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THE PEOPLE FOCUSED PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR IN
SRI LANKA



ABOUT THE PHOTO TOUR

Beautiful Sri Lanka Photography Tours is a travel agency specializing in organizing captivating photo tours in Sri Lanka, filled with excitement and amazement. Each of our tours is led by an experienced Sri Lankan travel photographer, ensuring photographers, travelers, or students are in the right places at the perfect moment to capture stunning photographs. The tours are designed to include, environmental portraits, candid portraits, posed portraits, cultural portraits, and character portraits. The tours mainly focus on photographing stilt fishermen, indigenous people, street vendors, tea pickers, elephant mahouts, and rural villages. The tours are perfect for anyone who has a passion for photography, whether you're traveling solo, with your partner, or with a small group of friends. Whether you're a seasoned photographer or just starting out, our tours are designed to cater to all skill levels.

<http://www.bslpat.com>



THE ADVANTAGES OF TRAVELING WITH US

Arrangement Of Photoshoots: We organize captivating photoshoots featuring the Veddas indigenous people, the picturesque tradition of stilt fishermen, the majestic elephant and its mahout, serene charm of rural villages etc.

Prioritize Engaging With Local People: At most photo locations we visit, we have a good connection with local people, ensuring convenient opportunities for authentic photography experiences.

Beginners Learn From Our Travel Photographer: If you're a beginner in photography, our travel photographer offers personalized instruction, helping you develop essential skills and gain valuable insights.

<http://www.bslpat.com>



EFFORTLESS DRONE PERMISSION SERVICES

Experience the hassle-free solution to obtaining official clearance for drone flights in Sri Lanka. We understand the complexities involved in navigating regulations from multiple authorities such as the civil aviation authority, central cultural fund, and department of archaeology. With our streamlined process, we take the burden off your shoulders, handling all the paperwork and coordination to ensure swift approval for your drone operations. Navigating drone permissions for archaeological sites in Sri Lanka, such as Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa, can be a daunting task. With strict regulations in place to preserve these historical treasures, obtaining clearance for drone flights can be challenging. However, our dedicated service focuses in securing permissions from the relevant authorities on your behalf.

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ABOUT THE PHOTO TOUR GUIDE

Saman Weeratunga is a travel and portrait photographer based in Kandy, the central part of Sri Lanka. Travel and photography are his passion, and he has traveled to some truly remarkable countries, including Switzerland, Austria, France, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Singapore, and Malaysia. Each journey has been a unique experience, filled with breathtaking sights and unforgettable moments for him. However, his thirst for exploration remains unquenched, and he's constantly adding new destinations to his ever growing list of places to visit. Whether it's capturing amazing local portraits, the vibrant streets of a bustling city, or the serene beauty of a remote landscape, he's always ready to pack his camera bags and set off on another unforgettable travel photo journey.

<https://www.travellerstalephotostudio.com>



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EDWARD HAMMOND
UNITED KINGDOM



AS A PHOTO TOUR GUIDE, SAMAN WAS EXCELLENT FROM BEFORE HE COLLECTED ME AT THE AIRPORT TO THE TIME WHEN I SAID GOODBYE 12 DAYS LATER. HE HAS CONTACTS WHICH MEANT I DIDN'T QUEUE ANYWHERE. HE KNOWS THE POPULAR PHOTO LOCATIONS AND LESS WELL-KNOWN ONES. I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO AS MUCH AS I DID WITHOUT HIS EXPERIENCE OF ALL THE LOCATIONS. AS A TUTOR, HE WAS PATIENT AND EFFECTIVE. HE SHARES IDEAS AND ENCOURAGES EXPERIMENTATION. I'VE NOW MADE THE TRANSITION TO FULLY MANUAL CONTROL OF MY CAMERA AND THE RESULTS ARE DEFINITELY BETTER. I LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT THE CAPABILITIES OF MY OWN CAMERA AS A PERSON, HE'S CALM, POLITE, CAREFUL, PUNCTUAL AND COMPLETELY RELIABLE. HE WAS A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH AND I HOPE TO DO SO AGAIN IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

ALI KHATAW
UNITED STATES



I HAD THE PLEASURE OF HAVING SAMAN AS OUR PHOTO TOUR GUIDE DURING OUR 18-DAY TRIP TO SRI LANKA, AND I MUST SAY IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE. HE TOOK THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND MY PASSION FOR PHOTOGRAPHY AND ENSURED THAT OUR TRIP WAS TAILORED TO CAPTURE THE MOST STUNNING IMAGES OF SRI LANKA. WHAT STOOD OUT THE MOST ABOUT SAMAN WAS HIS PROFESSIONALISM AND RESPONSIBILITY. HE WAS ALWAYS PUNCTUAL, ORGANIZED, AND ENSURED THAT EVERYTHING WENT SMOOTHLY. HIS POLITE AND FRIENDLY NATURE MADE THE TRIP EVEN MORE ENJOYABLE, AND WE FELT COMFORTABLE AND WELL TAKEN CARE OF THROUGHOUT OUR TIME IN SRI LANKA. I CANNOT EMPHASIZE ENOUGH HOW HIGHLY I RECOMMEND SAMAN AS A PHOTO TOUR GUIDE. HIS EXPERTISE, DEDICATION, AND GENUINE PASSION FOR HIS WORK MAKE HIM AN EXCEPTIONAL COMPANION FOR ANY TRAVELER.

CHONG JAYMEE
SINGAPORE



WHAT STARTED OUT AS A TAG-ALONG TRIP WITH MY PHOTOGRAPHER FRIEND TURNED INTO AN 8-DAY PHOTOGRAPHY CRASH COURSE FOR ME! HAVING NOT USED A DSLR BEFORE, SAMAN HAD ENCOURAGED ME TO BORROW ONE TO BRING ALONG SO THAT HE COULD TEACH ME SOME BASICS. I HAVE LEARNT LOADS ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY FROM SAMAN IN THOSE 8 DAYS AND GLAD TO SAY THAT I CAN NOW SHOOT IN MANUAL MODE WITH SOME CONFIDENCE. IN OUR TOUR, WE HAD COVERED MOUNTAINS, JUNGLES AND SEA, BUT MY FAVORITES WERE THE SAFARI TOUR TO KAUDULLA NATIONAL PARK. SAMAN WAS FLEXIBLE ENOUGH IN ACCOMMODATING OUR WISHES AND ALSO PROVIDED LOTS OF ADVICE ON STAYING SAFE. HE STAYED CONSTANTLY IN TOUCH EVEN BEFORE WE ARRIVED AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT THE TOUR AND ENSURED WE WERE TAKEN CARE OF.

SUSANNE DUEGGLIN
SWITZERLAND



I WAS LOOKING FOR A PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR FOR 8 DAYS AND HAD A LOT OF GROUND I WANTED TO COVER. AND SAMAN MADE THIS TRIP A GREAT EXPERIENCE! FROM THE FIRST CONTACT UNTIL THE END OF THE TOUR, SAMAN WAS A VERY PROFESSIONAL, ATTENTIVE, FUN AND VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE GUIDE, IN PHOTOGRAPHY AND HIS COUNTRY. HE ENCOURAGED ME TO USE MANUAL MODE MORE THAN I HAD EVER DONE BEFORE AND HAD A LOT OF PATIENCE WITH ME ASKING HIM OVER AND OVER THE SAME QUESTIONS. WITH SAMAN'S HELP I TOOK GREAT PICTURES! HE IS A VERY GOOD PHOTOGRAPHER AND JUST FUN TO BE AROUND WITH, A PERFECT TRAVEL BUDDY. SRI LANKAN PEOPLE ARE A PLEASURE TO BE AROUND, AND SAMAN IS NO DIFFERENT. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND HIS TOURS AND WHEN I COME BACK WITH MY PARTNER, I WILL CERTAINLY SEE YOU AGAIN, SAMAN!

ALEX DIAS
UNITED KINGDOM



I HAVE TO SAY FROM THE MOMENT WHEN I EMAILED FROM THE UK, SAMAN WAS NOT ONLY PROFESSIONAL AND FRIENDLY BUT HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO ENSURE I WAS GOING TO END UP WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE EXPERIENCE FOR ME, WHICH I DID. ON THE TOUR ITSELF, WE TOOK IN PLACES AND SCENES THAT I WOULD NEVER HAVE FOUND ON MY OWN, MY FAMILY JOINED US FOR PART OF THIS AND THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CARE WE RECEIVED WERE AN EXAMPLE TO BEHOLD TO SO MANY OTHER COMPANIES IN THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY. THE PHOTOS I GOT AT THE END OF IT WERE AMAZING TOO, I THOUGHT I WAS FAIRLY ADVANCED BUT MANAGED TO LEARN A LOT ALONG THE WAY, AND BY THE END OF THE TOUR WE WERE SAD TO SEE SAMAN GO, HE BECAME MORE OF A FAMILY FRIEND THAN SOMEONE OFFERING A TOUR. SINCERE THANKS TO SAMAN FOR MAKING THIS TRIP EXTRA SPECIAL.

CHINYEE WONG
HONG KONG



WE SPENT FOUR DAYS TOURING THREE CITIES IN SRI LANKA WITH SAMAN AND HAD A MARVELOUS TIME EXPLORING AND SHOOTING AWAY IN THE COUNTRY. SAMAN WAS ATTENTIVE, HELPFUL AND PROVIDED US AMPLE TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PLACES TO VISIT AND ACTIVITIES TO DO. HE ALSO DID AN ADMIRABLE JOB ACCOMMODATING OUR WISHES AND DEMANDS. THE FEW DAYS TOURING WITH HIM MADE OUR TIME IN SRI LANKA THAT A WHOLE LOT MORE ENJOYABLE. IF YOU WANT TO PHOTOGRAPH THE DIVERSE PEOPLE AND LANDSCAPES OF THE COUNTRY, HE IS YOUR GUY. IF YOU WANT A FRIEND WHO SHARES YOUR INTERESTS OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL, HE IS YOUR GUY. I HAVE NO HESITATION IN RECOMMENDING SAMAN FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS OF ALL LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Sri Lanka's Indigenous Veddas' In Dambana

The Vedda people are one of the oldest ethnic groups in Sri Lanka, known for their unique culture, hunting practices, and traditions dating back to before the 6th century BCE. Today, they live in regular houses and huts, with only a few still maintaining the traditional long hair, attire, and beards. This session is set up with a few Indigenous people for a photo session in their small hut and the surrounding area, which is away from the regular touristic Vedda village nearby, where no tourists are around. This is an organized photo session capturing the aboriginal appearance of the Veddas and their traditional culture.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Stilt Fishermen In Koggala

Stilt fishing is a method unique to the island of Sri Lanka. Fishermen sit on a crossbar tied to a vertical pole driven into the sand a few meters offshore. This technique is mainly practiced during March to April when fish are abundant. This session is set up with a few stilt fishermen, selecting the best poles to sit against the sunrise or sunset to create a perfect silhouette, while also ensuring a steady position for long exposure photographs of the fishermen and the still water. This is an organized photo session capturing traditional fishermen in silhouette style and their fishing method at dusk or dawn with colorful sky lights.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

An Elephant & A Mahout In Sigiriya

Mahouts, often known as elephant handlers, work closely with captive Asian elephants, forming a unique bond that is passed down through generations. The daily tasks of mahouts can include feeding, cleaning, and bathing the elephants, as well as training them and guiding them through various routines. This session is set up with a domesticated elephant and its mahout, bringing them near the lake in front of Sigiriya rock. This is an organized photo session capturing the bond between the elephant and its mahout, and how the elephant can pose and react according to the mahout's commands.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Ancient Ruins And Monks In Polonnaruwa

The Ancient City of Polonnaruwa in Sri Lanka is a historic site that was once the capital of the country during the 11th to 13th centuries. It is known for its well preserved ruins, including palaces, temples, and statues. This session is set up with special permission from the Department of Archaeology to enter the ruins at sunrise, with no tourists allowed at this time, and includes featuring young Buddhist monks for the photo session. This is an organized photo session capturing ancient architecture of Sri Lanka, adding liveliness to the ruins by photographing young Buddhist monks in front of them.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Pettah Market In Colombo

Pettah Market is a busy and colorful market known for its wide variety of goods. It is a large area with many small streets, where traders sell items like fresh fruits, vegetables, spices, and many more. Each street is often focused on one type of product, making it easy to find what you need. The market is full of activity, with people buying and selling goods throughout the day. Pettah is not only a key trading center but also a reflection of the island's diverse. This is a candid photo session capturing the market's vibrant atmosphere, focusing on the actions of hard workers and the emotions reflected in their close up faces.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Fishing Village In Negombo

Negombo fishing village is a small, bustling coastal village with a lot of fishing activities in the morning. Each morning, the beach comes alive as fishermen return with their catches, which are then laid out for sorting, drying, or selling at the local fish market. Colorful boats dot the shoreline, and fishing nets are spread out to dry under the sun, adding to the village's charm. The market is especially lively, with locals haggling over a variety of fish. This is a candid photo session capturing the fishing village's vibrant atmosphere, focusing on the actions of fishermen and the emotions reflected in their close-up faces.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Tea Pluckers On Tea Field In Dambethenna

The task of plucking tea is traditionally done by women, who expertly pluck by hand to ensure the highest quality of leaves. Hand plucking allows workers to select only the top two leaves and a bud from the tea plant. The work is physically demanding, as tea pluckers spend long hours in the fields, moving through rows of bushes. In Sri Lanka, pluckers gather 15 to 20 kilograms of tea leaves daily. This is a candid photo session capturing the portraits of tea pluckers in the tea fields, showcasing their colorful clothes and traditional tea plucking methods used to process Ceylon tea.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Tea Workers' Village In Dambethenna

Sri Lankan tea workers are primarily Indian Tamils, brought by the British during the colonial period to work on plantations. Many of these workers were transported from southern India to meet the labor demands of the burgeoning tea industry, which became a major export commodity. Today, the descendants of these laborers continue to reside in tea plantation villages, often among the most economically deprived areas in the country. This is a candid photo session capturing close up portraits of the villagers, especially children, who live in very basic line houses that provide a colorful backdrop.



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Traditional Dancers In Gadaladenyia

There are three main styles of Sri Lankan classical dance: the Kandyan dances of the hill country, the low country dances of the southern region, and the Sabaragamuwa dances of the Ratnapura region. These classical dance forms differ in their movements and the shape of the drums used. This session is set up with a few Sri Lankan traditional dancers and drummers in costumes from a dancing academy, bringing them to a nearby temple and requesting some dance performances and poses. This is an organized photo session capturing the dance poses of Sri Lankan traditional dancers in colorful costumes.



SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

A Tuk Tuk Ride Through Green Valley In Haputale

The Tuk Tuk ride through the green valley in Haputale offers a unique experience with stunning natural beauty. The small, open vehicle provides an up close view of the surrounding landscapes, from mist covered mountains to neatly arranged tea plantations. As the Tuk Tuk winds through narrow roads, you feel a cool breeze, and with every turn, a picturesque scene is revealed. The gentle bouncing over uneven roads adds to the thrill, while the friendly driver shares stories about the area. The ride passes through tea workers' villages, where you observe daily routines and see school kids walking to school.



SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

Scenic Train Journey From Haputale To Nanu Oya

This scenic train ride offers a breathtaking journey through the mountains of Sri Lanka. The views on both sides of the tracks are spectacular, showcasing lush landscapes and vibrant greenery. The train winds through hills, providing glimpses of farms, villages, and vast tea plantations. If you step into third class, you will have the chance to interact with locals who enjoy chatting. Leaning out of the train door provides some of the best views and an exhilarating feeling, but be cautious. Avoid extending your limbs outside the train at the wrong moment, as low-hanging trees and tunnels pose danger.



SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

Damro Tea Factory In Labookellie

Sri Lanka is famous for its high quality tea, and the country has a long history of tea cultivation dating back to the 19th century. Inside the tea factory, the step by step tea making process can be seen. Fresh tea leaves are first withered to reduce moisture, then rolled to release natural oils. The leaves are then fermented to develop flavor and color before being dried to stop the oxidation process. After drying, the leaves are sorted by quality. The whole process is carefully monitored to ensure top-quality tea. At the end, high-quality, factory made Sri Lankan tea, known for its rich taste and aroma, can be purchased.



SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

Ancient Rock Fortress In Sigiriya

The Ancient Rock Fortress in Sigiriya, Sri Lanka, is a remarkable historical site built on a massive granite rock. This fortress, also known as Lion Rock, dates back to the 5th century and was once a royal palace. It is famous for its impressive frescoes and large lion statue at the entrance. The site is also home to ancient inscriptions, mirror walls, and pathways that provide insight into the lives of those who once inhabited it. The top of the rock offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape, making it a unique architectural marvel. Sigiriya is also recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

Sima Malaka Temple In Colombo

Sima Malaka Temple is a small, peaceful Buddhist temple in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It is built on Beira Lake and is known for its calm and beautiful surroundings. It has a simple, modern design with floating platforms over the water, adding to its peaceful atmosphere. The temple's calm setting, with statues of Buddha and serene water views, makes it a quiet place for reflection in the busy city of Colombo. It features golden Buddha statues, traditional Sri Lankan architecture, and is surrounded by greenery, making it a relaxing spot for spending the evening time. The temple is part of the larger Gangaramaya complex.

