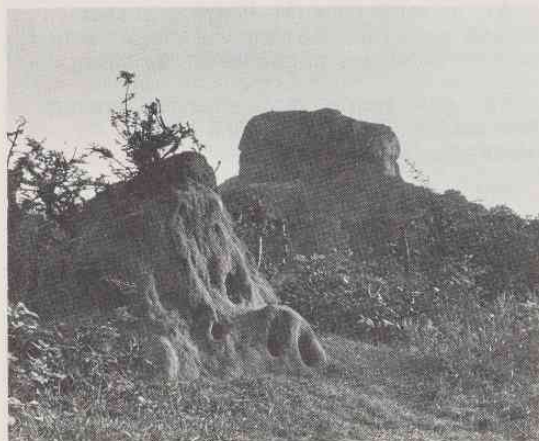


told, in all seriousness, that wives pick the bones from their husband's fish before they eat. I was sorry my husband was exposed to that sort of practice but while a pretty girl served his breakfast every morning I shopped without being reminded of balance of payments problems.

Shopping is a joy in Sri Lanka. The gems, we've mentioned. We also found beautiful baskets at the street markets or bazaars. And there were ivory and ebony carvings and brass everythings to go with hand-made silver items or batiks in every size and color.

Even greater than the array of things to buy was the variety and number of things to eat. The food was an exquisite experience. Their fruits are so fantastic that they make ours seem like soybean substitutes. The pineapple we had every morning was better than Hawaii's very best. The bananas came in different sizes and colors than we'd ever seen, from a tiny, two-bite size to a red banana that had just be-



In the 5th century A.D. this rock, Sigiriya, was a king's fortress. It is now a treasure of rare art. The mound in the foreground is a giant ant hill.

gun to ripen when we were there. There were a dozen different kinds of mangoes and avocados. These and coconuts and guava and passion fruit were on every table and growing in almost every yard. There is not a hunger problem in the country as is the case in many places in that part of the world. Our delicacies are their common foods. Their curries are delicious but hotter than the hottest Mexican foods. Tourists are advised to try the milder curry and rice dishes. One native breakfast we especially enjoyed was stringhoppers. It is steamed circlelets of a sweet rice flour that looks like very thin noodles or spaghetti but has a pleasantly delicate taste.

British author-scientist Arthur C. Clarke, perhaps best known as the writer of "2001 — A Space Odyssey", went to Sri Lanka years ago, to write one book about skin diving in the Indian Ocean. He stayed and has described this fantastic place where he has made his home as "a land without enemies." Sri Lanka continues to capture the hearts of its visitors.



In a pocket of the giant rock are famous frescos of the "Ladies of Sigiriya" and remnants of an enormous gallery of portraits dating back to the 2nd century.

Probably the world's best travel bargain in every respect the Ceylon Tourist Board says that, with careful planning you can have a good hotel room, three meals a day, a car and driver for about \$16.50 a day. If there is another place where you can have all that we've never even heard of it.

For more information or pamphlets, write the Ceylon Tourist Board, 609 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.

With something like prophetic timing Air India has just announced positive space interline tours to India and Sri Lanka. Their offer includes an eight night/nine day cruise in the Indian Ocean with the ports of call including Bombay, Goa, Colombo and the Laccadives. The total cost is \$250 per person and employees, spouses, children and parents are eligible. Sailing dates, from Bombay are January 22 and 30 and February 7. For further information write Air-India, 1666 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006 or call Ms. Rose Scheer, 202 785-8989.



As modern as tomorrow the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall in Colombo, Sri Lanka is one of the finest meeting places in Asia.

## Off season is your time to travel

Interliners are promised a truly red carpet, eight-day tour of the Holy Land during the first five months of the New Year from World-Wide Interline Tours. The trip includes air fare and a cruise of the Sea of Galilee, Masada, and an Israeli capital, Beersheba. This package for \$290 includes double occupancy in first class hotels, all meals, and tour escorts. Departures every Sunday from New York between Jan. 19 and May 11, except during a black-out period from Mar. 23 to and including Apr. 6. (Contact World-Wide Interline Tours, P.O. Box 28034, Atlanta, Ga. 30328, (404-255-5669).)

### Spanish excursion

World-Wide offers an 11-day tour of Spain and Morocco, \$397 each, double occupancy. With air fare and most meals included, this excursion journeys to the inland port of Seville, Cordaba, Grenada, the manufacturing center of southern Spain, the Moroccan seaport of Tangier, and a three-day sojourn in Terremolinos, a Spanish city of the Mediterranean. For more information and travel folders on the 1975 tours contact World-Wide.

### JAL tours resume

"Arigato" interline discount fares to Tokyo is offered again this winter by Japan Air Lines from its seven North American gateways.

The price of the "Arigato" ("thank you" in Japanese) fare is \$89 round trip from New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Mexico City, or Vancouver. Of if you can leave from Honolulu or Anchorage, it's a mere \$69.

The special fare is valid until Feb. 28, 1975, allowing positive space Monday through Thursday. It's space available on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. All trips must be completed by March 15, 1975.

You, your spouse and dependents are eligible. Tickets must be requested two weeks before departure from your nearest JAL office, New York, Washington, Atlanta or Cincinnati.

### Portugal calls

A nine-day trip to the Portuguese island of Madeira where poinsettias and orchids thrive and to Lisbon, the cosmopolitan capital of Portugal is available through April from TAP Portuguese Airways for all airline employees and their spouses. Postive economy, round trip air transportation, double occupancy hotels, transfers, most meals, sightseeing tours, and various dinner shows are included in this \$259 package. Departures from New York are on Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 13. Contact TAP's interline department at (212) 986-1360 or at 730 Third Avenue, Ste. 2500, New York 10017 for additional information and brochures.

### Italian itinerary

A public audience with the Pope is part of Caesar Hotels' Holy Year Preview for interliners. Seven days in Rome and Florence, hotels, sightseeing, visit to Pisa, two dinners and two cocktail parties are included in the \$189 double occupancy package. Departures from New York on Feb. 12 and Mar. 5. Contact Caesar Hotels, Interline Vacation Department, 7733 Forsyth Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63105, (314) 727-1503.

### Reminders

Alitalia Airlines has suspended its regional fare indefinitely.

Alleghany Airlines' interline non-revenue service charge for system-wide travel is now \$10 one-way and \$20 round-trip.

Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) adds another embargo effective through March 1 on flights SK956 and SK958 to and from South America on its Copenhagen-Santiago route.

Effective immediately, Braniff International's non-revenue pass service charge will become \$15 one-way and \$30 round-trip. All interline pass riders will be boarded in the coach section unless it is full, in which case riders will be boarded in first class at no extra charge.