



# Welcome



Travel has been my life for over 20 years. St Augustine's famous quote remains as true to me today as it was when I first set up 2by2 Holidays – "the world is a book and those who do not travel, read only one page".

My first love was Africa, the place of my birth. Its remarkable wildlife and cultures continue to captivate me today. A recent visit to the wildlife of the

Serengeti has starkly reminded me just how fragile the survival of so many endangered species remains and reinforced my belief that travel must always have conservation at its heart.

In recent years I have discovered the joys of travel in the Indian subcontinent and Latin America. The iconic sites and cultures there are no less enthralling and everywhere wildlife adapts and survives, from harsh barren deserts to cool mountain cloud forests and tropical wetlands.

My enthusiasm burns as brightly as ever and I continue to be as involved in every aspect of the business as I always have been, backed up by our superb travel team. I'm particularly thrilled that so many of our customers return time after time.

I do hope you find our latest brochure inspiring and we all look forward to hearing from you.

Hambe Kahle – Travel Safely

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Taj Mahal



# About Us

We specialise in tailor-made holidays to Southern & East Africa, Latin America and the Indian subcontinent – regions that are often difficult to explore on your own.

The excitement of long haul travel starts in the early planning stages, as you browse through inspirational travel sites, speak to friends and gather information from magazines and brochures such as ours. At 2by2 Holidays we understand this anticipation, as we ourselves are passionate travellers. We love to listen to your ideas and supplement them with our own experiences to help you plan the best possible trip – tailored to your special interests and budget.

Our sales team regularly visit the countries we sell to ensure our specialist knowledge remains up-to-date. Through our extensive contacts in each destination, we are also happy to research unusual activities and excursions for you.

With our expert knowledge we can advise you on all the great wildlife reserves in the world and help you to explore iconic cultural highlights in countries that you never thought you

would be able to visit on your own, as our experiences of these destinations is truly second to none.

Our tradition of customer service has been a vital element of our success and many of our customers come back year after year. Be rest assured that you will be well looked after every step of the way as you explore these remarkable countries with their astonishing wildlife, colourful cultures and breathtaking landscapes.



## Types of Holidays

We tailor make all our holidays so you can choose to travel by road, plane, luxury train, houseboat or expedition cruise. We can arrange a private driver/guide, you can self drive or join an escorted tour.

Browse through our brochure to see the wide range of destinations and types of holidays we offer. The example itineraries are intended to be a starting point, so ring us if you would like to talk with someone who has travelled to the country you are interested in. To see what travel options are possible, these symbols are shown under each example itinerary:



Land Transfers



Light Aircraft Transfers



Driver/Guide



Self Drive



Wheelchair Accessible



Escorted Tour



Train



On Water

## Our Values

Travel should be a force for good, especially where tourism is a crucial source of revenue for local people. We want you to experience the very best holiday and at the same time, where we can, help to contribute something back to the communities you visit.

## Auriel Holidays

Our sister company, Auriel Holidays, is a retail travel agent that operates worldwide. Auriel Holidays is ABTA bonded (P8305) and can book bespoke holidays, luxury hotels and cruises anywhere in the world.

## Financial Protection

2by2 Holidays holds an Air Travel Organisers Licence from the UK Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL 9025) which provides financial protection if you live in the UK, and we book some or all of your flights. Holidays that do not meet the above criteria are protected through our Client Trust Account, so your holiday is financially protected wherever in the world you live.

2by2 Holidays

Auriel Holidays



Travel with confidence

P8305

Ring us on  
**01582 766122**

Email us at [info@2by2holidays.co.uk](mailto:info@2by2holidays.co.uk)  
or visit [www.2by2holidays.co.uk](http://www.2by2holidays.co.uk)



Mihintale

# Sri Lanka

Situated off the southern tip of India, Sri Lanka means beautiful island and it truly does not disappoint. But this tear-shaped jewel previously known as Ceylon offers so much more, including many extraordinary cultural treasures.

This is a spiritual country where Buddhism is the main religion of the Sinhalese, although there are significant Hindu, Christian and Muslim minorities. Evidence of these many religions is everywhere, from fabulous ancient Buddhist shrines and towering Hindu temples, to the many personal shrines found on street corners.

Most trips to Sri Lanka start in the capital of Colombo, a port located on the ancient spice route and today an eclectic

mix of modern and old. As you leave the city, it is possible to stop at a small private elephant sanctuary for close-up views of Asian elephants rescued from the wild. They are much smaller than their African cousins, with different shaped ears and heads.

Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle is located in the centre of the country and is a mix of ancient cities, fortresses and temple caves, many of which are now World Heritage Sites. A real highlight is ascending the

1,200 steps to the top of Sigiriya Rock, a breathtaking fortification in the sky also known as Lion Rock. It was a 5th century fortress and later a Buddhist monastery, so a deeply spiritual place with ancient rock paintings and incredible views. Don't miss the small museum at the entrance. The cave temples at Dambulla are also astonishing, with no fewer than 150 magnificently preserved Buddhas from the first century BC. It is one of the best preserved of all the temples in Sri Lanka.

## From a wildlife perspective, Sri Lanka is best known for its wild Asian elephants and the leopards of Yala National Park.

At Minneriya National Park, in August and September elephants migrate along a corridor from neighbouring parks to feed on the fresh grass on the lakebed. This annual event is remarkable and is known as 'The Gathering'.

Further north, the ancient city of Anuradhapura was founded in the 4th century on the mountain peak of Mihintale and is today a World Heritage Site, with many huge circular white-domed stupa shrines. Here you can walk under the canopy of the sacred Bodhi tree, grown from an offshoot of the tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment. At over 2,200 years it is the oldest historically documented tree in the world.

The Buddha at Aukana is the tallest and most magnificent undamaged ancient statue in all of Sri Lanka.

Polonnaruwa was the capital of Sri Lanka from the 11th to 13th centuries, following the fall of Anuradhapura, and is another World Heritage Site complete with enormous Buddha statues. Remember to dress conservatively and remove your shoes when entering temples.

The Knuckles Mountains takes its

name from a series of folds and peaks, which resemble the knuckles of a clenched fist. This magnificent cloud forest is home to much endemic flora and fauna and is wonderful for walking and hiking.

Sri Lanka's most significant shrine is the Temple of the Tooth, situated in the hill capital of Kandy in the centre of the island. Here there is a tooth relic of the Buddha, held in a golden casket that is displayed to the public during the pooja ceremony. The annual Festival of the Sacred Tooth takes place in July and is one of the country's most lively and vibrant celebrations. Kandy's Peradeniya Botanical Gardens are also well worth a visit. Ask your hotel to pack you a picnic lunch to enjoy here, and don't forget to visit the orchid house.

Yala is the most famous of Sri Lanka's national parks as leopard are found here in the highest concentration in the world. But do not expect this to be a safari in the African sense, as the wildlife is sparser and the people more numerous. Notwithstanding this, nothing compares with the thrill of spotting one of these magnificent creatures in the wild.

Wilpattu National Park in the north also has high concentrations of leopard, but they are more difficult to spot because of the denser vegetation.

Sightings of wild Asian elephants in this country are among the best in the world at parks such as Udawalawe in the south, which has an elephant transit home that is less commercial than Pinnawala. Here you can expect good sightings of water buffalo, sambar and spotted deer, langur and macaque monkeys, as well as many other smaller mammals. Sloth bears are also present but are much harder to see.

Sri Lanka is a country of a thousand lakes, so birdlife is outstanding including migrants, water birds and raptors. You will see the splendid peacock and the Jungle fowl – the national bird – pretty much everywhere. Horton Plains National Park in the central highlands is the place to go for beautiful walking and birding. Sinharaja Forest Reserve in the southwest is a virgin rainforest and another birding hotspot and World Heritage Site. The ocean around the south coast is also a magnificent wildlife arena and is home to the mighty Blue whale, Sperm whale and lively dolphin.



Sigiriya rock fortress



Minneriya National Park



Dambulla cave temple

Sri Lanka is renowned for its tea and on the way to Yala National Park you will travel through the lush hill country around Nuwara Eliya, whose Ceylon tea is amongst the most famous in the world. An option here is to take the scenic local train from Kandy, rather than a road transfer, for an interesting cultural experience.

For a complete contrast, consider adding an extension to Jaffna in the far north of the country. Tourism in the north and east of the country is reawakening once more and the people are especially friendly and welcoming to visitors. This is the heartland of the Hindu Tamil people,

who have their own language and cuisine, including delicious mango delicacies. This region is dotted with many towering ornate Hindu temples and the cultural links to India are very much in evidence.

Sri Lanka has always been known for its Indian Ocean beaches and there are over a thousand miles of white sandy beaches from Beruwela, Bentota and Hikkaduwa in the southwest, to palm-fringed Trincomalee and Pasikuda in the northeast, where the best scuba diving and snorkelling are found.

On the south coast, historic Galle Fort is a World Heritage Site that is best

explored on foot. If you want privacy and exclusivity, a beach extension in the Maldives is another option, albeit much more expensive.



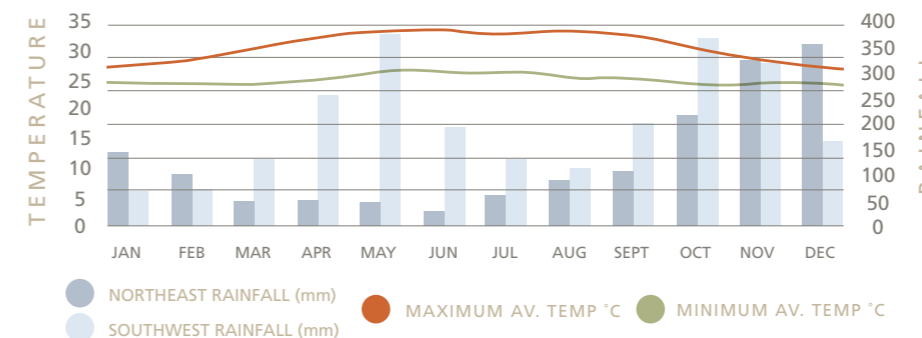
### Sri Lanka Treasures

- DAY 1** Arrive Colombo
- DAY 2** Travel to Cultural Triangle
- DAY 3** Climb Sigiriya Rock & jeep safari in Minneriya
- DAY 4** Visit ancient Polonnaruwa
- DAYS 5/6** Walking in Knuckles Mountains
- DAY 7** Travel to Kandy & visit Temple of the Tooth
- DAYS 8/9** Board the train to Nuwara Eliya & the Teas District
- DAYS 10/11** Travel to Yala National Park, with morning & afternoon jeep safaris
- DAY 12** Drive to Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home & Mirissa
- DAY 13** Whale watching boat ride & visit to historic Galle Fort
- DAYS 14/15** Relax on the splendid beaches of the warm southwest coast
- DAY 16** Depart from Colombo

Sri Lanka's beaches are some of the most beautiful in the world. If your budget allows, you can consider an extension to the stunning Maldives.

## When to go

Sri Lanka has a warm subtropical climate and can be visited all year round, as the east and west coasts have opposite seasons. November to March is the best time to visit the south and west coasts, including Yala National Park which is sometimes closed in September and early October. This is also the best time for whale watching along the south coast and for birding, as this is when the migrants visit. The best time to visit the beaches of Pasikudu and Trincomalee on the east coast is May to September. The Minneriya Elephant Gathering occurs in July and August.



This is an example itinerary – see page 5 for key. For more ideas, information and prices call us on 01582 766122 or visit [www.2by2holidays.co.uk](http://www.2by2holidays.co.uk)

# Special Interest Holidays

Travel offers a wonderful opportunity to do and see things that you have previously only dreamed of. We can introduce you to a wonderland of new experiences and if you have a particular passion or interest, we are the people to talk to. Known for our wildlife and cultural holidays, we also have expertise in many other specialisms. Unlike most travel companies, we take the time to research and book even the most unusual requests. Here we highlight some of the special interest holidays that other customers have loved.



## Walking

If you enjoy hiking, we offer a thrilling range of walking safaris – ranging from a few hours in the early morning or late afternoon, accompanied by an armed ranger, to specialised walking camps in Botswana and South Africa where all game viewing is on foot. We also offer point-to-point trails in Zambia, where you can spend a week walking from one remote bush camp to another – a truly unforgettable experience!

You can trek to see mountain gorillas, and in most of our destinations we can incorporate a variety of walking and hiking trails into your itinerary, ranging from day hikes to waterfalls and volcanoes in Costa Rica, to Peru's iconic Inca Trail and Nepal's stunning Annapurna Trek.

If you are sufficiently fit, you can even combine a safari in East Africa with climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, accompanied by experienced mountain guides.

## Birding

Many of our customers are avid birders who want to spot regional endemics, as well as increase their life list, whilst others are more casual birders who simply enjoy the pleasure of identifying known species and spotting new ones. Whichever category you fit into, we know how important it is to design an itinerary that visits the best birding regions, at the right time of year.

With our extensive network of

specialist birding guides, we can tailor make private tours to key destinations such as Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Peru, Ecuador and Galapagos, Brazil, Guyana, Madagascar, South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, India, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. We can also help you track down iconic species, such as the Harpy eagle in Panama.

We offer cheaper lodge-based birding holidays too, using guides employed by

the various lodges – although the quality of guiding can vary – and a few scheduled departure tours in high demand countries such as Costa Rica.





## Sports & Cultural Events

As we tailor make all our holidays, we cater to a wide range of special interests.

### Golf

Our golf holidays in South Africa are particularly popular, allowing golfers to escape the northern winter and combine championship golf with wine tasting and a luxury safari or beach break. You can select the courses you wish to play, varying from social to world class.

### Riding

Our riding holidays vary from thrilling mobile horseback safaris in Big Five territory for experienced riders, to family-friendly lodge-based riding holidays suitable for all levels.

### Diving

The Indian Ocean offers outstanding diving in warm water, from Kenya all the way down to Zanzibar, Mozambique and South Africa, as well as the islands of the Maldives, Andamans, Mauritius, Seychelles

and Madagascar. Galapagos offers live-aboard dive ships, whilst Mexico and Belize offer superb Caribbean diving.

### Fishing

These same regions offer some of the best deep-sea fishing in the world. To this must be added the renowned fishing waters of the Baja Peninsula in Mexico.

### Sports Events

Sports events are often the catalyst for a special holiday. We can source tickets to rugby internationals in South Africa and Argentina, as well as cricket tests in India, Sri Lanka and South Africa. We can also arrange Grand Prix packages.

### Cultural Events

We can also build a holiday around special events such as the Rio Carnival, Holi in India or the Day of the Dead celebrations in Mexico



## Cruises & Houseboats

Expedition cruises explore regions that are difficult to reach in other ways, whilst relaxing houseboats provide a different perspective from the water.

### Expedition Cruises

Expedition cruises to the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador are the best way to explore the unique wildlife of this stunning archipelago. Itineraries vary in length from several days to a week or more, with a wide choice of boats varying in size, design and cost.

Patagonia expedition cruises sail from southern Argentina to Chile, and vice versa, navigating via Glacier Alley and Cape Horn.

Expedition cruises to the Falkland Islands and Antarctica use much larger vessels capable of handling the polar ice.

You need to be relatively mobile to enjoy an expedition cruise, as you will disembark twice a day for excursions, making your way down a gangplank into a zodiac-type inflatable.



### Houseboats

Houseboats are a relaxing way to watch the world go by. They are the perfect way to explore the mighty Amazon River, the largest in South America, whether boarding from Manaus in Brazil, Coca in Ecuador or Iquitos in Peru.

You can also explore Brazil's southern Pantanal by houseboat or sail down the Magdalena River in Colombia.

India has houseboats that sail down the Brahmaputra and Ganges Rivers and are wonderful for observing local life. You can also spend a night on a traditional rice houseboat gliding through the Kerala backwaters.

In Africa, Botswana has houseboats on the Chobe River, superb for both wildlife viewing and tiger fishing, whilst Zimbabwe has houseboats on Lake Kariba. Lake Jozini in South Africa also offers tiger fishing by houseboat.

Houseboat facilities will be en suite, but expect the cabins on many boats to be relatively small and simple.

### Ocean Cruises

Through our sister company, Auriel Holidays, we can source a wide variety of ocean cruises that can tie in with tailor-made land arrangements, either before or after your cruise.





Rovos Rail

# Luxury Trains

If you love train travel, there is no better way of leisurely exploring a country than aboard one of the world's iconic luxury trains, travelling in the utmost comfort with superb dining.

## Southern Africa

### Rovos Rail

The nostalgic Rovos Rail train journeys across Southern Africa at a leisurely pace, pulling along its historic reconditioned carriages. The traditional observation car provides a delightful way of viewing the unfolding landscape, whilst enjoying superb service and delicious food and wine – everything from mouth-watering afternoon teas to cocktails and formal dinners. All off-train excursions are included. Dress code is smart casual, but a little more formal in the evening.

A selection of short journeys is available in both directions (two to four nights), with three cabin styles – Pullman, Deluxe or Royal:

- Pretoria to Cape Town
- Pretoria to Victoria Falls
- Pretoria to Durban

Longer journeys are also available in both directions:

- South Africa Collage (Pretoria to Cape Town)
- South Africa to Namibia
- Dar Es Salaam to South Africa
- Dar Es Salaam to Angola

A few specialist golf journeys are also available in both directions:

- Golf Collage (Pretoria to Cape Town)
- Golf Safari (Sun City, Durban and Kruger)

### Blue Train

The modern Blue Train also travels regularly between Pretoria and Cape Town.



Rovos Rail - Deluxe Suite

## India

India is well served by a range of luxury trains that offer superb service and dining reminiscent of the opulent Maharaja era.

### Maharaja's Express

The famous Maharaja's Express is India's most luxurious train and offers a wonderful way to explore the treasures of the Golden Triangle and Rajasthan, starting from Delhi. A short three-night journey visits the stunning Taj Mahal in Agra, Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and Jaipur in Rajasthan. A longer trip includes Orchha Fort, the magnificent temples of Khajuraho and the sacred city of Varanasi. There is also a journey that combines the Golden Triangle with more of Rajasthan - including Bikaner, Jodhpur and beautiful Udaipur - before continuing all the way to Mumbai. This trip is available in both directions. There are four different cabins – Deluxe, Junior Suite, Suite or Presidential Suite.

### Palace on Wheels

The opulent Palace on Wheels, India's original luxury train, also starts in Delhi and explores the Golden Triangle and Rajasthan including a longer route to Jaipur, Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Chittorgarh Fort, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Agra before returning to Delhi. The train has two different cabins - Deluxe or Super Deluxe.

## Deccan Odyssey

The blue Deccan Odyssey explores the state of Maharashtra in style, including the holy city of Nashik, the incredible Ellora and Ajanta Caves with their magnificent sculptures and paintings, the temples of Kolhapur and the beaches of Goa. Another route links Mumbai with Delhi, travelling via Udaipur, Jaipur, Agra and Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. There are two cabin styles – Deluxe or Presidential Suite.

### Golden Chariot

The luxurious Golden Chariot train explores South India. Starting from Bengaluru, the Karnataka route visits Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Mysuru Palace, the temples of Halebid, the hill station of Chikkamagaluru, the spectacular ruined city of Hampi and the beaches of Goa. The Tamil Nadu and Kerala route explores the temples and palaces of Mysuru, the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram,

the Great Chola temples at Thanjavur, Chettinad Palace and Kochi, including a cruise in a traditional rice houseboat on the Kerala backwaters. This train has one adapted cabin.

## Peru

### Belmond Train

The luxurious Belmond Train journeys through Peru, travelling from Arequipa to Lake Titicaca and Cusco – gateway to the stunning Inca citadel at Machu Picchu. The train runs in both directions. Be sure to visit Machu Picchu aboard the famous Hiram Bingham train.

## Mexico

### El Chepe

Although not a luxury train, another iconic train journey is aboard El Chepe, which travels through the stunning Copper Canyon.



Maharaja Express, Dining Car



Deccan Odyssey



Springbok Atlas

# Accessible Travel



If you are a wheelchair user or have limited mobility, long-haul travel poses a unique set of challenges, but as the UK market leader in accessible safari holidays we have considerable expertise in this field. Our greatest experience is in Southern and East Africa, but we have been expanding our knowledge in recent years and we now also offer accessible holidays to India, Sri Lanka and Latin America.

Whether you are simply unsure about travelling without assistance, walk with sticks or use a wheelchair permanently, we can design a holiday appropriate to your needs. We know which hotels and lodges are accessible (i.e. ramps, roll-in showers and grab rails) and which are not, and your private guide can travel with a shower chair if needed. However if you use a power chair, we will need to get the approval of the airline before we can confirm your holiday.

In South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania and Namibia we have access to a small number of accessible vehicles, with ramps for wheelchairs. If you have upper body strength and can transfer into a regular vehicle, you will have more destination choices.

In India we also have a few accessible vehicles on the famous Golden Triangle route. In Latin America accessible vehicles are found mostly in the larger cities, but if you use a manual wheelchair we can take you to places such as Machu Picchu and the Galapagos Islands.

The accessible section of our website

showcases the many destinations we offer, but as you will have many questions please call us to discuss your specific needs or visit us in person and we will be happy to go through all the details with you.

As accessible hotels, guides and vehicles are always in short supply, you should book your holiday well in advance.



Wheelchairtravel.org

## Small Group Tours

We offer a range of sociable small group tours in many of our key destinations, if you don't want to travel independently or self drive.

### Southern Africa

South Africa offers a range of small group tours, travelling from beautiful Cape Town along the scenic Garden Route to Port Elizabeth. Afterwards you can add on a Big Five safari in the Eastern Cape. Alternatively, you can combine the wildlife of the famous Kruger National Park with Eswatini (Swaziland), Zululand and the beaches of Durban.

Namibia tours take in this country's dramatic landscapes, from the Fish River Canyon to Etosha, with longer tours

travelling through the lush Caprivi to Victoria Falls.

Botswana wildlife tours are generally done under canvas, exploring the wildlife of the Okavango Delta and Chobe.

### East Africa

Kenya small group tours visit the famous Masai Mara, the elephants of Samburu and Amboseli in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, with shorter tours from Mombasa.

Tanzania tours explore the northern circuit of Tarangire, Ngorongoro Crater and the vast open plains of the wildlife-rich Serengeti.

Uganda tours focus on chimp and gorilla trekking. Ethiopia tours explore its ancient history.

### Latin America

Peru tours visit Cusco and the stunning Inca citadel at Machu Picchu, with an extension to Lake Titicaca and the salt flats of Bolivia. Alternatively, you can combine Peru with Ecuador and the fascinating Galapagos Islands.

Brazil tours combines vibrant Rio de Janeiro with the thundering Iguassu Falls, whilst tours of Argentina and Chile focus on their capital cities and the dramatic landscapes of spectacular Patagonia.

Mexico small group tours explore their pyramids and the spectacular Mayan ruins of the Yucatan, before relaxing on the warm Mayan Riviera.

Through our sister company, Auriel Holidays, we offers tours to many other destinations.







# Book with confidence

### Booking your holiday

When you are ready to book, we will guide you through the process. Our terms and conditions can be found on our website at [www.2by2holidays.co.uk](http://www.2by2holidays.co.uk).

Through our membership of ATOL (9025), our Client Deposit Trust Account and Tour Operator Insurance, your holiday is financially protected wherever in the world you live.

### Copyright and accuracy

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## Worldwide Holidays

Almost anywhere in the world that 2by2 Holidays doesn't cover, our sister company Auriel Holidays does.



Auriel Holidays brings the same high standards of travel expertise and service as 2by2 Holidays, but as a retail travel agent.

Ring us to discuss a tailor-made holiday anywhere in the world: **01582 766122** or visit [www.aurielholidays.co.uk](http://www.aurielholidays.co.uk)

