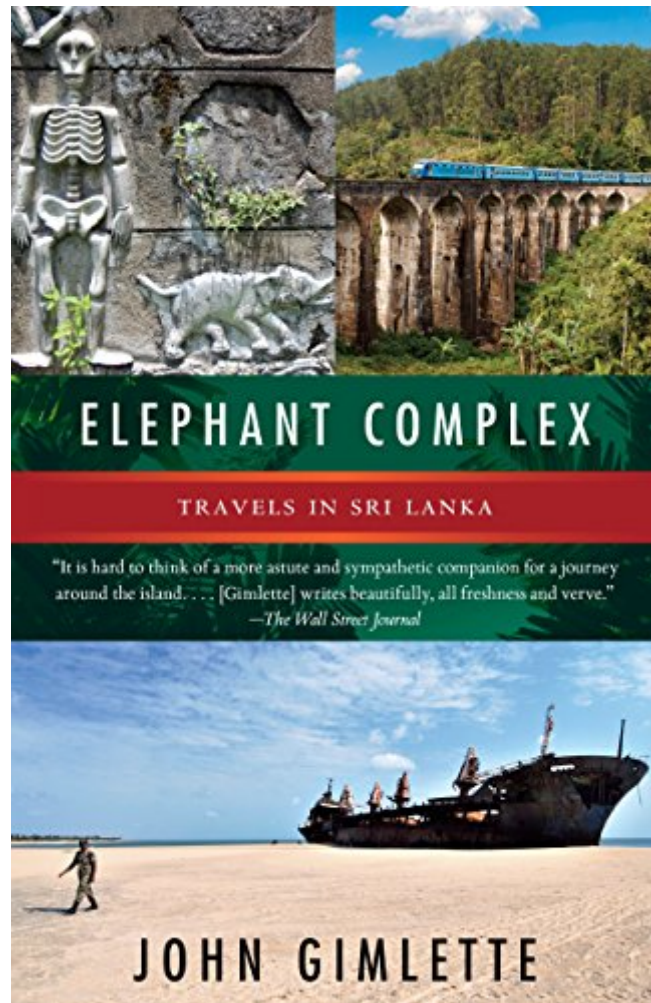




The book was found

Elephant Complex: Travels In Sri Lanka



Synopsis

No one sees the world quite like John Gimlette. As The New York Times once noted, "he writes with enormous wit, indignation, and a heightened sense of the absurd." • Writing for both the adventurer and the armchair traveler, he has an eye for unusually telling detail, a sense of wonder, and compelling curiosity for the inside story. This time, he travels to Sri Lanka, a country only now emerging from twenty-six years of civil war. Delving deep into the nation's story, Gimlette provides us with an astonishing, multifaceted portrait of the island today. His travels reveal the country as never before. Beginning in the exuberant capital, Colombo (a hint of anarchy everywhere), he ventures out in all directions: to the dry zones where the island's 5,800 wild elephants congregate around ancient reservoirs; through cinnamon country with its Portuguese forts; to the "Bible Belt" of Buddhism "the tsunami-ravaged southeast coast; then up into the great green highlands (the garden in the sky) and Kandy, the country's eccentric, aristocratic Shangri-la. Along the way, a wild and often desperate history takes shape, a tale of great colonies (Arab, Portuguese, British, and Dutch) and of the cultural divisions that still divide this society. Before long, we're in Jaffna and the Vanni, crucibles of the recent conflict. These areas "the hottest, driest, and least hospitable "have been utterly devastated by war and are only now struggling to their feet. But this is also a story of friendship and remarkable encounters. In the course of his journey, Gimlette meets farmers, war heroes, ancient tribesmen, world-class cricketers, terrorists, a former president, old planters, survivors of great massacres "and perhaps some of their perpetrators. That's to say nothing of the island's beguiling fauna: elephants, crocodiles, snakes, storks, and the greatest concentration of leopards on Earth.

Here is a land of extravagant beauty and profound devastation, of ingenuity and catastrophe, possessed of both a volatile past and an uncertain future "a place capable of being at once heavenly and hellish "all brought to vibrant, fascinating life here on the page. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

File Size: 54898 KB

Print Length: 432 pages

Publisher: Vintage (February 16, 2016)

Publication Date: February 16, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B00XSSMKS6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #178,887 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #30

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Asia > India #50 in Kindle Store >

Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Asia > Southeast #55 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >

History > Asia > India

Customer Reviews

I've always thought the country "Ceylon" had such a romantic name I just had to find out more about it and how it came to change its name to Sri Lanka. This book was a great tutorial on the history of the country and its continuing complexities. With the help of Google Maps and the internet I could almost travel as a button on the shirt of the author as he traversed the country. The only downside was my inordinate curiosity. I quickly discovered I could not read the book without my iPad next to me so I could track his steps and see what he saw therefore it took a long time to finish the book. My own fault but certainly an answer to my curiosity.

TRAVEL BOOKS ARE THE BEST WAY TO KNOW IN DETAIL A COUNTRY, ELEPHANT COMPLEX IS ABOUT SRI LANKA(FORMERLY CEYLON) IS ONE OF THESE BOOKS; SRI LANKA IS AN INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND LOCATED SE OF INDIA;THE BOOK IS A THOROUGHLY DESCRIPTION OF SRI LANKA ITS HISTORY, CULTURE,LANDSCAPE, FLORA AND FAUNACOVERING THE WHOLE ISLAND FROM SOUTH TO NORTH ENDING IN THE JAFFNA PENINSULA AND THE DELFT ISLAND.SRI LANKA IS ONE OF THE MOST ANCIENT CIVILIZATION OF THE WORLD ,IS A MIXTURE OF SINHALESEBUDDHISM AND TAMIL HINDUISM WITH LATER INFLUENCES FROM ARABS IN THE LATE MIDDLE AGES ANDTHE EUROPEAN COLONIZATION, THE PORTUGUESE (16TH-EARLY 17TH CENTURY), THE DUTCH (LATE 17TH-18TH)AND FINALLY THE BRITISH (19TH-MIDDLE 20TH), THE COUNTRY ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE IN 1948 AND AFTERA PERIOD OF RELATIVE STABILITY THE COUNTRY WAS ENGULFED IN A BLOODY CIVIL WAR THE LONGEST IN ASIA(1983-2009) BETWEEN THE SINHALESE GOVERNMENT IN COLOMBO AND THE LTTE (LIBERATION

TIGER TAMIL EELAM)WHICH WAS FOUGHT MOSTLY IN THE NORTHEAST ENDING WITH THE VICTORY OF THE SRI LANKAN ARMY.THE BOOK STARTS WITH THE CAPITAL COLOMBO CONTINUING WITH THE GREEN JUNGLES A PARADISE IN THEEARTH TO KANDY THE EPICENTER OF SRI LANKAN BUDDHISM; IN THE LAST CHAPTERS THE AUTHOR GIVES A FULLDESCRIPTION OF THE EASTERN AND NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND, WHERE THE BLOODY LTTE INSURGENCYWAS TAKEN PLACE, I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THE WAY THAT THE AUTHOR PORTRAYS THE CONFLICT BECAUSEHE TOES THE LIBERAL LINE PREVALENT IN THE WEST AND THE INTERNATIONAL BODIES LIKE THE UNITED NATIONSWITH THE HOLLOW RETHORIC OF " HUMAN RIGHTS", "DEMOCRACY" AND " CIVIL SOCIETY" THIS LINE HAS FAVOUREDTHE LEFTISTS INSURGENCIES THROUGH THE WORLD ; I CONSIDER THE SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT MAHINDA RAJAPAKSAA GREAT LEADER AND ALONGSIDE RODRIGO DUTERTE AND VLADIMIR PUTIN ARE THE ROLE MODELS TO FOLLOWIN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES (ESPECIALLY IN CUBA AND VENEZUELA).AFTER READING THIS BOOK I CAN SAY THAT SRI LANKA IS AN INTERSTING AND FASCINATING COUNTRY ANDI REALLY WANY TO VISIT IT ONE DAY.

A very, very verbose story. English prose, I guess if you can slug through it. Some interesting history and stories. Not much good as a travel guidebook.

Divided in 13 chapters, the book covers hundreds of years of colonial and modern history and society and all parts of Sri Lanka. Very balanced and well written.

Informative.

This book captures the history and culture of Sri Lanka's people, and is written with such sympathy and good humore. It is superb if you want to know about Ceylon and Sri Lanka.

I was reading the book while travelling through Sri Lanka. It gave me great insight into this beautiful country's history and culture. The book is written in a very interesting manner.Must-read for all travellers!

Like all John Gimlette's earlier books, Elephant Complex is brilliant. Fantastic research combined with an incredible skill at interacting with people make this a wonderful book and like his previous

books, this is one I will read many more times.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka Travel Guide: 101 Coolest Things to Do in Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka Travel, Colombo, Galle, Sri Lanka Holidays, Sri Lanka Safari) Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka Travel Guide: 101 Coolest Things to Do in Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka Travel, Sri Lanka Holidays, Colombo, Kandy, Galle) Sri Lanka Travel Guide - 2017: Essential Sri Lanka guide book (Sri Lanka guide books) Elephant Complex: Travels in Sri Lanka Top 12 Places to Visit in Sri Lanka - Top 12 Sri Lanka Travel Guide (Includes Sigiriya, Kandy, Yala National Park, Galle, Colombo, & More) Learn Tamil: 300+ Essential Words In Tamil - Learn Words Spoken In Everyday Sri Lanka (Speak Tamil, Sri Lanka, Fluent, Tamil Language): Forget pointless phrases, Improve your vocabulary The Sri Lanka Bucket List The 50 most interesting attractions in Sri Lanka Crowds, Colour, Chaos: Travels in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh Tropical Houses: Living in Nature in Jamaica, Sri Lanka, Java, Bali, and the Coasts of Mexico and Belize DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: Sri Lanka Lost White Tribes: The End of Privilege and the Last Colonials in Sri Lanka, Jamaica, Brazil, Haiti, Namibia, and Guadeloupe Williams-Sonoma Essentials of Asian Cooking: Authentic Recipes from China, Japan, India, Southeast Asia, and Sri Lanka Buddha in Sri Lanka: Remembered Yesterdays Contested Lands: Israel-Palestine, Kashmir, Bosnia, Cyprus, and Sri Lanka Lonely Planet Sri Lanka (Travel Guide) Sri Lanka: Practical Tips for Travelers India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives, and Sri Lanka Map (English, French, Italian, German, Russian and Chinese Edition) Part 8 - Pour me another rum - I'm going to sail the Indian Ocean and Red Sea and visit Sri Lanka, Maldives, Oman, Djibouti, Egypt and the Suez Canal. ... around the World! • The 5 year Voyage • Michelin NEOS Guide Sri Lanka Maldives, 1e (NEOS Guide) Sri Lanka: A Travel Survival Kit: With Maldives Suppt

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)