

FREE TRAVEL GUIDE TO SRI LANKA

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READ BEFORE YOU PROCEED

- THIS IS A FREE COPY. DO NOT EXPECT DEEP INSIGHTS. IT IS INTENDED ONLY TO GIVE A ROUGH OUTLINE OF TRAVELING IN SRI LANKA.
- ALL THE INFORMATION MENTIONED ARE AS OF OCTOBER 2012
- YOU ARE FREE TO DISTRIBUTE THIS COPY IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM

BASIC INFORMATION

- Capital – Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte (Colombo is the financial capital)
- Currency - Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR)
- Language – Sinhala, Tamil
- International Airport – Bandaranaike International Airport
- Telephone Code - +94
- Electricity – 230V / 50Hz
- Working Hours – 8PM to 3PM
- Map of Sri Lanka [click here](#)

HOW TO GET VISA

- Foreign tourists need an ETA before entering to Sri Lanka. To apply for ETA visit <http://www.eta.gov.lk>
- ETA is valid for six months and can be used for double entry
- Cost of ETA is USD 20 per person and USD 10 for SAARC nationalists
- You need to take a print of your ETA and directly go the immigration counter, where a visit visa would be stamped in you passport which is allows you to stay for a maximum of 30 days

BEFORE ENTERING SRI LANKA

- Things to get : Sunglasses, sun screen, umbrella, sunglasses, mosquito repellent
- The hygiene standards differs from place to place, but are casual in nature at most places
- I suggest you to take travel insurance before you enter Sri Lanka as your health insurance may not be valid in Sri Lanka. To book a travel insurance online [click here](#)

GETTING INTO SRI LANKA

- The only way you can legally enter Sri Lanka is through its only international airport which is 30 km from Colombo
- Airlines flying to Sri Lanka – Air Asia, Cathay Pacific, Emirates, Etihad, Jet Airways, Spice Jet, Thai Airways, Sri Lankan Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines
- To book cheap flights to Sri Lanka [click here](#)

Getting Around In Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka has a well connected road connections to all the major cities. Places can be easily visited by public transport. A lot of private taxis operate in major tourist destinations.
- For local transportation hire tuk tuk(three wheeler)
- Train network also well connected to major places

Accommodation and Food

- There are all types of accommodation in Sri Lanka from luxury hotels and resorts to family guesthouses
- The staple food in Sri Lanka is rice and curry. But there is also western food available in all the popular tourist destinations
- Food to try – Egg Hoppers, Coconut Sambol, Koththu Rotti, Rice and Curry, Wattalapam, Fish Patty

Communication

- Internet – There are lot of internet cafes in Sri Lanka with good speeds. Most of the hotels provide wi-fi and mobile internet on 3G is very good
- Telephone – The leading telephone operators are Dialog, Mobitel, Etisalat, Airtel and Hutch. SIM cards can be brought in airport and easily available in the cities. It is possible to make IDD calls from those SIM cards
- Tourist Information centers are spread all over the country. The official website of Sri Lanka tourism is <http://www.srilanka.travel>
- For list of Embassies and Consulates [click here](#)

COLOMBO

- How to reach – Bus and Taxi available from airport
- Places to see – Fort and Pettah area, Galle Face, Cinnamon Gardens, Independent Square, Visit Hindu and Buddhist temples, Church and Mosques, [Colombo Zoo](#), [Gangaramaya Temple](#)
- Getting around in Colombo – Metered taxis, Metered tuk tuk are largely available and are cheap
- Activities – Traditional Ayurveda Massage, [Casinos](#), Nightlife
- To book a city tour of Colombo [click here](#)

Where to Stay In Colombo

- Top End Hotels – Cinnamon Grand Colombo, Casa Colombo, Zylan Luxury Villa, Tintagel Colombo, Galadari Hotel, Hilton Hotel Colombo
- Mid Range Hotels – Indra Regent Hotel, Sairas Garden Hotel, Hotel Nippon
- More hotels in Colombo [click here](#)

KANDY

- How to reach – Well connected road from Colombo, regular buses from/to most parts of Sri Lanka
- Places to see – [Temple of Golden Tooth Relic](#), [Kandy Lake](#), [Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage](#), [Kandyan Dances](#), [Botanical Garden](#)
- **Where to stay in Kandy**

Top End Hotels – [Theva Residency](#), [Mahaweli Reach Hotel](#), [Chaaya Citadel](#),
[Hotel Thilanka](#)

Mid Range Hotels – [Nature Walk Resort](#), [Hill Top Hotel](#), [Swiss Residence](#), [Club Lespri](#)

More hotels in Kandy [click here](#)

GALLE

- How to reach – Easily connected by buses from all major places in Sri Lanka
- Places to see – Dutch Fort, lots of beaches within reach from Galle
- **Where to stay**

Top End Hotels – [Era Beach](#), [The Fort Printers](#), [Deco on Fourty Four Hotel](#), [Jetwing Lighthouse](#), [The Fortress Resort](#)

Mid Range Hotels – [Lavendish Beach Resort](#), [Thambapanni Retreat](#)

More hotels in Galle [click here](#)

- To book a trip to Galle and Hikkaduwa [click here](#)

BEACH HOLIDAYS

- **ALANKUDA BEACH**

Suitable for sailing, wind surfing, kayaking, canoeing, kite surfing and snorkeling

[Hotels in Alankuda Beach](#)

- **NEGOMBO**

Fishing village with beautiful sunset, good for swimming, visit [Maturajawela Marshes](#)

[Hotels in Negombo](#)

- **BENTOTA**

Suitable for swimming, water skiing on the rivers or estuaries, snorkelling, scuba diving, wind surfing, parasailing and fishing

[Hotels in Bentota](#)

BEACH HOLIDAYS

- **KOSGADA**

Suitable for turtle watching

[Hotels in Kosgada](#)

- **UNAWATUNA**

One of the most beautiful beach in Sri Lanka

[Hotels in Unawatuna](#)

- **TANGALLE**

Idle for turtle watching, largely isolated

[Hotels in Tangalle](#)

BEACH HOLIDAYS

- **ARUGAM BAY**

Suitable for surfing, beautiful mangrove, jungle, lagoon, river, rice fields and dunes

[Hotels in Arugam Bay](#)

- **BATTICALOA**

Calm, white sand, popular among foreigners

[Hotels in Batticaloa](#)

- **TRINCOMALEE**

White sand, gentle waves, calm atmosphere

[Hotels in Trincomalee](#)

HERITAGE SITES

- **THE SACRED CITY OF ANURADHAPURA**

-->Has an entrance fee of USD 25 for foreign tourists

-->Ruins of the ancient capital, places of interest are Sacred Bodhi Tree, Mahavihara, Jatavanarama Dagoba, Abhayagiri Dagoba, Samadhi Buddha, Moonstone, Ruvanvelisaya Dagoba

-->Getting there : Bus properly connected from Colombo, Kandy, Dambulla, Polonnaruwa, Trincomalee

-->Getting around : Hire a tuk tuk or if you have the strength you can cycle your way around the ruins of Anuradhapura

-->[Hotels in Anuradhapura](#)

HERITAGE SITES

- **THE ANCIENT CITY OF POLONNARUWA**

-->Has an entrance fee of USD 25 for foreign tourists

-->Places of interest are Archaeological Museum, Gal Vihara, Citadel, Quadrangle, Lotus Pond, Lankatilaka, Image House

-->Getting there : Buses well connected from/to Colombo, Kandy, Dambulla, Anuradhapura

-->Getting Around – Idle way to explore Polonnaruwa is on a bicycle

-->Hotels in Polonnaruwa

HERITAGE SITES

- **THE LION ROCK OF SIGIRIYA**

- Has an entrance fees of USD 30 for foreign tourists

- Places of interest are water gardens, boulder gardens, frescoes, mirror wall, lion paws, summit, Sigiriya rock

- Getting there : Well connected on bus from Colombo, Kandy, Dambulla, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa

- Getting around : Walking is the best way to explore Sigiriya

- Eat well and take plenty of water as it involves climbing lots of steps

- [Hotels in Sigiriya](#)

HERITAGE SITES

- **CAVE TEMPLES OF DAMBULLA**

- Has an entrance fee of LKR 1300 for foreign tourists

- Places of interest are Cave Temples, Golden Temple

- Getting there : Well connected on bus from Colombo, Kandy, Sigiriya, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa

- Getting Around : By walk

- [Hotels in Dambulla](#)

NATIONAL PARKS

- **Wilpattu National Park**

- Elephants, Sloth Bear, Deer, and Leopards

- [Hotels in Wilpattu](#)

- **Kaudulla National Park**

- Leopards, Fishing Cat, Sloth Bear, Sambar Deer, and Rusty spotted Cat

- No hotels in Kadulla, stay in [Polonnaruwa](#)

- **Minneriya National Park**

- Feeding ground for the elephant population

- No hotels in Minneriya, stay in [Polonnaruwa](#)

NATIONAL PARKS

- Horton Plains National Park
 - Located on altitudes of 6,900–7,500 ft and rich in bio diversity
 - No hotels, stay in [Nuwara Eliya](#)
- Udawalawa National Park
 - water buffalo, sambar deer, monkeys, leopard, suitable for bird enthusiasts
 - No hotels, you need to stay in [Ratnapura](#)
- Bundala National Park
 - 32 species of fish, 15 species of amphibians, 48 race of reptiles, 197 species of bird, 32 species of mammals
 - Arrange accommodation in [Hambantota](#)

NATIONAL PARKS

- Yala National Park
 - Large number of flora and fauna, best wildlife park in Sri Lanka
 - You have to stay in [Hambantota](#)
- Sinharaja Forest Reserve
 - UNESCO World Heritage Site
 - To book at trip to Sinharaja Forest Reserve and Saman Devalaya [click here](#)

BOOKING ONLINE MADE EASY

- Find cheap flights to Sri Lanka
- Hotels in Sri Lanka
- Guesthouses and hostels in Sri Lanka
- Buy travel insurance to Sri Lanka
- City tours in Sri Lanka