

COUNTRY PROFILE

SRI LANKA



Sri Lanka is one of the few countries in which you can see both the **largest land animal** and the **largest marine animal** on the same day: the **elephant** and the **blue whale**.

In **ancient times**, Sri Lanka was the **world's largest producer of cinnamon** and shipped the spice **all the way to Rome**. Even today, the country is one of the largest cinnamon suppliers worldwide.

There are two **main ethnic groups on this island**: the Sinhalese and the Tamils. Both have **their own language** and often have to switch to English in order to understand each other.



Anuradhapura

Reportedly, the **oldest tree planted by humans** is located in the antique city of **Anuradhapura**. It is **over 2,000 years old** and is said to be an offshoot of the tree under which the Buddha once attained enlightenment.

Selfies in front of Buddha statues are prohibited in Sri Lanka, and **Buddha tattoos** are not allowed to be visible in public. Violations are punished with **fines or even imprisonment**.



Up until 1990, all of the country's electricity was generated by **hydropower plants**. Today, **roughly half** of the required electricity is still produced in this way.

The renowned **"Temple of the Tooth"** is located in **Kandy**, allegedly housing one of the **Buddha's teeth**. It is considered one of the most important pilgrimage sites for Buddhism.

According to legend, someone left a **1.8-meter-long footprint** at the top of **Adam's Peak**. Depending on which religion you are inclined to believe, it was left by either Shiva, Adam or the apostle Thomas.



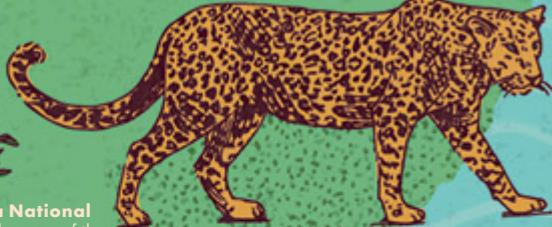
Nuwara Eliya

Sri Lanka is one of the **largest tea exporters in the world**. The region surrounding the city of **Nuwara Eliya** is the **chief tea-growing district**. The island is famous for its **Ceylon tea**, which can be enjoyed here.



The origin of the **Sri Lankan flag** dates back to the year **162 BC**. Its **motif** represents the **three different religions**: The leaves of the Bodhi Tree symbolize Buddhism, the orange Hinduism and the green Islam.

Adam's Peak



Yala National Park has one of the largest **leopard populations** on the planet. Around **30 specimens of this animal** live here - alongside crocodiles, buffalo, elephants, and bears.

The world's **first non-hereditary female head of government** was elected in Sri Lanka. Politician **Sirimavo Bandaranaike** held the office a total of three times between the years 1960 and 2000.



Sri Lanka is often referred to as "the pearl of the Indian Ocean." No wonder, considering the fact that there is a great deal to discover on this tropical island with around 21 million inhabitants: dream beaches, cultural treasures, rich biodiversity, and hearty cooking. The Würth Group has been present in Sri Lanka since 1998. The company now has three branch offices there with over 100 employees.