



*feel at home  
feel happy*

feel part of paradise





Dear “*villa layanga*” guests,

We warmly welcome you to our guestrooms.

Perhaps you have already visited Sri Lanka before, got to know and love it, or you arrived today for the first time in the “Land of Eternal Smile”.

Some guests just want to relax and unwind from everyday life, some want to get to know the country and the people and immerse themselves in the colourful life of Sri Lanka - every tourist wants to experience something different, everyone will find something beautiful and everyone has different requirements and interests as to how they wish to enjoy their days off.

You’ve probably already researched Sri Lanka on the Internet, received tips from friends and acquaintances or from travel guides. There are many different ideas about this diverse country.

On the following pages we want to give you a few tips - as locals and also from the tourist perspective. What we ourselves find beautiful on the island, where it is worthwhile to take a tour and tips for the environment, etc. This is aimed at helping you travel easier and get a first little insight into the life and culture of Sri Lanka - not only as a ‘tourist’ but as friends who already have friends here.

A land of many contrasts awaits you - wealth and poverty are close together. Likewise design, art, nature and endless beaches. Different religions and also the past Colonial times characterize the country. There is almost everything on this island to discover, if you search and find it you will be surprised by how diverse and colourful Sri Lanka is.

From the bottom of our hearts we wish you a relaxing, exciting and positive time, also many unforgettable moments and beautiful encounters on the Indian Ocean. If you have any questions, we are happy to help you personally - just contact us!

*Ayubowan, your “villa layanga” team.*

*Ayubowan*



## Worth knowing • facts

**Sri Lanka**, Ceylon until 1972, is an island state in the Indian Ocean, 237 km below the southern tip of the Indian subcontinent. The shortest distance between India (Kodiyakkarai) and Sri Lanka (Munasal) is 54.8 km.

### RESIDENTS

about 20.8 million

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Sinhalese and Tamil

### CAPITAL

Colombo

### AREA

65.610 km<sup>2</sup>

### TIME ZONE

CET + 4:30 hrs (wintertime)    CEST + 3:50 hrs (summertime)

GMT + 5:30 hrs (wintertime)    BST + 3:50 hrs (summertime)

### CALLING CODE

+94

### CURRENCY

Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR)

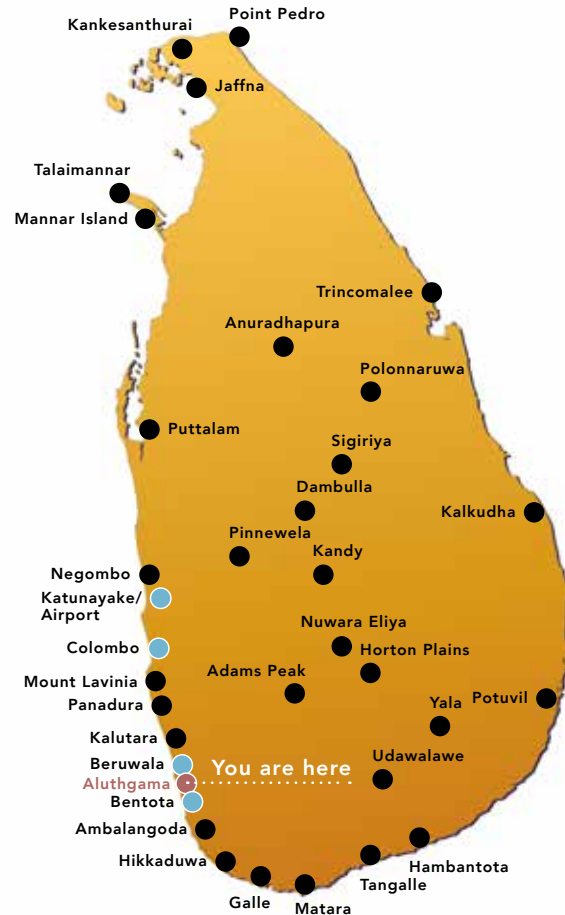
### RELIGION

70 % Buddhists

13% Hindus

10% Muslims

7% Christian





## CLIMATE / TRAVEL

From 16 degrees in the highlands (it can even snow here) to 35 degrees, everything is possible in Sri Lanka. The average temperature is between 28-30 degrees.

In the mountainous regions it is often a few degrees cooler, especially at night, sometimes the temperature can be just above freezing.

### Monsoon

Southwest Monsoon: May to August

Northeast Monsoon: October to January

Depending on the region and monsoon season, Sri Lanka is easy to travel around all year. In the mountainous areas you can expect rainfall throughout the year. Therefore, always pack a jacket.

These are just recommendations. Like everywhere else in the world, the climate is changing in Sri Lanka, so nobody can predict when the monsoon will start exactly and how long it will last. Sometimes it does not rain during the monsoon season and sometimes during the peak season a few drops fall from the sky. No one can control nature, but despite the rain it is warm throughout most of the year in most regions.

## Activities in certain seasons / Main holidays

Activity	Recommended travel time
National Parks	November - April
Adam's Peak	December - May
Beaches	South & West Coast November - April East Coast April - October
Whales and dolphins	South Coast November - April East Coast April - September
Turtles watching	November - April
Perahera Kandy	August
Buddhist New Year	13. / 14. April
Independence Day	4th of February

*On full moon days many shops are closed and usually no alcohol is served.*

Knowledge





## environment tips • let's do something

### TEMPLE KANDE VIHERA

>> The largest sitting Buddha can be found in Kande Vihera Temple in Aluthgama. Approximately 5 minutes from villa layanga by tuk-tuk.

**Tip:** *Go with a guide, they will explain the rituals well and bring the stories to life.*

**Dress recommendation:** *White top (all in white is better), knees and shoulders covered, the temple complex is entered barefoot (or socks if the ground is too hot).*

**Duration:** *variable, approx. 1-2 hours.*

### FISH MARKET

>> Best time to go to the fish market in Beruwala is in the morning between 5-7 o'clock, at this time is the fish market is full of life. Very colourful, all hustle and bustle.

**Tip:** *Travel back to Aluthgama along the coast through the Muslim Quarter. Every day.*

### WATER SPORTS / FISHING

>> Water sports are offered on the beach or on the river, e.g. Water skiing, wind surfing, surfing, banana boat, tubes, deep sea fishing, etc.

### MARKET

>> Here you will find all kinds of vegetables and fruits. Even small things such as toys or household goods are available to purchase. Very colourful, hustle and bustle.

*Every Monday in Aluthgama.*

### SHOPPING

>> You do not necessarily have to go to Colombo to buy souvenirs, clothes, spices, fabrics, etc., you can do it in Aluthgama, Bentota and Beruwala. Just stroll through the local shops along the street. It is an experience - you can find everything available here.









## environment tips • let's do something

### BRIEF GARDEN BY BEWIS BAWA

>> Approximately 20 minutes drive inland by tuk-tuk or car from Aluthgama.

An oasis of tranquility in tropical flora, an interesting history of the former owner and a beautiful mansion in the middle of the jungle with lots of art and design. Worth seeing and ideal for a short trip.

**Duration:** Variable, minimum 1-2 hours.



### TURTLE FARM

>> Bentota / Induruwa.

Approximately 20 minutes drive by tuk-tuk or car from Aluthgama. Here you can see the rearing of sea turtles, which are protected after hatching and then allowed to return to the sea when they are old enough.

You can even release the turtles yourself! Entry fees provide funding for this valuable environmental project.

**Duration:** Approx 2 hours.



### BOAT TRIP

>> Through the mangroves on the Bentota River.

**Duration** between 1-2 hours (longer if you want).

>> Boat trip on Madu Ganga Lake.

**Duration** between 2-3 hours (Tip: Visit Cinnamon Island).

...surrounding



## tour tips • sri lanka to get to know

### DAY TOURS & ROUND TRIPS

>> The island has much to offer. From tropical plants, breathtaking wildlife, religious pilgrim cities as well as the colourful hustle and bustle of Sri Lankan life. You can get a little insight with a day tour or a longer trip to explore the country. Just talk to us and we will put together an individual tour with you according to your wishes, time and budget.

*Here are a few suggestions, of course there is much more ...*

### POLONNARUWA

>> Archaeological Park of Polonnaruwa - UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Cultural Triangle of Sri Lanka. Here you can immerse yourself in the history of Sri Lanka and visit the four Buddha figures cut into a rock.

### SIGIRIYA & DAMBULLA

>> **Sigiriya:** The Lion's Rock, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1982. See the famous "cloud Maidens" and share their amazing view of the countryside.

>> **Dambulla:** 72 km north of Kandy. Famous for its Buddhist cave temples, for the largest rose quartz occurrence in South Asia and for Namal Uyana (Ironwood Forest). For many tourists this is the first destination of a tour.

### ADAMS PEAK

>> 2243 meters high, in the central highlands. Also called Sri Pada ("Holy Foot"), the 'well in the rock' at the summit, is interpreted by some as a footprint of the Buddha, by others of the god Shiva, or of Adam.

*A spiritual experience, best climbed at night during the months of December to May.*



tour





## tour tips • sri lanka to get to know

### KANDY

>> City in the central highlands. Always a bit cooler than in the lowlands. A must see is the "Temple of the Tooth" - a truly cultural experience. In the middle of August, Kandy is visited by many Buddhist pilgrims and the relic is carried on an elephant through the city (Esala Perahera).

**Tip:** *Temple Tour, City Tour, Kandy Lake, Kandy Dancer Performance, visit Helgas Follys (an eccentric furnished "hotel")*

### BOTANICAL GARDENS

>> 5.5 kilometers west of Kandy, about 80 acres. In the garden there are more than 4000 plant species on show. Films such as the Jungle Book, were filmed here.  
*Beautiful and very interesting.*

### PINNAWALA

>> Elephant orphanage (Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage) where orphaned or wounded elephants live in natural surroundings.  
*A little touristy, nevertheless it is nice to watch the elephants bathing by the river (twice a day).*  
>> Near to the elephant orphanage it is possible to ride on elephants and swim in the river with them (elephant safari).

### HIGHLAND (ELLA, TRAIN TOUR)

>> Indescribably beautiful landscape - called by locals "Little England". Temperature during the day is about 16 degrees - take some warm clothes!  
**Tip:** *Train ride from Kandy to the Highlands and Horton Plains ("World's End")*



tour







## tour tips • sri lanka to get to know

### COLOMBO \_ Capital of Sri Lanka

>> **What we would do here:** Pettha Moslem Market, Tuk-Tuk City Tour, World Trade Centre, Dutch Hospital, Beira Lake, Barefood, Odel, House of Fashion, Sundowner and Galle Face Promenade, Gangaramaya Buddhist Temple, Viharamahadevi Park, watch a cricket match (Sri Lanka's national sport).  
**Our favorite restaurant:** *Gallery Café and The Kingsbury Sky Lounge.*

### NATIONAL PARKS

>> There are several in Sri Lanka. You drive with a guide in open jeeps through the national parks (this can be a bit dusty).

Here are the two best known:

- **Yala:** most famous and oldest nature reserve in the southeast, With good luck you can also see leopards and sloth bears here.
- **Udawalawe:** national park in the south, lots of elephants.

### GALLE

>> Beautiful old town with a lot of art and design. Definitely visit the shops, which usually have picturesque courtyards with restaurants and bars. Walk on the city wall, beautiful view of the ocean.

**Tip:** *From Aluthgama to the south you can take the highway or drive along the coast - past the Tsunami monument, the moonstone mines and the stilt fishermen (the latter two are purely tourist attractions but still interesting to see).*



tour

*insider tips* • which may still be interesting

## WHERE WE LIKE TO GO

*Tips from our "villa layanga" team  
(Margit, Lasantha, Steve, Penney and Lalith)*

## THE VILLA

Here you can go for a nice meal or have a relaxing cup of tea in beautiful surroundings. Belongs to Paradise Road in Colombo.  
*Approximately 15 minutes from Aluthgama, Bentota.*

## SAMAN VILLAS

From here you can enjoy a breathtaking sunset and enjoy a cocktail overlooking the Indian Ocean. Also the restaurant is highly recommended - excellent food and something special.  
*Approximately 15 minutes from Aluthgama, Bentota.  
European prices.*

## MASSAGES

Masseur comes directly to "villa layanga". Please ask.

## RESTAURANTS

*Nebula:* Great, charming restaurant on the river (next to German supermarket in Aluthgama).  
*Ganga Garden:* By the river. Very quiet and nice to sit.  
*Aida:* Upscale cuisine. Approximately 10 euros per meal.

*Singharaja (German bakery):* very cheap Sinhalese food and delicious cakes  
*Golden Grill:* At the lake in Bentota. More upscale cuisine.  
Approximately 10 euros per meal.  
*>> For more tips, just ask us.*

## >> SOUVENIRS

### JEWELLERY

A variety of precious stones come from Sri Lanka. The moonstone is found exclusively in Sri Lanka. You can visit the mines in the area (towards Galle). We have two trusted jewellers where we source our own jewellery. Here you can still get bespoke, handmade items with certification and cheaper than in Europe.

### TEA & SPICES

The Ceylon tea is world famous which you can buy when visiting a tea factory. There are also several tea shops in Aluthgama. The variety of high-quality spices such as cinnamon, turmeric, saffron, chilli and pepper are typical of Sri Lanka. We are happy to advise you where you can buy this other than in the supermarket. Ask us for the address.





### WOOD CARVING

Wood carved elephants, Buddhas, spoons, toys, batik, etc. Our friend Mewan of *Sunflower* owns one of the largest wood carving workshops in Bentota. Here you have the opportunity to watch production, to have something made for yourself and to buy small souvenirs or to have them shipped to your home country. *Handicrafts.*

### AYURVEDIC PHARMACY

Please do not buy herbs, spices or ointments in herb gardens, these are often overpriced. In Aluthgama there is an Ayurveda pharmacy where you can buy these at good quality and reasonable prices.

### WHAT ELSE YOU CAN DO

- >> Book your own chef to come and to cook for you in the garden of villa layanga
- >> Experience a cooking class
- >> Yoga / sports activities (hiking, canoeing, etc.)
- >> Cycling / cycling tours
- >> Tuk Tuk transport service
- >> Celebrations (birthday, wedding, etc.)
- >> Rent a houseboat for parties
- >> Go deep sea fishing or diving

There is much more that can be done  
It is best to contact us and we will do our best to assist you with all your wishes.

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*Do not take corals or shells with you! This will cause trouble at customs!  
Also all "Buddha" souvenirs, as well as food and spices, are better packed in your suitcase and not carried in hand luggage.*

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**INFO:** If you want to get to know Sri Lanka, we are happy to help. We at villa layanga have our own minibus (insured of course) and our own tour guides (with official tour guide license for Sri Lanka). The prices are compiled on site (depending on how many guests attend and your selected tour itinerary). Each trip and tour can be put together individually according to your wishes and budget. All tours are feasible for one person and are individually bookable (see our separate info flyer).  
>> *Ask on site for Lalith De Silva Gunamuni or email: [info@villalayanga.com](mailto:info@villalayanga.com)  
We are pleased to show you our homeland Sri Lanka.*

insider





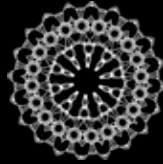


own notes



notes





*villa layanga*

riverside guestrooms



*villa layanga* . riverside guestrooms

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