



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

Information on Return and Reintegration in Sri Lanka 2017



Disclaimer

The return-related information contained in this document was collected with great care. However, IOM gives no guarantee as to the accuracy, completeness or correctness of the information, nor does it endorse any views, opinions or policies of organizations or individuals referred to in this document. The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on maps included in the document are not warranted to be error free, nor do they necessarily imply official acceptance by IOM. This document does not take any position related to economic, political or security situation in the country. IOM accepts no responsibility for any conclusions made or any results which are drawn from the information provided in this document.

Source Cover Page: <http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/srilanka.pdf>

Last updated in January 2018

TABLE OF CONTENT

I. HEALTHCARE	1
A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE HEALTHCARE SITUATION	1
1. Public sector healthcare	1
2. Private sector healthcare	1
B. CONDITIONS FOR THE COVERAGE OF MEDICAL TREATMENT	2
C. AVAILABILITY OF MEDICINES	2
II. HOUSING	2
A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE HOUSING SITUATION	2
B. AVAILABILITY OF GOVERNMENTAL SOCIAL GRANTS FOR HOUSING	3
C. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO BUY/RENT A REAL ESTATE	3
D. EXAMPLE OF RENTAL FEES IN THE COUNTRY	4
III. EDUCATION	4
A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION.....	4
B. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM	5
C. ACCESS TO PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL.....	5
D. ACCESS TO TERTIARY EDUCATION	5
E. VOCATIONAL TRAINING POSSIBILITIES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS	6
F. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN DIPLOMAS	6
IV. ECONOMIC SITUATION AND EMPLOYMENT	6
A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND EMPLOYMENT POSSIBILITIES	6
B. EMPLOYMENT	7
C. INFORMATION ON WAGES IN THE DIFFERENT SECTORS.....	8
D. UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE STATE	8
E. PENSION SYSTEM AND OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT FROM IT FOR THE RETURNEES	8
V. BANKING SYSTEM AND BUSINESS SET-UP OPPORTUNITIES	9
A. GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE BANKING SYSTEM	9
B. OPPORTUNITIES TO ACCESS CREDIT TO START A BUSINESS OR BUY A REAL ESTATE	9
VI. TRANSPORTATION	10
A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND THE ROAD SYSTEM	10
B. ASSESSMENT OF THE DIFFERENT MEANS OF TRANSPORT AVAILABLE BETWEEN MAJOR CITIES	10
1. Road transport.....	10
2. Bus transport.....	10
3. Aviation.....	11
4. Railways.....	11
VII. TELECOMMUNICATION	12
VIII. LIST OF CONTACTS	13
A. HEALTH CARE CENTRES WITH ADDRESSES AND CONTACT NUMBERS	13
B. REAL ESTATE AGENCIES OR OTHER MEANS TO ACCESS THE HOUSE MARKET	13

C.	SCHOOLS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS RELATED TO EDUCATION/TRAINING	14
D.	EMPLOYMENT CENTRES.....	15
E.	MAIN BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	16
F.	MAIN TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES	17



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

I. HEALTHCARE

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE HEALTHCARE SITUATION

Healthcare in Sri Lanka is provided by the public sector, the private sector and to a limited extent by the non-profit sector. Since its independence, successive governments have implemented welfare-oriented policies and programmes which have allowed Sri Lanka to achieve relatively high standards of social and health development in comparison to countries of similar levels of economic development.

1. Public sector healthcare

Out-patient facilities are readily available in public (general) hospitals situated in major towns and cities. Most of them are equipped with laboratories and radiology devices. Widely any kind of ailments or health issues can be dealt with in the teaching hospitals in Colombo, Colombo South, Colombo North, Kandy/Peradeniya, Galle and Jaffna. Doctors and nurses in the government hospitals are qualified and trained, with some of the most experienced staff working at the teaching and base hospitals.

For emergencies, especially accidents, it is highly recommended to visit general hospital accident services directly as they are equipped with the necessary staff and facilities. In most cases of serious accidents, private hospitals tend to refer patients to general hospitals. This is mostly due to the high investment in equipment and staff training in the public healthcare sector.

2. Private sector healthcare

This type of healthcare is popular among expatriates and Sri Lankans returning to the country. Many people commend the quality of care received and the low costs in comparison to other countries. However, private healthcare institutions are usually limited to the biggest cities. While the most widely acknowledged being in Colombo and its suburbs, many new private hospitals have opened their branches across the country due to rising income of people and demand for private healthcare. Service seekers may consult a specialist (most of whom had their post graduate qualifications abroad – primarily in the UK and USA) in almost any medical category for approximately LKR 1'500-2'500 (USD 10 to 16) without formal introduction from a general practitioner (GP). Also, the waiting time is significantly less if any at all. The costs in private healthcare centres will vary from one hospital to another based on procedures involved and seniority/experience of the medical practitioners consulted.

The private sector hospitals are generally well equipped with modern pharmaceutical, laboratory, radiology, surgical and emergency facilities amongst other things. Appointments can be easily booked via phone, e-mail or online tools.

B. CONDITIONS FOR THE COVERAGE OF MEDICAL TREATMENT

Public sector healthcare is universally accessible for the entire population and is almost fully free of charge. No health insurance is required to obtain a medical treatment (both in public and private sectors).

C. AVAILABILITY OF MEDICINES

Except some specific medicines that only are available in Colombo, all other common medicines are available throughout the country. In general, the health insurance does not cover the medicines and the returnee has to pay for it himself/herself.

The main drug store company in Sri Lanka is the State Pharmaceutical Corporation (SPC), whose retail sales are done via “OsuSala”. This one-stop-shop for medicines has outlets in all major towns and cities across the country. Given that OsuSala is state owned, drugs are available on prescription at the most reasonable prices. Further, OsuSala has the capability of tracking the availability of specialised medicine and deliver them to the closest store to the patient. SPC’s website (<http://www.spc.lk/rajya-osu-sala-outlets.php>) lists the OsuSala outlets across the country.

There are also many other large and reliable private pharmacies in the country, especially in the urban areas. In any of the above mentioned pharmacies, prescriptions are required for certain types of drugs.

II. HOUSING

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE HOUSING SITUATION

The National Housing Development Authority (NHDA) assists low-income families through allocation of land and funding. NHDA is responsible for the implementation of key state sector housing programmes for the low and middle income groups in the cities and suburbs. The government housing finance institutions were strengthened to deliver housing credit facilities to low-income families using their EPF (Employment Provident Fund) balance as security. However this kind of funding is not accessible for returnees.

As the Security Situation in post war Sri Lanka continues to stabilize, the prices of properties and real estate continue to show an upward trend. An increased number of investors attempt to invest in the Sri Lanka housing and real estate in the cities.

Even though there are no solid information on an “official house price” in Sri Lanka, constructors as well as property buyers agree that there has been a steep price hike in houses as well as building materials and amenities. According to the information released by local real estate analysts, the value

of houses and apartments within the secondary market has risen by more than 100% in the past several years alone.

The housing industry in the north and east is thriving since the end of the war. Most of the housing and infrastructure in the north and east were destroyed due to collateral damage caused by the war that raged on for close to thirty years. Thanks to the efforts of the Sri Lankan government as well as the support from international community and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the basic needs and infrastructure for civilian life is now being rebuilt at a rapid pace. The increase in demand for houses mostly for the internally displaced as well as those who lost their homes due to military combat operations has opened up a wide range of opportunities for housing developers and home-builders all over Sri-Lanka. But even in these areas, the housing cost still remains at an all-time high.

B. AVAILABILITY OF GOVERNMENTAL SOCIAL GRANTS FOR HOUSING

In Sri-Lanka there is no governmental support for housing in terms of institutionalized social grants. Nevertheless from time to times, the government implements housing projects for those who live under a certain poverty threshold.

The requirements to obtain an accommodation from the social services or emergency shelters are the following:

- Documents that may prove the vulnerability
- Medical reports
- Details of guardian if applicable

C. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO BUY/RENT A REAL ESTATE

No specific documents are required to buy or rent an accommodation. However, firstly both parties have to agree to do a transaction. Then, the lease agreement is signed whereas both parties have to agree on the terms of rent/purchase in the presence of a lawyer. The rental or the purchase is registered with the land registry together with the lawyer's certificate.

D. EXAMPLE OF RENTAL FEES IN THE COUNTRY

The below mentioned prices are the average monthly rental fees.

	Approximate cost in Colombo	Approximate cost in Jaffna	Approximate cost in smaller cities
Studio	LKR 25'000 (USD 163)	LKR 15'000 (USD 98)	LKR 10'000 (USD 65)
Two rooms accommodation	LKR 40'000 (USD 261)	LKR 20'000 (USD 130)	LKR 15'000 (USD 98)
Three rooms accommodation	LKR 60'000 (USD 390)	LKR 25'000 (USD 163)	LKR 20'000 (USD 130)
Four or more rooms accommodation	LKR 70'000 (USD 455)	LKR 30'000 (USD 195)	LKR 25'000 (USD 163)

III. EDUCATION

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Today, Sri Lanka's education structure is divided into five parts: primary, junior secondary, senior secondary, collegiate and tertiary.

Primary education lasts six years (grades 1-5). At the end of this period, students in both private and public schools can choose to write an exam called the "Scholarship exam". This exam allows students with exceptional skills to move on to better schools in the district or out of the district.

After primary education, the junior secondary education lasts for 4 years (grades 6-9). According to the Sri Lankan law, it is compulsory that all children go to school until grade 9 (age 14) at which point they can choose to continue further or opt out and engage in a job.

However, the Ministry of Education strongly advises all students to continue with their studies at least until the General Certificate of Education (G.C.E. Ordinary Level) in order to obtain a suitable job. During this period, students go through senior secondary education for 2 years (grades 10-11) to sit for the G.C.E Ordinary Level examination. Students must pass this examination to go on with collegiate education.

Collegiate education lasts for 2 years (grades 12-13). After this cycle, student must take the G.C.E. Advance Level examination. Successful candidates can access tertiary education (University and beyond).

B. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Sri Lanka's population is highly educated with a literacy rate of 91.3%, one of the highest literacy rates of South Asia. This can mainly be attributed to the free education system. The Ministry of Education administers all governmental primary and secondary schools where education is free. The language of instruction is mainly Sinhala and/or Tamil along with English in a few schools that are located in Colombo and Kandy.

There are also a number of private schools in Sri Lanka, due to the emergence of the upper middleclass crowd. Many of the private schools have access to better facilities than public schools. The students in these schools have to pay a monthly fee and the amount varies according to the popularity of the school.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of international schools in the principal cities in and out of Colombo and other districts which are accessible to the returning families and expatriate community. In the private schools one can find either local or Cambridge examination streams.

C. ACCESS TO PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL

A student who wishes to join schools in Sri Lanka after schooling abroad can enter the appropriate grade in either government, private or international schools. A copy of their school 'leaving certificate' (indicating the last grade passed) from the school attended last and the birth certificate along with the application has to be provided. Exceptions are possible if documents are not available in which case the department of the registrar can be approached. The decision on whether a student is admitted or not is taken on a case by case basis by the management of the schools. However, getting admitted to a popular state or private school in populated districts like Colombo or Kandy at the middle of the year can be hard.

D. ACCESS TO TERTIARY EDUCATION

University education in Sri Lanka is free. The state university system is highly competitive, hence, only the top students at the Advanced Level from each district are given the chance to access universities free of charge, based on their aggregate marks (Z score). As a result, most students who are not granted admission to state universities tend to migrate to pursue their studies in foreign universities or enrol themselves in degree awarding, state-funded or private institutes in Sri Lanka.

Students who fail to qualify for university can also engage in higher education as external students of state universities or at the Open University of Sri Lanka. There are currently 15 major state funded universities in Sri Lanka. Depending on the courses this costs minimum LKR 250'000 (USD 1'630).

Sri Lankan students who graduated through any international curriculum at the Advanced Levels, are generally required to complete their local Advanced Level examination to enter local universities.

The private sector has in the recent past become very popular in the country with campuses and distance learning facilities. There are a number of institutes in principal towns affiliated to foreign

academies and professional institutes offering a wide range of courses from diplomas to degrees and postgraduate programmes from food and beverages, hospitality to hair dressing mainly engaged in the provision of professional education, particularly in areas of accountancy, management and information technology. Depending on the courses the yearly costs start from LKR 500'000 (USD 3'260).

E. VOCATIONAL TRAINING POSSIBILITIES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Vocational education and training in Sri Lanka is managed by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission of the Ministry of Vocational & Technical Training. The training includes course based curriculum at vocational technical training centres and apprenticeships in private or public organisations. Public technical colleges (in different districts) conduct vocational training programmes, diploma programmes and certificate courses. The Tertiary & Vocational Education Commission administers a number of public sector institutions such as the Department of Education and Training, Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technical Council and National Institute of Technical Education. A large number of private sector institutions are also providing vocational training facilities. The target group is generally diverse and consists of unemployed youth, rural men and women and school leavers.

F. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN DIPLOMAS

If a student who has studied abroad wishes to follow a postgraduate/diploma or certificate programme he/she should submit copies of detailed educational certificates, which need to be certified in the host country.

There are external degrees, diplomas and post-graduate courses conducted by several other institutions. Admission criteria for these institutions vary and programmes are usually advertised in the newspapers.

The Open University of Sri Lanka conducts distant education programmes (also not covered under the government free education system) including basic degree programmes that are also open for students who studied abroad.

Additionally, state-owned universities conduct a number of postgraduate diplomas and certificate programmes. They are not covered by the government free education system but are open to all students. There is no age barrier to follow the courses in the Open University of Sri Lanka.

IV. ECONOMIC SITUATION AND EMPLOYMENT

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND EMPLOYMENT POSSIBILITIES

Over thirty years of conflict, decrease of agricultural labour productivity, lack of income-earning opportunities for the rural population, and poor infrastructure outside the Western and a few other provinces are impediments to poverty reduction.

In 1977, Sri Lanka shifted away from a socialist orientation and opened its economy to foreign investment. But the pace of reform has been uneven. The December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami killed more than 35,000 people, displaced 2.5 million people and caused an estimated USD 1 billion in damage. The Tsunami's overall economic impact was less severe than originally feared. From the end of 2007 to early 2009, the economic situation in Sri Lanka was hampered by intensification of the armed conflict which ended in May 2009 resulting in massive displacement in the north of the country. Many people have now returned to home districts following demining and resettlement programmes. Economic growth in 2016 was approximately 4.4%. All key sectors contributed positively to the growth while the service sector continued to provide the highest contribution of 56.6% to overall growth with the Industry and Agriculture sectors contributing 26.2% and 23.3% respectively. The key performing sub-sectors in the services sector were Wholesale and Retail Trade, Hotel and Restaurants, Transport and Communication, Banking, Insurance, Real Estate and Ownership of Dwellings.

The Government has identified the importance of the improving economic and social infrastructure that needed to reach sustained economic growth and to improve living standards of the people and it is a significant portion of the overall development process. It is observed a gradual improvement in economic infrastructure, which includes power, transport, roads, highways, ports, water supply, telecommunications, etc. through the continuous investments. Nevertheless demand for these infrastructure facilities allow to draw the continuous investments. Similarly the country has gained considerable improvement in human development due to the Government's efforts on the provision of social infrastructure especially education and health.

B. EMPLOYMENT

The labour force consists of an economically active population aged 15 years and above. The Ministry of Labour and Trade Union Relations closely monitor workplace cooperation and industrial peace in the private sector. The Ministry awards appreciations to the institutes to encourage and maintain industrial peace.

In March 2016 the Parliament passed the Bill on National Minimum Wages and Budgetary Relief Allowance of Workers. According to the Bill, the workers who get monthly salary less than LKR 40'000 (USD 260) will receive the provisioned allowance of LKR 1'500 (USD 10) with retroactive effect as from 1 January 2016. As per the Bill the minimum wage is LKR 10'000 (USD 65) per month. The Ministry of Labour and Trade Union Relations ratified the International Labour Organization Convention 122 on employment policy to design an active employment policy in January 2016.

The Government implemented various programmes to raise the income level of the vulnerable population below the poverty line showing significant decline in poverty. These programmes were for direct financial assistance, livelihood support programmes, empowerment programmes to encourage village and community centered economic activities, subsidy programmes for low income people, food assistance programmes and general welfare public expenditure programmes such as free

education and health. Sri Lanka is implementing programmes on ending poverty by the year 2030 in all its forms in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

C. INFORMATION ON WAGES IN THE DIFFERENT SECTORS

The below are the minimum wage (since January 2016 LKR 10'000 (USD 65) per month across all sectors) and the average wage in the respective industry.

Industry	Worker Category	Wages (per month)
Plantation Sector	Minimum wage	LKR 10'000 (USD 65)
	Average wage	LKR 18'200 (USD 118)
Industrial Sector	Minimum wage	LKR 10'000 (USD 65)
	Average wage	LKR 36'400 (USD 237)
Service Sector	Minimum wage	LKR 10'000 (USD 65)
	Average wage	LKR 40'000 (USD 261)

D. UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE STATE

Sri Lanka has provided through the Ministry of Economic Development a safety net for low income households to progress out of poverty through its poverty alleviation programmes. According to the size of the family, the beneficiaries receive food stamps to purchase food items and kerosene oil, etc., in addition to which they receive special grants for life cycle events as well as for hospitalization and for their children's education.

E. PENSION SYSTEM AND OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT FROM IT FOR THE RETURNEES

There is no universal state pension available to the elderly in Sri Lanka and 72% of the working age population (predominantly informal sector workers and those outside the labour force) are not covered by formal retirement savings schemes. Formal sector pension coverage consists of civil servant pensions, provident funds (EPF/ETTF/APPF) and pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) schemes covering both formal and informal sector workers.

Sri Lanka's retirement system includes the following pension schemes:

- Employees' Provident Fund;
- Public Service Pension Scheme;
- Farmers', Fishermen and Self-Employed Scheme;
- Approved Private Provident Fund.

A returnee can enrol for pension only if he or she has been under an above pension scheme while working in Sri Lanka. The prospective applicant should have been an employee of the public sector such as a Governmental Department, bank, Armed Forces, etc. Additionally, the applicant must have been an employee for a minimum period of 10 years at a stretch. In case of Armed Forces personnel, the period of employment is 20 years for officers and 22 for soldiers. Furthermore, he/she should have been retired from the employment at the age of 55 or left employment early for medical reasons. The application forms should be forwarded through the department he/she worked at retirement. The application forms can be collected from the respective Divisional Secretariat (formerly known as AGA Office) or from the Department of Pensions (<http://www.pensions.gov.lk/>). The pension is 75-90 % of the last salary drawn. It usually takes six months to one year to process the application if all your documents are in order. If the documentation is not complete, it will take much longer to receive the pension, sometimes years.

V. BANKING SYSTEM AND BUSINESS SET-UP OPPORTUNITIES

A. GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE BANKING SYSTEM

Three types of financial institutions are allowed under the Banking Act and the Finance Companies Act to operate in Sri Lanka by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka:

- Licensed Commercial Banks
- Registered Finance Companies
- Licensed Specialized Banks

These institutions can accept deposits from the public.

B. OPPORTUNITIES TO ACCESS CREDIT TO START A BUSINESS OR BUY A REAL ESTATE

To access credit to start a business or buy a real estate, it is important that a client

- has opened an account with a bank with some savings for a period of time,
- has shown an ability of credit worthiness,
- is able to furnish a business plan and,
- can show how the repayments will be done.

Many banks request some kind of collaterals. In order to access a credit a returnee has to follow the same procedure as above. Concerning real estate purchases, the bank keeps the sole ownership of the property until the repayments are completed.

For more information on the access to credit, please refer to the publication “Access to Microcredit Opportunities for Returned Migrants during and beyond IOM Support” available on <http://ch.iom.int/fr/publications>.

VI. TRANSPORTATION

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND THE ROAD SYSTEM

Transport in Sri Lanka is based mainly on the road network which is centred on Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo. There is also a railway network, but it is largely a legacy of British colonial rule and today only handles a small fraction of the country's transportation needs. There are navigable waterways, harbours and three international airports. The highways and roadways around the country are in good condition and are being upgraded.

B. ASSESSMENT OF THE DIFFERENT MEANS OF TRANSPORT AVAILABLE BETWEEN MAJOR CITIES

1. Road transport

Road transport accounts for about 93% of the land transport in Sri Lanka. As of 2016, there are 12'210 km of A class and B class roads and 169'84 km of expressways.

The road density is higher in the southwest, especially in the area around Colombo. Highways are in good condition, with a smooth bitumen surface and road markings. The road network is at its densest around Colombo and its suburbs. Some rural roads are in poor condition. The roads that are most widely used across the country are being upgraded and repaved. In many rural areas, public transport is widely available.

2. Bus transport

Buses are the principal mode of public transport. Bus services are provided by the state-run Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) and by privately run buses. SLTB serves both urban and rural routes. In many rural areas, it provides services in unprofitable areas that would be unattractive to private operators.

Colombo has an extensive public transport system based on buses. The Central Bus Stand in Pettah functions as the primary hub for bus transport in Colombo. The road network in Colombo consists of radial links (or arterial routes), which link the city centre and district centres, and orbital links, which intersect the arterial routes; most bus routes run along the radial links without the benefit of dedicated bus lanes, owing to the high volume of traffic at peak times. A BRT system for Colombo has been proposed, but has yet to be implemented.

Inter-city routes connect many of the major population centres in the country. A few services are available on the E01 Expressway and E03 Expressway. Expressway services use modern Lanka Ashok Leyland buses.

From	Main destination cities	Approximate cost
Colombo	Jaffna	LKR 471 (USD 3)
	Kandy	LKR 150 (USD 0.9)
	Galle	LKR 143 (USD 0.9)
	Trincomalee	LKR 306 (USD 2)
	Anuradhapura	LKR 271 (USD 1.7)
	Mannar	LKR 361 (USD 2.4)
	Vavuniya	LKR 304 (USD 2)
	Nuwara Eliya	LKR 233 (USD 1.5)

3. Aviation

Sri Lanka's international airports include Colombo Bandaranaike International Airport, Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport and the Ratmalana International Airport. The Bandaranaike International Airport is located in Katunayake, 35 km north of Colombo. Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport is located in Mattala, 262 km north of Hambantota, while the Rathmala airport is located in the South of Colombo (17 Km). Sri Lanka's national airline is known as the Sri Lankan Airline.

Helitours runs domestic flights to Jaffna, Trincomalee and to few other Districts. Their Jaffna and Trinco flights are operated on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. These flights are run from the Ratmalana airport to Chinabay (Trincomalee) and Palaly (Jaffna).

From	Main destination cities	Approximate cost (Two way)
Ratmalana	Palaly	LKR 29'000 (USD 189)
Ratmalana	Trincomalee	LKR 18'500 (USD 120)
Trincomalee	Palaly	LKR 15'000 (USD 98)

4. Railways

Rail transport in Sri Lanka consists of a heavy-rail intercity network connecting major population centres and commuters. Sri Lanka Railways operates the country's railway network, which includes about 1,450 km of track. Colombo is the main hub of the network. Train routes connect the main cities of all nine provinces in the country.

Most of the railways were developed during the British colonial period, with the first line from Colombo to Kandy opening on 26 April 1867. The British introduced the railway as a cheap means of transporting the goods produced in the British-owned tea, rubber and coconut plantations, situated away from the main port in Colombo.

The railway is currently undergoing modernising phase and extending the Coast Line to facilitate faster trains and improved efficiency. Electrification of the busiest sections of the network was proposed in 2010, to improve energy efficiency and sustainability, but no work was carried out so far. The Railway is currently extending the Coastal line from Matara to Kataragama, via Hambantota, while the conflict destroyed Norther Jaffna line was fully re-laid and opened in 2014.

The railways connect the main cities of Kandy, Galle, Matara, Anuradhapura, Gampaha, Negombo, Kurunegala, Avissawella, Kalutara, Polonnaruwa, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Badulla, Gampola, Nawalapitiya, Matale, Vavuniya, Puttalam and Chilaw with the Capital Colombo.

From	Main destination cities	Approximate cost (3rd Class)
Colombo	Jaffna	LKR 335 (USD 2.2)
	Kandy / Peradeniya	LKR 105 (USD 0.7)
	Galle	LKR 100 (USD 0.7)
	Trincomalee	LKR 205 (USD 1.3)
	Anuradhapura	LKR 160 (USD 1)

VII. TELECOMMUNICATION

The telecommunication industry of Sri Lanka, though started from a small basis, has shown a significant growth in the recent years. Sri Lankan telecom sector was privatized in 1991 and was further advanced in the following years. Sri Lanka has by now about eight service providers which offer highly competitive services in the country.

The telecommunication sector has progressed in line with the global advances and innovation in the telecommunication technology while there has been government and private investments in infrastructure, telephone and internet services.

VIII. LIST OF CONTACTS

A. HEALTH CARE CENTRES WITH ADDRESSES AND CONTACT NUMBERS

National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL)	
Address:	E W Perera Mawatha
	Colombo
	Sri Lanka
Telephone:	+94 112 691 111
Email:	<i>see website</i>
	http://www.nhsl.health.gov.lk/

Red Cross Sri Lanka	
Address:	25/15 Syril De Silva Mawatha, Nugegoda
	Sri Lanka
Telephone:	+94 112 813 459
Email:	colombobeo@redcross.lk
	http://www.redcross.lk/#news

B. REAL ESTATE AGENCIES OR OTHER MEANS TO ACCESS THE HOUSE MARKET

Lanka Land	
Address:	N/A
	-
	-
Telephone:	N/A
Email:	info@lankaland.com
	http://www.lankaland.com/

Lamudi Sri Lanka	
Address:	No.9 - 4/1, School Lane
	Colombo
	Sri Lanka
Telephone:	+94 114 502 300
Email:	info@lamudi.lk
	http://www.lamudi.lk/

Lanka Property Web	
Address:	N/A
	-
	-
Telephone:	N/A
Email:	<i>see website</i>
	http://www.lankapropertyweb.com/

Lanka Real Estate	
Address:	1 Magistrates Court Square
	Galle Fort
	Sri Lanka
Telephone:	+94 777 720 249
Email:	info@lankarealestate.com
	http://www.lankarealestate.com/

Ministry of Housing and Samurdhi
Adress: Sri Jayawardanapura
Battaramul
Sri Lanka
Telephone: +94 112 882 412
Email: info@houseconmin.gov.lk
<http://www.houseconmin.gov.lk/>

NHDA
Adress: Chitampalam Gardiner M.,
Colombo
Sri Lanka
Telephone: +94 112 431 932
Email: info@nhda.lk
<http://www.nhda.lk/index.php/en/>

C. SCHOOLS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS RELATED TO EDUCATION/TRAINING

Ministry of Education
Adress: Isurupaya, Pelawatta
Battaramulla
Sri Lanka
Telephone: +94 112 785 141
Email: N/A
<http://www.moe.gov.lk>

United Nations Children’s Fund
Adress: 35 Balapokuna Road
Colombo
Sri Lanka
Telephone: +94 112 768 555
Email: colombo@unicef.org
<http://www.unicef.org/srilanka/>

National Vocational Training Authority
Adress: 354/2, Nipunatha Piyasa
Colombo
Sri Lanka
Telephone: +94 112 592 233
Email: chairman@vtasl.gov.lk
<http://www.vtasl.gov.lk/>

Women’s Education and Research Centre
Adress: 58 Dharmarama Road
Colombo
Sri Lanka
Telephone: +94 112 595 296
Email: N/A
<http://www.wercsl.org/>

BOI Sri Lanka

Adress: Level 26, West Tower

Colombo 01

Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 112 385 972

Email: info@boi.lk

<http://www.investsrilanka.com/>

D. EMPLOYMENT CENTRES

Topjobs

Adress: N/A

-

-

Telephone: +94 117 765 645

Email: support@topjobs.lk

<http://www.topjobs.lk/>

Jobvacancies

Adress: 46, Galle Road,

Colombo

Sri Lanka

Telephone: N/A

Email: jobmail@jobvacancies.lk.com

<https://www.jobvacancies.lk/>

Everjobs

Adress: N/A

-

-

Telephone: +94 114 062 598

Email: info@everjobs.lk

<https://www.everjobs.lk/>

Start and Improve Your Business

Adress: Sayuru Sevana Level 2

Colombo

Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 112 434 952

Email: hr@slbdc-lk.org

www.slbdc-lk.org

SME

Address: 344 Galle Road

Colombo

Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 72 233 1874

Email: info@sme.lk

<http://www.sme.lk/index.php>

E. MAIN BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

NDB Bank

Place: Colombo

Telephone: +94 112 694 484

<http://www.ndbbank.com/>

Sampath Bank

Place: Colombo

Telephone: +94 112 358 358

<https://www.sampath.lk/en/>

Pan Asia Bank

Place: Colombo

Telephone: +94 114 374 141

<http://www.pabcbank.com/>

Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka

Place: Colombo

Telephone: +94 114 711 711

<http://www.mbslbank.com/>

Sri Lanka Savings Bank

Place: Colombo

Telephone: +94 112 674 700

<http://www.slsbl.lk/>

Asian Development Bank

Place: Colombo

Telephone: +94 114 455 455

<https://www.adb.org/>

ICICI Bank

Place: Colombo

Telephone: +94 114 242 400

<http://www.icicibank.lk/>

Deutsche Bank

Place: Colombo

Telephone: +94 11 2447062

<https://www.db.com/srilanka/>

DFCC Bank PLC

Place: Sri Jayawardenepura

Telephone: +94 112 814 038

<http://www.dfcc.lk/en/>

Union Bank

Place: Colombo

Telephone: +94 112 374 100

<http://www.unionb.com/>

F. MAIN TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES**Sri Lanka Transport Board**

Address: 200 Kirula Road

Colombo

Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 258 112 029

Email: N/A

<http://www.sltb.lk/home.php>

Sri Lanka Railways

Address: P.O. Box 355

Colombo

Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 112 421 281

Email: gmr@railway.gov.lk

<http://www.railway.gov.lk/web/>

Airport and Aviation Services

Address: Sethsiripaya, Stage II

Battaramulla

Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 112 187 200

Email: mintransport@slt.net.lk

www.transport.gov.lk



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

For more information on return and reintegration possibilities on this country,
please consult the IOM Bern office or visit www.switzerland.iom.int