



# Passport Travel & Tours

P.O. Box 826, Grayslake, IL 60030-2272 / p: 847.543.6729 / f. 847.543.6745 / e: contact@passporttraveltours.com

## Tour India with Bill Ball

### *Southern India & Sri Lanka*

#### **Day One**

We begin our Southern India and Sri Lanka adventure with a flight over the pond. The excitement builds as a visit to a whole new world awaits. Overnight flight to Delhi.

#### **Day Two**

We arrive in Delhi ready for our journey to the South to begin. We arrive this evening and overnight in Delhi.

#### **Day Three**

This morning we depart for a flight to Madurai. We arrive in Madurai today ready to see why this city has one of the 100 most important man-made structures in the world. On first glance, the Sri Meenakshi Temple makes it clear why this is one of the most beautiful buildings in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built in the 1600's, it is one of the largest temples in India. Fabulous sculptures, fascinating murals and sacred pools make this a must see destination. We will also visit the Nayak Palace, dating also to the 1600's; it was the royal residence when Tamil was its own Kingdom.

#### **Day Four**

We head to and tour Periyar National Park. This is one of the best parks in India. It is known for its tigers, elephants, gaur (wild cattle), leopard and sloth bear. As one of the largest parks in India, it has the space for big game to thrive.

#### **Day Five**

A second day in the park is highlighted by a safari cruise on the vast Periyar Lake. Here elephants, gaur and tigers come to drink and photo opportunities abound.



#### **Day Six**

We fly to Colombo, Sri Lanka and head directly to the cultural triangle of this island nation. The triangle consists of three UNESCO World Heritage sites. We start with the Sigiriya Rock Fortress built in the 5<sup>th</sup> century and considered by many as the Eighth Wonder of the World.

#### **Day Seven**

We explore Polonnaruwa's ancient ruins. This was Sri Lanka's capital from the 11<sup>th</sup> century until the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. We will marvel at the sophisticated civilization that flourished a thousand years ago.

#### **Day Eight**

The third UNESCO site in this trilogy is on tap today as we visit Dambullo's cave temple. This cave temple is known for its colorful frescoes, some dating back 2000 years, and there are more Buddha statues here. In fact, there are more Buddha statues here than anywhere else including one 45 feet long carved out of rock.

#### **Day Nine**

We journey to Sri Lanka's hill capital, the small lakeside city and UNESCO site of Kandy. We will visit the Temple of the Tooth, where a relic purported to be the tooth of Buddha is enshrined. The fine woodwork, golden roof and decorated walls make this gem of human craftsmanship.



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## Day Ten

Today we visit the nearby national park—Wasgamuwa. This national park, one of Sri Lanka's premiere parks, is home to elephant, leopard, sloth bear and crocodiles. Our safari will venture deep into the park, ready to snap that once-in-a-lifetime big game photo.

## Day Eleven

We head back to Colombo, the capital and have a city tour. This cosmopolitan city is the cultural, political and economic hub for this small country.

## Day Twelve

We follow the south shore of the island to end at a very special place—Tongulle. Here, virtually year round, 5 of the 7 species of sea turtles come to nest at night. We will be there at peak season where as many as 26 turtles a night come ashore. This will be an experience you will never forget.

## Day Thirteen

We travel to our next unique wildlife experiences at Thulpe. Here is also another UNESCO site—the 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch fort at Galle. We will explore the maze of narrow roadways edged by British and Dutch colonial era buildings that are still in use.

## Day Fourteen

Morning is the time we venture out to encounter the largest animals that ever roamed the earth. No, there are no dinosaurs here. The Blue Whale dwarfs even the largest of the dinosaurs. This is the best place to see this endangered monster as well as the largest toothed whale—the Sperm Whale or Moby Dick.

## Day Fifteen

We begin our trek home today with memories of ancient civilizations, UNESCO World Heritage sites, the largest animal that ever lived and the abundant wildlife of Southern India and Sri Lanka.



## Day Sixteen

Arrive home early this afternoon.

## Tour price

\$8595.00 per person, double occupancy  
\$1000 single supplement

### Tour price includes:

- Roundtrip airfare from New York
- All Interior flights in India & Sri Lanka.
- First class Hotel Accommodations
- All breakfasts, lunches and dinners in India & Sri Lanka
- All admissions to listed attractions
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- Baggage Handling
- Fully guided by Bill Ball