TREASURES OF INDIA & SRI LANKA:
COLOMBO TO MUMBAI ON LE LAPÉROUSE
FEB 28–MAR 13, 2025
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS: Colombo, Sri Lanka / Trincomalee / Hambantota / Galle / Cochin, India / Goa / Mumbai

- Comprehensive 11-night cruise aboard the deluxe Le Lapérouse. All accommodations are outside staterooms and suites, and all feature a private balcony.
- Overnight at a deluxe hotel and welcome cocktail reception on Day 1
- Shore excursions as described in the itinerary.
- All meals aboard ship include early riser’s coffee & pastry, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner, and special sweets from Laduree. French-inspired gourmet cuisine, with menu creation and chef training by Ducasse Conseil.
- Complimentary open bar aboard ship including select wines served with lunch and dinner.
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions abord ship.
- Complimentary Wi-Fi (as available via satellite)
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers on start and end days of the program and handling of luggage
- Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, guides, and drivers
- Port taxes and charged, pre-departure materials.

SCHEDULE BY DAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28
DEPART FROM HOME CITY
The program begins on Saturday, March 1 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1
ARRIVE COLOMBO, SRI LANKA
Arrive in Colombo, Sri Lanka, where you will be met and transferred to the Galle Face Hotel (or similar).

Gather this evening with your Harvard Alumni Study Leader and fellow alumni and friends for a welcome cocktail reception.

Overnight: Galle Face Hotel (R)

SUNDAY, MARCH 2
COLOMBO / EMBARK
After breakfast at the hotel, join an excursion to two of Colombo’s most important Buddhist temples—the Kelaniya Temple, built on a site believed to have been visited by the Buddha himself some 2,000 years ago; and the 19th-century Gangaramaya Temple, the most important Buddhist shrine in the city.

After lunch at a local restaurant, take a panoramic tour of Colombo's highlights, ending at the pier, where you embark Le Lapérouse.

Overnight on Le Lapérouse (B, L, D)

MONDAY, MARCH 3
AT SEA
Today is devoted to relaxing, attending lectures, and sampling the many amenities
available aboard *Le Lapérouse*, as you begin your circumnavigation of the island.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 4**  
**TRINCOMALEE**

Trincomalee, a large port in the northeastern of Sri Lanka, is your gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Sigiriya, the ruins of a palace built atop an enormous rock outcropping, surrounded by a network of gardens and reservoirs.

Your guided tour of this stunning monument includes an opportunity to view the 21 rock paintings of singers and dancers that decorate the walls—frescoes that remind many visitors of the Ajanta Caves of India.

Following a relaxing lunch at a nearby restaurant, return to the ship to continue your voyage around the island.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

**FRIDAY, MARCH 7**  
**AT SEA**

**SAT, MAR 8–SUN, MAR 9**  
**COCHIN, INDIA**

Spend two full days on the Malabar coast, exploring the history and culture of Cochin, the oldest European settlement in India. Vasco da Gama established a trading station here in 1502, making the city a crucial port for the export of pepper, cardamom, clove, and cinnamon. When the Dutch seized control in the late 17th century, Cochin’s prosperity only grew. The results of the wealth produced by the spice trade are evident throughout the old town of Fort Cochin—the Portuguese Church of St. Francis, the Dutch Mattancherry Palace, and the Paradesi Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in India.

In addition to the colonial legacy, you will enjoy a boat ride along canals lined with Chinese fishing nets, a visit to Greenix Village for a private performance of traditional Kathakali dance, and the opportunity to sample local cuisine.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

**MONDAY, MARCH 10**  
**AT SEA**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 11**  
**MORMUGAO (GOA)**

Goa is known around the world for its pleasant climate and for the natural beauty of its beaches, waterfalls, and rice paddies. It is also home to a remarkable number of 16th- and 17th-century churches that have been
collectively designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Visit Basilica Bom Jesus, housing the tomb of St. Francis Xavier; St. Catherine Cathedral, larger than any church in the Portuguese homeland; the Church of St. Cajetan, modeled on Renaissance St. Peter’s in Rome, but with an exuberantly Baroque interior; and St. Augustin Tower, one of the three great Augustinian churches in the Iberian diaspora.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12**
**MUMBAI**

A morning at sea brings *Le Lapérouse* to Mumbai, where an afternoon excursion takes you first to Crawford Market, an enormous collection of vendors selling cloth of all colors and fabrics, and then on to Churchgate Railway station, where you are likely to see swarms of *dabbawalas* on their way to deliver home-cooked meals to offices downtown.

Visit the temples of Banganga, where believers purify themselves in a pool of water that is said to come underground from the Ganges, followed by a drive through the city and its landmarks, including the University, Flora Fountain, and the Victoria Terminus rail station.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

**THURSDAY, MARCH 13**
**MUMBAI / DEPART FOR U.S.**

Disembark after breakfast for a tour of some of Mumbai’s highlights, including the iconic Gateway of India, an arch built in 1911 to commemorate the visit of King George V and Queen Mary; Mani Bhavan, Mahatma Gandhi’s base in Mumbai from 1917 to 1934; and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalya (formerly the Prince of Wales Museum), with a superb collection of Indian paintings, illustrated manuscripts, and exquisite miniatures.

Your tour ends at a hotel, where day rooms are available, and where you will have dinner before transferring to the airport for evening flights homeward. (B, L, D)