

SRI LANKA – MAY 2013

After an exhausting Journey of more than 30 hours we, ten students from the bachelor degree course LTM, ten students from the master's degree course TDS, Ms. Wallenburger and Prof. Dr. Rasmussen, finally arrived at airport in Colombo, the capital city of Sri Lanka on May 7th. We were welcomed by our tour guide, Mr. Kingsley and brought to our first stop, the Mount Lavinia Hotel in Mount Lavinia.

In the next morning our first business meeting with our tour operator "**Journeyscapes**" took place. At "Journeyscapes" we obtained valuable information about the company itself, its tasks as a tour operator and about Sri Lanka. After an interesting presentation we were offered some tea, coffee and pastries. Our next appointment took place at "**PwC**". Here, an interesting discussion about the tourism development of Sri Lanka started so that we could gain a better understanding about the needs and challenges of the country. In the evening we ate typical Sri Lankan Curry with Rice for the first time.

On Friday, 9 May, our first business meeting took place in the **German Embassy**. We obtained general information about the economic situation in Sri Lanka. Because of the ambassador and his trainee coming from Germany, we were able to get a clear picture about Sri Lanka as well as about the cooperation between Germany and Sri Lanka. The second meeting was at the **Ceylon Chamber of Commerce**. We were put into the position to learn about the trade of Sri Lankan tea, herbals and spices. Our third and last business meeting at this day was at the **Sri Lankan Promotion Tourism Bureau**. At the beginning we were given a presentation about Sri Lanka's various facets by the Marketing Director. In-between even the Chairman of the company gave us the great pleasure to join our business meeting and to discuss the tourism development. After an exhausting day we relaxed in the beach bar.

On Saturday, 10th May, we started to discover the country in more detail and drove on to Sigiriya. On our way to our next destination we stopped to go on safari. There we got the possibility to see peafowls, eagles, monkey and many elephants. In the evening we arrived at the Sigiriya Hotel which was located in the jungle.

In the next morning we were woken up by loud trampling. There were monkeys on the roof. After the breakfast we made our way to the Sigiriya Rock. We had to climb 1200 stairs but the view we had on top, was totally worth it. In the noon we had the choice of riding elephants or getting a traditional herbal massage. At first many of us took part in the elephant ride. Each of us even got the possibility to ride on the elephant's neck. After the ride almost everyone wanted to get the herbal massage. It was really relaxing after the exhausting climbing on the Sigiriya Rock.

On Monday we drove to the next City, Kandy. On our way to the Hotel Thilanka we stopped to visit the Temple of Dambulla. Another stop was at a garden with herbals and spices, where we were given a guided tour. In the evening we all went to a dance event, where we got to know different traditional dances. After that we visited

the Temple of Tooth Relict and got the possibility to see a traditional service. In the end of the day we had free time to visit the city and eat for dinner.

On the next day we were driven to three different Buddhist temples. There our tour guide, Mr. Kingsley, told us a lot about the main Religion of the Sri Lankans. After visiting the Temples we went to a botanical garden, in which we spend our noon with exploring plants and animals. In the afternoon we got the possibility to visit Kandy. We even were at a traditional city market. There we were able to recognize where and how Sri Lankans buy their food or clothes. In the evening most of us took a Tuck-Tuck to enjoy the ride and to go back to the Hotel.

On Tuesday we started to drive to Galle in the morning. Our first stop on our way was a tea factory. There we learned how the traditional black tea, the Ceylon tea, is made. Our next stop was at an elephant orphanage, where we were able to watch many elephants taking a bath in a river. The 14th of May is a traditional Sri Lankan holiday. On this day many lights are hung up on the streets and there are fireworks taking place. In the evening we had the chance to explore the city and the lights on our own.

On Wednesday we had a day off, except of a business meeting with the heads of our Hotel, the Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel. Most of us used the day to go to the city centre again and afterwards to relax at the pool. In the afternoon we had the business meeting with our hotel. We learned a lot about the chain "Jetwing", our hotel itself and the future plans about tourism in Sri Lanka. The environmental officer even made it possible that we could help to set free one day old turtle babies he saved from the tourists and animals.

On our last day we visited a sustainability project, which is supported by TUI. We were separated into two groups. While one group got a presentation about Sri Lanka's biodiversity, the other group went on a boat trip on a river. There we could marvel at traditional mangroves and we could even see a big monitor lizard. Then the groups changed. In the afternoon we arrived in Negombo, our last destination. We spend our last evening in the City and at the beach and later on the students even got a cocktail from the professors.

On the next day we had to stay up very early to go back to the airport and to fly back to Germany. After a night in Hamburg we have finally arrived Stralsund on Sunday afternoon.

In Sri Lanka we were able to learn a lot. We obtained much information about the companies we visited, the culture, the religion, the Sri Lankans themselves and of course about Sri Lanka as a destination. I think nobody regrets taking part in this excursion and everybody would recommend it or do it again. Many thanks for our professors to make such an excursion possible.