

# Sri Lanka

**Population:** 20.48 million (2013)

**Geography:** An island consisting of 65, 610 square kilometres of mostly flat coastal plains, with mountains rising only in the south-central part

**Climate:** Tropical and warm

**World heritage sites:** Ancient cities of Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya and Anuradhapura, Golden Temple of Dambulla, Old town of Galle, Sacred city of Kandy, Sinharaja Forest Reserve, Central Highlands of Sri Lanka

**Capital Cities:** Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, Colombo

**Official languages:** Sinhala, Tamil, English

**Political system:** A republic and unitary state governed by a semi-presidential system

**Travel advisory information:** For up-to-date travel advice for Sri Lanka from the New Zealand government visit [www.safetravel.govt.nz/sri-lanka](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz/sri-lanka)

## Curriculum resources:

- [Asia New Zealand Foundation](#)

## Useful websites:

- [Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)
- [New Zealand High Commission in New Delhi](#)
- [High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Canberra](#)
- [Lonely Planet](#)

## Media:

- [Daily News](#)
- [The Island](#)
- [Daily Mirror](#)