

The BEST OF SRI LANKA Tour



FAQ's

How to Book

Please fill in the booking form that can be downloaded on the Best of Sri Lanka (BoSL) Tour website.

The cost of each tour is different and can range between \$2000 - \$4300 USD. This does not include airfares. A single supplement is an extra \$450 USD and this guarantees you have your own room.

BoSL requires a 10% deposit with the booking form and the balance 60 days out from the departure date.

Duration

The trip duration also varies but are usually 12 days and 11 nights.

See dates for your chosen tour.

Inclusions

All accommodation, 11 nights

Transport in a luxury seven seat van, 12 days

Airport pick up and drop off

Breakfast every day

2 dinners

2 afternoon teas

cooking classes (variable)

Train tickets to Kandy

Entrance fees to temples, special tours and activities

Guest speakers

Gratuities and tips

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Exclusions

Flights to and from Colombo

Visas (see visa section below)

Additional accommodation in Colombo if guests decide to stay before or after tour starts and finishes

Spas, massages, surf lessons, yoga classes

Drinks and alcohol

All meals not covered in the itinerary

Climate and What to wear

The local climate is tropical and humid, but mild. Temperatures usually range between 28 – 31 degrees most of the year with the average daytime maximum temperature 29. The hill country can be cool at night, so an extra layer is sometimes needed. Most of the time, light casual clothing is recommended. Travel light.

Local Currency

Local currency is the Sri Lankan Rupiah, which is approx. 120 Rs to one Australian dollar. There are ATMs available and all banks provide a currency exchange, but SL notes are not exchangeable outside of the country.

Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory in Sri Lanka but within the travel and tourism industry it is encouraged. For many hospitality employees and staff, it is a necessary addition to their income. Gratuities will be generally covered by the tour but guests who enjoy extra quality personal service are encouraged to tip a bit extra. The custom is for each guest to tip the driver as well at the end of the tour. \$20-50 is advisable.

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Flights

Many airlines fly to Colombo.

Air Lanka has a daily direct flight to Colombo from Melbourne.

For budget airlines, Air Asia and Scoot are convenient and have many flights. Sometimes a layover in KL or Singapore may be required if the scheduling does not match, at least for one leg.

For national airlines, Singapore and Malaysian Airlines also fly from all Australian capital cities to Colombo, but not direct.

For anyone plan to include Europe in their travels, Emirates, or one of the other Middle East airlines provide a good service. Dubai is only a few hours with many connecting flights.

Please contact your guide, Michael Murray, direct for more flight suggestions to suit you.

Best of Sri Lanka Tours recommends Belinda Lopez of Travel Managers; Phone 0451 638 844 or email Belinda.Lopez@travelmanagers.com.au

Meals

Daily breakfast is included on the tour. On some trips a couple of special dinners are included in the tour. All other meals will be at the guests choosing and expense either within the hotels or outside.

Food quality and hygiene levels in Sri Lanka are generally very good. Concerns and precautions against infections and bugs need only occur when eating uncooked street food. Equally, water quality is very good, but the bus will always be equipped with complimentary bottled water.

Tour guides will provide suggestions, recommendations and directions to local restaurants. BoSL provides print outs of things to do on your own in places like Galle, Kandy and Colombo for those that choose to branch out on their own.

Visas

A Tourist Visa for Sri Lanka is required if travelling on an Australian Passport.

It is not a difficult process. It can either be done on arrival at Colombo airport but BOSL Tour request that all guests attain a visa online at least one week prior to departure. Purchasing a visa (\$25 USD) at arrival can be time consuming as often there are long lines. Please visit this site for your online visa: www.eta.gov.lk

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Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a requirement for all guests on Best of Sri Lanka Tours. Your policy number will be required when making your booking. Some travellers will have travel insurance included with their flight purchase on a credit card. Please contact the bank or credit card facility and ask for a copy of the policy.

Anyone wishing to enquire about travel insurance can also contact our affiliated travel agent, Belinda Lopez, who is offering 10% discount to all Best of Sri Lanka travellers. Please contact information under Flight Information.

General Health Issues

Sri Lanka has a good public health system. Unlike many Asian countries the quality of health care is very high. Accessing medical or hospital care, if or when required in an emergency, is relatively easy and accessible. For minor matters, the cost is very reasonable.

Fitness: Tour guests are invited to participate in a couple of short walks. One, through the tea country to Little Adams Peak, is about one and half hours in duration. The last section is quite steep. Guests can participate at whatever level of fitness they so choose.

Further Questions

If you have any more questions, please contact us. Michael Murray, your guide, can answer any questions or concerns.

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