

02

August Issue
Volume 17
2021

TROPIC *Culture*

CULTURES AMPLIFIED

FEATURED NEWS

Celebrating the illustrious 'Kandy Festival of Perahera'



WEBSITE

COME VISIT US

"La Forteresse"
68, Wehera Kanda Road, Beddegana, Kotte | 10100 | SRI LANKA



PROLOGUE

Our petite-emerald island is excited to welcome travellers from around the world once again...

Following the Covid-19 outbreak in early 2020, despite many adversities, we have been keeping things busy by devising a range of emotions and trailblazing experiences designed for post-covid travel. Under the supervision of the government, Sri Lanka has been following strict guidelines to restrict the spread of the virus by adhering to meaningful action plans which have hastened and optimized the island-wide recovery of COVID-19.

As the progress continues, Sri Lanka is once again a safe and peaceful destination to travel to, with new safety protocols, but with minimal obstacles when moving around.

Continue reading to find out more details about the safety and growth of Sri Lanka since COVID-19 and upcoming events of the season.

IN THE EYES OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL IN THE POST COVID-19 ERA

As we are geared up for a post-pandemic reality, Sri Lanka has been listed as a destination for adventure buffs to add to their bucket list. Above all, the UNESCO heritage site, "Sigiriya Rock Fortress" has been named as one of the top marvels under archaeological and natural treasures to discover for modern explorers.

According to Bloomberg Businessweek ([hyperlink](#)), if you look forward to an 'Indiana Jones' type of adventure, Sri Lanka has been picked as one of the top crowd-free destinations in the world to go exploring!

Editor's note:

This doesn't come as a surprise to us, considering how Sri Lanka was actually used as one of the film locations for one of the movies: Indiana Jones & Temple of the Doom (1984).



READY, SET, TRAVEL!

As Sri Lanka is welcoming the world again, impressive levels of protocols and safety measures have been implemented by the local Government & Tourist Board to ensure that our island is once again a safe, secure and hassle-free destination to travel to.

With Covid vaccines being sourced from multiple countries, nearly 90% of the target population have been administered with at least a dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Sri Lanka, surpassing the global vaccination average at a staggering speed. Sri Lanka aims to fully vaccinate the total population of 30+ year-olds by August 2021.

With an increasing interest & enthusiasm shown by people in getting the vaccine, we are hopeful to vaccinate a majority of the population over the next few months which in return would help us to achieve the set target.

An initiative of providing vaccines for the tourism industry frontline personnel is also being administered by the government to fast-track the recovery of local tourism that has been affected due to COVID-19. With such initiatives & safety protocols put in place, not only will it safeguard the tourism staff on the frontlines of the industry, but further advance our island to becoming one of the safest destinations for tourists. The programme was launched in the Southern province, and subsequently, vaccinations are expected to be distributed to all tourist zones and districts in the following weeks.

While fully vaccinated travellers are allowed to leave the 'bio bubble' upon providing a negative PCR test on arrival, non-vaccinated travellers are required to stay at any number of Certified Safe & Secure L1 hotels and are allowed to visit a number of attractions adhering to health and safety protocols issued by the Ministry of Health.

With hotels and service providers continuing to comply with the COVID-19 Health Protocols and the Tourism Operational Guidelines, we are confident to return to normalcy by winter 2021 making Sri Lanka one of the top destinations to travel once more.

**"Who lives sees
much. Who travels,
sees more."**

Arab Proverb



BIA'S REVAMPED EMIGRATION AREA IS NOW OPEN!

More exciting news has been shared by the local Tourism Minister, declaring open the Bandaranaike International Airport's (BIA) emigration terminal, which has been revamped and is ready to welcome tourists once again.

This brand new facility is part of the overall terminal development work that consists of 23 emigration counters to ease the overcrowding and delays for passengers at the airport. With the launch of this latest emigration facility, the revamp of BIA Departure Terminal continues towards the end goal of transforming BIA into a modern and advanced airport in the country.



SRI LANKA'S GROWTH ON INFRASTRUCTURE

The pearl of the Indian ocean is currently undergoing several ambitious infrastructure projects to develop and upgrade highways, expressways and cities around the island. With the country's growing infrastructure projects developing over the years, we are excited and hopeful for a more convenient road system equipped to welcome post-covid travellers.

An elevated highway: An impressive 5.3-kilometre long, elevated toll highway will be made available as a direct link to Colombo city centre and port city from Colombo-Katunayeka Expressway which will be completed in the years to come.

The central expressway: Also known as the Eo4-project has been developing over the years, connecting Colombo to Kandy, Kurunagala and Dambulla areas. An expressway envisioned to provide easy access to tourist destinations and increase fuel efficiency by reducing travel times.

100 cities makeover: Another significant project that has been approved by the Sri Lankan government is to beautify 100 cities across the island which means the uplifting of the livelihoods of townsfolk and improving their essential facilities.

7th Expressway: Our little island recently began working on its 07th expressway connecting Kahathuduwa interchange of the southern expressway to Pelmadulla via Ratnapura (73.9 km) with an ambition of easing the congestion around Panadura-Ratnapura (A08) and Colombo-Wellawaya-Batticaloa (A-04) routes.

Upon completion, these projects will play a vital role in the local travel and tourism industry by boosting the economy & living conditions of the locality as well as the tourists.

LEADING THE SCENE TO KEEP THINGS GREEN

Connect Green Initiative

Sustainability isn't merely a matter of preference or a continuing trend anymore. It has become imperative now more than ever to keep mounting on sustainable practices and work towards a greener future. Although Authenticities had undertaken several large-scale sustainability projects over the years, we now understand that change starts within, no matter how small a step you take.

'Connect Green' is a small-scale sustainability concept we devised in our own backyard. On the 20th of July, 35 saplings were gifted to each staff member at Authenticities (various fruit & herb plants) to take home and plant in their own gardens. This initiative serves as a simple reminder that we should sustain the Earth that sustains us in return.

The end goal may be somewhat ambitious, but they say an avalanche starts with one pebble. All it takes is one simple act to make the whole world stop and listen.

Stay tuned to learn about more exciting projects that we're currently working on through upcoming newsletters.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

The Remarkable Kandy Festival

As we've welcomed August, Kandy's most iconic and mesmerising festival - The Kandy Esala Perahera is about to take place for several days and, we are all looking forward to it. The Kandy festival is believed to have begun when the Sacred Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha was brought to Sri Lanka from India during the 4th Century AD. It is celebrated during July or August, in line with the Esala full moon poya day and is known to be the grandest of festivals in Sri Lanka.



Although the celebrations won't be as grand and festive as how it was during pre covid era, the procession continues to carry out in faith adhering to public safety and health protocols implemented.

**"A nation's
culture resides in
the hearts and in
the soul of its
people."**

Mahatma Gandhi

**CNN TRAVEL
NAMES THIS
THE WORLD'S
BEST**

CRAB
RESTAURANT

FIND OUT

View this email in your browser
Copyright © 2021 AUTHENTICITIES (PVT)
LTD, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these
emails?

You can update your preferences or
unsubscribe from this list.