



Photo: rhythmicdiaspora



Photo: Indi Samarajiva



Photo: asanka chanaka



Photo: Indi Samarajiva

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

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### Top 5

#### Colombo National Museum

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#### City Tour

Enjoy the sights from the comfort of an open-deck, double decker bus with live commentary. Two different tours stop at the may...

#### Seema Malaka Buddhist Temple

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#### National Art Gallery

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#### Viharamahadevi Park

A peaceful interlude can be found here from the cacophony of town with neat paths bordered by tropical vegetation. You can spo...



## THE CITY



Photo: Indi Samarajiva

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 centre of Fort are colonial façades 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.

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## DO & SEE



Photo: asanka chanaka

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.

### Colombo National Museum

At 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.

Address: Sir Marcus Fernando Mw, Colombo 7

Phone: +94 11 269 4366

Internet: [www.museum.gov.lk](http://www.museum.gov.lk)

### City Tour

Enjoy the sights from the comfort of an open-deck, double decker bus with live commentary. Two different tours stop at the mayor sights and they leave from different pick-up points.

Phone: +94 11 281 4700

Internet: [www.colombocitytours.com](http://www.colombocitytours.com)

Email: [infocct@sltnet.lk](mailto:infocct@sltnet.lk)

### Seema Malaka Buddhist Temple

Designed by Geoffrey Bawa, Sri Lanka's leading architect, this temple is used for the inauguration of Buddhist monks. The resident monk is happy to explain the principles of Buddhism.

Address: Via Sir James Peiris Mw, Colombo 2

Tickets: Free entry but donations accepted

More Info: Beira Lake

### National Art Gallery

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

Address: 106 Anananda Kumaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo 7

### 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.

Address: Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo 7

### The Pettah

At this open-air market, visitors can explore scores of shops selling everything under the sun and streets devoted to hardware shops, electrical equipment, watches, gems and spice traders. Arrive early before trishaws and touts clog up the streets.

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

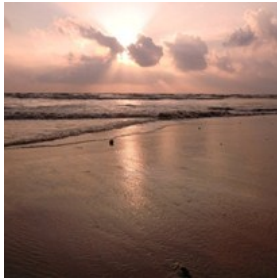
### Dutch Period Museum

This fine colonnaded Dutch building, with creaking floors and staircases, contains exhibits from the Dutch colonial era. This small museum will give you a unique experience.

Address: Prince Street, Colombo 11

Phone: +94 11 2448 466

### 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.

More Info: South of Fort along the coast

### Lionel Wendt Theatre and Art Gallery

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

Address: Guildford Crescent, Colombo 7

Phone: +94 11 269 5794

Internet: [www.lionelwendt.org](http://www.lionelwendt.org)

### Kathiresan Kovils

These kovils or temples dedicated to the war god 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.

Address: Sea Street, Colombo 11

## DINING



Photo: *Indi Samarajiva*

Sri Lankan cooking is partly influenced by its close proximity to India, but it still has its own distinct flavour. Rice is eaten on a daily basis and spicy curries are also frequently consumed.

### Long Feng

Chinese cuisine can be consumed here overlooking a beautiful terrace and a pool. You can choose whether you prefer to sit outside or inside. The restaurant is located at Cinnamon Lakeside.

Address: 115 Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 2

Phone: +94 11 2491949

Internet: [www.transasiahotel.com](http://www.transasiahotel.com)

### The Bayleaf

The Bayleaf is located in a beautifully restored colonial villa in the heart of the city. This restaurant is noted for international and local cuisine and a sophisticated cocktail bar.

Address: 79 Gregory's Road, Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo 7

Phone: +94 11 269 5920

Internet: [www.bayleafcolombo.com](http://www.bayleafcolombo.com)

### Lavinia Breeze

Lavinia Breeze is a seafood restaurant with a romantic ambience right on the beach. On the menu you will find Fusion cuisine and Asian and Western food.

Address: 43/7, De Alwis Avenue, Mount Lavinia

Phone: +94 77 321 5951

Internet: [www.laviniabreeze.lk](http://www.laviniabreeze.lk)  
More Info: Off De Saram Road

### **The Sizzle**

The food here 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?

Address: 32, Walukarama Road, Colombo 03  
Phone: +94 71 688 8777  
Internet: [www.thesizzle.lk](http://www.thesizzle.lk)

### **The Mango Tree**

Varied vegetarian dishes and fresh tandoori bread come highly recommended at this stylish north Indian restaurant. In addition to the main restaurant they have two smaller outlets in Food Court Odel and Food Court Crescat Boulevard.

Address: 82 Dharmapala Mawatha, Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo 7  
Phone: +94 11 537 9790  
Internet: [www.themangotree.net](http://www.themangotree.net)

### **Palmyrah**

This is an ever popular restaurant for classic Sri Lankan favourites. Try traditional hoppers and string hoppers for lunch or go for the Jaffna special seafood soup. Palmyrah fills up fast so book ahead.

Address: 328 Galle Road, Colombo 3  
Phone: +94 11 257 3598  
Internet: [www.renukahotel.com](http://www.renukahotel.com)  
More Info: Hotel Renuka

### **Sakura Japanese Restaurant**

When you enter Sakura Japanese 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.

Address: 14 Rheinland Place, Colombo 3  
Phone: +94 11 257 3877

## **CAFES**



Photo: CHAYAKA

Coffee shops in Colombo offer a lot more than just coffee. You can choose between a variety of beverages including hot chocolate. As in most parts of the world, a visit to a coffee shop often involves meeting up with friends and catching up on what's been going on.

### **Café 64**

This air-conditioned café appeals for a quick bite or takeaway and offers respite from the bustle of the Fort area of town. Explore the option of booking a barbecue on the terrace on a Friday or Saturday night.

Address: 64 Lotus Road, Colombo 1  
Phone: +94 11 254 4544  
Internet: [www.galadarihotel.lk](http://www.galadarihotel.lk)  
More Info: Galadari Hotel

### **Cricket Club Café**

This lively café tucked behind the busy Galle Road. As the name reveals, this venue is dedicated to cricket and here you find cricket memorabilia, endless matches on TV and dishes named after cricketers appeal to fans of the sport.

Address: 34 Queens Road, Colombo 3  
Phone: +94 11 250 1384  
Internet: [www.thecricketclubcafeceylon.com](http://www.thecricketclubcafeceylon.com)  
More Info: Off Duplication Road

### **Hansa Ceylon Coffee**

Hansa Ceylon Coffee is a Sri Lanka-based, world-renowned gourmet coffee made from Arabica and Robusta beans. Coffee experts have described it as "smooth, chocolaty and rich". The company has a showroom and café in Colombo so come here for a tasty cup of coffee.

Address: 24 Fife Road, Colombo  
Phone: +94 112 258 49 96  
Internet: [www.srilankacoffee.com](http://www.srilankacoffee.com)

### **BreadTalk**

BreadTalk has made bread baking into an art form and you can always expect gourmet desserts and delicious bread. BreadTalk is today spread over 16 countries around the world, proof of their popularity.

Address: 525, Union Place, Colombo 2  
Phone: +94 117 356 777  
Internet: [www.breadtalksri Lanka.com](http://www.breadtalksri Lanka.com)

### **Gallery Café**

This café occupies the former offices of Sri Lanka's renowned architect Geoffrey Bawa. Don't miss the stylish setting inside or in the courtyard where gut busting puddings, French and Italian cuisine and the best frozen margaritas in town are served.

Address: 2 Alfred House Road, Colombo  
Phone: +94 11 258 2162  
Internet: [www.paradiseroad.lk/gallery\\_cafe/](http://www.paradiseroad.lk/gallery_cafe/)

## **BARS & NIGHTLIFE**



Photo: Indi Samarajiva

Bars are a relatively new concept although there are some old favourites 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.

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[ola.zetterlof@arrivalguides.com](mailto:ola.zetterlof@arrivalguides.com)

### **Rhythm and Blues**

There is plenty of relaxing live music in this bar open every day. You'll also find pool tables and a good choice of spirits, beers, soft drinks and cocktails.

Address: 19/1 Daisy Villa Avenue, Colombo 4  
Phone: +94 11 3132120

### **The Library**

The Library is a wood-panelled lounge bar with seductive lighting and low tables. Nightfall means an exciting transformation into a happening nightclub with Dj's and live music on occasion.

Address: Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 2  
Phone: +94 11 2491924  
Internet: [www.cinnamonhotels.com/CinnamonLakeside.htm](http://www.cinnamonhotels.com/CinnamonLakeside.htm)  
More Info: Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo

### **Kama Colombo**

The black décor and mood lighting at Kama Colombo evoke stylish atmosphere. This venue, located in the heart of the city, is good for a quiet mid-week drink and explosive on Fridays after 10pm.

Address: 32b Sir Mohamed Macan Makar Mawatha, Colombo 3  
Phone: +94 11 2339 118  
Internet: [www.kamacolombo.com](http://www.kamacolombo.com)

### **Galle Face Hotel Bar**

Galle Face Hotel Bar is a veranda bar with a stunning view of the ocean. The ambience is elegant and guests come here to sip a cocktail and watch the sun go down.

Address: 2, Galle road, Colombo 3  
Phone: +94 11 254 1010  
Internet: [www.gallefacehotel.com](http://www.gallefacehotel.com)

### **Silk**

This trendy and stylish club offers all-night dancing and sizzling cocktails in a snazzy atmosphere. They host salsa nights on Thursdays and in the weekends DJ's attract the young crowd.

Address: 41 1/2, Maitland Crescent, Independence Avenue, Colombo  
Phone: +94 11 2 682122

## **SHOPPING**



*Photo: European Commission DG ECHO*

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

The best shopping area in town is Cinnamon Gardens where you can find just about anything made in Sri Lanka. Check out Paradise Road, 213 Dharmapala Mw, Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo 7; for trendy home décor and a fine selection of fabrics and linens, objects d'art and carvings in a gorgeous colonial house.

Explore Odels; a stylish department store stuffed with designer clothing, linens, toys, books and records and several cafés (5 Alexandra Place, Lipton Circus, Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo 7).

Also in Colombo 7 - investigate the Elephant Walk, at 61 Ward Place; with two floors of innovative gift ware such as silk place-mats and cushions, candles and furniture, in this delightfully converted colonial villa.

Give Crescat Shopping Centre a visit, adjacent to Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo 3. It features several floors of shops linked by escalator selling everything from books, clothing, records and a place to buy tea from the Mlesna Tea Centre on the first floor. In the basement there's a supermarket and a large bustling food court.



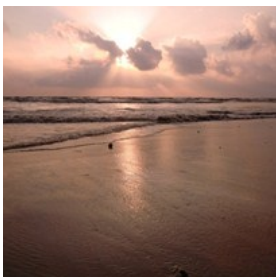
## ACCOMMODATIONS



Photo: Bleuchoi

Colombo is divided into districts (or postcodes) numbered 1-15 and knowing these numbers is essential for orientation. South along the coast from Fort, the district known as Colombo 1, is Colombo 2-10 where many top-end hotels are located. These districts continue inland taking in the fashionable shopping and residential area of Colombo 7, while Colombo 11-15 spreads northeast covering the harbour area.

### Galle Face Hotel



Called Asia's Emerald on the Green, since 1864, the Galle Face Hotel with its impressive arched façade is hard to miss. The luxurious hotel overlooks the Indian Ocean and boasts

stunning Victorian architecture.

Address: 2 Galle road, Colombo 3  
Phone: +941 12541010  
Internet: [www.gallefacehotel.com](http://www.gallefacehotel.com)  
Email: [information@gallefacehotel.net](mailto:information@gallefacehotel.net)

### Cinnamon Grand

The Cinnamon Grand is grand and glitzy, with 13 bars and restaurants, impressive rooms and the biggest pool in town. With a location right in the heart of the city you are close to sights and attractions.

Address: 77 Galle Road, Colombo 3  
Phone: +94 11 243 7437

Internet: [www.cinnamonhotels.com](http://www.cinnamonhotels.com)  
Email: [grand@cinnamonhotels.com](mailto:grand@cinnamonhotels.com)

### Cinnamon Lakeside

With views of Beira Lake and choice restaurants and bars, this palatial hotel is the ultimate in cool. For sheer luxury, go for the executive suites, which come with 24-hour butler service.

Address: 115 Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mw, Colombo 2  
Phone: +94 11 2544211  
Internet: [www.transasiahotel.com](http://www.transasiahotel.com)  
Email: [lakeside@cinnamonhotels.com](mailto:lakeside@cinnamonhotels.com)

### Havelock Place Bungalow

Boutique intimacy is the key in this 7-roomed haven. Havelock Place Bungalow features a jacuzzi and pool and a charming restaurant noted for home-made ice-cream. All rooms are equipped with WiFi.

Address: 6-8 Havelock Place, Colombo 5  
Phone: +94 11 258 5191  
Internet: [www.havelockbungalow.com](http://www.havelockbungalow.com)  
Email: [manager@havelockbungalow.com](mailto:manager@havelockbungalow.com)

### Mount Lavinia

Staying at this landmark hotel is like going back in time. It offers pool terraces, a private beach and distant views of the city skyline. The rooms are decorated in colonial style and all include air-condition.

Address: 100 Hotel Road, Mount Lavinia  
Phone: +94 11 271 1711  
Internet: [www.mountlaviniahotel.com](http://www.mountlaviniahotel.com)  
Email: [info@mountlaviniahotel.com](mailto:info@mountlaviniahotel.com)

### Hotel Renuka

Find homely comfort in this pleasant hotel close to shops, sights and restaurants. The 99 rooms all have wooden floors and a modern décor. Hotel Renuka also features a contemporary North Indian restaurant.

Address: 328 Galle Road, Colombo 3  
Phone: +94 11 257 3598  
Internet: [www.renukahotel.com](http://www.renukahotel.com)



Email: [renukaht@renukahotel.com](mailto:renukaht@renukahotel.com)

### Indra Regent Colombo

This modern hotel hosts 29 well-furnished rooms right in the middle of the action. It also features a pleasant restaurant, coffee shop and nightclub open till late.

Address: 383, R. A. De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 03

Phone: +94-11 257 7405

Internet: [www.indraregent.net](http://www.indraregent.net)

Email: [info@indraregent.net](mailto:info@indraregent.net)

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



Photo: jgmorard

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### Bandaranaika International Airport

Bandaranaika 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. The journey from the airport to Fort should cost around Rs2,500.

Bus 187 runs every 30 minutes from 6 am-9 pm to Fort Bus Station. You have to take a free bus shuttle from the airport terminal to the bus stop. A single ticket costs Rs40. Be aware that the driver might try to charge tourists extra for luggage.

The train station lies 500m from the airport with departures from 7 am-6 pm and it stops at many stations before reaching the city centre. If you have heavy luggage, the best way to reach the train station is by Trishaw. It costs about Rs100 and the train ticket costs Rs40.

Address: Bandaranaika International Airport

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

More Info: Prices updated January 2014

### Public Transport

Buses run from 5 am-10 pm and are generally crowded and slow. 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.

### 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

City Cabs

[www.citycabsbooking.com](http://www.citycabsbooking.com)

+94 11 255 2222

Kangaroo Cabs

[www.2588588.com](http://www.2588588.com)

+94 11 258 0047

### Post

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

Address: D R Wijewardena Road, Colombo  
Internet: [www.slpost.gov.lk](http://www.slpost.gov.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:

Address: 255, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 7  
Phone: +94 11 267 2293  
Internet: [www.spc.lk](http://www.spc.lk)

### **Telephone**

Country code: +94

Area Code: 011

### **Electricity**

230-240 Volt, 50 Hz

### **Population**

About 752,993

### **Currency**

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

### **Opening hours**

Shops are generally open 10.00-20.00 daily, several open on Sundays. Restaurants and bars in larger hotels stay open all day until midnight.

### **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  
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				