



UPDATE FROM SRI LANKA

Restaurants to Reopen in Initial Stages of Tourism Revival

Sri Lanka's Tourism Industry is set to reopen in carefully calculated stages. After the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) approached the COVID-19 Presidential Task Force on the issue, SLTDA Chairperson Kimarli Fernando said, "I requested that restaurants be allowed to open, subject to certification of the regional medical officer."

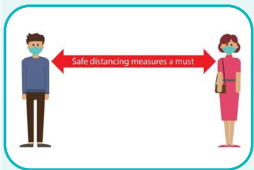
For the tourism sector to function fully once again, the industry will be required to follow strict COVID-19 guidelines released by the government. The guidelines will follow the lead of other countries, like Singapore, in terms of instructions for health services and other additions.



<https://bit.ly/2zBq53L>

Safety Measures to be put in Place for Major Tourist Areas

As the industry prepares to restart operations, the Ministry of Tourism has proposed a set of comprehensive guidelines to ensure the safety of all visitors to Sri Lanka. New safety measures will be in effect at airports, hotels, restaurants, shopping malls and tourist destinations, and will emphasise the importance of social distancing in these areas. The main objective of these strict guidelines is for industry personnel to familiarise themselves with the proper code of conduct post-COVID-19.



<https://bit.ly/35SB8lq>

Cheers to Rockland!

Forget about pandemic news for a minute and raise your glasses to Rockland Distilleries! The Sri Lankan brand scooped up three awards at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2020 in March, beating around 3,000 entries from around the globe. The brand was awarded a 'double gold' medal for its Colombo No. 7 Gin, along with a gold for new variant Colombo No. 7 Navy Strength Gin, and a bronze for Ceylon Arrack in the category of 'Other Spirits'.



<https://bit.ly/3fKU0r2>

President Proposes Strategic Tourism Initiatives to Get Sri Lanka Back on Track – Safely



As the country's tourism industry slowly picks up again, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has made a number of recommendations to ensure the containment of COVID-19 and the safety of the people. Firstly, it has been proposed that visas will be issued with recognised health certificates, and Sri Lanka Tourism has been urged to set their sights on visitors from countries where the virus has been contained. The President was also keen to promote Sri Lanka's successful efforts in containing the spread of COVID-19 by focusing on medical tourism. Long-term tourists who usually visit other countries during their winter break was suggested as yet another valuable investment for the tourism industry. And lastly, he noted that one of local tourism's best protections is safe domestic tourism.

<https://bit.ly/2LI8gZH>

The Way Forward With Sri Lanka Tourism



Seeming to have weathered the worst of the storm, Sri Lanka Tourism is now holding its biggest stakeholder consultation yet to effectively revive the industry after Tourism and Aviation Minister Prasanna Ranatunga requested proposals that would combat short, medium and long-term issues. The Cabinet will review a short list of the recommendations submitted to navigate the country's way forward after the unprecedented disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

<https://bit.ly/2YV3Ssl>

Famous Italian Travel Blogger Reminisces About Sri Lanka



Award winning travel blogger and Instagram travel influencer, Diana Bancale, sends a message of love and hope to Sri Lanka as she fondly remembers her trip to the island in 2019. "I want to send a big virtual hug to Sri Lanka and its wonderful people, that I was lucky to discover in 2019... I felt so welcomed and protected in every single location we visited. Nevertheless the awful experience of terrorism, the people of Sri Lanka was still so cheerful, smiley and sweet with me and my colleagues from Japan, USA and Russia. It's something I would never forget. I can't wait to visit Sri Lanka again, soon after we pass this terrible COVID 19 situation. I still have so much to see and share my travel stories with my Italian and global travel audiences. Till that moment, I Dream of You, Sri Lanka, and Big Thanks to Sri Lanka Tourism for creating those unforgettable memories."

<https://bit.ly/3bwIGMW>



Travel Inspiration



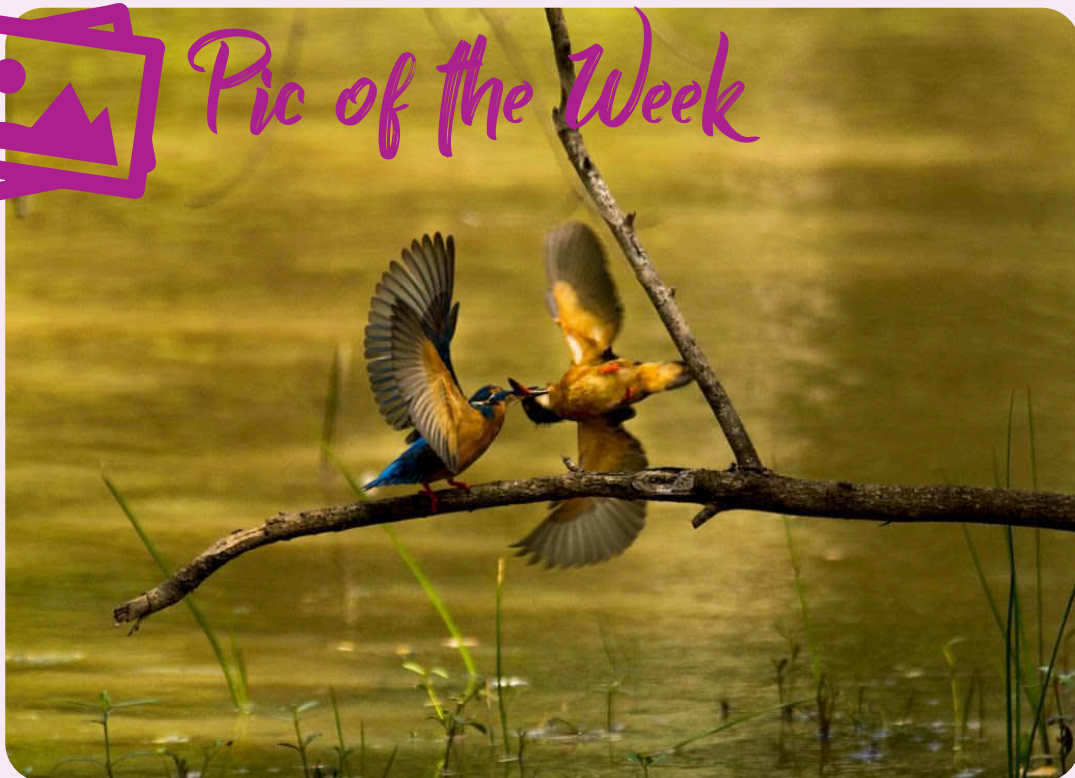
"See Now, Experience Later" by Cinnamon Hotels

For now, we stay at home. But we will travel again. And when we do, we will do so more consciously, more sustainably and with a greater feeling of solidarity than ever before. Join in with your travel plans across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

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Pic of the Week



What did one Kingfisher say to another? 'Listen, I told you this was mine!'...the soothing sounds of nature at the Yala National Park...#SeeNowExperienceLater.

Credit: **Chandika Jayaratne**

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