



A Travel Guide to
SRI LANKA

THE

ESSENTIAL

THINGS

PLACES **CUISINES** CULTURE **HACKS** and MORE!



It's a blessing for us to take people to places and make them smile every day.

- CEO David Dao

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**EXPLORE
ENJOY
REPEAT**



**UNBEATABLE
PRICES**



**7-DAY
MONEY BACK**



**DEPARTURE
GUARANTEE**

Greetings from

Asia Vacation Group

Inspired by the passion of travelling and exploring the extraordinary, Asia Vacation Group travel agency was born in 2015 with the vision of delivering the ultimate travel experience to group and individuals around the world.

Guests Lover

Our dedicated services are with you all the way. Just sit back and relax.

Local Leaders

With more than 60 itineraries to 7 countries in Asia, we will take you the most beautiful corners of the land.

Responsible Travel

We implement only good ethic practices to protect the environment and historical wonders for mankind.

The accommodation was exemplary in the four hotels we stayed in and every tour was terrific with the highlight for me being the Saigon River dinner cruise. The food everywhere was fantastic. Thank you for arranging such a great holiday.

- Norm Avent
Asia Vacation Group Customer



SRI LANKA

Most people come to Cambodia to explore the famous Angkor Wat Temple, a UNESCO Heritage Site, in Siem Reap. While the temples are indeed magnificent and worth the visit, there are much more things to see and try within the kingdom. From the floating villages in Tonle Sap Lake to the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh, travellers will have chances to learn more about the turbulent history as well as Cambodia's local lives and traditions. The country is truly a hidden gem in Southeast Asia.





OVERVIEW

Quick Facts

POPULATION
21 mils (as of 2018)

CURRENCY
Rupee (LKR)

EXCHANGE RATE

	1 USD	1 AUD	1 Euro
to LKR	175	123	200

POPULAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS
Bandaranaike Airport (CMB), Colombo
Mattala Rajapaksa Airport (HRI),
Hambantota

LANGUAGE
Sinhala & Tamil

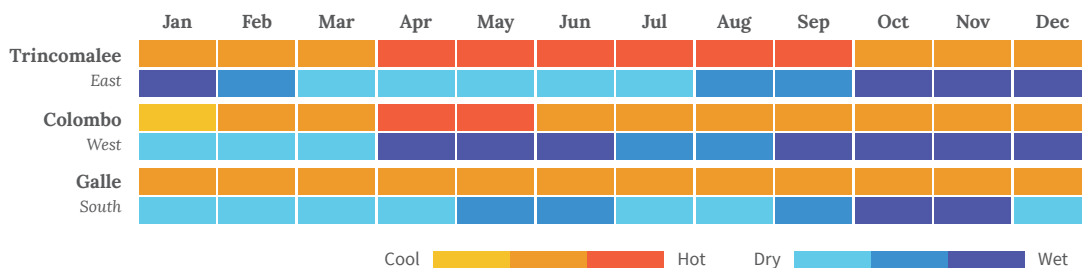
TIME ZONE
UTC +5:30 hours

ELECTRICITY
230V/50Hz
Plug type D & G



Weather

The best time to travel across this country is from January to April or from Mid-July to September when the weather is relatively dry, warm and sunny.



WHERE TO GO



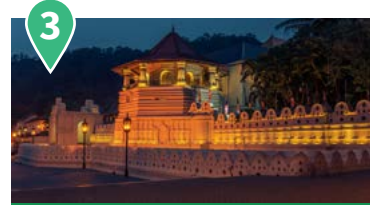
Anuradhapura

As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Anuradhapura is famous for its well-preserved ruins of an ancient Sri Lankan civilization and the world's most revered Maha Bodhi tree.



Sigiriya

Also known as Lion Rock, Sigiriya is an incredible rock fortress situated in the Matale District. This destination is surrounded by verdant jungle, a vast plain as well as the magnificent thousand-year-old frescoes.



Kandy

Surrounded by the central highlands, Kandy is the last capital of the Sinhala Kings and home to the Temple of the Tooth. Also, it is a place in which the grandest Esala Perahera Festival celebrated in the summer.



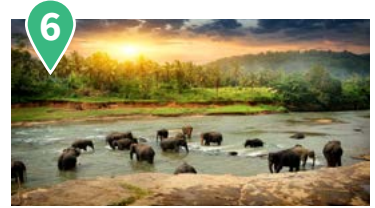
Colombo

Being the largest city in Sri Lanka, Colombo capital is filled with an array of magnificent buildings and Buddhist architectures. It is also popular for its large hectic Pettah shopping district.



Arugam Bay

Sitting on the southeast coast of Sri Lanka, Arugam Bay is considered as one of the world's best spot for surfing. The laid-back lifestyle along with astonishing beaches provide a wonderful getaway.



Yala National Park

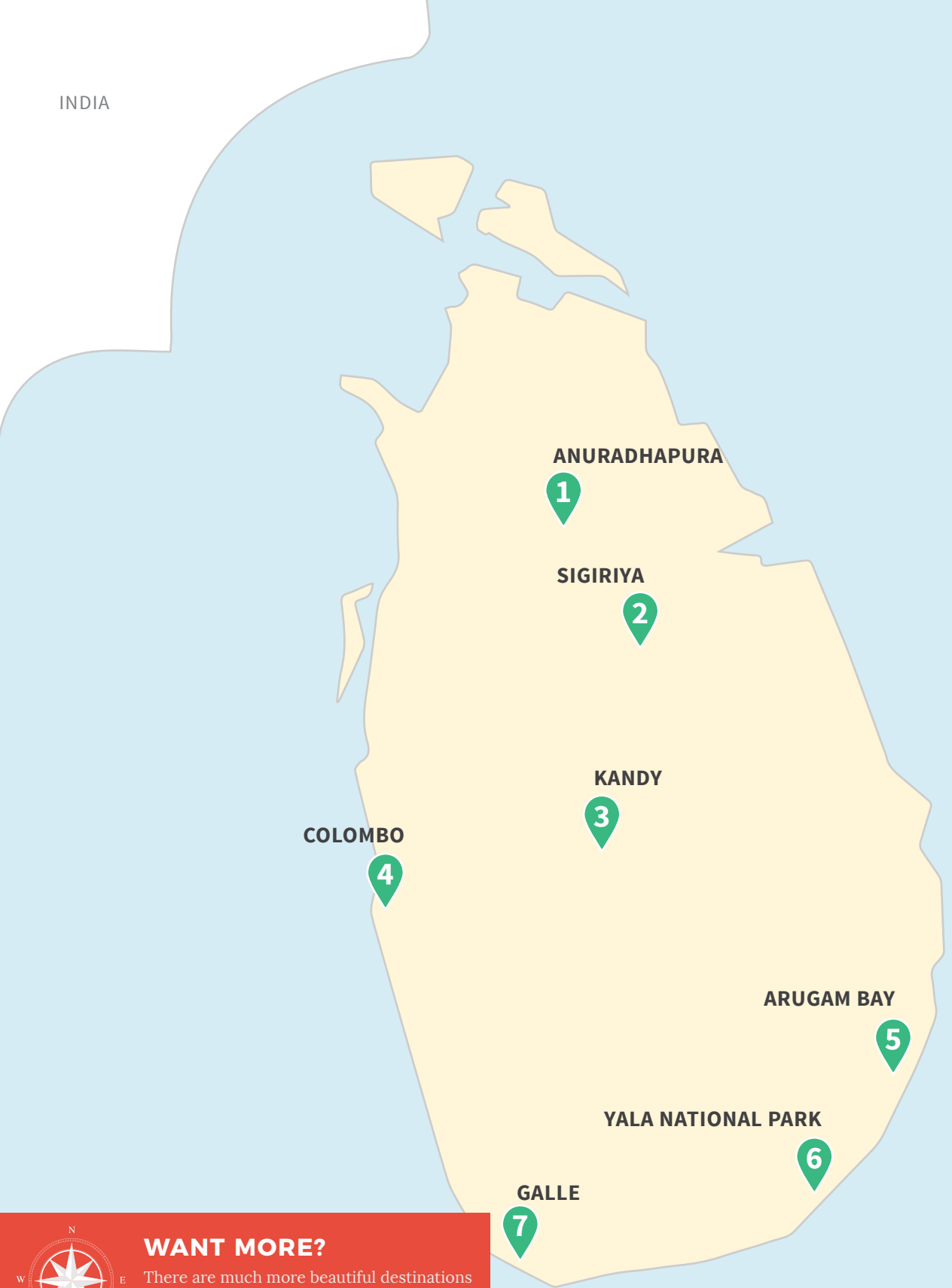
For wildlife lovers, Yala Park is home to the highest concentration animals, plants and lagoons among the country. Travellers will have chances to get close to leopards, buffaloes, crocodiles, and much more.



Galle

Galle is a charming historical city located on Sri Lanka's west coast, offering delightful seaside views and stunning colonial buildings. Some highlights are the Galle Fort (a Dutch legacy) and St. Mary's Cathedral.

INDIA



WANT MORE?

There are much more beautiful destinations not being mentioned here. Visit our website to explore the bigger Sri Lanka.



WHAT

TO DO

01

Climb the Sigiriya Rock

Sigiriya, an incredible rock fortress with historical and archaeological significance, is considered as the only witness of Ceylon civilization during the reign of King Kassapa. The height is nearly 200 meters and it is once a magnificent royal palace as well as a Buddhist monastery.



02

Ride the Kandy-Ella train

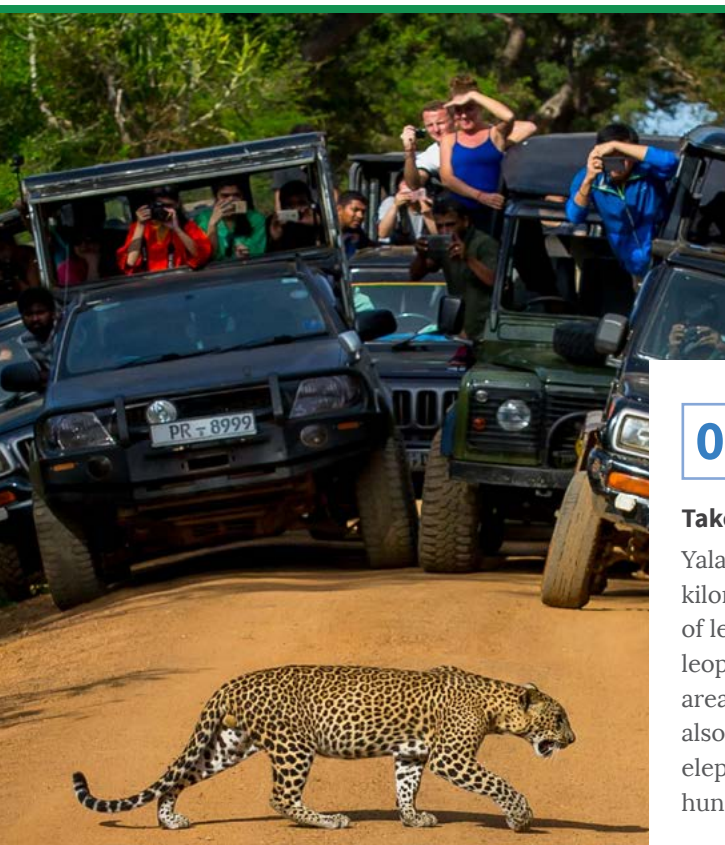
With just a few dollars, passengers can get stunning views of verdant plantations, green hillsides, lush plains and many villages. As the train winds through mountains and tunnels, the scenes change as if travellers are watching a classic movie



03

Take a tour at Yala National Park

Yala National Park covers over 1000 square kilometres, inhabiting the highest density of leopards in the world. Though around 40 leopards are believed to roam around the area, it still requires luck to spot one. You can also observe many other wild animals such as elephants, deers, crocodiles, sloth bears and hundreds of bird species.





04

Surf in Arugam Bay

Arugam Bay, located on the east coast, is one of the world's top surfing destinations. For surfers, they would probably never get addicted to the epic waves and winds in the area. For those who don't, there are quick training courses available to help anyone to try this experience. Otherwise, just laze on the beach.



05

Whale watching

Mirissa is a small beach village with clean water, lots of seaside activities, delicious food and amazing whales. There are local tour operators who offer the tours to see those blue mammals. The best advice is to go early in the morning and do not expect to see those whales with 100% probability.

06

Enjoy tea in Nuwara Eliya

Sri Lanka is famous for tea worldwide. At the Heritage Tea Factory in Nuwara Eliya, or "Little England", visitors can tour neatly-terraced tea estates, watch pickers at work and buy some samples to take home. In some plantations, visitors can even pick their own tea. However, it takes serious skills and dedication to do so.

07

Get Ayurvedic treatment

Ayurvedic technically means life and science. Originated in India, this treatment focuses on restoring the balance between mind, body and spirit. Generally, the treatment uses a combination of medicines, exercises and meal plans to fix people's physical and mental issues.



INSIGHTS

Getting a Visa

Type	Visa On Arrival	e-Visa Before Arrival
What	Apply at the airport.	Apply online.
Pros	No preparation needed prior to leaving.	100% online application Save time at the airport.
Cons	Queue up at the airport.	

Local Money

Local currency can be exchanged at the banks or authorized agencies.

Popular banks are Commercial Bank of Ceylon, National Savings Bank, and People’s Bank.

**Do not make any transaction at unauthorized shops. There’s a fine and the difference is not worth it.*



MOVING AROUND

AIRLINES

Options for domestic flights within Sri Lanka are limited and expensive. Domestic aircraft are priority selection for instant transfer. There are only 2 airlines operating domestically, which are SriLankan Airlines and Cinnamon Air.



WATER

Sri Lanka has rivers and canals running through the land, allowing travellers to go canoeing or kayaking for recreational purposes. However, regular commuting around the country by boats and ferry is not available.



TAXI

The taxi rate is about ^{USD}0.5/km. If you hail a taxi without a meter, it is better to negotiate the price before getting in the car. Day rental may cost around ^{USD}25 for a taxi.



BUS

One can get halfway across the island for just ^{USD}1.5. The bus fee varies depending on the services included. Air-conditioned buses may cost twice as much as regular price. Central Bus Stand in Colombo capital is where you can buy bus tickets to travel to any part of Sri Lanka.



TUK-TUK

The standard rate of a local tuk-tuk is about ^{USD}0.25/km. Even though there may be meters on the vehicles, the drivers are not obligated to charge according to the meters. Hence, it is recommended to confirm the price prior to using services.



TRAIN

Sri Lanka railway cars are divided into unreserved cars and reserved cars. The unreserved cars are often crowded and can't be booked in advance, whereas, seats in reserved cars can be booked up to 30 days in advance. If you are told that a train is full, this means all reserved seats have sold out. In this case, you can still buy a ticket at the station for the unreserved seats.



HUNGRY?

01 Kottu

A ubiquitous dish resembles fried rice, except instead of rice, it is made of a crispy bread (godamba roti), usually served with spicy curry sauce.



02 Spicy Jackfruit (Polos)

A curry dish prepared with green jackfruit boiled until soft then cooked with onions, garlic, ginger, turmeric, chilli powder, curry leaves then simmered in coconut milk.



03 Egg Hopper (Appa)

A Sri Lankan version of thin pancake. The batter is made by mixing fermented rice flour, coconut milk and sugar then fried in a small wok, filled with fried eggs and topped with onions, chillies, lemon juice and salt.



04 Coconut Salad (Gotu Kola Mallum Sambola)

This healthy dish is a mix of shredded green vegetables, spices, coconut, chilli, onion and Umbalakada fish. Steamed rice is served on the side.

05 Asmi

Best place to get: Anywhere

Milk, cinnamon and coconut milk are mixed with rice flour before being deep-fried, creating a perfect harmony of sweetness and smooth aroma for snack lovers.



STAY HEALTHY

As a tropical island, common diseases are malaria, typhoid, typhus and diarrhea. Tap water is not safe to consume. The Lanka Hospital and Nawaloka Hospital in Colombo are leading health care providers. Travellers can expect local clinics for minor problems. In an emergency, you must quickly get transferred to the nearest medical centres for treatment and advice. We highly recommend that all travellers should purchase travel insurance for peace of mind.

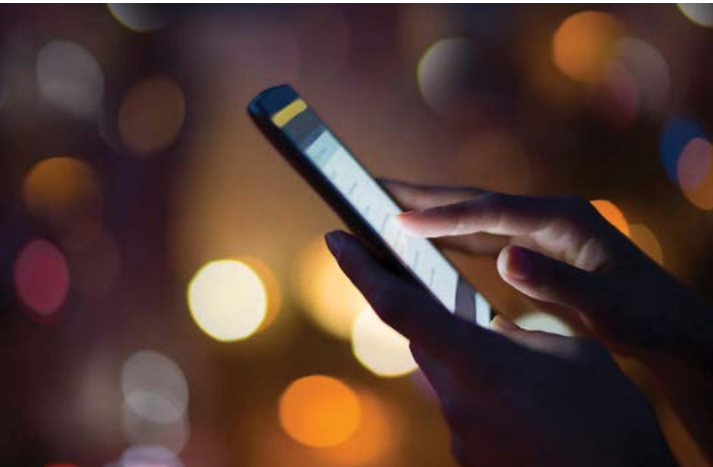


EMERGENCY DIAL

118
POLICE

110
FIRE

110
MEDIC



STAY CONNECTED

A 4G sim card costs about USD5 for 3GB of data, and some call credits. (Mobitel).

Popular Network Providers are Mobitel, Etisalat, Airtel, and Hutch.

STAY SAFE

Heat exhaustion: The climate is warm and hot all year-round which may cause you easily exhausted while adventuring in this country. Always bring a bottle of water along with you, wear your sunhat and use sunscreen to avoid the risks of heat exhaustion.

Pickpocketing and thieves: Travellers should only carry small cash amounts. Do not put purses or wallets in the back pockets and stay cautious when entering crowded areas.



CULTURE

FESTIVAL

> The Sinhala and Tamil New Year

April - Nationwide

This occasion is held annually on 13th-14th April, marking the end of the harvest season. During these days, the whole country is covered by a festive atmosphere as people come back home to prepare for reunion and welcoming a new year. Firework, good food and family parties are everywhere.

> Vesak

May - Nationwide

As the most hallowed Buddhist festival, Vesak festival is celebrated on the full moon day in May to commemorate the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death. During the festival, every corner is decorated and lit up with a myriad of candles and Vesak lanterns, especially in Colombo. People are encouraged to make donations to the monks.



> Vel Festival

July/August - Colombo

Considered as Sri Lanka's main Hindu festival, Vel Festival is to pay homage to the god Skandha's trident. On this day, the Skandha's vel is placed in a gilded temple-like chariot and pulled by hundreds of devotees dressed in white in the vibrant procession. The streets are filled with dancers, musicians, and elephants.

ETIQUETTES



Stay local. Stay right

#1

Use your right hand when handing something to others. The right hand is considered to be more respectful.

#2

Do not touch anyone's head, especially the monks.

#3

Respect the monks and do not make fun of them.

#4

Avoid taking photos with Buddha statues or turning your backs to them.

#5

Dress properly when entering temples and shrines. Shoulders and knees should be covered.

#6

Take off the shoes when entering houses unless being told otherwise.

#7

Tattoos of Buddha and deities are not welcomed. If you have one, it is recommended to cover them.

#8

Avoid giving gifts made of leather to Hindus.

#9

Using hands to eat is common. Utensils can be provided on request.

#10

Leaving some leftover on your dish means you are full. Otherwise, you are still hungry.



TRAVEL AGENCY

Employed by Asia travel experts, Asia Vacation Group understands deeply WHERE to go, WHAT to do, and HOW to take your holiday to the fullest



Best Prices



7-day Money Back



100% Departure Guarantee

Our tours typically include



Flights



Accommodation



Selective Meals



Transportation



Sightseeing



Tour Guides

**Prices are on per person twin share basis and subject to change without notice.*

Have your own itinerary in mind?

Call us today and let us make your desired journey come alive. Our travel experts are always waiting for you.



TRAVEL HACKS

the CHECKLIST for PACKING

You don't need to pack your whole apartment into your luggage...

Documents

- Passport with at least 6 months expiry date.
- Visa documents.
- E-tickets or printed ticket.
- Hotel list.
- Tour itinerary.

Clothes

- Tshirts, shorts.
- Swimsuit.
- Jackets.
- Hat or cap.

Electronics

- Chargers.
- Electrical adapter and converter.
- Camera kit, including batteries and memory cards.
- Phone, earphones.

Medicines

- Cold/Flu, Diarrhea, Pain Relief,
- Allergy.
- Prescription drug with label and doses description.
- Sunscreen and insect spray.



Money

- Foreign currency in cash.
- Credit card (Mastercard or Visa are more widely accepted).

Packing Gears

- 1 check-in luggage (up to 20/30kg).
- 1 carry-on luggage (up to 7kg).
- 1 small travel bag/backpack.

Shoes

- Comfortable walking shoes.
- Sandals.

Accessories

- Sunglasses.
- Umbrella.
- Hat or cap.

Toiletries

- Toothbrush and toothpaste.
- Soap/shower gel.
- Feminine product.
- Hand sanitizer or wet wipe.

TRAVEL HACKS

ON THE GO

SURVIVAL TIPS



SOUVENIRS

For those who do not want to get home empty handed.

- Ceylon Tea.
- Ayurvedic beauty products.
- Raksha masks.
- Gems and jewellery

TALK LOCAL

Some common Sinhala phrases that may come in handy.

English

Sinhala

Hello

aayu-bo-wan

Thank you

bo-hoh-mah lss-too-tee

Very good

hari hondai

Yes

ow

No

naa



BARGAIN

You should only haggle with street vendors and taxi.

Rule#1: Study the prices with different vendors.

Rule#2: Do not use this move if the price is too low already.

Rule#3: Start bidding at 50% of the offer received and work your way up.

Rule#4: If 50% works, walk away immediately. It can be much lower.

Rule#5: Just walk away...



BOOKING FORM

Please fill in the form below and kindly send them to our office. Our address is on the last page of this guide.

SECTION 1: TRIP DETAILS

1. Which tour do you want to book?

.....

2. Preferred room type

Twin Double Triple

3. Where will you depart from?

Sydney Melbourne Brisbane
 Adelaide Canberra Perth
 Auckland Other (Please specify below)

.....

4. Would you like to purchase travel insurance

Yes No

5. Preferred Flight Class

Economy Premium Economy
 Business First Class

6. When do you want to travel

..... (dd/mm/yyyy)

7. Number of passengers

.....

8. Add-on Tours (Please name all of them)

.....

.....

.....

9. Special Request (transport, accommodation, etc)

.....

.....

.....

* Final price will vary based on your selections. But don't worry, you are still having the best rates possible

SECTION 2: LEAD PASSENGER

10. First Name

11. Middle Name

12. Last Name

13. Street Address 1

14. City

15. State

16. Postal Code

17. Street Address 2

18. Country

19. Nationality

20. Email Address

21. Phone Number

SECTION 3: OTHER INFORMATION

22. Would you like to hear about our latest offers and promotions? Yes No

Terms & Agreement (Please read carefully)

If submitted by one party only, I confirm that I am authorized to sign on behalf of all passengers listed on this booking form. All parties have read, understood and agree to abide by the terms, booking conditions and responsibilities.

Your signature

Today's Date:...../...../.....

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Reservation & Deposit

Tour prices are subject to availability of tour, airlines, special economy class fare and specific airfare class availability. All services are subject to availability.

Typically, a deposit (from \$199 per passenger) is required within three (3) days of receiving confirmation that the company is holding space for you. Actual amount of deposit may vary depending on tours. *Note that Private Tours and Tailor-Made Tours require a 30% deposit.* Passenger names must be provided exactly as per passport, including middle names, at the time of deposit/booking. Any spelling corrections made after a deposit is paid must be sent in writing and will incur additional fees, including any ticket reissue fees. Asia Vacation Group reserves the right to correct any errors in rates quoted or calculated, or any commissions made at any time during your booking. Any verbal quote given is an indication only of the final price and is subject to confirmation in writing.

Amenments & Extra Fees

The following fees will apply:

- Amendments to confirmed and deposited itineraries outside of 30 days prior to departure where the value of the booking is decreased: \$50 per change for admin fee.
- Transferring between tours (within 75 days): See "Cancellation by Customer" for applicable fees and details.
- Reissue of airline tickets: From \$100 per person.
- Once a booking is confirmed, name transfers may incur additional charges.

Cancellation by Customers

All cancellations must be made in writing to Asia Vacation Group and will be subject to the following cancellation charges from the date the written cancellation is received:

- If airline and rail tickets are issued, up to 100% of the airfare and rail fare surcharged.
- If your booking is made with the Budget airlines, up to 100% of package tour.
- If customer wants to change the travel dates and visa issued,

up to 100% of visa fee.

- More than 75 days prior to departure: loss of deposit plus any administration fees
- Between 74 and 59 days prior to departure: 25% of total cost
- Between 58 and 46 days prior to departure: 50% of total cost
- 45 days or less prior to departure: 100% of total cost
- Any "No Show": 100% of total cost

In the event of a cancellation any refunds will be less administration fees and any applicable amendment fees. Asia Vacation Group will endeavour to recover as much as possible from suppliers to pass on to the customer. Regrettably cancellation charges and fees cannot be waived. There can be no exceptions. No refund will be made for any unused portions of the holiday after the departure date. Please note that employees of any overseas company or staff of Asia Vacation Group outside Australia are not authorised to give any guarantees or agreements to customers in respect of refunds or any other matters.

Cancellation by the Company

Asia Vacation Group reserves the right to cancel or vary a tour prior to departure due to insufficient numbers. In such an event, alternative guaranteed travel dates will be offered. Should these options not be acceptable Asia Vacation Group will refund the full price paid, less visa cost. If a tour is cancelled or varied prior to departure due to unforeseeable circumstances such as, but not restricted to, severe weather conditions or force majeure, Asia Vacation Group will refund all monies prior to departure less visa cost, fuel surcharge and any other cancellation fees levied by airlines and other third parties. Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, adverse weather, flight rescheduling, hotel overbooking and faults with transportation or road conditions may also have an effect on the tour itinerary after the commencement date. Any decision made in respect of tour services by independent operators to re-route or amend the itinerary due to any of the above or similar circumstances

is at the discretion of the tour service provider and Asia Vacation Group will not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events.

Responsibilities

Asia Vacation Group acts as a coordinator for all persons taking these tours in the making of all arrangements for transportation, sightseeing and hotel accommodation. The Company does not own, manage, control or operate any transportation vehicle, any hotel or restaurant or any other supplier of services. All receipts and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier and all services are subject to the laws of the country where the services are provided. The Company acts only as an agent for the owners, contractors and suppliers of transportation and/or other related travel services provided and assumes no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage to baggage or property or for any injury, illness or death or for any damages or claims whatsoever caused arising directly or indirectly from accidents, loss, theft or damage to person or property, delays, transport failure, strikes, wars and uprisings or acts of God etc. over which the Company has no control. We strongly urge all customers to undertake a high level of personal responsibility in order to ensure that possessions, equipment and personal documents are closely monitored and protected at all times.

Privacy

We are collecting your personal information so that we can process your booking. We will also keep you up to date with other Asia Vacation Group's offers and product information that may be of interest to you if you have consented to this. You can opt out of receiving information at any time if you choose to do so. Any personal information you provide will be managed in accordance with Asia Vacation Group's privacy policy.



We are living in a connected world.



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You
NEVER
have to travel
ALONE