



**Australian Institute of International Affairs**  
*Promoting understanding of international issues*

## **Sri Lanka Study Tour July 2016**



**Register your interest now!**



The AIIA is delighted to present the July 2016 Study Tour to Sri Lanka. The tour will be led by former Australian High Commissioner, David Ritchie, thus providing us with intimate working knowledge of the wonderful sights and experiences this unique country has to offer.

Sri Lanka is at peace. Years of conflict are over and a mood of quiet optimism surrounds “this resplendent island”. Its people have security, economic prosperity beckons, and the devastation of the tsunami in 2004 is slowly being unwound as the country enters a rebuilding phase. This year, the Sri Lankan Government is revising its Constitution to meet its election promise. Against a backdrop of one of the most naturally beautiful and deeply historic islands in the

world, the very fabric of this nation is being rewoven. Could there possibly be a more interesting time to visit?

Starting in Colombo with a briefing at the Australian High Commission and with other organisations, we will then travel north to Jaffna with several stops and an opportunity for a safari on the way.

As we work back to the south, highlights will include: briefings and consultations with high level government officials, climbing the Sigiriya

rock fortress, tea plantations, an elephant sanctuary and liaison with our Sri Lankan counterparts at the Lakshman Kadiragamar Institute.

“Could there possibly be a more interesting time to visit?”





# Tour highlights

Just click on the hotels below and that will take you to their website.

## Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July Colombo

You will be met at the airport by a designated chauffeur guide, and transferred to the famous Galle Face Hotel



## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July Colombo

**The Study Tour formally commences today.**

Sightseeing: the commercial hub, the old & the new, parks, temples, street markets.

In the evening Patrick Moore is hosting a Cocktail Party for all Members of the Study Tour with the Members of the Sri Lanka Cambridge Society.

This will be followed by the Welcome Dinner.



## Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July Colombo

In the morning we will be briefed at the Australian High Commission.

There will be several Meetings in Colombo; both this day and on our return to Colombo. Please refer to page 5.

In the evening there will be a Networking Opportunity with our sister organisations.



## Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July: Travel to Anuradhapura

Travel by air-conditioned coach to Anuradhapura via Chilaw, visiting Wilpattu National Park and relevant historic sites along the way.

HOTEL Rajarata Hotel

## Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July Anuradhapura

Tour of Anuradhapura including the Aukana Buddha Statue.

N.B. Anuradhapura is an ancient capital city and UNESCO world heritage site.



## Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Travel to Jaffna and Visit an Australian Aid Project on the way.

HOTEL Valampuri



### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July Jaffna

Meet with Catholic Bishop, and NGOs. Visit the Nagadeepa Temple, see the Fort. And meet the Northern Province Governor.



### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July Travel to Dambulla

Travel to Dambulla by coach and see the Sigiriya Rock Fortress.

HOTEL Heritance Kandalama



### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July Dambulla

See the Medieval city of Polonnaruwa, and the Dambulla cave temple. Visit the Elephant Sanctuary. (UNESCO World Heritage Site).

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July Travel to Kandy

Visit the Matale Spice Garden and the Temple of the Tooth. Later experience a Cultural Showcase.

HOTEL Amaya Hills



### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July Kandy

Visit a tea factory and tea plantations. And further sightseeing around Kandy including the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens.



### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July Morning train to Colombo

In the afternoon, meet with government officials (refer to page 5). Launch of the AIIAV scholarship

Return to the Galle Face Hotel



### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July Colombo

Further meetings with Government Officials and other organisations. Afternoon tea will be hosted by the High Commissioner and provide an opportunity to meet Members of the Business Community and Australians in Sri Lanka.

Farewell Gala Dinner

### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July ~ Depart Colombo

## Costs & Expenses

Throughout the Study Tour we will be staying in Three Star and Four Star Hotels; all of which have Premium Accommodation.

- Single Room Occupancy      \$3,400 per person
- Shared Room Occupancy      \$2,500 per person

Students and Young Professionals Forum Members (under the age of 35 on the first day of the tour) will receive a \$375 discount on the above costs.

For Members wishing to be upgraded to Premium Accommodation at the same hotels there is a \$1,000 surcharge.

## Payment

- A non-refundable 20% deposit is required by May 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Final Payment must be made by June 7<sup>th</sup>

## What is Included?

- Accommodation
- Breakfast & dinner each day (from Breakfast 10th to Breakfast 22 July)
- Transport in a private, air-conditioned vehicle
- English speaking guides
- 1 standard local mobile sim card (per couple)
- 2 x 500ml water bottles per person per day
- Meet & greet services on arrival at airport
- All government taxes
- All hotels have Wi-Fi, Same Day Laundry Service and en-suite bathrooms

## What is not included?

- Personal consumables such as tips, alcohol, laundry etc.
- Sightseeing and entry fees
- Travel Insurance
- Lunch (est: \$10 a day)
- Air fares
- Early check-in or late check-out
- Any services not mentioned above

We recommend that you budget for an additional \$400-\$750 pp for entry costs to sites, lunches and souvenirs. You are responsible for your own travel to and from Australia.

# Proposed Official Meetings

(Including those in Colombo)

- Tour of Parliament
- Lakshman Kadiragamar Institute
- Bandaranayake International Diplomatic Training Institute.
- Sri Lanka - Australia - New Zealand Business Council
- Centre for Policy Alternatives
- Institute of Policy Studies
- Relevant Government Officials, relevant NGOs, Aid Agencies and the UNHCR etc.
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission



## Message from His Excellency, Mr Skandakumar, the High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Canberra

*"I wish to commend the initiative of the AIIA in organising this Study Tour. In addition to an exposure to our heritage and culture, participants will have a unique opportunity to see firsthand the consequences of a long conflict and the positive steps taken since its end towards rehabilitation, reconstruction and reconciliation.*

*Hopefully with assistance from our international partners these steps will pave the way for prosperity through a modern economy that embraces all our people"*

### We will visit the following UNESCO world heritage sites:

- Ancient City of Anuradhapura
- Ancient Kingdom of Kandy
- Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Medieval City of Polonnaruwa
- Golden Temple of Dambulla

## The AIIAV Scholarship

The AIIAV is intending to launch a Scholarship Program in partnership with the Bandaranayake International Diplomatic Training Institute in Sri Lanka.

This would be for a deserving student in Diplomacy and International Relations.

Further details and any ideas and contributions are welcome.



# Registration of Interest

Please Register by May 19<sup>th</sup>

To register your interest in the Study Tour, please click on the link below and provide your name and contact details (or ring 03 9654 7271). We are limiting the number of places on the Study Tour to 25. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Please also note that you must be a Member of the AIIA to come on the Study Tour; nevertheless non-Members may register their interest in case places are available.

[studytours.vic@internationalaffairs.org.au](mailto:studytours.vic@internationalaffairs.org.au)

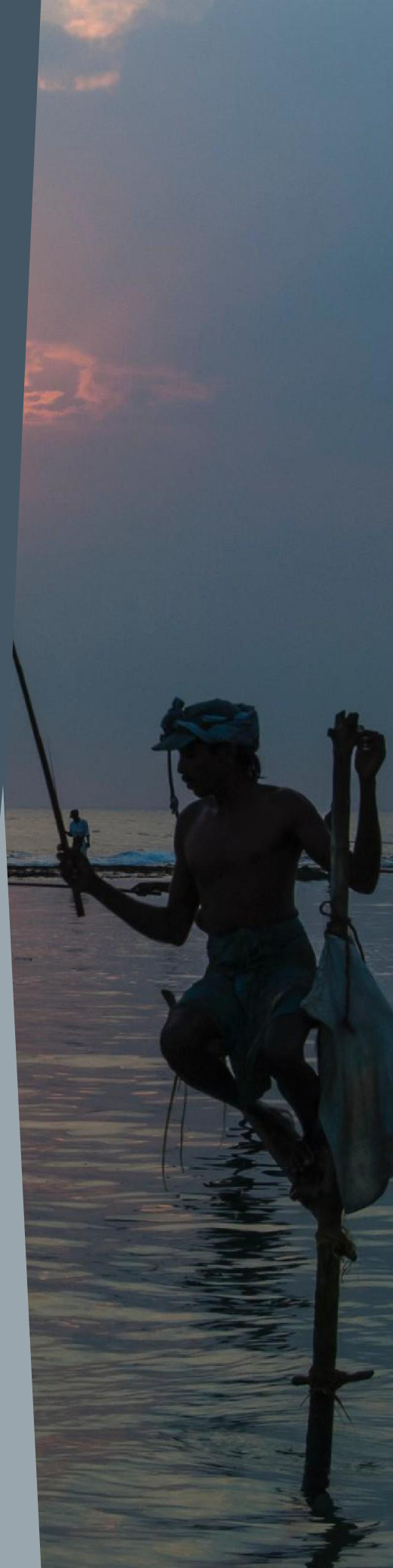
## Health Notes

Please contact your local GP regarding advice on inoculations and other health matters on visiting Sri Lanka.

### **DFAT recommends *inter alia* the following:**

“We strongly recommend that you take out comprehensive [travel insurance](#) that will cover any overseas medical costs, including medical evacuation, before you depart.”

“We encourage you to consider having vaccinations before you travel. At least eight weeks before you depart, make an appointment with your doctor or travel clinic for a basic health check-up, and to discuss your travel plans and any implications for your health, particularly if you have an existing medical condition.”



## Visas

For a Short Visit to Sri Lanka, (and for more information), Study Tour Participants **must** obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA). Please do so by visiting the site below:  
<https://www.eta.gov.lk/slvisa/visainfo/apply.jsp>

Members are responsible for obtaining their ETAs.

## Insurance

**AllA Victoria requires all Members of the Study Group to obtain comprehensive insurance to obtain a place on the Tour.**

## Information session

6.00 pm Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup>  
Dyason House.

### *His Excellency Mr. Skandakumar*

Mr Skandakumar will give all Members of the Study Tour (and other interested parties) a final briefing on Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup>. Given the importance of this Study Tour, it is necessary that Members attend.

Please note that there will inevitably small changes to our itinerary as to meeting times although the travel dates within Sri Lanka are finalised.

Please also note that there may be small changes in the cost of the Study Tour due to Currency Movements and any changes in local Taxes. But once the full amount of the Tour has been paid, there will be no more adjustments.

Refunds cannot be made (unless a replacement Member can be found). Thus it might be wise to have cancellation insurance.