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SUR·LA·TERRE

ARABIA n. 36



MY SRI LANKA

Dubai-based fashion designer Reema Ameer still calls Colombo her home, so who better to share the Sri Lankan capital's chicest haunts? Here's her little black book to the city...

HEAD OUT

Anytime between November to February when the climate is cooler and the stunning south coast is at its best.



FOODIE FAVOURITES

For an authentic Sri Lankan breakfast Sugar Bistro at Crescat Boulevard in Colombo is a must-try; delicious eggs benedict with a twist are dished up at White & Co on Marine drive and the best croissants in town can be found at Café Français.



LOCAL OFFERINGS

Hoppers, string hoppers and kottu are three local dishes not to be missed. Head to either Nuga Gama at the Cinnamon Grand hotel for a more traditional experience, or just-opened Kaema Sutra to dine amongst more upmarket surroundings.

SECRET LUXURY ADDRESS

Tintagel is a swanky little boutique hotel right in the heart of Colombo. Whether to sleep, dine or simply grab a drink at the cosy bar – it's definitely Colombo's place to see and be seen at. For a cute getaway, Havelock Bungalow has a charming and unpretentious vibe, without all the universal trimmings of a luxe boutique hotel.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Sri Lanka's hill country is breathtaking. A wonderful way to take it all in is to do a tour of one of the country's lush tea plantations. Check out Ceylon Tea Trails for a luxe experience.



GETTING AROUND

A local tuk tuk (rickshaw) will zip you around the city in no time – but that's if you don't mind a lil dust in your face! Otherwise I would suggest hiring a car and driver.

DESIGNER STOPS

PR at 41 Horton Place in Colombo is a beautiful multi-brand boutique that carries a perfectly

This cute little fashion concept store is definitely quite the find amidst the growing number of boutiques in Colombo.

edited mix of local and international designer labels. It's where my fashion line, Reema Ameer, is stocked. Buddhi Batiks, Trunk and Rithihi are also ones to check out.

SOUVENIR SHOPPING

For sophisticated, less touristy souvenirs, Paradise Road and Barefoot are by far the best. For more token-like gifts head to Lakpahana or Lak salu sala.

COCKTAIL HOUR

My ideal night would begin with a cocktail (Tamarind Chili Martini) and/or dinner at The Gallery Café - my absolute favourite dining spot in Colombo. Then for some alfresco partying, Sugar 41 plays the best beats in the city.



CITY SANCTUARIES

The Angsana Spa is definitely the most luxe. I'd also suggest Spa Ceylon for a more authentic experience and a great foot massage! ®



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