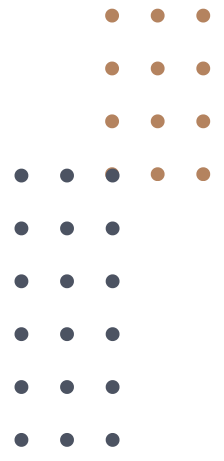


**Chandrawat
& Partners**



IMMIGRATION TO SRI LANKA

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INTRODUCTION

The oldest democracy in South Asia is found in Sri Lanka, an island republic off the coast of India. With a projected population of almost 20 million and an average annual growth rate of 0.73%, it is the 57th most populous nation in the world. The capital cities of Sri Lanka are Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte and Colombo, and the rupee is the country's own currency.

Buddhists make up around 70% of Sri Lanka's population, followed by Hindus and Muslims. With a life expectancy of about 80 years, Sri Lankans have a long lifespan that is over 10% longer than the global average.

The island of Sri Lanka, which is divided from the Indian Subcontinent, is mostly composed of flat territory; there are only mountains in the southern part of the nation. Pidurutalagala is the island's highest point, rising 2,524 meters (8,281 feet) above sea level.



SYSTEM OF IMMIGRATION

Sri Lanka's immigration system is governed by a number of laws and rules. Following are some essential details about the Sri Lankan immigration system:

Visa Requirements: Foreign nationals typically require a visa to enter Sri Lanka. The type of visa you need depends on the purpose of your visit, such as tourism, business, work, study, or residency. Sri Lanka offers various types of visas, including:

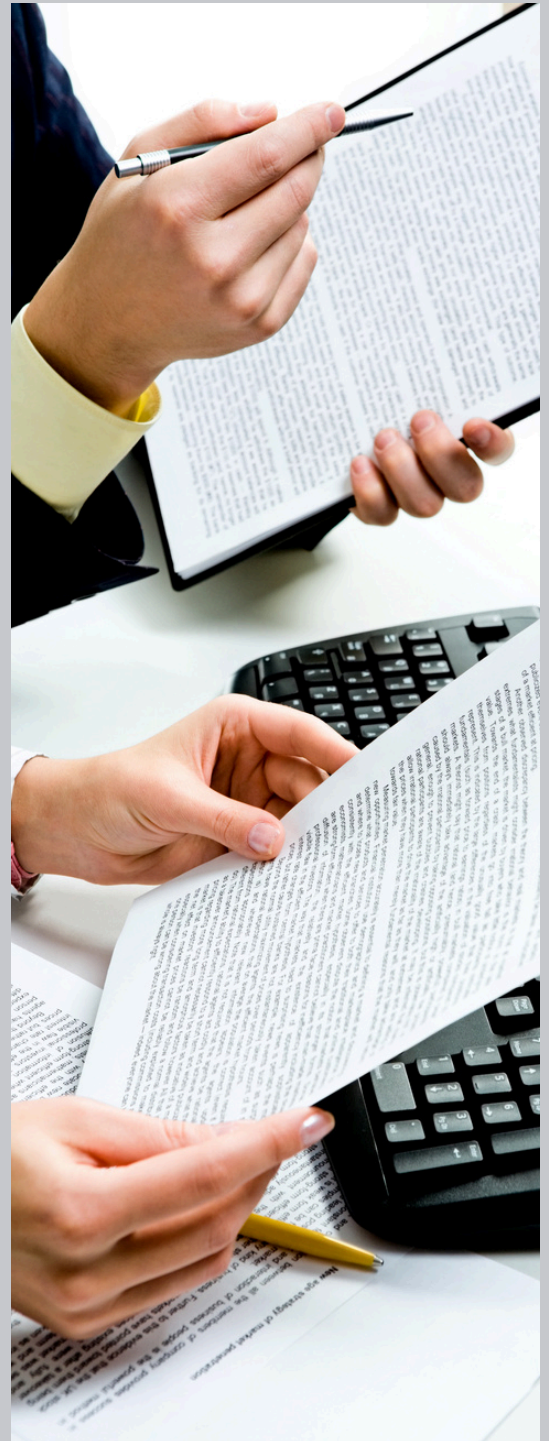
Tourist Visa: For short-term visits, usually for tourism or leisure purposes.

Business Visa: For business-related activities, meetings, and conferences.

Work Visa: For foreign nationals intending to work in Sri Lanka.

Student Visa: For individuals pursuing studies at recognized institutions in Sri Lanka.

Resident Visa: For those who wish to reside in Sri Lanka for an extended period, often tied to employment, investment, or other circumstances.



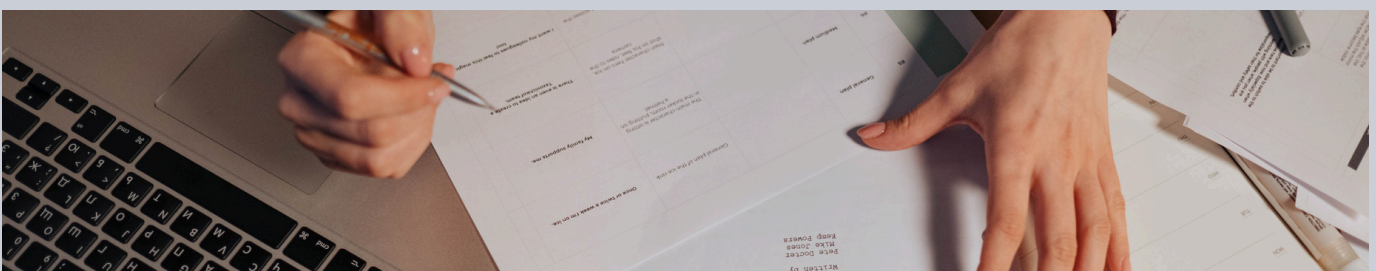
Application Process: The application process for obtaining a visa may vary depending on the type of visa a person is applying for and his country of origin. In many cases, you can apply for a visa online through the Sri Lanka Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) system. For longer-term visas, an individual might need to apply through the relevant Sri Lankan diplomatic mission or consulate in your home country.

Validity and Extensions: The validity of a visa varies based on the type and purpose of the visit. Tourist visas are often valid for short stays (e.g., 30 days), while other types of visas may allow for longer stays. If a person wishes to extend their stay in Sri Lanka, usually they need to apply for an extension through the Department of Immigration and Emigration in Sri Lanka.

Requirements: The specific documentation and requirements for each type of visa can differ. Common requirements include a valid passport, completed visa application form, proof of funds to cover the stay, return or onward ticket, and sometimes a letter of invitation or sponsorship from a host or employer in Sri Lanka.

Overstaying and Penalties: It's important to adhere to the terms of a person's visa to avoid overstaying. Overstaying a visa can result in fines, detention, deportation, or even being banned from reentering the country.

Residency and Citizenship: If a person is interested in becoming a long-term resident or obtaining Sri Lankan citizenship, there are specific processes to follow. These often involve meeting residency requirements, demonstrating their contributions to the country, and fulfilling other criteria.



PURPOSE FOR IMMIGRATION

Tourism: Visitors to Sri Lanka will require an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), which is an official authorization for a short visit to Sri Lanka. Visitors can enjoy beautiful beaches, friendly people, and a low cost of living

Business: For business purposes, visitors will require an ETA, and restrictions may apply for certain business activities or entering the country as part of the media.

Education: Families are sending their children abroad to study, for example in India



Immigration: Sri Lankan people have moved to foreign countries due to civil war, poverty, and unemployment. Expats and digital nomads can find a variety of accommodation options, from beachfront villas to city apartments, and the cost of living is relatively low. However, Sri Lanka's economic crisis is worsening, and many Sri Lankans are trying to migrate to other countries to work or study



NON-DIRECT AND OTHER ROUTES

Immigrating to Sri Lanka can be approached through various avenues, some of which may not involve the traditional direct immigration process. Here are some alternative routes or options to consider:

Investor Visa: Sri Lanka offers investor visas for those who are willing to invest a significant amount of money in the country. This could be in the form of real estate, business ventures, or other approved investments.

Retirement Visa: If a person is looking to retire in Sri Lanka, they can apply for a retirement visa. This typically requires proof of sufficient funds to support yourself during your retirement years in the country.

Student Visa: If an individual plans to study in Sri Lanka, obtaining a student visa is a viable option. This allows them to live and study in the country for the duration of your course.

Volunteer or Work Exchange Programs: Some organizations offer volunteer or work exchange programs that provide opportunities to live and work in Sri Lanka in exchange for services rendered.

Marriage to a Sri Lankan Citizen: If a person marry a Sri Lankan citizen, they may be eligible for residency through the spouse visa route.

Diplomatic or UN Assignments: If an individual is employed by an international organization, embassy, or have a diplomatic assignment in Sri Lanka, they might be able to enter the country through these arrangements.

Humanitarian or Refugee Status: While this is a more complex and rare situation, individuals seeking refuge due to humanitarian or political reasons might find themselves in Sri Lanka.

TYPES OF VISAS



Tourist Visa: Most foreign visitors to Sri Lanka require a tourist visa. This allows an individual to stay in the country for a limited period of time for tourism and leisure purposes. Tourist visas can usually be obtained online through the Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) system.

Business Visa: If a person plan to visit Sri Lanka for business-related activities, they may need a business visa. This could include attending meetings, conferences, or exploring business opportunities.

Work Visa: If someone intends to work in Sri Lanka, they typically need a work visa. This type of visa often requires sponsorship from a local employer.

Student Visa: If a student plans to study in Sri Lanka, they will likely need a student visa. This usually requires enrollment in a recognized educational institution.

Residence Visa: This type of visa is for individuals who wish to live in Sri Lanka for an extended period. It's usually obtained after entering the country on another type of visa and meeting specific criteria.



LICENCES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

Tourist Visa:

a) Valid passport with at least six months validity from the intended date of arrival.

b) Confirmed return/onward ticket.

c) Sufficient funds to cover the expenses during your stay.

Tourist visas can often be obtained online through the official Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) system.

Business Visa:

a) Valid passport with at least six months validity from the intended date of arrival.

b) Invitation from a company or organization in Sri Lanka, specifying the purpose of the visit.

c) Return/onward ticket.

d) Sufficient funds to cover the expenses during your stay.

Work Visa:

- a) Employment contract or offer from a company in Sri Lanka.
- b) Relevant qualifications and experience related to the job.
- c) Approval from the Department of Immigration and Emigration in Sri Lanka.
- d) Medical clearance, including a negative COVID-19 test if required.

**Student Visa:**

- a) Letter of acceptance from a recognized educational institution in Sri Lanka.
- b) Proof of sufficient funds to cover tuition fees and living expenses.
- c) Return/onward ticket.
- d) Medical clearance and possibly a negative COVID-19 test.

Transit Visa:

- a) Valid visa for the destination country after leaving Sri Lanka.
- b) Confirmed travel arrangements with proof of transit.



HOW WE CAN HELP?

Expertise and knowledge:

Our firm is having in-depth knowledge of the country's immigration laws, regulations, and procedures. Our firm can provide accurate and up-to-date information, ensuring that clients understand the requirements and steps involved in the immigration process.

Assessment and eligibility:

Our firm can assess an individual's or a company's eligibility for immigration to Sri Lanka. The firm can review the client's qualifications, work experience, and other relevant factors to determine the most suitable immigration category or visa type.

Visa applications:

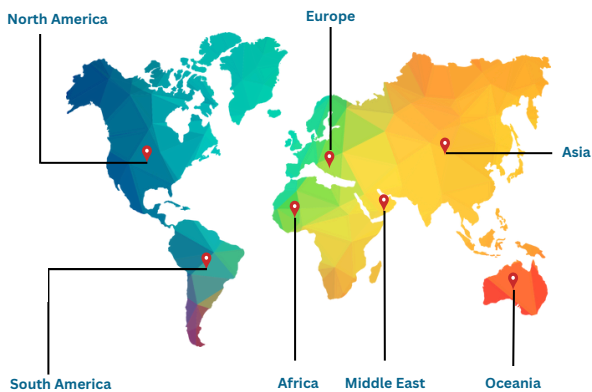
Our firm can assist with the preparation and submission of visa applications. The team will guide clients through the documentation requirements, help them gather the necessary paperwork, and ensure that the applications are completed accurately and submitted on time.

Work permits and sponsorship:

In Sri Lanka, many immigration categories require sponsorship from an Sri Lankan employer or company. The firm can help individuals or businesses find suitable sponsors, navigate the process of obtaining work permits, and facilitate the necessary arrangements between the sponsor and the applicant.



SERVING CLIENTS WORLDWIDE



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