



Colombo

Photo: Khoroshunova Olga/Shutterstock.com



SurangaSL/Shutterstock.com

Colombo is the commercial capital of Sri Lanka, an enchanting island lying off India's southern tip. These city folks go about their daily business with a cheerfulness born of optimism in this chaotic, noisy and traffic-congested metropolis.



Val Shevchenko/Shutterstock.com



alionabirukova/Shutterstock.com

QUIZ

*What Type of Traveller
Are You Based on
Your Travel IQ?*

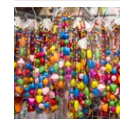
TAKE THE QUIZ

Top 5



Seema Malaka Buddhist Temple

Designed by Sri Lanka's leading architect Geoffrey Bawa in the



Pettah Market

Get a real sense of life in Colombo and experience the hustle and bustle of ...



National Museum of Colombo

At the National Museum of Colombo you can browse through a wealth of exhibit...



Dutch Hospital

The Dutch Hospital in Colombo has little to do with medical treatment - it i...



City Tour

Enjoy the sights from the comfort of an open-deck, double decker bus with li...



THE CITY



Vidu Gunaratna/Shutterstock.com

Colombo sits on the west coast of Sri Lanka and has developed from an old seafaring port into a huge urban sprawl bristling with Asian atmosphere. Around the historic center of Fort are colonial facades of banks, buildings and tumbledown shops and streets teeming with people, trishaws, bicycles, buses - and the occasional cow! Towering above Fort to the east are gleaming skyscrapers reflecting modern Colombo but wherever you go in the city you stumble across history, culture and friendly folk.

DO & SEE



Curioso/Shutterstock.com

It would be difficult not to immerse yourself in the serenity of Buddhism, which is practiced by the majority of Sri Lankans. Yet, Colombo is home to all religions as evidenced by temples, mosques, and churches sprouting amidst a jumble of Dutch and British-built buildings, a legacy of its colonial past.

Seema Malaka Buddhist Temple



Designed by Sri Lanka's leading architect Geoffrey Bawa in the late 19th century. The Seema Malaka Buddhist Temple is a peaceful oasis in the middle of hectic Colombo. Come here for some mediation and rest and be amazed by this beautiful piece of architecture and design.

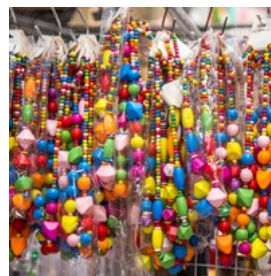
Photo: e X p o s e/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sir James Pieris Mawatha, Colombo

Tickets: Free entry but donations accepted

More Info: Located in the Beira Lake

Pettah Market



Get a real sense of life in Colombo and experience the hustle and bustle of Sri Lanka's capital with a visit to the Pettah Market. At this busy open-air market, visitors can explore scores of shops selling everything under the sun, from fresh vegetables, spices and meats to clothing, electronics, gold and jewelry. Arrive early before trishaws and touts clog the streets.

Photo: Nazly Ahmed/Shutterstock.com

Address: Pettah, Colombo

More Info: A few minutes east of Fort in Colombo 11

National Museum of Colombo



At the National Museum of Colombo you can browse through a wealth of exhibits from prehistoric times to the colonial era. Look out for traditional fearsome masks said to be linked to magical powers.

Photo: Indi Samarajiva/Flickr.com (image cropped)
Address: Sir Marcus Fernando Mawatha, Colombo
Opening hours: Open daily from 9h - 17h
Phone: +94 112 695 366
Internet: www.museum.gov.lk
Email: nmdep@slt.lk

Dutch Hospital



The Dutch Hospital in Colombo has little to do with medical treatment - it is more of a popular hang out area with multiple shops, cafes and restaurants.

Photo: Dan Lundberg/Flickr.com (image cropped)
Address: Hospital Street, Colombo
Phone: +94 77 198 8514

City Tour

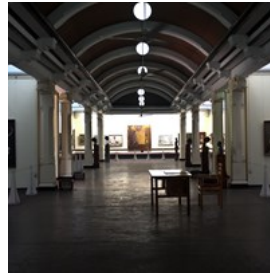


Enjoy the sights from the comfort of an open-deck, double decker bus with live commentary. Three different tours stop over the major sights of the city leaving from different pick-up points.

Pick ups: from Colombo city hotels en-route. (for more information see the website below)

Photo: calfler001/Flickr.com (image cropped)
Address: Colombo
Phone: +94 77 759 9963
Internet: www.colombocitytours.com
Email: info@colombocitytours.com
More Info: Starts and ends at the Kingsbury Hotel

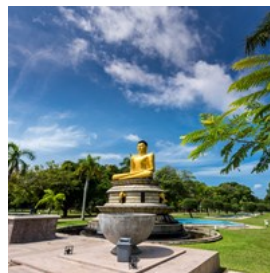
National Art Gallery



The paintings at the National Art Gallery reflect local themes and scenes, but this museum also features exhibitions that show contemporary artworks. There is no entrance fee to view this collection of works by Sri Lankan artists.

Photo: Indi Samarajiva/Flickr.com (image cropped)
Address: 106 Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo
Phone: +94 112 693 965

Viharamahadevi Park



A peaceful interlude can be found here from the cacophony of town with neat paths bordered by tropical vegetation. You can spot slumbering bats in mahogany and eucalyptus trees, bird life and monitor lizards on the lawns. There is also a playground for the kids and a golden Buddha statue.

Photo: SurangaSL/Shutterstock.com
Address: Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo
Opening hours: Open daily from 7h - 18h
Phone: +94 112 426 900

Dutch Museum



This fine colonnaded Dutch building with creaking floors and staircases contains exhibits from the Dutch colonial era. The interesting display of artifacts such as coins, clothing items, and furniture of that era will offer you a unique learning experience of the history of Sri Lanka.

Photo: L Manju/Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Address: Prince Street, Colombo

Opening hours: Tue - Sat 9h - 17h

Phone: +94 112 448 466

Internet: www.museum.gov.lk/web

Email: dutchmuseum@sltnet.lk

Galle Face Green



Weekends bring kite-flyers, strolling families and impromptu cricket matches to this wide ocean-fronted promenade. Enjoy a drink

at the Galle Face Hotel at the southern end of the promenade or fill up on tasty snacks on the waterfront.

Photo: [claire rowland/Flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/clairerowland/) (image cropped)

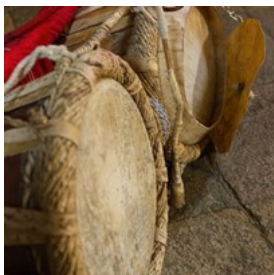
Address: 56 Colombo - Galle Main Road, Colombo

Internet: www.gallefacehotel.com

Email: information@gallefacehotel.net

More Info: South of Fort along the coast

Lionel Wendt Art Centre



Lionel Wendt Theatre and Art Centre is a prestigious venue for the performing arts, especially music. The two galleries feature different exhibitions of contemporary art and crafts.

Photo: [Vidu Gunaratna/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/stock-photo/vidu-gunaratna)

Address: 18 Guildford Crescent, Colombo

Opening hours: Mon - Sat 9h - 19h, Sat - Sun 10h - 12h, 14h - 19h

Phone: +94 112 695 794

Internet: www.lionelwendt.org

Email: info@lionelwendt.org

Old Kathiresan Temple



These kovils or temples dedicated to the Hindu war god Murugan (Skanda) bring color to Colombo's back streets with their ornate exteriors of sculptured Hindu deities. Visit at night when priests perform the evening puja or prayers to the sound of drums.

Photo: [Nila Newsom/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/stock-photo/nila-newsom)

Address: 239 Sea Street, Colombo

Phone: +94 011 431 426

Gangaramaya Buddhist Temple



A must-see historic site in Colombo, this Buddhist Temple houses many treasures, from Buddha statues to ancient coins. One of the most popular tourist attractions in the commercial capital of Sri Lanka and a good place for meditation.

Photo: [Ankur P/Flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ankurp/) (image cropped)

Address: 61 Sri Jinaratana Road, Colombo

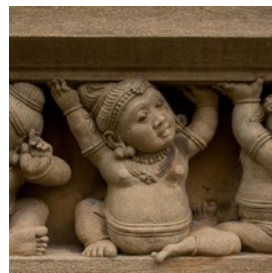
Opening hours: Open daily from 8h - 20h

Phone: +94 112 435 169

Internet: www.gangaramaya.com

Email: gt@gangaramaya.com

Kelaniya Raja Maha Vihara



Kelaniya Raja Maha Vihara is one of the most important Buddhist temples in the country. Believed to be sanctified during Buddha's third visit to Sri Lanka, the original temple was destroyed on two different occasions by invaders from India, and later from Portugal. Restored in the 18th century by the Dutch, it contains

historic statues and paintings that preserve the spirit of past ages.

Photo: Woraitp/Shutterstock.com
Address: Peliyagoda, Sri Lanka
Opening hours: Open 24 hours
Phone: +94 112 911 505
Internet: www.kelaniyatemple.org
Email: deniyaye2013@gmail.com

DINING



zoryanchik/Shutterstock.com

One of the joys when travelling to Sri Lanka is trying their delicious, spice-rich food which is influenced by its geography. No only thanks to the location in the Indian Ocean between Eastern and Western culture, but also due to the immigrants and colonisers, the country now offers mouth-watering blend of Dutch, Portuguese, English, Malay, Arab and Indian flavors. A truly amazing melting-pot with dishes such as Lamprais (A Dutch Burgher-influenced dish), chicken curry, Dhal curry and Hoppers (Sri Lankan pancake) to name a few.

Curry Leaf



Located within the Hilton Hotel, Curry Leaf offers authentic Sri Lankan delights and an all-you-can-eat seafood buffet at a beautiful village setting. The nice ambiance and the great

food is only matched by the excellent hospitality of the restaurant's staff.

Photo: chuckstock/Shutterstock.com
Address: Sir Chittampalam Gardiner Mawatha, 2 Lotus Road, Colombo
Opening hours: Open daily from 19h - 23h
Phone: +94 112 492 492
Internet: www.hiltoncolombo1.com/curryleaf
Email: colombo@hilton.com

Palmyrah Restaurant



Indulge your taste buds with authentic Sri Lanka flavors at this fine dining restaurant located at the Hotel Renuka. Enjoy your pick of traditional Jaffna fare: milk hoppers, fried fish puttlu and seafood soup as well as some tasty local desserts. As Palmyrah fills up fast, make sure to book ahead.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com
Address: 328 Galle Road, Colombo
Opening hours: Open daily from 12h - 22h
Phone: +94 112 573 598
Internet: www.renukahotel.com
Email: renukaht@renukahotel.com

Kaema Sutra



Sri Lankan cuisine with a modern twist is served at this lovely restaurant located at the Shangri-La Hotel. A wall decorated with masks gives this place a special charm, indoor and outdoor seating with ocean views complete the cozy ambiance. The black hoppers are among diners' favorites.

Photo: Andrey Bayda/Shutterstock.com
Address: Arcade Independence Square
Opening hours: Open daily from 12h - 15h, 18h - 23h

Phone: +94 112 670 722
Internet: www.kaemasutra.com
Email: info@kaemasutra.com

The Bayleaf



The Bayleaf welcomes diners in a beautiful colonial villa setting right in the heart of Colombo. It offers a great variety of authentic Italian dishes, excellent service as well as a sophisticated cocktail bar.

Photo: Romaset/Shutterstock.com
Address: 79 Srimath R.G.Senanayake Mawatha, Colombo
Opening hours: Open daily from 11h - 23h
Phone: +94 112 695 920
Internet: www.bayleafcolombo.com
Email: info@harposonline.com

Sakura Restaurant



When entering Sakura Restaurant you are met by authentic red lanterns, counter seating or traditional Japanese seating at the rear of this long established restaurant. This place is known for its friendly service, reasonably priced set lunches and sushi and sashimi prepared by Japanese trained chefs. Chinese fare is also on the menu.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com
Address: 33 Amarasekara Mawatha, Colombo
Opening hours: Open daily from 11h30 - 14h30, 18h - 23h
Phone: +94 112 591 728
Internet: www.sakurarestaurant.lk
Email: kinjoulanka@slt.net.lk

Long Feng



Located at the Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel, Long Feng combines traditional Chinese food with an elegant ambiance and beautiful views of the hotel pool and the Beira Lake. The Dim Sum buffet is a big success among guests.

Photo: KorolDenis/Shutterstock.com
Address: 117 Colombo - Batticaloa Highway, Colombo
Phone: +94 112 491 949
Internet: www.cinnamonhotels.com

Ministry of Crab



Tucked away in the corner of the Old Dutch Hospital, Ministry of Crab is an upscale restaurant offering excellent seafood at a contemporary setting. Curry crab, baked crab and garlic chili crab - choose your preferred variety, or go for a different one - but equally delicious. Make reservations ahead of time as this is a very popular restaurant.

Photo: febri ardi antonius/Shutterstock.com
Address: Old Dutch Hospital Complex, 04 Hospital Street, Colombo
Opening hours: Open daily from 11h30 - 15h30, 17h - 23h
Phone: +94 112 342 722
Internet: www.ministryofcrab.com
Email: info@ministryofcrab.com

The Mango Tree



Great food selection, including an assortment of vegetarian dishes are served at this homely north Indian restaurant. The naan bread and the

mango lassi - Indian milkshake - are highly recommended.

Photo: Lisa-Lisa/Shutterstock.com

Address: 82 Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo

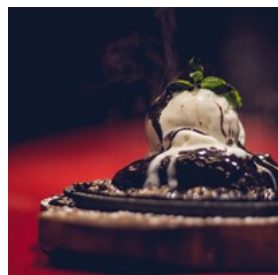
Opening hours: Open daily from 12h - 23h

Phone: +94 117 620 620

Internet: www.themangotree.net

Email: info@themangotree.net

The Sizzle



If you're looking for a different dining experience, come by the Sizzle, where your entire meal is served on a hot cast iron plate making

your food sizzle when you get it, hence the name. Authentic Halal recipes are incorporated in seafood and veggie dishes, and why not try their sizzling brownies laced with ice cream?

Photo: vishal rajesh nasta/Shutterstock.com

Address: 32 Walukarama Road, Colombo

Opening hours: Open daily from 11h - 24h

Phone: +94 71 688 8777

Internet: www.thesizzle.lk

Email: info@thesizzle.org

CAFES



Arjuna Kodisinghe/Shutterstock.com

Step away from the hustle and bustle of Colombo and take a break at one of the many coffee shops around the city. Do try the local coffee, but

keep in mind that no trip to Sri Lanka is complete without a cup of the country's main export, the Ceylon tea.

The Cricket Club Café



Tucked behind the busy Galled Road, you'll come across this lively cafe offering wraps and burgers as well as an assortment of Sri Lankan delights. As the name reveals, this venue is dedicated to cricket and here you'll find cricket memorabilia, endless matches on TV and dishes named after cricketers.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com

Address: 12 Flower Road, Colombo

Opening hours: Open daily from 7h30 - 23h30

Phone: +94 112 574 394

Internet: www.thecricketclubcafeceylon.com

Email: info@thecricketclubcafeceylon.com

Hansa Cafe (The Blue Swan)



Small coffee shop serving freshly ground home made coffee as well as cold beverages at an intimate and relaxed atmosphere. Hansa

Ceylon Coffee is a Sri Lanka-based, world-renowned gourmet coffee made from Arabica and Robusta beans and here, you can also purchase their coffee beans.

Photo: kikovic/Shutterstock.com

Address: 24 Fife Road, Colombo

Opening hours: Open daily from 10h - 19h

Phone: +94 112 584 832

Internet: www.srilankacoffee.com

BreadTalk



BreadTalk has made bread baking into an art form. Spread over 16 countries, this popular bakery is known for their wide variety of fresh and

tasty items as well as gourmet desserts and generous fillings. Stop by one of their three Colombo locations for a taste of flavorful pastries.

Photo: sarsmis/Shutterstock.com

Address: 525 Union Place, Colombo

Opening hours: Mon - Sat 7h - 20h, Sun 7h - 19h

Phone: +94 117 356 777

Internet: www.breadtalksrilanka.com

Email: info@breadtalksrilanka.com

The Gallery Café



This café occupies the former offices of Sri Lanka's renowned architect Geoffrey Bawa. Don't miss the stylish setting inside or the

courtyard where French and Italian cuisine, mouth-watering desserts and their signature tamarind-chili cocktail are served.

Photo: Theerawan/Shutterstock.com

Address: 2 Alfred House Road, Colombo

Opening hours: Open daily from 10h - 24h

Phone: +94 112 582 162

Internet: www.paradiseroad.lk/gallery_cafe

Email: gallerycafe@paradiseroad.lk

Cafe Kumbuk



Rustic wooden tables, plants and pictures of Sri Lanka decorate this colonial house, which is home to Cafe Kumbuk. With the goal of

promoting healthy and sustainable living, this charming cafe offers fresh and healthy items made from local ingredients. Vegan options are also available.

Photo: istetiana/Shutterstock.com

Address: Prana Lounge, 60 Horton Place, Colombo

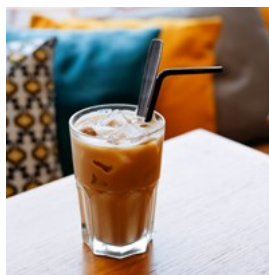
Opening hours: Tue - Sat 8h - 18h, Sun 8h - 17h

Phone: +94 112 685 310

Internet: www.cafekumbuk.com

Email: cafekumbuk@gmail.com

The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf



This Southern California coffee chain has made its way to Sri Lanka and has provided the Colombo community with its amazing varieties of

coffee and tea, savory and sweet pastries and, of course, its signature ice-blended beverages. Nice cafe to start or finish your day as they are open 24 hours on the weekends.

Photo: Thomas Vimare/Unsplash.com

Address: 7 Maitland Crescent, Colombo

Opening hours: Sun - Thu 6h - 24h, Fri - Sat 24 hours

Phone: +94 112 676 167

Internet: www.coffeebean.lk

Email: info@coffeebean.lk

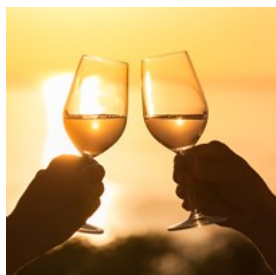
BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Saman527/Shutterstock.com

Bars are a relatively new concept although there are some old favorites patronized by ex-pats and regular visitors. Generally quiet they erupt into life at the weekend with live music, good value food and a reasonable drinks' list. The best nightlife revolves around the upscale hotels where you'll find bars, nightclubs and karaoke lounges. Dress is smart casual and entry for hotel guests is free.

Bars at the Galle Face Hotel



Whether you're looking for a bar by the pool, a lounge where you get to breathe in the sea breeze or just your casual pub, the Galle Face Hotel got

you covered. Have your pick of bars at this charming waterfront hotel and enjoy your cocktail while you watch the sun go down.

Photo: KieferPix/Shutterstock.com

Address: 2 Galle Road, Colombo

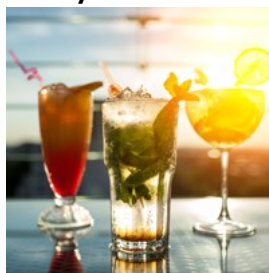
Opening hours: Opening hours vary, visit their website for more information

Phone: +94 11 254 1010

Internet: www.gallefacehotel.com

Email: information@gallefacehotel.net

Honey Beach Club



After a day exploring the city, unwind by the sea with a cocktail in your hand at this beach club with a swimming pool, pizza and DJs (on Fridays and Saturdays). The entrance is free as well as the use of the swimming pool.

Photo: Goami/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ground Floor, 48 Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo

Opening hours: Open daily from 10h - 24h

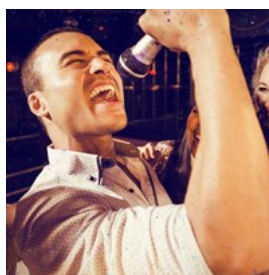
Phone: +94 77 108 7720

Internet: www.honeybeachclub.com

Email: info@honeybeachclub.com

More Info: At The Kingsbury

Sopranos



Unleash your inner singer at this homey karaoke bar! Sopranos prides itself on offering a friendly atmosphere where everyone is welcome. Grab a drink and sing along to your favorite tunes until late hours. Both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are served here.

Photo: vectorfusionart/Shutterstock.com

Address: 29 Maitland Crescent, Colombo

Opening hours: Tue - Thu 19h - 2h, Fri - Sat 19h - 4h

Phone: +94 112 676 752

Internet: www.sopranos.lk

CÉ LA VI Colombo



Take in beautiful views over the city and shoreline while enjoying a skilfully crafted drink or savouring a modern Japanese dish at this elegant rooftop restaurant and lounge.

Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com
Address: 10th floor, 48 Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo
Opening hours: Open daily from 11h30 - 14h30, 18h30 - 24h
Phone: +94 112 421 221
Internet: www.celavi.com
Email: celavi@thekingsburyhotel.com
More Info: Located at The Kingsbury Hotel

Silk



This trendy and stylish club offers all-night dancing and sizzling cocktails in a snazzy atmosphere. They host salsa nights on Thursdays

and at the weekends DJs attract the young crowd.

Photo: Maxim Blinkov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Gymkhana pool complex, 41 Maitland Crescent, Colombo
Opening hours: Wed - Thu 21h - 2h, Fri - Sat 23h - 4h
Phone: +94 76 287 4747
Internet: www.sugarcolombo.com/club-silk
Email: info@sugarcolombo.com

ON14 Roof Top Bar & Lounge



One of the trendiest nightspots in Colombo is located on the 14th floor of the OZO Hotel.

Overlooking the ocean, ON14 provides guests

with beautiful sunset views for while they sip one of their unique cocktails or try the spectacular dishes. An infinity pool, lounge seating, and live entertainment perfect the sophisticated atmosphere.

Photo: Prasit Rodphan/Shutterstock.com
Address: OZO Colombo, 36-38 Clifford Place, Colombo
Opening hours: Open daily from 11h - 2h
Phone: +94 112 555 570
Internet: www.ozohotels.com
Email: jeremy@ozohotels.com

SHOPPING

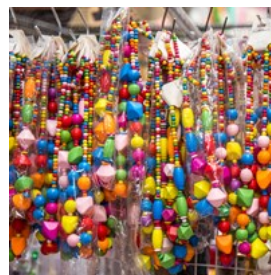


Galyna Andrushko/Shutterstock.com

Modern air-conditioned malls are found adjacent to top end hotels or in the same vicinity and they are perfect for souvenirs such as traditional masks, batik, gems and presentation packs of the famous Ceylon tea.

For a more authentic shopping experience, visit the Pettah area and immerse yourself in the hustle and bustle of a busy Asian city. Anything and everything is on sale here, and haggling is well expected.

Pettah Market



Get a real sense of life in Colombo and experience the hustle and bustle of Sri Lanka's capital with a visit to the Pettah Market. At this busy

open-air market, visitors can explore scores of shops selling everything under the sun, from fresh vegetables, spices and meats to clothing, electronics, gold and jewelry. Arrive early before trishaws and touts clog up the streets.

Photo: Nazly Ahmed/Shutterstock.com
Address: Keyzer Street, Colombo
More Info: A few minutes east of Fort in Colombo 11

Dutch Hospital



Dating back to the colonial era, the Dutch Hospital has served as a hospital for the Dutch officers, a police station after the country's

independence and in 2011, it was converted into a shopping and dining complex. A nice place to hang out, grab a bite and marvel at beautifully preserved seventeenth-century colonial architecture.

Photo: Dan Lundberg/Flickr.com (image cropped)

Address: Hospital Street, Colombo

Opening hours: Open daily from 10h - 22h

Phone: +94 78 854 1400

Email: dutchhospital@gmail.com

Lakarcade



For authentic Sri Lankan souvenirs head over to Lakarcade. This shopping mall offers an amazing and unique collection of local products ranging

from teas, spices and traditional art to gems and jewelry. Whether you're looking for a one-of-a-kind art piece to decorate your home or just a souvenir from your trip to Colombo, you'll surely find it here.

Photo: DESIGNFACTS/Shutterstock.com

Address: 33 Staple Street, Colombo

Opening hours: Open daily from 10h - 22h

Phone: +94 112 303 203

Internet: www.lakarcade.lk

Email: info@lakarcade.lk

More Info: Near Hilton Residencies, adjoining to Staple Street Cargills Food City

Paradise Road



Very close to the Viharamahadevi Park, you'll find this charming shop selling multiple home decor items, antiques and unique gifts

along with an array of condiments and jams.

Very popular among locals and tourists alike.

They also have a cafe on the 1st floor where you can relax with a good cup of coffee and a piece of cake.

Photo: Daria Minaeva/Shutterstock.com

Address: 213 Srimath Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo

Opening hours: Open daily from 10h - 19h

Phone: +94 112 686 043

Internet: www.paradiseroad.lk

Email: paradiseroad@paradiseroad.lk

ODEL



Sri Lanka's prime shopping destination, ODEL has everything you need and a bit more.

From clothes to homeware, to food and

souvenirs. Even if you're not planning to buy anything, it is a fun place to do some window shopping.

Photo: rawpixel/Unsplash.com

Address: 5 Alexandra Place, Colombo

Opening hours: Open daily from 10h - 21h

Phone: +94 114 625 800

Internet: www.odel.lk

Email: info@eodel.com

Crescat Shopping Mall



Adjacent to Cinnamon Grand Hotel, this shopping center features several floors of shops and exclusive boutiques linked by escalators

selling everything from books, clothing, records to a place where you can buy tea from the Mlesna Tea Centre. In the basement there's a supermarket and a large bustling food court.

Photo: Blend Images/Shutterstock.com

Address: 89 Galle Road, Colombo

Opening hours: Open daily from 10h - 22h

Phone: +94 112 152 100

Internet: www.cinnamonhotels.com

Email: info@crescat.com

Racecourse Shopping Complex



The Racecourse Shopping Complex is the perfect place for a leisurely evening stroll even if you aren't looking to do much shopping. If you are,

however, there are plenty of boutiques and shops to choose from. Here, you'll also find a variety of cafes and restaurants.

Photo: Aaron Amat/Shutterstock.com

Address: Reid Avenue, Colombo

TOURIST INFORMATION



Jaromir Chalabala/Shutterstock.com

Bandaranaike International Airport



Bandaranaike International Airport (CMB) is located 32km from the CBD. The simplest and quickest way to get into town is to

take a taxi. Allow at least 1½ hours for your journey.

Bus 187 runs every 30 minutes from 6h - 21h to Fort Bus Station. You have to take a free bus shuttle from the airport terminal to the bus stop. Be aware that the driver might try to charge tourists extra for luggage.

The train station lies 500m from the airport with departures from 7h - 18h and it stops at many stations before reaching the city center. If you have heavy luggage, the best way to reach the train station is by Trishaw.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Bandaranaike International Airport - Katunayake, Sri Lanka

Phone: +94 11 226 4444

Internet: www.airport.lk

Email: comments@airport.lk

Passport/Visa



Citizens of the Maldives, Seychelles, and Singapore are exempt from requesting a visa. All other travelers need to submit an application

online in order to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) before visiting Sri Lanka. The ETA is valid for 30 days from the date of your arrival, however it may be extended for up to six months.

For more information, visit the website:

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

Internet: www.immigration.gov.lk

Best Time To Visit



With a sunny and enjoyable weather pretty much all year round, there isn't really a bad time to explore Colombo.

However, if you want to avoid the monsoon season, then don't plan your trip from June to September. Having said that, the best time to visit Colombo is usually from January to March, when days are more pleasant and when festivals such as the Duruthu Perahera and the Poya Festivals take place. If you want to get great prices on accommodation and flights, then May is the best month, when the city is also less crowded. Watch out for the beginning of the monsoon season! November and December are usually hot and humid, but that's when you can catch the Deepavali celebrations, the Hindu festival of lights, which last for five days.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Public Transport



Buses run from 5h - 22h and are generally crowded, slow, and a bit confusing. When in doubt about routes, bus numbers and stops, ask a

local. The best way to get around is to walk or flag down a trishaw. Always agree to a price before accepting a ride in a trishaw and pay the exact fare.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Taxi



Taxi is the easiest and most comfortable way to get around the city. Most of the cars do not have a taxi meter so always decide on a price before

the journey starts.

Ace Cabs

www.acecabs.lk

+94 112 818 818

Kangaroo Cabs

www.2588588.com

+94 112 588 588

Or you can always download the Uber and the Taxiyak apps.

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Post



You can buy stamps in one of the post offices across town. You find the General Post Office at:

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: 310 D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo

Opening hours: Mon - Fri 8h30 - 16h15

Phone: +94 1 123 283 013

Internet: www.slpost.gov.lk

Email: pmg@slpost.lk

Pharmacy



There are several pharmacies in Colombo, and some of them are located within a grocery store. The supermarket chain LAUGFS features

pharmacies that are open 24 hours. Rajya Osu Sala is another drugstore chain and you find one of their outlets at:

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: 255 Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo

Opening hours: Open 24 hours

Phone: +94 11 267 2293

Internet: www.spc.lk

Email: col7@spc.lk

Telephone



Country code: +94 Area Code: 011

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



In Sri Lanka there are two plug types: D and G. D has three round pins in a triangular pattern while G has three rectangular pins in a triangular

pattern (same used in the United Kingdom and Ireland, for example). The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

752,993

Currency

Sri Lanka Rupee (LKR), 1 Rupee = 100 cents

Opening hours

Shops are generally open 10h - 20h daily, several open on Sundays. Restaurants and bars in larger hotels stay open all day until midnight.

Newspapers

Colombo Gazette

News First

The Island

Daily News

Daily Mirror

Daily FT (Financial Times)

Emergency numbers

Ambulance and Fire: 110

National Help Desk: 118

Police: 119

Tourist information

Ceylon Tourist Board

80 Galle Road

Colombo

+94 1124 269 00

Mon - Sat 8h - 16h

Dial 1912 from any phone within Sri Lanka to access tourism Information.



1st Cross Street	B1	Galle Face Centre Road	A3	Orasipasha Street	D2 D3
2nd Cross Street	B1	Galle Face Drive	A3	Palm Grow	B4 C4
4th Cross Street	B1	Galle Road	A3 B3 B4	Paochikawatta Road	D2
5th Cross Street	C1	Hedges Court	D3	Park Street	C4
Abdul Jabbar Mawatha	D1	Henry de Mel Mawatha	B3	Perahera Mawatha	B4 C4
Alwis Place	B4	Horton Place	D4	Price Place	C1
Ananda Kumaraswarny Mawatha	B4 C4	Hospital Street	A2	Prince Street	B1
Arnold Batnayake Mawatha	D3	Hudson Road	B4	Princes Gate	D1
Baladaksah Mawatha	A2 A3	Hultsdorf Street	C1 D1	R A de Mel Mawatha	B3 B4
Bankshall Street	B1	Hunupitiya Road	C4	Ratnajothi Saravanamuttu Mawatha	C1
Barnes Place	D4	Husainia Street	C1	Rifle Street	B3
Baybrooke Place	C3 C4	Hyde Park Corner	C4 D3	Rosmead Place	D4
Baybrooke Street	C3	Janadhipathi Mawatha	A1 A2	Rotunda Gardens	B4
Beira Road	C1	Javatileke Mawatha	A1 B1	Sanchiarachchis Gardens	C2 D1
Belmont Street	D1	Justice Akbar Mawatha	B3	Saunders Place	C1
Bodhiraja Mawatha	C1	Kayman's Gate	B1 C1	Sea Street	C1
Boyd Place	C4	Kew Lane	B3 C3	Silversmith Lane	D1
Bristol Street	A1	Kew Road	B3	Sir Baron DB	A1
C W W Kannangara Mawatha	D4	Keyzer Street	B1	Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha	B2
Canel Row	A2	Kumaran Ratnam Road	B3	Sir James Peris Mawatha	B3 C4
Carmel Road	B4	Liberty Plaza	B4	Sir Marcus Fernando Road	C4
Central Road	C1	Lillie Street	C3	Sri Jinarathana Road	C4
Chaitya Road	A1 A2	Lotus Road	A2	Sri Sangaraya Mawatha	D1 D2
Church Street	B3	Lower Chatham Street	A1 A2	Sri Sumanatissa Mawatha	D1
Clifford Avenue	B4	Main Street	B1	Srimath Randaranaike Mawatha	D1
D R Wijewardena Mawatha	B2 C2 D2	Malay Street	B2 B3	St Michael Road	B4
Dam Street	C1	Maliban Street	B1	St Sebastian Hill	C1 C2
Dawson Street	C3	Meeraniya Street	D1	St Sebastian Street	C1
De Saram Place	D3	Mihindu Mawatha	C1	Staple Street	C3
Deans Road	D3	Mohideen Masjid Road	D2	Stuart Street	B3
Devanampiyatissa Road	D3	Morgan Road	B2	Symmond's Road	D2 D3
Dharmapala Mawatha	B4 C4 D4	Muhandiram's Road	B4	T B Jayah Mawatha	D3
Dias Place	C1	Muttah Road	C3 C4	Union Place	C3 D3 D4
Duke Street	A1	N H M Abdul Cader Road	B1	Vauxhall Street	C3
E W Bastian Mawatha	B1 C2	Nawam Mawatha	B3	Vinayalankara Mawatha	D3
E W Perera Mawatha	D3 D4	New Moor Street	C1	W A D Ramanayake Mawatha	C4
F R Senanayake Mawatha	D4	Norris Canal Road	D3	Ward Place	D4
Flagstaff Street	A1	Olcott Mawatha	B1 C2	Wharf Road	A1
Flower Terrace	C4	Old Moor Street	C1 D1	York Street	A1
Galle Buck Road	A1				