



Country Profile: Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is a presidential parliamentary democracy with a developing economy. Civil war and terrorism have seriously disrupted the country since 1983. Incidents of violence against military personnel and civilians have increased sharply in recent months. On January 16, 2008, the Government formally withdrew from the Ceasefire Agreement they signed with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2002. Despite the armed insurgency, Sri Lanka's beaches, hill country, and archeological sites continue to attract thousands of visitors each year from around the world. The Asian Tsunami on December 26, 2004 caused severe damage and loss of life to several coastal areas of eastern, southern, and southwestern Sri Lanka. Most affected resorts have completely recovered. The capital city of Colombo, the Cultural Triangle (Kandy, Anuradhapura, and Polonnaruwa), and many southern beach towns have good tourist facilities. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Sri Lanka for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Sri Lanka
Continent:	Asia
Capital City:	Colombo
Boundary Countries:	
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Battaramulla: Battaramulla Medical Centre Colombo: Apollo Hospital Colombo, Asha Central Hospital, Asiri Hospital, Australian Medical Practice, Borella Private Hospital, Castle Street Hospital for Women, Durdans Hospital, Macarthy Private Hospital, Medi House, Nawaloka Hospital, New Delmon Hospital, Oasis Hospital, Royal Hospital- Sri Lanka, Sulaiman's Hospital, Waypoint Clinic, Western Infirmary Hospital Galle: Ruhuna Hospital Gampaha: Arogya Hospital Kalubowila: General Hospital Colombo South Kandy: Lakeside Adventist Hospital Kelaniya: Kiribathgoda Medical Centre
Main Cities:	Colombo, Galle, Jaffna, Mannar, Puttalam, Batticaloa, Matale, Kandy, Badulla, Beruwala, Ratnapura, Moratuwa, Negombo, Trincomalee, Kalmunai, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa
Country Size:	65,610 sq km
Population:	21,128,772

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Sinhala (official and national language) 74%, Tamil (national language) 18%, other 8% note: English is commonly used in government and is spoken competently by about 10% of the population.
Currency:	Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR)
Predominant Religions:	Buddhist 69.1%, Muslim 7.6%, Hindu 7.1%, Christian 6.2%, unspecified 10%
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 4 February (1948)

Economic Status:	In 1977, Colombo abandoned statist economic policies and its import substitution trade policy for more market-oriented policies, export-oriented trade, and encouragement of foreign investment. Recent changes in government, however, have brought some policy reversals. About 800,000 Sri Lankans work abroad, 90% of them in the Middle East. They send home more than \$1 billion a year. The struggle by the Tamil Tigers of the north and east for an independent homeland continues to cast a shadow over the economy.
Security:	Sri Lanka Army, Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Air Force.
US Presence:	<u>U.S. Embassy Colombo</u> 210 Galle Road Colombo 03 Sri Lanka Phone: +94 (11) 249-8500
Major Airports:	Airports: 18, Airports w/paved runways: 14 Bandaranaike International Airport (CMB/VCBI) Colombo Airport, Sri Lanka, Katunayake, SRI LANKA Tel: +94 (0)11 225 2861 Fax: +94 (0)11 225 3187 Website: www.airport.lk Customs, hours: 24 hours Tel: +94 (0)11 225 2086, +94 (0)11 225 2208 Fax: +94 (0)11 225 2086

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