4 Traveller on SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

Traveller.com.au

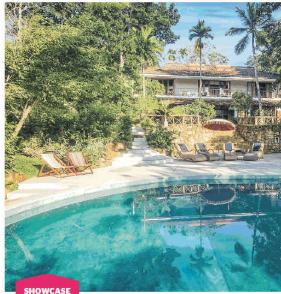
The Sun-Herald





Celebrating destination weddings and life milestones in Sri Lanka merges two key trends in the travel world; our love of holidaying with the extended family, and the turquoise-fringed shores of what's been dubbed the New Ball.

The Tasmanian-sized, teardrop-shaped island is a longstanding favourite with sunstarved Europeans, and fuelling the boom in Australian visitors is the resumption of direct flights between us and Sri Lanka after a 16-year pause. National carrier SriLankan



Viva la villa vacation

flies direct between the capital, Colombo, to Melbourne, and is dropping hints of further links with Australia.

The walled old town of Galle on the sunny south coast has always been the island's top des res for sunseekers who like a historical hit: it's a busy little spot in peak season, from December to April, and again July to September. An hour east of Galle near the surfing nirvana of Unawatuna, the new beachfront Meda Gedara villa has seven bedrooms that sleep up to 18.



Edited by **BELINDA JACKSON** belinda.jackson@fairfaxmedia.com.au



Alice's time to shine

The Red Centre glows all the colours of the rainbow when Parrtilma (sav par-CHee-ma) Indigenous light festival sparks up In Alice Springs from September 28 to October 7. Appropriately, the festival's name in local Arrernte language means "to shine" and is now in its third year and growing up.



The 10-day event maintains its light installations in Alice Springs Desert Park on the outskirts of the town and now also in

Todd Street Mall, Watch films screened every night of the festival, catch the local Tinkerbee Dancers and the music events are headlined by South Australian duo Electric Fields, singing in Pitjantjatjara and English.
Festivalgoers can meet artists

coming from art centres across central Australia. The showpiece is seeing lights flood the West Macdonnell Ranges at night - ask the festival's director Rhonda Rhodes and lighting designer Richard Neville how they did it at

one of the Knowledge program's forums Admission free.

See parrtjimaaustralia.com



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Coogee beach, 2016 - FXB99765

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WHICH AIRPORT IS THAT?

This code is for the main airport of a state capital on the world's third-largest island. It was built by the Japanese Army during WWII, when the city was known as Jesselton.

The answer is on page 42



Designed with active families in mind. when you're not racing crabs on the beach in front of the villa, there's a yoga shala (pavilion), cinema and the best way to hit the split-level pool is down the 20-metre water slide. Like most Sri Lankan villas, the rates include a housekeeping team and chef, and you can also opt to take fewer bedrooms. Stays at the villa cost from \$US940 a night, which works out at \$U5135 a room a night in the low season. See medagedara.com





GEAR

Power hungry



I live here ... Los Angeles

co-founder and designer, Jac+ Jack

jacandjack.com FROM Bondi Beach.

sitting area and market. See welsmanfoundation.org

n Los Angeles for two SEE Fredrick F Weismann Art Foundation is a house that shows an incredible contemporary collection in the context of someone's house and how they lived with their art. The underground museum has a bit of everything from gallery to performance space, mediation garden,

DO We live very close to Runyon Canyon and Griffith Park, which have a multitude of trails and tracks to hike depending on mood, energy level and fitness. There are trails great for people-watching and overhearing the craziest Hollywood conversations, and then there are challenging trails for solitude and being close to nature

EAT Walking into the Apple Pan is like stepping back in time. It opened in 1947 and remains the same today, from the decor (all 26 seats are red swivels at the counter) to the menu. It's a classic burger joint that serves hamburgers and sandwiches (I like the Hickory cheeseburger), sodas and fries. They serve daily baked pie for dessert. That's it, small, simple and delicious. 10801 West Pico Boulevard

DRINK My favourite bar is Sunset Tower: candlelit, piano, low key and often with someone very famous at the next table Dimitri runs the place and is charming and always gives everyone the same service and feeling of being special. See sunsettowerhotel.com

AVOID Steer clear of the busy 101, take the alternate route offered by the GPS for a much more scenic and inspired view of LA.

Know an expat who's in the know? Contact belinda.jackson@fairfaxmedia.com.au

\$126



Daytripping in Antarctica

Ice and aviation aficionados are gearing up for Antarctica's summer flyover season, with the first day trips by Antarctica Flights

departing November 18.

The company, which is owned by touring group APT, kicks off its Antarctic season with one flight each from Sydney, Perth and Hobart, and two Melbourne flights including its New Year's Eve special, which sees 2019 in



from above the ice continent. Flight time is roughly four hours each way, with another four hours spent within the Antarctic region except for Hobart departures, which will first privately chartered Qantas 747s. Prices start from \$1199 for a middle seat in Economy, while window seats start at \$1999. All seats include meals and drinks, maps and icy documentaries as well as expert commentary from

fly via Melbourne to refuel the

researchers and expedition Earlybirds note: the group has also announced its first 2019 departure dates

next November. See antarcticaflights.com.au





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