

# SRI LANKA TRIP NOTES

Marco Polo described Sri Lanka as the finest island of its size in the world. The tropical island nation has a history dating back to the birth of time. It is a place where the original soul of Buddhism still flourishes and where nature's beauty remains abundant and unspoiled.

Few places in the world can offer the traveler such a remarkable combination of stunning landscapes, pristine beaches, captivating cultural heritage and unique experiences within such a compact location. Within this small island lie 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 900 miles of coastline - much of it pristine beach - 15 national parks showcasing an abundance of wildlife, nearly 500,000 acres of lush tea estates, 250 acres of botanical gardens, 350 waterfalls, and a culture that extends back 2,500 years.

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

US citizens can apply for an Electronic Travel Authority on arrival or prior to departure at this link <https://www.eta.gov.lk/slvisa/visainfo/center.jsp> Current cost is \$50, subject to change.

## MEDICATIONS & INNOCULATIONS

There are no require shots or medications for travelers arriving from the US into Sri Lanka.

## CURRENCY

The currency used in Sri Lanka is the rupee (LKR or R).

## CREDIT CARDS

Sri Lanka is largely a cash economy and visitors are advised to withdraw Rupee from an ATM on arrival. Visa and Mastercard are accepted at international hotels, American Express less so. Cash is needed for shopping at markets. ATMs are easily found in major towns. USD are often accepted, but at a poor rate of exchange.

A convenient currency converter can be found at <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>



## **TIME DIFFERENCE**

Kuala Lumpur is 13.5 hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time and 10.5 hours ahead of US Pacific Standard Time.

## **SHOPPING**

Sri Lanka has long been renowned for its intricate handcrafts and homegrown produce. Popular goods include batik, lacework, metalwork and ivory carvings, while natural resources such as tea, spices and gems are the country's trademark.

## **ELECTRICITY**

In Nepal the standard voltage is 230 V and the frequency is 50 Hz. Plugs are types C, D and M. For more information on plugs and voltage, please visit <http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>

## **LANGUAGE**

Shinalase and Tamil are the official languages of Sri Lanka, but English is widely spoken in the tourist sector.

## **CLIMATE**

The best time to visit the west and south coasts and hill country is from December to March, while the best weather on the east coast is from April/May to September. Sri Lanka's position close to the Equator means that temperatures remain fairly constant year-round.

## **TIPPING GUIDELINES**

Driver guides should receive R3500-R4500 per day.

Tip 10% at restaurants.

If you visit temples that don't charge entrance fees a small donation – about Rs 500 - is always welcome.

## **ETIQUETTE**

Avoid touching anyone of the opposite sex.

Affection is not shown in public.

Use your right hand to eat, pass things and touch people. Do not pass objects with your left hand.

Do not move objects with your feet or point at another person with your foot.

Giving a slight bow when leaving, entering or passing by people means, "excuse me."

This information is provided by Asia Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting, and is up to date to the best of our knowledge. Further information is available to you at this website - <https://www.srilanka.travel/>