622. The temple of a thousand columns was shoved over the cliff into the deep blue sea. Observe the magnificent view from Swami Rock and the famous Lovers Leap steeped in a romantic folktale. We'll saunter through Fort Fredrick, a well preserved Portuguese gateway constructed with the remnants of the destroyed Koneswaram Temple. Overnight Chaaya Blu Resort, Uppuveli, Trincomalee.

Sunday 15 March 2015 (B/L/D) – Trincomalee to Batticaloa

A relaxing day aboard the Viceroy train, with luncheon aboard, as we travel on an inland circuit from Trincomalee to Gal Oya and on to Batticaloa. We will stay for two nights at the Passekudah beach resort, near Batticaloa. Passekudah is an exotic beach where you can walk on the wide sandy beaches 30 to 50 metres into the sea. Waves are almost non-existent, making the sea look more like a lagoon. Overnight Maalu Maalu Resort, Passekudah.

Monday 16 March 2015 (B/L/D) – Batticaloa

Historically, Batticaloa is best known as the site of the first landing (in 1602) by the Dutch in Sri Lanka, and as the place where they established their first lasting foothold on the island by seizing the local fort from the resident Portuguese in 1638. As the principal east-coast settlement south of Trincomalee, "Batti" is one of Sri Lanka's most appealing but least-known larger towns, mainly thanks to its long years of isolation and turbulence during the civil war. Throughout the conflict, the town and surrounding area was a major flashpoint between Tamil Tigers and Sri Lankan Army forces, with the army controlling the town and the Tamil Tigers running their own parallel administration – complete with courts, police force and tax collectors – from the village of Kokkadicholai, a short drive south. As Indian journalist Nirupama Subramanian put it in Sri Lanka: Voices from a War Zone: "Technically, Batticaloa town came under the government ... That was by day. By night, the town took orders from the Tigers." The Tigers are now gone, and intriguing reminders of Batti's long colonial history can still be seen, while the mercantile hustle and bustle of the main commercial areas suggests a town now increasingly on the mend. The town's setting is magical, perched on a narrow sliver of land backed by the serpentine Batticaloa Lagoon and surrounded by water on three sides. Overnight Passekudah.

Tuesday 17 March 2015 (B/D) – Batticaloa to Polonnaruwa

We rejoin our special Viceroy Train for the journey from Batticaloa to Polonnaruwa. Here we visit the UNESCO world heritage site and the medieval capital of Sri Lanka. The people of Sri Lanka are very proud of Polonnaruwa and the level of civilisation it shows their ancestors had attained. It was the capital of the country from 200 AD until 1300, when it was sacked by Indian invaders – today it is the best preserved of the ruined cities. The Sri Lankans invite you to appreciate the size of the site and what they call their hydraulic civilisation — the city was supplied with water channelled from the still-existing 2500 hectare reservoir known as the Sea of Parakrama. We also visit the Gal Vihara Rock Monastery - the most celebrated site in Polonnaruwa, with its gigantic rock sculptures which “may be placed among the chefs-d’oeuvre of Sinhalese art”. Overnight Deer Park Hotel, Giritale.



Wednesday 18 March 2015 (B/L/D) – to Anuradhapura

A relaxing morning at the hotel, we then transfer to our Viceroy train and enjoy luncheon aboard as we travel for approximately four hours to the historic city of Anuradhapura. We ride in our special train from Polonnaruwa to Maho and then to Anuradhapura. We transfer to our hotel for dinner. Overnight Rajarata Hotel, Anuradhapura.

Thursday 19 March 2015 (B/D) – the ruined city of Anuradhapura

Anuradhapura is another of the great ruined cities of Sri Lanka, and was the capital before Polonnaruwa. Anuradhapura was the first capital of the ancient kingdom of Sri Lanka and founded around the 5th Century BC. The sacred city which spreads through approximately 100 acres (40 hectares) of land area is home to the ruins of huge stupas, monasteries, Buddha images, and colossal man-made lakes and ponds, hospital complexes, storied buildings and stone inscriptions that represent the advanced architectural, civil and hydraulic expertise of ancient Sri Lanka. The Sacred Bo-tree which was planted in 245 BC symbolizes the establishment of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. It is said to have been grown from a cutting taken from the original Bo tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment and is one of the oldest known trees in the world. Overnight Rajarata Hotel, Anuradhapura.

Friday 20 March 2015 (B/D) – to Ragama and Negombo

Today we enjoy our last journey on our special train as we travel from Anuradhapura to Ragama, with luncheon aboard, where we then transfer by coach the short distance to Negombo, for our last night in Sri Lanka. Known for its fishing industry and its sandy beaches, we enjoy our final afternoon with a walk or swim on the beach or at the hotel pool, and then dinner looking over the ocean. Overnight Jetwing Blue Hotel, Negombo.

Saturday 21 March 2015 – (B) to Australia or Bangkok

We have an early transfer to the airport (only 7km away) for flights back to Australia or on to Bangkok. Transit Singapore for the overnight flight to Sydney. Alternatively you may wish to return via Bangkok and experience the Eastern and Oriental Express luxury rail journey from Bangkok to Singapore. Travel from Bangkok across the beautiful scenery that Thailand offers, past the legendary River Kwai and onwards to Malaysia. Enjoy the sights of colonial Georgetown and Fort Cornwallis, before crossing the causeway over the Straits of Johor to the elegant city of Singapore. If making the additional journey, we fly to Bangkok for two nights before our train departs. Overnight en route to Australia, or in Bangkok.

Sunday 22 March 2015 – (B) Bangkok

We enjoy a day of sightseeing and some leisure time in the vibrant city of Bangkok. We'll take a journey along the Chao Phraya River, and immerse ourselves in this lively city. Overnight Bangkok.



Monday 23 March 2015 (B/D) – Bangkok and aboard the Eastern and Oriental Express

The morning is free to explore in Bangkok, before we join the Eastern and Oriental Express at Hualampong Station mid afternoon. The Eastern & Oriental Express departs Bangkok in the late afternoon. Having been welcomed onboard the gleaming carriages, settle into your comfortable cabin. Dinner is served as the train travels from Bangkok city and makes its way into the countryside with rice-fields, villages and water buffalo. Retire to your cabin, transformed into a cosy bedroom by your steward. Overnight aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express.

Tuesday 24 March 2015 (B/L/D) – Wang Po & River Kwai aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express

Awake early in order not to miss the excitement of the train making its way from Wang Po along the wooden trestle viaduct beside a towering cliff. On arrival at the River Kwai Bridge station, the E&O stops to allow you to disembark. Guides escort you on the short walk down to the jetty to board a local raft for a cruise along the lush greenery of the picturesque Kwai Yai river, passing under the Bridge. On board, a local historian provides a brief overview of the history of the Thailand-Burma railway and the bridge. At the E&O landing point you board a motor coach for a brief trip past the North Temple and Chinese Cemetery to the Thailand-Burma Railway Centre. As you explore the informative museum, the historian is available to answer questions. There is time to visit the Don Rak War Cemetery adjacent to the museum if you wish. Rejoin the coach for the short ride to the Kanchanaburi railway station to board the Eastern & Oriental Express. Later reflect on the day's sights over dinner and relax with a drink in the Bar Car before retiring for the night. Overnight aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express.

Wednesday 25 March 2015 (B/L/D) – Penang and aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express

Brunch is served before arrival into Butterworth where we disembark for the crossing to Penang and a guided introductory tour of colonial Georgetown with pre-World War II mosques, elaborately-roofed temples, churches, bazaars and colourful shophouses. Take the short ride back to Butterworth and rejoin the Eastern & Oriental Express. Spend the afternoon watching the passing scenery from one of the lounge cars or from the open deck of the Observation Car. Dine again in one of the opulent dining cars and then spend a relaxing evening in the Bar Car with its resident pianist. Enjoy your last night on board this luxury train.

Thursday 26 March 2015 (B) – arrive Singapore aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express

After breakfast, it's soon time to leave the train, with a mid-morning arrival, having crossed the Straits of Johor into Singapore. We transfer to our hotel, and the afternoon is free to explore in this vibrant city. Perhaps visit the Botanical Gardens, the Jurong Bird Park, or the acclaimed Singapore Night Zoo. Of course the shopping and dining options available in Singapore are also extensive. Overnight Singapore.

Friday 27 March 2015 (B/L) – from Singapore to Australia

Transfer to Singapore's Changi Airport for a daylight flight to Australia. Arrive Australia late afternoon. (There is the option to fly overnight to Australia to enjoy an additional day in Singapore, or indeed to spend a further night to relax in this Asian capital and explore its fine night zoo, bird park and more.

ACCOMMODATION, MEALS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Accommodation is in 4 - 4 ½ star hotels. In some locations the best available may not be 4 star, and in some locations we have selected superior hotels as part of the experience of the location. Most meals are included as shown – with breakfast included most mornings. Meals included are indicated as (B) Breakfast, (L) Luncheon and (D) Dinner. A few optional extras are available – indicated as (O) in the itinerary – which are not included and may be possible for additional cost if you so desire.

PERSONAL SERVICE AND MEETING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

SJR prides itself on its personal service and attention to detail. The tour is escorted by the organiser of the itinerary. You are assured of the utmost service and our commitment to your satisfaction. We recognise that each passenger has different interests, and we will aim to provide the opportunity to allow you to rest from the group, explore by yourself or visit special sites you've read about – if you wish. Detailed advice and assistance will be given to help you, and most travel requirements can be made for you.

FARES AND BOOKING PROCEDURES

The tour is limited in size, with a maximum of 36 participants. Bookings will be confirmed in order of receipt of a deposit of \$1500 per person. **The tour fare is \$6,895* per person (twin share) plus airfares from Australia, with a \$1,370* single supplement for hotels.** The fare for the extension tour including the Eastern & Oriental Express is indicated below. The tour fare includes all hotels and sightseeing in Sri Lanka, rail and coach travel in Sri Lanka, all bus, tram, metro and light rail transfers when part of the group; all accommodation on a twin share basis (single accommodation is available on payment of the single supplement); sightseeing and entrance fees to sites as indicated, and meals as shown in the itinerary for each day. The fare does not include meals not identified, drinks, excess baggage charges, gratuities, telephone calls, laundry, any items of a personal nature, travel outside the organised group. Additional or optional activities or entrance fees are not included in the cost. Bookings should be made on the attached form. The deposit of \$1500 per person should be forwarded by cheque, payable to Scenic Journeys by Rail, along with the booking form, to: SJR, PO Box N400, GROSVENOR PLACE, 1220

You can also pay the deposit by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):

Account name: Scenic Journeys by Rail
BSB: 033 364
Account: 612826
Reference: Your name and 'Sri Lanka'

If paying by EFT, include the reference above and your surname, and email to sjr@digitor.com.au to advise you have paid. Please forward the booking form to the postal address above.

AIR TRAVEL TO/FROM SRI LANKA

A range of flight options exist for travel from Australia to Sri Lanka. Our recommended option is Singapore Airlines to/from Singapore, and then Sri Lankan Airlines from Singapore to Colombo and return, or from Colombo to Bangkok if taking the E&O option. On receipt of booking we'll contact you to discuss your flight preferences and with our travel agent Flight Centre, Martin Place, we will identify the best airfare to meet your travel needs. Business Class seating is also available on all flights.

'THE EASTERN & ORIENTAL EXPRESS' EXTENSION SIX DAY TOUR

'Trains are wonderful... to travel by train is to see nature and human beings, towns... and rivers, in fact, to see life' - Agatha Christie

The optional extension includes two nights in a 5 star hotel in Bangkok, three nights aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express, and one night in a 5 star hotel in Singapore.

The golden age of travel lives on aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express luxury rail journey. Winding through some of the world's most beautiful and exotic landscapes, it voyages through Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore - mountains, forests, fascinating towns and golden temples create a rich tapestry of life along the way. This sister journey to Europe's Venice Simplon-Orient-Express offers an equally exciting on-board experience. Enjoy gourmet dining, cocktails in the open-air observation car and special local entertainment as your adventure unfolds.

The Eastern & Oriental Express offers three grades of beautifully appointed compartments: Pullman Cabins, State Cabins and Presidential Suites. Pullman Cabins have a lower and upper berth, and a three seat lounge during the day. State and Presidential Cabins have two lower beds at night. The interior walls are cherry wood and elm burr panelled, adorned with decorative marquetry and intricate inlays. Each cabin is fully air-conditioned with an en suite shower, washbasin and WC and features large picture windows for an excellent view of the passing scenery. Facilities include 24-hour steward service, international electric sockets (220 volts) and 110 volt adapter for razors, a personal safe and hairdryer. We have obtained very special pricing available for our group. Fares for the extension tour include three nights aboard the E & O luxury train, including all meals, and two nights in 5 star hotels in Bangkok and one in Singapore, including breakfast each morning.

Eastern & Oriental Express Journey and Bangkok/Singapore accommodation

\$3,350 per person in a single Pullman cabin, \$450 single hotel supplement (limited availability)

\$3,350 per person twin sharing in a Pullman cabin, \$1,680 single supplement.

\$4,550 per person twin sharing in a State cabin, \$2,250 single supplement.

We'll contact you to discuss options – for Presidential Suites please call for pricing.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please call us on (02) 9326 9660, 0418 585 838 or email at sjr@digitor.com.au for further details or information.

BOOKING, CANCELLATION AND TRAVEL CONDITIONS

Bookings will be accepted on the attached form. Cancellation fees apply as follows: the initial deposit is non-refundable. After payment of further deposits towards the final tour cost, costs for tickets, accommodation, sightseeing etc made on your behalf will incur cancellation charges equal to the cancellation charges incurred to us, imposed by suppliers/operators, plus a fee to cover administrative costs – more than three months prior to departure, \$1,000 per person; within three months, \$1500 per person. No refund will be made one month prior to departure from Australia. All cancellation or administration charges imposed by the suppliers/operators of components of this tour must be borne by you, the passenger. Responsibility - St James' Rail acts only as the organiser of the tour. Transportation, accommodation and other tour arrangements are made by our licensed travel agent, Flight Centre Martin Place, Sydney. On acceptance of tickets and travel documents for this tour, which may be evidenced in writing by a ticket, voucher, letter, or other document, you accept that neither St James' Rail nor representatives from any other firm supplying services in conjunction with this tour programme, shall be liable in contract or in tort (actionable wrong) for any injury, loss, damage, accident, sickness, delay or additional expense to you or your possessions arising directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond our control, or which are not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part, including, but not limited to, civil disturbance, fire, floods, acts of God, acts of Governments or other authorities, changes in itinerary, weather, strikes, war, transportation disruption, failure of machinery or equipment, industrial action, quarantine or any other cause. Where travel is by scheduled carrier, or charter service, that carrier's responsibility is limited in accordance with their conditions of carriage. Similarly all luggage is your responsibility, and we cannot be held liable for any loss or delay however caused. The care of your travel documents are your own responsibility. All expenses incurred by loss must be borne by you. Airline regulations and conditions are written on the airline tickets and are issued to passengers subject to their acceptance of these conditions. Changes in exchange rates, taxes and any land arrangements costs may alter the price of the tour, and St James' Rail reserves the right to change, amend or cancel this tour and/or itinerary if necessary. We reserve the right to amend the itinerary en route to account for unforeseen changes or conditions, or to improve the tour experience for the majority, as determined by the tour leader. Passports and visas – a valid passport with six months validity from the end of the tour is required. St James' Rail cannot accept responsibility for any losses or expenses incurred as a result of a passenger not holding valid and necessary passport or visa documents.

INSURANCE

Travel insurance is highly recommended to protect yourself against cancellation fees, health and other travel risks. An insurance policy can be sent to you from our travel agent, Flight Centre, Martin Place, for your consideration. Obtaining insurance cover for the tour is your responsibility.

SRI LANKA ABOARD THE VICEROY SPECIAL

Sunday 1 to Sunday 22 March 2015

(to Friday 27 March 2015 with E&O option)

Booking Form

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Name:

Address: Suburb: Postcode:

Home tel: Work tel: Mobile:

BOOKING DETAILS (Full passenger names as shown on your passport)

Passenger 1 Name:

Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:

Passenger 2 Name:

Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:

Passenger 3 Name:

Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:

Passenger 4 Name:

Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:

PAYMENT

..... I have enclosed \$ as deposit (\$1500 per person) for the above booking. Please make cheques payable to Scenic Journeys by Rail.

..... I have paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) as described previously. Please email SJR to advise and send this form.

Account name: Scenic Journeys by Rail
BSB: 033 364
Account: 612826
Reference: Your name and 'Sri Lanka'

A letter will be sent acknowledging receipt of your deposit and providing further details.

AIR TRAVEL TO/FROM SRI LANKA (WE WILL CALL TO DISCUSS AND CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS)

..... Please book me/us to travel to and from Sri Lanka with the recommended group flights and advise me of the best airfare.

..... Economy class air travel Business class air travel

..... Please call me to discuss air travel options.

..... I will make my/our own air travel arrangements and meet you in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 2 March 2015.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Single rooms: Double rooms: Twin (two bedded) rooms:

A single supplement is payable for sole use of rooms in hotels.

EASTERN AND ORIENTAL EXPRESS EXTENSION TOUR

..... I am interested in the Eastern and Oriental Express extension tour from Bangkok to Singapore.

Please book us to travel as below.

Single Pullman Cabin

During the day, your cabin is a private lounge complete with banquette-style sofa. At night, it converts into a plush bedroom with a single lower bed. (Limited availability)

..... Sole Use – single hotel supplement payable

Pullman Cabin

During the day, your cabin is a private lounge complete with banquette-style sofa. At night, it converts into a plush bedroom with an upper and lower bed.

..... Twin share

..... Sole Use – single supplement payable

State Cabin

State Cabins are configured as a private lounge during the day with a banquette-style sofa. Fixed daytime seating converts to two single lower beds for the night.

..... Twin share

..... Sole Use – single supplement payable

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please indicate any dietary or any other sort of special request :

.....

.....

INSURANCE

..... Please send an insurance policy from Flight Centre, Martin Place.

YOUR SIGNATURE

I have read the reservation conditions outlined above and accept them on behalf of myself and my party by whom I am authorised to make this agreement.

Signature of person making reservation: Date:

Cancellation charges will apply as advised in this itinerary. An insurance policy can be forwarded from our travel agent at Flight Centre Martin Place, Shop 3, Lvl 1, Colonial Centre Arcade, 52 Martin Pl, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Telephone 02 9326 9660
Email sjr@digitor.com.au

Mobile 0418 585 838
Web www.stjamesrail.org

