

How To Apply For A Driver's Licence In Sri Lanka In 2025.

Getting your Sri Lanka driving licence is straightforward if you follow the latest rules. Here's a clear step-by-step, with official fees and local insights as of August 2025.

Step 1: Gather Documents

- M.T.A. 30 form (free at DMT or district offices)
- NIC or passport, birth certificate
- Two B&W passport photos (if offline form)
- Medical certificate from National Transport Medical Institution (valid ≤ 6 months)
- Bring photocopies of all. Makes the process faster.

Step 2: Written test & Learner's Permit

Age requirement: 17+ to register; must be 18+ and wait 3 months before practical.

If you fail: Reapply for written exam: Rs 100, up to 3 times.

Practical fail: full fee each time.

Step 3: Practical test & Final Licence

- Pass practical test → smart-card licence valid for 8 years.
- Submit to Assistant Commissioner at DMT Licensing Division in Colombo.

Step 4: Fees & Services

Normal service fee: Rs 620 (1 vehicle), Rs 1,020–1,120 (multi-class)

Priority service (Colombo): Rs 1,020–1,770 (depending on vehicle class). Permit issued within 1 week. Normal service can take 2 weeks to 3 months.

Step 5: Foreign License / IDP Holders

- At AAC Colombo (for IDP holders): LKR 8,000 fixed fee. Bring passport, IDP, one photo.
- As of August 3, 2025, tourists can now obtain temporary permit at Bandaranaike International Airport on arrival:
- **Fee:**
- LKR 2,000/month (max mileage permit up to 5 months)
- **Required documents:** Passport, valid home-country licence or IDP, visa.

Timeline & Extra Costs

- Medical exam: Rs 1,500.
- Priority DMT path: 1 week
- Normal path: up to 3 months depending on booking and exam slots

Bottom Line

Getting your driver's license in Sri Lanka isn't as complicated as it seems. But if you know the steps, prep your documents, and stay patient through the process. Whether you're applying for the first time, converting a foreign license, or renewing, planning ahead will save you time, confusion, and repeat visits.

