



SOUTHERN INDIA and SRI LANKA

aboard *Island Sky* • March 24–April 7, 2015

CRITERION 
travel

CRUISE ABOARD THE ALL-SUITE ISLAND SKY

to three of India's southern states and Sri Lanka, a little gem of an island once known as Serendib. During this 11-night voyage, visit stunning rock-cut shore temples, a landmark museum with a Gothic roof and minarets, a tiny tiled synagogue, a center for innovative agriculture, the imposing Basilica of Bom Jesus, and the lush backwaters of Kerala. Also enjoy an exciting, colorful performance of Kathakali, a stylized classical Indian dance-drama, and sample Southern India's distinctive cuisine.

And then there's Serendib, known today as Sri Lanka and the inspiration behind the word "serendipity." From the ruins of the ancient city of Polonnaruwa to Bundala National Park, a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve, and the Temple of the Tooth, which houses one of Buddhism's most sacred relics, Sri Lanka offers much that is both unexpected and fascinating. An optional pre-cruise extension to the massive and wildly colorful Temple of the Fish-Eyed Goddess in Madurai and an optional post-cruise extension to the incredible rock-hewn caves of Ajanta and Ellora are available to round out this exotic experience.



HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy 11 nights aboard the privately chartered *Island Sky*, traditional in style but contemporary in operation, with the highest safety standards and all-weather cruising ability, spacious suites, and topnotch service.

Visit five UNESCO World Heritage sites: The rock-cut temples of Mamallapuram; the Basilica of Bom Jesus; the ruins of Polonnaruwa; Kandy's Temple of the Tooth; and the Old Town of Galle.

Explore Sri Lanka's Bundala National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Relax aboard a traditional houseboat through the backwaters of Kerala, a vast network of canals, lakes, and lagoons.

Witness a spellbinding performance of Kathakali, a classical Indian dance-drama Noted for elaborate costumes, refined gestures, and raga-based music.

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ITINERARY

FRIDAY–SATURDAY, MARCH 24–25 HOME / CHENNAI, INDIA

Depart home on an overnight flight to Chennai. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel for check-in.

TAJ COROMANDEL

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 CHENNAI

Today visit Mamallapuram, home to the Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Picturesquely situated between beach and lagoon are chariot-shaped temples, cave sanctuaries, giant open-air rock reliefs, and the Shore Temple, embellished with thousands of sculptures dedicated to Shiva. Return to Chennai for embarkation.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MARCH 27 AT SEA

Enjoy the onboard lecture program as *Island Sky* cruises to Sri Lanka.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 28 TRINCOMALEE, SRI LANKA

Explore the 12th-century ruins of what was once Sri Lanka's magnificent medieval walled capital Polonnaruwa, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 HAMBANTOTA / BUNDALA NATIONAL PARK

Explore Bundala National Park, an important wintering ground for migratory water birds and a UNESCO Man and

Biosphere Reserve since 2005. Park residents also include Asian elephants, langurs, jackal, leopards, mongooses, wild boars, and spotted deer.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 30 GALLE

Delve into Galle's colonial past at the Galle Fort, built by the Portuguese in 1588 and extensively fortified by the Dutch in the 17th century. A UNESCO World Heritage site, the fort resembles a walled town complete with a rectangular grid of streets, Dutch colonial-style houses adorned with gables and verandas, historic churches and mosques, and commercial and government buildings.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MARCH 31 COLOMBO

Dock in Colombo and explore the city or take a full-day trip to Kandy, the last capital of the ancient kings of Sri Lanka. Kandy has UNESCO World Heritage designation as the site of the Temple of the Tooth, where one of Buddhism's most sacred relics is housed. En route to the temple, visit the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, where the largest herd of captive Asian elephants in the world is nurtured and protected.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, APRIL 1 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, INDIA

In Thiruvananthapuram, a city of pagoda-shaped buildings and narrow winding lanes,

view the exterior of Padmanabhaswamy Temple, an intricate fusion of indigenous Kerala and Dravidian styles, and visit the Puthenmalika Palace, renowned for the 122 horses carved into wooden wall brackets. Also explore the Napier Museum, which houses a rare collection of archaeological and historic artifacts, bronze idols, ancient ornaments, ivory carvings, and a temple chariot.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, APRIL 2 KOCHI

Kochi, an important spice trading center on the west coast of India as early as the 14th century, is still an active port. Visit the Portuguese/Dutch Mattancherry Palace, which has a series of remarkable murals painted on its wooden walls. Cruise through the "backwaters," a network of canals, lakes, and lagoons, on a traditional houseboat for a peek at traditional, rural lifestyles. In the evening, enjoy a spellbinding Kathakali dance performance on board.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

MONDAY, APRIL 3 KOCHI

The graceful, cantilevered Chinese fishing nets along the shoreline of Kochi are the legacy of a centuries-old fishing custom now more dependent on tourism than fish. Visit St. Francis Church, the oldest European church in India and the original resting place of Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama, and the tiny Paradesi Synagogue, with its hand-painted, blue-willow floor tiles.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

ITINERARY (CONT.)

TUESDAY, APRIL 4 MANGALORE

At renowned Soans Farm, learn about its innovative agricultural techniques and taste some of the produce grown here. Continue to Moodabidri to see the 15th-century thousand-pillared Jain temple, and in Karkala marvel at the monolithic statue of Bhagawan Bahubali.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 GOA

Goa was the capital of Portugal's eastern empire for 400 years. In Old Goa, visit the Basilica of Bom Jesus, a UNESCO World Heritage site, which contains the silver casket of St. Francis Xavier. Also explore the State Archaeological Museum, whose collections of portraits, wooden sculptures, architectural fragments, and ephemera highlight the Portuguese period in Goa.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

THURSDAY–FRIDAY, APRIL 6–7 MUMBAI / HOME

Disembark in Mumbai and travel past the Gateway of India and along Marine Drive. Catch glimpses of the dabbah wallahs delivering lunches to offices throughout the city and the dhobi wallahs (laundrymen) at their outdoor laundry. Visit Mani Bhavan, Gandhi's headquarters for 17 years and now a museum dedicated to his memory, and the contemporary Prince of Wales Museum, Mumbai's finest Victorian building. This afternoon relax in the Orchid Mumbai Hotel before transferring to the airport for flights home, arriving on April 7.

(B,L)



OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

MARCH 22–25, 2017

MADURAI

The geographical and religious center of Madurai is a massive Hindu temple complex dedicated to Meenakshi, the “fish-eyed goddess.” Its fourteen elongated pyramidal towers swarm with thousands of garishly colored figures of gods, demons, and animals, while inside priests perform rituals at multiple shrines, and worshipers seeking favors from the gods pay their respects. Also visit the Thirumalai Nayak Palace; erected in 1636 by King Thirumalai Nayak, it is a classic fusion of Dravidian and Rajput styles.

(2B,2L,1D)

OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION

April 6–10, 2017

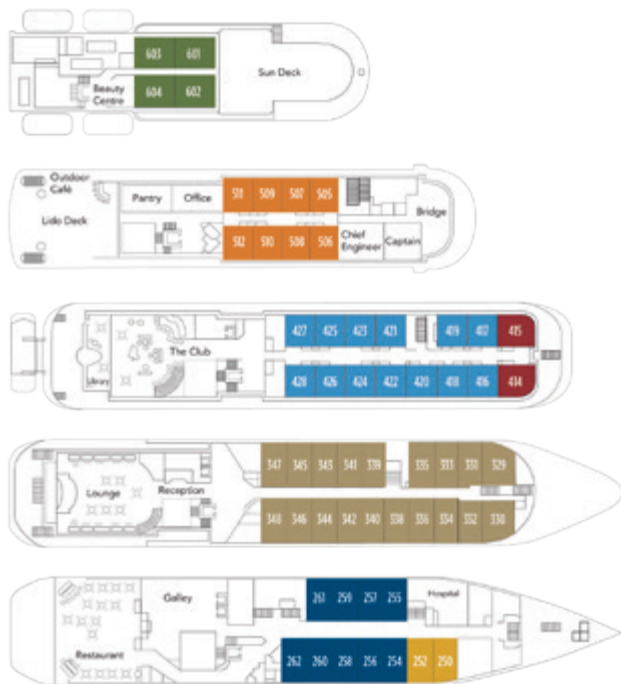
AURANGABAD

Aurangabad is the gateway to the rock-hewn caves of Ajanta and Ellora, both UNESCO World Heritage sites. Carved from volcanic lava cliffs by Buddhist monks, the Ajanta caves are adorned with sculptures and frescoes dating back to the 2nd century B.C. The Ellora caves, which date from approximately A.D. 600 to A.D. 1000, comprise an impressive complex of shrines representing the three faiths of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism.

ARGOS HOTEL (3B,2L,2D)

ISLAND SKY

Originally built in 1992 and refurbished and redecorated in 2015, the *Island Sky* accommodates all guests in 57 outside suites, each with sea views, a sitting room area, flatscreen TV, safe, mini-refrigerator, and an en suite, marble-appointed bathroom with robe, slippers, and hair dryer. Several suites have private balconies. Spacious and finely decorated public areas include a large lounge and elegant bar and a library. The dining room accommodates everyone at one seating, and house wine, beer, and soft drinks are included at lunch and dinner. Wi-Fi access is available throughout the vessel (at additional cost and dependent upon satellite reception). The ship's amenities also include a hairdresser, onboard clinic and doctor, elevator serving all passenger decks, and two sun decks, one with a bar. The *Island Sky* is served by 75 experienced officers and crew.



PROGRAM RATES (per person)

Category	DOUBLE	SINGLE
A MAGELLAN DECK Portholes (3 in cabin 250, 2 in cabin 252)	\$11,995	\$17,995
B MAGELLAN DECK Portholes (2, 3, or 4, depending on cabin)	\$12,995	\$19,495
C COLUMBUS DECK Windows (1 or 2, depending on cabin)	\$14,495	\$21,745
D MARCO POLO DECK Window	\$14,995	—
E MARCO POLO DECK Forward and side windows	\$16,495	—
F ERIKSON DECK Sliding glass door; private balcony	\$17,995	—
G EXPLORER DECK Sliding glass door; private balcony	\$18,995	—

Program Rates Include

A full program of briefings, lectures, and presentations by study leaders and local guides • All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • All excursions, including entrance fees, as specified in the itinerary • Transfers on group arrival and departure days • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers, and ship's crew for all group activities • Port fees and embarkation taxes • Wine, beer, and soft drinks with all lunches and dinners on board *Island Sky* • Soft drinks and Indian beer with all group meals off the ship • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • Bottled water on excursions • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout



To reserve a place on **Southern India and Sri Lanka** you may complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel. Mail to: 145 Forest Ave. Palo Alto, CA 94301. For more information or to reserve by phone, please call (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089, or email res@critteriontravel.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers on days other than program arrival/departure days • Travel insurance • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

AIRFARE

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Information about making flight arrangements will be sent to all participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

These tropical climates are humid, with daytime highs ranging from the mid 80s to the mid 90s F, and a slight chance of rain in Sri Lanka. The pace of this program is moderately active, with some early-

morning departures and long motorcoach drives (two-three hours), and walking up to two miles at one or two sites, on occasion over uneven terrain, while exploring ashore. Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff.

GROUP SIZE

The maximum number of participants on this program is 96, including travelers from Dartmouth, Harvard, MIT, and Stanford.

INSURANCE

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended, and we hope that you will obtain it for this expedition. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Please be sure to carry the details of your travel insurance coverage with you on the program. Travelers are free to purchase the travel insurance of their choice. It is recommended that travelers clearly understand the difference between "primary" and "secondary" travel insurance.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS

To reserve space, please complete the reservation form and mail it with your check or credit card information to the address at the top of the form. You may also fax the form to (650) 560-6400 and your reservation will be held for five working days pending receipt of your check or credit card information. If you have questions, please call (888) 328-2089 or email res@critteriontravel.com. Final payment deadline is November 24, 2016, 120 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Upon payment of a \$1,000 deposit per person, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. Final payment is due November 24, 2016 (120 days prior to departure). Cancellations within 120 days of departure are 100% nonrefundable. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. If the program is cancelled by Criterion Travel, you will receive a full refund, without further obligation on our part.

No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. Note: Criterion Travel does not accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Criterion Travel reserves the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

RESERVATION CONTACT

(888) 328-2089 or
res@critteriontravel.com

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-40

PHOTO CREDITS:

(From Dreamstime.com): Kerala backwaters © Rafal Cichawa; Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage © Timur Abramov; Gateway of India © Youssouf Cader; Langur © Dejjf82; Meenakshi temple © Dmitry Rukhlenko; Mamallapuram temple © Marina Pissarova.

NAME #1 (as on passport) BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 (as on passport) BIRTHDATE

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP / POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE WORK PHONE

E-MAIL(s)

PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person), to reserve _____ place(s) on **Southern India and Sri Lanka**

OR ☐ Charge the deposit to my credit card (circle one):

VISA MC AMEX Diners Club Discover

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD DATE

CATEGORY PREFERENCE

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

SINGLE TRAVELERS

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations.

OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with:

OR ☐ I'd like to know about roommates.

I am a ☐ Non-smoker ☐ Smoker.

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of November 24, 2016, I will pay the single rate.

☐ I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein.

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE