

# THE CULTIVATORS

## 悉心栽培

A new breed of tourism has taken root in Sri Lanka.  
CYNTHIA ROSENFELD, a long-time connoisseur of the  
island, selects her favourite places and people

斯里蘭卡正出現一種全新的觀光旅遊方式。對這個地方熟悉並  
一直深表欣賞的Cynthia Rosenfeld介紹她最喜歡的景點與人物



High tea  
Castlereagh Lake is surrounded  
by Sri Lanka's famous tea  
planter residences

湖畔茶園  
斯里蘭卡著名的茶園住宅  
就在Castlereagh Lake湖畔

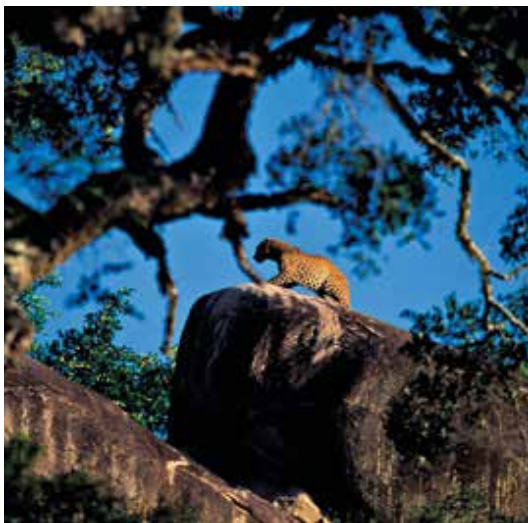


Photos: Plantation: Sebastian Posingis; Blue house and organ pipes: Dominic Sansoni/Three Blind Men; Man: Philip Lee Harvey/Cultura Travel/Getty Images



“MONKEYS SWING  
OVERHEAD AND  
PEACOCKS SPREAD THEIR  
TECHNICOLOUR FEATHERS

猴子在樹上盪來盪去，  
孔雀在開屏



Feeling blue

Sri Lanka's vivid colours, as seen on a door in the city of Kurunegala

蔚藍之色

斯里蘭卡到處充滿活潑的色彩，例如在Kurunegala市這道門上的顏色

first came to Sri Lanka during a lull in this country's two decades-long civil war. I have come to root passionately for this palm-dappled island. It hasn't always been easy. In 2009, the war's final year, my flight via Bangkok touched down during an aerial bombing raid on Colombo by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. I bribed a machine gun-toting soldier to get on the first available outbound flight, then spent the next 14 hours attempting to sleep on the airport's rusted windowsill.

Now this is Sri Lanka's time. After a 20 per cent increase in tourism in 2014, this winter is going to be even bigger – especially with a daily non-stop flight from Hong Kong. There will be a blizzard of articles and promotions about new hotels, new tours, new experiences. So the editor of this magazine asked me to stop and reflect on the most vivid, most extraordinary people and places I have encountered on my many visits to Sri Lanka. There is a beach experience, of course. But this island has opened up: adventure, nature and culture are now very much part of the promise.

**斯**里蘭卡的內戰持續了二十年，我初到這個遍佈棕櫚樹的小島時，正值戰事較為平靜的時候。當時我滿腔熱情，準備好好發掘這個地方的各種特色。這並非一件容易的事。2009年是內戰的最後一年，我乘飛機經曼谷抵達科倫坡時，正好遇上泰米爾之虎游擊隊進行空襲。我買通一個帶著機關槍的軍人，讓我盡快登上下一班離境的航機。接下來的14個小時，我努力嘗試在機場內生鏽的窗台上入睡。

斯里蘭卡現在時來運轉，旅遊業於2014年有20%的增長，隨著香港增設每天直飛的航班，今年冬季將有更大的增長。相信很快就會有大量的文章和宣傳活動湧現，推廣在斯里蘭卡剛開業的全新酒店，各式旅行團與多姿多彩的新鮮體驗。所以這本雜誌的編輯亦向我約稿，請我講述一些在斯里蘭卡遇到的非凡人物與特色景點。沙灘當然不能不提，而這個島嶼上有各種歷奇活動、自然景觀以及文化供人體驗，可說已成為人間樂土。

文化：不一樣的北方故事

沿著全新鋪設的道路駕車45分鐘，就來到佛塔 Jethavana Stupa。這是我最喜歡

## CULTURE: A DIFFERENT TALE OF THE NORTH

A 45-minute drive along newly paved roads leads to Jethavana Stupa, one of three main temples within the 41 square kilometres of the city of Anuradhapura – my favourite northern heritage site.

'We must imagine the stories behind each brick,' says Sri Lanka In Style guide Charitha Pathirana as we walk towards the temple, which thrived from the third to the 11th centuries. The number of bricks used to build the stupa – a mound-like structure used for meditation – alone is around 93 million: that's a lot of bricks.

Pathirana grew up among those bricks while his mother worked as a conservationist. We walk on the *sandakada pahana* moonstones ornately carved with elephants, bulls, lions and horses to symbolise the Buddhist cycle of rebirth. I am still listening intently at dusk when he brings me to a Bo Tree. It is said to come from a branch of the original in India under where, according to believers, Buddha attained enlightenment.

There is time to linger and listen. In

的北方文化遺產，它位於佔地41平方公里的古都 Anuradhapura 內，是三座主要寺廟的其中一座。

當我們朝著佛塔前行時，旅行社 Sri Lanka In Style 的導遊 Charitha Pathirana 說：「我們不妨想像一下每塊磚頭背後的故事。」這座古都於三至11世紀時曾非常繁華，單是用來興建這座佛塔就用上了9,300萬塊磚頭，背後當然不乏有趣的故事。

Pathirana 的母親是復修古蹟的工作人員，他自小在佛塔附近長大。我們腳下踏著作裝飾用的半月石，上面滿佈大象、公牛、獅子及馬等動物浮雕，象徵佛教中的輪迴。當他帶我來到一棵菩提樹下時，在暮色下我依然聽得非常入神。這棵樹據說來自印度，是從佛陀於其下證悟的那棵菩提樹折下來的樹枝長成的。

現在我們有充裕的時間漫步和聆聽。以往由於缺乏優質的住宿設施，Sri Lanka In Style 的導遊只能帶領遊客在這個北部的聯合國教科文組織世界文化遺產地點內匆匆走馬看花：先在 Dambulla 鎮參觀第一世紀的洞穴壁畫，接著觀賞五世紀時以石浮雕聞名的 Sigiriya 鎮，然後再前往 Polonnaruwa 鎮及 Anuradhapura 市這兩個佛教文化氣息濃厚，同樣令人目不暇給的地點。自從 Ulagalla 度假村開幕

the past, lack of quality accommodation meant Sri Lanka In Style guides rushed guests around the northern Unesco World Heritage Sites – the first century cave paintings at Dambulla, the fifth century rock-carved capital Sigiriya, as well as Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura, two later but no less spectacular Buddhist civilisations. Travelling in the region became a much more leisurely experience with the opening of the Ulagalla resort and its 19 sleek wooden chalets spread across a 23-hectare nature preserve. Monkeys swing overhead, peacocks spread their technicolour feathers and antediluvian monitor lizards slither between tropical flora. Ulagalla has the largest solar farm in Sri Lanka. It harvests rainwater and grows its own organic produce. In this place of history, the lodge points to the future.

## TEA THAT GIVES YOU A HIGH

There is only one way to appreciate the grandeur of Sri Lanka's tea plantations: from the air. Today's explorers can tour the central highlands by hiring a Simplify Jet Ranger helicopter and alight among the ☉

後，在區內旅遊就不必再行色匆匆了。度假村內有19間用木造的小屋，遍佈於佔地23公頃的自然保育區內，令旅程更添閒適。這裡可以見到在樹上盪來盪去的猴子，開屏的孔雀，品種古老的巨蜥在熱帶花卉之間爬行。Ulagalla 度假村擁有斯里蘭卡最大規模的太陽能農場，他們收集雨水，用作有機種植。在這個歷史深厚的地方，度假村卻面向未來。

## 令人興奮的茶葉

想欣賞斯里蘭卡茶園的壯觀景色，只有一個方法，就是從空中觀看。旅客只需租用 Simplify Jet Ranger 的直升機，飛到海拔1,514米的上空，就可以欣賞到中部高原 Bogawantalawa Valley 山谷內豐沃茶園的風光。

斯里蘭卡最著名的茶葉供應商 Dilmah 在這片綠油油的山谷內，將遍佈其間的小屋改建成六間以各式古董佈置的舒適套房，成為 Ceylon Tea Trails 度假村。與度假村同名的遠足徑穿過多個現仍運作的茶園。我與公司的創辦人、現年84歲的 Merrill Fernando 一起私下品嚐過顏色金黃的 Ran Watte Single Estate 茶後，被茶裡的雲呢拿、柑橘與黑加侖子味道深深吸引，從此與咖啡緣盡。☉

fertile tea fields of Bogawantalawa Valley, 1,514 metres above sea level.

Deep in this velvety green landscape, Sri Lanka's best-known premium tea purveyor, Dilmah, has converted sprawling planters' bungalows into the six-suite, antique-filled villas of Ceylon Tea Trails. Those eponymous walking trails wind through the working tea estates. It was a golden-hued Ran Watte Single Estate tea, with its hints of vanilla, citrus and blackcurrant, enjoyed at a private tasting with Merrill Fernando, the company's 84-year old founder, that turned me off coffee for good.

### LEOPARDS AND ARCHITECTS

'Everyone is seizing their chance.' So says the architect Cecil Balmond.

Balmond was born in Colombo. He is based in London and his work has taken him from the Sydney Opera House to Rem Koolhaas' CCTV headquarters in Beijing.

As the war was coming to a close, the prodigal son returned. Working with his own son, John, Balmond senior developed a new, consciously Sri Lankan design aesthetic, blending the modern vernacular with indigenous building materials like dried paddy reeds and woven palm fronds.

Their eco-friendly collaboration, the eight-bungalow Gal Oya Lodge, opened last year at Sri Lanka's eastern edge near Gal Oya National Park. Here, I ate an exquisite beetroot and buffalo-curd soup followed by traditional *kottu roti*, a finely chopped affair of roti, chicken and organic vegetables that had been grown on the property.

It's not a lunch I wanted to have interrupted. But then a tip came in that elephants had been sighted swimming across Senanayake Samudraya, Sri Lanka's largest reservoir, found inside the park. We arrived too late to catch the aquatic antics. Luckily I was with John Balmond's business partner, the former Aman Resorts manager Sangjay Choegyal, who grew up tracking tigers in Nepal. Soon, we are gazing at a family of three graceful elephants against a Jurassic backdrop.

Another smoothly paved road, this one mostly along the southeastern coast, links Gal Oya to the better-known Yala National Park, said to have the world's highest concentration of leopards.

A few days later, I was being quietly advised to 'be like a statue' by Noel Rodrigo, owner of Leopard Safaris, the

island's most established safari outfit. 'If we do see a leopard, the first 10 seconds are crucial so we don't scare him off. We don't. We spot a fully-grown male leopard lounging on a tree branch within moments of us re-entering the park.

The sanctuary has been established for 115 years, but it is also a land lost in time: a landscape of low-lying lakes harbouring crocodiles and painted storks. Overhead, the beryl-hued sky is a superhighway of electric blue and neon orange feathered kingfishers, Indian pond herons and Malabar pied hornbills. Spotted deer prance past, even after we drove out of Yala's gates.

## “ WE'RE GAZING AT A FAMILY OF ELEPHANTS AGAINST A JURASSIC BACKDROP

我們見到一群大象在  
恍如侏羅紀時代的環  
境中出現

### A DIFFERENT KIND OF SEA VIEW

Since peace cloaked the nation, there's been an overzealous rush to cram Sri Lanka's sandy southern shoreline with unmemorable concrete and glass box-shaped villas and resorts. There are notable exceptions. At Dickwella, near the island's southernmost tip, Paris-based architect Reda Amalou of the Nam Hai Hoi An and Six Senses Con Dao hotels in Vietnam, has just completed the 15-bedroom Ani Villas Sri Lanka. Here I wandered among the sinewy trunks of soaring palm trees that ring Amalou's polished wood and stone pavilions.

On another visit I awoke in a suite atop the cinnamon stick-clad water tower at design hotel Tri Lanka, sustainably constructed on a breathtaking site overlooking the south's Koggala Lake. Then, on a stunning promontory just 30 minutes by car from the massive granite ramparts of the 400-year-old Dutch colonial Galle Fort, I escaped to the 39 waterfront retreats of Cape Weligama, a collaboration between the Dilmah family

and esteemed Thai architect Lek Bunnag.

While my eyes panned Sri Lanka's most photogenic beachfront and Weligama's iconic stilted fishermen, Malik Fernando, son of the Dilmah founder, had his eyes firmly on the future.

'We're moving at full speed to build a futuristic, low-impact tented camp at Yala called Wild Coast Lodge,' he told me. There's also Red Rocks – a beachfront adventure resort on the northeast coast. 'There is so much potential here now!'

It's a potential that requires careful, responsible cultivation – rather like the tea plantations that symbolise and adorn this magical island. ■

### 斑豹與建築師

「每個人都抓緊各自的機會。」建築師 Cecil Balmond如是說。

Cecil於科倫坡出生，居於倫敦，曾參與悉尼歌劇院以至荷蘭建築師Rem Koolhaas負責的北京中央電視台總部大樓的建築工作。

內戰接近結束時，遠方的遊子開始踏上歸途。他與兒子John一起合作，發展出一種全新的，以斯里蘭卡為本的美學，將充滿現代氣息的風格，配合當地特有的建築材料如乾稻草稈與棕櫚葉編織的蓆子等，巧妙地融為一體。

由父子倆合作的Gal Oya Lodge環保度假村於去年在斯里蘭卡東部邊陲Gal Oya National Park國家公園開幕，共有八間小屋可供住宿。我在這裡吃午餐，先來一道風味獨特的紅菜頭水牛乳酪湯，然後是傳統的kottu roti，那是將切得極碎的roti薄餅配以雞肉及度假村內自家種植的有機蔬菜而成的主菜。

我本想專心地享用這頓美味午餐，但有人說見到公園內的Senanayake Samudraya水塘（斯里蘭卡最大的水塘）有象群游過，我們趕到時已錯過有趣的一幕。幸好，我跟John Balmond的生意搭檔Sangjay Choegyal在一起，這位安縵居的前任經理自小在尼泊爾追蹤老虎的蹤跡。不一會，我們就看到三頭大象樂也融融地在恍如侏羅紀時代的環境下現身。

另一條沿著東南海岸伸延的平坦大道，連接起Gal Oya和較為人熟悉的Yala National Park國家公園，據說，那是世上斑豹最集中的地方。

數日後，有人悄悄地向我提供觀豹心得：要如石像一般紋風不動。他是島上規模最大的叢林活動裝備商Leopard Safaris



**Great escapes**  
Cape Weligama (right), Ani Villas  
(below) and the tea plantations of  
Sri Lanka's central hills (inset)

幽靜居停  
Cape Weligama(右圖)及Ani Villas  
(下圖)，以及位於斯里蘭卡  
中央山脈的茶園(本圖)



Photos: Central Hills; Sebastian Posirngis/Three Blind Men; Ani Villas; Christian Gomez/Ani Villas

的老闆 Noel Rodrigo。他表示：「如果你看見斑豹，頭十秒的時間非常關鍵，千萬不要把牠嚇跑。」我們沒有。就在再次進入野生動物園的時候，不消一會，就看到一頭在樹枝上棲息的成年雄性斑豹。

這個動物保護區已有115年歷史，但卻沒有歲月流逝的痕跡。低窪的湖泊有鱷魚和白頭鸚鵡居住，舉頭一望，羽毛泛著藍色和橙色炫光的翠鳥、印度池鷺和冠斑犀鳥在蔚藍的天空飛過。車子離開 Yala National Park 國家公園的大閘之後，還可看見有鹿騰躍而過。

**不一樣的海景**

斯里蘭卡回復和平後，固然到處一片欣欣向榮，不過人們急不及待地在南部沿岸的沙灘旁建滿了毫無個性的別墅，它們都是以水泥和玻璃造成的盒子，十分沉悶。幸好還有令人眼前一亮的例子，負責設計越南會安南海度假酒店和昆島六善酒店的巴黎建築師 Reda Amalou，剛在斯里蘭卡最南端的 Dickwella 附近完成了共有15間客房的 Ani Villas Sri Lanka 度假村。Amalou 以打磨光滑的木材和石材建造的小屋四周，被粗壯的參天棕櫚樹圍繞，而我就在這些樹下輕鬆漫步。

於另一趟旅程，我住在 Tri Lanka 酒店的頂樓套房，酒店以可持續發展理念設計，建築前身是一座水塔，外牆以肉桂枝覆蓋。周遭景色壯麗，還可遠眺南面的湖泊 Koggala Lake。之後，我到 Cape Weligama 海濱度假村享受遠離煩囂的假期，這個擁有39座度假屋的建築項目是高級茶葉品牌 Dilmah 家族和泰國著名建築師 Lek Bunnag 攜手合作的成果。從有400年歷史、荷蘭殖民時期遺下的花崗岩堡壘 Galle Fort 驅車前往，只需30分鐘。

我的目光被斯里蘭卡最賞心悅目的海濱美景及 Weligama 的特色高蹺漁夫吸引住，不過 Dilmah 品牌的創辦人的兒子 Malik Fernando，卻將目光堅定地投向未來。

他跟我說：「我們正全速在 Yala 興建一個名為『Wild Coast Lodge』的帳幕型住宿設施，它的設計充滿前瞻性，而且盡量減少對環境的影響。另外我們還在東北部海岸興建一個名為 Red Rocks 的歷史主題度假村。在這裡到處都充滿機遇。」

然而，這些潛能需要細心而負責任的栽培，就跟照料遍佈於斯里蘭卡這個奇妙的島嶼上、並成為這裡的象徵的茶園一樣。■



**DISCOVER SRI LANKA**

Cathay Pacific flies non-stop from Hong Kong to Colombo seven times a week from 25 October

**探索斯里蘭卡**

國泰航空於10月25日起推出從香港不停站直飛科倫坡的航班，每周有七班