



UPDATE FROM SRI LANKA

Book Sri Lankan Hotels Ahead With Confidence!



The Hotels Association of Sri Lanka (THASL) has announced a new 'anytime cancellation' policy to encourage more hotel stays in Sri Lanka well into 2021. The new policy allows international tourists the right to cancel their bookings for penalty-free refunds – even if the booking is cancelled on the date of arrival. All members of THASL (218 hotels in total, including star-class hotels) are on board with this bid to increase tourism to Sri Lanka as travel gradually increases.



<https://bit.ly/2W7Xdla>

Sri Lanka Tourism Begins Stage One of Revival Process

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka Tourism Chairperson Kimarli Fernando has announced the initial plans for industry revival post COVID-19 as the country begins to regain its footing. The Chairperson revealed that, "Stage one focuses on the immediate recovery of the industry, which involves changes to the visa process to include mandatory testing, adjustments to the immigration process, airport entry, hotel transfer and certification of hotels to ensure health and safety of tourists, employees and the local community."

Invitation Extended to All Airlines to Consider Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport as an Aircraft Parking Base During the COVID-19 Crisis



The Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka announced this week that all airlines and corporate/private jet operators may park their aircrafts at Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport during the current travel ban.



<https://bit.ly/2SnTAN4>

Tourism Disaster Monitoring and Hosting Program to Assist Stranded Tourists in Sri Lanka



The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority has announced that the National Association for Professionals in Tourism (NAFPT) has a Tourism Disaster Monitoring and Hosting Program alongside the Tourist Police Division to provide assistance to tourists stranded on the island. "While the government's main focus is to safeguard the citizens of Sri Lanka, it is also important to take care of the tourists who have traveled to Sri Lanka trusting us. Therefore, we are proud to start this campaign for them," said Donald Rajapaksa, national coordinator of the association. Officials will pay visits to tourists with provisions and assurance that they will not be forgotten during this uncertain time.

<https://bit.ly/2WeHF5g>

Canadian Writer Blogs About Her Magical Trip to Sri Lanka

Treehugger.com senior writer Katherine Johnson Martinko spent 12 days in Sri Lanka before the pandemic outbreak, and has lovingly documented her experiences on the island.

Excerpt:

The island that Marco Polo once described as "the most beautiful in the world" lived up to its reputation. Sri Lanka was fabulous. Lush and verdant, I'd never seen so much greenery before. The jungle pressed up against the narrow roads – coconut palms, banana trees, banyan trees, and other soaring varieties that my guide Ajith said were planted by the British to prevent the newly-poured asphalt from melting in the sun. There were colorful flowers and birds everywhere I looked, thriving in this hot, watery world. I was amazed to see peacocks in the wild, perched atop fence posts and flying low over rice paddies. Energetic monkeys were everywhere. The spice gardens, the white beaches and warm sea, the tea plantations, the dense low jungle where we went on safari in search of wild elephants (and found them!), the temples carved from rock and towering Buddha statues... the country impressed and dazzled in different ways every day.



Read the full article here: <https://bit.ly/3bTNeNa>

Sri Lanka to Build US\$ 300m World Class Beach Park from Kollupitiya to Dehiwala



The Sri Lankan government is to invest more than US\$300 million (Rs.47.8 billion) to reclaim land for a new beachfront from Kollupitiya to Dehiwala, in capital Colombo. This artificial beach will complement the port city project. This will create a world class beach with numerous leisure activities and is expected to attract thousands of visitors. Among the envisaged attractions of the artificial beach are a world-class aquarium, a sea plane operation unit, water sports and wreck diving to see shipwrecks around the coast. A safe sea bathing area will be demarcated for the visitors.

<https://bit.ly/2W9BgZe>



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 is your favourite travel memory? For Tracy Komlos it was the tropical fruits our island home is full of! Follow us to Sri Lanka in future but until then [#SeeNowExperienceLater!](#)
Credit: Tracy Komlos



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