

SATURDAY

Life

Noel to sing at
Country Roads C3

February 20, 2010



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Sri Lanka's Other Half - Buckle up and hold tight!!

Classic cars, blue pigeons, singing fish, war planes, delicious palmyrah jam and jewelled Bollywood saris. BBC Lonely Planet photographer and journalist Juliet Coombe was determined to be the first writer back into northern Sri Lanka after 26 years of war, despite having just had a baby and being knocked back several times by the Ministry of Defence to go by the usual means of transportation. She finally found herself in a tiny jump seat in a huge military plane, still holding her baby aka her chief negotiating card on her way to Jaffna.

In contrast to the north, going east led her to lost lagoons, unspoilt beaches and magnificent forts that sit atop rugged cliffs. On her journey, Juliet, got to know the ferrymen who until recently had only Tamil Tigers as passengers and took up

their suggestion to try the hot water wells with magical healing powers near Trinco. From here she headed inland to central Sri Lanka - much more than just historical sites. Here wildlife is still prolific - leopards abound as well as an elephant corridor. Artists gather in large numbers, especially around the amazing Sigiriya rock.

In addition the book covers the seven islands, Sri Lanka's crown jewels, and their myriad of ancient traditions, which range from carrying baby dolls across the waters to guarantee fertility to musical pujas. So hang up your corporate shoes and get those walking boots on!

Daisy Perry her co-writer added: "If you enjoy off the beaten track travel then this book is a must read! Travel around Sri Lanka's Other Half and you'll be able

Tickets cost Rs. 5000, which includes a copy of the book, dinner and the chance to win fantastic prizes. To book tickets call Daisy Perry on 0778366496 or Juliet Coombe on 0776838659. Alternatively, email sriserendipity@gmail.com.

to wow your friends and family with tales from a part of Sri Lanka that has been totally cut off from the rest of country for the last three decades and therefore preserved from unregulated tourism. We hope our book will lead to a revival of the north and east as desirable holiday destinations."

Launch of Sri Lanka's Other Half on Saturday 27th February
The evening kicks off with a reception

in Nuga Gama village at the Cinnamon Grand from 7.30-8.30pm, followed by a presentation and Jaffna-inspired DINNER with prize draw in the IVY room.

Exciting travel prizes include a free, signed copy of the book for all launch-goers, a trip to the north and a weekend at the stunning Jetwing VII Uyana in Sigiriya.

