

# Wild Earth Travel

*Small Ships, Big Adventures*

**wildearth-travel.com**

**info@wildearth-travel.com**

## MUMBAI, THE MALABAR COAST & SRI LANKA - A VOYAGE FROM MUMBAI TO COLOMBO

For those seeking an informative and relaxing experience whilst discovering India and Sri Lanka, what better way than a journey aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky in the company of just over 100 fellow travellers. Exploring by small ship, we are able to visit some of the most interesting regions allowing time for some leisurely interludes. The intricate nature of India and Sri Lanka's religions and cultures, together with the rich and absorbing history, will be brought to life by our Guest Speaker and the knowledgeable local guides who will accompany us ashore.

Setting sail from the vibrant and bustling city of Mumbai, amongst the many highlights of our time in India will be the Old Town of Goa with its interesting blend of Indian and Portuguese cultures and our time spent in the Malabar port of Cochin from where we will explore the serene 'backwaters', a network of lagoons, lakes, rivers and canals. Boats carrying the local produce of copra, coir and cashews travel slowly through peaceful, palm-shaded waterways and keen birdwatchers can have a field day looking out for fish eagles, kingfishers, egrets, herons and more. During our time in Sri Lanka we will explore its wealth of both ancient and natural sites including the fortified, UNESCO World Heritage Site of Galle and the fascinating capital, Colombo. Sri Lanka is also a paradise for wildlife lovers and we have included game viewing in Yala National Park, which offers a great diversity of animal and birdlife and, further south, the lesser-visited coastal wetland area of Bundala National Park with its flocks of flamingos and rich birdlife.

Our journey will take us along some beautiful coastlines and we

will visit bustling bazaars, witness daily life, learn something of the colourful cultures, ancient faiths, customs and traditions and witness some of the remarkable wildlife. All this and more will be achieved with ease with the benefit of returning to the comfort of the MS Island Sky each evening to recharge the batteries with good food, caring service and a restful night's sleep ready to witness another day in these fascinating lands.



ting lands.

### ITINERARY

Day 1 Mumbai.

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Arrive independently, make your way to the MS Island Sky.

Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

## Day 2 Mumbai.

Mumbai is a cluster of seven islands which were first home to the 'Koli' fisherman, who still occupy parts of the city shoreline today. First ceded to the Portuguese, the British Government took possession of the islands in 1665 before leasing them to the East India Company who founded the port and saw the city grow in size and importance. This morning we explore the city and see the prominent landmarks visiting the Gateway of India, Mani Bhavan, the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi when he stayed in Mumbai from 1917 to 1934 and Dhobi Ghat where we can observe the vast open air Indian laundry. Alternatively, travel to Gharapuri Island, better known as Elephanta Island, and view the remarkable caves designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This labyrinth of cave temples features courtyards, shrines, remarkable statues and vibrant sculptures that date from the 5th to 7th century AD. Return to the ship for lunch and a relaxing afternoon at sea.

## Day 3 Goa.

In the 15th century Goa was the largest trading centre on India's west coast and when the Portuguese arrived in the early 16th century they planned to set up a colony to seize control of the spice trade. Goa remained a Portuguese colony until 1961 when it became the 25th state of the Indian Republic. Whilst famous for her beautiful beaches, Goa offers wonderful architecture with a mixture of Hindu and Catholic styles, unique history, rich culture and pretty natural scenery. This afternoon we will explore Old Goa with its fine Basilica of Bom Jesus and the Neo-Classical Church of St Cajetan. Alternatively, visit a spice plantation where the cultivation of cardamom, chilli, cloves and coriander can be seen. We will enjoy the smells and tastes whilst we learn about their uses in Indian life.

## Day 4 Mangalore.

In the 14th and 15th centuries Mangalore traded with Persian and Arab merchants and was fought over by the Nayaka princes and the Portuguese. In

the 18th century its control was contested by Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan on the one hand, and the British on the other. The influences of its turbulent history are still apparent in the cosmopolitan attitude and diverse religions that exist here. Today it is a business and commercial centre and is India's ninth largest cargo handling port exporting 75% of the country's coffee and the bulk of its cashew nuts and spices. Spend the morning learning about the cashew processing industry before we visit Gokarnatha Temple and the remarkable St Aloysius Chapel, with a fascinating series of intricate paintings that cover virtually every square inch of the interior ceiling and walls. Created over a period of two years by Brother Antonio Moscheni, an Italian artist, the chapel with its magnificent artwork is one of the city's hidden gems. After our exploration we will return to the vessel for a leisurely afternoon at sea.

## Days 5 & 6 Cochin.

Cochin is an extraordinary city with strong influences of Portuguese, Chinese, Arab, Dutch and British cultures still much in evidence today and we have two days to enjoy this intriguing Malabar port. Visits will include the serene Kerala backwaters at Alleppey where we will board a local boat for a cruise past colonial warehouses and coconut thatched houses. For centuries, these canals provided a safe and efficient means of transportation for goods and people moving between the heartland of Kerala and the port towns along the coast. Even today, traditional barges, or kettuvallams, haul coconut, pepper, rice and other goods along the waterways. We will also spend time in Cochin to explore the diverse mix of cultures and religions that together, with its strong trading past in spices and silks, make for a fascinating city. Discover Mattancherry Palace with its ornately decorated rooms including some marvellous ancient murals and see the oldest European church in India, St Francis, and the ruins of the fort. On our first evening as we moor overnight, we will enjoy a Kathakali performance on board after dinner. Based on the subject from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and stories from Saiva literature, Kathakali is one of the main forms of classical dance drama of India and indigenous to Kerala.

## Day 7 At Sea.

Relax on board as we spend the day sailing to Sri Lanka.

## Day 8 Galle, Sri Lanka.

Arrive this morning in Sri Lanka and the port of Galle from where we take a

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walking tour of the impressive Galle Fortress. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the port where the Portuguese first landed in Sri Lanka in the 16th century and was then extensively fortified by the Dutch during the 17th century. Also see the maritime museum, which is housed in an old Dutch house, the lighthouse, mosque and church before taking a stroll through the narrow streets with its shuttered mansions and cloistered courtyards. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure to explore Galle further at your own pace or join the guided tour to a nearby tea plantation where we will learn about the growing processes and enjoy a tasting.

## Days 9 & 10 Hambantota for Bundala National Park, Yala National Park & Kataragama.

We have one and a half days in Hambantota from where we will visit some of the region's highlights. We will explore Bundala National Park, a haven for birdwatchers and Sri Lanka's first declared Ramsar wetland. Located in the deep south of the island, the diversity of the park lies in its landscape, from dry thorny scrubland to sand dunes and salt marshes, to mangroves and lagoons. Take a jeep through the park and discover close to 200 species of bird as well as many species of butterflies, crocodiles, elephants, and deer. Also known as Ruhunu, Yala National Park was designated as a wildlife sanctuary in 1900 and is now home to 44 varieties of mammals and 215 bird species. This vast region of arid scrub interspersed with pockets of dense forest and open patches of grassland hosts one of the highest densities of leopards in the world. On a Jeep safari we also hope to see sloth bears, jackals, wild boar and elephants. In addition there will be a chance to visit Kataragama, one of the three most important religious sites in Sri Lanka and a popular place of pilgrimage for the Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and the indigenous Vedda communities of Sri Lanka and South India. According to Buddhists this was one of the 16 places visited by Buddha during his visits to Sri Lanka. We will explore the religious complex built across the Menik Ganga which contains buildings from all three religions including the mosque, temple, the small archaeological museum and the principal shrine of the god Kataragama.

## Day 11 Colombo.

Sri Lanka's commercial capital and largest city dates back over 600 years having been a trading hub for sea merchants and colonial rulers. Buddhist temples, Hindu temples, mosques and churches reflect the various beliefs practised all over the island and the beautiful facades of the old, colonial

buildings contrast with the modern but elegant shopping arcades that have been developed inside. There will be a choice of activities today, join a cultural tour including the Gangaramaya Buddhist Temple, the National Museum and Independence Square. Alternatively visit the Kelaniya Buddhist Temple, located on the outskirts of the city. It is said that Buddha visited and preached his doctrine to a gathering of serpent-kings. Today worshippers come to lay sprigs of lotus flowers around the great white dagoba, light oil lamps, and sprinkle the base of the Tree of Enlightenment with purifying water. We can see the fine carvings and lovely frescoes, fascinating geometrically patterned ceiling paintings, and three important images of Buddha.

## Day 12 Colombo - disembarkation

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your flight out or continue with your onward plans.

### Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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## YOUR SHIP: ISLAND SKY

<b>YOUR SHIP:</b>	<b>Island Sky</b>
<b>VESSEL TYPE:</b>	<b>Luxury Small Ship</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>90 metres</b>
<b>PASSENGER CAPACITY:</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>BUILT/REFURBISHED:</b>	<b>1992 / 2010 / 2017</b>

The MS Island Sky offers an intimate and luxurious cruising experience, designed for travelers who appreciate peace, high-quality service, and a relaxed atmosphere. The ship features elegant public spaces, including a main lounge for daily briefings and talks, The Club with a pianist and a 24-hour tea and coffee station, and a well-stocked library with internet access. Guests can enjoy al fresco dining on the Lido Deck, a walk-around promenade for scenic views, and a top-deck observation area ideal for relaxation and wildlife spotting. The ship also includes a small hair salon, a doctor on board, and a lift serving all decks for added convenience. Complimentary satellite Wi-Fi is available, though signal strength may vary.

Accommodations include 59 spacious and well-appointed suites, all with outside views, seating areas, and en-suite bathrooms. Some suites offer private balconies or sliding glass doors for enhanced ocean views. Amenities include a mini-fridge, flat-screen TV, Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning, and a safe. The Island Suite boasts an extended balcony, complimentary minibar, and laundry service. Dining is a refined yet relaxed affair, with an emphasis on fresh, locally sourced ingredients and a single open seating. Guests

can enjoy buffet-style breakfasts, a la carte lunches and dinners, daily afternoon tea, and included wines. The ship's culinary team creates exceptional meals, often incorporating local specialties, while the friendly staff ensures a welcoming and social dining experience.

Life onboard is serene, focusing on enriching experiences rather than organized entertainment. Guests can enjoy informative talks, port briefings, and casual evening music rather than large-scale shows or games. The ship is equipped with modern safety and navigation technology, including roll stabilizers for a smooth journey. The atmosphere is akin to a private yacht or boutique hotel, where like-minded travelers can immerse themselves in nature, history, and culture.



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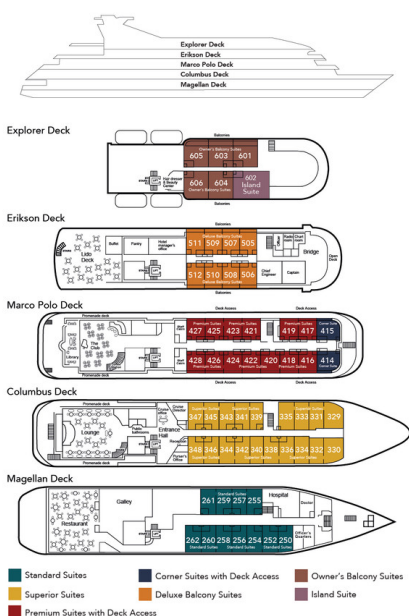
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Columbus Deck Superior Single



Columbus Deck Superior Suite



Erikson Deck Deluxe Balcony Suite



Explorer Deck Island Suite



Explorer Deck Owner's Balcony Suite



Magellan Deck Standard Single



Magellan Deck Standard Suite



Marco Polo Deck Corner Suite



Marco Polo Deck Premium Suite



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## PRICING

**16-Feb-2026 to 27-Feb-2026**

Magellan Deck Standard Suite	7545 GBP pp
Columbus Deck Superior Suite	7745 GBP pp
Marco Polo Deck Premium Suite	8045 GBP pp
Marco Polo Deck Corner Suite	8545 GBP pp
Magellan Deck Standard Single	8545 GBP pp
Columbus Deck Superior Single	8745 GBP pp
Erikson Deck Deluxe Balcony Suite	9745 GBP pp
Explorer Deck Owner's Balcony Suite	10245 GBP pp
Explorer Deck Island Suite	10745 GBP pp

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