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INTERNATIONAL

**TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL
INVITES YOU TO JOIN INSPIRING AUSTRALIAN
HORTICULTURIST**

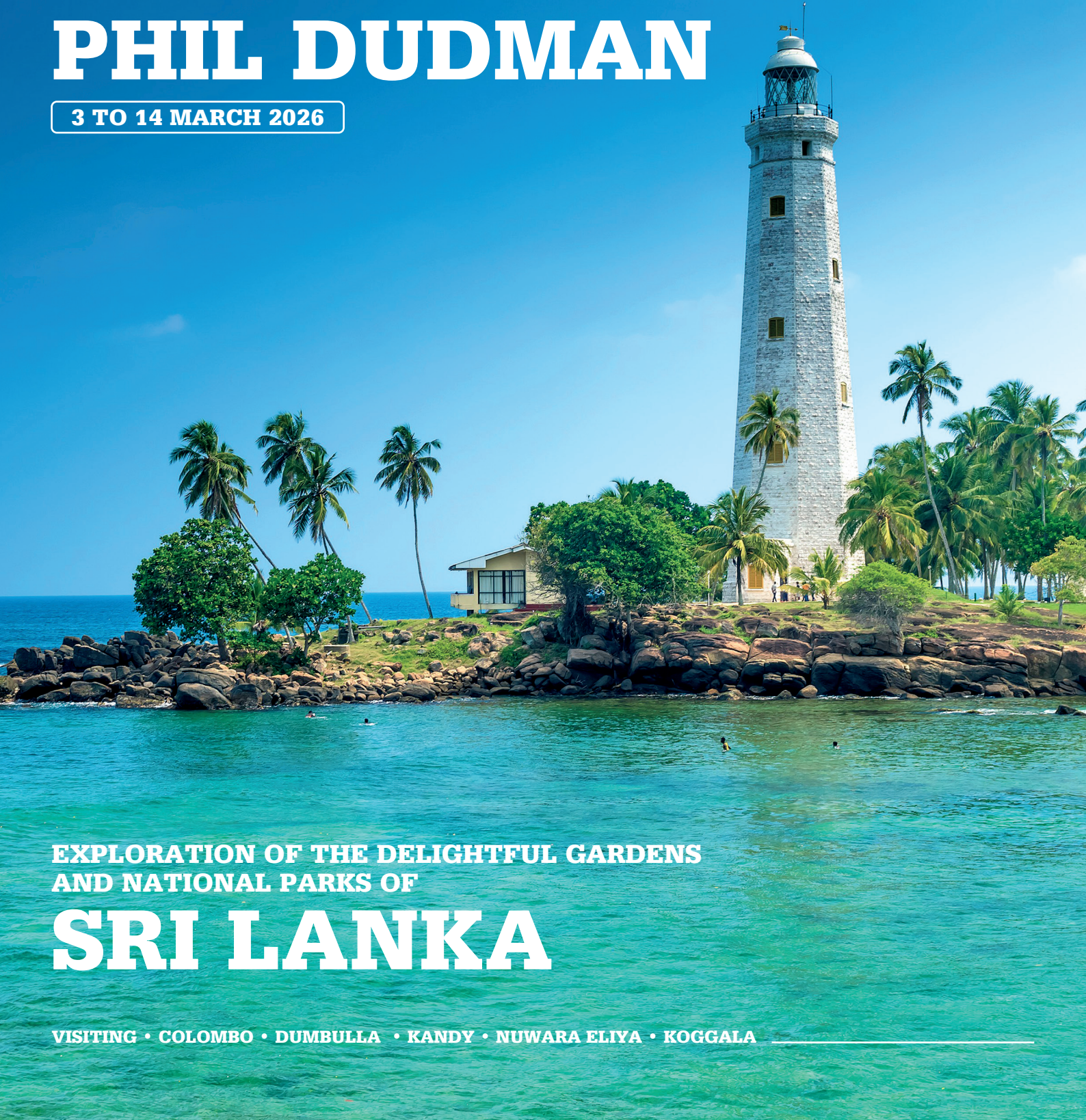
PHIL DUDMAN

3 TO 14 MARCH 2026

**EXPLORATION OF THE DELIGHTFUL GARDENS
AND NATIONAL PARKS OF**

SRI LANKA

VISITING • COLOMBO • DUMBULLA • KANDY • NUWARA ELIYA • KOGGALA



Sri Lanka



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Tuesday 3 March 2026 Colombo

We depart Australia and travel to Colombo, where we arrive late in the evening. We will be transferred to our hotel.

Day 2 - Wednesday 4 March 2026 Colombo

We will enjoy a sightseeing tour of Colombo this morning. We will explore the Fort district, the historic centre of the city, visit the Dutch Church of Wolvendaal and have time to explore Pettah Market. We will visit Geoffrey Bawa's, who was an influential Sri Lankan architect and garden designer, house where he lived from 1960 to 1970. This visit will demonstrate his love for traditional form in the house. We will stop at the Parliament Building designed by Geoffrey Bawa. This evening we will enjoy a welcome dinner.

Day 3 - Thursday 5 March 2026 Dambulla

Today we travel by coach to visit the rock caves at Dambulla, dating to the 1st century AD. Called the Golden Temple of Dambulla, it is a world heritage site. There are over 80 caves which contain amazing statues and paintings related to Gautama Buddha and his life. We continue to Dambulla for our three night stay.

Day 4 - Friday 6 March 2026 Dambulla

This morning we travel to Sigiriya, home to the 5th century UNESCO World Heritage listed Sigiriya Rock Fortress, Lion Rock or as it is sometimes called "Fortress in the Sky". We will walk through the colossal lions paws as we climb to the top of the fortress for a wonderful view of the surrounding countryside. We will explore the vast water gardens, surrounding the fortress, which are among the oldest in the world. They have a complex hydraulic system to keep water flowing through the magnificent ponds, canals and fountains. We will visit the Pavilion Gardens, Fountain Gardens, Moated Palace Gardens and the Octagon Pond Gardens. This afternoon we will visit Popham's Arboretum, which once was a tea plantation. It was planted by a retired British Naval Officer to conserve the unique biodiversity of this area. He gifted it to the Institute of Fundamental Studies to be used for conservation and research.



Phil Dudman made the bus trips so much fun with his quizzes and question time he was excellent...

Phil Dudman, fantastic . Loved the interaction with other tour members...

PHIL DUDMAN

Phil Dudman is a horticulturist, designer, writer and broadcaster. His recent book, 'Down-to-Earth Garden Design' characterizes Phil's approach to gardening; easy, straight-forward, and never complicated. Phil is a seasoned traveller too, having travelled extensively across Australia, Europe and Asia in search of great sites, great food, great people and of course great gardens. Following short stints in architecture and business and a few years fronting a Sydney rock 'n' roll band, he finally succumbed to his true horticultural calling in his late 20's. In the past 30 years, Phil has contributed to many of Australia's leading gardening magazines, written three books for ABC Books and worked as a TV presenter on channel nine's Garden Gurus. He is also the host of ABC Radio's Good Gardening program. Phil is looking forward to meeting you.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT COMING ALONE...

About a third of people on the tour travel alone. We will match people in twin-share rooms when available, saving you the single supplement. There will be group activities every day. The tour is fully escorted and will be a great fun holiday. Each evening you will dine with the group at different restaurants. You will meet a fun group of people and have a fabulous time.



Day 5 - Saturday 7 March 2026..... Dumbulla

Today we travel to the ancient kingdom of Polonnaruwa, another UNESCO World Heritage site. This was the capital of Sri Lanka from the 11th to the 12th century. We will see the ruins of an amazing garden city created by Parakramabahu I in the 12th century. The ruins give us an idea of how the city looked during its heyday with tombs, interesting stupas, frescoes and statues. Late afternoon we will travel to Minneriya National Park, where we will see wild elephants, and have the chance to see some of the 160 species of birds and 78 species of butterflies.

Day 6 - Sunday 8 March 2026 Kandy

Today we will travel to Kandy. On the journey, we will visit the interesting National Spice Gardens at Matale. This is a research centre where Sri Lankan spices are trialled and the developed. Kandy is set on a plateau surrounded by beautiful mountains, home to tea plantations and a bio-diverse rainforest. At its centre is the scenic Bogambara Lake. The remainder of the day is free for individual exploration in Kandy.

Day 7 - Monday 9 March 2026 Kandy

This morning we will visit Peradeniya Royal Botanic Gardens, originally developed as a Royal pleasure garden under the ruling kings from 1371. The origins of the present Botanic Garden date to 1843 when plants were brought from Kew Gardens, Slave Island and Colombo to establish it. Famous for its collection of endemic, indigenous and exotic plants it grows up to 4000 species. Phil will lead us around the garden, so that we get the most out of our visit. In the afternoon we visit the wonderful Royal Complex, the last capital of the Sinhala kings. We will visit the Temple around the lake and we will also see the Kings Palace, the Queens Palace, Audience Hall, Boathouse and Royal Summer House.

Day 8 - Tuesday 10 March 2026..... Nuwara Eliya

Today is a highlight of our trip. We travel on the train for a spectacular scenic journey from Peradeniya to Nuwara Eliya. One hour out of Kandy the landscape changes from grass covered plains to spectacular steep hills covered with tea bushes. Nuwara Eliya is the center of the tea industry in Sri Lanka, with some of the best tea in the world and is one of the world's largest tea exporters. We will visit a tea plantation to learn more about this important industry and to enjoy a tea tasting.

Day 9 - Wednesday 11 March 2026 Nuwara Eliya

Late morning we visit Victoria Park a garden filled with hundreds of varieties of flowers of many different varieties, which flourish in this gorgeous climate. In the afternoon we visit the beautiful temperate hill-country Hakgala Botanical Garden. We will see stunning lotus and water lilies, a rose garden, a fernery, an orchid house and an arboretum. We continue to the Grand Hotel for an enjoyable high tea. This huge mock Tudor hotel, which oozes colonial style was built for Sir Edward Barnes, the fifth Governor of Ceylon. It is surrounded by gorgeous gardens.

Day 10 - Thursday 12 March 2026 Koggala

This morning we travel by coach to Galle, located on the southwestern coast of Sri Lanka, it is a charming city known for its blend of colonial history and stunning coastal scenery. On arrival, we visit Galle Dutch Fortress. The fortress was built first by the Portuguese, and then modified by the Dutch during the 17th century. Even today, after 400 years of existence, it looks new and polished with reconstruction work done by the Archaeological Department of Sri Lanka. This evening we will enjoy a farewell dinner for our last night in Sri Lanka.

Day 11 - Friday 13 March 2026 Departure

We travel to Bentota to visit Lunuganga, the beautiful garden designed by Geoffery Bawa. Spread over 15 acres, this iconic estate sits at the banks of the Dedduwa Lake in Bentota. The enchanting retreat and fascinating gardens of Lunuganga was often considered a beautifully crafted experimental ground for Geoffery Bawa, whose extraordinary work can be seen amidst the many architectural charms across the estate. Every turn and bend in Lunuganga is an interesting experience - with so many exotic plants, trees and views to take in. We travel on to Colombo airport for our flight to Australia.

Day 12 - Saturday 14 March 2026 Arrival in Australia

We arrive in Australia and travel arrangements finish.



TOUR PRICE FOR SRI LANKA TOUR

The cost of the tour per person twin share \$6095.00

The cost of the tour per single \$7196.00

INCLUDED IN THE EXPLORATION OF THE DELIGHTFUL GARDENS AND NATIONAL PARKS OF SRI LANKA TOUR:

- Return economy class flights from Melbourne and Sydney. Please enquire about departure from other cities
- 3 nights in Dumballa - 2 nights in Colombo, Kandy and Nuwara Eliya, 1 night in Kogalla 4 and 5 star accommodation including breakfast
- Sightseeing tours in all locations as per the itinerary.
- Tour management by a professional local tour manager
- Tour hosted by Phil Dudman
- Welcome and Farewell dinners

NOT INCLUDED IN THE EXPLORATION OF THE DELIGHTFUL GARDENS AND NATIONAL PARKS OF SRI LANKA TOUR TOUR:

- Travel insurance
- Additional travel arrangements not detailed in the itinerary. These will be quoted for separately
- Passport and visa fees
- Drinks
- Lunches and dinners unless listed in the itinerary
- Visa fees

GENERAL INFORMATION AND BOOKING CONDITIONS

Touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this tour without the need of assistance from others.

Deposits and Payments: A deposit of \$700 per passenger should be sent with a completed Travelrite International booking form. Final payments are due to be paid to Travelrite International 60 days prior to the commencement of the tour. A 1.5% administration fee will be added to payments by credit cards.

Cancellation Charges: Number of days before the tour commences.

Over 60 days..... Loss of deposit
60 days or less..... 100% of full fare
Non-appearance/no written notice 100% of full fare.

Refunds: The tour is based on arrangements which do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals or other services not utilised after the tour has commenced.

Travel Documents: All passengers will require a valid passport. Australian passport holders will require an ETA for Sri Lanka. If not an Australian passport holder, please check with Travelrite International for visa requirements.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Adequate travel insurance is highly recommended to cover tour members for the consequences of unforeseen events during the cruise and for cancellation fees which could result from events such as illness, accident, death etc.

BAGGAGE: Passengers qualify for a 20kg free baggage allowance on flights to join or return from the cruise. Baggage is at owners' risk throughout the cruise.

MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS: The tour arrangements have been made on the basis of a minimum number of passengers travelling. In the event that less than the required number of passengers have confirmed their booking 60 days from the date of departure, Travelrite International reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of monies paid, or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified fare.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ATAS No. A10538) is the tour organiser. You engage Travelrite International to book this tour on your behalf and you acknowledge that Travelrite International acts as your agent for the purpose of making contracts between you and the various providers of accommodation, transportation and other services that comprise the tour. Travelrite may without reference to you provide or make available to you, or may as your agent engage any third party to provide or make

available to you, any good or service which Travelrite reasonably believes is necessary for your benefit to maintain the tour itinerary, repatriate you or otherwise accommodate, transport or sustain you in circumstances in which the tour itinerary fails wholly or partly for any reason. You appoint Travelrite your attorney for this purpose. You agree to pay Travelrite any cost thereof and you indemnify Travelrite in respect of any cost it incurs in this regard. Travelrite advises you to obtain travel insurance generally including in respect of the risk that any such good or service may become required. Further, no responsibilities are accepted for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labour disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather, terrorism or other causes beyond their control. No responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omission, delays, re-routing or acts of any government authority. Baggage is at owners' risk throughout the tour. The right is reserved to withdraw any tour arrangement and/or make such changes to the tour arrangements as may be found desirable or necessary for the convenience of the parties and the proper carrying out of the tour. The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies or firms and the purchasers of these tours. The contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria and any legal action must be undertaken in the State of Victoria.

How to Book: Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and sending it with a deposit of \$700 per person to:

Travelrite International Pty Ltd

423 Whitehorse Road
Balwyn, Victoria 3103

Further information can be obtained by telephoning

Toll Free: 1800 630 343
Phone: (03) 8803 6868
Email: sales@travelrite.com.au
www.travelrite.com.au

ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL: Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a well-established travel company which has been marketing throughout Australia for over 38 years and operating in Victoria for more than 40 years. It is a member of ATAS (No. A10538) and has a fully credited IATA office at Balwyn. As such they directly represent the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international hotel, tour and transport operators. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Travel Industry Association -ATIA.

Please send to:
Travelrite International Pty. Ltd.
423 Whitehorse Road
Balwyn, Victoria, 3103.



Further information or a booking form can be obtained by telephoning Travelrite International on the following numbers:

TOLL FREE 1800 630 343

☎ **Phone: (03) 9836 2522**
✉ **E-mail: sales@travelrite.com.au**
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