

ALL ABOUT SRI LANKA!

BY WAYS OF THE WORLD

Practical Info:

- Sri Lanka is an island nation in South Asia with a population of 22.2 million.
- The most common language spoken is Sinhala. However, Tamil is more prevalent in the north and parts of eastern Sri Lanka.
- Communicating in English along the main tourist trails is easy. But English is not widely spoken outside of tourist areas.
- Most visitors need a tourist visa to enter. Tourist visas are usually issued for 30-day stays. An eVisa costs 50 USD and can be requested online, here.
- Overstaying your visa can result in hefty fines. We heard of people being charged 500 USD for overstaying by one day!
- The economic & social unrest from late 2022 will not impact your experience in Sri Lanka as a tourist.

***We used Expedia & Agoda for booking accommodation in Sri Lanka.**

We hope you have an amazing time in Sri Lanka!

Reach out on IG for questions!



Sinhala basics:

Hello: Hello :)

Thank you: Stuti

Please: Karunakerara

Yes: Ow

No: Naa

General Tips

- High season is December - April, when the weather is drier and cooler. **Monsoon season** is May - August.
- Sri Lankans drive on the left side of the road (UK-style 😊).
- The electrical **plugs are type G** (same as UK). We travel with this universal travel adapter.
- **PickMe** is the most popular ride-hailing app.
- **Uber/Uber eats** is available in bigger cities. You can book a tuktuk on Uber, though you will likely pay in cash.
- **Foreigner pricing** is common at national parks and monuments. The amounts are usually transparent.

Getting Around

- **Tuktuk rental:** we couldn't recommend this more! Driving a tuktuk in Sri Lanka was the experience of a lifetime. Visit tuktukrentals.com and **use our code 'wotw' for 5% off** your booking!
- **Buses:** affordable but terrifying way to get around; book online here. (we never tried this website just FYI)
- **Train travel:** slow but popular tourist experience. The most scenic routes are between Colombo & Kandy and Ella & Kandy.
- **Car rentals:** average pricing \$55/day. Easy, but not a super exciting way to get around.

Our Itinerary

- **Galle:** 3 nights; [link to our guesthouse](#) [[Galle video](#)]
- **Southern beaches:** 5 nights [[Sri Lanka beaches video](#)]
 - **Ahangama:** [link to our Guesthouse](#)
 - **Talalla:** [link to our Guesthouse](#)
- **Safari @ Uduwalawe:** 3 nights; [link to our glamping accommodation](#) [[Safari video](#)]
- **Ella area:** 5 nights [[Ella video](#)]
 - **Badulla:** [link to our guesthouse](#)
 - **Ella town:** [link to our guesthouse](#)
- **Ella to Kandy road trip:** 4 nights [[road trip video](#)]
 - **Nuwara Eliya:** [link to our guesthouse](#)
 - **Dickoya:** [link to our homestay](#)
- **Kandy:** 4 nights; [link to our guesthouse](#) [[Kandy video](#)]
- **Jaffna:** 3 nights; [link to our homestay](#). [[Jaffna video](#)]
- **Colombo:** 4 nights; [link to our guesthouse](#) [[Colombo video](#)]

Foods to Try

- **Hoppers:** thin, bowl-shaped pancakes with fillings (noodle version called string hopper is also popular).
- **Coconut roti:** soft flatbread made with coconut and wheat flour. Often served with dhal.
- **Kottu:** shredded pieces of roti bread stir-fried with veggies (resembles noodles).
- **Lamprais:** curries & meats steamed in a banana leaf.
- **Rice & curry:** rice with veggie & optional meat curries.

What to Wear

- Sri Lanka is a **multi-religious country**. Dress appropriately, especially at holy sites.
- Traditional **beachwear** is acceptable on the southwest coast.
- North & eastern Sri Lanka are more conservative.
- **Ladies!** If you need ideas for cute & comfy travel outfits, [check out this post](#) on my (Aimara's) style blog!

Some links in this PDF are affiliate links. This means that if you book anything using these links we receive a small commission at no extra cost to you. Thank you in advance for supporting us! This way we can keep creating these travel guides for free :)

Money Tips

- Credit card is not widely accepted. Guesthouses & restaurants are typically cash only.
- ATMs are easy to find on the main roads of most tourist places.
- Sri Lanka has a tipping culture. 10% is common at restaurants.

Places we Missed

- Wilpattu National Park
- Dambulla
- Sigariya
- Anuradhapura
- The entire eastern coastline 😊

Personal Highlights

- Constantly feeling welcomed by the friendly local people.
- Sri Lanka breakfasts served at guesthouses!
- Always feeling safe 😊
- Falling in love with the island!

Yes! Even more info!

Feel free to reach out via [Instagram \(@waysoftheworld_\)](#) & [watch our Sri Lanka travel series on YouTube!](#)