

02

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TROPIC *Cultures*

CULTURES AMPLIFIED

FEATURED NEWS

Sri Lanka to resume international Flights from 26th December



WEBSITE

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"La Forteresse"
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PROLOGUE

Condé While the COVID - 19 pandemic still has the international travel industry in shackles, our talented staff at Authenticities continue to thrust amongst a world that is swiftly shifting and adapting. With our unclouded sense of wonderment and curiosity, we spent the past few months making significant improvements focusing on our media content, taking part in aberrant and remarkable backpacker journeys, philanthropic initiatives, and other productive manoeuvres.

Continue scrolling through our newsletter to find out more details and our takes on the present and future of travel.

If you have specific questions relating to any of the content/information, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@authenticitiessrilanka.com.

SRI LANKA WINS CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER 2020 READER'S CHOICE AWARD

We are proud to re-announce that Sri Lanka has been ranked as the second-best country to travel to in 2020 by the "The Reader's Choice Awards of the Conde Nast Traveler" published in October. Albeit being closed to travellers throughout the year, with a whopping score of 93.96, Sri Lanka managed to steal the spotlight this year competing next to Italy, who scored 94.05.

Sri Lanka is something similar to a small universe and rightly so. Blessed with a diversity of every kind - culture, religion, history, scenery and climate - Sri Lanka is a fusion of experiences for those willing to scratch beneath the surface. Conde Nast highlights how the island offers unique experiences giving the travellers a chance to immerse themselves in the true essence of our people, lifestyles, culture and customs.

Furthermore, Sri Lankan Airlines has been recognized as one of the world's leading airlines in the recent Conde Nast Traveller 'Readers' Travel Awards'. The criteria factored in selecting winners who are following health and safety measures adapting to the new normal of travel and the marketing initiatives. With readers commending the airline's comfy business class seats, attentive cabin crew and flavourful in-flight meals, the airline has been awarded the sixth place in the survey among Best International Airlines.

Although we are still closed for visitors, authorities have been in discussion about setting up travel bubbles as soon as the world opens up.



SRI LANKA TO RESUME CHARTER FLIGHTS

From 26th December 2020

The much awaited news of the vaccine being approved in the UK and in the US has drawn a renewed sense of hope for the tourism industry in Sri Lanka. The Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL) has confirmed opening up of Sri Lanka's airspace for commercial and charter flight operations to Sri Lanka. After a period of 8 months since March 2020, Sri Lanka is expected to welcome its first charter flight on the 26th of December to the Mattala International Airport located in the south of the Island which will be beneficial for the hotels and resorts in the south and south-east coasts. This is the first phase to be operated as a travel bubble.

In light of this positive news, the Colombo Airport is expected to open for commercial flight operations during the 2nd or 3rd week of January 2021. The resumption of flights will have to go through strict regulations and safety protocols with a mandatory stay of 7 days in any of the level-1 safe hotels certified by the tourism ministry. We expect the restrictions to ease off momentarily by end of January to early February for touring to begin.

Currently, Sri Lanka tourism & the Health Authorities are meeting regularly to discuss the way forward. We are quite upbeat about the opening of the airport and resumption of tourism & we shall keep you informed of the developments.

**“THE REAL VOYAGE OF
DISCOVERY CONSISTS NOT
IN SEEKING NEW
LANDSCAPES, BUT IN
HAVING NEW EYES.” -
MARCEL PROUST**



TRAVEL SPOTLIGHT OF THE SEASON!

REMARKABLE STORIES FROM "SRI LANKAN TRAIL TROOPS" ON ROADS LESS TRAVELLED

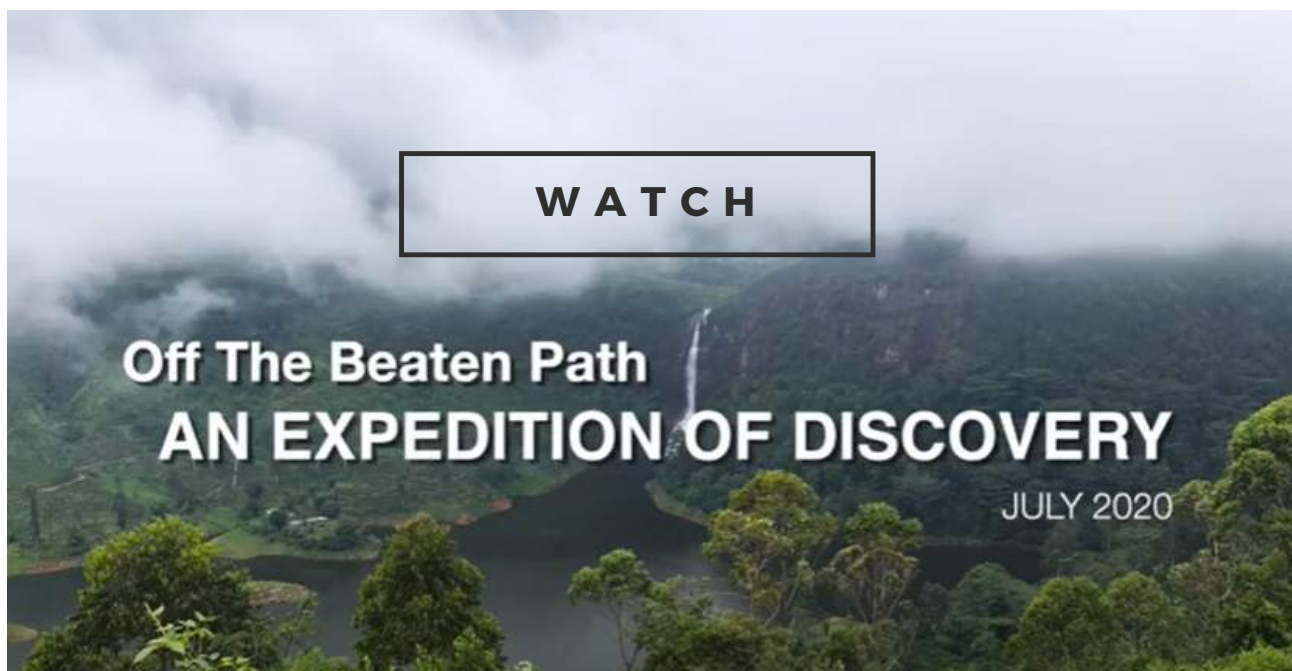
Sri Lankan Trail Troops stumbled upon a challenge as a reminder that it is imperative to keep travelling as a way of keeping alive the motivation and spirits while the whole world is slowly adapting to a new normal way of life.

The brief was to Venture off into undiscovered parts of the country over 7 days. The sole purpose of this journey was to discover the hidden lands, meet the unknown, and learn from each other with passion. Indeed a good seeding ground for hope & humility which we all acquired as we traversed through uncharted territories. Private vehicles and luxury hotels were out of the question!

Most parts of Sri Lanka have been explored time and time again over hundreds of years of the country's rich and vibrant history. Although we were aware of most aspects relating to culture, history, religions, and scenery, our backpacker trail across the mid-eastern region of the island was a true eye-opener to how heedless we have been beyond the reach of our arm.

From the experiences and short video clippings we have compiled throughout the journey, we were able to piece together an amazing video that was uploaded on our official YouTube Channel.

Feel free to check out the video ([LINK](#))



SRI LANKA TO BAN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC IN 2021

Sri Lankan Parliament, on 19th October approved the proposal to ban a range of single use plastic products in local markets effective from 01st January 2021.

This includes the items of Chemicals or pesticides packaged in Poly Ethylene Terephthalate (PET) and Vinyl Chloride (PVC) containers, sachets made of polythene and plastic less than 20 ml / 20 g (excluding food and medicine), various inflatable toys made of plastic and plastic cotton buds.

Proactive measures were also taken by the authorities when a few alternatives were proposed to use instead of the above items.

How do we, as a travel agency in Sri Lanka support this action?

Since the inception of Authenticities, we have been responsible for using over 160,000 single-use plastic bottles a year on travels. Despite us not having a solution to this hindrance in a timely manner, in the year 2018 we took the initiation to discontinue all single-use plastic water bottles and replace them with reusable 20L water dispensers where we use a pump to refill the insulated stainless-steel water bottles for our travellers.

Supporting the same initiatives and principles, we're thankful and glad that the local government is soon to act on this as permanent conduct.



**“THE STRONGEST GOVERNMENTS ON EARTH CANNOT CLEAN UP POLLUTION BY THEMSELVES. THEY MUST RELY ON EACH ORDINARY PERSON, LIKE YOU AND ME, ON OUR CHOICES, AND ON OUR WILL.”
— CHAI JING,**



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