

## In the slowest express in the world

The railway line in the Sri Lankan highlands is still a breathtaking experience today. Not because the express would cover the distance particularly quickly. On the contrary: the view is so beautiful that you can't go slow enough. On the route of 65 km we are on the road for 3.5 hours.



In the highlands of Sri Lanka, the best tea plantations can only be seen from the railway line / © Photo: Georg Berg

In 1876 the railway line was built by the British colonial power in order to be able to transport goods cheaply from the highlands to the port city of Colombo. Tea, cinnamon, pepper and nutmeg were the valuable goods that were worth the effort. Tight curves and numerous tunnels had to be constructed in order to be able to cope with the enormous gradients through the rugged mountains. The railway line is a remnant of the days when tea was an important colonial commodity for the English. Today you can see the best growing areas of the former colonial goods from the railway line and immerse yourself in colonial history.



The carriage for first class can be recognized by the Observation Saloon lettering / © Photo: Georg Berg

If you really want a padded seat, reserve one in first class. However, the best view is from the doors of the

simpler categories, which remain open during the ride.



The slowest express in the world travels through Sri Lanka. The open door offers plenty of photo opportunities during the journey / © Photo: Georg Berg

Most travelers only stow their luggage in a car. During the journey, you make a pilgrimage through all the carriages, get to know the other passengers and even the conductor is not averse to chatting.



The train conductor ensures that the destination is reached on time / © Photo: Georg Berg



Whether sitting or standing on the steps, the seats by the doors are coveted - even among the locals / © Photo: Georg Berg



The compartment is an information exchange for travel experiences of all kinds / © Photo: Georg Berg



During the train journey, Georg Berg entrusts his camera to a fellow passenger and has him take a picture of him / © Photo: Georg Berg



Volleyball is the national sport in Sri Lanka. There are playing fields everywhere that are well used / © Photo: Georg Berg



Confusion at Ella train station in Sri Lanka after train arrived at wrong platform. The course was probably not set correctly / © Photo: Georg Berg

The journey ends unexpectedly on the siding. But that doesn't matter, because you know each other from the long journey and there are enough helping hands. After all, everyone stands on Ella's platform with their luggage.

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