



SHORT EATS

quick tidbits of life and culture in Sri Lanka



Motorbikes are everywhere in Sri Lanka. Affordability, maneuverability in traffic, and convenience in a climate that is fairly warm year-round are a few of the reasons we have surmised behind the abundance of motorbikes. Uber Eats and PickMe food couriers use them. Businessmen and women (women, even when wearing saris) use motorbikes or scooters. Small families of four drive them. Police officers drive them. Cell phones are wedged inside the helmet to allow motorbikers to talk and drive at the same time.



Saris are a form of dress that many women wear in Sri Lanka, India, and a few other countries in Asia. Saris have a rich history, but simply put, they are comprised of a fitted blouse complemented by a long strip of fabric wrapped around the waist and then styled across the front and over the shoulder. Saris serve many functions from professional attire to work uniform to church clothing to everyday wear depending on the type of fabric used. Young women and young girls will sometimes wear “half-sarees” for special occasions.

WHAT'S THE WORD?

English: “Postman Pat, Postman Pat, Postman Pat and his black and white cat!” (the Postman Pat TV show theme. Hollen knows it as well.) “I want to ride a plane. I want to ride a bus. I want to ride a car.” (fill in any mode of transportation)



Ants are a daily occurrence to which we are slowly, begrudgingly resigning ourselves. We were told when looking for apartments that “it does not matter which floor you live on, you will have ants.” Ants come and go, different kinds of ants showing up in different places where crumbs of food or fallen insects occur. We joke that we have free-range ant farms. We can keep them in check to a certain extent by cleaning regularly, and we use the refrigerator as our “bear box” into which all food goes. They are harmless enough, just frustrating at times.

Tamil: Nai kuddi (nai koot-tee)
puppy
thangachi
(tonga-chee)
little sister
nalla ruci
(nul-luh roo-see)
good taste (delicious)

No toilet paper? Not to worry, we have a bidet (or “sprayer”). I find them particularly useful for power spraying cloth diapers. Dare I say it, we will probably miss the sprayer a little bit when we move back to the States.



Train tracks provide a direct and clean walking path to get from point A to point B, conveniently crossing rivers and cutting through mountains. One must keep the train schedules in mind, though.



April is considered the hottest month of the year in Sri Lanka, although the climate has been roasting from the beginning of February. Lately, we have seen more storms sweep across the ocean, especially in the evenings, but not much rain has made it to land just yet. The rainy season generally begins in May, and last year, that looked like a quick sweeping shower in the morning and then storms in the evening.