Discovering *Sri Lanka*

Sri Lanka, an island nation in the Indian Ocean, is celebrated for its tropical beauty, vibrant culture, and deep historical heritage.

This jewel of South Asia offers diverse experiences, from golden palm-fringed beaches to the rolling hills of the central highlands, where tea plantations blanket the landscape.

History enthusiasts can explore ancient marvels such as Sigiriya Rock Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which rises dramatically above the plains and offers sweeping views and a window into the island's past.

Wildlife lovers can embark on safaris in Sri Lanka's national parks, home to elephants, leopards, and abundant birdlife. Whether uncovering ruins, savoring the tranquility of the highlands, or relaxing along the coastline, Sri Lanka promises travelers a journey filled with discovery and wonder.



Visa Process

All travelers visiting Sri Lanka for tourism or business must obtain an e-Visa prior to entry. Multiple visa categories are available, so ensure you apply for the correct type based on the purpose and duration of your stay. Full details and applications are available through the Sri Lankan Department of Immigration and Emigration online.

Credit Cards

Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in larger hotels, restaurants, and shops in Sri Lanka. However, it is advisable to carry cash for use in smaller establishments, markets, and rural areas.

Gratuities

Tipping is customary in Sri Lanka and an important part of supporting service workers, who often rely on gratuities to supplement low wages. Travelers are generally expected to tip porters, drivers, restaurant staff, tour guides, and others providing service.

As a guideline, budget approximately $10 per person per day for tips.

Check in Process

A valid form of identification, such as a passport, is required at hotel check-in in Sri Lanka. Standard check-in time is typically from 3:00 PM local time.

Plug Sockets

Sri Lanka uses **Type D, M, and G** plug sockets. Travelers are advised to bring a universal adapter to ensure compatibility when charging devices.

Currency

The official currency of Sri Lanka is the Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR).

Cultural Norms

Respect for Elders: Showing respect to elders is an important part of Sri Lankan culture. **Public Behavior:** Avoid public displays of affection, which may be considered inappropriate. **Religious Sites:** Dress modestly and follow specific customs when visiting temples, mosques, or churches. Always respect religious practices. **Local Customs**: Learning basic greetings and cultural practices is appreciated and shows respect to locals **Safety:** Sri Lanka is generally safe for tourists, but remain cautious in crowded areas and tourist sites. Keep belongings secure and be aware of your surroundings.

Dining

Sri Lankan cuisine is rich and diverse, influenced by Indian, Dutch, and Portuguese traditions. Meals often feature fragrant spices, rice, and a wide variety of curries. **Food & Water Safety:** Hygiene standards differ from other parts of the world, so take care when eating out. Drink only bottled water and avoid tap water—including for brushing teeth, washing fruit or salad, and consuming ice. Opt for fruit that can be peeled, and consider a vegetarian diet to lower the risk of contamination. Pack basic medicines in case of stomach upset and exercise caution with street food, ensuring it is freshly prepared and hot.

Dining Customs: It is common to eat with the right hand in Sri Lanka, especially in traditional settings.



In Sri Lanka, temperatures are fairly constant year round but can vary depending on the region.



Coastal Areas Average:
77-86°F



Central Highlands Average:
59-64°F

What to pack

Essentials:
Passport & Visa: Carry your passport, visa, and all required travel documents. **Travel Insurance:** Strongly recommended to cover unexpected situations. **Money:** Bring cash (small denominations) and credit/debit cards. **Health Kit:** Include prescription medications and over-the-counter medicines, packed in your hand luggage.

Clothing:
Lightweight Clothing: Suitable for the warm climate. **Sun Protection:** A hat and sunscreen are essential. **Comfortable Walking Shoes:** Recommended for exploring.

Personal Items:
Toiletries: Basic items such as toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and any personal essentials. **Sunscreen & Sunglasses:** For protection from the strong sun. **Insect Repellent:** Particularly important in rural or tropical areas.

Electronics:
Phone & Charger: A local SIM card helps improve connectivity and reduce roaming charges. **Camera:** Bring extra memory cards and batteries.

Other Useful Items:
Small Backpack/Daypack: Handy for day trips and carrying essentials. **Hand Sanitizer:** Useful for cleanliness while on the go.

Emergency

Police: Dial 119
Ambulance: Dial 110
Fire Department: Dial 118
Travelers are strongly advised to carry travel insurance that includes coverage for medical emergencies.