



## Sri Lankan Country Guide

### Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to Sri Lanka Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian ordinary passport holders visiting Sri Lanka as tourists are required to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) from [www.eta.gov.lk](http://www.eta.gov.lk) prior to their arrival in Sri Lanka and present their ETA approval notice at the boarder crossing. Each ETA is valid for six months and allows entry into Sri Lanka for up to 30 days which can be extended. The cost of applying for an ETA is usually US\$35, but this may change depending on the method of application used.

Travellers are advised to have at least six months validity on their passport from the time they expect to leave Sri Lanka. When entering Sri Lanka, travellers should also be able to show confirmed onward/return tickets, provide evidence of their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay and comply with general appearance standards. For further information and to confirm your eligibility for the ETA program, please go to [www.eta.gov.lk](http://www.eta.gov.lk) or contact a Sri Lankan mission on the details below.

#### Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

*Exercise normal safety precautions in Sri Lanka. Use common sense. Look out for suspicious behaviour as you would in Australia. There is an increased likelihood of large protests and demonstrations in Sri Lanka due to political instability following the President's dismissal of the Prime Minister on 26 October. Avoid all demonstrations and large public gatherings, as they may turn violent. Monitor local media for updates. See [Safety and security](#).*

*All regions of Sri Lanka experience outbreaks of dengue fever. Over 185,000 suspected cases of dengue fever were reported in 2017. Protect yourself from mosquitos. See [Health](#). Some security forces maintain a visible presence, particularly in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Military and police checkpoints are sometimes established and roads closed without warning. See [Safety and security](#). In the Northern and Eastern Provinces, stay on main roads and pay close attention to signs warning of landmines. See [Safety and security](#). Pay careful attention to your visa type. You could be detained or deported if you don't comply with your visa conditions.*

The above information is a short edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Sri Lanka at [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au).

#### Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against Hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Sri Lanka. Vaccination against Hepatitis B, Rabies (particularly if working with animals) Typhoid (particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene) and Japanese Encephalitis may be considered depending on itinerary. Care with food and beverage selection is recommended. There is a medium risk of Malaria in Sri Lanka and Dengue Fever also occurs, as such insect avoidance measures and anti malarial medication may be necessary depending on itinerary.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including for influenza. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Sri Lanka should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips).

#### Sri Lankan Representation in Australia and Abroad

High Commission of Sri Lanka, Canberra  
 61 Hampton Circuit  
 YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6198 3756  
 Web: [www.slhcaust.org](http://www.slhcaust.org)

Consulate General of Sri Lanka, Sydney  
 Level 11, 48 Hunter Street  
 SYDNEY NSW 2000

Tel: (02) 9223 8729  
 Web: [www.slcsyd.com](http://www.slcsyd.com)

QLD Consulate - Tel: 0438 194 852  
 SA Consulate - Tel: (08) 8333 0764  
 VIC Consulate - Tel: (03) 9290 4200  
 WA Consulate - Tel: (08) 9279 9988

Department. of Immigration, Sri Lanka  
 Web: [www.immigration.gov.lk](http://www.immigration.gov.lk)



## Sri Lankan Country Guide

### Page 2 of 5 Important Information while Travelling in Sri Lanka Time Differences between Sri Lanka and Australia

Sri Lanka (SL) is Greenwich Mean Time +5:30 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone in Sri Lanka is called India Standard Time (IST).

SL, 12 noon, Winter (Dec) = Perth 2:30pm, Darwin 4pm, Brisbane 4:30pm, Adelaide 5pm, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 5:30pm.  
 SL, 12 noon, Summer (Jun) = Perth 2:30pm, Darwin, Adelaide 4pm, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 4:30pm.

### Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Sri Lanka: +94  
 To Dial Australia Call: 00 61 <City> <Number>  
 Australian Reverse Charges Direct: 2 449 499  
 Add area code (011) when outside Colombo.  
 Travelex Card Services:  
 Call the US on (00 1) 954 838 8294  
 Visa Global Assistance:  
 Call the US on (00 1) 303 967 1090  
 MasterCard:  
 Call the US on (00 1) 636 722 7111  
 American Express Travellers Cheques :  
 2454485 (add 011 when outside Colombo)  
 Emergency Services:  
 Ambulance / Fire - 110  
 Police - 118/119  
 Tourist Police - (011) 242 1052

These numbers are gradually being phased in throughout Sri Lanka and may not cover all areas. The Emergency Services may not have English speaking staff. To avoid delay it may be best to seek the assistance of a Sinhala speaker to call the emergency services.

### Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

#### Passports

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

#### Credit Cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

#### Travel Insurance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Australian Representation in Sri Lanka

Australian High Commission, Sri Lanka  
 21 Gregory's Road  
 COLOMBO  
 Tel: (+94 11) 246 3200  
 Fax: (+94 11) 268 6453  
 Web: [www.srilanka.embassy.gov.au](http://www.srilanka.embassy.gov.au)

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in Sri Lanka are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Embassy in Colombo, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [www.orao.dfat.gov.au](http://www.orao.dfat.gov.au).



## Sri Lankan Country Guide

Page 3 of 5 General Destination Information for Sri Lanka

### Duty Free Allowances for Sri Lanka and Australia

Duty Free allowances when entering Sri Lanka:

Alcohol: 1.5 L of spirits and 2 regular bottles of wine.  
 Tobacco: Tobacco can not be imported into Sri Lanka.  
 Perfume: Small quantity of perfume, 250ml of eau de toilette.  
 Other Goods: Up to US\$250 of non commercial goods.

Duty Free allowances when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 litres.  
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.  
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

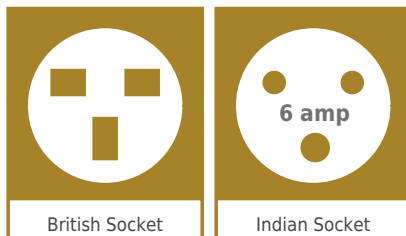
Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering and exiting Sri Lanka and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before entering either country. For information on Sri Lankan Customs regulations please visit [www.customs.gov.lk](http://www.customs.gov.lk), or for information regarding Australian customs regulations please visit [www.border.gov.au](http://www.border.gov.au).

### Electrical Adaptors and Voltage

Electrical socket: British (type G) and Indian (type D) sockets are the most common but South African (type M) and European (type C) sockets may also be found in some areas.

Supply: 220-240 V, 50 Hz (same as Australia).

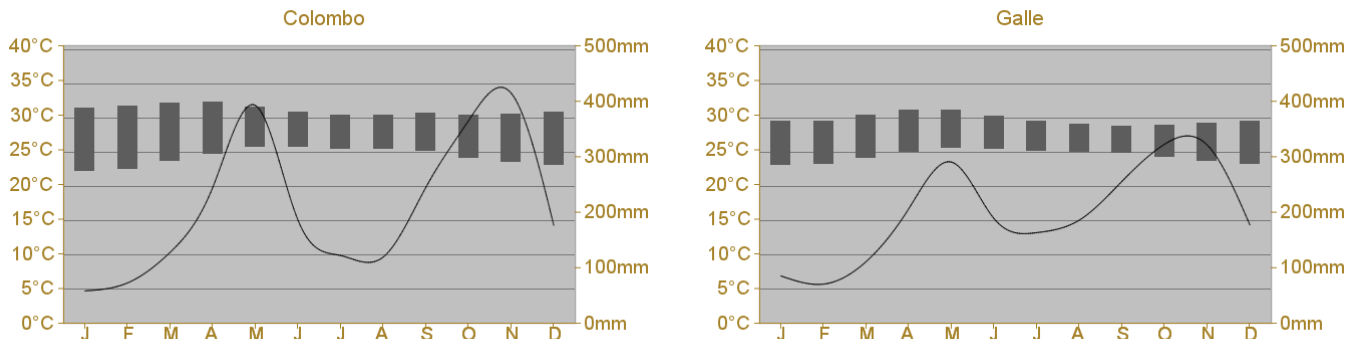
A voltage converter will not usually be required to use appliances designed for Australian use. A socket converter is generally all that is required for Australian appliances.



### Sri Lankan Public Holidays 2018

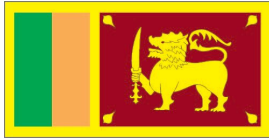
01 Jan: Duruthu Full Moon	29 May: Posen Full Moon
14 Jan: Tamil Thai Pongal	15 Jun: Ramazan Festival
31 Jan: Navam Full Moon	27 Jun: Esala Full Moon
04 Feb: National Day	22 Aug: Hadji Festival
14 Feb: Mahasivarathri Day	25 Aug: Nikini Full Moon
01 Mar: Madin Full Moon	24 Sep: Binara Full Moon
30 Mar: Good Friday	24 Oct: Vap Full Moon
31 Mar: Bak Full Moon	06 Nov: Deepawali Festival
13 Apr: Sinhala New Year's Eve	20 Nov: Birth of Muhammad
14 Apr: Sinhala New Year	22 Nov: Il Full Moon
29-30 Apr: Vesak Full Moon	22 Dec: Unduvap Full Moon
01 May: May Day	25 Dec: Christmas Day

### Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Sri Lanka



Source: Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka. For local forecasts please go to [www.meteo.gov.lk](http://www.meteo.gov.lk) or [www.bbc.co.uk/weather](http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather).

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# Sri Lankan Country Guide

## Page 4 of 5 Sri Lankan Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate Purchasing Power Parity

### Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 124 Sri Lankan Rupees  
 100 Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR) = 0.81 Australian Dollars

### With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 119 Sri Lankan Rupees  
 100 Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR) will cost 0.84 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

The following is a purchasing power comparison of the Sri Lankan Rupee and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing power of the two currencies.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = 737 Sri Lankan Rupees  
 Big Mac Sri Lanka: Rs. 580 (LKR) = 4.68 Australian Dollars

*A Big Mac in Sri Lanka is therefore 21% less expensive than in Australia.*

This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

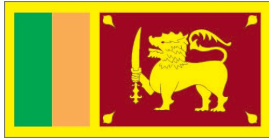
## Currency Cheat Sheet

This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.					
Rs. 50 = \$0.42 AUD	Rs. 1,000 = \$8.39 AUD	Rs. 10,000 = \$83.93 AUD			
Rs. 100 = \$0.84 AUD	Rs. 2,000 = \$16.79 AUD	Rs. 20,000 = \$167.86 AUD			
Rs. 200 = \$1.68 AUD	Rs. 3,000 = \$25.18 AUD	Rs. 30,000 = \$251.78 AUD			
Rs. 300 = \$2.52 AUD	Rs. 4,000 = \$33.57 AUD	Rs. 40,000 = \$335.71 AUD			
Rs. 400 = \$3.36 AUD	Rs. 5,000 = \$41.96 AUD	Rs. 50,000 = \$419.64 AUD			
Rs. 500 = \$4.20 AUD	Rs. 6,000 = \$50.36 AUD	Rs. 60,000 = \$503.57 AUD			
Rs. 600 = \$5.04 AUD	Rs. 7,000 = \$58.75 AUD	Rs. 70,000 = \$587.50 AUD			
Rs. 700 = \$5.87 AUD	Rs. 8,000 = \$67.14 AUD	Rs. 80,000 = \$671.42 AUD			
Rs. 800 = \$6.71 AUD	Rs. 9,000 = \$75.54 AUD	Rs. 90,000 = \$755.35 AUD			
Rs. 900 = \$7.55 AUD		Rs. 100,000 = \$839.28 AUD			

## Notes of Sri Lanka

The legal currency of Sri Lanka is the Sri Lankan Rupee, which is abbreviated using the symbol "Rs." (eg Rs. 100), the currency code "LKR" or less frequently "SLR". The subunit of the rupee is the cent, which is practically obsolete. The following units of currency are the most common but other versions and denominations are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to reproduce images of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below pictures before travelling.





# Sri Lankan Country Guide

## About Sri Lanka

Full Name: Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon, Serendib).

Independence: 1948 (from the UK).

Size: 65,610 sq km (similar to Tasmania).

Population: 21.5 million (similar to Australia). Colombo 2.3 mil; Gampaha 2.3 mil; Kurunegala 1.6 mil; Kandy 1.4 mil.

Ethnicity: Sinhalese 74%, Sri Lankan Moors 7%, Indian Tamils 5%, Sri Lankan Tamils 4%.

Language: Sinhala 74% and Tamil 18% are the official languages. English is used by the government and as a link language.

Religion: Buddhist 70%, Muslim 8%, Hindu 7%, Christian 6%.

GDP Per Capita: US\$6,100 (Australia US\$40,800).

### Significant Dates:

- 18,000BC - Veddahs settle Sri Lanka.
- c400 BC - Sinhalese and other tribes also begin to settle in Sri Lanka.
- 1505 - Portuguese arrive in Colombo, beginning European rule.
- 1658 - The Dutch replace the Portuguese and conquer all kingdoms except Kandy.
- 1796 - The British replace the Dutch as colonial rulers.
- 1815 - British conquer the Kingdom of Kandy and begin importing Tamil labourers from Sth India.
- 1948 - Ceylon gains independence.
- 1972 - Ceylon is renamed Sri Lanka, Buddhism declared the state religion, angering the Tamils.
- 1983 - Civil war begins between the government and Tamil Tigers.
- 2009 - The civil war ends after a military defeat of the Tamils.

