

Sri Lanka

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Sinhala, Tamil, English

Population: 22,200,000

Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR)

Area: 65,610

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Sigiriya Rock Fortress', 'writeup': 'An ancient rock fortress and palace ruin, known for its frescoes and extensive gardens, dating back to the 5th century.'}
- {'name': 'Temple of the Tooth', 'writeup': 'A sacred Buddhist temple in Kandy that houses a relic of the tooth of the Buddha.'}
- {'name': 'Yala National Park', 'writeup': 'A wildlife sanctuary famous for its leopard population and diverse flora and fauna.'}
- {'name': 'Galle Fort', 'writeup': 'A historic fort built by the Portuguese and later fortified by the Dutch, showcasing colonial architecture.'}
- {'name': "Adam's Peak", 'writeup': "A pilgrimage site known for the 'Sri Pada' footprint, sacred to multiple religions."}

Head of State / Government:

President Ranil Wickremesinghe

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Sinhala and Tamil New Year', 'writeup': 'Celebrated in April, marking the traditional new year with rituals, games, and feasts.'}
- {'name': 'Vesak', 'writeup': 'A Buddhist festival commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and death of Buddha, celebrated with lanterns and religious observances.'}
- {'name': 'Kandy Esala Perahera', 'writeup': 'A grand procession in Kandy featuring dancers, drummers, and elephants, honoring the Sacred Tooth Relic.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Sri Lankan cuisine is known for its use of spices, coconut, and rice. Popular dishes include rice and curry, hoppers, string hoppers, and seafood, reflecting a blend of South Indian and indigenous influences.

Brief History:

Sri Lanka has a rich history dating back over 2,500 years with ancient kingdoms, colonial rule by the Portuguese, Dutch, and British, and independence in 1948. The country experienced a civil war from 1983 to 2009 between the government and Tamil separatists.

Important People:

- D. S. Senanayake - First Prime Minister of independent Sri Lanka
- Chandrika Kumaratunga - Former President and first female head of state

- Mahinda Rajapaksa - Former President credited with ending the civil war
- Anagarika Dharmapala - Buddhist revivalist and nationalist
- Arthur C. Clarke - Renowned science fiction writer who lived in Sri Lanka

Current Conflicts:

Sri Lanka is currently focused on post-war reconciliation and economic challenges; there are no active armed conflicts.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Sri Lanka: The Pearl of the Indian Ocean
- Top 10 Places to Visit in Sri Lanka
- Sri Lankan Culture and Traditions Explained
- Sri Lanka Travel Guide 2024
- The History and Heritage of Sri Lanka