CEYLON TEA, The Journey: Sri Lanka, Part 1 - Guest Post by Linda Villano, **SerendipiTea**

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GUEST BLOG Gail Gastelu, owner/publisher of the much acclaimed The Tea House Times, was invited by the Sri Lanka Tea **Board** to cover the 150th year anniversary of Ceylon Tea. Thanks to a gracious invitation from Gail to accompany her on this extraordinary assignment last month, I have a treasure trove of experiences to share. It's an enormous honor to have been involved!

There were many tea garden and factory visits but like the Amazing Race this journey took us along magnificent coastlines, up and down mountains, soaring in a Sea Plane, flying on a jungle zip-line, visiting temples and sacred sites, trekking up steep tea garden terrains and meandering alongside Nature Reserves in direct contact with monkeys, elephants and water buffalo.

Some highlights of the journey included:

The Sri Lanka Tea Board Headquarters in Colombo http://www.pureceylontea.com



Mlesna Tea Factory in Colombo

http://mlesnateas.com/



Cinnamon Air Sea Plane flight from Colombo to Kandy http://www.cinnamonair.com



The Ceylon Tea Museum in Kandy District

http://ceylonteamuseum.com/



Loolecondera Tea Garden in Kandy District<u>Loolecondera-estate-</u>



Glenwood Reserve Hand-crafted specialty tea, *start-up* in Kandy District



Pedro Tea Garden and Factory in Nuwara Eliya District http://www.kvpl.com



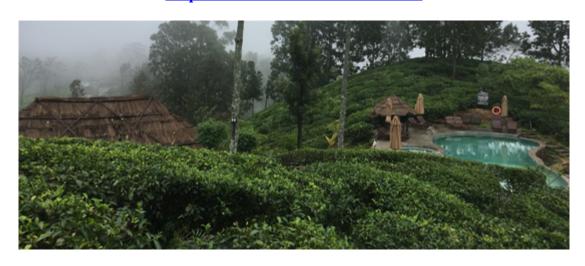
Hayleys Instant Tea Factory in Nuwara Eliya District http://www.hayleysglobalbeverages.com



The Tea Research Institute (TRI) in Nuwara Elya District http://www.tri.lk/
Photo credit The Tea House Times



98 Acres Spa & Resort Tea Estate in Ella, Uva Province http://www.resort98acres.com/



Halpe Watte Tea Factory in Uva Province http://www.halpetea.com/



Lumbini Tea Garden and Factory in Ruhuna District http://lumbinitea.com/



Ahinsa Organic Tea Factory in Ruhuna District http://www.ahinsatea.com



Gail and I will be reporting on each experience in detail here in our personal blogs (the shortcut/direct urls are: http://linda.theteahousetimes.com and http://gail.theteahousetimes.com), and also on *The Tea House Times* 'Sri Lanka Blog (http://srilanka.theteahousetimes.com), and in articles written

exclusively for the *The Tea House Times* (Mar/Apr, May/June, July/Aug issues- All for the $150^{\rm th}$ year of Ceylon tea celebrations.

Stay tuned!

LEARN MORE

Sri Lanka Tea Board

Website: http://www.pureceylontea.com

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sri-Lanka-Tea-

Board/181010221960446

~ Linda Villano, SerendipiTea