

# WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT

## SRI LANKA NEXT

### What's the latest in Sri Lanka?

Being an island, and thanks to the proactive measures taken, Sri Lanka has been able to manage the spread of the virus.

The island nation's high testing rate coupled with its established healthcare and surveillance system has kept COVID-19 mortality at bay.

### Why Sri Lanka?

As the world scrambles to find a cure for Covid-19, health specialists have recommended boosting the body's immune system may help minimize the effects and hasten the recuperation from the disease.

- ▶ **Ayurveda and wellness** - immerse yourself in the customary and antiquated Ayurveda treatments in Sri Lanka that will rejuvenate your psyche, body, and soul. It is of various types and some of its benefits in addition are prevention of aging process, correction, improvement of eyesight, nourishment of tissues, prolonged lifespan, and much more. It is said that Ayurvedic herbs and customary yoga are intense guides to expand the body's immunity against harmful viruses. "Ayurveda" is not only a form of medication – it is a way of life known to generations of Sri Lankans for over 3000 years.
- ▶ **Ceylon Tea** - Black tea being one of the most consumed beverages in the world aside from water is considered to be a wellness drink by many consumers, offering a variety of health benefits which contains antioxidants and compounds that can help reduce inflammation in the body. 'Ceylon Tea' is considered to be Sri Lanka's gift to the world and the country's favourite drink that gives immunity a lift by re-balancing bacteria that live in our gut.
- ▶ **Sunshine and tropic** - Also, as many studies have shown, that high temperature and high humidity decrease the transmission of COVID19. Transmission of COVID19 was exceptionally efficient at 5°C yet was blocked or inefficient at 30°C. Sri Lanka is one of the countries with high humidity which decreased the transmission of the virus, limiting the number of cases and giving you all the more reasons to travel to the beautiful island.

- ▶ A prior booking of the tour package should be done online or via SLTDA registered travel agency.
- ▶ It is mandatory for all tourists to commit to a minimum stay of five (05) nights in Sri Lanka and book all accommodation only at SLTDA registered and 'Safe & Secure' certified establishments; the first night should be booked at an accommodation establishment in close proximity to the arrival airport until results of the on arrival PCR tests are released (Colombo/Negombo areas for arrivals from Bandaranaike/Ratmalana International Airports and Hambantota area for arrivals from Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport).
- ▶ The accommodation service providers, travel agents and/or tour operators should share accommodation and tour details of tourists with the SLTDA through a data login process.

## Visa procedure

- ▶ The "Visa Free" status and the issuance of "On Arrival" visas are suspended until further notice.
- ▶ All tourists entering Sri Lanka are required to obtain online tourist visas before arrival via [www.eta.gov.lk](http://www.eta.gov.lk)
- ▶ An online tourist visa fee of USD 100 will be applicable until further notice.

### **The following documents are mandatory for processing online tourist visa;**

- ▶ A valid travel insurance with health and hospitalization coverage for the entire duration of stay.
- ▶ A valid return air ticket.
- ▶ Travel itinerary and details of confirmed reservations made at SLTDA registered and 'Safe & Secure' certified accommodation establishments, with the first night stay at a facility in and around Colombo/ Negombo or Hambantota depending on the arrival airport.

## Airline requirement

Any Airline operating flights to Sri Lanka will check tourists for valid visas and negative PCR test reports before allowing them to board the flight.

## Country health authority requirements

- ▶ A Negative PCR report issued by an accredited laboratory within 72 hours prior to the landing in Sri Lanka.
- ▶ All tourists should undergo a PCR test at the arriving airport.
- ▶ A repeat PCR test to be conducted 5-7 days after the arrival or if the guest develops respiratory symptoms, whichever comes first.

- ▶ For tourists staying longer than 10 days, another PCR test will be carried out between 10-12 days after the arrival in Sri Lanka.

#### **Special notes:**

- ▶ The necessary PCR tests detailed above will be conducted free of charge.
- ▶ If any tourist is tested positive for COVID-19, he/she will be sent to a hospital or a quarantine hotel and will be charged at the rate of USD 100 per night.
- ▶ The booked in accommodation establishments/hotels, travel agents or tour operators are responsible for arranging safe transportation of tourists within the country.
- ▶ Sri Lanka Tourism has initiated discussions with relevant authorities to consider relaxation of tourist visa conditions to encourage long stays and multiple visits of tourists.

#### **Airport arrival**

- ▶ Use only traditional Sri Lankan greeting “Ayubowan” at all times instead of handshaking, hugging or kissing.
- ▶ Face masks worn during the flight should be disposed of and new face masks should be worn before entering the airport.
- ▶ Washing hands with soap and disinfecting the footwear is mandatory for all tourists before entering the airport.
- ▶ Tourists/airport staff should maintain a minimum distance of 1.5 meter between two people at all times.
- ▶ All arriving passengers and airline crew members should undergo temperature screening through thermal scanners; if anyone records a temperature of 37.4oC (99.3oF) or above, he/she should be immediately referred to the airport health office of Quarantine Unit for further examination and necessary action.
- ▶ The tourists and airport staff should wear face masks at all times; surgical face masks should be changed every 4 to 6 hours and if needed, face masks can be purchased at the airport.
- ▶ Disinfecting procedures to be in place for all arrivals, luggage and travel documents.

#### **Health/Immigration counters**

- ▶ Every arriving passenger should submit a completed Health Declaration Form (HDF) of Sri Lanka to health counters at the airport; The PHIs will scrutinize HDFs and passengers for COVID-19 symptoms and tourists with high risk conditions will be referred to the Airport Health Officer for further action.
- ▶ A glass/transparent plastic shield (sneeze guard) should be placed in the immigration counters to separate staff and visitors.
- ▶ Immigration officers should check all mandatory documents of visitors including PCR report, travel insurance, travel/stay details, health counter clearance note and tourists' personal details.

- ▶ All tourists entering Sri Lanka should be electronically registered through the immigration counters in a centralized database with back end dashboard.
- ▶ After completing immigration procedures, the tourists should undergo the mandatory PCR testing at the sample collection facility inside the airport.

### **Special counter handled by Sri Lanka Tourism**

All tourists should visit this counter and complete the following;

- ▶ Online registration of the personal information including travel agents/tour operators, accommodation and transport details.
- ▶ Obtain information on COVID-19 preventive measures, procedures and emergency contact details.
- ▶ Download the mobile app (once available) and activate it for connectivity and traceability.

### **Information and travel counters (for general travel information)/banks**

- ▶ Always establish glass/plastic shields (sneeze guards) in the counters to separate staff and the tourists.
- ▶ The Information/Travel counters should clearly explain the basic safety measures tourists should follow during accommodation and when on tour.
- ▶ The bank staff should encourage customers to do on-line transactions and credit/debit card payments in order to minimize cash handling; reliable and clear information should be made available about such payment methods to the tourists.

### **Tourist Police procedure**

- ▶ The tourist police will clear tourists and send them to the designated transport pick up area after ensuring the following;
- ▶ Availability of the tourists' personal protection equipment (face masks, sanitizers etc.).
- ▶ Detailed Travel plan with transportation and accommodation arrangements.
- ▶ Recording of passport numbers of tourists along with details of the pickup vehicle and the driver.