Overview - About Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka - a travellers Paradise

Experience a symphony of travel, like never before. Embark on a journey that will light the fires of adventure, stroke the inferno of knowledge, rekindle the flames of romance or restore the weary spirit.

Set as the Pearl of the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka offers a memorable experience, welcoming all-walks of travellers, offering them a haven to rest, relax and encounter a truly, one-of-a-kind lifestyle.

Sri Lanka is home to lush valleys, mystical waterfalls and paddy fields, acres of tea and a coastline of golden beaches that meet the azure blue waters of the Indian Ocean. Experience the beauty of tropical luxury, no matter the season, as Sri Lanka caters to holiday-goers all through the year. From discovering Sri Lanka’s authentic cuisine brought to life by unimaginable flavour and deep colours, to travelling across the path less taken - welcome to a land of adventure, relaxation and hospitality, complemented by a rich cultural heritage. Sri Lanka offers an explorers paradise for those seeking a meaningful escape to a land home to misty mountains, sunny coastlines and a metropolis of luxury and lights.

Sri Lanka’s cultural depth is recognized by UNESCO, which has declared seven World Heritage Sites within the island. The sacred city of Anuradhapura; the medieval city of Polonnaruwa; the cave temple of Dambulla; the ancient rock fortress of Sigiriya; the sacred city of Kandy; the colonial town of Galle and its fortifications; and the Sinharaja Forest Reserve, a wilderness sanctuary offering an array of sought after endemic flora and fauna.

Experience the best of tropical travel and tourism in Sri Lanka.

Indulge in an unforgettable, luxury experience, as we breathe life into your most daringly opulent dreams.

Why Sri Lanka  
Home to a beautiful array of golden beaches, crashing waves, misty mountains, majestic beasts, mountain estates, country charm and warm hospitality.

With many sites and scenes wrapped up in the island nation of Sri Lanka, holiday-goers both international and local have made Sri Lanka their dream destination.

Sri Lanka has become the world’s number one [01] travel destination popularly known for its spicy food, exotic fruits, range of destinations and climates. With so many cultures living next to each other, life in [Sri Lanka](https://lanka.com/about/sri-lanka/) continues among a series of festivities throughout the year, an ideal recipe for exploration, romance and adventure.

Welcome to a tropical land of diversity, people, culinary arts, shopping & entertainment, cultural heritage, year round festivals, Ayurveda healing & spiritual spas, wildlife, adventure and special interest sports and hotels ranging from international luxury properties to beachfront villas; from boutique hotels to estate bungalows; from bed & breakfast to all inclusive resorts.

What to do in Sri Lanka

Explore the many magical corners of paradise island, as you tour Sri Lanka - the pearl of Asia. Experience an adventure like never before as your wildest fantasies come to life in this truly diverse land of opportunity, adventure, exploration and relaxation. From specialist tours that bring you closer to nature and the island’s cultural diversity; to tailor-made packages fit for royalty, revel in the beauty of paradise, your way.

Whether a spiritual journey that connects you to mother earth; promoting the balance of mind, body and soul; find your inner peace amidst the rolling hills of Ella or Nuwara Eliya, or find yourself within the tropical forests of Sinharaja as your meditate to the symphony of the earth.

Traverse time, as you make paradise island the backdrop to your honeymoon adventure. Experience a growing connection as you embark on a journey of togetherness. From luxury resort holidays, created to pamper rejuvenate to an explorers paradise across Sri Lanka’s cultural triangle.

Be at one, with the serenity of Sri Lanka’s central highlands, as you become part of a world once forgotten. From expansive tea estates, set to the backdrop of rolling mountains, misty trails, colourful gardens and colonial architecture, let the adventurer in you take over. Enjoy the relaxing countryside bliss or experience the natural trails and mountain hikes that Sri Lanka has become popularly known for.

From palm-fringed golden beaches to deep-sea diving, adrenaline junkies can enjoy the best of water sports and water activities that an island has to offer. Find your blissful slice of golden coast along the 370k eastern coastline or 250km western coastline of Sri Lanka. From jet-skiing to kite surfing; dolphin watching to cave exploration, paradise island becomes your home for the summer.

Make memories amongst Sri Lanka’s natural offering, as you come up close and personal with rare animals and flora. From herds of elephants, nature’s gentle giants; to the elusive leopard; to the mischievous group of monkeys - nature’s natural entertainers; and more.

The perfect avenue for family holidays and relaxing getaways, make Sri Lanka your destination for this coming holiday.

Travel Activities - Places & Things To do

Experience Paradise

***Anuradhapura*** - a major city in Sri Lanka, this is the capital city of the North Central Province and is one of the ancient capitals of Sri Lanka, famous for its well-preserved ruins of an ancient Sri Lankan civilization. Considered one of Sri Lanka’s eight World Heritage site, the city lies on the banks of the historic Malvathu River and is one of the three cities, part of Sri Lanka’s Cultural Triangle.

***Batticaloa*** - a major city in the Eastern Province, and its former capital. Batticaloa is on the east coast and is situated on an island. A city culturally diverse in inhabitants, it is home to all flavours of Sri Lanka’s culture, food and architecture.

***Beruwela*** - Located in the southwest of Sri Lanka, this is a charming coastal town, known to be the first port in the country set up by Arab traders in the 8th century. Beruwela, due to its proximity has become a popular excursion destination amongst locals and internationals, offering a slew of luxury resorts, cafes and plenty of water sports outlets.

***Bentota*** - Bentota runs as a ribbon of golden sandy beaches and is known as an ideal holiday

sun-and-fun playground. Offering tourists a wide selection of luxury resorts and smaller boutique hotels.

***Colombo*** - located to the South of the Bandaranaike International Airport, and at the center of

several highways, (roughly translating to ‘Port’) was originally strategically placed along the East-West trading routes. Colombo has since then grown to be one of South-East Asia’s most popular modern destinations, with several international hotel chains, retail brand labels and commercial spaces taking root here. This city that never sleeps offers guests the luxuries of infinity pools, oyster & champagne brunches, 5-star accommodation and more.

Notable places to visit: Colombo Museum, Independence Square, Galle Face Green, Red

Mosque, Gangaramaya Temple, Royal Colombo Golf Club.

***Dambulla*** - Located to the north of Knuckles Range, this historic town in Sri Lanka, is home to a beautiful Royal Rock Temple complex. Consisting of five [05] separate caves; 150 magnificent Buddha statues and paintings; as well as some of Sri Lanka’s most historic religious art. Rumoured to have been drawn nearly 2,000 years ago, visitors leave with everlasting memories of a rich Sri lanka.

***Ella*** - located in central Sri Lanka, is famous for its cool, breezy weather and awe-inspiring views of the best that paradise has to offer. A perfect replica of the Garden of Eden, Ella offers tourists a taste of adventure, romance and exploration.

Visit Ravana Falls, a 19m-high fall steeped in myth and magic approximately 6km From the Ella Gap towards Wellawaya. During the rainy season, the mountainside turns into

the “wildest” waterfall in Sri Lanka.

***Galle*** - located on the Southernmost point of Sri Lanka, (a Unesco World Heritage Site) it is a popular site that is home to Dutch-colonial buildings, ancient places of worship, grand mansions and museums, as well as stylish cafes, quirky boutiques and restored hotels. Popularly known for its focus on the arts, Galle is also home to Sri Lanka’s famous Literature festival and has become the residential hub for local and foreign artists, writers, photographers and designers.

***Hambantota*** - Once a fishing port, Hambantota is now home to an International Cricket stadium, International Airport and Port. This particular southern town has become vastly popular as a golf-destination for international golfers and amateurs looking to make their mark on the gold circuit.

***Hikkaduwa*** - a firm fixture on the Sri Lankan tourist map since the 1970s, offers locals and tourists alike a kilometre-long strip of shops, cafes, party venues and guest houses. Popularly known as the beach-rave location on the Southern Coast of Sri Lanka, ‘Hikka’ transforms itself into a lively night-time party atmosphere almost every night of the week.

***Jaffna*** - located in the northernmost part of Sri Lanka, has a strong Hindu influence

in tradition, architecture, language and art. A place that offers intrigue and history, it is a

beautifully colourful city to discover Sri Lankan-Tamil culture. Home to the Jaffna Fort, Jaffna lagoon, Nallur Kovil and Nainativu Nagapooshani Amman Kovil.

***Kalpitiya*** - a peninsula located to the North of Colombo, in the North-West of Sri Lanka, is a

coastal town that has become fast popular for dolphin-watching and kitesurfing. Schools of

dolphins can often be seen in the clear offshore waters and the local boat safaris offer close-up interactions. Kalpitiya consists of 14 islands and is widely considered to have the best kitesurfing conditions in South Asia.

***Kalutara*** - Home to a wide array of Buddhist temples; Richmond Castle, a two storey mansion, built in 1896 on a 42-acre fruit garden estate, originally built for a regional governor; and Calido Beach, a thin strip of preserved land which runs between the Kalu River and the Indian Ocean. Kalutara offers tourists access to spectacular vistas across the an undisturbed beachfront.

***Kandy*** - located in central Sri Lanka and known as the ‘Hill City’, Kandy is steeped in tradition, yet offers a thriving modern lifestyle; the best of both worlds.

Home to the Kandy Lake, Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, and a few minutes drive away from the Victoria Golf Country Resort, Hantana Mountain Range, Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, Knuckles Mountain Range.

***Mirissa*** - located East to Weligama, is a stunning crescent-shaped beach, ideal to while away your holiday - while sipping local, fresh coconut water, rocking gently back and forth on a hammock to the cool ocean breeze.

***Negombo*** - located just 10km from the Bandaranaike International Airport, is famous for its beach-side hotels and cafes, and historical quarter. It offers holiday-goers a thriving Negombo strip, plentiful with live music, bar-lounges and tourist activities.

***Nuwara Eliya*** - located in the central hills of Sri Lanka, is often referred to as ‘Little England’. This highland almost mirrors a quaint British countryside lined with British architecture, including bungalows, Tudor-style hotels, lush greenery and an array of tea estate mazes.

Notable places to visit: The horse races, Nuwara Eliya Race Course, Devon Falls, St. Claire Falls, Pidurutalagala, Adam’s Peak, Horton Plains and Bambarakanda Falls.

***Passikudah*** - These spectacular back-to-back beaches - Passikudah and Kalkudah are just 34km north of Batticaloa. The breathtaking white sands of the sickle-shaped Passikudah beach are made to resemble Cancun with luxury hotels dotted across this area. In contrast, Kalkudah beach, 2km east and south along the ocean is mostly deserted, giving tourists access to fishermen and the boating experience.

***Polonnaruwa*** - Over 800 years ago, Polonnaruwa was a stronghold for royalty, and ran as a thriving commercial and religious centre. The glories of that age can be found in the archaeological treasures that still linger as ancient ruin attractions for visitors across the globe. Explore the hundreds of ancient structures – tombs and temples, statues and stupas – in a compact core, making this the second city part of Sri Lanka’s cultural triangle.

***Ratnapura*** - This city is famously known in Sri Lanka as the gem and jewellery capital. Ratnapura is the ideal city for adventure seekers to begin their hike up to Adam’s Peak.

***Sigiriya*** - located to the north of Dambulla, is a mix of natural and engineering creativity and is possibly Sri Lanka’s most dramatic sight. Near-vertical walls rise high to a flat-topped peak where you will find the magical Lion Fortress. Visitors who complete the approximate 1,200 climb early in the morning are witness to spectacular views of paradise island. It is the third town, part of the Cultural Triangle of Sri Lanka that encompasses Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, as well.

***Talpe*** - Talpe has become one of Sri Lanka’s most exclusive beachfront destinations. This socially exclusive beach town is beautifully dotted with walled estates and hotels. Along this part of the coast you will see stilt fishermen perching precariously like storks above the waves at high tide.

***Trincomalee*** - located on the north east coast of Sri Lanka, sits on one the world’s finest natural harbours and is built on a peninsula. This culturally rich city has been the centre of the Tamil language in the island for over two [02] millennia. Its history dates back to the ‘Gokana in the Mahavamsa’ (Great Chronicle) and Hindu texts. ‘Trinco’ town offers visitors a charming stop along their travels.

Notable activities/ places to visit: Koneswaram Temple, Bhadrakali Amman Temple, Marble beach and Pigeon Island, Whale Watching tours.

***Tangalle*** - known for its wide-open spaces and beaches along southeast Sri Lanka, Tangalle is the last town of any size before Hambantota and offers tourists a taste of Sri Lanka’s old-world charm.

Notable places to visit: 45 minutes from Tangalle, visitors can enjoy a round of gold at the Hambantota Golf Resort & Spa

***Unawatuna -*** located 6km South East of Galle, is a city with palm tree lined beaches, deep

turquoise waters and a selection of traveller friendly guesthouses. Popular with tourists, it is also a short journey away from a wooded headland to the west dotted with tiny coves. Unawatuna is said to have mythical roots with references to this city in the ancient

Sanskrit story ‘Ramayana’, when Hindu Gods walked the earth.

***Yala*** - located on the southeast coast of Sri Lanka, it is the island’s most famous national park, is a light forest, with grassy plains and deep lagoons, it is home to elephants, crocodiles, buffaloes, monkeys, peacocks, leopards and more.

Notable places to visit: Off the coast of Yala is the Great Basses reef lighthouse, accessible via tour boats, Minneriya National Park, Wilpattu and Gal Oya National Park.

Best time to travel

The colours of Sri Lanka

Dreamt of swimming with the dolphins? Thinking of travelling to one of the world’s

best places to spot blue whales and sperm whales? As Sri Lanka is located amidst a warm tropical sea, it is home to different forms of sea life. Surrounded by a wide coral reef, Sri Lanka’s coast is ideal for tourists wanting to experience a magical and mysterious underwater world. Sri Lanka’s coastline is home to five out of seven of the world’s endangered species of turtles, whales and dolphins.

*November to April: Dolphin watching in the west coast of Sri Lanka.*

*December to March: Whale Watching in the South coast.*

*December to March: Sea turtle nesting in the south and east coast.*

Let the adventurer in you take over. From night time safaris to elephant tracking or

rare bird watching, Sri Lanka is home to many endangered wildlife, making it a nature lover’s

Dream. 13% of this paradise island is dedicated to wildlife preservation, and is known for the highest number of leopards in the world and the largest herd of elephants in Asia. Safari parks and sanctuaries are readily available for travellers, particularly in the southern and central zones. Whether spotting an endangered leopard, bird-watching or tracking a herd of elephants - Sri Lanka offers the best wildlife experiences for tourists.

*February to June: Best time for Butterfly watching in Sri Lanka*

*April to May: Bird flocks of Sinharaja*

*May to July: Sloth Bears in Yala*

*June to September: Leopard watching in Yala National Park; Sea bird migration off the West*

*coast of Sri Lanka*

*July to September: The ‘Gathering’ of Elephants in Minneriya; The biggest gathering of Elephants in the world.*

*August to September: Bird flocks of Sinharaja*

*October to April: Migrating Waders &amp; Shore birds*

*All year round: Endemic Birds in Sinharaja &amp; Horton Plains.*

Magical mysteries, romantic walks along secret paths and adventurous waterfall dives. As you dig your toes into the magic around you, paradise island will soon become what the romantic in you has been longing for. A haven to retreat to, steeped in centuries of history and folklore.

*December to January, March to April and July to August: Festivals and pageants are held*

*through the country.*

Holiday Types

Authentic Sri Lankan experiences

Book a spectacular tour package through us . Whether an authentic topical experience, a romantic honeymoon, an expedition of exploration and adventure or spiritual retreat, choose from a wide variety of speciality tour packages.

**Multi Centre holidays**

Visit complementary or contrasting destinations as you create your own unique itinerary around Sri Lanka, allowing you to experience the true essence of luxury island living, exactly as you’d want to. Combine several destinations whether beachfront, hill top, country-side, new Colombo City or tropical rainforest, to name a few and enjoy an experience an adventure around Sri Lanka.

Let us tailor-make your dream combination of destinations, hotels and tours.

**MICE Travel**Whether meetings, incentives, conferences or corporate events, experience a tailor-made, personalised retreat, event option, VIP hospitality, and exclusive tour packages. Catering toward creating a long lasting impression for our MICE travellers, we provide the expertise to manage all forms of corporate forums, workshops or meeting.

**Destination Weddings**Your perfect wedding destination, awaits. Choose from spectacularly magnificent hotel and event venues in Sri Lanka to host your dream wedding. Whether on the coast, in the countryside, or the heart of the city, we offer breathtaking locations, set to a backdrop of decadence, beauty and the world’s most mesmerizing sunsets.

Choose from an array of event spaces suitable for intimate ceremonies or grand affairs; in lush gardens or beachside villas; international, 5-star hotels or charming countryside weddings.

**Honeymoon destination**Spend your honeymoon traversing paradise island, hand in hand with your soulmate; or spend an awe-inspiring morning swimming amidst exotic sea-life that are the envy of the most beautiful rainbows; wake up to the sight of a pod of whales or dolphins off the golden coast of Sri Lanka. Make every moment remarkable as you experience a spectacular sunrise through the misty mountain tops of Sri Lanka’s hill country or encounter rare species of wildlife. Let the romantic in you take control as you enjoy the serenity and privacy of some of Sri Lanka and the Maldives most alluring and opulent honeymoon destinations, exclusively created for you.

**Academic Tours**

Welcome to the perfect partnership for those seeking Educational/ Academic Tours around beautiful Asia. Welcome to a nation, rich in natural culture and heritage, that offers a plethora of historical and educational focused avenues.

Whether an architecturally inspired trip that leads you around Colonial and Victorian Sri Lanka down the path of Geoffrey and Bewis Bawa; or through the ruins of Asia lost, explore vivid British, Portuguese, Spanish and Dutch influences in art and infrastructure; if you’re looking for meetings/ lectures at acclaimed local universities with specialist professors, we cater to it all.

Welcome to a haven of knowledge and innovation, unbound.

**Ladies Trips**

Book your exclusive, tailor-made holiday package here. Whether a relaxing getaway to laze under the sun and take in the surf; meditation under the stars that leads you closer to finding your true self; or hiking tranquil nature trails to mystical waterfalls, water holes and untouched lush gardens.

**Adventure Packages**

Exploration or travel with a certain degree of risk as you experience the ‘road less traveled’. Experience the best of Sri Lanka as you take on its culture, festivities, exploration of ruins, adrenaline activities, such as mountaineering, trekking, bungee jumping, mountain biking, cycling, white water rafting, scuba diving, kayaking, zip-lining, paragliding, hiking, caving diving, rock climbing and more.

**Family Holidays**

This holiday, relax on a beach with a king coconut in hand as you work on the perfect tan. Experience the cool blue waters of the Indian Ocean, go on safari in Yala, snorkel amongst colourful sea-life or cruise with your loved ones around the coast to see the complete expanse of the sea. Hike through wilderness as you look for rare butterflies, animals or birds. A world of fun awaits. Make memories with your loved ones, only as you could, once in paradise island. Select from our family packages, or create your own tailor-made tour across beautiful Sri Lanka.

**All Inclusive Packages**

Make your dreams come true with inspiring journeys of discovery throughout Sri Lanka. From spectacular beachfront resorts to mist-surrounded central highland bungalows, experience an all inclusive holiday for the conscientious travelers. Explore your options in paradise island.

**Spiritual Tours**

Enjoy a spiritual journey that connects you to mother earth; promoting the balance of mind, body and soul; find your inner peace amidst the rolling hills of Ella or Nuwara Eliya, or find yourself within the tropical forests of Sinharaja as your meditate to the symphony of the earth. Bring yourself closer to the meaning of being, as you allow your soul to transcend time and space on your spiritual journey through Sri Lanka. Select from our number of spiritual tours available.

**Beachfront Holidays**

Home to a beautiful array of golden beaches, crashing waves, misty mountains, majestic beasts, mountain estates, country charm and warm hospitality.

With many sites and scenes wrapped up in the island nation of Sri Lanka, holiday-goers both international and local have made Sri Lanka their dream destination.

The beauty of sun, sand and surf awaits, like none can imagine. Sri Lanka becomes your go to destination for a holiday in the sun, whether for rest and relaxation or to appease the adrenaline junkie in you.

Travel Tips

Your visas to Sri Lanka

Ready to visit paradise island? Two forms of visas are offered to travellers intending to

experience the beautiful island of Sri Lanka - Visit Visa and Business Visa. For more information on applying for a visa please visit www.eta.gov.lk/slvisa/

Sri Lanka Currency

The rupee is the currency of Sri Lanka, and one [01] rupee is divided into 100 cents. It is issued by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and abbreviates into LKR to distinguish between other rupee

Gourmet Delights

Home to a variety of local cuisines that are rich in flavour, colour and aroma, Sri Lanka offers a variety of culinary delights, with a modern twist. A fair warning that Sri Lankans love their spices and tend to use a fair amount in everyday cooking; inform the chef or server to reduce the addition of spices when cooking up a storm for you.

Kottu - has become a popular dinner meal with many locals. Originally a cheap meal that was created to feed the working class, combined with vegetables, egg, and a meat option - it has now in the 21st Century, become the dish of choice for most of Colombo’s post party-goers.

String Hoppers - made from a thick rice flour based batter, squeezed into thin noodles, and then steamed. String hoppers are normally eaten for breakfast or dinner, along with a variety of different curry.

Coconut rotti - is coconut infused solid flat-bread. Somewhat similar to a mini pizza, without a topping. It can be eaten plain, but is usually served with curries or condiments.

Hoppers - are an iconic food of Sri Lanka. It all begins with a simple pancake batter that’s spruced up with coconut milk and a splash of toddy (Sri Lankan palm wine). It can be eaten plain or with an egg fried into the center of it.

Pittu - a combination of flour, fresh shredded coconut, and a handful of desiccated coconut. The precious little cakes are traditionally steamed in bamboo tubes. After being cooked, the crumbly textured pittu cakes are served with fresh sweetened coconut milk.

Sweetmeats - well known throughout South Asia, as the place of origin for sweets and desserts originating from there. Many Sri Lankan desserts and sweets contain domestic coconut, spices, jaggery and treacle.

Rice and curry - Sri Lanka rice and curry, is none like any imaginable. As a paradise islander’s

staple, this offers a range of flavoursome combinations from sweet, to sour and of course the

chillie! Have a full rice and curry meal, that will leave you wanting little else.

King coconut - Taken straight from the source, king coconut water is a refreshing drink that is

said to have medicinal and healing effects on the body. This drink is perfect on a hot and humid day.

Milk tea - You’ve probably already had tea from around the world, but nothing compares to a

milk tea made in Sri Lanka. Whether a 5-star hotel or a village shop, tea is the pride and joy of this paradise nation and every cup made is made with love, care and a lot of sugar.