



SRI LANKA
Travel Information and Map

Abercrombie & Kent



SRI LANKA





Central Highlands

Another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Central Highlands hosts the island’s highest peaks and is a true photographer’s paradise. It’s cooler temperatures often call for log fires and blankets, unlike the rest of the island. This climate allows for an extraordinary range of flora and fauna to be discovered. Adams Peak is regarded as one of the two mountains in the world to capture the perfect sunrise. Vast tea beds and scenic water falls are a common sight and Sambar Deer or leopard is also not too uncommon.

LOW AND HIGH TEMPERATURE IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High °C	20	21	22	21	20	17	17	17	18	18	18	18
High °F	68	70	71	71	70	65	65	65	66	66	66	66
Low °C	7	7	8	10	12	13	12	12	12	9	7	7
Low °F	48	48	50	51	52	55	52	52	52	51	51	51

BEST TIME TO GO

During the months of January, February, March, April and May you will experience pleasant weather with a nice average temperature. Usually, the warmest month is April and the coldest are December, January and February. On average, higher rainfall can be expected in October and November whereas March and July are the driest months. While May and June are less expensive months to travel, June, September and October give added value in terms of package cost.

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Horse racing season - April
Season to visit the Hakgala Botanical Garden - April
Adams Peak pilgrimage season -December to May
Ramayana Trail special hotspots

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Castlereagh Reservoir -Dickoya. Chartered helicopter options are also available.

Travel Tips



Visa

Sri Lanka has an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) system which grants prior approval for visas for foreign nationals online. You can register online at www.eta.gov.lk to obtain your visa. You may also obtain visa on arrival to Sri Lanka, however we do not recommend doing so. ETAs allow a stay of up to 30 days from the date of entry. Carrying a print-out of the ETA is highly recommended as immigration officials may ask to see it upon arrival.

ABERCROMBIE & KENT SRI LANKA

Ayubowan! This is a traditional greeting in Sri Lanka which translates into “may you live long”. Sri Lanka is a compact island with diverse offerings. With A&K you are guaranteed local on-the-ground knowledge combined with international expertise, ensuring our guests receive a professional service with a home-away-from-home feel. Our carefully thought out & moments ensure a trip unlike any other since, to us, guests are much more than just a number, rather an excuse to be creative and inspirational.

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East Coast

The north-eastern areas such as Trincomalee is ideal for whale and dolphin-watching, snorkeling, watersports, yachting, diving and known for the famed Koneshwaram Hindu Temple. Passikudah is renowned for its white powdered sandy beach. Only beach with no humidity is also a treat to the holiday makers.

LOW AND HIGH TEMPERATURE IN EAST COAST

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High °C	27	29	30	33	34	34	34	34	33	31	29	28
High °F	80	85	85	92	93	93	93	93	92	87	85	83
Low °C	24	24	25	25	26	26	25	25	25	24	24	24
Low °F	76	76	78	78	79	79	78	78	78	76	76	76

BEST TIME TO GO

During the months of January, February, March, November and December you will experience pleasant weather with a nice average temperature. On average the temperatures are always high. Rain can be expected in January ,February, September, October, November and December. On average the warmest month is July while the coolest is January. December is the wettest while June is the driest.

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Whale and Dolphin watching - January to Mid- March
Shipwreck Diving - April to November
Koneshawaram Hindu Temple visit

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Batticaloa and Trincomalee. Chartered helicopter options are also available.

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Diving with whale and underwater photography

The Blue Whale is one of the Big 5 animals found in Sri Lanka. We have experts with in the island who are trained to handle special tours such as underwater photography capturing some of the rarest moments such as capturing the biggest mammal in the sea. This special excursion could be done in Trincomalee from Mid-March to first week of April.

Travel Tips



Airport Silk Route Service

This is a priority service hosted at Bandaranaike International Airport where the Silk Route representative meets our guests as they disembark and swiftly guides them through immigration and on to an arrival lounge for refreshments. From here, they are met by our local airport representative as well as our guide or driver-guide. This service is at an additional, but minimal, cost.



South Coast

The south-western coast is famed for its beaches and water sports but also traditional puppet artistry, moonstone mines and rubber plantations. The south-eastern coast is home to Arugambay - a world-renowned surfing spot. The deep-south is gaining popularity for cruise tourism. This coast is also home to national parks, turtle conservation projects and pilgrim sites.

LOW AND HIGH TEMPERATURE IN SOUTH COAST

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High °C	29	30	30	31	30	30	30	30	29	30	29	29
High °F	85	86	86	88	86	86	86	86	85	86	85	85
Low °C	23	23	25	25	25	24	24	24	24	24	23	23
Low °F	72	73	73	76	76	76	75	75	75	73	73	73

BEST TIME TO GO

On average, the temperatures are always high. June, July and August usually have pleasant average temperature. Most rainfall is experienced towards May, June, July, October, and November. On average, the warmest month is April and the coolest month being January. February is the driest month.

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Dickwella and Weerawila. Chartered helicopter options are also available.

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- Surfing in Arugambay - June to September
- Kite Surfng - December to April
- Kataragama festival - July/ August
- Whale watching - December to March

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One Day of Adventure

Being such a small, yet diverse island, means we can pack single days full of adventure. As designed for our Founder and CEO on his private tour of Sri Lanka, we are able to show guests the blue whale by air, let them indulge in fresh seafood on the east coast's sandy beaches, fly to the mountains for an escorted walk through a tea estate and spot the elusive leopard in Yala National Park, all in one day!

Travel Tips



Local Food

Rice is a staple food for the islanders while just about anything can be curried or made in to salads. Fish, meat or vegetables can be cooked in coconut milk and seasoned with many local spices. The 'hot' or 'spicy' taste can be challenging to a first timer's palate. Tropical, juicy fruits like pineapple, guava, mangoes, wood apples, bananas, watermelons, jack fruit and also seasonal fruits such as rambutan, durian and mangostine are a must try. Local and foreign alcoholic drinks are readily available, however the sale of liquor is prohibited on Poya Days (full moon day) for religious reasons.



National Parks

Sri Lanka has a variety of national parks offering great wildlife-viewing opportunities. Yala National Park is home to the highest density of leopards, whilst Udawalawe and Minneriya are excellent parks in which to view wild Asian Elephants in their natural habitat. Wilpattu National Park is full of small, natural lakes or “Willu” and Bundala and Kumana are the best spots for bird-watching.

BEST TIME TO SEE WILDLIFE IN SRI LANKA

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Leopard												
Elephant												
Sloth Bear												
Blue Whale Mirissa												
Blue Whale Trincomalee												
Sperm Whale												
Birding												
Primates												

BEST PLACES TO SEE WILDLIFE IN SRI LANKA

Wildlife	Location
Leopard	Yala National Park, Wilpattu National Park
Elephant	Yala National Park, Minneriya National Park, Udawalawe National Park, Wilpattu National Park
Sloth Bear	Wilpattu National Park, Wasgamuwa National Park, Yala National Park
Blue Whale	Mirissa, Kalpitiya, Trincomalee
Sperm Whale	Mirissa, Trincomalee, Kalpitiya
Dolphin	Mirissa, Trincomalee, Kalpitiya
Endemic Birds	Sinharaja Rainforest, Adams Peak, Kanneliya National Park

SPECIAL EVENTS

The flowering season at Wilpattu National Park, The Elephant Gathering in Minneriya National Park, The migrant bird season in Mannar and Bunadala National Park. Annual closure of Yala National Park - September

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Wildlife photography tours and nature documentaries

Whether swimming with the largest mammal in the sea or exploring national parks in search of leopards, those moments are best experienced in person and not through your own lens. However, to allow guests to take home and relive those memories, let our industry experts, who have worked with the likes of National Geographic, the Discovery Channel and Disney Nature Movies, capture the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity on our special filming and photography tours.





Colombo

The capital city of Colombo, is a blend of both historic value and modern vibes. It is a great place to start or end a tour. Dating back over 600 years, Colombo was historically a trading hub for sea merchants and colonial rulers. The city offers magnificent views of the Indian Ocean. Do not miss out on the Gangaramaya Buddhist Temple, the Pettah bazar area, the Wolfendhal Dutch Church, the Old Parliament complex, The Bandaranaike International Memorial Hall, the Galle Face Green, Viharamahadevi Park, the Independence Square and the National Museum. Taking time off to enjoy some shopping for local handicrafts and ethnic-ware is a must.

LOW AND HIGH TEMPERATURE IN COLOMBO

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High °C	31	31	32	32	31	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
High °F	88	88	90	90	88	86	86	86	86	86	86	86
Low °C	22	23	24	25	26	26	25	25	25	24	23	23
Low °F	72	73	75	77	79	79	77	77	77	75	73	73

BEST TIME TO GO

April is the hottest month in Colombo and the coldest is January. The wettest month is May with an average of 382mm of rain while February is generally the driest. The best month to swim in the sea is in April when the average sea temperature is 30°C (86°F). While May and June are less expensive months to travel, June, September and October give added value in terms of package cost.

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- Duruthu Perahara Festival in Kelaniya Temple - January
- Navam Perahara Festival in Gangarama Temple - February
- Vesak Festival - May
- Vel Festival - July /August
- Sinhala & Tamil New Year celebrations - April

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Bandaranaike International Airport and the Water’s Edge. Chartered helicopter options are also available.

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Buddhist Monk Ordination Ceremony

Take part in a rare ceremony and admire the sacred rituals depicting the ordination of a Samanera (novice) Buddhist monk. It is said that not only the parents but four generations before will gain merit by offering a member of their family to monkhood and the child is destined from birth. The family gives consent and blessings for their child to follow an ascetic life. The child is elevated from a layman to a Samanera Buddhist monk as he takes refuge in the Noble Triple Gems of Buddhism.

Travel Tips



Air Quality Index

Sri Lanka is blessed with a higher quality of air compared to many of its neighbors in the region. The island’s positive ranking on global environmental indices is encouraging. In 2014 Sri Lanka topped Environment Performance Index in South Asia and continues to uphold its benchmark record for environmental responsibility.



Spread across the north-central region of the island, this area alone hosts four UNESCO World Heritage Sites, namely Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya and Dambulla. Additionally, there are several wildlife parks such as Minneriya, Kaudulla and Wasgamuwa. For more active travelers we also recommend, Mihintale and Ritigala nature reserves. It is a great place to experience country life in Sri Lanka and witness the warm hospitality offered by our villagers.

LOW AND HIGH TEMPERATURE IN CULTURAL TRIANGLE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High °C	31	32	34	37	35	34	34	33	32	32	29	29
High °F	89	90	94	98	94	93	94	91	89	89	83	83
Low °C	20	19	22	23	25	25	25	25	24	24	23	23
Low °F	67	67	71	74	76	77	77	77	75	75	73	73

BEST TIME TO GO

During the months of January, February, March, April and May you will experience pleasant weather with a nice average temperature. Most rainfall comes in October, November and December. The driest months are June and July. Usually, the warmest month is April and the coolest month is February. While May and June are less expensive months to travel, June, September and October give added value in terms of package cost.

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- Elephant Gathering in Minneriya National Park - September
- Poson Festival season in Mihintale - June
- Paddy harvesting season - September to March

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Sigiriya airbase. Chartered helicopter options are also available.

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Insider Architectural Tours

Our close connection with a group of archaeologists and architects means that those passionate in both of these subjects can gain an insider’s understanding of certain sites in Sri Lanka. These experts and scholars have access to sites that are normally closed to the general public. Their witty delivery and in-depth knowledge about each of them makes for an interesting, yet fun, private tour, concentrating of masterpieces from the likes of Geoffrey Bawa, Sri Lanka’s most creative and influential architect.

Travel Tips



What to Pack

Cotton clothing, a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, sunblock and comfortable walking shoes are best for sightseeing. Shawls, long skirts, long trousers, long-sleeved shirts and extra pairs of socks are recommended for temple visits. Warmer clothing is needed in the hills while a light-weight jacket with some smart-casual attire is recommended when dining in city restaurants or those with dress codes. The luggage allowance for carry-on baggage in domestic flights is 5 kilograms.



Kandy

This UNESCO World Heritage city is rich in traditions, history, arts and craft. Kandyan craftsmen are some of the most renowned in Sri Lanka. It is home to the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic of Buddha, the Royal Botanical Gardens and a less-well-known 18-hole golf course. A stroll on the market place and trying out local sweets and pastisseries will indeed be a treat. Up close and personal interaction with a gemologist or a local artisan will add value to the journey.

LOW AND HIGH TEMPERATURE IN KANDY

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High °C	30	31	33	34	32	31	31	31	30	30	29	29
High °F	87	89	91	93	90	87	88	87	86	86	83	83
Low °C	18	17	19	20	21	21	22	22	21	21	21	21
Low °F	64	63	66	69	71	71	71	71	70	70	69	69

BEST TIME TO GO

On average, the warmest month is April and the coolest is February. October and November are the wettest months with higher rain fall. March, June and July are the driest months. While May and June are less expensive months to travel, June, September and October give added value in terms of package cost.

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The Esala Perahara Festival -July/August
Best season to visit the Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens - Mid-January to Mid-March

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Polgolla. Chartered helicopter options are also available.

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Mini Perahara Pageant

The Esala Perahara taking place in Kandy in July or August is one of the most spectacular festivals in Sri Lanka. For those travelling outside of these months, we can recreate a mini pageant, only for our guests, with traditional Kandyan dancers, flag bearers, drummers, fire dancers and beautifully decorated elephants, just as you would expect from the main event.

Travel Tips



Shopping

Items made of silver, brass, ceramics and wood are amongst the best and most authentic souvenirs of Sri Lanka. Ritual masks, lacquer-ware, batik and handloom textiles, lace and wood carvings are popular in the country. Ceylon tea, cinnamon and Sri Lankan gems specially the Ceylon Blue Sapphires should not be missed.



Colloquially known as a ‘city within a city’, the busy port of Galle was invaded by the Portuguese, Dutch and the British a few centuries ago. Many influences still remain today, such as the beautiful archways and curved eaves of Dutch architecture. Home to 14 bastions around the fort since early 1500, today the city is famous for its Dutch Fort, cobbled streets, outdoor dining, boutique hotels and stylish stores. The area is renowned for cinnamon tapping and virgin white-tips tea. Surrounded by the sea it is a great spot to see the fisherman in action or in auction of its daily catch.

LOW AND HIGH TEMPERATURE IN GALLE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High °C	31	31	31	32	31	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
High °F	88	88	88	90	88	86	86	86	86	86	86	86
Low °C	23	23	24	25	26	26	25	25	25	24	24	23
Low °F	73	73	75	77	79	79	77	77	77	75	75	73

BEST TIME TO GO

March, April and May are the hottest months in Galle and the coolest are January and February. The wettest months are May, August and September whereas February and March are generally dry. While May and June are less expensive months to travel, June, September and October give added value in terms of package cost.

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Whale and Dolphin watching in Mirissa - December to March
The Galle Literary Festival - January

Domestic Air Connectivity

Scheduled flights from Koggala air base. Chartered helicopter options are also available.

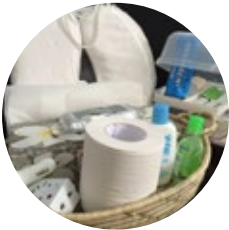
& Moment



Private dining at a unique location

Thanks to our connections and standing within Sri Lanka, in 2014 we were the first to host a private event on the Galle Fort (one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the country) since its construction in the 16th Century. This is just one example of the private dining options we are able to host for our guests. From high tea in the middle of a National Park to a farmer’s lunch in a paddy field, our influence and local contacts mean that practically anything is possible.

Travel Tips



Keeping Healthy

Carrying a basic first aid kit with an adequate supply of prescribed medicine to last your trip is advised. There are no compulsory vaccinations however vaccination for tetanus, typhoid and hepatitis can be recommended. If travelling from a destination inflicted by yellow fever, proof of vaccination is a must. The best defense against mosquitos would be a good insect repellent and keeping well covered during dawn and dusk. Sri Lanka is a Malaria free country. Tap water is safe for daily use while bottled mineral water or boiled water is recommended for drinking.



Abercrombie & Kent

SRI LANKA

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