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Iain Stewart

The South, Hill Country, Wildlife & Environmental Issues, People of Sri Lanka, Sri Lankan Tea

Iain first hit the road during his university years, hitch-hiking around Europe followed by short forays into Turkey, Israel and Egypt. He then spent more than two years travelling the world – from India to Honduras – in the early 1990s, a trip that included a stint in Tokyo teaching English. Skint and without a career on his return to the UK, he trained as journalist and then worked as a news reporter and a restaurant critic in London. Iain started writing guidebooks in 1997 and has worked for six publishers (including Lonely Planet, Rough Guides and DK Eyewitness) and penning over 30 books for destinations as diverse as Ibiza and Cambodia. Iain’s worked on titles including Mexico, Indonesia, Croatia, Vietnam, Bali & Lombok and Southeast Asia on a Shoestring for Lonely Planet. He also writes regularly for the Independent, Observer, Daily Telegraph and Wanderlust. He’ll consider working anywhere there’s a palm tree or two, a beach of a generally sandy persuasion, a night club and a cocktail list. After 18 years in South London, Iain moved to Brighton in 2003 and lives close to sea, within firing range of the city’s wonderful south-facing horizon.
OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that’s all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they’d sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony’s belief that ‘a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse’.

OUR WRITERS

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*Curator*

Anirban Mahapatra multitasks as a multimedia travel journalist, iPhone photographer and independent filmmaker. Since 2007, his role as a Lonely Planet writer has seen him research, write, edit and curate multiple editions of Lonely Planet’s bestselling *India* travel guidebook, several region-specific India handbooks, as well as country guidebooks *Bangladesh, Sri Lanka* and *Bhutan*. Apart from authorial roles, he has also designed content models and held training workshops for new authors for Lonely Planet’s India operations. Among his video pursuits, he has produced travel and cultural documentary films under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (Govt of India), and is currently working on an experimental documentary on the ancient Himalayan kingdom of Mustang. When not roaming the world on work or personal explorations, he reads up on Buddhism, hosts barbecues and listens to the blues in his homes in Kolkata and Dhaka.

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**Bradley Mayhew**
*The West Coast, The Ancient Cities*

Bradley has been writing guidebooks for 20 years now. He started travelling while studying Chinese at Oxford University, and has since focused his expertise on China, Tibet, the Himalaya and Central Asia. He is the co-author of Lonely Planet guides to *Tibet, Nepal, Trekking in the Nepali Himalaya, Bhutan, Central Asia* and many others. Bradley has also fronted two TV series for Arte and SWR, one retracing the route of Marco Polo via Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and China, and the other trekking Europe’s 10 most scenic long-distance trails. His first gigs with Lonely Planet were guides to Pakistan and the Karakorum Highway and he progressed from there to write for first editions of *Southwest China* and *Shanghai*.

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