Sri Lanka

The White Gold of Ceylon
François is a roaming always venturing out on the routes to uncover sublime paths with as much fervor as when he is sharing his stories. And stories, he has collected a whole lot of them since he joined Vintage Rides team around a decade ago. He is an enthusiast and knows the island of Ceylon like the back of his hand.

“White Gold of Ceylon is an authentic motorcycle tour on the wild coast and lagoons of the east”.
A rare monsoon-less region in South Asia, the Eastern coast of Sri Lanka is still unexplored. White sand beaches stretch for kilometers, a lush jungle crawling with elephants, Buddhist sanctuaries imbued with spirituality. Far from the classic motorcycle tours, Sri Lankans are particularly warm hosts. You ride on a Royal Enfield and follow the rhythm of sunrise and sunset. You are not racing against time, always trying to get a few more kilometers done; you are on a holiday. It is time for contemplation and lazing around. A motorcycle tour in a unique Sri Lanka for those who want to ride a few hours in the morning followed by relaxation time on the most beautiful beaches of Sri Lanka.
AT A GLANCE

- **2-4h riding a day**
- **Free time & leisure**

**Period**
June to August

**Duration**
12 days including 7 days riding

**Level**
Intermediate

**Accommodation**
Comfort/Boutique

**From**
3290 €
YOUR TRIP IN 12 STAGES

STAGE 1
Colombo - Negombo [20 min by private vehicle]:
After being met at the airport, you are transferred to Negombo, your first stop on Sri Lankan soil. Check-in at hotel. Enjoy this small fishing village to take some rest before your long journey. From the fine sand beach, admire the “oruwas”, the traditional canoes with their square sails floating on the ocean. You can also discover the fishing port in the small town, which is Sri Lanka’s catholic center as is testified by the numerous churches.

Negombo - Trincomalee [1H15 domestic flight]:
A short transfer to Colombo airport for your domestic flight to Trincomalee, on the east coast. You reach your hotel where the motorcycles are waiting for you. This is the ideal moment for you to relax on the magnificent white sand beach of Nilaveli. If you feel like exploring the sea, head to Pigeon Island, where you just need a mask and a snorkel to swim around among tortoises and small harmless sharks.
Trincomalee  [50 km – 1H30 riding]:

This morning, your motorcycle tour leader introduces you to your new mount: the Royal Enfield. You leave for your first ride from Trincomalee by going around this bay far from the usual tourist routes. Take the opportunity to visit the Hindu temple of Koneswaram before going to the top of the dizzyingly high cliff called “Lovers’ Leap”. Return to the hotel for lunch. Free time in the afternoon.

Trinconmalee - Passikudah

[190 km – 4H riding]:

Early in the morning, you ride along the island’s east coast towards the south till Passikudah. You discover the strong sense of freedom that the two-wheeler gives you to discover this wild coast. Check-in at the hotel and it is already time for you to cool down in the ocean.
STAGE 5

Passikudah - Gal Oya [130 km – 4H riding]:

You continue your descent towards the south by riding along the coast on a magnificent road for approximately 80 km, through lagoons and reservoirs till Gal Oya Park, our stop for this day. In the evening, you will pass by Peace Pagoda “Shanti Stupa”. You will perhaps see wild elephants, which are in the habit of walking along the structure at sunset.

STAGE 6

Gal Oya:

A day of exploration in the wild and exclusive Gal Oya National Park. You will go on a unique safari on Senanayake Samudraya, the biggest lake in the island and observe elephants, buffaloes and crocodiles from your local boat. Bird lovers will be enchanted by this Park, which is home to more than 150 different species. Return to Ampara in the evening.
STAGE 8

Arugam Bay - Ella [140 km – 4H riding]:

Departure in the morning. Today, a change in the setting, you will go back west to the country’s mountainside area. On the way, you will visit the Buddhist site of “Maligawla”. The last 35 km of the climb up are refreshing and offer splendid views of the surrounding mountains. Lunch at the hotel. In the afternoon, you can do some shopping in the village or if you prefer to walk, you can opt for the trek to Little Adam’s Peak.
Ella - Haputale [60 km – 2H riding]:

Still aboard your Royal Enfield, you follow the road through tea plantations in the mountains in central Sri Lanka. You will visit the small town of Bandarawela and head for Haputale. During the journey, you will enjoy the view over tea plantations and waterfalls; the panoramic view of the valley is splendid.

Check-in and night at hotel.

Haputale - Uda Walawe [120 km – 3H riding]:

Today, you continue your journey towards the South by taking a magnificent countryside road that leads you to the threshold of Uda Walawe National Park, one of the most beautiful parks in the country. Watch out, you might be caught unawares by chance encounters with the animal kind! Check-in at the hotel. In the afternoon, give some rest to your Royal Enfield and if you want, hop on to a jeep for a safari. Uda Walawe Reserve is known for the diversity of its animal species: elephants, buffaloes, peacocks, crocodiles, etc.
STAGE 11

Uda Walawe - Galle [130 km – 3H riding]:
Take full advantage of this last leg and your Royal Enfield! You head to the south, then the west along the coast. You reach Galle and after roaming around the battlements and parapets of the imposing Dutch fort, you will take the time to wander around in the lanes of the walled city. The renovated Dutch colonial houses, animated cafés, handicraft shops and artists’ workshops bestow Galle with an incredible charm. Check-in at hotel.

STAGE 12

Galle - Colombo International Airport [120 km - 2/3H by private vehicle]:
You get back on the road to head for Colombo. Transfer to the international airport according to your flight timings. Important: Please book an evening flight.

NB: the schedule for the various stages is provided for information purposes only. The route may vary slightly from one year to another depending on the state of the roads and paths taken.
HOW DO YOU WANT TO GO?

Book your trip and join a group

From 01/08/17 to 12/08/17

3390 € / pilot*
2990 € / pillion*

Book now: contact@vintagerides.com
* Prices available for a trip done between the 1st of June and 31st of August 2017.

Create a new group

Personalise your motorbike trip by creating your own dates and group! "A la carte" trips don't depend on the number of bikers in the group - you can even set off in a duo!

From 2 to 3: 5605 €
From 4 to 5: 4500 €
From 6 to 8: 3390 €
From 9 to 10: 3310 €
From 11 to 12: 3290 €

And enjoy

5% off your second trip
10% off your third trip and more
Always in the limit of 300 €
MORE INFO

PRICE INCLUDES

- A Royal Enfield 500cc motorcycle is provided with full mechanical assistance and all spare parts
- Domestic transfers as appearing in the program, by private vehicle
- An English speaking Tour Leader (from day 2 to day 12)
- Fuel expenses
- Domestic flight
- Jeep safari at Gal Oya
- An expert mechanic of Royal Enfield motorcycles
- A support vehicle with driver for groups with 4 or more participants; side luggage carrier for groups of less than 4 participants
- Lodging in comfort or boutique hotels, in double bedrooms or on a twin-sharing basis. If you wish to stay in a single room (extra), please inform your travel advisor at the time of registration.
- Meals: Half-board meals during riding days (breakfasts and lunches)
- Third party motorcycle insurance

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Compulsory insurances, including repatriation assistance which covers you in case of a motorbike accident in India and legal assistance
- International flights and airport taxes
- Visa fees
- A refundable security deposit of 400 € for every motorcycle
- Dinners and meals during day 1, day 13 and day 14
- Admission fees to various monuments, temples etc.
- Souvenirs and personal expenses
- Drinks
- Tips
MY CHECKLIST

Appropriate equipment is a component of a successful journey! Travel lightly, **TRY TO STAY UNDER 45LBS (20 KGS)**

**BAGS:**

- A sailor bag would be perfect, a walker’s bag too (without steel bar). You can close it with a padlock if you want to. Don’t forget to tag it before leaving with your address. Also with the address of Vintage Rides in India.
- A small backpack of 20 litres is advised for daily necessities such as camera, sunscreen lotion, etc.

**SPECIAL MOTORCYCLE EQUIPMENT:**

- Motorcycle boots are strongly advised or trekking shoes (waterproof)
- Warm motorbike jacket (synthetic preferred)
- A rain suit (just in case!)
- Gloves
- Helmet
- Bandana

**CLOTHES AND PERSONAL EQUIPMENT:**

- 2 light pants
- 4 shirts (including some with long sleeves, to protect yourself from the sun)
- 2 warm sweaters or jackets
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Sport shoes or trekking shoes
- 1 liter canteen (flask) and a flashlight (don’t forget the battery)
- Some sweets and cereal bars

**PERSONAL MEDICINE:**

- Sunscreen lotion
- Lip balm
- Broad-spectrum antibiotic
- Paracetamol
- Anti-diarrhoea
- Elastoplast
- Skin disinfectant
- Bandages and special blisters bandage
CONTACT US

[Image of three schoolgirls in a rural setting]

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