

GARDEN DISCOVERIES 2016

Orange Orchid flowers scorpio in Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya



Sri Lanka: Gardens in Paradise

COLOMBO – CULTURAL TRIANGLE – HIGHLANDS – GALLE

with Fiona Ogilvie
10–25 April 2016 (16 days)

The Daily Telegraph

The Sunday Telegraph

THE AUSTRALIAN
ARTS BREAKS



Renaissance
Tours

Sri Lanka: Gardens in Paradise

COLOMBO – CULTURAL TRIANGLE – HIGHLANDS – GALLE



TOUR LEADER

Fiona Ogilvie

Best known for her widely-read weekly gardening column in *The Land*, Fiona has been making a garden for many years on her and her husband Bill's farm near Bathurst.

Fiona's wide range of interests encompasses history and travel, and her love of plants has recently broadened to include tropical plants and gardens. She loves Sri Lanka for its friendly people, extraordinary multicultural heritage, stunning scenery and rich and diverse native flora. This will be Fiona's second garden tour to Sri Lanka for Renaissance Tours.

The island paradise of Sri Lanka is renowned for its palm-fringed beaches, misty mountain landscapes, extraordinary wildlife, lush tropical flora and cultural diversity.

Known as the 'the land of smiles' Sri Lanka is also steeped in heritage. With a history that dates back over 2,000 years, the island is home to some of Asia's best preserved monuments and to no fewer than eight UNESCO World Heritage sites. Thanks to its colonial history (Portuguese, Dutch and British), interaction with Arab, Chinese and Malay merchants over the centuries, and the prevailing religions of Buddhism and Hinduism, Sri Lanka is a land of rich traditions, continual festivities and an exotic cuisine.

The garden lover will be amply rewarded by some of the world's best botanical gardens, ancient Buddhist sites and Royal Hindu 'pleasure gardens', fragrant spice and herb gardens, hill country estates and some contemporary private gardens.

At a glance...

- Tour price includes flights on Singapore Airlines and late check-out on last day
- Explore six UNESCO World Heritage listed sites
- Enjoy the scenic train trip from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya in the highlands
- Stay in a mixture of beachside, lakeside, safari resort and grand historic hotels
- Visit botanical, pleasure, herb and private gardens



Itinerary

Sun 10 Apr 2016

Australia – Colombo

Depart Australia on Singapore Airlines flights via Singapore. Arrive Colombo at midnight. Transfer to your hotel located in the nearby resort town of Negombo.

Mon 11 Apr

Colombo – Dambulla

After a leisurely start join Fiona for a welcome briefing and introductory talk followed by a welcome lunch with fellow garden lovers.

After lunch drive to Dambulla in the heart of Sri Lanka's 'Cultural Triangle' comprising numerous UNESCO World Heritage cultural sites. **B L D**

Tue 12 Apr

Dambulla

After breakfast, explore Polonnaruwa, which became Sri Lanka's second capital city in 1070 AD. Under King Parakramabahu, who ruled in the late 11th century, Polonnaruwa became a magnificent walled city and is famous for his policy that every drop of rain should be used. An extensive irrigation system with channels and lakes was built. The largest tank is the Parakrama Samudraya or the 'Sea of Parakrama', with an area of 2,600 hectares.

In the afternoon visit Sigiriya, or Lion Rock, which was selected for his capital by an obsessed monarch in the 5th century and is an astonishing feat of engineering and construction. The most striking portion of Sigiriya, a terracotta and grey core of rock, rises a sheer 200 metres above a forested plain, its flattened summit sloping gently. A series of moats, ramparts and water gardens – remnants of an ancient city – spread out on two sides of the rock, with the remains of a pair of giant stone lion's paws still guarding the staircase that leads to the summit, once occupied by a royal palace. **B L D**

Wed 13 Apr

Dambulla – Kandy

Morning visit to the Golden Temple of Dambulla which dates back to the 1st century BC as a centre of pilgrimage for Buddhists and Hindus alike. The Cave monastery, home to Buddhist monks, is covered with exquisite 2,000 year-old murals depicting the life and times of the Lord Buddha. The shrines also house a collection of

157 statues of Buddha in various sizes and poses, including a 15 metre long reclining Buddha and vividly coloured frescoes on the walls and ceiling, making this the largest antique painted surface in the world.

Later, depart for Kandy, en route stopping to visit a private garden. Nestled in the hills at an altitude of 488 metres, Kandy was the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings. The name Kandy conjures visions of a storied past, splendour, legend, folklore, mystery and traditions lovingly kept alive for countless years. **B D**

Thu 14 Apr

Kandy

Start your exploration of Kandy with a visit to the sacred Temple of the Tooth, which houses one of Buddhism's most sacred relics and draws followers of the Buddhist faith from all over the world. The Royal Complex situated around the Temple of the Tooth and Kandy Lake – comprising the King's Palace, the Queen's Palace, the Audience Hall, the Royal Boathouse and the Royal Summer House, represent the zenith of ancient Sri Lankan architecture.

After lunch at a local restaurant, the afternoon is at leisure to explore Kandy. You may wish to visit a batik factory, gem store or explore Kandy's main market with fruit, vegetable, tea and spice stalls and fabric shops. Souvenirs, scarves, leatherwork and clothing can also be found in abundance. **B L**

Fri 15 Apr

Kandy

Following a talk, visit the Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya, which was originally the pleasure gardens of the royalty. Nearly 4,000 species of plants are found in this garden and it is encircled by the Mahaweli River. There is an avenue of coconut palm trees, a spice garden, giant bamboos, rubber trees, an orchid collection and a giant Javan fig tree which covers 1,600 sq metres.

Sri Lanka's botanic gardens have a long and proud history, punctuated by colonialism, and industrial change. Throughout this period the gardens have continued to flourish, and the plant collections and herbarium grown.

Later, visit 1 – 2 private gardens.



Royal Botanical Garden, Peradeniya © koshyskoshy via Flickr



Kandy Temple of the Tooth by McKay Savage via Wikimedia Commons

In the evening attend a Kandyan dance performance. Dances include the cobra dance, mask dance and the Ginisila, showing power over fire. The entire frenetic and colourful spectacle climaxes with the amazing fire-walking act. **B L**

Sat 16 Apr Kandy – Nuwara Eliya

Depart Kandy in the morning and travel by train to Nuwara Eliya, situated at around 2,000 metres above sea level in the Central Highlands. The town was founded by Samuel Baker as a hill retreat for the British during the colonial era, where typical English pastimes including fox hunting, polo and cricket were played. Several buildings and parks here retain features from the colonial period.

Arrive in Nuwara Eliya early in the afternoon. Time at leisure before visiting the Hill Club (dress code applies), which was founded in 1876 by a British coffee planter, as a home away from home, and is today a privately operated club and hotel. Enjoy a tour of the beautiful gardens followed by dinner. **B L D**

Sun 17 Apr Nuwara Eliya

Full day exploration of Nuwara Eliya including visits to Victoria Park, a tea plantation and Hakgala Botanical Gardens. Victoria Park at the centre of town comes alive with flowers around March to May and it is also home to quite a number of hill country bird species, including the Kashmir flycatcher, Indian pitta and grey tit.

Sri Lanka is one of the world's largest exporters of tea. Since the introduction of tea to Sri Lanka in mid 19th century, Nuwara Eliya has been the capital of the tea industry. The rolling mountains of Nuwara Eliya are carpeted by green tea plantations. Visit a tea plantation and a tea factory and observe all about the process of manufacturing tea.

In the afternoon, visit Hakgala Botanical Gardens which were established in 1861 under the patronage of the British. They are located under the Hakgala Peak and are the highest set botanical gardens in the world. There are trees like English Oak, Himalayan Pines, Japanese Cedars and Cypress trees from California. **B L D**



Little Bee Eater perched on a branch, Udawalawe N.P.

Mon 18 Apr Nuwara Eliya – Udawalawe N.P.

Depart Nuwara Eliya for Udawalawe, one of Sri Lanka's National Parks.

Mid-afternoon arrival and check-in to your safari resort-style hotel, situated just 500 metres from the Ath Athuru Sevana (Elephant Orphanage), and a five minute drive from the Udawalawe National Park.

At dusk, embark on a jeep safari in the national park before returning to the hotel for dinner. **B L D**

Tue 19 Apr Udawalawe N.P.

Day at leisure. A wide range of activities are available ranging from half and full-day jeep safaris, nature tracks, bird watching trails, night safaris etc. During safaris you may see the elusive leopard, elephant, sloth bear, sambar, chital, wild boar, tripe necked, brown and ruddy mongoose, black-naped hare, marsh mugger crocodile and several civet species. The National Park is also a popular bird watching destination. **B L D**

Wed 20 Apr Udawalawe N.P. – Galle

A day of travel takes you from Udawalawe N.P. to Galle, an ancient Dutch outpost located on the south western coast of Sri Lanka. The minimalistic, stately and elegant Lighthouse Hotel, your home for the next two nights, was designed by the famous Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa. Dinner at the hotel. **B L D**

Thu 21 Apr Galle

Following a morning talk, pay a visit to 'Lunuganga', the former country home of Geoffrey Bawa. Started in 1947, the garden led Bawa, a lawyer called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1940, to decide to become an architect. The garden at Lunuganga estate remained his first muse and experimental laboratory for new ideas.

After lunch at Lunuganga, return to Galle. Afternoon at leisure to explore Galle Fort. **B L**



Green Tea plantations near Nuwara Eliya

Fri 22 Apr

Galle – Colombo

Today journey from Galle to Colombo. En route visit 'Brief', the former house and garden of lawyer turned landscape architect Bevis Bawa, brother of Geoffrey Bawa. Started in 1929, it is a hillside garden overlooking a former rubber plantation. It contains sculptures by Bevis himself and his many artist friends, including Donald Friend, who went for a weekend and stayed six years. The house is also open to view and contains many wonderful artworks including a magnificent mural of Sri Lankan life by Donald Friend in the style of Chagall.

Continue to Colombo where you will stay at the historic Galle Face hotel. The hotel was built by four British entrepreneurs in 1864. Its name derives from the stretch of lawn which it faces, known as the Galle Face Green. Dinner at the hotel. **B L D**

Sat 23 Apr

Colombo

During a morning tour of Colombo, see the Fort area, the Oriental bazaar at Pettah, numerous Hindu and Buddhist temples and the Jumi Ul Alfar Jumma Mosque as well as the Wolfendhal Dutch Church, Hulftsdorp Law Courts, Independence Square and the Geoffrey Bawa designed Sri Lankan Parliament building. Finish with a visit to the National Museum which houses a large and important collection of Sri Lanka's cultural and artistic heritage.

Enjoy lunch at the Gallery Café, situated within the former office of Geoffrey Bawa, followed by a visit to Colombo Zoo to attend the Elephant Circus. **B L**

Sun 24 Apr

Depart Colombo

Morning exploration of two or three private gardens of Colombo including an Ayurvedic garden. A light lunch will be served in one of the gardens.

Mid-afternoon return to the hotel for an afternoon and evening at leisure until 9.00 pm check-out and transfer to the airport. **B L**

Mon 25 Apr

Arrive Australia

1.30 am departure from Colombo on Singapore Airlines to Singapore and Australia. Evening arrival in Australia.



Flower, Royal Botanical Garden, Peradeniya ©JoanneGoldby via Flickr



Sigiriya Rock © Santhosh Janardhanan via Flickr



Baby elephant and her mother, Udawalawe National Park



Galle Fort Light House

Tour prices

Per person, twin share	approx. AUD 7,450
Single supplement*	approx. AUD 1,500
Reduction without airfares	- AUD 1,200
Business Class upgrade	on request
Deposit per person	AUD 500
Final payment due	11 February 2016

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code GDI601

Fitness level Above Average

Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

Airline Singapore Airlines

Please contact Renaissance Tours for flight reservations.

Tour price includes

- Return economy class flights on Singapore Airlines including taxes and fuel surcharges (as at 01 May 2015)
- Accommodation in 4 and 5-star hotels with daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Local beer and wines with meals
- Transfers on arrival and departure if travelling on included flights
- Comfortable air-conditioned coach transport throughout
- Comprehensive sightseeing including entrance fees as per itinerary
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (one piece per person)

Tour price does not include

- Transfers on arrival / departure if not travelling on group flights
- Video and camera permits
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry etc.
- Airport portorage
- Travel insurance
- Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA)
- Late check-out on departure day

Electronic Travel Authorization

Prior to travel all tour members must obtain an ETA which can be obtained online (current cost USD 30). ETA holders will be issued a 30 day Short Visit visa at the port of entry in Sri Lanka. For further information visit <http://www.eta.gov.lk/slvisa/visainfo/center.jsp>

Your hotels

Negombo – Jetwing Blue★★★★★

Dambula – Amaya Lake★★★★★



Kandy – Cinnamon Citadel Hotel★★★★★ (pictured below)



Nuwara Eliya – St Andrew's Hotel★★★★★

Udawalawe N.P. – Grand Udawalewa Safari Resort★★★

Galle – Jetwing Lighthouse/Galle Face hotel?★★★★★ (pictured below)



Colombo – Galle Face Regency★★★★★

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted

Terms & Conditions

HOW TO BOOK

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit and page one of your passport.

DEPOSIT / FINAL PAYMENTS

Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express.

Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours, such as air tickets, hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for

force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

All travellers must be in a possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received.

In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid.

Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION

Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (e.g. remote rail), certain tours will require an ABOVE AVERAGE or CHALLENGING level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE

For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 metres and above).

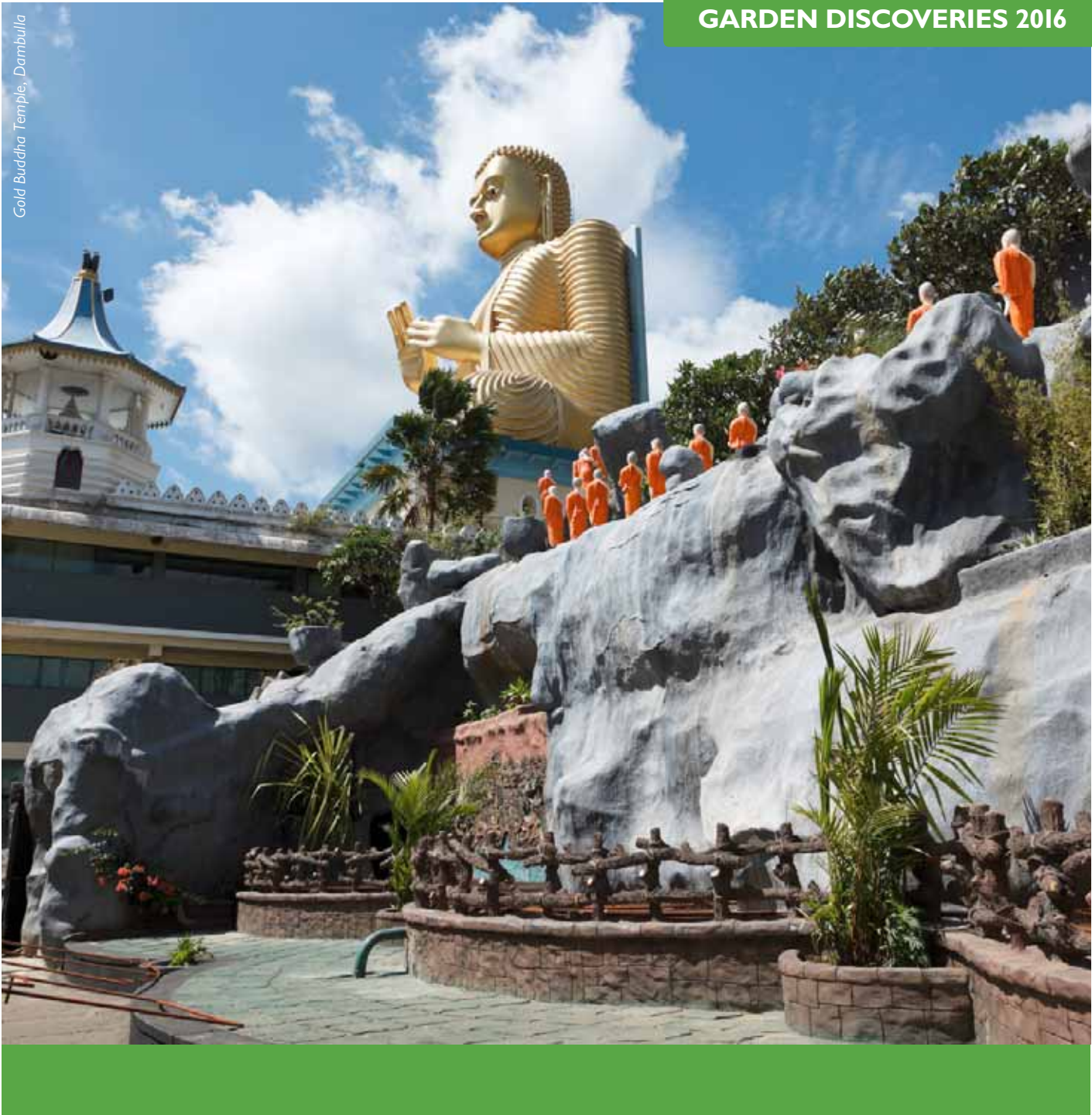
You can find the full terms & conditions at www.renaissance-tours.com.au/booking-conditions or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.



Dancers welcome guests at Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel in Galle
© Michael Musgrave



Botanic Garden, Kandy © 4Neus via Flickr



R
Renaissance
Tours

1300 727 095 (AU)
0800 403 621 (NZ)
call (+61 2) 9299 5801
fax (+61 2) 9299 5805
email info@renaissancetours.com.au
visit www.renaissancetours.com.au

Level 4, 47 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 5068, Sydney NSW 2001
ABN 14 069 591 448

Travel agent

Booking form

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Renaissance
Tours

www.renaissancetours.com.au

Please return pages 1 and 2 to:

GPO Box 5068, Sydney NSW 2001, Australia or info@renaissancetours.com.au

Toll free AU 1300 727 095 or NZ 0800 403 621 | Tel: +61 2 9299 5801 | Fax: +61 2 9299 5805

- Please complete, sign and return this Booking Form, along with a copy of page one of your passport (international tours only and deposit).
NOTE: Flight bookings cannot proceed without passport copy. This is an airline security requirement.
- Complete credit card authority (if paying by credit card) OR forward a (deposit) cheque (made payable to Renaissance Tours).
- Upon receipt of your Booking Form and deposit, you will receive confirmation of your place on the tour(s) from Renaissance Tours.

Tour name

Tour code

Personal details – Passenger 1

Title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr or Other)

Hon

Family name (as in passport)

Given names (as in passport)

Preferred name

DOB

Email

Mobile

Phone

Address

State

Postcode

Country

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS / ALLERGIES

Yes

No

MEDICAL DECLARATION

What medical conditions do you currently have and/or have you received treatment for in the past three years? (e.g. stroke, heart, respiratory and psychiatric conditions). **Attach extra pages, if necessary.**

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist Renaissance Tours in determining the suitability of a tour participant for a particular tour. The information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE DECLARATION (Please tick)

I have read, understood and confirm that I meet the:

MODERATE

ABOVE AVERAGE

CHALLENGING

fitness level to participate on this tour.

Booking conditions

- I have read, understood and accept the **Booking Conditions** on page 3. I have enclosed the deposit and understand that the balance of the tour cost must be paid at least 60 days prior to departure (45 days prior for domestic tours) or my reservation may be cancelled.

Sign here

Personal details – Passenger 2

Title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr or Other)

Hon

Family name (as in passport)

Given names (as in passport)

Preferred name

DOB

Email

Mobile

Phone

Address

State

Postcode

Country

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS / ALLERGIES

Yes

No

MEDICAL DECLARATION

What medical conditions do you currently have and/or have you received treatment for in the past three years? (e.g. stroke, heart, respiratory and psychiatric conditions). **Attach extra pages, if necessary.**

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Sign here

Booking form

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Renaissance
Tours

Travel details – Passenger 1

AIRFARE

Economy Premium Economy Business Class First Class

LAND ONLY

CITY OF DEPARTURE

Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Perth Other

FREQUENT FLYER NUMBER

AIRLINE SEAT PREFERENCE

ACCOMMODATION

Double Twin Single If single, would you like us to arrange twin-share?

TRAVEL INSURANCE – WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A BROCHURE?

Yes No

PRE/POST TOUR ARRANGEMENTS

Please advise if you would like Renaissance Tours to organise any pre/post tour arrangements (e.g. earlier departure, later return, additional accommodation/flights, etc)

NEXT OF KIN (Emergency contact only)

Name

Relationship

Daytime contact ()

After hours contact

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR?

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWSLETTER? Yes No

Travel details – Passenger 2 (only fill if different from Pax 1)

AIRFARE

Economy Premium Economy Business Class First Class

LAND ONLY

CITY OF DEPARTURE

Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Perth Other

FREQUENT FLYER NUMBER

AIRLINE SEAT PREFERENCE

ACCOMMODATION

Double Twin Single If single, would you like us to arrange twin-share?

TRAVEL INSURANCE – WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A BROCHURE?

Yes No

PRE/POST TOUR ARRANGEMENTS

Please advise if you would like Renaissance Tours to organise any pre/post tour arrangements (e.g. earlier departure, later return, additional accommodation/flights, etc)

NEXT OF KIN (Emergency contact only)

Name

Relationship

Daytime contact ()

After hours contact

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR?

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWSLETTER? Yes No

Payment

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express. Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

AMOUNT CREDIT CARD CHEQUE CASH EFT

CREDIT CARD AUTHORITY

Cardholder's name

American Express MasterCard Visa

Cardholder's number

SIGN

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Account name: Renaissance Tours

BSB: 062-032 / Account: 2800 4163

Swift code: CTBAU2S (use for transfers from overseas)

Travel agent

Expiry (month/year)

DATE

Booking form

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FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE

Most of our tours require a **MODERATE** level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (eg. remote rail), certain tours will require an **ABOVE AVERAGE** or **CHALLENGING** level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE

for the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- Undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- Handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 m and above).

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is highly recommended that you are covered by travel insurance for domestic tours.

However, it is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. You can make your own arrangements or your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours. In either case all participants must provide the following information no later than 60 days prior to commencement of travel:

- a copy of your travel insurance policy (or details of master policy)
- the emergency telephone number of your insurance company
- next of kin emergency contact.

1. TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received. In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid. Once final payment is received, all prices (excluding air taxes) will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

2. PAYMENT

Your final payment is due 60 days before departure (45 days prior for domestic tours). Failure to make your final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit. We reserve the right to charge a late payment fee in the event of late booking and/or payment to cover additional communication and other expenses.

3. FLIGHT BOOKINGS AND FARES

Renaissance Tours will use its best endeavours to ensure that all flight prices are correct at the time that they are quoted. However, once a deposit is paid on an air fare, it guarantees that a booking is being held for you, it does not guarantee the fare and applicable taxes.

The fare and taxes can only be guaranteed when the flight booking has been paid in full and a ticket has been issued. Flight bookings cannot be transferred.

4. CHANGES

a) Changes by You – Because of additional communication and other expenses, we reserve the right to charge an appropriate administration fee per amendment to your original booking. While every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate changes and additional requests their availability cannot be guaranteed.

b) Changes by Us – While we will use our best endeavours to operate all tours as advertised, by entering into this contract the Client accepts that it may prove necessary or advisable to vary or modify a tour or its contents due to prevailing local conditions. We reserve the right at any time to cancel or change any of the facilities, services or prices described in the brochure (including flights, transport, accommodation or other arrangements) and to substitute alternative arrangements of comparable monetary value without compensation.

If a service or facility becomes unavailable due to circumstances beyond our control ('force majeure') and no alternative arrangement of comparable monetary value is available, we will substitute the best alternative available and will refund the Client for any cost saving or charge the Client for any additional costs incurred. 'Force majeure' includes any event which Renaissance Tours or its suppliers could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid (e.g. advice against travel from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), war, threat of war, riot, civil strife, industrial dispute, epidemics, health risks, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, fire or adverse weather conditions, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes imposed by cancellation or rescheduling of flights by an airline or main charterer, the alteration of airline or aircraft type). Renaissance Tours is not liable for any penalty charges associated with 'supersaver' type connecting rail or air fares, in the event of a change to a holiday departure time, date or airport.

5. SUBSTITUTION OF CLIENT

If any member of the party is prevented from travelling because of the death, injury or serious illness of the passenger, close relative or friend, redundancy or jury service, it may be possible to transfer the booking to another suitable person (acceptable to Renaissance Tours) provided that written notice is given at least one calendar month prior to departure. An administration fee of \$100 + GST per person will be levied plus any costs imposed by our suppliers. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

6. CANCELLATION

a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to the charges shown below airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

International Tours

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit*
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

Domestic Tours

45 days or more	Forfeit of deposit*
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

* Includes any flight deposit paid.

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above cancellation charges, the full insurance premium together with any existing administration fees is also payable in the event of a cancellation by the Client. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for *force majeure* (as outlined in clause 4b) or the Client's failure to pay the final balance, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure for international tours and 45 days before departure for domestic tours. Unless the Client fails to pay the final balance, we will return all monies paid, excluding payment for travel insurance and administration fees. No compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

7. PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

It is your responsibility to be in possession of a passport valid for 6 months after the date of your return to Australia. You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary visas, inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour. Information about these matters or related items is given in good faith but without responsibility on the part of Renaissance Tours.

8. ILLNESS OR DISABILITY

Anyone suffering from illness or disability or undergoing treatment for any physical or medical condition must declare the true nature of such condition at the time of booking and make arrangements for the provision of any medication or other treatment which may be required during the tour. Failure to make such disclosure will constitute a breach of these booking conditions and result in such persons being excluded from the tour in which case all monies paid will be forfeit.

9. LOCAL LAWS

All participants of the tours we operate are expected to obey the laws and regulations of the countries visited and any failure to do so will relieve Renaissance Tours of all obligations that they may otherwise have under these booking conditions.

10. IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT

If you have a complaint about any of the tour arrangements, you must bring it to the attention of the tour leader or other representative of Renaissance Tours at the time so that they may use their best endeavours to rectify the situation. It is only if we are made aware of any problems that there will be the opportunity to put things right. Any complaints must be made in writing to Renaissance Tours within 28 days of the completion of the tour.

11. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

All bookings are accepted on the understanding that the Client appreciates that travel does involve some risk and that they undertake all tours of their own volition.

i) Renaissance Tours accepts liability should any part of the tour arrangements booked with us not be supplied as described in the brochure(s) and not be of reasonable standard. In such a case, we will pay reasonable compensation if the Client's enjoyment of the tour has been adversely affected but will pay no compensation if there has been no fault on the part of Renaissance Tours or our suppliers and the reason for the failure in the tour arrangements was the Client's fault, the actions of someone unconnected with the tour arrangements or could not have been foreseen or avoided by Renaissance Tours or its suppliers even if all due care had been exercised.

ii) Our acceptance of liability to pay compensation pursuant to clause 11(i) is limited, in the case of air travel, rail travel, sea travel or hotel accommodation, to the amount set out in the provisions of, respectively, the Warsaw Convention as amended by the Hague Protocol 1955, the 1961 Berne Convention, the 1974 Athens Convention and the 1962 Paris Convention.

iii) Our acceptance of liability in clauses 11(i) and 11(ii) above is subject to assignment by the Client to Renaissance Tours of the Client's rights against any agent, supplier or sub-contractor of Renaissance Tours which is in any way responsible for the unsatisfactory tour arrangements.



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