



Photo: Khoroshunova Olga/Shutterstock.com



SurangaSL/Shutterstock.com



Val Shevchenko/Shutterstock.com



alionabirukova/Shutterstock.com

Colombo is the financial and cultural centre 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 noisy and traffic-congested metropolis. But despite being known as a chaotic city, Sri Lanka's capital offers a handful of attractions for first-time visitors, including old colonial buildings, breathtaking religious temples, a beautiful shore, and tasty food.

### Featured



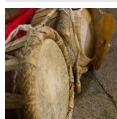
#### Viharamahadevi Park

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#### Old Kathiresan Kovil

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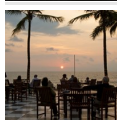
#### Lionel Wendt Art Centre

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#### National Art Gallery

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#### Galle Face Green

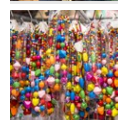
Weekends bring kite-flyers, strolling families and impromptu cricket matches...

### Top 5



#### Seema Malaka Buddhist Temple

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



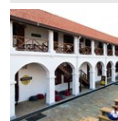
#### Pettah Market

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



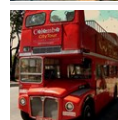
#### Colombo National Museum

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#### Dutch Hospital

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#### City Tour

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## 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 an Asian atmosphere. Around the historic centre 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 practised 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

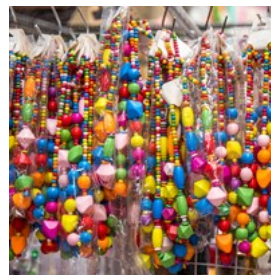
Opening hours: Open 24 hours

Phone: +94 112 435 169

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, also called

Manning 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 jewellery. Arrive early before trishaws and touts clog up the streets.

Photo: Nazly Ahmed/Shutterstock.com

Address: Pettah, Colombo

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

## Colombo National Museum



At the Colombo National Museum, 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: Daily from 9am-4pm  
Phone: +94 112 695 366

### 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: Daily from 10am-10pm  
Phone: +94 112 441 275

### City Tour



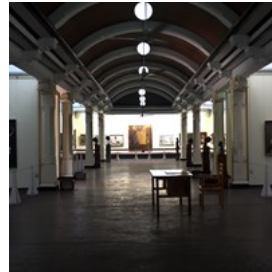
Enjoy the sights from the comfort of an open-deck, double-decker bus with live commentary—the only open-deck city sightseeing service in Colombo. Three different tours stop over the major sights of the city leaving from different pick-up points.

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

Photo: calflifer001/Flickr.com(image cropped)  
Address: 40, Nikape Rd, Dehiwala  
Phone: +94 77 759 9963

Internet: [www.colombocitytours.com](http://www.colombocitytours.com)  
Email: [infocct@sltnet.lk](mailto:infocct@sltnet.lk)

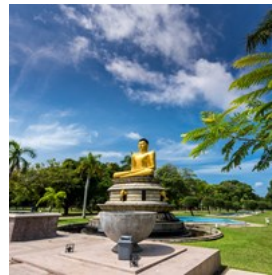
### National Art Gallery



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: Daily from 6am-6pm  
Phone: +94 112 426 900  
Internet: [www.colombo.mc.gov.lk/parks.php](http://www.colombo.mc.gov.lk/parks.php)

### Dutch Museum



This fine collonaded Dutch building with creaking floors and staircases contains exhibits from the Dutch colonial era. The interesting display of artefacts 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: CPP Building, Prince Street, Colombo  
Phone: +94 112 448 466

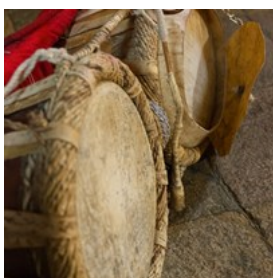
### Galle Face Green



Weekends bring kite-flyers, strolling families and impromptu cricket matches to this 5 ha ocean-fronted promenade, which stretches for 500 m along the coast. Enjoy a drink at the Galle Face Hotel at the southern end of this urban park or fill up on tasty snacks on the waterfront.

Photo: claire rowland/Flickr.com(image cropped)  
Address: Galle Main Road, Colombo  
More Info: South of Fort along the coast

### Lionel Wendt Art Centre



Lionel Wendt Art Centre is a prestigious venue for the performing arts, especially music. It features a theatre and two galleries showing different exhibitions of contemporary art and crafts.

Photo: Vidu Gunaratna/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 18 Guildford Crescent, Colombo  
Phone: +94 112 695 794  
Internet: <https://lionelwendt.org>

### Old Kathiresan Kovil



These kovils or temples dedicated to the Hindu war god Murugan (Skanda) bring colour 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  
Address: 239 Sea St, Colombo  
Opening hours: Daily from 7am-10:30pm  
Phone: +94 011 431 426

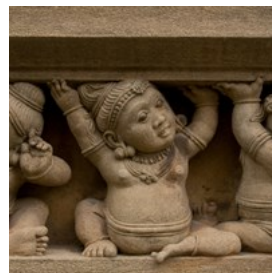
### Gangaramaya Temple



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(image cropped)  
Address: 61 Sri Jinaratana Road, Colombo  
Opening hours: Daily from 6am-10pm  
Phone: +94 112 435 169  
Email: [gt@gangaramaya.com](mailto:gt@gangaramaya.com)

### Kelaniya Raja Maha Viharaya



Kelaniya Raja Maha Viharaya 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 11600, Sri Lanka

Opening hours: Open 24 hours

Phone: +94 112 911 505

Internet: <https://kelaniyatemple.lk>

Email: [info@kelaniyatemple.org](mailto:info@kelaniyatemple.org)

## DINING



zoryanchik/Shutterstock.com

One of the joys when travelling to Sri Lanka is trying the country's delicious, spice-rich food. Thanks to its location in the Indian Ocean, its close proximity to India, and past immigrants and colonisers, Sri Lanka now offers a mouth-watering blend of Dutch, Portuguese, English, Malay, Arab, and Indian flavours. A truly melting-pot of dishes such as Lamprais (a Dutch Burgher-influenced dish), chicken curry, Dhal curry and Hoppers (Sri Lankan pancakes), to name a few.

### Palmyrah Restaurant



Indulge your taste buds with authentic Sri Lanka flavours at this fine dining restaurant located at the Renuka City Hotel. 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: Daily from 12-2:30pm, 7-10:30pm

Phone: +94 112 573 598

Internet:

[www.renukahotel.com/dine-and-drink/palmyrah-restaurant/](http://www.renukahotel.com/dine-and-drink/palmyrah-restaurant/)

### The Bayleaf



The Bayleaf welcomes diners in a beautiful colonial villa setting right in the heart of Colombo. It offers a great selection of authentic Italian

dishes, excellent service as well as a sophisticated cocktail bar.

Photo: Romaset/Shutterstock.com

Address: 7, 79 R.G. Senanayake Mawatha, Colombo

Opening hours: Daily from 11am-11pm

Phone: +94 112 695 920

### 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: Daily from 11:30am-2:30pm, 6-11pm

Phone: +94 112 591 728

### Long Feng



Located at the Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel, Long Feng offers diners an extensive menu of authentic Chinese cuisine, an elegant

ambience, and beautiful views of the hotel pool and Beira Lake.

Photo: KorolDenis/Shutterstock.com

Address: 117 Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawath, Colombo

Opening hours: Daily from 12-3pm, 7-11pm

Phone: +94 112 491 949

Internet: [www.cinnamonhotels.com](http://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 in a contemporary

setting. Curry crab, baked crab, and garlic chilli 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: Daily from 12-8:30pm

Phone: +94 77 002 4823

Internet: [www.ministryofcrab.com/colombo/](http://www.ministryofcrab.com/colombo/)

Email: [reservations@ministryofcrab.com](mailto:reservations@ministryofcrab.com)

### The Mango Tree



The Mango Tree is a homely Indian restobar offering the best of Northern Indian cuisine, including an assortment of vegetarian dishes.

Their naan bread and the mango lassi - an Indian milkshake - come highly recommended.

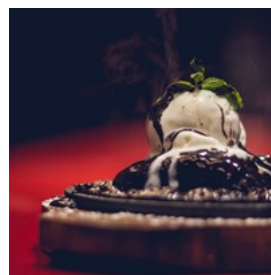
Photo: Lisa-Lisa/Shutterstock.com

Address: 10 Deal Place A, Colombo

Phone: +94 117 620 620

Email: [info@themangotree.net](mailto: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: Daily from 12-2:45pm, 7-10:15pm

Phone: +94 71 688 8777

Email: [info@thesizzle.org](mailto: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.

### Barefoot Garden Cafe



Barefoot Garden is a café, a shop, an art gallery, and a performance space all in one. Despite its location right in the heart of Colombo, this unique

outdoor café offers a peaceful ambience, where you can relax over a cup of coffee, some freshly brewed tea, or a nice cold beer. Be sure to check out their Instagram page for their daily specials, which include Black Pork Curry, spinach quiches, and Lamprais—a famous local delicacy.

Photo: Sergio Arze/Unsplash

Address: 704 Galle Rd, Colombo

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-5pm

Phone: +94 112 589 305

Internet: <https://barefootceylon.com/cafe/>

Email: [shop704@barefoot.lk](mailto:shop704@barefoot.lk)

More Info: [www.instagram.com/barefootgardencafe/](https://www.instagram.com/barefootgardencafe/)

### The Cricket Club Café



Tucked behind the busy Galled Road is 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, so here, you will find cricket memorabilia, endless matches on TV, and dishes named after cricketers.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com

Address: 12 Flower Road, Colombo

Opening hours: Daily from 10am-11pm

Phone: +94 112 574 394

### BreadTalk



BreadTalk has made bread baking into an art form. Spread over 16 countries, this popular bakery is known for its 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 flavourful pastries.

Photo: sarsmis/Shutterstock.com

Address: 525 Union Place, Colombo

Opening hours: Daily from 7am-7pm

Phone: +94 117 356 777

Internet: [www.breadtalk.com/en/](http://www.breadtalk.com/en/)

More Info: 2nd location: 108, 500 Thimbirigasyaya Rd, Colombo



### 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-chilli cocktail are served.

Photo: Theerawan/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 2 Alfred House Road, Colombo  
Opening hours: Daily 10am-12am  
Phone: +94 112 582 162

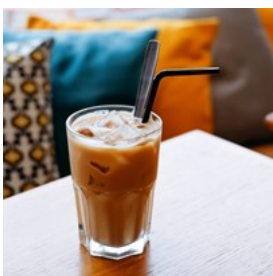
### Cafe Kumbuk



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: 3/1 Thambiah Avenue, Independence Ave, Colombo  
Opening hours: Wed-Mon 9am-6pm  
Phone: +94 112 685 310  
Internet: [www.cafekumbuk.com](http://www.cafekumbuk.com)  
Email: [cafekumbuk@gmail.com](mailto:cafekumbuk@gmail.com)

### The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

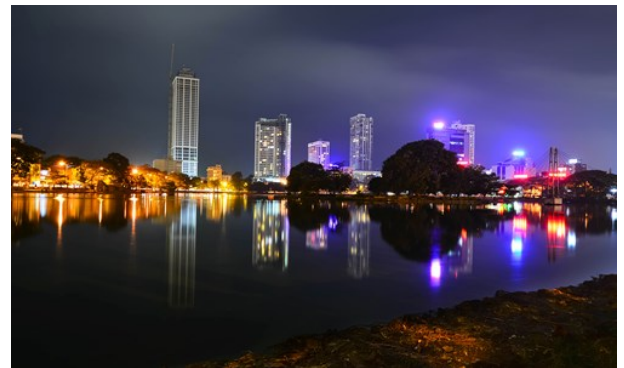


This Southern California coffee chain has made its way to Sri Lanka, and it has provided the Colombo community with its amazing varieties of coffee and tea, savoury and sweet pastries, and,

of course, its signature ice-blended beverages.

Photo: Thomas Vimare/Unsplash.com  
Address: 7, No 2 Maitland Cres, Colombo  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-11pm  
Phone: +94 112 676 167  
Email: [info@coffeebean.lk](mailto:info@coffeebean.lk)

## BARS & NIGHTLIFE

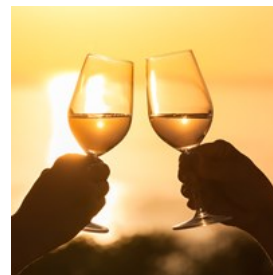


*Saman527/Shutterstock.com*

Bars are a relatively new concept in Colombo, although there are a few old favourites patronized by expats 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 will 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](http://www.gallefacehotel.com)

Email: [information@gallefacehotel.net](mailto: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 live

entertainment after sunset.

Photo: Goami/Shutterstock.com

Address: The Kingsbury Colombo, 48 Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo

Opening hours: Daily from 8am-12am

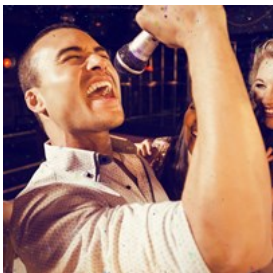
Phone: +94 77 108 7720

Internet:

[www.thekingsburyhotel.com/dining/honey-beach-club.html](http://www.thekingsburyhotel.com/dining/honey-beach-club.html)

More Info: At The Kingsbury Hotel

### 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 favourite tunes until late hours.

Photo: vectorfusionart/Shutterstock.com

Address: 29 Maitland Crescent, Colombo

Opening hours: Tue-Thu 7pm-1am, Fri-Sat 7pm-4am

Phone: +94 112 676 752

### Vistas Rooftop Bar



Catch spectacular 360 views of Colombo from 24 stories above ground and listen to tropical house chill-out beats and jazz as you enjoy a highly-crafted cocktail at this trendy rooftop bar.

Besides boasting one of the best panoramic views of the city, Vistas is known for its very attentive staff, who are more than happy to take care of you, shisha smoking, and its tasty food, which is served in modern cutting board style plates, ready to be shared.

Photo: Michael Discenza/Unsplash

Address: No 24 Srimath Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 10am-12am, Fri-Sun 10am-2am

Phone: +94 117 450 450

Internet: [www.movenpick.com/en/asia/sri-lanka/colombo/movenpick-hotel-colombo/restaurants/vistas-bar.html](http://www.movenpick.com/en/asia/sri-lanka/colombo/movenpick-hotel-colombo/restaurants/vistas-bar.html)

### CÉ LA VI Colombo



Take in beautiful views over the city and its 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: Daily from 11am-2am

Phone: +94 77 108 7720

More Info: Located at The Kingsbury Hotel

### ON14 Rooftop Lounge & Bar



One of the trendiest nightspots in Colombo is located on the 14th floor of the Radisson Hotel. Overlooking the ocean, ON14 provides guests

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

Photo: Prasit Rodphan/Shutterstock.com

Address: 36, 38 Clifford Pl, Colombo

Opening hours: Daily from 11am-1am

Phone: +94 112 555 570

Internet: [www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-colombo/restaurants-and-bars](http://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-colombo/restaurants-and-bars)

Email: [info.colombo@radisson.com](mailto:info.colombo@radisson.com)

## SHOPPING



Galya 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: Daily from 10am-10pm

Phone: +94 112 441 275



### 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 jewellery. 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: Daily from 10am-10pm

Phone: +94 112 303 203

Internet: <https://lakarcade.lk>

Email: [info@lakarcade.lk](mailto:info@lakarcade.lk)

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

### Paradise Road



Very close to Viharamahadevi Park, you'll find this charming shop selling multiple home decor items, including dishware, handicrafts and art, plus, 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: Daily from 10am-7pm

Phone: +94 112 686 043

Internet: [www.paradiseroad.lk](http://www.paradiseroad.lk)

Email: [customerservice@paradiseroad.lk](mailto:customerservice@paradiseroad.lk)

### Crescat Boulevard



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

selling everything from books, clothing, and 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 Main Road, Colombo

Opening hours: Daily from 10am-8pm

Phone: +94 112 152 100

Email: [info@crescat.com](mailto:info@crescat.com)

### Race Course Arcade



Race Course Arcade 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: 129 Philip Gunewardena Mawatha, Colombo

## TOURIST INFORMATION



Jaromir Chalabala/Shutterstock.com

### Bandaranaike International Airport (CMB)



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](http://www.airport.lk)

Email: [comments@airport.lk](mailto: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/web/](http://www.immigration.gov.lk/web/)

## Best Time To Visit



With 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 5am-10pm 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](http://www.acecabs.lk)  
+94 112 818 818

Kangaroo Cabs  
[www.2588588.com](http://www.2588588.com)  
+94 112 588 588

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

Photo: ArrivalGuides

## Postal Service



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](http://www.slpost.gov.lk)  
Email: [pmg@slpost.lk](mailto: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](http://www.spc.lk)  
Email: [col7@spc.lk](mailto: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

619,000 (2021)

## Currency

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

## Opening hours

Shops are generally open from 10am–8pm 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

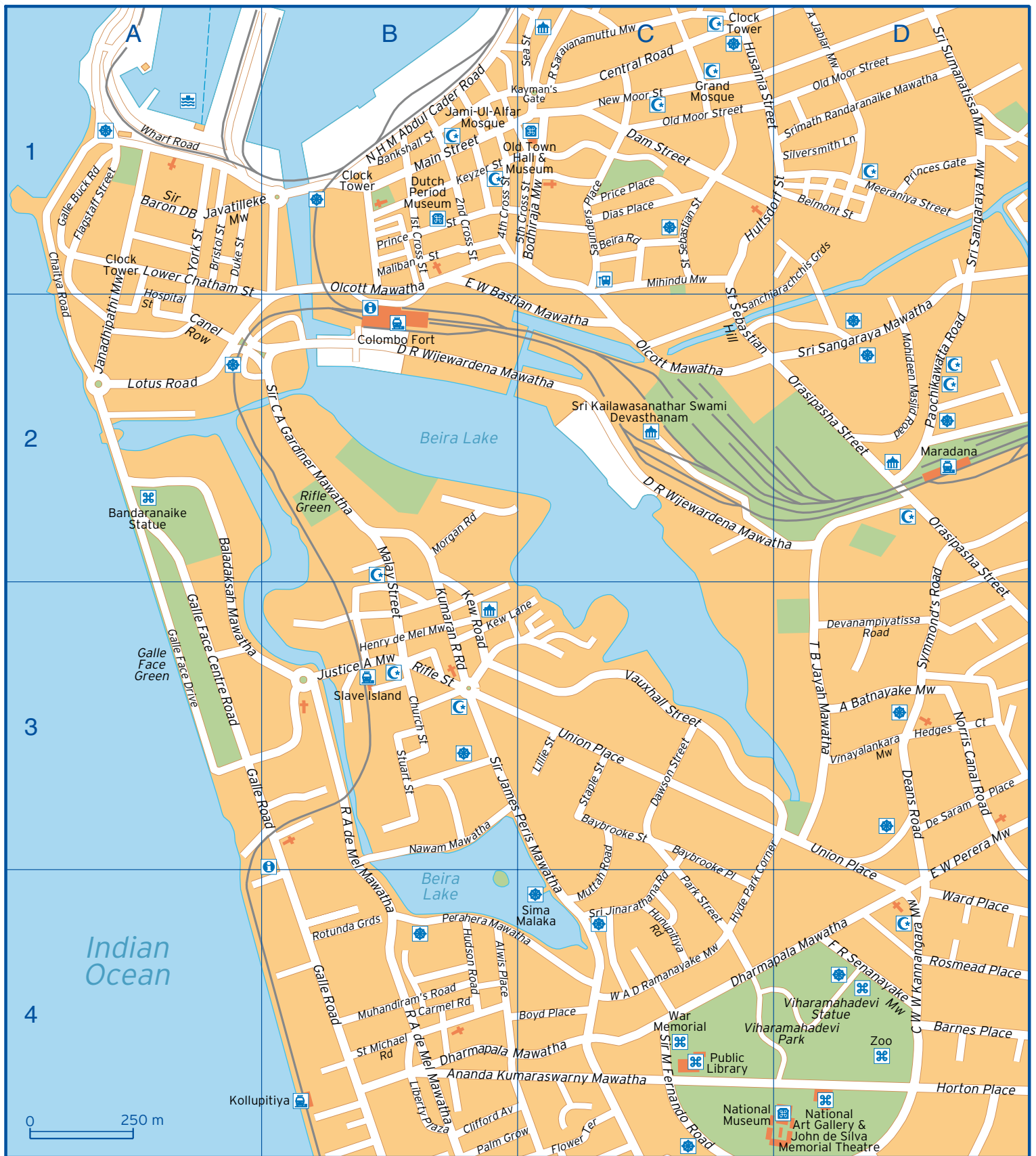
Ambulance and Fire: 110  
National Help Desk: 118  
Police: 119

## Tourist information

Ceylon Tourist Board  
80 Galle Road  
Colombo  
+94 112 426 800  
Mon–Fri 8:30am–4:15pm

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 Kumaraswamy 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				