

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Sri Lanka Tourism – Situation Update and Resumption of International Arrivals

**Colombo, December 3, 2025** – Sri Lanka Tourism, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Employment, and Ministry of Tourism, provides the following update on the national situation and the tourism sector following the recent severe weather disaster.

Over the past week, Sri Lanka faced significant challenges due to adverse weather conditions that disrupted daily life and impacted several regions. Today, however, the country is steadily returning to normalcy. Utilities, transport networks, and essential services have largely been restored, and communities are resuming their usual activities. Tourism attractions, accommodations, and supporting infrastructure are reopening, reaffirming Sri Lanka's resilience and readiness to welcome international visitors.

#### Tourism Attractions

The Department of Wildlife Conservation, Forest Department, and Central Cultural Fund have confirmed that the majority of sites are open and operational:

- **Wildlife Sites:** Bundala, Udawalawa, Kumana, Horton Plains, and Yala (Gate 5, Gate 6 – Lunugamwehera, Entry 1 – Palatupana) are open.
- **National Parks:** Wilpaththuwa (Hunuwilagama Gate), Minneriya, and Kawudulla are open; Wasgamuwa will reopen shortly.
- **Marine Tourism:** Mirissa Whale Watching, Pigeon Island, Kalpitiya Whale Watching, and Hikkaduwa Coral National Park are open.
- **Forest Sites:** All forest sites are open except Knuckles.
- **Cultural Sites:** All sites and museums managed by the Central Cultural Fund are open to visitors.

#### Weather and Occupancy

Tourism zones across the country are reporting favorable conditions:

- **Negombo, Kalutara, Passikudah, Hikkaduwa, Bentota/Beruwela, Ella, and Arugambay** are experiencing sunny weather, calm seas, and strong hotel occupancy.
- Electricity supply is stable, and road access has been cleared, ensuring uninterrupted services.
- Ella is fully accessible via the Wellawaya route, while coastal resorts continue to operate at full capacity.

#### Road and Railway Access

Road networks connecting major cities and tourism zones are fully accessible, with at least one main access route open to every destination. Key highways include:

- Colombo – Kurunegala Main Road
- Colombo – Katugastota (en route to Kandy)
- Kurunegala – Padeniya (towards Anuradhapura)
- Kitulgala – Hatton/Nuwara Eliya
- Ella – Wellawaya

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Foreign Guests – Status Update

The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) has verified the total reported affected are 269:

The largest groups included Indian (52 – all safe) and Bulgarian (40 – all safe) visitors are being located and confirmed safe.

### Symbol of Recovery – Arrival of Mein Schiff 06

In a powerful symbol of resilience and recovery, Sri Lanka today welcomed the luxury cruise ship **Mein Schiff 06**, operated by TUI Cruises, carrying approximately **2,400 international passengers** to Colombo Port. This marks the first major tourist movement since the disaster and sends a clear message to the world: **Sri Lanka is safe, open, and ready to embrace visitors once again.**

- The vessel, sailing from Cape Town to Singapore, will continue its journey to Hambantota Port for a one-day excursion, allowing passengers to explore Sri Lanka's diverse attractions.
- Local operations were managed by **Aitken Spence Travels**, the appointed local tour operator, with **Hapag-Lloyd Lanka Pvt Ltd** serving as the port service agent.
- The successful handling of this large-scale arrival demonstrates the strength of Sri Lanka's tourism infrastructure and its ability to host international travelers at scale.

### Moving Forward

Sri Lanka Tourism reaffirms its commitment to ensuring visitor safety, strengthening resilience, and promoting the country as a welcoming destination. With attractions open, services restored, and international arrivals resuming, Sri Lanka is ready to continue its journey of recovery and growth. The arrival of Mein Schiff 06 is not only a milestone for the tourism industry but also a testament to the confidence of international travelers in Sri Lanka's ability to provide safe, memorable, and enriching experiences.

**Media Team**  
**Sri Lanka Tourism**

Issued Date: 03/12/2025

Ref: No : MOT/DMO/PR/M2

