

FRA 008 Applications for Visas for Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan nationals residing in France and other concurrently accredited countries which include Spain, Portugal, Monaco and Andorra.

Where to apply: forward your application to the following office.

Respective Country		Office and Contact details
France Spain Portugal Monaco Andorra	Visiting Address } Mailing Address } General Contacts } Email: Website: Consular hours:	Embassy of Sri Lanka in France 16 Rue Spontini, 75016 Paris Tel: 0033 155 73 31 31 Fax: 0033 155 73 18 79 Consular@srilankaembassy.fr http://www.srilankaembassy.fr Monday to Friday (Except public Holidays) Receiving applications: 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Issuance of documents: 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

- **What are the general eligibility requirements for Sri Lankan visas?**

- Sri Lanka immigration and emigration may Grant or issue visa to you
- Sri Lanka immigration and emigration is satisfied that you are visitor/tourist
- Sri Lanka immigration and emigration approves the purpose for which you are entering Sri Lanka
- You hold a recognised passport valid for a minimum period of six months from the date of your arrival to Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka immigration and emigration is satisfied that you have adequate funds for your maintenance whilst in Sri Lanka and for the payment of your return passage to the country which issued your passport.
- You are in possession of a written assurance (ticket) to return to the country of domicile or a visa to the next country of destination if you are a visit visa holder.

- **What is ETA?**

With effect from 1st January 2012 all holiday or business travellers must obtain electronic travel authorisation (ETA) for entering in Sri Lanka. Please visit <http://www.eta.gov.lk> for more information.

Special notice:

All payments for applying for ETA must be made only through the official website: <http://www.eta.gov.lk>

It has been found that some third-party agents apply visa through ETA on behalf of their clients and collect visa fees. The government of Sri Lanka has no control over these transactions.

- **How to apply?**

Visas can be applied online or by physically submitting an application at the embassy of Sri Lanka Paris France or sending the application by post.

- **Who are eligible for visa exemptions?**

Sri Lankan dual citizens, children whose birth has been registered under section 5 (2) citizenship act-1948 Sri Lanka and is below 21 years of age.

Children below 21 years of age born in Sri Lanka to Sri Lankan parents.

- **What are the types of Sri Lankan visas?**

- Visit visa (tourist and business purpose visa) details are given below
- Entry Visa – Residence visa
- ETA for official and diplomatic passport holders.
- Transit visa
- Journalist visa

➤ **Visit visa**

I. Tourist and Business visa 01 month

The Embassy isn't issuing One-month ETA and only can apply through our ETA website www.eta.gov.lk or else can obtain on arrival visa at the port of arrival at the Sri Lankan Airport.

II. Tourist and Business visa 03 months

a) Tourist visa 03 months

Tourist visa is issued to bona-fide tourists who want to enter Sri Lanka for sightseeing, excursions, relaxation, visit relatives or yoga training for a short period of time up to 3 months.

Required Documents:

- Tourist visa application
- Original Passport and a copy
- Copy of the Flight Ticket
- Government fee €80.

Note: Any person arriving in Sri Lanka by cruise ship and wants to enter the country must obtain tourist visa prior to travel.

ETA transit visa for Sri Lanka only for transit purpose and will not be permitted to go out from the arrival point in Sri Lanka.

if you have already obtained ETA transit visa for Sri Lanka and intend to go out from the arrival point the most sensible thing is to first cancel your ETA transit visa and apply for fresh tourist visa. (This would not be a difficult task)

b) Business visa 03 months

A business purpose visa is issued to foreign nationals who visit Sri Lanka for business purposes for a short period of time. This visa may be issued for double or multiple entries.

Required Documents:

- Business visa application
- Original Passport and a copy
- Copy of Flight ticket
- Invitation letter from the company in Sri Lanka
- A letter from the applicant's company in France
- Government fee: Double entries €85 & Multiple entries €109

➤ Entry visa - Residence visa

Resident visa permit for non-Sri Lankans to obtain residence facilities for special purposes. There are sub-categories which come under residence visas:

Employment category, Investor category, Religious category, Student category, Registered Indians covered by the 1954 Indo- Lanka agreement, Ex Sri Lankans and their dependants, Family members of a Sri Lankan, Diplomatic and official visa, My dream home visa programme, Residence guest visa program

- In this case the visa process should originate from Sri Lanka and by the individual/institution who/which sponsor/facilitate the applicant the concerned individual/institution in Sri Lanka should submit the application for residence visa in behalf of the applicant directly to the controller general, Immigration and emigration (CG/I-E) of Sri Lanka.
- If the controller general immigration and emigration approve the completed application form, they will then authorise the Embassy of Sri Lanka Paris, France offices to issue entry visa (valid for 30-day) to the applicant. An entry visa allows entry into the country and is valid for 30-days only. The applicant should then contact the embassy to obtain the entry visa.

Required Documents

- Entry visa form
- Entry visa approval from the Department of Immigration and Emigration Sri Lanka

- Original Passport and a copy
 - Government fee: €32)
- Upon arrival in Sri Lanka the applicant must visit/ contact the Department of Immigration and Emigration of Sri Lanka to obtain his/her residence visa.

➤ **ETA for official and diplomatic passport holders.**

Diplomatic and official passport holders if travelling for the purposes listed below are also expected to apply online for ETA. However, if they are travelling on official government business other than the purpose indicated below, they need to apply through The Embassy. If they are travelling for private purpose, issuance of ETA on gratis basis will be considered on the basis of reciprocity.

- Visiting friends and relatives
- Tourism sightseeing holiday
- Medical treatment
- Participation in sports cultural performances
- Business meeting
- Confidence workshops and seminars
- Short training
- Participation in art music and dance performance workshops

Required Documents

- Duly filled application for official diplomatic purpose.
- Valid passport with the photocopy (6 months validity is required from the date of arrival)
- Third party note (TPN) from the respective government stating the purpose of visit.

➤ **Transit visa.**

A transit visa is an entry permit granted to a foreign national for admission into Sri Lanka for a brief period which is incidental and in the course of his journey to another destination.

➤ **Journalist visa**

Required documents

- Business/journalist visa application
- Original Passport and a copy of the Passport
- NFC approval or any other approvals from relevant departments if necessary
- Copy of Flight Ticket
- Government fee: One month €37/= & 03 months Double entries €85/= & Multiple entries €109/=

Payment method: If the applicant physically visits the Embassy, he/she can pay by cash. Note: Crédit/Debit cards and personal or company cheques will not be accepted.

Postage: within France 10 Euro. Outside France 15 Euro. If required courier services should be arranged by the applicant.

○ Guidelines for media personnel and filming crew visiting Sri Lanka and checklist

Media

All journalists/ media personal travelling to Sri Lanka need to obtain visa from the relevant Sri Lankan mission prior to their travel to Colombo.

You are requested to apply for visa at 14 days prior to expected date of travel.

Media accreditation issued by the department of information in Colombo which allows foreign media to operate in Sri Lanka will not be issued under any circumstances for media personal who enter the country on a tourist visa.

The department of customs strictly enforce regulations pertaining to the clearance of media equipment. Therefore, visiting journalists should obtain a temporary import document known as “international carnet” for their professional cameras and media equipment for customs clearance. In the absence of a “carnet” a bank guarantee should be submitted to the value of the imported items if the visit is sponsored by any state institution, a guarantee letter from the institution to ensure the equipment will be re-exported is required.

A list of equipment carried by audio/visual media should be sent to the public communication division of the ministry of foreign relations through the relevant Embassy in advance to facilitate custom clearance at airport. The list should be accompanied by a letter of undertaking from the relevant media organisation stating that all equipment will be taken out of the country at departure.

All foreign media working in Sri Lanka are required to obtain media accreditation from the department of government information issued upon the recommendation of the ministry of foreign relations media accreditation requests submitted to embassy will be forwarded to the department of government information through the ministry of foreign relations in Colombo. Journalists who wish to obtain media accreditation advised to visit department of government information centre in Colombo.

Journalists contact the public communication division of the ministry of foreign relations if they wish to contact the for courtesy meetings or requesting interest with VVIPs and for any other assistance

Filming documentaries feature films

Filming of documentaries and feature films are there tourism promotional films and wildlife related documentaries require prior approval from the national film corporation (NFC) please visit (nfc.gov.lk) “foreign shootings” for more information.

Tourism promotional documentaries

Media teams are required to complete the NFC agreement and submit it along with the synopsis of the documentary itinerary of the media team while in Sri Lanka as well as locations of filming 24 working days are required to process this documents prior to issuance of visa.

media teams travelling to Sri Lanka to film tourism promotional documentaries or taking part in Sri Lanka tourist board (SLTB) family life station to us are required to fill the SLTB selection criteria for journalist TV crews for FAM tours form.

The SLT PB requires at least 30 working days for processing the relevant documents prior to the scheduled commencement of the project. Set media teams should also identify a local ground handling team who will be coordinating the project in Sri Lanka.

Filming in wildlife protected areas

Filming in wildlife protected areas requires prior approval from the department of wildlife conservation (DWC) (please see below for details) must be completed and handed over to the relevant mission. The department of wildlife conservation requires at least 14 working days for processing the documents.

o Guidelines for issuance of visas and work permits for expatriates working and seeking to work in a voluntary capacity in social service organizations or NGO's.

Following are some of the key requirements laid down in the guidelines:

- All the voluntary social service organisations or NGO'S registered under the voluntary social service organizations act number 31 of 1980 who wish to obtain visas should submit their NGO or INGO registration certificate and MOU signed with the government of Sri Lanka to the department of immigration and emigration. Visa will only be processed for the organisations that fulfil the above requirement.
- All foreign nationals who intend to work in NGO/INGO sector in Sri Lanka should apply for entry visa prior to travel.
- Residence visas are issued by the controller general of immigration and emigration for foreign nationals holding entry visas on the recommendation of the director of national secretariat for non-governmental organisations subject to a minimum period for a one-year. extension of resident visa will not exceed 3 years.
- Foreign nationals travelling on tourist visa will not be able to obtain resident visa.
- Visa fee applies.
- comprehensive details on the new procedures can be obtained from the respective authorities in Sri Lanka (government information centre www.gic.gov.lk)
- granting or termination of visas is at the sole discretion of the Controller General, immigration and immigration section 14 of the immigrants and emigrants act number 20 of 1948 and Immigrants and Emigrants regulations.