

Celebrating Ceylon Tea - Part 1 - by Gail Gastelu



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I've just returned from the most amazing trip of my lifetime to experience Ceylon tea on a journey through Sri Lanka! In my last post, I said that I expected this trip to take my breath away and it certainly did! More than that, it has filled my heart with memories of people, places, pride, and passion for life, living, and Ceylon tea.

In upcoming weeks and months, the more personal and honest story of my journey will unfold here in my blog (<http://gail.theteahousetimes.com>). More educational / factual posts will be found in a new dedicated blog here: <http://srilanka.theteahousetimes.com> where you will already find my kick-off interview with the Sri Lanka Tea Board Chairman and a post about the Lion Logo written by Ms. Linda Villano, who accompanied me, and will also assist in the story telling (<http://linda.theteahousetimes.com>). Articles about Ceylon tea will be found in the MarApr, MayJune, JulyAug issues of *The Tea House Times* and in-depth educational documents and videos will appear permanently for students at our <http://www.TeaCourse.com> website. So, let's get to it now!

More than 2,500 photos were taken....videos produced....and countless friendships made. I've loaded some photos to [The Tea House Times Facebook Photo Albums](#) with tags and links to places we have been, but this barely scratches the surface of what's to come.

All I can say right now is that "**All roads lead to Ceylon tea!**" Below is one of my favorite photos taken on Jan 25 driving through [Loolecondera Estate](#).



If you know me or have followed me long enough, you know that I am constantly in search of new ways to help consumers and businesses to connect to and enjoy the wonders of tea around the world. I have done the ordinary, it is now time for the extraordinary! I knew the time had come for me to travel more and since both of my children are away in college, I can do it now!! First up, let's celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Ceylon tea together, all year long!

My honest take on this whole thing? From my viewpoint, Ceylon tea is very underappreciated in America and it is time to change that right here and now! As we go along you will learn that there are TWO seasons for Ceylon tea; they pluck year-round. You will learn about low, mid, and high grown teas and the seven growing regions. If you know anything about tea, you know that it will have different characteristics based on a lot of variables starting with its terroir (region, place, climate/weather) on through to how it is handled in processing, packaging, and preparation in your cup! The more you explore, the

more you will appreciate the wondrous variety of Ceylon teas. Don't forget to look for the Lion Logo! And, my final word for today, Enjoy!

Sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone at the [Sri Lanka Tea Board](#) for inviting *The Tea House Times*, for taking great care with my program and in guiding me every single moment, every step of the way. There are so many people to thank and as the story unfolds I will thank each person and business and eventually have a full resource list available. You will learn all about the fabulous plantations, factories, hotels, and attractions I visited and what's planned for this year's 150th Anniversary of Ceylon Tea celebrations. Stay tuned!

Please see <http://srilanka.theteahousetimes.com> for more informative posts.

For the Love of Tea. . .

Gail