



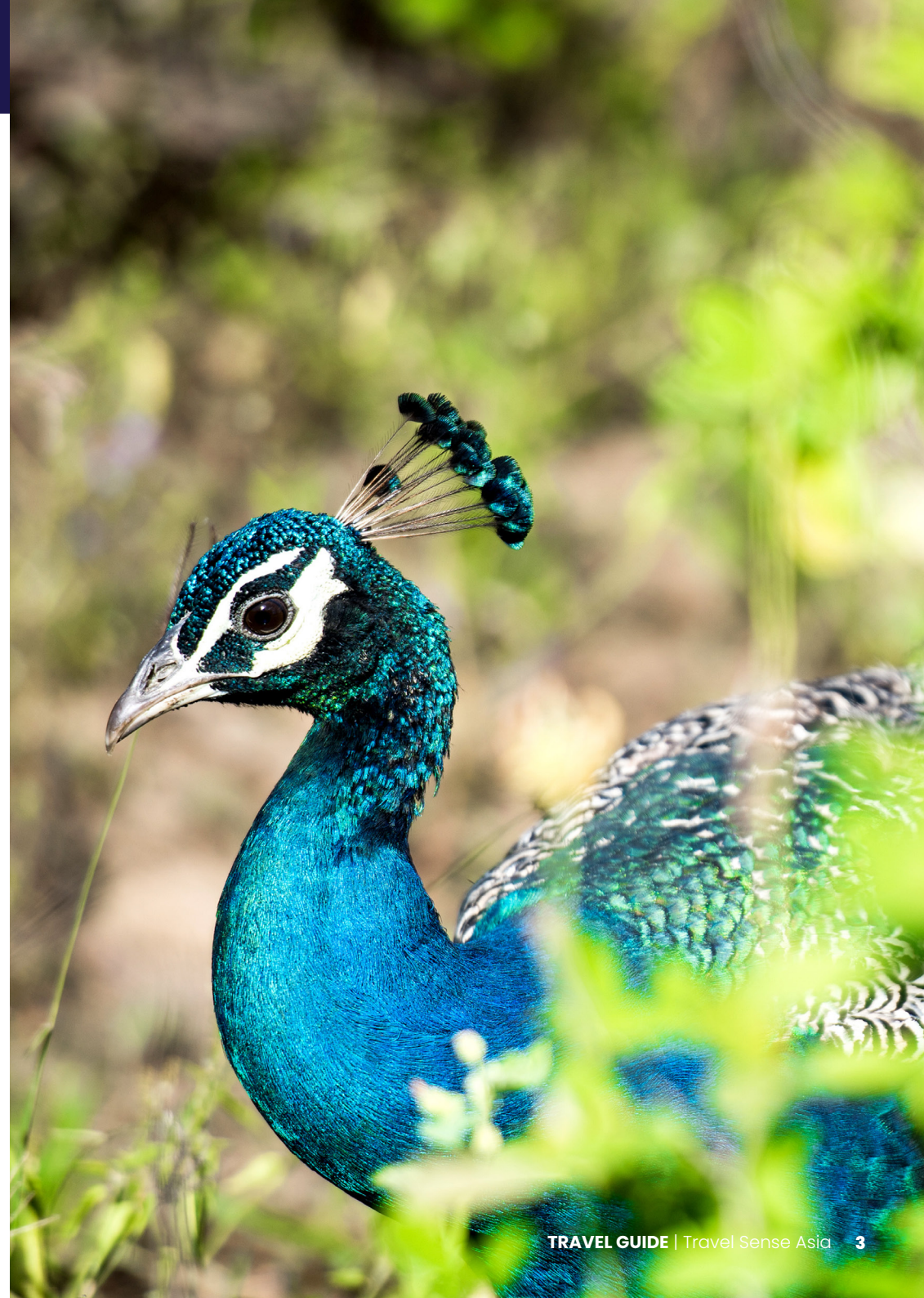
SRI LANKA

TRAVEL GUIDE



SRI LANKA

A captivating island nation in South Asia, known for its stunning landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and warm hospitality. Nestled in the Indian Ocean, this tropical paradise offers a variety of experiences, from ancient temples and lush tea plantations to pristine beaches and vibrant wildlife.





CLIMATE AND WEATHER AVERAGES

BEST TIME TO VISIT SRI LANKA

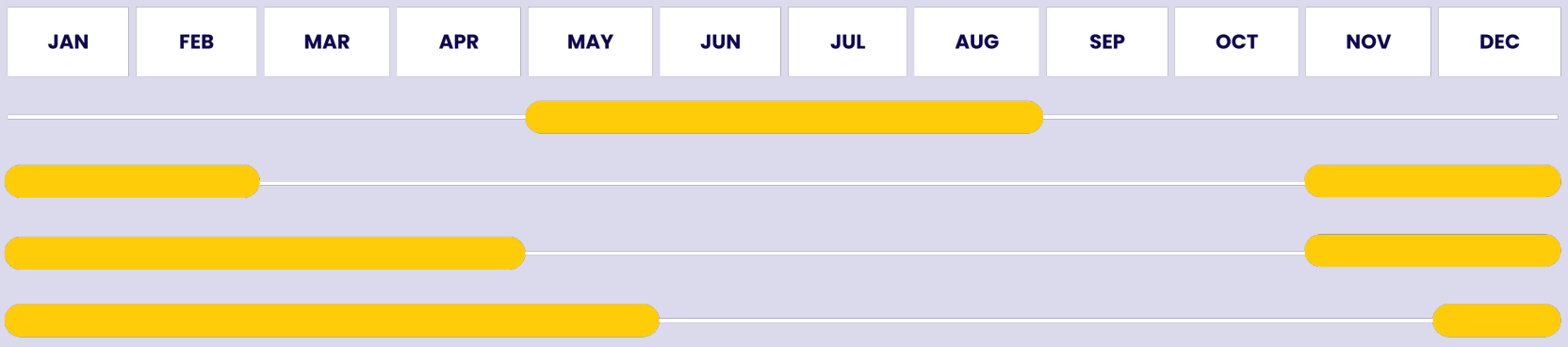
Sri Lanka, a tropical nation, enjoys sunshine year-round with temperatures typically ranging between 27–30°C in Colombo and coastal areas, peaking in April. In contrast, the hill country experiences cooler temperatures, averaging around 10°C.

From May to September

When traveling during the summer months, you might want to head towards the **East coast** and **Northern regions** for dry, sunny weather, as the west and southwest coasts experience rain at this time.

From October to February

On the other hand, the **West** and **Southwest** enjoy favorable weather conditions during the winter months, when the monsoon season hits the East and the North.



ENTRY VISA

THE KEY TO LIVE FULLY IN SRI LANKA

1. VISA EXEMPTIONS

Travelers from these countries can enter Sri Lanka without a visa and stay for the specified number of days.

If you wish to extend your stay beyond this period, you can apply for a visa extension after arriving in Sri Lanka.

30 DAYS	HONGKONG, SINGAPORE, CZECH REPUBLIC
60 DAYS	REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES
90 DAYS	REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

2. VISA APPLICATION

Sri Lanka has introduced a compulsory online visa system for all travelers arriving in Sri Lanka from January 1, 2012.

Visitors must apply for the Electronic Travel Authorization via www.eta.gov.lk established by the Department of Immigration and Emigration.

How to apply:

STEP 1: Access access eVisa registration link via www.eta.gov.lk

STEP 2: Upload documents required and fill the form online

STEP 3: Complete payment - Pay for your Sri Lanka visa fees using the mode of payment of your choice.

STEP 4: Get your visa on your email - Once approved, e-Visa will be sent via the registated email.





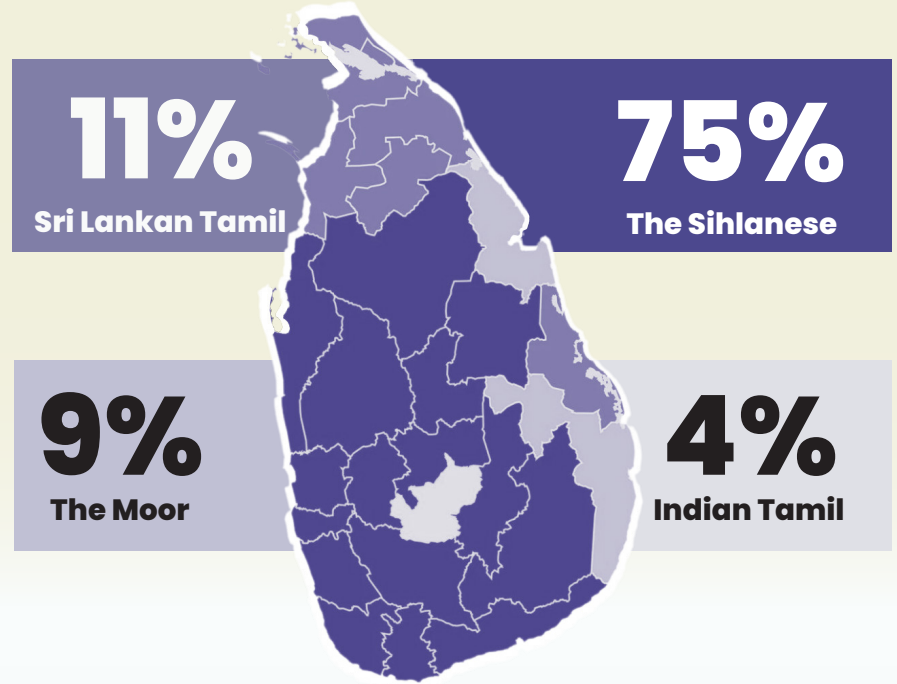
CULTURAL DIVERSITY

UNDERSTANDING THE LOCALS

Sri Lanka is a melting pot of cultural diversity, which gives rise to a variety of festivals, customs, and rituals. Its culturally rich traditions encompass unique flavors, arts & crafts, dance, and music.



Sri Lanka's population is predominantly **Sinhalese** with considerable proportions of **Sri Lankan Moors**, **Sri Lankan Tamils**, and **Indian Tamils**.



Its national languages are **Sinhala** and **Tamil**. However, **English** is widely spoken and understood. Regarding of religions, **Buddhism** is the predominant religion, although **Hinduism**, **Roman Catholicism**, **Christianity** and **Islam** are also present.





POYA DAY

FULL-MOON HOLIDAY

Sri Lanka, where 70.4% of the population practices Buddhism, holds **Poya Day** in high regard. Celebrated on the full moon day of each lunar month, this day is seen as the most auspicious of the lunar phases and is observed as an important holiday nationwide.

As a rule, alcohol is not served in the public (restaurants, hotels, bars, etc.) and not available for purchase.

However, alcohol can be ordered to your hotel room for private consumption. Most shops would be closed. Therefore, it is best to check in advance if you plan shopping, entertainment options, etc.





FOOD & DRINKS

Tourist centers offer an array of international dishes alongside local favorites. Traditional local meals, such as savory rice and curry with an assortment of condiments, are best enjoyed the traditional way—without cutlery.



RICE & CURRY (BATH HA KARI)

A staple in Sri Lankan cuisine, this dish features rice served with various curries made from meats, fish, or vegetables. It's often accompanied by *sambols* (spicy condiments), pickles, and papadams, offering a rich and flavorful experience with spices and coconut milk.



KOTTU ROTI

A popular street food made by stir-frying shredded *godamba roti* (a type of flatbread) with vegetables, eggs, and sometimes meat. It's a flavorful, spicy dish often accompanied by a curry sauce.




HOPPERS (APPA)

Hoppers are bowl-shaped pancakes made from rice flour and coconut milk. Crispy on the edges and soft in the center, they come in variations like plain, egg, and milk.



WATALAPPAM

Watalappa is a rich, coconut custard dessert made with coconut milk, jaggery, eggs, cashews, and a blend of spices (cardamom, cloves, and nutmeg). This is a popular dessert, especially among the Muslim community in Sri Lanka.



To stay hydrated, ensure you have an adequate supply of drinking water.

In Sri Lanka, the **King coconut** is renowned for its refreshing and hydrating qualities, with higher levels of electrolytes and lower levels of sugar and fat compared to the regular mature coconuts. Available throughout the year at local shops and street vendors, these coconuts offer a handy way to stay hydrated while you explore the island's stunning landscapes. Be sure to savor this natural, delicious drink during your travels!



FOOD DELIVERY

"Uber Eats" and "Pick Me" are food delivery services that are available in Sri Lanka. Additionally, many restaurants offer their own delivery options, though they may include an extra fee.





VOLTAGE & ADAPTERS

In Sri Lanka, the standard voltage is **230V** and the standard frequency is **50 Hz** with power plugs and sockets are of type D, M and G.

● **Plug type D** which has three large round pins in a triangular configuration



● **Plug type M** which has three circular pins and is essentially a larger version of the Type D plug.



● **Plug type G** which has three rectangular prongs that form an isosceles triangle.



While most hotels would provide necessary adapters free of charge, these can be purchased from local shops too.





TIPPING

APPRECIATING SERVICES WITH GRATITUDE

Tipping is accepted as an act of appreciation and gratitude for services rendered in Sri Lanka. Many hotels and restaurants have tip boxes available, while in other establishments, you may hand your tip directly to the staff. If you are pleased with the service, a tip of **around 10% of the service value** is generally welcomed, though there are no rigid rules to follow.

When it comes to personalized services such as chauffeur guides, national guides, and jeep drivers during safaris, it is customary to offer a tip.

We recommend a range of **US\$ 8-10/person/day**. You can give this tip either daily or at the conclusion of your journey, depending on your level of satisfaction.



TRANSPORTATIONS

VARIETY OF WAYS TO GET AROUND

General transport methods include taxis cars and tuk-tuks (three wheelers), buses, and trains.



TUK-TUK

- Suitable for short travel distances.
 - Capacity: 04 pax (including driver).
 - Price: LRK 100/- for the first kilometer.
- Conveniency: ★★★★★☆
Safety: ★★☆☆☆☆



CAR

- Two types: Traditional taxis & Ride-Hailing Apps (PickMe & Uber)
 - Price: LRK 100/- for the first kilometer.
- Conveniency: ★★★★★☆
Safety: ★★★★★☆

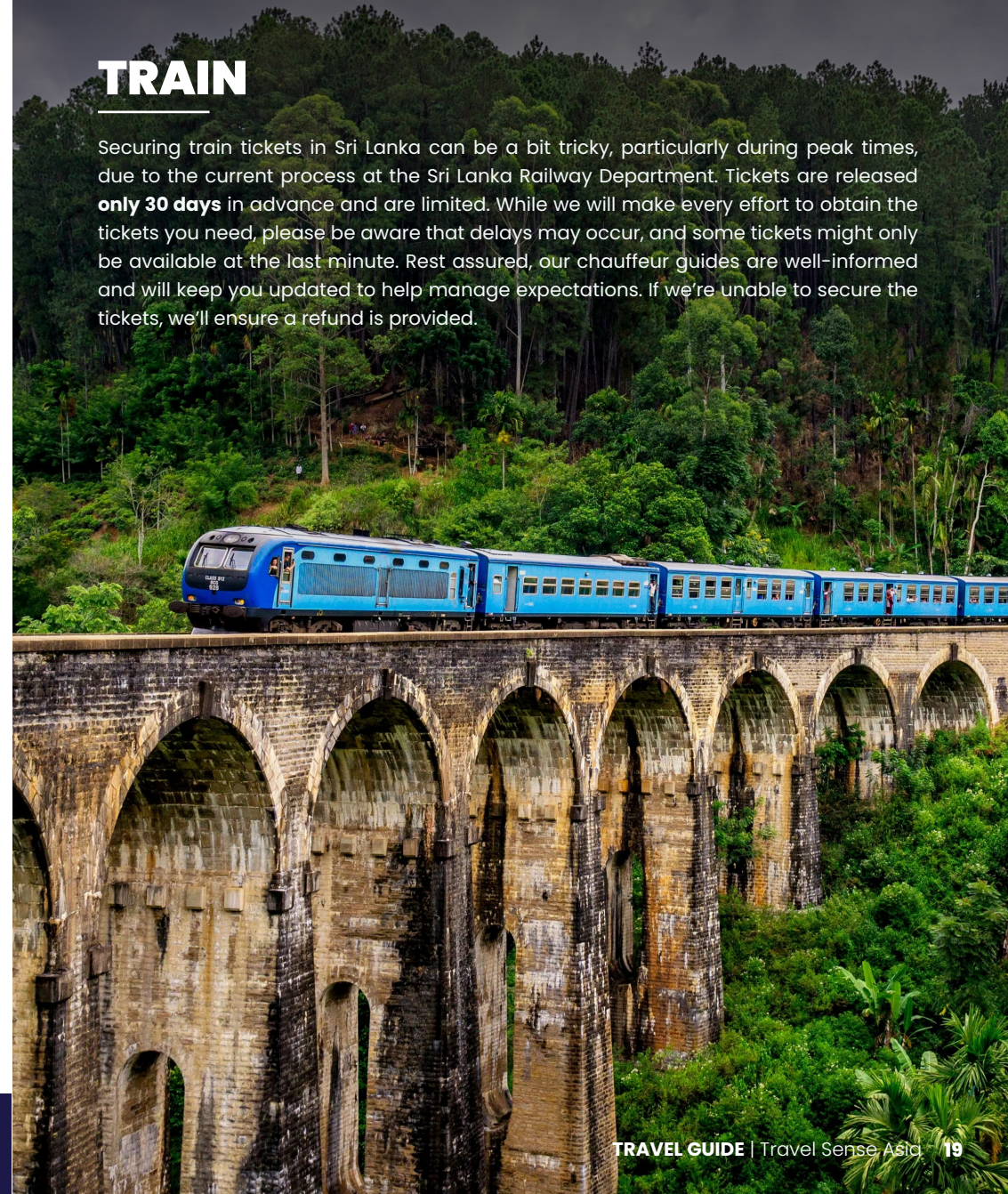


BUS

- Tickets are bought on the bus from the conductor.
 - Price: from LKR 28
- Conveniency: ★★☆☆☆☆
Safety: ★★★★★☆

TRAIN

Securing train tickets in Sri Lanka can be a bit tricky, particularly during peak times, due to the current process at the Sri Lanka Railway Department. Tickets are released **only 30 days** in advance and are limited. While we will make every effort to obtain the tickets you need, please be aware that delays may occur, and some tickets might only be available at the last minute. Rest assured, our chauffeur guides are well-informed and will keep you updated to help manage expectations. If we're unable to secure the tickets, we'll ensure a refund is provided.





In most rural areas of Sri Lanka, you will see traditional transportation methods such as bicycles & bikes are still being used.



Moreover, there are other lesser-used methods such as yachts, boats, helicopters, and seaplanes for domestic air travelling. You may contact your tour executive prior to travelling due to limited availability of routes)





HEALTH CARE

STAYING HEALTHY DURING YOU JOURNEY

Sri Lanka has an universal health care system that extends to all people, which has been a national priority. Outpatient Department (OPD) facilities are readily available in public hospitals situated in major towns and cities, with laboratory and radiology facilities common in most.

However most illnesses can be treated in hospitals in **Colombo, Colombo South, Colombo North, Kandy, Galle (Karapitiya Hospital)** and **Jaffna**. All doctors and nurses in the government hospitals are qualified and trained, with some of the most experienced staff working at the teaching hospitals.



For emergencies, especially accidents, it is highly recommended to go directly to general hospital accident services as they are equipped with the staff and facilities to handle emergencies.

Save the belowed number in case of emergencies:



Ambulance / Fire & rescue

011

Accident Service-General
Hospital-Colombo

011-2691111





ENTERTAINMENT

LEISURE FOR EVERY TASTE

Deriving from the cultural diversity, there are many entertainment options in Sri Lanka. Varying from cultural festivals to national events to public parties, there is something for everyone. There are many entertainment locations as well such as gaming centers, water sports, adventure rides, sports arenas, casinos, night clubs, pubs, bars and restaurants.

Below are a few of our curated recommendations for entertainment venues.



Excel World Entertainment Center

- **Location:** 338 T. B. Jayaw Mawatha, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- A leisure complex offering a variety of leisure activities including a thrilling amusement park, state-of-the-art arcade games, and diverse dining options, it caters to all ages and interests.



Bally's Casino

- **Location:** 34 McCallum Rd, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Renowned for its vibrant atmosphere and luxurious setting, with diverse game options. Bally's Casino offers an unparalleled gaming experience.



The Bar On The Top - Granbell Hotel

- **Location:** Colombo Granbell Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Enjoy expertly crafted cocktails and light bites while soaking in the breathtaking panoramic view of the city. This is the perfect spot for a memorable evening in Sri Lanka.



Diyakawa Water Sports Centre

- **Location:** No 5/1 L T P Manju Sri Mawatha, Aluthgama Bentota, Sri Lanka
- Offering thrilling activities like jet skiing and wakeboarding alongside relaxing options like kayaking, this centre is perfect for all water enthusiasts.



SHOPPING

DISCOVER THE LOCAL TREASURE

Shopping is another entertainment option in which you can consider local specials such as **gems, spices, linen** and **batik clothing, arts & crafts** and **hand-made carvings**.



There are shopping malls such as **Colombo City Center, Marino Mall** and **Majestic City**.

OR you could enjoy street shopping at hawker complexes in **Pettah**. Your travel designer will assist you with picking best locations to meet your preferences.





MONEY MATTER

THE LOCAL CURRENCY & PAYMENT SYSTEMS

"TIP: To quickly convert from LKR to USD, just divide the amount of money in USD by 300."

For example: 300 LKR ≈ 1 USD



1. CURRENCY

Sri Lanka's official currency is the **Sri Lankan Rupee**, abbreviated as **LKR** or simply **Rs.**

Banknotes come in denominations of **Rs. 20, 50, 100, 500, 1,000, and 5,000.**

Coins are available in denominations of **Rs. 1, 2, 5, and 10.** However, nowadays they are seldom used in day-to-day transactions.



2. MONEY EXCHANGE

24-hour ATM machines and currency exchangers are available in almost all cities.

- However, it is advised to use currency exchangers either at the airport or in Colombo.
- Please be informed that Union Pay will be available in major cities.



Airport



ATM



Union Pay

3. FINANCIAL INFORMATION & SECURITY

REMEMBER:

- **Guard your wallets, jewelry, credit cards, money,** and any other personal belongings carefully.
- **Use hotel safes** where possible.
- **Keep a copy** of your passport, credit cards, and other important documents.
- **Prior to arrival, inform about your travel plans** to your respective banks to avoid credit/ debit card restrictions due to perceived fraud.





CALLS & INTERNET

A GUIDE TO STAY CONNECTED

1. Where to buy

It is recommended to buy a pre-paid Sri Lankan SIM card. You can buy one from international airports, mobile operator stores, convenience stores or online.



The most affordable approach is to visit a local mobile operator's store. The staff there will assist you in selecting the best cell phone data plan and guide you through the activation process.

2. Recommendation

SIM card	Data Bundle	Validity	Price
YESIM	Unlimited	1 days	\$7.70
	Unlimited	7 days	\$ 24.20
	Unlimited	10 days	\$ 36.30
	Unlimited	15 days	\$ 59.50
Simify	6 GB	12 days	\$25
	6 GB	15 days	\$40
	10 GB	30 days	\$ 29
Mobitel	15 GB	7 days	\$2.74
	30 GB	30 days	\$ 5.13
	Unlimited	30 days	\$ 17.10





JOURNEY ESSENTIALS

WHAT TO PACK

SUNSCREEN



- It is advised that a high screen-factor sunscreen is brought to combat the high temperatures, especially if you have planned beach stays and water sports.

HEADWEAR



- To protect yourself from the hot sun and high temperatures, it is advised to wear a hat or cap, especially during hikes.

SARONG/CLOTH



- When visiting religious sites, it is recommended to wear fully covered clothing or bring a sarong or cloth to cover yourself as a sign of respect.

COTTON CLOTHES



- Cotton clothing remains versatile year-round due to its breathability, making it a practical choice in hot and humid climates for comfort and ease of wear.

LIGHT SWEATER



- If you are visiting hill country, a light sweater is usually required at night due to cold weather.

COMFORTABLE FOOTWEAR



- A pair of rubber slippers would come in handy. Most hotels offer rubber slippers free of charge or you can purchase from local shops. If you are planning to trek and climb, go prepared with suitable gear (leech socks will be provided by your chauffeur guide when necessary).

UMBRELLA



- Due to the prevalence of rainy seasons, it is advised to carry an umbrella/ raincoat.

INSECT REPELLENT



- As some areas might have insects such as mosquitoes, it is best to bring along an insect repellent. However, most hotels have taken necessary precautions to prevent this inconvenience.

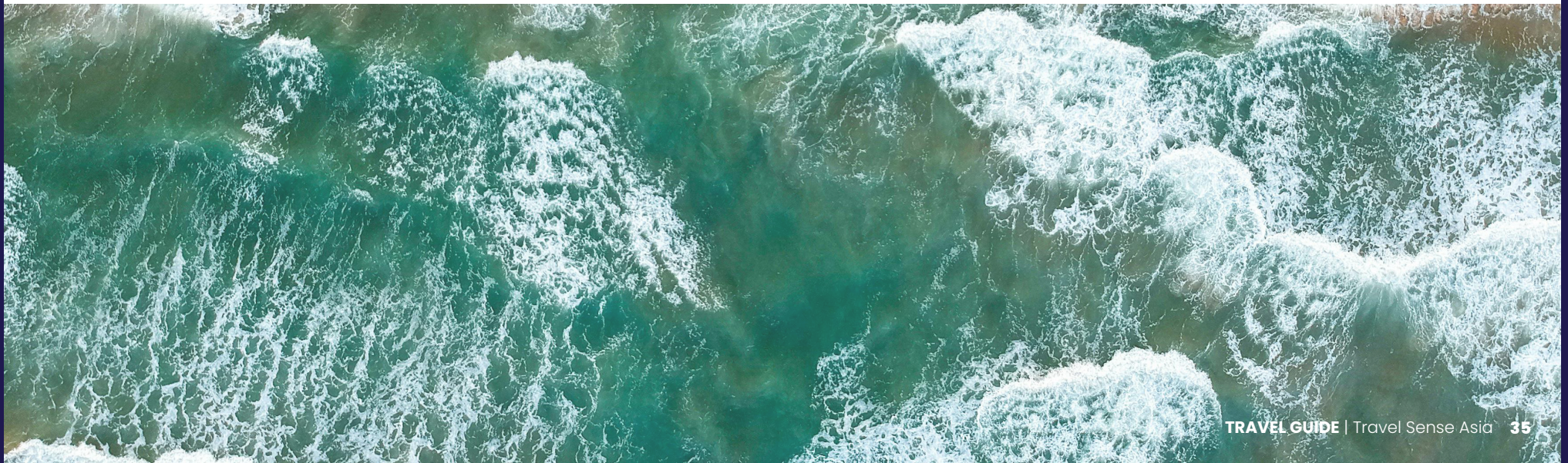


DOs and DON'Ts

ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR A SMOOTH JOURNEY



- ✔ **When visiting Religious sites:** Dress modestly and cover yourself with a sarong, cloth, or scarf. Remove footwear and headwear before entering.
- ✔ **Always carry an umbrella/hat/ cap or a scarf** to protect yourself from the high temperatures and heat as well as from sudden rain showers.
- ✔ **Always ask for permission** before photographing locals or private locations.
- ✔ **Respect multi-cultural** and multi-religious customs, beliefs and traditions.
- ✘ **Avoid touching Religious and historical artifacts**, as well as posing for photographs with the Religious statues.
- ✘ **Avoid using flash photography in religious sites and historical ruins**, as it can harm ancient murals.
- ✘ **Do not smoke in public.** There is a general smoking ban in all public and common areas. However, there are designated smoking lounges/ areas.
- ✘ **Do not walk on the steps of historical ruins.** Archaeological sites and ruins like moonstones should not be walked on.
- ✘ **Elephant rides & bullock carts are not encouraged** due to the protection of animal rights.
- ✘ **Avoid swimming in strong currents.** If you're in the water and notice strong currents, exit immediately and ensure anyone with you does the same.





EMERGENCY SERVICES

CONTACT FOR EMERGENCY

When traveling, ensuring your safety should be a priority. It's important to keep essential emergency numbers within reach, as they can be vital in unexpected situations.

24/7 Duty Manager	(+94) 777 287 800
24/7 Airport Representatives	(+94) 777 287 837
Police Emergency Hotline	118/119
Ambulance/Fire & Rescue	110
Accident Service-General Hospital-Colombo	011-2691111
Tourist Police	011-2421052
Police Emergency	011-2433333
Government Information Center	1919
Report Crimes	011-2691500
Emergency Police Mobile Squad	011-5717171
Fire & Ambulance Service	011-2422222





CONTACT

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