# Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is an island south of India in the Indian Ocean. Its commercial capital is Colombo and its legislative capital is Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte. Its population is 22,889,201 and it has a tropical monsoon climate. The northeast monsoon season is from December to March and the southwest monsoon season is from June to October.

## Languages

The official and national languages of Sri Lanka are Sinhala and Tamil, while English is most commonly used in government. Many minority languages are spoken, the best known being Veddha.

## Nationality

Sri Lankan

## Currency

Sri Lankan Rupee

## Ethnic Groups

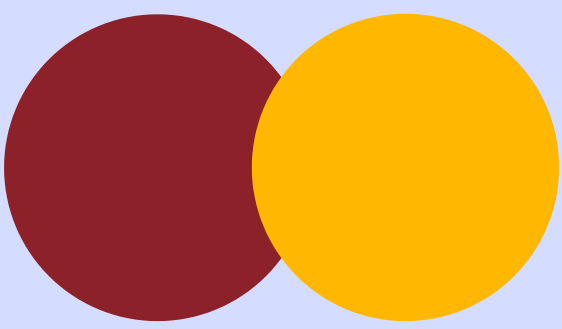
The four major ethnic groups are the Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslims and Burghers. In 1983, the Tamil revolted against the Sinhalese due to oppressive governmental control. In 2009 the Tamil Tigers were defeated, leaving about 300,000 internally displaced persons due to war. The Veddha are a very small population of people indigenous to Sri Lanka who are in danger of extinction.

## Major Sites

- Sigiriya Rock Fort
- Yala National Park
- Temple of the Sacred Tooth
- Sri Pada
- Nine Arch Bridge
- Mihintale
- Arugam Bay
- Ravana Falls
- Unawatuna

## Independence Day

February 4, 1948

Sri Lanka's national symbols are a lion and a water lily.

Sri Lanka's national colors are maroon and yellow.